



**THE RODEO DRIVE HOLIDAY LIGHTING CELEBRATION AND FESTIVE DECOR
AND PROGRAMMING KICK OFF ON NOVEMBER 16**

AWARD-WINNING ACTOR AND SINGER SHERYL LEE RALPH TO PERFORM LIVE

GET READY TO GO *UP, UP, AND AWAY HOLIDAY!*



Sheryl Lee Ralph, photo courtesy the artist.

(BEVERLY HILLS, CA, November 2, 2023) — The City of Beverly Hills and the Rodeo Drive Committee announced today a sparkling and robust program of holiday decor and entertainment including the annual **Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration** to take place on **Thursday, November 16 from 5 to 8 p.m.** featuring a special, live performance by Emmy Award-winning actor and singer **Sheryl Lee Ralph**.

Ralph is celebrated for her role in ABC's *Abbott Elementary* for which she received the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series, becoming the first Black woman in 35 years to win the award. She has been nominated a second time for this award. She rose to fame on stage and screen when she starred in the original Broadway production of *Dreamgirls*, for which she was nominated for a Tony for Best Actress in a Musical. She has appeared in multiple films and TV shows, acting alongside Hollywood stars such as Denzel Washington, Robert de Niro and Whoopi Goldberg. Ralph lit up the stadium singing *Lift Every Voice and Sing* on the field before this year's Super Bowl LVII.

Continuing a holiday tradition on Rodeo Drive, thousands are expected to gather on the iconic, palm tree-dotted luxury fashion street to be among the first to see this year's holiday lights and decor-themed *Up, Up & Away Holiday!* Elements of fanciful hot-air balloons and holiday gifts wrapped in silver, blue, red and white will adorn the street's center median under the sparkle of the palm trees embellished with dripping lights while the tree trunks and surrounding white rose bushes will be wrapped with a cascade of festive white, sparkling lights bringing the magic and adventure of the holidays to all.

"Our Holiday Lighting Celebration is an opportunity for us to come together, recognize how fortunate we are, and begin this year's holiday season – a celebration of our City and a hopeful beginning for the New Year," said **Beverly Hills Mayor Dr. Gold**. "At the same time, we recognize the impact of world events and our thoughts are with those here and abroad as we approach the holiday season. We hope they can find a sense of hopefulness and strength as we all overcome darkness with light."

"The reveal of this year's decor themed *Up Up and Away Holiday!* celebrates the start of the holiday season and brings together our community and visitors on Rodeo Drive. We are delighted to welcome Sheryl Lee Ralph to our iconic street, where each magical encounter promises to be a gift, unwrapping our hopes and dreams for everyone," said **Kay Monica Rose**, President of the Rodeo Drive Committee.

At three stages along the iconic street, featured performances will include sets from The Wallis's critically-acclaimed theatrical experience **LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE** inspired by the 2003 classic holiday film written and directed by Richard Curtis, by cast members **B.Slade**, the two-time Emmy Award-winner and four-time Grammy-nominee and **Madison Taylor Baez**, who at only 12-years old earned the *America's Got Talent* Season 17 golden buzzer with her powerhouse, soulful voice, and heartfelt holiday tunes from **The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA)**, acclaimed for artistic brilliance, social advocacy, and spreading love and acceptance through their music.

The evening's entertainment will also include performances by **The Maccabeats**, a Jewish a cappella phenomenon that has released four successful albums and made multiple TV appearances; LA-based Bollywood dance sensation **Nazara**, who will bring an uplifting, mesmerizing fusion of Bollywood and Indian classical dance; timeless classics by Broadway's seasoned singer and actor **Terron Brooks** and former *American Idol* contestant **Vonzell Solomon**, both individually celebrated for their remarkable talents and who have now joined forces as a soulful duet; a special drum performance by LA-based Cajon Drummer **Nick Adams** known for his collaborations with top artists and appearances on major TV shows; a special dance performance from the **Holiday Rhythm Tappers**, the duo from *So You Think You Can*

Dance; harmonious renditions of beloved holiday tunes from **The Four Parts Barbershop Quartet** and **Winter Wonderland Carolers**, and sonic sounds by **DJ Z**. Celebrating the incredible shopping on Rodeo Drive and in Beverly Hills, the **Holiday Helpers** will perform *Shopper's Delight*, a bold and colorful dance set.



Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration 2022, photo by Kate Jones, courtesy the Rodeo Drive Committee

The street will come alive with mesmerizing interactive roaming performers, roller-skating holiday packages will whiz by, towering Peppermint Stilts will dazzle onlookers as they parade in their striking candy-inspired attire, while an abundance of delectable food, a wine garden and fanciful photo opportunities will engage guests throughout the evening.

In a memorable moment, Mayor Dr. Julian Gold and City Council members will countdown the crowd and illuminate Rodeo Drive's center median bringing to life the *Up Up & Away Holiday!* decor in its full adornment. Finally, Santa Claus, led by the Beverly Hills High School marching band will arrive on the Beverly Hills Fire Truck and a spectacular fireworks finale will dazzle the night sky.

The holiday festivities will continue across the City through January 1, 2024 with the following installations available for viewing nightly: The "Glowing Gardens" which includes giant tree and ornament sculptures at Beverly Cañon Gardens park; the "Lights on the Lily Pond" show at Beverly Gardens Park which takes place every 15 minutes beginning at 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and back for its second year, the incredible "Unwrap the Magic" projection show viewable nightly every half hour from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the iconic Beverly Hills City Hall Tower located at the corner of N Santa Monica Boulevard and N Crescent Drive.

The City will have its historic trolley car, adorned with holiday garland and named the "Jolly Trolley" for the holiday season running to take visitors to the "Unwrap the Magic" projection

show every Thursday through Sunday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (excluding holidays) from its stops at Rodeo Drive and Dayton Way and N Crescent Drive and N Santa Monica Boulevard.

There will also be a family friendly holiday celebration for children of all ages on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Greystone Mansion and Gardens.

To learn more about all of the events happening and view the Beverly Hills holiday décor map, visit beverlyhills.org/holidaysbh

High-resolution images of the November 16, 2023 Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration will be available shortly after the event. Press kit and representative images can be downloaded [here](#).

Celebrate the holidays together

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EDITORS' NOTES

About Rodeo Drive

Rodeo Drive is the iconic, international luxury destination renowned as an unparalleled center for fashion and culture. Located in Beverly Hills, celebrated as the most glamorous city in the world, the famed palm-dotted three blocks of Rodeo Drive are home to more than 100 of the world's most distinguished global brands, with buildings designed by notable names in design and architecture. At the intersection of luxury, fashion and entertainment, Rodeo Drive hosts a vibrant program of tailored, annual events welcoming Southern California residents and international visitors to discover and enjoy exceptional savoir-faire, craftsmanship, and new experiences in fashion, contemporary art and culture. For more information about Rodeo Drive, please visit www.rodeodrive-bh.com and [Instagram](#).

About the Rodeo Drive Committee

The Rodeo Drive Committee was founded in 1977 and incorporated in 1982 as Rodeo Drive, Inc., a 501 C (6) non-profit organization, that provides a forum where its members—consisting of retailers, hoteliers, and landowners—can engage, share a dialogue, and help shape the present and future of the iconic, world-famous shopping destination.

About Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills is one of the world's most exclusive locales. Centrally located in greater Los Angeles, Beverly Hills is a premier holiday and business travel destination with beautiful weather year-round, acclaimed full-service and boutique hotel accommodations, superb dining, and unparalleled shopping. Synonymous with Hollywood glamor, Beverly Hills enjoys an international reputation as the home and playground of A-list movie stars. The City is not only known worldwide for its grand mansions and chic shops along Rodeo Drive, but also for its multitude of art and architectural destinations, spas and salons, and exceptional walkability. Learn more at lovebeverlyhills.com or on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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