



NEWS RELEASE

September 16, 2004

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"Nurturing
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John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

L. A. ZOO PREVIEWES *LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION* WITH PIÑATAS FOR PRIMATES

Dancing, mariachi music, crafts, piñata parties and the plants and animals
of Latin America are the highlights of Latino Heritage Celebration

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens previewed today the upcoming *Latino Heritage Celebration*, which will occur this weekend—Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Three South American monkey species—spider, capuchin and howler—were treated to piñatas filled with some of their favorite fruits and vegetables.

City Councilman Tom LaBonge, Zoo Director John Lewis and Joan McCarthy from DisneyHand, Presenting Sponsor of the *Latino Heritage Celebration*, enjoyed a close-up encounter with a red-tailed boa. The monkeys entered their habitats and quickly broke their piñatas in search of treats.

"DisneyHand feels very privileged to be the Presenting Sponsor of this wonderful celebration of Latino culture at the Los Angeles Zoo," said Joan McCarthy, manager, Disney Worldwide Outreach. "We encourage area families to come and enjoy the fun events and see first hand the unique assortment of zoo animals that originate in Latin America."

Traditional Latin music and dancing from Brazil, Peru, Mexico and other Latin American countries occurs throughout both days. Prizes for all children will fall from piñatas at the hourly parties. At the "Disney Corner,"

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located in Treetops Terrace, children can make colorful crafts to take home and get their faces painted. Visitors can feast on Latin cuisine and shop for handcrafted Latin artwork.

In the South America section of the Zoo, animals will get piñatas throughout the weekend to search for the hidden goodies inside of them. A self-guided tour will lead visitors to the animals and plants of Latin America.

Joining Presenting Sponsor DisneyHand is ABC-7, Media Sponsor, with additional radio media support from Que Buena, Radio Disney and LaRanchera.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Golden State (5) and Ventura (134) freeways. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2 – 12. For information call 323-644-4200 or visit our web site at www.lazoo.org.

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