

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Miss Utah Scholarship Organization Announces 2016 Judges Panel

Miss Utah 2016 to be crowned June 18, 2016 at Capitol Theatre



SALT LAKE CITY — May 26, 2016 — Today The Miss Utah Organization announced the panel of judges who will select Miss Utah 2016. The winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and sponsorship accommodations for the year from several local businesses. She will also represent Utah at the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J. Sept. 8-13, 2016.

Each judge comes with a specific skillset that will enable them to select the young woman who will best represent The Miss Utah Organization. Below is more information about what each judge will bring to the table at the 2016 Miss Utah pageant.

McNeil Chestnut

McNeil Chestnut will serve as the head judge and is a 43-year veteran of The Miss America Program. This will be the 50th pageant that he has judged. McNeil has studied music for most of his life and is widely known for his expertise on the history and orchestras of the swing band era. He is a member of the North Carolina and U.S. Supreme Court Bar, engages in a government relations practice and is a visiting professor of trust law at his alma mater, Campbell University, where there is a fully endowed scholarship in his honor.

Stacy Johnson Bills

Stacy Johnson Bills represented her city as Miss Provo, went on to win the title of Miss Utah 2003 and was awarded a talent scholarship at Miss America. Her platform was "Taking the 'dis' out of Disability," and she was honored to serve as an Ambassador for the National Respite Foundation. In 2008 she was honored to make the top 20 girls on FOX's hit series "So You Think You Can Dance." Her students have danced and toured with JLo, Chris Brown, "Glee," "Dancing With the Stars," "Donny and Marie," "La Reve" and "So You Think You Can Dance."

Bo Miller

Bo Miller is currently the Director of the Amory Regional Museum and was honored as Amory's Outstanding Citizen in 2014. He has been involved with the Miss America Program for over 30 years and is currently the director of the Miss Amory & Miss Tombigbee Pageants, preliminaries to Miss Mississippi.

Alleigh Allen

Alleigh Allen has been in the modeling industry for 22 years and owns Models and Images Agency, Inc. in Wichita, Kansas. She has worked with designers including Yves Saint Laurent, Chloe, and Givenchy. Alleigh has a B.A. in Psychology and a Master's degree in Business. Through her work with developing new models and talent, she has also branched into helping train and guide young women in the pageant industry.

Neleh Dennis Nielson

Neleh Dennis Nielson was the runner-up on “Survivor: Marquesas,” and missed the \$1 million dollars and title of Sole Survivor by just one vote. At the time, she was 21 and the youngest person to have played the game. Neleh has been married to the love of her life for almost 13 years and has three beautiful children. Before becoming a Mother, Neleh worked for CBS as an Entertainment Reporter.

Josh Wright

Billboard #1 artist Dr. Josh Wright has delighted audiences across the United States and in Europe. *The Washington Post* described him as a pianist possessing “rarer gifts – touch, intelligence and the ability to surprise.” Josh topped the Billboard Classical Traditional chart just three weeks after its release in April 2011. He has also performed at Dolby Theater in Los Angeles as part of “America's Got Talent” Season 9. Josh earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan and Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of Utah. Josh is also passionate about teaching and has appeared as a guest lecturer and masterclass presenter at several festivals and colleges.

Mayumi Cole

Mayumi Cole is a native of Okinawa, Japan. She served in the United States Army Signal Corps for 28 years until retirement. In addition to her love of pageantry, Mayumi continues to explore performing arts and was appointed as the “Okinawa Goodwill Cultural Ambassador” by the Governor of Okinawa, Japan in 2015. She is active in her community through various volunteer efforts with organizations such as: Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society, the United Service Organization (USO) and Japanese cultural organizations.

The Miss Utah Organization

The Miss Utah Organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and affiliate of the Miss America Scholarship Pageant, the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women and one of the nation's leading achievement programs. For more information about the Miss Utah Organization, visit www.missutahpageant.com.

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