

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

It's Fiesta Time at Moody Gardens!

Fiesta Navidena featuring Mariachi Sol de Mexico – November 28, 2009

Galveston, Texas – Moody Gardens and Island Star Performances are proud to host Fiesta Navidena Saturday, November 28th featuring the nation's premier mariachi band, *Mariachi Sol de Mexico*. The festival of food, dancing, singing and fun also will feature an all-star Tropical Jingle Jam with Houston's top Latin Performers.

The internationally acclaimed *Mariachi Sol de Mexico* was formed by Jose Hernandez in 1981 to reflect the vision of an inspiring, artistic mariachi ensemble. As true representatives of a treasured cultural heritage, Sol de Mexico is a cohesive, dynamic team that has accepted the vision to live on as the Nation's Premier Mariachi band.

The 14 member orchestrated mariachi group personifies the romance, serenity and rich cultural tradition of Mexico. Mariachi Sol de Mexico offers traditional mariachi sounds embellished with fresh contemporary passion and powerful new rhythms. The group has toured the world and played with some of the most respected recording artists; Sol de Mexico is Luis Miguel's exclusive touring accompaniment.

The *Tropical Jingle Jam* will feature spectacular performances by Rudy Rincon of Grupo Kache, Mary Frometa of Mari's Band, Cecli Arujo of La Diabla Orquesta, Angelucho of Angelucho Orquesta, Norma Zenteno of Norma Zenteno Band, Gerardo Araujo of Pachangar Orquesta and Giberto Hurtado of Orquesta Salmrum. Jorge Orta will serve as musical director for the Christmas-themed event that will offer a blend of traditional Latin music and well known holiday carols.

In addition to music, Fiesta Navidena will offer plenty of complimentary family-friendly activities, including face painting, a bounce house and arts & crafts activities in Santa's Workshop. And don't forget to bring your cameras – Santa and a live reindeer will be on hand for pictures from 4pm to 7pm. Additional festivities will include food and beverages, numerous vendor booths and a special appearance by the Dynamo Girls. Throughout the event, award winning remixer and producer DJ Cubanito will be on hand to keep the fiesta hopping.

Festival gates open at 4pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-12. A family four pack (2 adults + 2 kids) is available for \$50. Free admission is available for children ages 3-12 with the donation of a toy to Toys for Tots. Donated toys must be unopened and in their original packaging.

Tickets are available online at moodytickets.com, by phone at **409-683-4186**, para espanol **713-581-0796**, and via the *Concerts on the Gulf Box Office* located in the lobby of the Moody Gardens Hotel. The box office will be open Monday through Sunday from 9:00am to 6:00pm. General questions should be directed to the box office phone at 409-683-4186. For a complete breakout on venue information, visit www.moodytickets.com/venue.asp

Make it a weekend affair with a custom Fiesta Hotel Package. Book a room at the Moody Gardens Hotel on Friday 11/27 or Saturday 11/28 and receive 4 complimentary Fiesta Navidena event tickets.

Moody Gardens and Island Star Performances would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their generous support in making this event possible: ATT-The Real Yellow Pages, Coca-Cola, Alex Rodriguez Mercedes-Benz, and Moody National Bank.

QUICK FACTS

WHAT: Festival Navidena
Featuring Mariachi Sol De Mexico & A Tropical Jingle Jam

WHEN: Saturday November 28, 2009
4pm to 10pm
Gates to the event open at 4pm.
Tropical Jingle Jam starts at 7pm.
Mariachi Sol De Mexico takes the stage at 9pm.

WHERE: Moody Gardens Expo Arena
Seven Hope Blvd Galveston, Texas

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Media Inquires: Please contact Kristi J. Moers at kmoers@sbcglobal.net or 832-816-0714.