

For Immediate Release

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Secular & Sacred: CIMMfest to Present Great Women of Gospel & Blues at CIMMfest No. 6!

April 2014, Chicago, Illinois -- The powerful and emotion-evoking sounds of America's Blues and Gospel art-forms will be presented this year on separate stages at **CIMMfest No. 6**. Nationally-known Rosa's Lounge on West Armitage Avenue and the Chop Shop/1st Ward Restaurant on West North Ave., will serve as backdrops for these music genres, known as the building blocks of American music as we know it. **Blues & Gospel** -- often thought of as musical mirror-images -- are indeed familial, with both employing passion driven edges that draw the listener in as both spectator and participant. And at this year's **CIMMfest**, it is the Great Women of Chicago who will drive the message home with both grit and grace.



Beginning at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 3 at Rosa's Lounge (3240 West West Armitage) **Chicago Blues Mamas' Deitra Farr, Holle Thee Maxwell and Peaches Staten** (three power-houses of Chicago Blues) will take the stage to pay tribute to the Blues Mother of them all -- Queen of the Blues, Koko Taylor. These ladies, formidable practitioners of Chicago Blues, are the standard bearers of the Women's Blues tradition in Chicago as set forth by Ms. Taylor; and each is a phenom in her own right. The energetic and soul-stirring **Dietra Farr** has been nominated for Traditional Female Blues artist of the year by the W.C. Handy Awards, Female Blues Artist of the year by the Living Blues Critics Awards, the British Blues Connection Awards, and the Les Trophees France Blues awards. The multi-talented Farr is also an accomplished songwriter; with soul & gospel an integral part of her repertoire. The jet-setting, world-class **Peaches Staten** is Mississippi-born and Chicago-raised--on a steady diet of blues, soul, gospel and R&B. Not only is she an energetic and engaging Class A vocalist, is she also an accomplished froittor (rub board) player whose Zydeco-influenced rhythmic style and musicality are not only impeccable, but mesmerizing. **Holle Thee Maxwell** was named, by the

Cannes Musical Festival "Queen of Entertaining Entertainers". The multi-talented "Original Black Blonde Bombshell" has command of a wide range of genres including opera, jazz, soul, blues, R&B, pop, and country; all are at play in her energetic stage performance. And, the Chicago native -- who has been singing professionally since the age of five and performed with soul and blues artist Ike Turner and jazz organist Jimmy Smith -- will lift you up and "take you to the river" with her high-voltage performance style.

With her brash, forceful vocal style and her enthusiastic stage presence, the late Koko Taylor made sure blues women of Chicago had a voice at the top of the list. She inspired, nurtured and mentored the next generation; The **Chicago Blues Mamas** are the embodiment of that legacy as they continue to keep the legend rolling with their own power, soul and grace.

Ticket prices for the **THE CHICAGO BLUES MAMAS Mothers Day Tribute to Koko Taylor**, beginning at 8 p.m. @ Rosa's Lounge are \$15-\$20 and can be obtained via the **CIMMfest** website: www.cimmfest.org/bluesmamas. Video clips of Koko Taylor will be shown prior to the live band performance. Proceeds from the Mother's Day Tribute at Rosa's will benefit the Koko Taylor Celebrity Aid Foundation.

...and now the Sacred...



On Sunday, May 4 (11:30 a.m.), the majestic and breathtaking sounds of the gospel music art form will be heard (and seen) when **SWEET SISTERS OF ZION: DELOIS BARRETT CAMPBELL & THE BARRETT SISTERS** is shown at 1st Ward, 2033 W. North Avenue. This poignant 2013 movie documentary by Producer/Director **Regina Rene**, is a full-length feature film narrating the bittersweet legacy of one of Gospel music's greatest singing groups -- the treasured Chicago trio known as **The Barrett Sisters**. Considered the world's greatest gospel trio, for over 6 decades siblings Delois, Billie and Rodessa Barrett thrilled audiences around the globe with their honey-voiced harmonies bringing the uniquely American art form of Gospel music to nations on nearly every continent. Named American Goodwill Ambassadors during the 1980s, the singing sisters were Gospel Music Royalty; they toured the world more than 50 times, brought sell-out crowds to their feet as the gospel music

act for many a Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland); and stole the show in 1982's classic documentary film "*Say Amen, Somebody.*" New York film critic Pauline Kael described them as "dramatic, physically striking women with ample figures in shiny blue gowns...they sing so exhilaratingly that they create a problem." And of DeLois Barret Campbell, the Chicago Tribune's Howard Reich declared: "She was the mightiest voice of the greatest female trio in Gospel".

More than mere entertainment cinema, **SWEET SISTERS OF ZION: DELOIS BARRETT CAMPBELL AND THE BARRETT SISTERS** is an historical trek that tells a truly American story -- one of Resilience, Faith & Fortitude... against seemingly improbable and oftentimes, impossible odds. Its craftsmanship and heartrending feeling is what makes this unique film arguably one of the best compilations on the Gospel music genre spanning more than 60 years!

Veteran gospel music radio personality **Bob Marovich** (WLUW's Gospel Memories) will host the afternoon Gospel event, that will also feature a **Q&A session with Producer Regina Rene, PLUS a live performance by The Barrett Sisters.** An autograph signing along with photo opportunities with the legendary group will round out the afternoon festivities.

Tickets for the **CIMMfest** showing of **SWEET SISTERS OF ZION: DELOIS BARRETT CAMPBELL AND THE BARRETT SISTERS** are \$15 for General Admission; \$10 for Seniors and \$8 for Military or Students with valid I.D. To obtain tickets, visit the **CIMMfest** website, www.cimmfest.org.

For additional information on **The Barrett Sisters** or to schedule interviews with them and/or film **Producer/Director Regina Rene**, please contact: Fran Allen-Leake @ 312.405.4335 (ljetpro@aol.com) or Lynn Orman @ 847.452.6469 (ormanmusic@gmail.com). Additional information may be obtained at: www.barrettsistersonline.com.

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