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CHESTNUT ADDED TO GYOZA EATING CHAMPIONSHIP LINEUP

(Los Angeles – August 20, 2008) – Two-time defending Nathan’s Hot Dog Eating Champ and number one ranked eater Joey Chestnut will be returning to defend his Gyoza Eating title this Saturday, August 23 at the Nisei Week Festival in Los Angeles.

Challenging him will be Major League Eaters Patrick Bertoletti (MLE World Ranking: #2), Rich LeFevre (#7), Erik Denmark (#12), Tim Brown (#13), Kevin Ross (#29), El Toro Jimenez (#41), and Shawn Kirby (#48) as well as actress Miki Mia (The waxer from 40-Year Old Virgin), a competitive eater from Japan. Participants from the community will also make an attempt at dethroning Chestnut and earning a share of the \$1500 purse.

The event will take place Saturday, August 23 during the 68th Nisei Week Japanese Festival at 12:30 pm at the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center (JACCC) Plaza in the Little Tokyo District of Los Angeles at 244 S. San Pedro Street.

In 2006, the inaugural Nisei Week Gyoza Eating Championship went down to the wire as Chestnut edged out Sonya Thomas eating 212 gyoza over Thomas’ 210, setting a new world record. The event returns after a one year hiatus as competitors will see who can eat the most O’Tasty Foods gyoza in ten minutes.

For calendar of events and volunteer information on the 68th Nisei Week Festival, please log onto www.NiseiWeek.org or call the Nisei Week Foundation office at 213/687-7193. The Nisei Week office is located at 244 South San Pedro Street, Suite 303, Los Angeles, Calif., 90012. The festival is produced by the Nisei Week Foundation, a 501(c)(3) volunteer run nonprofit organization, whose mission is to promote Japanese and Japanese American heritage and traditions while bringing together the diverse communities of Southern California through arts and cultural education.

Major League Eating (MLE) is the sports franchise that oversees all professional competitive eating events. The mission of Major League Eating is to maintain a safe environment for all events, while also seeking to create a dynamic and enjoyable fan experience. www.majorleagueeating.com.

Event sponsors include: The Sheri & Les Biller Foundation, O’Tasty Foods, Tokio Marine, Restaurant Oiwake, and Far East Café.

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