



Woody Guthrie Coalition, Inc.

P.O. Box 661 Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

www.woodyguthrie.com

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Arlo Guthrie Kicks-Off WoodyFest at the Crystal Theater!

Woody Guthrie Coalition joins efforts to help save the historic theater.

Okemah, OK. June 23, 2010. Arlo Guthrie will open the 13th Annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festival (WoodyFest) with a benefit show at the **Historic Crystal Theater** on the date of his father's birth – July 14. Arlo will be joined on stage by his son Abe Guthrie, grandsons Krishna and Mo Guthrie, and band member Terry Hall. This will be Arlo's only scheduled appearance at the festival. Tickets for the concert – the only paid event of the festival - are on sale at www.protix.com. Gold Circle tickets are SOLD OUT, but General Admission seats are still available.

The Woody Guthrie Coalition is one of several community organizations who have pledged to help restore the Crystal Theater. In May, the Crystal Theater was purchased by Okemah's Community Improvement Association. Financing to purchase the theater included funds to quickly make needed repairs so that the theater could once again be utilized for this year's annual festival. In addition, the CIA immediately initiated a **Save the Crystal Campaign** to help with the cost of totally renovating the 100-year old building. WoodyFest organizers are planning to heavily disseminate information about the Save the Crystal Campaign during this year's festival. Until the Campaign's own website is up and running, more information can be found at the *Okemah News Leader* website at www.okemahnewsleader.com, where one can also donate to the campaign via PayPal.

The 13th annual WoodyFest will be held **July 14-18** in Okemah, Oklahoma - Guthrie's hometown – located 70 miles east of Oklahoma City. The **FREE** festival celebrates the life and musical legacy of one of America's greatest folk music songwriters and troubadours. It includes both indoor and outdoor concerts, panel discussions, special activities for children, open mics, poetry readings, community outreach activities, and more. Woody Guthrie's youngest sister, **Mary Jo Guthrie Edgmon**, is the festival's perennial guest of honor and will host her annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, July 17.

Artists scheduled to perform this year in addition to Arlo Guthrie include Pastures of Plenty headliners **Stoney LaRue, Ellis Paul, and Jimmy LaFave**. Also performing are Terri Hendrix with Lloyd Maines, Sam Baker, Antje Duvekot, Audrey Auld, Ronny Elliot, Don Conoscenti, Joel Rafael, Nancy Apple, David Amram, the Red Dirt Rangers, Annie Guthrie, Rob McNurlin, Mary Reynolds, the Burns Sisters, Monica Taylor, Emily Kaitz, John Fullbright, SONiA, John Flynn, Butch Hancock, Jonathan Byrd, Susan Herndon, Radoslav Lorkovic, Randy Crouch, Steppin' In It, and more. **Festival debut performers** include **John Wort Hannam** whose CD

release *Queen's Hotel* was nominated for a 2010 Juno Award for Roots and Traditional Album of the Year; **Red Molly**, whose 2010 release *James* is rocketing upwards on the Americana charts, Boston Music Award nominee **Jess Klein**, and Austin's **Stonehoney**, with their brand new *Cedar Creek Sessions* in hand. This will be the third year for the **Bob Childers Memorial Set** – this year scheduled for 5pm, Thursday, July 15 at the Brick Street Café.

The Woody Guthrie Foundation and Archive will offer “**My Name is New York: Exploring Woody Guthrie's New York City**” presented by archivist Tiffany Colannino and “**Bound for Glory: The Legacy of Woody Guthrie**” presented by Anna Canoni, Nora Guthrie's daughter. “My Name is New York” – the newest program from the Archive – explores the lofts, apartments and couches where Guthrie lived and wrote some of his most well-loved songs. “Bound for Glory” is partly a documentary by the same name that was specially created for the “This Land is Your Land: The Life and Legacy of Woody Guthrie” exhibit that toured the country from 1998-2001. Barry Ollman, member of the Advisory Board of the Foundation, will present “**Collecting Woody Take IV**” describing his 20-year hunt for the letters and drawings of Woody Guthrie.

The two-day **Children's Festival** held at City Park will feature musical performances by The Red Dirt Rangers, Ellis Paul, Nancy Apple, Butch Morgan, and Terry Hall, in addition to other fun activities for kids.

A special first-time event being held this year is a **guitar workshop** taught by Terry “Buffalo” Ware and John Inmon. Pre-registration is necessary so please visit the festival website for more information.

The Woody Guthrie Poets, led by George Wallace and Dorothy Alexander, will be making their sixth festival appearance accompanied by composer David Amram.

The festival will conclude with the annual **Hoot for Huntington's** starting at noon on Sunday, July 18 in the Crystal Theater. The hootenanny is coordinated by Terry "Buffalo" Ware and the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival All-Star House Band. Festival regulars know not to miss the hootenanny since you never know who might appear on stage!

The Woody Guthrie Folk Festival, which attracts attendees from around the world, is made possible **with the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council** and the **Viersen Family Foundation**. For information about sponsorship opportunities, a complete schedule of events and performers, and other information, please visit **www.woodyguthrie.com**.

Media Credentials: If interested in covering this family-friendly event please contact Karen Zundel at kmzundel@comcast.net requesting a Media Application. **All applications must be received in advance. Deadline is July 1, 2010.**