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FANS AND IMPERSONATORS SHOW UNDYING LOVE FOR THE KING AT ELVIS FEST

Costa Mesa, CA---Performers, big and small, young and old, male and female will take to the stage in tribute to Elvis Presley during the 8th Annual Elvis Fest on Sunday, August 26 at the Orange County Market Place in Costa Mesa.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the death of Presley, who died on August 16, 1977. Though he has been gone for three decades, his memory and persona live on with the help of his fans and many who impersonate or sing like the "king."

The line up at Elvis Fest includes seven tribute artists, who range from age 7 to 50 years old, and present themselves in various Elvis approaches and eras along with a karaoke style Elvis Singing Competition presented by *Karaoke Scene Magazine*.

Among the tribute artists is 7 year old Ryan Rose and his father Don Rose, 48, of Las Vegas, Nevada. The elder Rose started performing as the "king of rock and roll" a few years after Elvis Presley died though mainly for his own enjoyment in the basement of his parent's house. After graduating to performing for his friends in their living rooms he eventually branched out and made a career as an Elvis tribute entertainer and created **MORE**

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his own show group, "The Don Rose Revue." He has performed throughout the United States and Canada as well as toured in Germany, Switzerland and Japan.

Since age 3, Ryan Rose has been emulating Elvis by watching his father as well as Elvis movies. After winning first place in his elementary school's talent show when he was in kindergarten, he has had the urge to follow in his father's footsteps. He occasionally performs duo with him, including gigs at the Don Laughlin's Celebrity Theater.

Don Rose will do a solo Elvis tribute at 11 a.m. followed by Ryan performing on his own at 11:30 a.m. They will perform together at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Other tribute artists include Vince Rivers, 49, of La Mirada at 12:30 p.m.; Adam Arriaga, 21, of Whittier at 10:30 a.m.; Jessie Ortega, 46, of Montebello at 1:00 p.m. and James King, 29, of Long Beach at 2:30 p.m.

Known for his comedic style of Elvis impersonation, Kirk Wall, 50, of Fullerton entertains with song medleys at 10:00 a.m., Noon and 2:00 p.m. Wall, who has been the event's ambassador for 7 years, will also help direct traffic, greet shoppers, and hand out awards for the karaoke contest.

The Crème de la King Competition will have males, as well as females, singing their

favorite Elvis song karaoke style while vying for finalist spots in the Karaoke Festival slated for September 15 at the Los Angeles County Fair. The top four singers at Elvis Fest will compete at the Fair.

Though entries are still filing in, among the participants is 72 year old retired school teacher Jean Griffin of Irvine singing "Don't Be Cruel" and MORE

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previous Elvis Fest karaoke contest winner, Ray Mora, 58, of Whittier, returning to compete with his rendition of "Love Me Tender."

Entry fees are \$5 for the karaoke contest, and pre-registration is suggested to assure a spot. Deadline for entries is August 19. Forms and information are available by calling 714-441-1826.

Strutting a tall version of the king is Armando Casillos of Los Angeles as a 9' 6" stilt walking Elvis who will be strolling throughout the Market Place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. along with Jeff Abbit of Irvine as Joe Uncool, a shorter Elvis character and comic vaudevillian, moving about the grounds from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Jailhouse Rockers of California, an official Elvis Presley Fan Club and nonprofit organization raising funds for the Elvis Presley Trauma Center in Memphis, TN and other charities, will have a booth about membership as well as souvenirs and memorabilia for sale. They will also offer photos with Elvis for \$3.

Elvis Fest is held in conjunction with the weekend swap meet at the Orange County Fairgrounds, which features over 1,000 merchants selling a variety of products and services. Since 1969 the Orange County Market Place has been held every Saturday and Sunday. Hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. All events at Elvis Fest are included in the price of admission to the swap meet, which is \$2 for general, and free for children 12 and under.

For more information on the Orange County Market Place visit www.ocmarketplace.com or call (949)723-6660.