



# HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

I thought all princesses were created equal

Maybe I'm in the minority, but to me, a princess is a princess. That stays more true when it comes to animation than in real life.

I think that's true for children, too. I'm a huge fan of Disney animated films, but not so much of Disney's presence on TV.

There has been an uproar about the upcoming Disney Channel movie, "Princess Sofia the First: Once Upon a Princess."

But the fairytale story ended up being a nightmarish tale for Disney.

In an attempt to reach the Hispanic community, Sofia was introduced as a Latina princess.

Sofia does not have a dark complexion, which upset many who cited her for being "too white."

The spinmasters quickly had Disney on the defensive.

On Princess Sofia's Facebook profile, it was explained her mother was from an enchanted kingdom inspired by Spain. Her father was from an enchanted kingdom inspired by Scandinavia. She was raised in a make-believe melting pot kingdom, it continued.

It was also pointed out she is a fairytale girl who lives in a fairytale world and that all Disney characters are from fantasy lands and reflect various cultures and do not represent real world cultures.

Something can be culled from the explanation that continued, "It is a fairytale and storybook world that we hope will spur a child's imagination. It's one where we can have flying horses, schools led by fairies, songs that have a Latin beat and towns with markets like those found in North Africa." That was part of the statement from Nancy Kanter, senior vice president of original programming and general manager of Disney Junior.

Granted, Disney was in the wrong when it started out by touting Sofia as a Latina princess. The explanation did little to calm the uproar.

It would be interesting to know if Disney played the program for a cross-section of children of different backgrounds.

From what I've gathered, it's been adults who have created the brouhaha about the incident.

With that said, I'm not sure if Disney can ever get it right to where everyone is happy.

Having two boys never stopped me from taking them to the theater to see a Disney flick or from buying Disney movies when they were released on video or DVD.

We have shelves full of movies from the classics to some of the newer releases.

Among the collection are movies with heroes, villains, cars that talk, candlesticks that are alive and princesses.

We've watched them all ... again and again.

A co-worker said her girls don't segregate Princess A from Princess B because of her looks, where she's from or how she talks. To her daughters, they're all princesses.

I'd like to think most kids are blind when it comes to race and ethnicity.

When my boys were younger, one said something along the lines of, "Oh, the brown boy," and continued on with the conversation without skipping a beat.

It felt good knowing he hadn't been jaded by the stereotypes and prejudices shared by many adults. He could have said a variety of things much worse.

I'd like to think he'll keep that perspective the rest of his life.

Kanter is right. It's an imaginary world that has teddy bears that come alive, that has a big blue genie and that has mountains that look like automobiles.

I think most kids have great imaginations and the ability to understand a princess is a princess.



ACCENT ON LIFE

JOSEPH SITARZ COLUMNIST

Doc is owned by Glenda Hilley.

## Calendar proceeds to help Humane Society

By JOSEPH SITARZ  
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### Calendar launch

■ **What:** Project Hope is a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Greenwood presented by Jon Holloway and sponsored by SPF. The 12-month calendar is in 12-inch by 12-inch format.

■ **When:** 5-7 p.m. Thursday

■ **Where:** Sundance Gallery, 140 Maxwell Ave., Greenwood

■ **Cost:** Calendars are \$20

■ **Of note:** The event is free and calendars will be available for purchase.

■ **Information:** Call Sundance Gallery at 227-1188 or the Humane Society of Greenwood at 942-8558 or 942-8775 or visit [www.gwdhumanesociety.org](http://www.gwdhumanesociety.org).

provide exposure for the Humane Society throughout the year."

Calendars, of which 2,000 were printed, are \$20.

"All that animals in the calendar are either Humane Society success stories or SPF kitty clients," Holloway said.

"SPF has test cats for sampling food. About half of the SPF cats came from the Humane Society."

"Of course, our hope is that it will serve its purpose in helping to raise the necessary funding for the new Humane Society shelter," said Marla Carroll, SPF North America's human resources manager.

"SPF is very passionate about the health and well being of cats and dogs," Carroll added. "In fact, that is one of our core values. Understanding the need for adequate shelter and care for homeless pets in our county, SPF has

partnered with the Humane Society of Greenwood in their efforts to acquire funding for a new shelter. After seeing a previous fundraising project that Jon Holloway had been involved with, SPF thought his idea to partner on a calendar project would be an excellent way to show our gratitude to the Humane Society for their generosity during the startup of our Panelis operation here in Greenwood County."

The photos for the black and white calendar were taken by Holloway in about one month.

"Jon was a delight to work with. He is extremely creative and talented and Greenwood is very lucky to have someone that is so passionate about bringing culture into the community," Carroll said. "We feel very fortunate to have made his acquaintance and we hope to have a very long and fruitful relationships with both Karen at The Humane Society and Jon Holloway."

Holloway and Lyndi Simms, of Sundance Gallery, visited the dogs and cats in their home environs, including at SPF.

"All of our SPF cats started life as homeless youngsters living in the Humane Society's shelter," Carroll said. "Considering that they are some of the many lucky pets who were cared for and eventually adopted from the Humane Society, we felt it was appropriate to have them participate in the effort."

Everyone involved is pleased with the final product.

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The subjects of photographs in the Hope calendar project are success stories. They're shelter cats and dogs adopted through the Humane Society of Greenwood.

"To me, it shows accomplishment," said Humane Society of Greenwood executive director Karen Pettay. "It's important to me that this is not a sad calendar. This is truly a hopeful calendar because it's showing animals that have come through the shelter system and ended up in fantastic homes. This is just a small sampling for us."

The Humane Society, Jon Holloway and SPF Palatability partnered for this calendar of hope featuring cats and dogs from the local shelter. The 12-month calendar features photographs taken by Holloway and is funded by SPF with all proceeds going to the Humane Society of Greenwood.

SPF is a leader in palatability enhancers to improve the enjoyment of pet food, the well being of dogs and cats and pet owner satisfaction. SPF has been in Greenwood County five years.

"It's been a collaborative effort that will be very beneficial for the Greenwood Humane Society and for dogs and cats in the county," Holloway said.

The Hope calendar will be unveiled during a lunch party 5-7 p.m. Thursday at Sundance Gallery at 146 Maxwell Ave. in Uptown Greenwood.

"We wanted to bring this out for the holidays," Holloway said. "We wanted to



Marie is an SPF taste-test cat.



Coal, who is October's photo, is owned by Dr. Locke and Suzanne Simons.



Eddie was adopted by Jon and Lori Holloway.

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