

LORBER

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LORBER FILMS ACQUIRES “**WHO IS HARRY NILSSON (AND WHY IS EVERYBODY TALKIN’ ABOUT HIM)?**”

FILM OPENS THEATRICALY SEPT. 10 IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, NY – August 2, 2010 – Lorber Films is proud to announce the acquisition of all U.S. rights to the documentary WHO IS HARRY NILSSON (AND WHY IS EVERYBODY TALKIN’ ABOUT HIM)? profiling the extraordinary life and career of the enigmatic Harry Nilsson, considered by many music critics and peers to be one of the best singer-songwriters of his time. Nilsson was also famous for being The Beatles’ favorite “group.”

Directed by Emmy and Grammy nominee John Scheinfeld (*The U.S. vs. John Lennon, We Believe*), the powerful and incredibly emotional WHO IS HARRY NILSSON combines compelling interviews with Harry’s friends and colleagues, rare and never-before-seen archival footage, home movies and excerpts from Nilsson’s recently discovered oral autobiography.

The star-studded documentary features interviews with Micky Dolenz, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Al Kooper, Randy Newman, Yoko Ono, Van Dyke Parks, the Smothers Brothers, Jimmy Webb, Paul Williams, Robin Williams, Brian Wilson and many more as well as members of the Nilsson family. The result is a vibrant and definitive portrayal of an uncompromising artist.

The film premieres at New York’s Cinema Village on September 10, 2010, and will be released on DVD before the end of the year. Richard Lorber, CEO & Co-President of Kino Lorber, Inc., says: “This is one of those rare docs that leaves no stone unturned. Besides all the amazing and exclusive material Scheinfeld managed to uncover, what impressed me most about *Who is Harry Nilsson* was the film’s capacity to make you fall in love with Nilsson’s work all over again.” Filmmaker John Scheinfeld adds, “Making this movie was a labor of love for all of us. We’re delighted to be working with Richard Lorber and his team at Kino Lorber. Not only for their experience, but equally important for the passion they bring to the titles they represent.”

Born into poverty in a humble section of Brooklyn and raised by his mother after his father abandoned the family, Harry Nilsson overcame many obstacles, achieving the peak of his commercial success in the early 1970s, when the album *Nilsson Schmilsson* was nominated for multiple Grammy Awards. The film reveals how his personal life was as complex and contradictory as his music, as well as his spirited relationship with John Lennon and his close bond with Ringo Starr.

A brilliantly gifted songwriter, his work has been covered by a wide range of artists (The Monkees to Harry Belafonte, Blood Sweat & Tears to Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, Three Dog Night to Ella Fitzgerald, Aimee Mann to Barbra Streisand). And yet, with an irony that was typical of his career, his greatest fame and success came as a singer of other people’s songs.

Blessed with a remarkable three and-a-half octave range, Nilsson was the recipient of 17 Gold Records (in addition to his two Grammy Awards for “*Everybody’s Talkin’*” and “*Without You*”) and yet, never cut his music to fit mainstream fashion. He was also considered to be peer-less as a wild man, a legendary party animal who could drink John Lennon and Keith Moon under the table – while also being known as a devoted husband and father.

Intertwined throughout the doc are rare performances from two BBC specials, promo films, music videos, home movies, as well as excerpts from the Oscar-winning film, *Midnight Cowboy* and an unfinished documentary about the recording of the Harry’s 1972 album *Son of Schmilsson*.

All music in the film is by Nilsson, and the film’s soundtrack features over 50 songs from his career, including all of his best-known hits, unreleased tracks and rare recordings. For more information, please visit the film’s official website at www.whoisharrynilsson.com

About Lorber Films

Lorber Films is a theatrical releasing arm of Kino Lorber that specializes in award-winning international films, classics and documentary features. Current releases include the romantic drama (and box-office hit) *Mademoiselle Chambon*, starring Vincent Lindon, Sandrine Kiberlain and directed by Stéphane Brizé, *Two in the Wave*, Emmanuel Laurent's revealing inquiry into the lives and friendship of New Wave godfathers Francois Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard.

Upcoming release are *Army of Crime*, Robert Guédiguian's sweeping World War II drama about immigrant resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied France; and *Salt of the Sea*, the Danny Glover produced film about a Brooklyn-born woman of Palestinian lineage who comes to Israel to search for the land and ancestral home near Jaffa from where her grandparents were ejected 60 years ago.