

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **IAAPA'S "BIG E" AWARDS RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN ENTERTAINMENT DURING IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2007**

**ORLANDO, FLA. (Nov. 15, 2007)** — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) presented its fifth annual “Big E” entertainment awards Wednesday, Nov. 14, during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2007 annual conference and trade show at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. The “Big E” awards are the most prestigious awards in the attractions industry honoring live entertainment. Kevin Johnson, a ventriloquist and entertainer, served as the emcee for the event.

The “Big E” awards honor amusement facility entertainment, performers, and behind-the-scenes personnel who “make it happen” at attractions. The awards categories are broken down into 15 categories.

This year’s Big E award winners are:

### **Best Atmosphere/Street Performance/Act**

Runner Up – Smoky Mountain String Band – Dollywood – Pigeon Forge, Tenn., United States

Winner – Skyfair Celebration – Ocean Park – Aberdeen, Hong Kong, China

### **Best Female Show Performer**

Runner Up – Arnie Shaw – Dollywood – Pigeon Forge, Tenn., United States

Winner – Grace Beauchesne – Busch Gardens Africa – Tampa, Fla., United States

### **Best Male Show Performer**

Runner Up – Frank Thompson – Cedar Point – Sandusky, Ohio, United States

Winner – Marcus Gustafsson – Liseberg AB – Gothenburg, Sweden

### **Best Live “Edutainment” Show**

Runner Up – “Wild Survivors” – SeaWorld – San Diego, Calif., and San Antonio, Texas, United States

Winner – “The Jungle Rumble” – Six Flags Great Adventure – Jackson, N.J., United States

**Best Sports Show**

Runner Up – “Xtreme Korruption” – Royal Agricultural Society of NSW – Sydney Olympic Park, New South Wales, Australia

Winner – “Operation Spy Girl Stunt Show” – Six Flags Great America – Gurnee, Ill., United States

**Best Spectacular Production**

Runner Up – “Laser Blasts” – Darien Theme Park Resort – Darien Center, N.Y., United States

Winner – “Lights of Africa” – San Diego Wild Animal Park – San Diego, Calif., United States

**Best Overall Production: Budget of \$25,000 or less**

Runner Up – “Rockin’ on Route 66!” – Lake Compounce Theme Park – New York City, N.Y., United States

Winner – “Once Upon a Christmas” – Santa’s Village – Jefferson, New Hampshire., United States

**Best Overall Production: \$25,001 to \$50,000**

Runner Up – “Love at First Fright” – Six Flags Great America – Gurnee, Ill., United States

Winner – “Skull’s Eye: The Search for the Enchanted Crown” – LEGOLAND California – Carlsbad, Calif., United States

**Best Overall Production: \$50,001 to \$100,000**

Runner Up – “Splash—Faces of the Wild” – San Diego Zoo – San Diego, Calif., United States

Winner – “Milkmen” – Hersheypark – Hershey, Pa., United States

**Best Overall Production: \$100,001- \$200,000**

Runner Up – “Bailamos” – Trocadero Theatre – Denver, Colo., United States

Winner – “Mysteria” – Europa Park – Rust, Germany

**Best Overall Production: \$200,001 - \$500,000**

Runner Up – “Great American Country” – Dollywood – Pigeon Forge, Tenn., United States

Winner – “Velocity” – Hersheypark – Hershey, Pa., United States

**Best Overall Production: \$500,001 - \$1,000,000**

Runner Up – “Babes in Toyland” – Dollywood – Pigeon Forge, Tenn., United States

Winner – “Le Grande Cirque” – Darien Theme Park Resort – Darien Center, N.Y., United States

**Best Overall Production: \$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000 or More**

Runner Up – “Cirque Dreams Coobriila” – Six Flags Over Texas – Arlington, Texas, United States

Winner – “Riptide” – SeaWorld San Diego – San Diego, Calif., United States

**Best Overall Production: \$2,000,001 or More**

Runner Up – “Universal 360 A Cinesphere Spectacular” – Universal Orlando Resort – Orlando, Fla., United States

Winner – “Shamu Rocks” – SeaWorld – San Diego, Calif., and Orlando, Fla., United States

**Spirit Award**

Runner Up – Manivane Yang – Busch Gardens Africa – Tampa, Fla., United States

Winner – Tamra Franze – Busch Gardens Africa – Tampa, Fla., United States

**Heartbeat Award**

Winner – Great American Country - Dollywood – Pigeon Forge, Tenn., United States