



Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association

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HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD at

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

RICO AND RAINI RODRIGUEZ ARE NAMED CELEBRITY GRAND MARSHALS AND GOOFY IS MADE THEME GRAND MARSHAL OF 53rd ANNUAL GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PARADE

-- Fourteen Film and TV Stars to Shine in May 28th Parade --

GARDEN GROVE, CA (April 21, 2011) - Twelve-year-old **Rico Rodriguez** (*Modern Family*) and his 15-year-old sister **Raini Rodriguez** (*Disney's Prom*) have been named **Celebrity Grand Marshals** of the 53rd annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival parade, making them the first youngsters and sister and brother to ever hold that title. In honor of this year's theme -- "Celebrating the Sweet Sounds of Comedy" -- **Goofy** from the Disneyland® Resort has been selected as the **Theme Grand Marshal**. The festival will be held Memorial Day Weekend Friday, May 27th through Monday, May 30th, 2011. The parade will be Saturday, May 28th at 10 a.m. at Ninth and Chapman in Garden Grove.

Since the premiere of the Emmy Award winning series *Modern Family*, **Rico Rodriguez** has garnered widespread recognition for his work as "precocious, old soul Manny Delgado." Rico was presented the *Impact Award* from the National Hispanic Media Coalition, as well as nominations as "Male Break-Out Star/Television" for the 2010 Teen Choice Awards and "Outstanding Supporting Actor/Television" by the Imagen Awards. He was chosen as one of Entertainment Weekly's "2010 Entertainers of the Year." His television credits include *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *Cory in the House*, *ER*, *Til Death*, *iCarly*, *Nip/Tuck*, *Surviving Suburbia*, *My Name is Earl* and *NCIS*. Rico has also made guest appearances on *E with Ryan Seacrest*, *KISS FM On-Air with Ryan Seacrest*, *Radio Disney*, *Ellen*, *The View*, *Rachael Ray*, *The Bonnie Hunt Show*, *Access Hollywood: Live*, *The George Lopez Show* and *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. He was Red Carpet Correspondent for ABC.com's coverage of the 2010 Academy Awards, reported the E! Entertainment's "Orange Carpet" 2010 Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Awards and presented at the "2010 American Music Awards," "Tony Hawk/Cartoon Network's HOG Award Show" and the "2011 Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Awards."

Raini Rodriguez is known by Disney fans for her role of "Betsy" in the Sleepover Suite episode of Disney's *The Suite Life of Zack and Cody*, Raini also starred as the memorable "Arlene Roca" aka "Annoying Arlene" in Disney XD's *I'm in the Band*. Some of her other television credits are Nickelodeon's *True Jackson*, Showtime's *Huff*, and ABC's *Family of the Year*. Movie-going audiences embraced Raini in her feature film debut *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*, where she starred as Kevin James' daughter. Raini is eagerly awaiting the release this month of Disney's Feature Film *PROM* this month where she stars as "Tess." Filming *PROM* came at a perfect time in Raini's life since she was homeschooled and didn't have a Prom of her own. She is currently in production filming Disney's new pilot *Austin and Ally*.



Rico Rodriguez



Raini Rodriguez



Anneliese Van der Pol



Kate Linder



Alisa Reyes



Valery Ortiz

Eleven additional TV and film celebrities will also be honored guests in the parade: **Anneliese Van der Pol** (That's So Raven), **Ed Arnold** (The Real Orange), **Kate Linder** (Days of Our Lives), **Valery Ortiz** (Diary of a Single Mom), **Fivel Stewart** (Jake Stevens: The Last Protector & Blue Dolphin Kids), **Alisa Reyes** (All That & The Bold & the Beautiful), **Courtney Robinson** (Tim & Eric Awesome Show & Dark House), **Christina Robinson** (Dexter), **Ashley Boettcher** (Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer), **Tucker Albrizzi** (Big Time Rush) and Knott's Berry Farms' **Snoopy**. Champion skateboarders the **Sk8Kings** will again be in the parade.

Kate Linder received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and is marking her 31st year as Esther Valentine on *The Young and the Restless* and her 33rd as a United flight attendant. Kate Linder is the celebrity spokesperson for The ALS Association. In 2005, Linder was elected Governor of Daytime Programming Peer Group for the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and is currently serving her second term. She is also active with the USO, visiting troops in the US, in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Korea and Guantanamo Bay.

Ed Arnold has been the co-host and managing editor of KOCE-TV's nightly news magazine show, *Real Orange* since 2000, and the announcer for Dr. Robert H. Schuller's internationally syndicated *Hour of Power* since it began in 1970. Ed, who was honored with the 2007 Radio and Television News Association of Southern California's Lifetime Achievement Award, is also an Emmy and Golden Mike award winner.

Anneliese Van der Pol is best known for playing the comedic sidekick, "Chelsea Daniels" on Disney's Emmy winning show, *That's So Raven*. She also stars as "Jennifer" in the 20th Century Fox/New Regency spoof comedy *Vampires Suck*. Compared by some to Debra Messing, Anneliese is an accomplished professional singer and musical theatre performer. Making her Broadway debut as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, she was the Broadway production's 17th and, to date, final Belle. She also originated the role of "Kathy" in the musical *Vanities*, which debuted Off-Broadway, and recorded the original cast album.

