



Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association

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HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD at

<http://www.strawberryfestival.org/pressroom.htm>



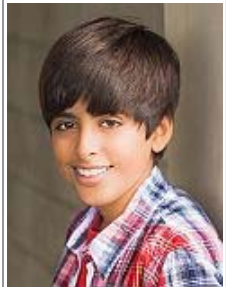
CHRISTINE DEVINE



JAMES HONG



LEAH CECIL



KARAN BRAR



CHRISTINE MARTINDALE



MCKENNA GRACE

CHRISTINE DEVINE NAMED THEME GRAND MARSHAL plus MISS CALIFORNIA LEAH CECIL AND ACTOR JAMES HONG NAMED CO-CELEBRITY GRAND MARSHALS OF THE 55TH ANNUAL GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PARADE

-- Thirteen Celebrities to be Honored --

GARDEN GROVE, CA (April 30, 2013) – Winner of sixteen Emmy Awards, KTTV Fox 11 News Anchor **Christine Devine** has been named **Theme Grand Marshal** of the 55th annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival parade in honor of the 2013 theme “Celebrating 55 Years of Helping Local Kids.” The festival will be held Memorial Day Weekend Friday, May 24th through Monday, May 27th, 2013. The parade will be Saturday, May 25th at 10 a.m. at Ninth and Chapman in Garden Grove.

Ms. Devine hosts "Wednesday's Child," the adoption segment which has aired on Fox for 18 years, with more than 450 children from foster care finding forever families. She received the Governor's Award and has been honored by the U.S. Congress and the Child Welfare League of America and has authored *Finding a Forever Family, A News Anchor's Notebook*. She is also co-founder of multi-award-winning “The Good News Foundation” which has built computer labs, a park and library among its projects.

This year the festival has chosen two **Celebrity Grand Marshals: Actor James Hong** and the current reigning **Miss California, Leah Cecil**. **James Hong** will be starring in this summer's Universal Pictures *R.I.P.D.* with Jeff Bridges, Kevin Bacon and Mary-Louise Parker opening July 19th nationwide. He also will reprise his role in the third installment of DreamWork's Animation *Kung Fu Panda 3* currently set for winter of 2015. Including his award winning voice-over work, he can be seen on the Disney XD Channel show *Pair of Kings* in his recurring role of the island's elder. Other Disney shows include *A.N.T. Farm* and *I'm in the Band*. Working with many famous stars over the years, James Hong has over 450 on-screen credits to his name and the list continues to grow. He will sign autographs (Tent 25) on Saturday afternoon of the festival to help raise funds for Young Variety, a part of Variety - The Children's Charity of Southern California.

Miss California, Leah Cecil is the Garden Grove Festival's home town pride and joy. This former Miss Garden Grove 2011 went on to win Miss California 2012! At the competition she was a triple preliminary winner in Talent, Swimsuit, and Evening Wear categories. Miss Cecil earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from California State University, Fullerton, and plans to obtain a Master's Degree. She has been principle harpist of six symphony orchestras and is the recipient of the 2011 Bernie Rose Outstanding Musician Scholarship. She is the on-call harpist at the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), a frequently requested vocalist for the National Anthem, and was the featured harpist on the 30th Anniversary album of Mariachi Sol De México. Miss Cecil performed as violinist in Wes Craven's movie *Music of the Heart* starring Meryl Streep. She is also the recipient of the 2008 Soroptimist Award for Community Service.

Ten additional TV, film and radio celebrities will also be honored guests in the parade: **Karan Brar** (Disney's *Jessie*); on-air talents **Christine Martindale** (KKGO-FM "Go Country 105) and **Rachin** (Exitos 93.9); **Mckenna Grace** (Joe&Joe&Jane; *Crash and Bernstein*); **Alicia Sixtos** (East Los High); **Sabrina Carpenter** (*Girl Meets World*); **Cierra Ramirez** (*The Fosters*); and sisters **Savannah Paige Rae** (*Parenthood*) and **Emily Evan Rae** (*Parenthood*); **Daphne Blunt** (Fanlala's Daphne's Look of the Week). The parade also features Knott's Berry Farms' **Snoopy**, **Ronald McDonald**, and two characters from **Despicable Me2**, plus the world famous **Sk8Kings** skateboarding troupe.

