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20 Years of
Independence.

THE TORCH

DIRECTED BY JIM FARRELL

PRESS NOTES

STARRING

Buddy Guy – Quinn Sullivan

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SYNOPSIS

At 83, Chicago legend Buddy Guy remains the standard bearer for the blues, an icon determined to see the art form live on long after he's gone. Enter young guitar phenom Quinn Sullivan, who has been mentored by Guy since he was a kid. This stirring documentary, amplified by electrifying musical performances, charts the guidance Guy himself received from the likes of Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf while observing the Grammy®-winner passing his wisdom to the next generation.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

“I always look forward to getting whatever time we can with him (Buddy Guy), because you walk away and you feel like there’s been this amazing knowledge dropped on you.”

~ Derek Trucks

“I vividly remember sitting in my interview with Derek Trucks and having a sense of relief wash over me when he said those words. We were already two years into the project, and until that moment, I still had doubts about the direction of film. We were making steady gains, but the path was long and arduous.

There was an understanding among Buddy Guy and his peers – last man standing needs to make sure the music lives on. When B.B. King died in 2015, that promise became reality. He was already grooming his teenage protégé, Quinn Sullivan, but the urgency became palpable. The goal of *The Torch* was to pull back the curtain on this process and watch it unfold over time.

When Buddy and Quinn toured together, we were limited to a 15 minute window between sets to film them backstage. So, we did. Every chance we got- through ten states and four European countries. Each location unleashed new stories from Buddy, unveiling a breadth of experience we wouldn’t have realized through sit-down interviews alone. It was indeed a “Long Hard Road,” which is the title of the original song created for the film. There were easier paths we could have chosen, but by investing the time, I feel like we created a film where the viewer is rewarded with an enriching experience rather than a lecture.”

-JIM FARRELL

CAST BIOS

BUDDY GUY

At age 85, Buddy Guy is a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, a major influence on rock titans like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, a pioneer of Chicago's fabled West Side sound, and a living link to the city's halcyon days of electric blues. Buddy Guy has received 8 GRAMMY Awards, a 2015 Lifetime Achievement GRAMMY Award, the Billboard Magazine Century Award for distinguished artistic achievement, a Kennedy Center Honor, and the Presidential National Medal of Arts. Rolling Stone Magazine ranked him #23 in its "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time."

Though Buddy Guy will forever be associated with Chicago, his story actually begins in Louisiana. One of five children, he was born in 1936 to a sharecropper's family and raised on a plantation near the small town of Lettsworth, located some 140 miles northwest of New Orleans. Buddy was just seven years old when he fashioned his first makeshift "guitar"—a two-string contraption attached to a piece of wood and secured with his mother's hairpins.

In 1957, he took his guitar to Chicago, where he would permanently alter the direction of the instrument, first on numerous sessions for Chess Records playing alongside Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, and the rest of the label's legendary roster, and then on recordings of his own. His incendiary style left its mark on guitarists from Jimmy Page to John Mayer. "He was for me what Elvis was probably like for other people," said Eric Clapton at Guy's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 2005. "My course was set, and he was my pilot."

Seven years later, July 2012 proved to be one of Buddy Guy's most remarkable years ever. He was awarded the 2012 Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime contribution to American culture; earlier in the year, at a performance at the White House, he even persuaded President Obama to join him on a chorus of "Sweet Home Chicago." Also in 2012, he published his long-awaited memoir, *When I Left Home*.

Buddy Guy is a genuine American treasure and one of the final surviving connections to an historic era in the country's musical evolution.

"I worry a lot about the legacy of Muddy, Wolf, and all the guys who created this stuff," he says. "I want people to remember them. It's like the Ford car—Henry Ford invented the Ford car, and regardless how much technology they got on them now, you still have that little sign that says 'Ford' on the front.

"One of the last things Muddy Waters told me—when I found out how ill he was, I gave him a call and said, 'I'm on my way to your house.' And he said, 'Don't come out here, I'm doing all right. Just keep the damn blues alive.' They all told me that if they left here before I did, then everything was going to be on my shoulders. So as long as I'm here, I'm going to do whatever I can to keep it alive."

QUINN SULLIVAN

A rare artist who's always sounded older than his years, Sullivan has been touring the world since he was 11-years-old, playing storied venues such as Madison Square Garden, the Hollywood Bowl and RFK Stadium in Washington D.C., as well as India's Mahindra Blues Festival, Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival, and three Montreux Jazz Festivals. Quinn has shared the stage with his hero and mentor Buddy Guy, as well as Carlos Santana on several occasions. Quinn's performance experience includes appearances on leading national television programs such as The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, Conan, and The Oprah Winfrey Show, to name a few.

CREDITS

Directed by

JIM FARRELL

Produced by

AMY BRIAMONTE

JIM FARRELL

ROHIT KHATTAR

ANAND MAHINDRA

Executive Producers

DEBORAH SATHE

JONATHAN SEHRING

JAY SHAH

Cinematographers

AARON FRUTMAN

MICHAEL ANDRUS

Edited by

JIM FARRELL

DANIEL MOONEY

BUDDY GUY
QUINN SULLIVAN
TOM HAMBRIDGE
CARLOS SANTANA
DEREK TRUCKS
SUSAN TEDESCHI
JOE BONAMASSA
JONNY LANG
CARMEN VANDENBERG

