December 19, 2013

R. Scott Jenkins, President Tournament of Roses Association

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

As the 2008 grand marshal of the Tournament of Roses, I was thrilled to take part in an event that is older than I am. I hate to rain on this parade, but I was disappointed to learn from my friends at PETA that SeaWorld will have a float this year. Perhaps the Tournament of Roses Association has not seen *Blackfish*? The highly acclaimed documentary gives us a look beyond SeaWorld's glossy ads at the painful lives of orcas who were captured and bred for the park. Many orcas at SeaWorld have been confined for decades to tanks that, to them, amount to nothing more than glorified bathtubs. They have been deprived of everything that is natural and important to them and are forced to swim in endless circles, far away from their families. It's no wonder that orcas at SeaWorld have never lived long enough to die of old age. (And as someone who has lived a long, eventful life, I can vouch for the fact that they're missing out.)

SeaWorld is trying to recover from an exposé that showed its true colors. Please don't let the company use the Rose Parade as a PR ploy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cloris Leachman