

For Immediate Release
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DREW SEELEY AND MICHAEL JOHNS PERFORM
AT LEGOLAND® CALIFORNIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

*"High School Musical: The Concert" star and "American Idol" finalist
honor Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption*

CARLSBAD, Calif. (Dec. 1, 2008) – Singers Drew Seeley and Michael Johns joined four foster children from Los Angeles tonight as they pulled the switch to light up the world's largest LEGO® Christmas tree at LEGOLAND® California. This year's ceremony brought special meaning to more than 500-thousand children in foster care nationwide as LEGOLAND presented the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption benefiting Wendy's Wonderful Kids with \$10,000. Wendy's Wonderful Kids is a national program with the goal to move thousands of children out of foster care and into loving adoptive families.

Pamala, 13, Sary, 12, Deborah, 11, and Melinda, 7, smiled as they stood beside Seeley and Santa. The siblings have been each other's best friends and supporters during the hard times they have experienced and are looking for a permanent home. The four children represent the more than 150,000 children in America's foster care system who are available for adoption.

As LEGOLAND guests waited to see the 30-foot-tall tree illuminate, Seeley, most recently seen on "High School Musical: the Concert" and "Another Cinderella Story," performed two Christmas songs to an excited crowd. Johns, known for being one of the top ten finalists on "American Idol" performed his new Christmas song "Another Christmas" in which all sale proceeds go to ALS Association and American Red Cross when it hits stores beginning Dec. 8, 2008.

Johnny Thunder, a character from the family theme park's newest area, Land of Adventure, made a grand entrance to kick off the ceremony as he arrived on the back of a camel. Santa made a surprise appearance and joined Seeley, Johns and the four foster siblings as the switch was pulled, music chimed, fireworks lit up the sky and snow covered guests in The Beginning of the Park.

More than 245,000 forest green DUPLO® bricks click together to create the Christmas tree which can only be seen at the 128-acre family theme park in Carlsbad. For the sixth year in a row, the LEGO tree towers over the entrance to LEGOLAND adorned with nearly 400 LEGO ornaments and 1,000 lights. Brightly-colored LEGO bulbs were created as new additions for the 2008 holiday season and for the first time ever, Park guests have the chance to participate in nightly tree lightings at Park close from Dec. 4 through Dec. 24 where a guest is randomly selected to help pull the switch to light the tree!

The LEGO Christmas tree is the centerpiece of the LEGOLAND California's Holiday Block Party at LEGOLAND California which runs Dec. 20 through Dec. 31, 2008. LEGOLAND guests have the opportunity to enjoy festive music, creative holiday scenes in Miniland U.S.A. and pose with a life-size LEGO display of Santa, his sleigh and two reindeer. The 7-foot tall Santa display features 51,100 bricks and provides a unique photo opportunity during the holidays. Nightly fireworks light up the sky above Miniland U.S.A. Dec. 26 to 30 and the holiday season concludes with the only Kids' New Year's Eve party in Southern California on Dec. 31 with a LEGO brick drop promptly at 6 p.m.

LEGOLAND® California is a 128-acre interactive theme park dedicated to families with children between the ages of 2 and 12. With more than 50 rides, shows and attractions, LEGOLAND is geared towards family fun! There are three other LEGOLAND Parks in the world – LEGOLAND Billund in Denmark, LEGOLAND Deutschland near Günzburg, Germany and LEGOLAND Windsor outside of London. The LEGOLAND theme parks are a part of Merlin Entertainments Group, the second largest attractions operator in the world. Merlin Entertainments is the leading name in location based, branded, family entertainment and currently owns more than 50 attractions worldwide serving 33 million visitors worldwide. For the most current information, log on to www.LEGOLAND.com or call (760) 918-LEGO.

MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS GROUP is the leading name in location based, family entertainment, which has seen the most successful and dynamic growth of any company in the sector over the last five years. The world's second largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin has 58 attractions and six hotels in 12 countries and across 3 continents. The company aims to deliver memorable and rewarding experiences to its 33 million visitors worldwide, through its iconic global and local brands, and the commitment and passion of its managers and 13,000 employees. Merlin Entertainments operates the following attractions - SEA LIFE, Madame Tussauds, LEGOLAND, The London Eye, Dungeons, Gardaland, LEGOLAND Discovery Centres, Alton Towers, Warwick Castle, Thorpe Park, Chessington World of Adventures and Earth Explorer.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a national nonprofit 501(c)3 public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the adoptions of the more than 150,000 children in North America's foster care systems waiting to be adopted. Created by Wendy's® founder, Dave Thomas, who was adopted as a child, the Foundation implements programs such as *Wendy's Wonderful Kids*, placing adoption recruiters throughout the U.S. and Canada to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system, and *Adoption-Friendly Workplace*, encouraging employers to offer adoption benefits to their employees. The Foundation also works with adoption advocates and officials to streamline the adoption process and make adoption more affordable for families. As the only foundation dedicated exclusively to foster care adoption, we are driven by Dave's simple value: Do what's best for the child. To learn more about the Foundation's work, please visit www.DaveThomasFoundationforAdoption.org.



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