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Chicago Cubs documentary "We Believe"

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June 11, 2009 -- Chicago Cubs documentary "We Believe" debuts at the Chicago Theatre.

"We Believe," a new movie starring the Chicago Cubs, will debut this week in the city the team calls home. About hope, faith and Cubs fans, the documentary film is as much about people and heart as it is about baseball. We Believe will be shown at the Chicago Theatre on Friday, June 12 at a special charity screening. The movie will be released in theaters across the country in July

"We Believe" is the very first theatrical documentary to be fully authorized by the Cubs and its director says it is unlike any other team-related production. Produced with the complete cooperation of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Player's Association, the film features a distinguished array of journalists, authors, cultural commentators and stars from the worlds of film, TV and music, all offering their unique perspectives on America, baseball, and the city of Chicago and its people.

The film is narrated by award-winning actor Gary Sinise (Forrest Gump, Apollo 13, CSI:NY). Highlights include interviews with Billy Corgan (Smashing Pumpkins), Bob Costas, Dennis Franz (NYPD Blue), Jeff Garlin (Curb Your Enthusiasm), legendary Blues musician Buddy Guy, Hugh Hefner, Bonnie Hunt, Joe Mantegna, George Will and rare interviews with Bud Selig, Commissioner of Major League Baseball and Francis Cardinal George, the Archbishop of Chicago.

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In November, 2007, Chad Smith decided to produce a documentary about the 2008 Cubs season, the 100th anniversary of the last time the team won a World Series. Producer Smith and director John Scheinfeld (The U.S. vs. John Lennon) scheduled a meeting with Cubs officials. Although initially reluctant to participate in any film project, team executives were impressed by the work previously done by Scheinfeld and his team as well as the project's overall creative vision. Within weeks they committed to participating in the production and provided extraordinary access to players, Wrigley Field and the team's archive.

During the 9-month shooting schedule the filmmakers shot more than 220 hours of footage. The result is a compelling and visually striking movie that showcases many neighborhoods within the city of Chicago, seamlessly blended with timeless and beautiful images of legendary Wrigley Field. Coupled with a star-studded soundtrack featuring Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen, Earth, Wind and Fire, and Plain White T's, among others, We Believe explores the extraordinary love affair between the city of Chicago and its baseball team, the Cubs.

The film contains with rare and never-before seen audio/visual material, including the first-known film to be shot in the city of Chicago in 1897 by Thomas Edison; amazing footage of Chicago taken between 1905 and 1915; recently discovered and the earliest-known footage of a Cubs game from 1909, and color home movies of the 1938 World Series.

The disappointing finish to the Cubs 2008 baseball season did not greatly impact the film. "We Believe is a love story about Chicago and its baseball team and with every love story there is bound to be some heartbreak," says Smith. "So, without a big, happy Hollywood ending for the team, Director John Scheinfeld rose to the creative challenge, employing Bruce Springsteen's anthem, "Land of Hope and Dreams," to drive the film to a powerful, emotional, inspiring finish."

The director and production team behind "We Believe" are giving Chicago and Cubs fans a sneak preview of the movie at Friday's special party and screening. A portion of ticket proceeds will be distributed evenly between all charity sponsors. Fans can choose from attending just the screening or attending the screening and special a pre-screening party.

The screening will be held at 10:30 pm at the Chicago Theatre, doors open at 10 pm. Tickets for the screening cost from \$6 to \$25 per person and are available via the Chicago Theatre's website: www.thechicagotheatre.com/events/we-believe-chicago-cubs.html

The pre-screening party will be held on the 3rd floor at the Wit Hotel from 8 to 10 pm. Tickets for this special pre-screening event are limited and are \$40 per person. This includes goody bags provided by Chicago Red Eye, baseball-themed food, and picnic and bar tables sponsored by Anheuser Busch and Diageo. Charity sponsors include Bright Pink, Heifer International, Little Cubs Field, Imerman Angels, Magic Foundation and Project 3000/1st Touch. Tickets for the charity pre-screening party are available at: webelieprepary.eventbrite.com

<p. "Our non-profit partners were selected because of their integrity and dedication to helping others in the community, particularly in the Chicago area. Our hope is to spread awareness to the Cubs fans and supporters while having a little fun and raising money to help further these great organizations missions," says the film's producer Chad Smith.

