



Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association

P.O. Box 2287, Garden Grove, California 92842 (714) 638-0981

www.strawberryfestival.org

Media Contact: Steve Moyer Public Relations, Work: 818.784.7027; Cell: 818.337.9987; moyerpr@earthlink.net; [@stevemoyerpr](https://www.instagram.com/stevemoyerpr)



**KATHY GARVER, “CISSY” FROM *FAMILY AFFAIR*
NAMED CELEBRITY GRAND MARSHAL OF THE 62ND ANNUAL
GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PARADE TO BE HELD
IN GARDEN GROVE, CA ON MAY 28, 2022 AT 10 :00 A.M.**

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Garden Grove, CA (March 23, 2022) – KATHY GARVER, best known for her starring role as “Cissy” in the long-running CBS international television hit, *Family Affair*, has been named Celebrity Grand Marshal of the 62nd Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival’s Parade, to be held in Garden Grove, CA on Saturday, May 28, 2022 as part of the Festival’s FREE Admission four-day Memorial Day Weekend celebration, May 27 – 30, 2022. Here is a sizzle reel of past parades giving attendees an idea of what to expect at this year’s parade:

<https://youtu.be/rSw373PZof4>

Patrick “Pat” Catlin, President of the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association, producers of the annual event, said: “It is my honor to announce our Parade Celebrity Grand Marshal for this year will be **Kathy Garver**, fondly remembered as the teenaged big sister, ‘Cissy,’ on the television show, *Family Affair*, now celebrating it’s 55th Anniversary year in syndication. Kathy Garver also appeared as Rachel at the age of eight in Cecil B. DeMille’s epic motion picture, *The Ten Commandments*, and she created the voice for the Marvel character of ‘Firestar’ in the television series, *Spiderman and His Amazing Friends*. There’s no doubt legions of fans will want to meet the award-winning actress on May 28th at this year’s Strawberry Festival where she will be signing copies of her five books. She will also be bringing along ‘Mrs. Beasley’ dolls and ‘Firestar’ dolls. And, if you stop by her Festival booth, she will be handing out free copies of her favorite Strawberry Trifle recipe from her best-selling cookbook, ‘Holiday Recipes for a Family Affair.’”

The theme for this year’s Strawberry Festival will be ‘**Celebrating Essential Workers**’ who have helped us through this pandemic. Additional celebrity talent riding in the parade, as well as Parade Theme Grand Marshal and Community Heroes, will be announced soon.”

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Kathy Garver said, “It is my great pleasure to serve as the Celebrity Grand Marshal of the 62nd Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival’s Parade. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person! The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association is a perfect example of a volunteer organization, which gives back to their community by raising monies at their annual Festivals, which is then awarded to deserving non-profits serving the citizens of Garden Grove. Giving back is what life is all about!”

More About The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival:

Save The Dates for The 62nd Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival to be held on the Village Green at Euclid Street and Main Street in Garden Grove, CA on Memorial Day Weekend, Friday – Monday, May 27 – 30, 2022. The Festival’s Parade, which will feature Celebrities, Garden Grove Civic Leaders and Organizations, Miss Garden Grove and Her Court, Bands, Equestrians, Specialty Characters and Floats, will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

The four-day FREE Admission Festival also will feature a Free Strawberry Shortcake Grand Opening Ceremony (May 27th), Free Music and Shows in the Amphitheatre and at the Showmobile (all days), a VIP Pancake Breakfast (May 28th), Meet and Greet Celebrity Autograph Signings (May 28th), Food Vendors, Carnival Rides and Games (all days), and Fun Contests with Prizes including: Berry, Berry Beautiful Baby Contest, Redhead Roundup, Tiny Tots King and Queen and new this year, Brick Build and Design-A-Float.

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is an annual 501(c)(3) non-profit FREE event produced by the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association, a dedicated volunteer group, which has raised more than \$7 million for various charities since its inception in 1958. The live Festival wasn’t held in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic. The Festival’s mission and goal is to give back to the community serving Garden Grove citizens by donating to non-profit organizations which provide services for children, seniors, youth, the community, and which support the arts. **To learn more and for updates on this year’s Festival, please visit, www.strawberryfestival.org**

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Festival Hours will be 1:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Friday, May 27th; 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 28th and 29th; and 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Monday, May 30th. And new this year, there will also be a Step-And-Repeat Banner at the Festival to take selfie photos for posting on social media with the Strawberry Festival's Mascot.

