



NEWS RELEASE

AFI AT ARCLIGHT FILM PROGRAM CONTINUES WITH SECOND ANNUAL MUSIC DOCUMENTARY SERIES

LOS ANGELES, CA, MAY 21, 2003—Returning for its second season, AFI at ArcLight's Second Annual Music Documentary Series will feature six films this summer. These documentaries, which capture the energy of a live set, the complexity of the creative process and the essence of a rock star, will screen Wednesdays from June 4th through July 9th, 2003 at the Arclight Theatres in Hollywood, CA. Along with these screenings, the festival will also feature discussions with filmmakers, musicians and recording artists.

The 2nd Annual Music Documentary Series will kick off with the premiere of the 1973 documentary WATTSTAX. This 30th anniversary edition of "The Black Woodstock," starring Richard Pryor, Jesse Jackson, The Staple Singers, The Emotions, Rufus Thomas, Isaac Hayes and Carla Thomas, features a newly re-mastered 5.1 Dolby Digital soundtrack, plus two musical performances never before seen on film.

Following is the schedule of films:

JUNE 4 AT 8:00 PM – WATTSTAX

SPECIAL GUESTS: Director Mel Stuart, Producer David Wolper, Ted Lange, Eric Kilpatrick. **STARRING:** Richard Pryor, Jesse Jackson, Staple Singers, The Emotions, Rufus Thomas, Isaac Hayes, Carla Thomas.

JUNE 11 AT 8:00 PM – IF I SHOULD FALL FROM GRACE: THE SHANE MACGOWAN STORY

SPECIAL GUESTS: The Pogues' James Fearnley. **STARRING:** The Pogues. This unflinching, music-driven documentary provides the first real insight into the background and career of the legendary Irish artist who, as lead singer and songwriter for The Pogues, became a worldwide folk-punk icon. It demonstrates why, despite years of drug and alcohol abuse that pushed the archetype of rock and roll excess to its outer limits, Macgowan is still widely regarded as one of the very finest songwriters of his generation.

JUNE 18 AT 8:00 PM – HYPE!

SPECIAL GUEST: Director Doug Pray. **STARRING:** Queensryche, Soundgarden, The Melvins, 7 Year Bitch, The Walkabouts, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, The Fastbacks, The Supersuckers, The Young Fresh, Screaming Trees, Mudhoney, Seaweed. This series wouldn't be complete without a look at the industry behind the music. With the tagline, "Surviving the northwest rock explosion," HYPE! is as much about the artists as it is about the often abhorrent business of rock and roll. HYPE! is no rockumentary; what makes this film so interesting is the way in which it shapes its narrative—almost

subversively—to illustrate how something truly alternative and original could be co-opted by commercial forces and hyped within an inch of its life.

JUNE 25 AT 8:00 PM – BETTY BLOWTORCH...AND HER AMAZING TRUE LIFE ADVENTURES

SPECIAL GUEST: Director Anthony Scarpa. **STARRING:** Bianca Butthole, Blare N. Bitch, Sharon Needles, Duff Mckagan, Vanilla Ice. For two years, Director Anthony Scarpa followed the all-girl rock band Betty Blowtorch, documenting the bands ferocious sound and dangerously low-tech pyrotechnic show, unaware of the turmoil and tragedy that he would ultimately capture. This screening is the film's world premiere.

JULY 2 AT 8:00 PM - BREATH CONTROL: THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN BEAT BOX

SPECIAL GUESTS: Directors Joey Garfield, Jacob Craycroft, Various live beat boxing artists. **STARRING:** Doug E. Fresh, Biz Markie, The Fat Boys, Zap Mama, Rahzel the Godfather of Noyze, Click the Supah Latin. **BREATH CONTROL** is an infectious, vibrant documentary about the mythic beat boxer in hip-hop culture. Beat boxing is an art form practiced and refined all over the world and traces its roots from many sources, including African chants and Tibetan throat singing. It's the art of making music with nothing but the human voice, lips, and gums. Blasting the screen with red-hot beats, intensity, and sure-footed confidence, this film is a memorable and entertaining tribute to the lost art of beat boxing

JULY 9 AT 8:00 PM – FISCHERSPOONER #1

SPECIAL GUESTS: Warren Fischer and Casey Spooner and Director Karen Fischer **STARRING:** Fisherspooner. Closing out the series this year is **FISCHERSPOONER #1**, a film which follows the marriage of high art, high fashion, pop culture, and pop music through the eclectic pop duo Fischerspooner, who take the early '80s synth-pop sound and breathe new life into it with a spectacular show.

WHERE:

ArcLight Hollywood, 6360 W. Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026

TICKET INFORMATION:

Tickets are \$11, \$10 for ArcLight, AFI and Skirball members, including 4 hours of free parking. To order advanced tickets go to www.arclightcinemas.com, call 323.464.4226 or visit ArcLight Hollywood's box office at 6360 W Sunset Blvd. (at Ivar).

ABOUT AFI AT ARCLIGHT

AFI AT ARCLIGHT is an ongoing program of film series, mini-festivals and special film events presented by the American Film Institute culminating in the 18th annual AFI FEST 2003 in November at the state-of-the-art ArcLight Hollywood, a film arts complex on Sunset Boulevard. AFI at ArcLight provides a world of diverse international films and featured guests combined with unprecedented technology, amenities and comfort. In its first year, AFI at ArcLight presented Latin Cinema Milestones, a series that included films like ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER, AMORES PERROS and THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE. The eight-week Music Documentary Series

that followed featured sold-out screenings of such anticipated films as **BIGGIE & TUPAC** and **PLEASURE & PAIN**.

This year's AFI at ArcLight programs are not to be missed, and include the French Cinema Review, the 2nd Annual Music Documentary Series, an Elmore Leonard Retrospective, and several premieres and retrospectives in development – all before AFI FEST 2003 (November 6 - 16), LA's premier international film festival.

ABOUT AFI

AFI is the preeminent organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers, coordinates nationwide film preservation efforts and explores new technologies in moviemaking. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST); the AFI National Film Theater at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland; and the AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. AFI's annual almanac for the 21st century, **AFI AWARDS**, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year. In addition, **AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies, 100 Stars, 100 Laughs, 100 Thrills, 100 Passions, and 100 Heroes & Villains** (airing June 3, 2003) have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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