

NEVADA *Ballet* THEATRE

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Contact: Jenn Kratochwill
(702) 243-2623 x 241
jkratochwill@nevadaballet.com

NEVADA BALLET THEATRE NAMES MARIE OSMOND AS ITS 'WOMAN OF THE YEAR' FOR THE 2010 BLACK & WHITE BALL

The Black & White Ball is sponsored by: Cartier

LAS VEGAS, NV (Monday, August 03, 2009) – Nevada Ballet Theatre is honored to announce singer, author, television personality, Broadway performer and philanthropist Marie Osmond as its 'Woman of the Year' for the 2010 Black & White Ball. As one-half of the beloved singing duo "Donny & Marie," this all-around entertainer will be honored on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at Paris Las Vegas. Born into an internationally known entertainment family, Osmond emerged on the country music scene at the tender age of 13 with her hit "Paper Roses," making her the first female in country music history to debut with a number one record.

Along with her six performing brothers, "The Osmond Brothers," Marie was an instant sensation when she appeared on stage at a sold-out Madison Square Garden concert. She was soon touring with her famous brothers, forever changing the name of the group to "The Osmonds." Grammy nominations for Marie as 1974's "Best Female Country Vocal Performance" and "Best New Artist" soon followed, the beginning of the indelible mark she has made on the entertainment world.

Always known for her kind-hearted nature, Marie co-founded the Children's Miracle Network in 1982, the largest children's charity of its kind in the world. Through over 170 Children's Hospitals, more than 17 million children are treated for various health issues every year. Her charity has raised over 3.6 billion dollars to date.

Osmond's popularity now spans generations as she enters her fifth decade in entertainment. Among numerous hit records, she generated insurmountable success with her brother Donny in "The Donny & Marie Show," a weekly television variety series that aired from 1976 - 1981. In addition to Broadway musicals, TV movies and commercials, she eventually became a two-time New York Times best-selling author and sought after speaker. In 1991, she launched the "Marie Osmond Fine Porcelain Collector Dolls" line on QVC, currently the company's top-selling doll line.

"Nevada Ballet Theatre is honored to recognize entertainer Marie Osmond," says Nevada Ballet Theatre Co-Founder and Co-Chair Nancy Houssels. "From her days on "The Donny & Marie Show" to her work with The Children's Miracle Network, we are thrilled to celebrate her achievements and dedication to the world of arts and entertainment."

Already an instant success as a Vegas headliner along with her brother Donny, Osmond's 'everyday' values are a large part of her appeal, enabling millions of fans to identify with her and garnering her recognition as a role model for women throughout the world.

Surrounded by arts supporters as well as local dignitaries and celebrities, this iconic performer will accept her 'Woman of the Year' award in the Champagne Ballroom at Paris Las Vegas, following an elegant evening of cocktails, dinner and lively entertainment. This year, in place of a VIP reception held prior to the event, those guests will instead be treated to a special VIP post Black & White Ball Meet and Greet with Osmond.

Since 1985, the Black & White Ball has been a societal main stay in the city of glitz and glamour. Honoring legendary females who have positively impacted the performing arts, this annual fundraiser supports the state's largest professional ballet company.

Generating significant media attention, the Black & White Ball began garnering national recognition when it honored Debbie Reynolds in 2000. Since then, articles have appeared in "People," and "The Los Angeles Times," among others.

Past honorees of the Black & White Ball read like a who's who of legendary women. Since 2001, Nevada Ballet Theatre has honored **Debbie Reynolds** (2001), **Chita Rivera** (2002), **Carol Channing** (2003) **Celine Dion** (2004), **Ann-Margret** (2005), **Rita Rudner** (2006), **Paula Abdul** (2007), **Twyla Tharp** (2008) and most recently **Bette Midler** (2009).

Proceeds from the evening will allow Nevada Ballet Theatre to continue to provide main stage productions by its professional company, quality dance training within its affiliated school, the Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre, as well as through its Education and Outreach program, *Future Dance*.

ABOUT HONOREE MARIE OSMOND – OFFICIAL BIO

Beginning with her national debut at age 3 on *The Andy Williams Show*, Marie has proven to be a resilient talent with a magnetic presence known across generations. Performing for almost five continuous decades is a rare accomplishment for a woman in the entertainment business.

Marie recorded *Paper Roses* at age twelve, making history as the youngest female artist to have her debut record go to #1 on the charts along with a Grammy nomination.

An additional historic "first," Marie became the youngest-ever host of a national television variety show, *The Donny & Marie Show* (1976-81); "appointment television" for millions and dubbed into 17 languages. Marie's unique style and fashion ingenuity established her as a monumental trendsetter, an ongoing reality today.

On film, Marie starred in *The Gift of Love* (1979) *Side By Side* (1982) and *I Married Wyatt Earp* (1983)...oh, yeah...and *Goin' Coconuts* (some things you never stop paying for...smiles).

Among her 27 albums and numerous gold records, another career highlight was winning a Country Music Association's Vocal Duo of the Year award for "Meet Me In Montana."

Whether performing live for the 2002 Olympics or being in the number one Superbowl 2003 commercial, Marie constantly evolves her talents such as starring on Broadway in shows like *The Sound of Music* and *The King and I*, which garnered rave reviews.

Another record-breaker, In 2001 Marie became the first-ever celebrity to publicly write about her experience with Postpartum Depression, *Behind the Smile*, a New York Times bestseller. In April of 2009, her next book, *Might As Well Laugh About it Now*, was an instant New York Times bestseller (8 weeks).

Her national radio show *Marie and Friends* was #1 in the markets and her annual "Magic of Christmas" tour is a standing-room only event in venues across the country.

On Season Five of *Dancing With the Stars*, 25 million people watched Marie's enthusiasm and determination and her significant weight loss with *NutriSystem*, and voted her into the finale. Her infamous faint has been replayed millions of times on TV and YouTube, to which Marie responded: "I hit my head so hard when I passed out....I won, right?"

Besides being an international entertainment icon, Marie is a savvy businesswoman. For over 20 years, "Marie Osmond Dolls" has received Dolls of Excellence and Doll of the Year awards and nominations; making her one of the top doll designers in the world.

Marie has also expanded business activities into her own line of sewing machines and crafting products as well as a new launch with Giftcraft, creating beautiful home décor products and a new line of jewelry for QVC.

As co-founder of Children's Miracle Network, Marie helps over 17 million kids every year, throughout the U.S, Canada and Europe, providing state-of-the-art health care for kids. To date, her charity has raised over 3.6 billion dollars, 100 percent of funds going to the children.

Marie currently performs to sold-out crowds in Las Vegas, at the Flamingo Showroom, five nights a week with her brother, Donny. "Donny and Marie," is the first time the duo has reunited on the stage in over 28 years. Their contract continues to December of 2012.

Above every other accomplishment, Marie is the proud mother of eight beautiful children who are always her greatest treasures.

ABOUT NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

Under the direction of Artistic Director James Canfield, Nevada Ballet Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and the largest professional ballet company and dance Academy in the state. Committed to the highest artistic standards, dancers for the company hail from around the world and include artists with international performing experience. This classically-based company is at home in an eclectic repertory, moving easily from the classics to the high-energy

contemporary ballets. The mission of Nevada Ballet Theatre is to educate and inspire regional, statewide and national audiences and vitally impact community life through professional company productions, dance training and education and outreach. Upon its completion, Nevada Ballet Theatre will be a resident company in the new world-class Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

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