

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY**
[TV-PG] [CC] [Stereo]

LENGTH: 1/90

NOLA CODE: SAYA

CATEGORY: Documentary

OFFERED: September 2007

EXPECTED RELEASE: January 1, 2008

CONTRACT TERMS: Eight releases to be completed by December 31, 2009. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: GTN Pictures

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: **SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY** is a heart-warming and uplifting film that captures the lives and careers of some of gospel music's most luminous artists, including Thomas A. Dorsey, Willie Mae Ford Smith and her long-time rival Sallie Martin, The Barrett Sisters, The O'Neal Twins and Zella Jackson Price. This exuberant portrait of gospel music begins at the 1982 Gospel Music Convention in St. Louis. Interviews with the gospel greats as well as stirring performances and rare archival footage tell a story of a uniquely American art form that fuses religion and entertainment and has a transcendent power to move an audience. **SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY** traces the development of gospel and the real challenges that faced its founders, particularly the women who often left their families for long stretches while they journeyed in pursuit of their musical calling.

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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:

A press kit, including a fact sheet and press release will be posted to PBS Connect and to APTonline.org. Color and B&W photography is available via email and will also be posted to APTonline.org. All press kits will be posted to APTonline.org and PBS Connect approximately three weeks from date of Contract Confirmation notice. If you need materials sooner or have questions, please contact Mike Nadeau at ext. 150.

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BROADCAST HISTORY:

Previously aired on PBS in 1986. Also aired on A&E, Bravo & Cinemax.

RELATED MERCHANDISE:

Viewers: Ryko Entertainment has released a deluxe 25th anniversary edition DVD which includes the full 100 minute documentary, a CD of the music, and a commemorative booklet with photos and commentary.

Pledge: If you are interested in pledging this program and need assistance with premiums, please contact Kerry Taylor at 617-338-4455, ext. 121.

VIEWER CONTACT:

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PRESS RELEASE

Celebrate the life and music of America's greatest gospel artists in SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY

"SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY is one of the most joyful movies I've ever seen. It is also one of the best musicals and one of the most interesting documentaries."

- Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TRIBUNE film critic

The sound and spirit of American gospel music is captured in vivid detail in the American Public Television-distributed special **SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY**, a celebratory film that chronicles the lives and works of some of the greatest gospel artists.

SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY, directed and produced by acclaimed filmmaker George T. Nierenberg (*No Maps on My Taps* and *That Rhythm...Those Blues*), has been described by Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert as "a terrific good time" and as a "rousing documentary" by the *New York Times*. Beginning at the 1982 Gospel Music Convention in St. Louis, the film explores the history and celebrates the spirit of American gospel music, a unique art form blending religion and entertainment, with a remarkable power to move audiences. **SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY** features interviews with some of the greats of gospel, including Thomas A. Dorsey, Willie Mae Ford Smith and her long-time rival Sallie Martin, The Barrett Sisters, Jackie Jackson, The O'Neal Twins, and Zella Jackson Price.

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Stirring performances from these and other gospel legends, as well as rare archival footage, are also included in the documentary. **SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY** also serves as a loving tribute to several of these artists who have passed away since the film first aired—including Martin, Jackson and Dorsey.

Airing on public television stations nationwide beginning January 1, 2008, **SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY** is an uplifting, heart-warming documentary about the power and passion behind the best of American gospel music.

SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY, produced and directed by George T. Nierenberg, was acquired from GTN Pictures by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

About American Public Television

For 46 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 300 new program titles per year and has 10,000 hours of programming in its library. It is responsible for many public television milestones including the first HD series and the 2006 launch of the Create channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. APT is known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming. It has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *Winged Migration*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia's Family Table*, *California Dreamin' – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy With David Starkey*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs and classic movies. Press should contact Mike Nadeau at 617-338-4455 ext. 150 or email Mike_Nadeau@APTonline.org. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

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