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American Celebration Hits the Stage Nov. 4-5

Talented Students Sing and Hoof in Broadway-Worthy Revue

This Year's Arts Honorees are Hollywood Director William Friedkin (*The Exorcist*, *The French Connection*) and Wife Sherry Lansing, Former Head of Paramount

Corporate Citizen of the Year Award To Go to Orange County Businesswoman Zee Allred

ORANGE, CA Chapman University's annual live song-and-dance fundraiser, American Celebration, is set to hit the boards again Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5 in the Memorial Hall auditorium on the university's Orange campus. This year's theme is Everything Old is New Again, and the Broadway-worthy live revue will feature scenes from such stage classics as *42nd Street*, *A Chorus Line*, *Cats* and *Carousel*, as well as new favorites such as *Spamalot*, *Rent* and *Hairspray*. Even Chapman president James L. Doti gets into the act, as he makes a surprise appearance in one showstopping scene every year.

Tickets are on sale now for the Opening Night performance Friday, Nov. 4 at 8 p.m. at \$40 each. The annual American Celebration Gala one of Orange County's signature social events of the year takes place Saturday, Nov. 5, with ticket prices starting at \$1,000 each and tables starting at \$5,000 for the show plus an elegant dinner in the pavilion outside Memorial Hall. Gala tickets are selling out fast, but some are still available call (714) 744-7958 for more information.

Last year, American Celebration raised more than \$1.2 million, with all proceeds going to fund Chapman student scholarships. Eighty-four percent of Chapman students receive some form of scholarship or financial aid.

This year at the Saturday gala, the American Celebration will honor Academy Award-winning director William Friedkin (*The Exorcist*, *The French Connection*) and his wife Sherry Lansing, the former chairman of Paramount Pictures, with Chapmans Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award. Friedkin has taught at Chapman in the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts as the Hayde Filmmaker-in-Residence. Chapmans prestigious Corporate Citizen of the Year Award will be presented this year to Orange County businesswoman and philanthropist Zee Allred. The annual Chapman Alumni Award in the Arts will be presented to John Copeland 73, longtime producer of the TV series *Babylon 5* and currently a partner in Evergreen Films, which produces cutting-edge visual effects for such programs as The Discovery Channels *When Dinosaurs Roamed America*.

Preparations for American Celebration begin more than a year in advance, with executive producer Iris Gerbasi, associate dean of Chapmans School of Communication Arts, and producer Michael Nehring of the Chapman theatre faculty planning the theme and picking the tunes. The actual rehearsals come together a mere three weeks before the show, directed and choreographed by Bill and Robin Brawley. A cast of student volunteers most from Chapmans acclaimed music,

theatre and dance departments assembles to rehearse the show, and it all comes together in record time. Costumes, makeup, lighting and stage production are also all carried out by student, faculty and staff volunteers, allowing the money raised by Opening Night and the Gala to go directly to student scholarships.

For more information on American Celebration, or to purchase tickets for either the Opening Night or the Gala, the public can call (714) 744-7958.

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