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NEW CD RELEASE

Richard Thompson Plugs In For New Electric Album 'Sweet Warrior'

In Stores May 29th from Shout! Factory in US/Canada
In Stores May 28th from Proper Records elsewhere in the world

Richard Thompson, the "guitar god" (Chicago Sun-Times) whose "official catalogue... is a long trail of genius" (Rolling Stone), will add a new album to that illustrious body of work with Sweet Warrior, out May 29 from Shout! Factory in US/Canada and May 28 from Proper Records, in UK and the rest of the world. The disc is his first work of all-new material since 2005 Front Parlour Ballads, and his first electric disc since 2003 The Old Kit Bag.

The album plays like a book of short stories set to music, populated with characters like a mournful widower whose "love makes her bed/where poppies grow over her head" (Poppy-Red), a divorcee who sarcastically reassures his wife that "when your friends point out you're stuck with/a Neanderthal for an ex/don't fret about it, darling/I still sign my name on cheques" (Mr. Stupid), a dissolute husband and wife each cheating on the other yet wearily resigned to "the job of man and wife" and "the old comforts of the missionary life" (Johnny's Far Away) and in the album's standout track, "Dad's Gonna Kill Me," a terrified young soldier stationed in Baghdad (abbreviated Dad) pondering his own mortality: "I've got a wife, a kid, another on the way/I might get home if I can live through today/Before I came out here I never used to pray/Nobody loves me here."

Of "Dad's Gonna Kill Me," Thompson tells the San Diego Union Tribune that "sometimes you just have to name names. There's a time and place for political music, a time to stand up and name the despots, and say: 'People take to the streets, it's time for the revolution.' There's a time for Neil Young to say 'Impeach the President.' And, God, this is the time." However, lest fans think this is a purely a political album, he reminds the Associated Press that "It's kind of a war record, not just political war but also domestic war or relationship war. There's a

sweetness to it as well."

Musically, Thompson is in top form, reminding fans why Rolling Stone voted him one of the top 20 guitar players of all time with his gorgeously arranged solos and "dazzling fusion of rock, country, jazz, classical, Celtic, and Middle Eastern styles" (San Diego Union Tribune). The songs cover a range of sounds, from the gentle, late-afternoon ballad "Too Late To Come Fishing," to the bluesy, barn-burning rocker "Bad Monkey" and even the ska-inflected "Francesca," complete with horn section.

Co-produced by Richard Thompson and Simon Tassano and recorded in late 2006, Sweet Warrior includes frequent musical collaborators Danny Thompson, Michael Jerome, Sara Watkins (Nickel Creek), Judith Owen, and others.

CD Track List

Needle And Thread

I'll Never Give It Up

Take Care The Road You Choose

Mr. Stupid

Dad's Gonna Kill Me

Poppy-Red

Bad Monkey

Francesca

Too Late To Come Fishing

Sneaky Boy

She Sang Angels To Rest

Johnny's Far Away

Guns Are The Tongues

Sunset Song

Richard Thompson/Sweet Warrior

Catalog 826663-10555

Fans can preview 'Dad's Gonna Kill Me' as a single on iTunes, and 'Take Care the Road You Choose' at NPR's All Songs Considered Spring Music Preview.

Pre-orders available soon via Beesweb Merchandise, and are now being taken by amazon.com in US and play.com in UK.

TOUR DATES

US Summer band dates to be announced soon, check website for updates!

South by Southwest: RT just completed a US solo tour (February/March) which

began in Chicago, IL and ended in Malibu, CA. Stopping in ten states including Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Arizona, Richard was consistently met with rave reviews. See fan comments at: <http://www.richardthompson-music.com/usfansSolo07.asp>

Audiences were treated to songs from the forthcoming album, along with old favourites, and in memory of the recently deceased Eric von Schmidt (an influential folk-blues guitarist on the Cambridge, Massachusetts folk music scene in the late fifties and the sixties), the set included a definitive version of Von Schmidt's best known song, "Joshua Gone Barbados," which tells the tale of a union boss who accepts a bribe thus betraying the poverty stricken sugar-cane cutters he represents.

Richard Thompson will be touring UK in both his solo acoustic format and with his band this summer, appearing at several festivals, and at Fairport Convention's 40th Anniversary at Cropredy. Details can be found at <http://www.richardthompson-music.com/Tour.asp>

If you're planning to attend Cropredy and want to be 'on the inside track', check out Festival Tours at www.festtours.com
Highlight on this year's festival: The original line-up of the seminal Fairport Convention album Liege & Lief – with the obvious exception of Sandy Denny – will be getting back together again for this year's Fairport's Cropredy Convention to perform the work in its entirety.

The 1969 line-up, which includes Ashley Hutchings, Dave Mattacks, Simon Nicol, Dave Swarbrick and Richard Thompson, will be joined on stage by Chris White for the 50-minute set on Friday, 10 August.

At the 2006 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Liege & Lief was voted 'Most Influential Folk Album of All Time' and the above line-up performed Matty Groves on stage at the Awards ceremony. In addition to this award, the line-up received a Gold Disc at Cropredy 2006 from Universal Music Catalogue for Island Records, almost 37 years after the album was released.

Liege & Lief was launched in December 1969 on the Island Records label and spent 17 weeks in the LP charts during 1970. It was hailed as a masterpiece at the time and has continued to win plaudits ever since.

NEWSBITS

Does the man ever sleep?

RT has written the soundtrack to a documentary biographical

film entitled Dreams with Sharp Teeth about Harlan Ellison, produced/directed by Erik Nelson, Creative Differences.

Hear the track 'Harlan's Bounce' at http://www.richardthompson-music.com/catch_of_the_day.asp?id=692

RT is featured on the upcoming Rufus Wainwright release entitled Release the Stars, due out in May on Geffen Records.

RT contributes guitar to two songs on Richard Shindell's recent CD, South of Delia, released March 15th on Fish Records.

WHO KNOWS WHERE THE TIME GOES?

25 years ago - March 1982

Shoot Out the Lights was released in March 1982, and proved to be Richard and Linda Thompsons' most successful effort. Critically and commercially acclaimed in America and UK, it was voted in Rolling Stone Magazine's 'Top Ten Records of the Decade'.

Gerry Rafferty originally produced a different version of the album in 1979. Since the original sessions did not create the desired result, the project was shelved until 1982 when the couple returned to the studio with Joe Boyd, and re-recorded a stripped-down version in just three days.

So how does the album stand up after 25 years? Let us know!

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GEAR AND TUNINGS

Soon a new feature, ARCHIVES, will be added to provide a nostalgic look at the career of Richard Thompson. Fan contributions will be welcomed.

Have a question you've been dying to ask Richard? We'll slip your question into Richard's mailbag and hope for an online response. Answers are posted in Catch of the Day every 4 to 6 weeks.

Submit your photos and we will feature them on the website! Please include date/venue/photographer with your submission.

Watch for our Summer Newsletter with further updates soon!

Best regards,

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