For Festival Sponsorship Opportunities please visit online at www.strawberryfestival.org and contact Steve Moyer Public Relations at 818.784.7027 or E-mail moyerpr@earthlink.net

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More About Celebrity Grand Marshal Kathy Garver:

Most fondly remembered for her starring role as “Cissy” in the long-running CBS international television hit, *Family Affair*, Kathy Garver has also garnered critical acclaim in movies and on stage, radio, voice-over animation, and audio book narration. *Family Affair* debuted on September 12, 1966.

Kathy Garver was born in Long Beach, CA to Hayes and Rosemary Garver, joining her sister, Beverly, and brothers, Hayes, Jr. and Lance. Her professional acting career began when she was just seven-years-old appearing in television Westerns, Sitcoms, and dramatic programs such as *Climax* and *Matinee Theater*.

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When she was eight-years-old, Hollywood legendary director Cecil B. DeMille recognized Garver's distinct talents. Originally hired for a small part in the epic motion picture, *The Ten Commandments*, Kathy was noticed by the great director who then had special scenes written into the movie to highlight the talented little girl in the role of Rachel. The award-winning movie followed her first film, *The Night of the Hunter*, directed by Academy Award® winner, Charles Laughton, which starred Robert Mitchum, Shelly Winters, Lillian Gish, and Billy Chapin. During Garver's teenage years, she added radio and stage to her burgeoning film and television career.

Garver was a freshman majoring in Speech at UCLA when she was tested for a television series entitled *Family Affair* (1966-1971). Kathy Garver was deemed just perfect to star as "Cissy" with Brian Keith as "Uncle Bill" and Sebastian Cabot as "Mr. French," headlining for five years in one of the warmest and most enduring series of the 1960's and 1970's. With "Buffy" and "Jody," the show continues to be popular today pleasing old and new audiences worldwide as a true classic.

Filming *Family Affair* demanded much from Garver: "Brian Keith only worked for about half the production schedule so the rest of us would have to film scenes from as many as six different episodes in one day," she recalls. "I actually had to do most of my close-ups with the assistant director, a paunchy middle-aged man glued to a cigar, standing behind the camera. I used a lot of imagination to perform with him as he played my six-year-old sister, "Buffy!"

After *Family Affair*, Garver starred in an Israeli musical-stage version of the television series, learning Hebrew phonetically for her role. Later, she continued dramatic studies at London's prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where she portrayed "Juliet" in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Dramatic and comedic productions in the states followed including starring roles in *My Fair Lady*, *Sunday in New York*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *The Trojan Women*, among others. At the conclusion of this work, she returned to UCLA to earn a Master's Degree in Theatre Arts.

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Today, Garver is an accomplished and versatile actress, appearing in such films as *Old Man Jackson*, *The Broken Road* and *The Princess Diaries*, *Mom*, and *Murder and Me*, along with made-for-television movies such as *F.B.I. Murders* and *Hercules Saves Christmas*, and in guest-star roles on many television series. She is a sought-after celebrity on game shows, winning top money for charities such as *Street Smarts* and other reality programs.

She majored in Speech and Communications at UCLA. Garver has taught speech, diction, character development and audio-book narration at Voice One Studios in San Francisco, American Eagle Studios in Santa Rosa, and workshops throughout the country. Garver is an accomplished host and in demand for her interviewing prowess. She hosted *Backstage with Barry and Kathy*, *StarWatch*, and Marathons for MeTV and Classic Reruns TV, with Family Tree Recipes among other hosting responsibilities.

Garver has used her wealth of experience and education to entertain and instruct thousands of people with her exciting and successful motivation and interactive speeches and presentations.

She is in demand for her numerous vocal characterizations. She is a standout in the very competitive field of voice-overs for cartoons, commercials, toys and audio books. She voiced “Pepper,” an automotive whiz in the *Chuck Norris Karate Kommandos* television series and “Firestar,” a mutant super hero in the *Spiderman and His Amazing Friends* television Marvel series.

