

PRESS RELEASE

Contact

Kristi J. Moers

832-816-0714

kmoers@sbcglobal.net

For Immediate Release

The Gift of Christmas Live Returns to Moody Gardens

Galveston, Texas - This holiday season, the Moody Gardens Expo will come to life with the magical sights and sounds of the season. Moody Gardens and Island Star Performances are proud to announce the return of *The Gift of Christmas Live* – presented by AT&T the Real Yellow Pages.

Celebrate the spirit of the season with this very special dinner and show featuring talented artists from across the state of Texas. The delightful musical presentation is a show for all ages and features a blend of new and traditional Christmas music as well as the amazing live creation of an original work of art by renowned artist Rolando Diaz.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Rolando immigrated to the United States when his family fled the oppressive communist regime. Believing that “art is an expression of life,” much of the subject matter of Rolando’s work comes from his extensive travels and personal experiences. According to Rolando, “everything we see, feel, touch, smell and hear, in one way or another becomes a part of the images expressed on the canvas.” In addition to the piece created live during the show, a selection of Rolando’s artwork will be on display before and after the performance.

The Gift of Christmas Live is an original show commissioned by Moody Gardens and Island Star Performances and features “The Gift of Christmas,” a song composed exclusively for Moody Gardens. Co-written by Kell and Julie Curtis, the song is a celebration of the true spirit of Christmas. The show also showcases wonderful renditions of traditional favorites such as “O Holy Night,” “The Little Drummer Boy,” “Run Rudolph Run” and others, all magically blended with beautiful stage scenes to create an inspirational and engaging experience that will have you singing in the aisles.

The show will begin on December 17 and run through December 27. Daily Dinner-Show performances begin at 6:30pm with caroling and hors d’ oeuvres, followed by a three-course dinner at 7:00pm with the start of the show at 8pm.

Tickets are \$43 for Adults and \$25 for Children ages 3-12. Group rates are also available for groups of 20 or more and range in price from \$20 to \$35.

The purchase of a *Gift of Christmas Live* ticket also includes admission to the Festival of Lights tour. Tickets can be purchased online at moodytickets.com or by phone through the Moody Gardens Special Events Box Office at 409-683-4186 or toll free 800-582-4673 ext.4186.

A special *Children’s Matinee* performance created especially for children 3 to 12 years of age will be offered on Wednesday Dec. 16, Thursday Dec.17, and Friday, Dec. 18 at 1:00 p.m. The Children’s Matinee is a one hour show featuring interaction with the cast, fun sing-a-longs, surprise character appearances, and traditional Christmas snacks, cookies, and seasonal

beverages. Tickets for the Children's Matinee are \$10 for children and \$15 for Adults. Adults must be accompanied by a child to attend. Groups of 20 or more can receive the special discount rate of \$8 per ticket.

The purchase of a Children's Matinee ticket also includes an open dated voucher for the Festival of Lights and a voucher for one complimentary child's admission to the Gift of Christmas dinner show.

Enjoy a magical holiday getaway with our *Gift of Christmas Live Hotel Packages*. Packages range in price from \$179 to \$249 plus tax per night and include a spectacular room in the Moody Gardens Hotel, tickets to the Gift of Christmas dinner show, tickets to the Festival of Lights and a special holiday amenity. For hotel package reservations, please call 888-388-8484.

The Gift of Christmas Live is made possible through the generous support of local hotel and motel tax dollars from the city of Galveston generated to encourage tourism and to further promote arts and entertainment on the Island.

Quick Facts

What: The Gift of Christmas Live
Dinner & Show

Where: Moody Gardens Expo Arena
Seven Hope Blvd
Galveston, Texas 77554

When: December 17 – December 27, 2009
Dinner Shows nightly at 6:30pm.

Children's Matinee, December 16, 17, 18 at 1:00pm

Tickets:

Dinner Show Pricing

Adults: \$43,
Children (3-12): \$ 25
Groups (Parties of 20 or more): \$20 - \$35

Children's Matinee Pricing

Adults: \$15
Children (3-12): \$10
Groups (20 or more): \$8

Tickets can be purchased online at moodytickets.com, by phone at **409-683-4186** or toll free at **1-800-582-4673 ext 4186**, or through the Special Events Box Office located in the lobby of the Moody Gardens Hotel. Box office hours: Monday-Sunday 9am to 6pm. Box Office phone: 409-683-4186. **TICKETS ON SALE NOW.**

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

About Moody Gardens

Moody Gardens is a public non-profit educational destination utilizing nature in the advancement of rehabilitation, education, conservation, recreation and research.