Karan Brar stars as Ravi, one of the newly adopted children on the hit Disney channel series *Jessie*. Brar began acting when he was seven years old. As Ravi he plays a new immigrant to the US, struggling to adapt while trying to hold on to his religion and Indian culture. Brar, whose family is from Punjab, India, understands the importance of portraying the first ever series regular Indian character on The Disney Channel. Brar has also appeared in Disney's *Austin & Ally* and voiced the character of Prince Zandar in Disney's *Sofia the First*. Brar has played Chirag Gupta in Twentieth Century Fox's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid [2010]*, *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011)*, and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012.)* and recently voiced Mason, in Twentieth Century Fox's *Mr. Peabody & Sherman* slated for release in March 2014.

Christine Martindale says she enjoys working as a radio host in Los Angeles, the number one radio market, and is thrilled to be a part of the Go Country 105 family. She has loved being in radio for most of her life. "Being able to go to work and not feel like you're working is a dream come true," says Christine. Her career in radio includes time spent at KIKF in Orange County, KOCM in Newport Beach and DIAL GLOBAL in Valencia. More recently, Christine spent the last 12 years with KOST/KBIG in Burbank.

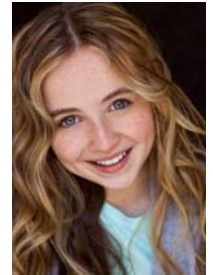
Six-year-old **Mckenna Grace** began her acting career at the age of five. Soon after acting classes Mckenna landed the lead role in the short film *Lucky Penny* then appeared in numerous print advertisements. She recently booked a regular role in the NBC pilot, *Joe&Joe&Jane*, and has a recurring role on Disney XD's live-action "bro-comedy" *Crash & Bernstein*, as Jasmine Bernstein. Mckenna will make her feature film debut in the upcoming indie film *Goodbye World*. She'll also co-star on FOX's *Goodwin Games* and has appeared on *The Tonight Show*.

Alicia Sixtos will be starring as Maya in the upcoming new series *East Los High*. Alicia, born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, is of Mexican and Portuguese descent. She started her career at the age of ten as a print model for ad agencies and moved to Los Angeles in 2005. The first film she worked on was the Sundance hit *Quinceañera*, and has appeared in "The Avengers," as well as the award-winning indie, *The Custom Mary* and the upcoming "HIGH School." On TV, Alicia has appeared on *Californication*, *King of the Hill*, *General Hospital*, *CSI-Las Vegas*, and most recently on FOX's hit sitcom *New Girl*.

Cierra Ramirez currently plays 'Mariana Foster' on ABC Family's new series *The Fosters*. Most recently, she played 'Kathy' on ABC Family's *The Secret Life of an American Teenager* and had the lead role of 'Ansiedad' in the coming-of-age drama *Girl in Progress* for which she was honored with an Alma and an Imagen award. Cierra is best remembered for her recurring role of 'Jasmine' on The Disney Channel's *The Sweet Life of Zack and Cody*. Credits include *Desperate Housewives*, *Zoey 101*, and *CSI: Miami*. Also an accomplished singer since age seven, Cierra appeared on the series *Showtime at the Apollo* and shared the stage as an opening act for *Earth Wind and Fire*, and *Chicago*.



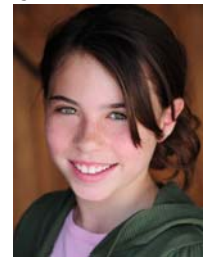
ALICIA SIXTOS



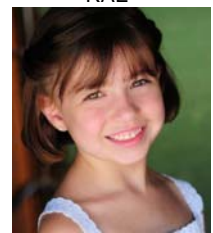
SABRINA CARPENTER



CIERRA RAMIREZ



SAVANNAH PAIGE RAE



EMILY EVAN RAE



NACHIN



DAPHNE BLUNT

Sabrina Carpenter recently shot the pilot episode of *Girl Meets World* for Disney playing Maya. Upcoming projects include *Goodwin Games*, premiering May 20 on Fox, and the movie *Horns* with Daniel Radcliff. She started acting at age two and at seven took professional vocal lessons; at nine she entered a national singing contest hosted by Miley Cyrus placing third out of 10,000 entries. Sabrina had her first acting role as a Guest Star on *Law & Order SVU*. Then landed a series regular role on a Disney Channel pilot *Napoleon Dynamite!*. Her YouTube channel showcasing her music already has over 11 million views. She was flown to China to sing in China's largest television New Year's Eve Special broadcast to over 200 million viewers. Sabrina has also signed a music deal with Hollywood Records.

