

Oct. 17, 2022

**ABC'S 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: A 30TH CELEBRATION'
FINDS ITS LUMIERE, COGSWORTH AND MRS. POTTS
IN MARTIN SHORT, DAVID ALAN GRIER AND SHANIA TWAIN**

**Plus, Rizwan Manji, Jon Jon Briones and Leo Abelo Perry Round Out Cast as
LeFou, Maurice and Chip in the Special Airing Thursday, Dec. 15**



Photography clockwise from top left:
Martin Short by Caitlin Cronenberg, David Alan Grier by Etienne Laurent, Shania Twain by Alex Harbaugh,
Leo Abelo Perry by Cameron Jordan, Jon Jon Briones by Storm Santos, and Rizwan Manji by Paul Gregory

ABC announced six additional talented performers joining the highly anticipated animated and live-action blended special, "Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration." Celebrated comedian and Emmy® Award-winning actor Martin Short has been tapped to play Lumière; Tony® Award winner David Alan Grier will play Cogsworth; Rizwan Manji joins the cast as Gaston's loyal sidekick, LeFou; and Jon Jon Briones will play Belle's loving father, Maurice. Viewers are also in for a major treat as five-

time GRAMMY Award® winner and top-selling female country pop artist Shania Twain is joined by rising star Leo Abelo Perry, playing everyone's favorite mother-son duo, Mrs. Potts and Chip.

Presented by The Wonderful World of Disney, the two-hour reimagining of the beloved story of "Beauty and the Beast" will be taped in front of a live audience at Disney Studios and will air **THURSDAY, DEC. 15** (8:00-10:00 p.m. EST), on ABC and on [Disney+](#) the next day.

As previously announced, five-time GRAMMY and Academy Award®-winning singer-songwriter H.E.R. will play the role of Belle; Tony, Emmy and GRAMMY-nominated artist Josh Groban will play the Beast; Tony and GRAMMY-nominated star Joshua Henry has been tapped to play Gaston; and EGOT winner and legend Rita Moreno will serve as the night's narrator. Jon M. Chu will executive produce the special and Hamish Hamilton is set to direct, taking viewers on a memorable journey through the classic enchanted tale.

Martin Short, a celebrated comedian and actor, has won fans and accolades in television, film and theater since his breakout season on "Saturday Night Live" over 30 years ago. A two-time primetime Emmy winner and an accomplished stage actor, Short won a Tony, Theatre World Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award for his role in the revival of "Little Me." Steve Martin and Short currently star together in Hulu's most-watched comedy series, "Only Murders in the Building." Selena Gomez co-stars in the series, which was co-created by Martin and John Hoffman ("Grace & Frankie"). In 1994, Short was awarded the Order of Canada — the Canadian equivalent to British knighthood. He was also inducted into the Canadian Walk of Fame in June 2000. In 2017, he received a Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award from the Governor-General of Canada.

Countless theater, television, film and comedic endeavors have pushed David Alan Grier's career to remarkable heights. His ability to excel across all mediums and contexts is a testament to his inherent sense of comedic timing and creative drive. The Tony Award winner and GRAMMY Award nominee received an MFA from the Yale School of Drama where he trained in Shakespeare. Grier has received many accolades and awards throughout his career, not the least of which was his inclusion on Comedy Central's list of the "100 Greatest Stand-Ups of All Time."

Grier's illustrious television career is highlighted by his turn as a principal cast member on the Emmy Award-winning show "In Living Color," where he created and portrayed some of the iconic show's most memorable characters. He starred in all three seasons of NBC's Image Award-nominated comedy series "The Carmichael Show" and appeared in NBC's Emmy Award-winning live television production of "The Wiz Live!" as the iconic role of the Cowardly Lion. Grier also guest-starred in the Dowdle brothers' drama series "Joe Pickett" from Spectrum/Paramount+ and is set to headline and executive produce a limited series adaptation of "A Soldier's Story" for Sony Pictures TV. He is currently co-starring in FX's "The Patient" alongside Steve Carrell.

Global superstar Shania Twain is a five-time GRAMMY winner and one of music's most renowned trailblazers. With five albums released and more than 100 million albums sold worldwide, Twain remains the top-selling female country pop artist of all time. Her hits include "Any Man of Mine," "That Don't Impress Me Much," "You're Still the One" and "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" Twain was the first artist in history to release three consecutive diamond certified albums. Twain's first album in 15 years, "NOW," was released in September 2017 and debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 albums, making it the first female country release in over three years to top the all-genre chart. Twain

recently wrapped her second residency in Vegas called "Let's Go!" On July 26, Netflix released "Shania Twain: Not Just a Girl," a brand-new, career-spanning documentary on Twain's life and career with an accompanying highlights album. In other music news, Twain just released "Waking Up Dreaming," the first song from her forthcoming album coming in early 2023.

