

Media Contact: Rebecca Meekma  
Direct Tel: 949-497-0517  
Email: Rmeekma@SawdustArtFestival.org

*For Immediate Release*  
October 23, 2006

## **ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS ENLIVEN THE WINTER FANTASY IN LAGUNA BEACH**

**Laguna Beach, CA**---The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter fantasy at the Sawdust Art Festival features 175 artists and craftspeople exhibiting and selling their original, handmade items. A major part of this four weekend event are the 34 performing acts that will take to the festival's three stages and sawdust-covered paths with one mission: to entertain every visitor at the Winter Fantasy.

Entertainment Manager Jennifer Tye said, "The Winter Fantasy wants to provide our visitors with a full experience that includes inspiring their ears as well as their eyes."

Holiday performers include the Lil Dickens Carolers, Mistletones and the Laguna Presbyterian Church Handbell Chorus. Highlighted performers include the Red Elvises (Russian rock and roll), Lisa Haley and the Krewe (Cajun zydeco) and Upstream (reggae).

The most famous "entertainer" of them all – Santa Claus – will greet children and take holiday requests at his Cozy Cabin in the festival's Towne Square, daily, from 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Continued**

## **Page 2/Entertainment and Events at the Winter Fantasy**

### *Events that Art Sure to Entertain*

**The 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Community Tree Lighting Ceremony” takes place on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** The Top of the World Elementary School Honor Chorus will serenade Laguna Beach dignitaries including Mayor Steve Dicterow, the gathered crowds and guest of honor Santa Claus, as the magnificent Sawdust Community Tree is lit. Trader Joe’s/Crystal Cove is donating beverages and holiday treats at the ceremony. Laguna Beach residents are invited to the Winter Fantasy for free beginning at 2 p.m. that day.

The ceremony also features the announcement of the winners of the Favorite Community Tree competition. Local community groups including American Legion Auxiliary, Blue Water, Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Beach, and the Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden (out of 14 expected groups) decorate a holiday tree provided by the Sawdust. These trees surround the Towne Square and adding their beauty and spirit to the central festival area.

The two December Sundays of the Winter Fantasy each host a special event:

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the annual Artist Benevolence Fund Art Auction**, at which all types of art (donated by many exhibitors) is live auctioned to an excited gathering of art buyers in-the-know. The auction is from 12 noon – 3 p.m. in the Healy House at the Sawdust Art Festival; proceeds go to the Sawdust Artist Benevolence Fund which awards grants to Laguna Beach artists in times of dire need.

**Continued**

### **Page 3/Entertainment and Events at the Winter Fantasy**

**December 10, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. is the date and time for Winter Fantasy Artful Wreath II Auction.** 14 exhibiting artists, including Lagunans Jessica de Stefano, Penny Long, Karen Petty, Staci Schubert and Jude Taylor-Darlin, have created one-of-a-kind art-wreaths. The amazing art pieces are displayed in the artists' booths for the festival – silent auction bidding is encouraged. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, all wreaths will be live-auctioned starting at the highest silent bid. Monies raised at Artful Wreaths II go to the Sawdust's Art Education Fund.

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Fantasy at the Sawdust Art Festival runs for four weekends: November 18 & 19; November 24, 25 & 26; December 2 & 3 and December 9 & 10; hours are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Admission: \$5.75 adults; \$4.75 seniors 65 and up; \$3 children 6 – 12 and Free for kids 5 and younger. A Season Pass allowing unlimited entries is \$9.**

The Winter Fantasy is located at the Sawdust Art Festival grounds, 935 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. For additional information, please call 949-494-3030 or visit [www.SawdustArtFestival.org](http://www.SawdustArtFestival.org).

*Complete (as of 10/20) entertainment listing attached.*

**###**