Savannah Paige Rae is best known for her role as Sydney Graham for the past four seasons on NBC's *Parenthood* with Craig T. Nelson. Her most recent role is young Debra Morgan on the Emmy-award winning show *Dexter*. She has done many TV commercials including playing the little girl who stuffed a toy monkey in her dad's briefcase in an AT&T commercial. Other credits include the film *Phoenix Falling*, *My Best Friend's Girl* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. Savannah appeared in the film *Date Night* as the feisty daughter of Steve Carell and Tina Fey. Savannah's older sister **Emily Evan Rae** is recognized for her recurring character "Young Kate" on ABC's hit show *Lost*. Her most challenging role was on ABC's *Private Practice* for which she won The Young Artist Award. She played a multifaceted young girl who stabbed her father. Other credits include NBC's *The Office*, *Life* and playing Justine in FX's *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. Her most recent role is a recurring character on NBC's hit show *Parenthood* where she gets to work with her sister.

Ignacio Sandoval, aka **Nachin**, currently co-hosts a regular show on radio Exitos 93.9 with Raq-C. Nachin was born in Zacatecas, Mexico. His parents migrated to the U.S. when he was young. Raised from humble beginnings in Boyle Heights, Nachin knew the only way to make it and help his family was through hard work, dedication and an education. The youngest of 8, he was the first in his family to graduate from college, earning B.A. degrees in both Theatre and Spanish Literature. While in college, Nachin landed an internship with on-air personality "El Cucuy". Rather than pursue a Master's Degree, he followed his true passion as a radio host and intellectual producer at KSCA. His love for music, honest connection with people, and pride in his culture allows him to influence and motivate an audience. He achieved impressive shares, and became one of the first bilingual DJ's in the United States. He regularly speaks at local high schools and colleges, encouraging higher education.

Daphne Blunt is an actress, singer, writer and fashion correspondent. She currently writes a fashion blog and is the host of Fanlala's *Daphne's Look of the Week*, which gives viewers an inside look at teen celebrity fashion. Daphne can often be seen conducting one-on-one interviews for Fanlala with teen celebrities at red carpet Hollywood events. She made her first television appearance at the age of ten on the CBS daytime drama *The Young & the Restless*. She most recently starred as 'Kayla,' in the Radio Disney webseries *My Dream*, has appeared in Nickelodeon's *Big Time Rush*, and released her first pop single, "Crush Rush," which reached number one on the Broadjam Pop Charts.



Many bands and local dance groups will be performing on the festival's 550-seat amphitheater and the Showmobile. They include one by **Jimmy Jax Pinchak**, a seventeen year old professional actor (he plays Peter Wiggin in *Ender's Game* to be released in 2013) who is seriously pursuing his music career. Jimmy has formed a new late 60s influenced blues/rock band with a contemporary feel with Tom Camillo on bass, Gene Luzala on drums, Nathan Leigh on keyboards, Stan Nirenberg on guitar and Jimmy Jax Pinchak on lead guitar and vocals. In June, Jimmy goes back into the studio to record an album which he intends to release at the end of the year. Other acts playing in the showmobile include bands **AbraKadabra**, **Full Spectrum**, **Third Degree**, **The Sidney Bowen Group** and **Between California and Summer**. Dance groups scheduled for the amphitheater are **The Guardettes** and **The Colony of Performing Arts**.

The festival takes place every year over Memorial Day weekend. Friday hours are 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Monday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. All four festival days will offer 35 exciting carnival rides, contests, over 200 food and shopping booths, games, autograph signings and live entertainment in the Showmobile and the 550-seat Amphitheater. Admission is free. Wrist Band ride discounts entitle the wearer to all rides, all day for one low price: \$25 per person on Friday, \$30 on Saturday through Monday.

Contests include the Berry, Berry Beautiful Baby Contest, Redhead Roundup, Strawberry Idol Karaoke, and Tiny Tots King and Queen. And a new contest: The Kids Helping Kids Contest where contestants can be submitted online at the festival website. For the other contests contestants sign up an hour before each begins. The festival website www.strawberryfestival.org has information on each event.

The media and businesses have stepped forward to **sponsor** the event. Sponsorship support this year is from Garden Grove Tourism Promotion Corporation, Time Warner, Clear Channel Outdoors, McDonalds, Care Ambulance Service, Jay's Catering, OCTA, Sam's Club, Crowne Plaza Resort Anaheim, Costco, Garden Grove Hospital, Brandywine Homes and Casa Garcia. Media sponsors include Parenting OC, Garden Grove Journal, OC News, Korea Times, El Panamericano, Farandula USA, Miniondas, Nguoi Viet Daily News, and radio stations KOST, KWVE, KEARTH, KSWB, KSSE, KLYY, Exitos 93.9, KDAY, KWIZ and JACKfm.

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association is a non-profit organization which has raised more than \$6 million for local charities since its inception in 1958. For additional information, please call (714) 638-0981 or visit the website at www.strawberryfestival.org. # # #