



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 6, 2007

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Free Screening of Charlie Parker documentary at Central Library *Program to Explore the Jazz Innovators*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will present Gary Giddens' 1987 documentary film *Celebrating Bird: The Triumph of Charlie Parker* on Sunday, May 6, at 2:00 p.m. This free event will be held in the third floor auditorium at the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. The viewing and discussion will be moderated by Professor Richard Thompson from San Diego State University's School of Music and Dance. Mr. Thompson will also give a short presentation before the movie. Leo Cates, on-air personality from KSDS-FM, Jazz 88.3, will be on hand to welcome participants. Essays written by eminent scholars and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs will be available.

In this movie, Parker receives his due as one of the most influential improvising soloists in jazz. A central figure in the development of bop in the 1940s, he inspired a generation of jazz musicians. There was much resistance to the new jazz, but when Parker and Dizzy Gillespie opened up at the Three Deuces in 1945, the music seemed to speak to a new generation that had just gone through a horrific war.

This program, entitled "Jazz Innovators: From Bebop, to Hard Bop, to Cool and More," is the fifth in the library's six-part documentary film viewing and discussion series "Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form." Mid-century jazz is marked by rapid innovations. Parker was a stylist who changed the whole scene; everyone went his way. In the 1950s and '60s, emerging innovators like trumpeter Miles Davis, saxophonists Stan Getz and John Coltrane, and pianist Thelonious Monk continued the exploration. Their innovations occurred during the profound social and cultural shifts of the Civil Rights Movement.

"Looking At: Jazz" explores the history of jazz, an art form that evolved in the 20th century to occupy a unique place in American cultural history. The series is a project of Re: New Media in partnership with the American Library Association and Jazz at Lincoln Center, with major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and support from San Diego State University and KSDS. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. More information about the program is available at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

Additional jazz-related events will be held by the San Diego Public Library and its local partnering institutions in this venture, San Diego State University's School of Music and Dance, which has the largest jazz studies program in California, and KSDS Jazz 88.3, San Diego's premier jazz radio station, affiliated with San Diego City College.

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Final “Looking At: Jazz” Program

May 20 at 2 p.m.: Latin Jazz and Jazz as an International Music

Film: Excerpts from *A Night in Havana: Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba* (John Holland, 1988)

Affiliated Events

(All events are free and open to the public unless indicated otherwise)

San Diego Public Library

Wed., May 9, 7:00 p.m., Pacific Beach Branch Library

Concert: Featuring Lori Bell, jazz flute

Sat., June 9, 12:00 p.m., Beckwourth Branch Library

Film: *A Night in Havana: Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba*

Jazz Concerts at San Diego State University

Mon., Apr. 23, 12:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo II, Smith Recital Hall

Mon., Apr. 23, 6:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Orchestra, Smith Recital Hall. Admission: \$10.00

Mon., Apr. 23, 7:30 p.m., SDSU Jazz Orchestra, Smith Recital Hall. Admission: \$10.00

Tues., Apr. 24, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Ensemble, Smith Recital Hall

Wed., Apr. 25, 12:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo III, Smith Recital Hall

Wed., Apr. 25, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo I, Smith Recital Hall

Thurs., Apr. 26, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combos IV and V, Smith Recital Hall

KSDS, Jazz 88.3

Tues., Apr. 10, 8:00 p.m.: David "Fathead" Newman, Jazz Live, Saville Theater, City College.
\$10 general admission; free to Jazz 88.3 members.

Thurs., Apr. 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m.: KSDS Listener Happy Hour, Park Manor Suites Hotel, 525 Spruce St., Hillcrest

Tues., May 8, 8:00 p.m.: Jazz Live, Saville Theater, City College. Artists to be announced. \$10 general admission; free to Jazz 88.3 members.

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www.sandiegolibrary.org

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