



SNAPPER HAPPY TO GET ‘THE BLUES’

SNAPPER MUSIC is delighted to announce that it has secured the theatrical, DVD, video and broadcast rights to Martin Scorsese’s eagerly anticipated film series, [The Blues](#).

[The Blues](#), executive produced by legendary director Martin Scorsese, is a seven-film series of personal and impressionistic films viewed through the lens of seven world-famous directors who share a passion for the music. In addition to Scorsese’s film, Charles Burnett, Clint Eastwood, Mike Figgis, Marc Levin, Richard Pearce and Wim Wenders each capture the essence of blues music and delve into its global influence – from its roots in Africa to its inspirational role with today’s top artists.

Snapper is scheduling the theatrical release of all seven films and will be announcing product timelines shortly.

Snapper will also be working alongside Sony Music who in October will be releasing a 5-CD deluxe boxed set, *Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues*, along with the single CD *Best Of*. In addition, next year will see Sony and Universal release *The Blues* - 21 additional single CD compilations that offer an overview of the project and will feature 12 individual artists collections, among them Eric Clapton, BB King, Bessie Smith, Muddy Waters, Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Robert Johnson. Also available will also be the soundtrack CDs from each of the seven films.

Commented Dougie Dudgeon, Snapper Music: "We are very excited to have the opportunity of working on a series of this importance, put together by some of the greatest filmmakers in the world, that will further the reach of one of the most important music genres. Reflecting the importance of this project, we are in talks with a number of exciting promotional partners and discussing many marketing opportunities. We look forward to announcing these in the forthcoming months."

Snapper's broadcast rights are being handled by GEL. Commented James Belsham: "No other musical genre has ever been approached on this scale and with this attention to detail. In fact the only film I can think of that comes close is 'The Buena Vista Social Club' - and look what that did for Cuban music! From the moving tribute to blues music's forefathers in Wim Wenders' 'Soul Of A Man' to Mike Figgis' intelligent examination of the significant contribution of British artists to the blues, every aspect of the music and its history has been thoroughly researched and lovingly committed to film.

"Moreover, Marc Levin's film, 'Godfathers & Sons' has the last word in demonstrating just how blues music has come full circle with Chuck D (ex Public Enemy) recording brand new tracks with blues legends Electric Mud.

"We have just opened talks with UK broadcasters and are confident that the broadcast potential of these films will be recognised and translated to TV for the British public, both as a very special generic series and as fantastic films in their own right."

Added Adam Sieff, Sony Music: ""This is a fantastic opportunity to expose a whole new audience to some of the greatest music of the twentieth century and beyond. The Blues is the foundation of everything we hear from jazz to rock and hip-hop."

Snapper is also working closely with Spin Music to create media partnerships, including broadsheets and monthly periodicals, and Media Communications has been retained to co-ordinate publicity coverage across all media.

Contact:

TV: GEL – James Belsham 01277 211 235

JamesBelsham@aol.com

Media partner / Sponsorship: SPIN MUSIC – Bob Workman 0207 534 0690

bob@spinmusicuk.com

Snapper Music: Marketing Director – Johnny Wilks 0207 471 1308

johnny@snappermusic.co.uk



For all further information, please contact:

Sara Thom or Nicola Barlow @ Media Communications

Tel: 020 8998 1517 Fax: 020 8566 8290

e-mail: sara.thom@mediacomms.co.uk/nicola.barlow@mediacomms.co.uk

www.pbs.org/theblues/

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The Blues

The Soul of a Man - Director Wim Wenders ('Buena Vista Social Club', 'Wings Of Desire', 'Paris, Texas') explores the lives of his favorite blues artists, Skip James, Blind Willie Johnson and J. B. Lenoir, in a film that is part history and part personal pilgrimage. The film tells the story of these lives in music through a fictional film-within-a-film, rare archival footage and covers of their songs by contemporary musicians, among them Bonnie Raitt, Lucinda Williams, Lou Reed, Eagle Eye Cherry, Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds, The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Cassandra Wilson, Garland Jeffreys, Los Lobos and many others.

Red, White & Blues - Director Mike Figgis ('Stormy Monday', 'Leaving Las Vegas', 'Timecode') joins musicians such as Van Morrison, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Tom Jones performing and talking about the music of the early 60's British invasion that reintroduced the blues sound to America.

Godfathers and Sons - Director Marc Levin ('Slam', '#Whiteboys', 'Brooklyn Babylon') travels to Chicago with hip-hop legend Chuck D (of Public Enemy) and Marshall Chess (son of Leonard Chess and heir to the Chess Records legacy) to explore the heyday of Chicago blues as they unite to produce an album that seeks to bring veteran blues players together with contemporary hip-hop musicians. Along with never-before-seen archival footage of Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, are original performances by Koko Taylor, Otis Rush, Magic Slim, Ike Turner and Sam Lay.

Feel Like Going Home - Director Martin Scorsese ('The Last Waltz', 'Raging Bull', 'Gangs Of New York') pays homage to the Delta blues. Musician Corey Harris travels through Mississippi and on to West Africa, exploring the roots of the music. The film celebrates the early Delta bluesmen through original performances - including Willie King, Taj Mahal, Otha Turner and Ali Farka Toure - and rare archival footage of artists such as Son House, Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker.

The Road To Memphis - Director Richard Pearce ('The Long Walk Home', 'Leap Of Faith', 'A Family Thing') traces the musical odyssey of blues legend B.B. King in a film that pays tribute to the city that gave birth to a new style of blues. Pearce's homage to Memphis features original performances by B.B. King, Bobby Rush, Rosco Gordon and Ike Turner, as well as historical footage of Howlin' Wolf and Fats Domino.

Warming By the Devil's Fire - Director Charles Burnett ('Killer Of Sheep', 'My Brother's Wedding', 'To Sleep With Anger') presents a tale about a young boy's encounter with his family in Mississippi in 1955, and intergenerational tensions between the heavenly strains of gospel and the devilish moans of the blues.

Piano Blues – Director (and piano player) Clint Eastwood ('Play Misty For Me', 'Bird', 'Unforgiven') explores Eastwood's life-long passion for the piano blues, using a treasure trove of rare historical acts as well as interviews and performances by such living legends as Pinetop Perkins and Jay McShann, as well as Dave Brubeck and Marcia Ball.



For all further information, please contact:
Sara Thom or Nicola Barlow @ Media Communications
Tel: 020 8998 1517 Fax: 020 8566 8290
e-mail: sara.thom@mediacomms.co.uk/nicola.barlow@mediacomms.co.uk