Additional Interviews

RIC HALL
CHRISTONE "KINGFISH" INGRAM
PAUL NATKIN
MARTY SAMMON
CAROL SULLIVAN
TERRY SULLIVAN

Damn Right Blues Band

TIM AUSTIN
RIC HALL
MARTY SAMMON
ORLANDO WRIGHT

Manager for Buddy Guy

MICHAEL MAXSON

Quinn Sullivan's Band

COLIN BRADLEY

RIC HALL

TOM HAMBRIDGE

TOMMY McDONALD

MARTY SAMMON

ORLALNDO WRIGHT

Additional Cameras

JIM FARRELL

SEAN FINLEY

DAN HOLDEN

NICK KOLINSKY

JAN MALISZEWSKI

DANIEL MOONEY

MOVI Operator

MICHAEL ANDRUS

Drone Operator

DAN HOLDEN

Production Managers

ELENA BATISTA

CATHARINE UYENOYAMA

Production Consultant

DAVE HARDING

Gaffer

JEFF HAMEL

Make Up for Carlos Santana

NATALIE DAVISON

Production Assistants

JEREMY BOND

SAM CURRAN

HENRY LOCKWOOD

WILL McAULIFFE

JOHN MONAHAN

Graphic Design and Visual Effects

DAN MOONEY

Colorist

MICHAEL ANDRUS

Archivist

GIDEON KENNEDY

Archive Consultant

RICH REMSBERG

Photos Provided By

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RCA/JIVE

SONY/RCA

ARTIE STERN

VASHON ISLAND PARTNERS

Footage Provided By

FOOTAGE FROM "THE CORNER" AND "NIGHTSONG"

COURTESY OF THE CHICAGO FILM ARCHIVES

MUDDY WATERS' PERFORMANCE WITH BUDDY GUY

FROM THE FILM "CHICAGO BLUES"

COURTESY OF PRODUCER/DIRECTOR HARLEY COKELISS

F.I.L.M. ARCHIVES, INC.

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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TERRY SULLIVAN

Re-Recording Mixers

SKIP LIEVSAY

LEE SALEVAN

Dialog Editors

LEE SALEVAN

CALEB TOWNSEND

FX Editor

MAR HEREDIA

Music Editors

CALEB TOWNSEND

MAR HEREDIA

Music Mastering

LANCE VARDIS

Production Mixers

KEN DABEK

MATTHEW GLOVER

DAN HOLDEN

JAY MANGINI

Location Music Recording

SOUNDMIRROR

Music Supervisor
CHRIS ROBERTSON

Music

“Born to Play the Guitar”

Written by Tom Hambridge/Richard Fleming

Performed by Buddy Guy

“Lifting Off”

Written by Tom Hambridge/Quinn Sullivan

Performed by Quinn Sullivan

“Voodoo Child”

Written by Jimi Hendrix

Performed by Buddy Guy & Quinn Sullivan

“Early in the Mornin’”

Traditional

Performed by Tangle Eye, Hard Hair, Little Red & Twenty Two

Courtesy of The Association for Cultural Equity

“Give Me My Coat and Shoes”

Written and Performed by Buddy Guy

Courtesy of Alligator Records

“Boogie Chillen”

Written by John Lee Hooker & Bernard Besman

Performed by Buddy Guy & Quinn Sullivan

“Money”

Written by Janie Bradford & Berry Gordy

Performed by Buddy Guy

Courtesy of Vanguard Records/Concord Music

“Buddy’s Blues”

Written by Tom Hambridge/Buddy Guy

Performed by Quinn Sullivan

“Someone Else Is Steppin In”

Written by Denise La Salle

Performed by Buddy Guy

“Buffalo Nickel”

Written by Tom Hambridge

Performed by Quinn Sullivan

“Cyclone”

Written by Tom Hambridge

Performed by Quinn Sullivan

“Skin Deep”

Written by Buddy Guy/Tom Hambridge/Gary Nicholson

Performed by Buddy Guy

“Who’s Gonna Fill Those Shoes”

Written by Tom Hambridge/Gary Nicholson

Performed by Buddy Guy & Quinn Sullivan

“Eyes for You”

Written by Tom Hambridge/Quinn Sullivan

Performed by Quinn Sullivan

“Hoochie Coochie Man”

Written by Willie Dixon

Performed by Buddy Guy

“She’s Nineteen Years Old”

Written by McKinley Morganfield

Performed by Buddy Guy

“Tell Me I’m Not Dreaming”

Written by Tom Hambridge/Michael Davey

Performed by Quinn Sullivan/Tom Hambridge/Marty Sammon

“Midnight Highway”

Written by Tom Hambridge

Performed by Quinn Sullivan

“Long Hard Road”

Written by Tom Hambridge

Performed by Buddy Guy & Quinn Sullivan

Additional original music by

CARMEN VANDENBERG

LYELL ROEDER

Very Special Thanks To

BUDDY GUY'S LEGENDS, CHICAGO

DGA PRODUCTIONS

EXPERIENCE HENDRIX TOUR

PAUL NATKIN

CHUCK LANZA

Very Special Thanks To

"VOICES OF MISSISSIPPI"

WILLIAM FERRIS

FOLKSTREAMS

TOM DAVENPORT

Special Thanks

ASHWORTH BY THE SEA, HAMPTON NH
THE CABOT THEATRE, BEVERLY MA
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DOCKERY FARMS FOUNDATION
HAMMERSMITH APOLLO, LONDON
HOUSE OF BLUES, BOSTON
HOUSE OF BLUES, LAS VEGAS
IRIDIUM JAZZ CLUB, NEW YORK NY
KONGRESSHAUS, ZURICH
L'OLYMPIA, PARIS
LUPO'S HEARTBREAK HOTEL, PROVIDENCE RI

Special Thanks

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NOTODDEN BLUES FESTIVAL
THE PALACE THEATRE, ALBANY
THE PALACE THEATER, WATERBURY CT
THE PARK THEATRE, CRANSTON RI
POINTE COUPEE PARIH SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PURPERA'S SUPERMARKET, LETTSWORTH LA
THE ROCK HOUSE, LETTSWORTH LA
THE WILBUR THEATRE, BOSTON

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