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Silver Dollar City Presents Its Brightest Season, 4 Million Lights for Acclaimed Festival *An Old Time Christmas*

November 5 - December 30

Dickens Production Up for Top Award in Industry Worldwide

(Branson, Mo. 10/2011) **Silver Dollar City rings in its brightest season with one of the most acclaimed holiday festivals in America, *An Old Time Christmas*, presented November 5 – December 30 at the Branson, Missouri theme park.**

An Old Time Christmas transforms the 1880s-style park into an evening wonderland, featuring the *Christmas on Main Street* light and sound show, 1,000 decorated Christmas trees, a **Holiday Light Parade**, the Broadway-style production *A Dickens' Christmas Carol* – an international award finalist, festive holiday foods and over four million lights – and rides too. In temperatures down to 42 degrees, guests can soar into the night while viewing the park's lights from above.

The 5-Story Special Effects Christmas Tree is the park centerpiece, a towering visual icon that comes to life at dusk each evening when the *Christmas on Main Street* shows begin. During the shows, the massive tree blazes in synchronization to the musical movements of Christmas songs -- up to 100 light changes per second -- while lights on buildings, in hanging canopies over Main Street and on Christmas trees around the Square flash along with it, accompanied by surround-sound, immersing guests in the experience. While technologically incredible, the tree is “green” too, operating with energy-saving LED* lights.

Silver Dollar City's acclaimed production, *A Dickens' Christmas Carol*, is a finalist for top production in the industry's international Brass Ring Awards, with winners to be announced in mid-November. The popular show is an original musical adaptation of the famous classic by Charles Dickens, brought to life with elaborate sets and visual effects, flying spirits, pyrotechnic special effects and a talented cast of 14, accompanied by a live band.

Since its debut more than two decades ago, Silver Dollar City's *An Old Time Christmas* has

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become one of the country's most recognized events for spectacular lighting and world-class entertainment. Profiled as one of the nation's top holiday celebrations by *USA Today*, *CNN Travel*, *The Travel Channel* and *Good Morning America*, the festival features dazzling elements throughout the 100-acre park. The colorful *Holiday Light Parade*, with musical floats covered in lights, winds through the streets of the City each evening as accompanying costumed characters interact with guests along the parade route. Additional shows include a musical presentation of the Living Nativity and the interactive show *Frosty* that invites kids to help bring the legendary snowman to life.

Fine craftsmanship is also showcased, as the park's 100 demonstrating craftsmen create one-of-a-kind handmade holiday items, from blown glass ornaments, angels and snowmen to pottery dessert platters and scotch-pine scented candles. Guests sing Christmas carols as they ride the Silver Dollar Steam Train and for nighttime thrills, most of the rides and the park's five roller coasters are open after dark with great views of the lights from above. Tom & Huck's RiverBlast offers raft rides through holiday lights – with water blasters turned off for Christmas.

Silver Dollar City's Culinary & Craft School celebrates the holidays with classes ranging from holiday appetizers and pastry specialties to Christmas morning breakfast. The tastes of the season are in abundance throughout the park, including a prime rib buffet and traditional favorites such as turkey with apple-raisin dressing. Festive holiday treats from apple dumplings to hot wassail can be found throughout the park, and the bakery cooks up homemade fruitcakes, cookies and breads. For kids, there's a lunch with Santa, available weekends throughout the festival.

During *An Old Time Christmas*, Silver Dollar City is open Thursdays through Sundays through December 23, plus Wednesday, November 23, closed Christmas Eve and Christmas day, and open daily December 26-30. Hours are 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. most days, with extended hours on Saturdays – check the website for exact schedules. Information: 800-831-4FUN(386) or visit www.silverdollarcity.com.

An Old Time Christmas is presented by Humana.

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* **Light-Emitting Diode**