Rizwan Manji received a 2021 Canadian Screen Award, Best Guest Actor nomination for his portrayal of Ray Butani, "Schitt's Creek" jack-of-all-trades. The critically acclaimed CBC/Pop TV show dominated the 2020 Emmy race winning Best Comedy. Manji is perhaps best known for playing Rajiv Gidwani, the hysterically officious, scheming assistant manager of a call center in the NBC comedy "Outsourced." He can currently be seen in the Netflix comedy "Wedding Season." Film and TV credits include "Peacemaker," "The Magicians," "Mr. Robot," "Arrested Development," "Charlie Wilson's War," "The Tiger Hunter" and "Paterson."

Jon Jon Briones just completed principal photography as series regular Gabriel Alonto in the upcoming Netflix limited series "Class of '09." Immediately prior, he filmed a starring role in the Amblin feature "The Last Voyage of the Demeter" to be released in January 2023. Briones is best known for his starring role in Ryan Murphy's Golden Globe®-nominated Netflix series "Ratched." On stage, he played the Engineer in the recent revival of "Miss Saigon" in London's West End and on Broadway. He also plays the series regular role of Hank in the Netflix horror anime series "Trese." Coming soon, Briones will play the series regular role of Alex Malto in Nickelodeon's animated series "Transformers."

Leo Abelo Perry made his feature film debut at 9 years old in the Disney+ family comedy "Cheaper by the Dozen," opposite Zach Braff and Gabrielle Union. His other credits include "black-ish," "The Big Leap" and a major role in a franchise film to be announced soon. At the age of 7, Perry, a burgeoning social activist, started Dance for Justice at the height of the 2020 racial justice protests. His yearlong dancing endeavor raised funds for racial justice programs and served as the inspiration to launch and host an activism podcast called "The Activators!" in partnership with A Kids Company About. Perry is represented by Artistic Endeavors, The Osbrink Agency and Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein Lezcano Bobb & Dang.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of when Disney Animation's "Beauty and the Beast" became the first animated film to be nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards. The film went on to win the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy, while the theme song "Beauty and the Beast" won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1992.

"Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration" is produced by Done+Dusted in association with Walt Disney Television Alternative and Electric Somewhere. Executive producers are Jon M. Chu, Caitlin Foito, Hamish Hamilton, Raj Kapoor, Richard Kraft and Katy Mullan. Hamish Hamilton will serve as director. H.E.R. serves as a producer.

About ABC Entertainment

ABC Entertainment's compelling programming includes "Grey's Anatomy," the longest-running medical drama in primetime television; ratings juggernaut "The Bachelor" franchise; riveting dramas "Big Sky," "The Good Doctor," "A Million Little Things," "The Rookie" and "Station 19"; trailblazing comedies "Abbott Elementary," "The Conners," "The Goldbergs," "Home Economics" and "The Wonder Years"; popular game shows, including "The \$100,000 Pyramid," "Celebrity

Family Feud," "The Chase," "Press Your Luck" and "To Tell the Truth"; star-making sensation "American Idol"; "Judge Steve Harvey," the network's strongest unscripted series debut in a year; reality phenomenon "Shark Tank"; family favorites "America's Funniest Home Videos" and "Holey Moley"; "General Hospital," which heads into its milestone 60th season on the network; and late-night talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"; as well as the critically acclaimed, Emmy® Award-winning "Live in Front of a Studio Audience" specials. The network also boasts some of television's most prestigious awards shows, including "The Oscars®," "The CMA Awards" and the "American Music Awards."

ABC programming can also be viewed on [Hulu](#).

About Done+Dusted

Done+Dusted is a global entertainment group with offices in Los Angeles, London and Abu Dhabi and the preeminent producer of live television events in the world; creating and capturing the moments that make headlines and shape culture. Whether it is producing "The Emmys," "The Little Mermaid Live!," "Mariah Carey's Magical Christmas Special," "The Disney Family Singalong" – or any of the other 300+ productions D+D have brought to life, everything they produce bears the distinct badge of quality that makes it, unequivocally... Done+Dusted.

About Electric Somewhere

ELECTRIC SOMEWHERE is the production company of filmmaker Jon M. Chu, who runs the company with his television producing partner Caitlin Foito. Chu is known for impactful representation through meaningful spectacle and Electric Somewhere is building on that brand through their multi-year overall deal with 20th Television where they have set up several high-profile projects including THE COMPANY YOU KEEP starring Milo Ventimiglia for ABC. Other projects are set at Hulu, FX, Disney+, and Netflix.

For more information on "Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration" ([#BeautyAndTheBeast30th](#)), visit [abc.com](#) and follow ABC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

Photography and video available at [www.dgepress.com/abc/](#).

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