

NBC Stars Nadine Velazquez & Yancey Arias to MC NHMC Gala

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John Leguizamo, Rosario Dawson and Kenny Ortega among Impact Award Recipients

February 12, 2009 - Pasadena, CA. – The National Media Coalition (NHMC) announced today that NBC stars Nadine Velazquez and Yancey Arias will be the Masters of Ceremony for its 12th Annual Impact Awards Gala on February 20th at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. The annual fete, hosted by the NHMC, one of the country's foremost Latino media advocacy and civil rights organizations, will celebrate outstanding theatrical, television and film performances by Latinos both in front and back of camera and this year's honorees are among Hollywood's most sought after stars. Nadine Velazquez, who stars as "Catalina," the sexy hotel maid/stripper on the NBC hit comedy, "My Name is Earl" and veteran actor, Yancey Arias, most recently seen on the NBC drama series, "Knight Rider" will have co-emcee duties as over 500 industry professionals gather to honor some of Hollywood's best Latino talent. "We are very pleased to have Nadine and Yancey emcee this year's festivities," explained Alex Nogales, NHMC President & CEO, "Nadine is as beautiful as she is talented and Yancey is a veteran actor who continues to do amazing work." Among this year's honorees are acclaimed director/choreographer, Kenny Ortega, the beautiful and talented Rosario Dawson and the amazing actor-comedian, John Leguizamo. All three stars will join past NHMC Impact Award recipients Edward James Olmos, America Ferrera, Eva Longoria and George Lopez, to name a few.

Proving that it is possible to be taken seriously both as a raunchy comic and a serious dramatic actor, John Leguizamo will be on hand to receive the Impact Award for Outstanding Performance in a Motion Picture for his work in the comedy "Nothing Like the Holidays." Another Impact Award for Outstanding Performance in a Motion Picture will go to Rosario Dawson, best known to her legion of fans for her work in such films as Quentin Tarantino's "Grindhouse" and most recently with Will Smith in

“Seven Pounds. The Impact Award for Outstanding Director for a Motion Picture will go to Emmy winning director/choreographer, Kenny Ortega, for his critically acclaimed work on the Disney Channel Original Movie, “High School Musical 2.”

Impact Awards will also be presented to: Wilmer Valderrama for his outstanding work in voicing the title role on the hit Disney Channel animated series, “Handy Manny;” to award-winning actress, Lauren Velez, for her convincing portrayal as Lt. Maria LaGuerta on the hit Showtime drama series “Dexter;” to Emmy nominated actor, Freddy Rodriguez, for his role in “Nothing Like the Holidays” as youngest brother, Jesse, and an Impact Award for Outstanding Marketing in Film and Television will be presented to Santiago Pozo, CEO of Arenas, one of the leading Hispanic entertainment marketing company and the Hispanic AOR for Paramount Pictures.

For more information on the NHMC Impact Awards Gala or for sponsorship opportunities or tickets to the February 20th event, please go to www.nhmc.org or call (626) 792-6462.

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