



# CAL MARITIME

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ROY E. DISNEY IS 2008 CAL MARITIME COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

(Vallejo, CA – March 18, 2008)... Roy E. Disney will be the speaker for the 78th annual commencement at The California Maritime Academy, Saturday, April 26, 2008. He will also receive an Honorary Degree from the University for his many contributions to the state and the nation, including international sailing.

Mr. Disney has had a long and distinguished career in the American film industry, beginning as an employee of the company founded by his father Roy O. Disney and his uncle Walt Disney, and eventually becoming a senior executive of the firm for which he now serves as a consultant and Board Director Emeritus. He has also played an active role in international sailing and the promotion of youth sailing programs.

Roy E. Disney has made substantial contributions to American media in roles as a writer, director, editor, producer and executive producer. Among the many family-oriented productions in which he has played an important role in recent years: *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, *Pocahontas*, *Tarzan*, and *Fantasia 2000*. He has also been an active community volunteer, including current service as a Trustee to the California Institute of the Arts.

Roy E. Disney is internationally known for his involvement in the world sailing community and has held several sailing speed records including the Chicago-to-Mackinac, Newport-Bermuda and the Los Angeles to-Hawaii Transpac (a transit of just under seven-and-a-half days, set in 1999.) Mr. Disney has also been an active and personally involved supporter of youth sailing on the West Coast, annually sponsoring the Roy E. Disney trophy -- presented to the Pacific Coast Interscholastic Sailing Association high school team earning the most Disney Cup trophy points for the season.

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Disney's love of sailing and efforts to promote the sport were most recently evidenced in his underwriting of the *Morning Light* project – the recruitment, training and campaigning of one of the youngest crews ever to enter the Transpac race. Nearly 500 top youth sailors nationwide applied for selection. Fifteen were chosen for a final crew of 11, among them Cal Maritime senior cadet Piet vanOs, who served as the boat's tactician. The team underwent several months of pre-race training in Hawaii and the U.S. The entire process, nearly a year from start to finish, including the 2007 Transpac, was filmed by Disney cinematographers, and the completed documentary, *Morning Light*, will be released in theaters worldwide in the fall of 2008. It is expected to provide a major spur for expanded youth interest in sailing, and new visibility, recognition of, and interest in The California Maritime Academy worldwide.

"We are delighted that Mr. Disney has agreed to deliver the commencement address to our graduating students and their families this year," said Academy President William B. Eisenhardt. "He has certainly established himself as a leader in the entertainment industry. We are particularly appreciative of his very strong support of youth sailing – an area where this Academy has long excelled with its trophy-winning teams of scholar sailors. His sponsorship of the *Morning Light* documentary will undoubtedly play an important role in further promotion of youth sailing and, through Mr. vanOs' involvement, The California Maritime Academy as well."

*Located in Vallejo, California, The California Maritime Academy is a unique campus of The California State University, offering bachelor's degrees in business administration, facilities engineering technology, global studies and maritime affairs, marine engineering technology, marine transportation, and mechanical engineering. Cal Maritime is one of only seven degree-granting maritime academies in the United States — and the only one on the West Coast. Cal Maritime sailing teams consistently rank among the tops in the nation and have captured the Shield Cup – the annual sailing competition among the nation's U.S. service academy teams – four out of the last five years.*

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