The production of We Believe is totally homegrown. Production financing was raised by Smith from Chicago investors who love their city and team. The producer and production staff are Chicagoans, the film was shot by an award-winning Chicago production company (Sedgwick Productions), edited by the city's finest editor at one of the city's top post-production facilities (Cutters) and Director/Writer/Producer Scheinfeld is Chicago-born and a graduate of Northwestern University.

In an effort to further involve the community in the production of the film, Chicago area musicians and bands were offered an exciting and unique opportunity to compete to have their original recording of a song about Chicago and/or the themes embodied by the film.

"This film is about our community and the Cubs and we believe this competition will generate some interesting participation," Smith said. "Chicago's music scene has an incredible abundance of talent and we hope to showcase it," he added.

Cubs' fans around the world began casting their vote online for their favorite song on February 28, 2009. The winning song will be featured in the film and included on the film soundtrack as well as sold as a limited edition collectable CD that will include nine other finalists. Proceeds from the sale of this CD will be shared between the artists and the production company.

Another initiative instituted by We Believe is that Cubs fans around the world were offered an opportunity to include their own name or a family member's name in the closing credits of the film. The cinematic equivalent of the classic bricks laid in front of Wrigley Field, half of all proceeds from sale of these credits will go to benefit support Cubs Charities and Project 3000.

To view the movie trailer, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD7571RIP2c

ABOUT JOHN SCHEINFELD

Director/Writer/Producer

Emmy and Grammy nominee John Scheinfeld is a respected writer, producer and director of documentaries, bringing a broad spectrum of experiences and interests to pop culture, music, historical and spiritual projects for broadcast, cable and theatrical exhibition.

Most notably, Scheinfeld directed, wrote and produced the feature film documentary The U.S. vs. John Lennon. It was an official selection of the Venice Film Festival, the Telluride Film Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival and the London Film Festival and was subsequently released in theaters worldwide and on DVD.

Currently, Scheinfeld is completing production on Heaven, a compelling, inspiring and thought-provoking documentary film about how the world's foremost religions view Heaven and how certain people/groups within those religions live their lives to get there.

On the heels of a Grammy nomination for producing 2005's Beautiful Dreamer: Brian Wilson and the Story of SMiLE, Scheinfeld wrote, directed and produced the feature-length documentary Who Is Harry Nilsson (And Why Is Everybody Talkin' About Him)? The film had its world premiere at the 2006 Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and was also an official selection of the 2006 Seattle International Film Festival and 2006 Mods and Rockers Film Festival. The film will see worldwide distribution in 2009.

Also in 2006 Scheinfeld wrote, produced and directed Electric Youth: Teen Stars in the Music Business, a 2-hour special for A&E for which he received an Emmy Award nomination as writer. Previously he wrote, produced and directed documentaries on The Bee Gees, Nat King Cole, The Marx Brothers, Bette Midler, Peter Sellers, Frank Sinatra among others.

Scheinfeld also writes dramatic scripts for prime time television. He created and wrote pilots for new drama series: FBC/Warner Brothers (In Security), FBC/Twentieth Century Fox Television (Windy City), NBC/Universal Television (Zero To Hero), ABC/Spelling (Stayin' Alive), a two hour MOW/pilot for first-run syndication (Allied Force) and an MOW/Pilot for UPN/Paramount (Babes In The Dust). He was also Executive Producer of an MOW/pilot for CBS, Intrigue, shot entirely on location in Europe, starring Scott Glenn.

Before going out on his own, Scheinfeld was an executive with both Paramount Pictures Television and MTM Enterprises where he developed and supervised the production of pilots and new network series. He received a B.A. in Communications and Sociology from Oberlin College and holds an M.F.A. in Radio/Television/Film from Northwestern University.

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