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For Immediate Release

Documentary About Blues Music in Prison Launches this year's Jazz Sudbury Festival

Sudbury, ON -- What happens when legendary Canadian blues artist and Jazz Sudbury headliner Rita Chiarelli visits inmates who are blues musicians in one of America's largest and most notorious prisons? Find out by attending a special screening of the documentary "Music From the Big House" Thursday, September 8th, 2011, at 7 p.m. at Rainbow Cinemas in downtown Sudbury.

The screening of the film marks the official launch of this year's Jazz Sudbury Festival, which is being held September 8-11 on the grounds of Science North.

The documentary, from acclaimed Canadian director Bruce McDonald (Roadkill, Highway 61, Dance Me Outside, Hard Core Logo, The Tracey Fragment), follows Rita Chiarelli as she visits the Louisiana State Prison, known as Angola, a 5000-inmate maximum security prison where the vast majority of inmates are serving life sentences. In the 1930s Angola Prison was also home to one of the pioneers of the blues, Lead Belly.

Rita meets some of the inmates whose lives are being changed by the blues. As Chiarelli herself says in the documentary, "Now the rest of the country might not think they deserve a second chance. But I think music can set us all free for an hour or so."

It's not the first time Chiarelli and McDonald have collaborated on a film. Chiarelli's songs are featured on the soundtracks of McDonald's films "Highway 61", and "Roadkill." Rita will also be present for a Question & Answer period following the film screening.

"Music From the Big House" is being presented by Jazz Sudbury and the John Howard Society of Sudbury. Tickets for the screening are \$20.

Don't forget, the Jazz Sudbury Festival is also offering a special Jazz Lovers Weekend Getaway package, with departures from Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Timmins. That package includes transportation, accommodation, a full weekend festival pass, and a ticket for one of the jazz cruises on Ramsey Lake, plus more!

Jazz Sudbury is also offering a special 20 per cent group rate discount for all bulk purchases of 20 or more individual tickets/weekend passes.

For tickets and information for "Music From the Big House" and other Jazz Sudbury initiatives, visit the website at www.jazzsudbury.ca or call 705-673-7770.

The Jazz Sudbury Festival is an initiative of the Sudbury Community Foundation.

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