

THE LIPPIN GROUP

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For Immediate Release

LSL PRODUCTIONS INDEPENDENTLY FINANCING THEATRICAL DOCUMENTARY BASED ON LIFE OF MUSIC LEGEND HARRY NILSSON

**Film Entitled *Who is Harry Nilsson (And Why is Everybody Talkin' About Him?)*
to Make World Premiere at 2006 Santa Barbara Film Festival**

LOS ANGELES, CA – December 14, 2005 – On the heels of their Grammy nomination for *Beautiful Dreamer: The Story of Brian Wilson and Smile*, LSL Productions announced today they are in production on *Who is Harry Nilsson (and Why is Everybody Talkin' About Him?)*, a feature documentary on the brilliant, but eccentric late singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson. This marks the first documentary that LSL is independently financing. LSL Productions founders and producing partners David Leaf and John Scheinfeld made the announcement.

The film, which has already been accepted to make its world premiere at the 2006 Santa Barbara Film Festival, focuses on the enigmatic Nilsson who the Beatles once proclaimed as “their favorite group.”

Nilsson was on top of the world in the early 70's. Courted by the elite of popular music and film (he became best friends with the Beatles and Ringo was his best man), he was riding the crest of a remarkable wave of success. Yet, in just a few short years his glorious voice would be in tatters, his health ruined and he would be without a record contract.

Scheinfeld is writing and directing, Leaf and Scheinfeld are producing. The film will feature interviews with many of Nilsson's close friends and musical peers, including Micky Dolenz, Eric Idle, Randy Newman, Yoko Ono, The Smothers Brothers, Robin Williams, and Brian Wilson, among others. LSL is also using over 60 Nilsson songs, original recordings, never-before seen home movies and archival clips, unfinished documentary footage and rare performance clips to paint a fascinating portrait of this extraordinary artist.

“We are passionate about telling the real stories of legendary artists and their work,” said Leaf. “Through our films, we are committed to celebrating these remarkable performers’
(more...)

legacies, while at the same time, putting their art into the context of their life and times. Harry was a musical genius and we are proud to bring his complicated, triumphant and tragic story to life.”

“Nilsson was blessed with astonishing talent, yet was a tortured soul,” said Scheinfeld. “The people who knew and loved Harry describe him as gregarious, shy, reclusive, wild, endlessly fun, a complete lunatic, a sonofabitch and a pussycat. He was also a party animal who could drink John Lennon and Keith Moon under the table, and yet was also a devoted husband and father. As I embarked on this project, I found he was all these things and much more. He’s a fascinating, complex character that unfortunately left this world much too soon.”

Gifted with a remarkable three and-a-half octave range, Nilsson won two Grammys and many Gold records, yet never cut his music to fit mainstream fashion. The public will recall “Everybody’s Talkin’” from the classic film, *Midnight Cowboy*...or as teenagers, fallen in love to “Without You”...or tapped their feet to the quirky and infectious, “Coconut” (“*Put de lime in de coconut and drink ‘em both up...*”)...or cranked up the speakers to the hair-raising rocker, “Jump Into The Fire”...or sung along to the whimsical “Me And My Arrow” from Harry’s animated film, *The Point!* They may even bask in a warm nostalgic glow every time they hear “Best Friend”, the theme song from the 60’s TV comedy, *The Courtship Of Eddie’s Father*. But few ever imagined that one man was responsible for these wildly disparate recordings.

Ultimately, the tantalizing question -- *Who is Harry Nilsson (and Why is Everybody Talkin’ About Him?)* -- will be partially answered by Harry himself. Excerpts from his recently discovered oral autobiography will be seamlessly incorporated into the film, allowing Harry to help tell his remarkable story in his own voice.

As previously announced, LSL Productions is also co-producing the feature documentary *U.S. vs. John Lennon* with Lions Gate Films. Currently in post-production, the film covers the period 1966-1976 and tells the story of John Lennon’s transformation from beloved musical artist to anti-war activist to iconic inspiration for peace, and recounts the story of the U.S. Government’s efforts to silence him. Leaf and Scheinfeld co-wrote, directed and produced the film, which will be released in theatres by Lions Gate Entertainment in 2006.

LSL’s other credits include the 2004 feature documentary *Beautiful Dreamer: The Story of Brian Wilson and Smile* (Showtime); *The Bee Gees: This is Where I Came In* (A&E); *Jack Paar: Smart TV, When I Fall in Love: The One and Only Nat King Cole, Bob Hope: The Road to Laughter, Sinatra: The Classic Duets, Vintage Sinatra and Jonathan Winters: On The Loose* (PBS), among many others.

About LSL Productions - Privately held LSL Productions is one of the most respected companies in television and documentary production. Over the past decade, company partners David Leaf and John Scheinfeld have produced critically- acclaimed music, comedy and documentary programming for broadcast, cable and theatrical exhibition.

Most recently, Leaf wrote and directed "Beautiful Dreamer: Brian Wilson and the Story of SMiLE" which had its world premiere last fall on Showtime. LSL is represented for theatrical production by Broder Webb Chervin Silbermann.