

THE 70<sup>TH</sup>  
**MISS \* UNIVERSE**  
COMPETITION

EILAT, ISRAEL

**MISS UNIVERSE INDIA, HARNAAZ SANDHU, CROWNED  
70<sup>TH</sup> MISS UNIVERSE  
IN GLOBAL ANNIVERSARY TELEVISION EVENT**

**THREE-HOUR SPECIAL INCLUDED INSPIRING PERFORMANCES BY POWERHOUSE FEMALE MUSICAL  
ARTISTS JOJO AND NOA KIREL**

*Clips from the show and images can be found at [press.missuniverse.com](https://press.missuniverse.com)*

**Eilat, ISRAEL (December 12, 2021)** – Miss Universe India **Harnaaz Sandhu** was crowned Miss Universe live on FOX and Telemundo tonight from Eilat, Israel. Harnaaz will use her time as Miss Universe to advocate for menstrual equity through public administration.

After a two week-long visit to Jerusalem and Eilat, a beautiful National Costume Competition, rounds of interviews, a preliminary competition and the live Finals, Harnaaz was crowned with the iconic Mouawad “Power of Unity” Crown, presented to her by outgoing Miss Universe, Andrea Meza. Harnaaz will move to New York City in the new year to represent the brand and various philanthropic organizations during her reign.

“This has been an experience of a lifetime!” said Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu. “The past three weeks have been a dream getting to know these exceptional women, and I’m honored to be chosen among them to represent this inspiring organization. I hope to serve the global community to the best of my ability in the year to come.”

Miss Universe India, Harnaaz Sandhu, credits her mother, who broke generations of patriarchy to become a successful gynecologist, for inspiring her to follow her own dreams. Driven to support women in a similar way, Harnaaz grew up working with her mother at health camps, educating women about their health and menstrual hygiene. Deeply conscious of the privilege her mother’s struggles have gifted her, Harnaaz is a strong advocate for women’s empowerment today, particularly their constitutional rights to education, careers, and their freedom of choice. She is currently pursuing her master’s degree in Public Administration. Harnaaz is also an actress, and enjoys yoga, dancing, cooking, horse riding and playing chess in her free time.

“It’s been very special getting to know the contestants through our shared admiration of the history and beauty of our host country, these past two weeks,” stated Paula M. Shugart, President of the Miss Universe Organization. “I’m thrilled to have Miss India Harnaaz Sandhu represent Miss Universe this year, as her passion to help educate women, and fight for their freedoms emulates all the crown stands for.”

The 70<sup>th</sup> MISS UNIVERSE competition aired live from a bespoke venue in Eilat, Israel, and was hosted by legendary entertainer Steve Harvey, along with backstage correspondents, Emmy Award-winning TV personality and style expert Carson Kressley (“RuPaul’s Drag Race”, “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy”) and

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TV presenter and former Miss USA Cheslie Kryst (“Extra”). One of the evening’s many highlights included the powerful performances from GRAMMY Award-winning artist, JoJo and Israeli singer Noa Kirel. Women representing 80 countries competed for the opportunity to become the next Miss Universe in this anniversary spectacular. Selection committee members for the 70<sup>th</sup> annual show included: international super model, actress and businesswoman Adriana Lima; model, television host and Miss Universe 2016 Iris Mittenaere; beauty entrepreneur and model Lori Harvey; Bollywood actress Urvashi Rautela; Filipino actress Marian Rivera; actress, author, TV host & Telemundo star Adamari Lopez; and “The Bold and the Beautiful” actress Rena Sofer.

During the telecast that aired in over 160 countries and territories across the globe, the outgoing Miss Universe, Andrea Meza, broke the news of her new role as a TV presenter for Telemundo. Other telecast highlights included Miss Universe Chile Antonia Figueroa being presented with the second annual Miss Universe Impact Award in partnership with ImapctWayv, for her career in environmental engineering. Finally, Miss Universe Bahamas Chantel O’Brian was presented with The Carnival Spirit Award, for exhibiting the spirit of friendship throughout the competition.

