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WYES WILL BROADCAST MUSICAL SPECIALS DURING FESTIVAL SEASON

Includes Broadcast Premiere of Acclaimed Film UP FROM THE STREETS – NEW ORLEANS: THE CITY OF MUSIC

New Orleans, LA — To honor the return of New Orleans' beloved music festivals in April and May, WYES is proud to present a dozen locally-produced programs featuring some of the city's musical icons. This includes the broadcast television premiere of the critically-acclaimed film **UP FROM THE STREETS - NEW ORLEANS: THE CITY OF MUSIC** on Monday, April 29 at 9:00 p.m.

Written and directed by Michael Murphy, **UP FROM THE STREETS – NEW ORLEANS: THE CITY OF MUSIC** is hosted by Grammy Award-winner, Academy Award and Emmy Award nominee Terence Blanchard, who also serves as executive producer. The 2020 film celebrates the culture of New Orleans as seen through the lens of music. Archival footage featuring legendary performers such as Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino, Allen Toussaint, the Neville Brothers, Mahalia Jackson and Professor Longhair is included along with interviews with Harry Connick Jr., Sting, Wynton and Branford Marsalis, Bonnie Raitt, Tank and the Bangas and many more.

Other programs airing on WYES during festival season profile music legends Irma Thomas, Dr. John, Deacon John Moore and Pete Fountain, as well as rising stars such as Samantha Fish.

Several of the programs airing on WYES, wyes.org/live and the WYES and PBS Apps are presented in partnership with Michael Murphy Productions and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation Archive. Other programs are from WYES senior producer Peggy Scott Laborde, independent producers David M. Jones, Cyril E. Vetter, Gabrielle D. Vetter, Marian Gay and Jonathan Evans.

Here is the full WYES program lineup:

Monday, April 29 at 9pm & Saturday, May 4 at 8pm

UP FROM THE STREETS - NEW ORLEANS: THE CITY OF MUSIC

This film celebrates the culture of New Orleans as seen through the lens of music and explores the evolution of New Orleans music and how it has reflected the culture and times in which it was created. Personal reflections by native New Orleanian and Grammy Award-winning musician Terence Blanchard, who serves as executive producer, are featured along with interviews with Harry Connick Jr., Sting, Big Freedia, Robert Plant, Branford and Wynton Marsalis, Irma Thomas, Allen Toussaint, Dr. John and many more. Directed and written by Michael Murphy and produced by Murphy, Cilista Eberle & Robin Burgess.

Monday, April 22 at 10pm & Saturday, April 27 at 10pm

DEACON JOHN'S JUMP BLUES

Features performances from a 2002 concert filmed at the Orpheum Theater with music greats Deacon John Moore, Allen Toussaint, Dr. John, Irma Thomas, the Zion Harmonizers, Henry Butler, Teedy Boutte, Amadee Castenell and Davell Crawford. Produced by Cyril E. Vetter and Gabrielle D. Vetter.

Saturday, April 27 at 3pm, Wednesday, May 1 at 3pm & Sunday, May 5 at 4pm

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FUNERALS: FROM THE INSIDE

This 1995 documentary explores the unique tradition of New Orleans jazz funerals with archival footage and interviews – all set to the brassy backbeat of Dejan's Olympia Brass Band. The Times-Picayune called it "the most thorough and extensive piece of explanatory TV journalism ever assembled on a subject that is an enduring curiosity for many locals and utterly confounding to visitors." Written, directed and produced by David M. Jones. Co-produced and narrated by the late Milton Batiste of Dejan's Olympia Brass Band.

Saturday, April 27 at 4pm

SATCHMO IN NEW ORLEANS

Originally produced in 1990 by Peggy Scott Laborde, this program narrated by Charmaine Neville explores music icon Louis Armstrong's New Orleans roots.

Saturday, April 27 at 5pm

PETE!

This 1980 documentary is an intimate portrait of the beloved music icon Pete Fountain. Narrated by Phil Harris and produced and directed by John Beyer.

Saturday, April 27 at 7pm & Sunday, April 28 at 10am

LEGENDS OF NEW ORLEANS: THE MUSIC OF FATS DOMINO

Features interviews and performance from the late Fats Domino's 2001 performance at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Produced by Michael Murphy and Cilista Eberle and presented in conjunction with the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation Archive.

Saturday, April 27 at 8pm & Saturday, May 4 at 3pm

IRMA: MY LIFE IN MUSIC

Interviews and performance footage from Michael Murphy Productions and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation Archive chronicle the life story of the Soul Queen of New Orleans, Irma Thomas (who is performing at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival April 27 & May 5). Produced in 2021 by WYES, Michael Murphy Productions and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, this critically-acclaimed program received a Suncoast Regional Emmy Award and aired on public television stations nationwide.

Saturday, April 27 at 9:30pm and Saturday, May 4 at 10:30pm

LOVE LETTERS: SAMANTHA FISH LIVE FROM NEW ORLEANS

Produced and directed by Marian Gay and Jonathan Evans, executive produced by Carl Van and narrated by Gwen Thompkins, this program features concert performances and interviews with Samantha Fish, the New Orleans-based guitarist and singer. She is performing at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on May 2.

Sunday, April 28 at 2pm & Saturday, May 4 at 4:30pm

GOING BACK TO NEW ORLEANS: THE DEACON JOHN FILM

This 90-minute documentary pays homage to the wildly creative music made at Cosimo Matassa's studio in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Following the life and career of Deacon John Moore (who is performing at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on April 27), the program celebrates the unique contribution New Orleans artists made to American popular music. Written and produced by Cyril E. Vetter and Gabrielle D. Vetter.

Sunday, April 28 at 3:30pm & Saturday, May 4 at 10pm

MYSTERY OF THE PURPLE ROSE: THE SAGA OF CREOLE JAZZ PIONEERS

Produced by Peggy Scott Laborde and narrated by Vernel Bagneris, this 1987 documentary chronicles Creole jazz pioneers such as Armand J. Piron, and features commentary from Danny Barker, Al Rose, Dr. Michael White and William Russell.

Sunday, April 28 at 4pm & Sunday, May 5 at 2pm

MAKE IT FUNKY!

Narrated by Art Neville, this poignant post-Katrina film looks at New Orleans' richly diverse musical history, with performances and interviews with music pioneers Allen Toussaint, Lloyd Price, Irma Thomas and The Neville Brothers and contemporary musicians Bonnie Raitt, Keith Richards, Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews and Kermit Ruffins. Produced by Michael Murphy and Cilista Eberle.

Wednesday, May 1 at 10pm & Saturday, May 4 at 7pm

LEGENDS OF NEW ORLEANS: THE MUSIC OF ALLEN TOUSSAINT, DR. JOHN & THE NEVILLE BROTHERS

Featuring 2000 performances at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Produced by Cilista Eberle and Michael Murphy and presented in conjunction with the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation Archive.

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