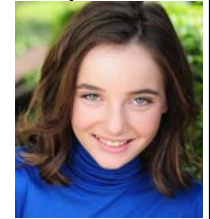
Alisa Reyes is a Dominican, Italian, Irish, and Caribbean Indian beauty best known for her role on Nickelodeon's *All That* and in NBC's *One World* for which she received the coveted Hollywood Young Star Award. She's also been seen on *Without A Trace*, *Strong Medicine*, *NYPD Blue*, *ER*, *Boston Public*, *Six Feet Under* and on *The American Family*, as Vangie. Alisa has recurring roles on Disney channel's critically acclaimed animated series *The Proud Family* as "La Cienega Boulevardes" as well as the animated *Da Jammies* as Momo. She recently starred opposite Gary Busey in *Daze*. Alisa is also an accomplished singer and devotes many hours to charities.

Valery Ortiz, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and raised in Florida, is best known for her recurring role on the ground-breaking online series, *Diary Of A Single Mom*, and the show, *American Latino*. She has had guest star appearances in ABC's, *What About Brian?*, CBS series *Cold Case*, played "Celeste Vega" on ABC Family's *Melissa And Joey* and recently appeared opposite Sheen in *Two And A Half Men*. Valery played "Jell-O" (a spoof of Jennifer Lopez' role in *The Wedding Planner*) in Twentieth Century Fox's *Date Movie*, and has hosted the shows: *Latv Does Hollywood* (LATV), *On The Up* (SiTV), *E! News Now* for E! Online. Valery was named "One of the Top 25 Latinas of 2006" by *Maxim en Espanol* for her acting accomplishments.

Twins **Christina Robinson** and **Courtney Robinson**,¹³ both have impressive acting careers. Christina Robinson just completed her fifth season of the hit Showtime Series, *Dexter* in which she plays the role of "Astor," Dexter's stepdaughter. She has been seen in numerous other projects from *Arctic Tale*, *Equestrian Sexual Response*, *Yip Yap* on KNBC, and *Simon*. Courtney Robinson, completed the award winning film, *Dark*



Ashley Boettcher



Christina Robinson



Courtney Robinson



Ed Arnold



Tucker Albrizzi



Fivel Stewart



Snoopy

House in which she plays the lead as a young girl. She also has been seen in *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, the *Tim and Eric Awesome Show*, and *YipYap KNBC*. Both have appeared in numerous national commercials.

Ashley Boettcher has been dancing and acting since she was two-years-old. Ashley has received numerous awards for her performances including the Rising Star Award. Her most recent projects include *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*, in theaters June, 2011, *Shrek Forever After*, *Aliens in the Attic*, *Little Fockers* and numerous commercials.

Fivel Stewart started learning Karate at the age of five. At six, she was already competing and had won two consecutive world championships by age eight, ranked # 1 in all divisions, and was inducted into the Black Belt Jr. Hall of Fame. She also excels in gymnastics and dance, considered one of the top teen dancers in the U.S. and is an accomplished singer. She was the lead singer of the band *My Allowance*. After touring with Demi Lovato, Menudo, and Mitchell Musso, she and her brother Booboo (often seen as a duo musically and even hosted their own show *Blue Dolphin Kids*) are currently completing their debut *Change*. Film work includes *Return to Zoom*, *States Evidence*, and *Dante's Cove* and Fivel is working on *Guardians of Luna*, alongside Kellan Lutz as well as 2011's *Jake Stevens: The Last Protector* with Booboo.

Tucker Albrizzi began acting at age 8 when he and his brother who has leukemia worked on a documentary for their charity, Driving for Donors, which added over 30,000 bone marrow donors to the National Bone Marrow Registry. Tucker continued his success in acting on television in *The Office*, *Dark Blue*, *Children's Hospital*, *Brothers and Sisters*, *Desperate Housewives* and recurring roles on *Nickelodeon's Big Time Rush* and *Disney's Good Luck Charlie*. This past year, Tucker has gone on to the big screen with bookings in Feature Films: *Hop*, *Bridesmaids*, *Spooky Buddies*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked* and a lead in the animated feature *Paranorman*.

Knott's Berry Farms' **Snoopy** will be coming to charm the children, as will **Ronald McDonald**. Live entertainment at the festival includes **Southland Megagroove Band**, **The Cougrzz**, **Third Degree Blues Band**, **The Dreams** and **Full Spectrum**, plus dance groups **The Guardettes**, **The Colony of Performing Arts**, and **Miss Garden Grove and Friends**.

The festival takes place every year over Memorial Day weekend. Friday hours are 11 a.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 brand-new contest in honor of the 2011 theme, the Ooey Goey Pie-in-the-Face Contest. Contestants sign up an hour before each contest. The festival website www.strawberryfestival.org has information on each event.

The media and businesses have stepped forward to **sponsor** the event. This year's support comes from prime sponsor, Volkswagen of Garden Grove, plus Allspace Storage, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Costco, Embassy Suites, La Casa Garcia, Garden Grove Hospital, Nicholas Chevrolet, GG Secured Storage, ISU Insurance, Jay's Catering and Sam's Club, and these publications: Garden Grove Journal, Korea Times, Farandula USA, Miniondas, Nguoi Viet Daily News, OC Weekly and Parenting OC. In addition, 10 radio stations have sponsored and will be represented at the festival: KDAY, KLYY, KSSE, KOST, 103.4myFM, KSWB thesoundLA, KWIZ, KWVE, Radio Disney and W Radio 690. And Time Warner Cable is again graciously providing coverage on its satellite stations.

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association is a non-profit organization which has raised more than \$5.5 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. # # #