Garver produced, narrated and wrote lyrics and original music for eight audio Beatrix Potter tales and eight Mother Goose-based audiotapes for Smarty Pants, Inc. Garver’s Beatrix Potter tapes have sold over two million copies and have won numerous awards. She has recorded books for Brilliance Audio, Audible, and Listen and Live Audio. Her voice has been heard in *Back Draft*, *Apollo 13* (which won the Academy Award® for Sound), *Ransom*, and *Jingle All The Way*. Garver has recorded more than 80 audio books garnering four prestigious Audie Awards® in the process.

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Having served on the board of the Young People's Committee of the Screen Actors Guild and as a volunteer for BookPALS (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools), Garver has used her experience to help guide new actors in the business. She is also involved in such charities as the Child HELP Foundation (which aids abused children), Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Garver is President of The Family Affair Foundation, which provides reading companions to the elderly and at-risk youth.

Winning accolades such as Best Actress from Family Television Awards, Garver continues her award-winning presence by securing recognition from the entertainment world. Recent awards include two more Audie Awards®, one for her narration of *The World's Best Short Stories*, the other for her direction of Amy Tan in *The Opposite of Fate*, read by the author. She was also recognized by the Young Artists Foundation with the "Former Child Star Lifetime Achievement Award," and the Emerald Award from the Southern California Motion Picture Council. This prestigious organization also bestowed on Garver the highly-esteemed Golden Halo Lifetime Achievement Award, putting her in league with such stars as Mickey Rooney and Margaret O'Brien.

Kathy Garver now has her own family affair. She met her husband of 40 years, business executive David Travis, on a tennis court in Palm Springs—truly a love match. Their son Reid Garver Travis, now 30, continues the tradition of show business by appearing in occasional entertainment roles, but has set his sights on business and turning his creative ideas into entrepreneurial successes.

Garver recently added author to her long list of accomplishments. Her first book, *The Family Affair Cookbook*, published by Bear Manor Media is a tasty trip down memory lane with anecdotes and photos, and has received excellent reviews. Her following book, *Surviving Cissy: My Family Affair of Life in Hollywood* was released in 2015 and sold out in three months – the

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Paperback of the book was released in 2021. *X-Child Stars: Where Are They Now* was launched in 2016 and is already planned for a reprint. In 2019 Bear Manor Media released *Holiday Recipes for a Family Affair*. In the fall of 2021 her fifth book, *Family Affair Scrapbook* was released to help celebrate the 55th anniversary of the beloved series. Her sixth book, *TV Dinners TV*, with a side dish of stars, is set to be released by Bear Manor Media in the fall of 2022.

Obviously, Kathy Garver doesn't suffer from maladies common to former child actors. "The hardest thing is being accepted as someone who has depth," she says. "Fortunately my parents stressed education and normalcy all through my childhood and during my *Family Affair* days. In learning to think and work independently, I firmly believe in hoisting one's own sails!"

Kathy Garver is producing and starring in *A Family Affair to Remember* documentary to commemorate the 55th anniversary of *Family Affair*. She also hosted *StarWatch*, a talk show honoring recipients of the Golden Palm Star for the Walk of Stars in Palm Springs for which Garver is also so honored.

She recently starred with former child star, Christopher Knight (*The Brady Bunch*) Fred Grandy (*The Love Boat*) and Caryn Richman (*Gidget*) in a new play, *Dinner at Five* written and directed by Lloyd Schwartz (*Gilligan's Island*) producer/writer and (*Brady Bunch*) producer/writer, destined to be a true classic.

Garver finished two pilots in 2021, *TV Dinners* for which she is host, and *Aunt Cissy*, a spin off of *Family Affair*, in which she is the titular star. In November 2021 Kathy put the finishing touches in *Old Man Jackson*, a touching comedy in which she stars as Mrs. Jackson, which will be released in the fall of 2022 through Gibbs Entertainment and Stage Two Productions.

For all her accomplishments, including her new Cissy crunch candy bars and Cissy candles, Kathy Garver's sails will be billowing in some very favorable waters for quite some time.

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