Fourth generation Mouawad Co-Guardians Fred, Alain and Pascal Mouawad commented, “It is always inspiring to see the Mouawad MISS UNIVERSE® Power of Unity Crown during its crowning moment, representing a new chapter in its story and reinvigorated hope for the world. We are sure that the new reigning Miss Universe will bring her unique radiance and talent to her role, to use her power to shine a light on worthy causes and bring communities together, in a way as dazzling as the hundreds of diamonds set in the crown.”

To learn more about this year’s MISS UNIVERSE winner and other contestants, please visit: [www.missuniverse.com/contestants](http://www.missuniverse.com/contestants)

Find MISS UNIVERSE® on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#), and follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

**About The Miss Universe Organization:**

The Miss Universe Organization (MUO) is a global community that empowers women to realize their goals through experiences that build self-confidence and create opportunities for success. MISS UNIVERSE® programs provide the 10,000 women who participate annually an international platform to affect positive change through influential humanitarian and professional efforts. The contestants and titleholders are leaders and role models in their communities, develop personal and professional goals, and inspire others to do the same. The Miss Universe Organization is an IMG company. To learn more, visit [www.missuniverse.com](http://www.missuniverse.com).

**About FOX Entertainment:**

FOX Entertainment’s 30-year legacy of innovative, hit programming includes 9-1-1, 9-1-1: LONE STAR, THE MASKED SINGER, LEGO MASTERS, THE SIMPSONS, “Empire,” “24,” “The X-Files” and “American Idol.” Delivering high-quality scripted, non-scripted, animation, live content and major sports, FOX won the 2020-2021 broadcast season, marking the second consecutive season it ranked #1. In addition to its broadcast network, FOX Entertainment oversees the operations of FOX Alternative Entertainment, its in-house unscripted studio that produces THE MASKED SINGER, I CAN SEE YOUR VOICE and NAME THAT

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TUNE, among other series; the award-winning animation studio Bento Box Entertainment, which produces animated content for FOX, including the Emmy Award-winning hit BOB'S BURGERS and new series DUNCANVILLE, THE GREAT NORTH and HOUSEBROKEN, as well as programming for other broadcast, streaming and cable platforms; and Blockchain Creative Labs, a new business and creative unit formed in 2021 by FOX Entertainment and Bento Box, to build, launch, manage and sell Non-Fungible Token (NFT) content and experiences, and fungible tokens, as well as digital goods and assets. FOX Entertainment also recently formed the production venture Studio Ramsay Global, in partnership with award-winning chef, restaurateur and presenter Gordon Ramsay, to develop, produce and distribute culinary and lifestyle programming for FOX, its fast-growing ad-supported video-on-demand (AVOD) service, Tubi and platforms worldwide. Tubi features more than 35,000 movies and television series, and news content that's available in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Australia. Most recently, FOX Entertainment acquired the entertainment platform TMZ and all its media properties, including its hit syndicated magazine programs, TMZ and TMZ LIVE, and its flagship digital platform, [TMZ.com](https://www TMZ.com).

**About Eilat:**

Eilat, Israel's southern gateway, is an oasis on the shores of the Red Sea, a meeting point for the sun, desert and sea and a crossroads between four countries and three continents. Eilat offers spectacular natural landscapes and tropical crystal clear sea waters with thousands of species of fish and corals. Eilat is a leading tourism and leisure destination and home to some of the most luxurious hotels in Israel. Hosting 3 million domestic and international vacationers annually, Eilat offers over 12,000 hotel rooms of all price categories. Experiences include desert and sea attractions, diving in the magnificent Red Sea Gulf, jeep tours, walking tracks and vibrant nightlife. The city also boasts worldwide recognition as a venue for major conference and festivals. The City of Eilat invites you to come and enjoy the perfect holiday experience and all that Eilat has to offer.

**About Steve Harvey:**

Steve Harvey is an Emmy® Award-winning entertainer, radio personality, motivational speaker, New York Times best-selling author, global businessman and philanthropist. Harvey has hosted five MISS UNIVERSE® competitions and currently hosts the iconic game show Family Feud and its spinoff Celebrity Family Feud. For more about Harvey, visit [www.steveharvey.com](https://www.steveharvey.com).

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