

**Saturday, August 20, 2011**

**Kansas City, Missouri**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

***Jazz Music and Film Screenings – Key Components of Indoor  
“Yardbird” Festival Held at American Jazz Museum on August 27<sup>th</sup>***

The Reel Images Film and Video Group presents the 2011 Kansas City Yardbird Jazz & Film Festival, an indoor community event celebrating Kansas City's jazz heritage and the musical genius and legacy of Kansas City native son, Charlie “Yardbird” Parker on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> (11am – 6pm) at the American Jazz Museum complex – two days before what would have been Charlie Parker's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

All of the day's activities are offered free to the public. These include jazz group performances at the American Jazz Museum complex (in the Blue Room and Atrium areas) and jazz film screenings in the Gem Theater. In addition to the music and film presentations, a series of “jazz talks” will be presented featuring long-time friends and music admirers of Charlie Parker sharing their memories of one of the world's best known alto saxophone players.

A special salute will be given during this year's Yardbird celebration to honor Ahmad “The Dean of Swing” Alaadeen who passed away in August, 2010. A noted and highly-respected Kansas City jazz saxophonist, composer and educator who mentored many local musicians, Alaadeen led the annual “21 Sax Salute” that took place each year during the last weekend of August at Parker's Lincoln Cemetery gravesite.

“With this being the second Yardbird Festival presented by The Reel Images Film and Video Group, it is our hope to establish it as an annual community event, just like the annual gravesite commemoration, to celebrate Parker and the living legacy of his music and what it represents to not just Kansas City, but the entire world”, states Reel Images Board President, Alex Ellison.

Kansas City jazz ensembles scheduled to perform include The Ronnie McFadden Ensemble, Sam Johnson & Friends, The Horace Washington Group, The Elder Statesmen of Kansas City Jazz and the Kansas City Youth Jazz 5:30 Combo, just to name a few. A special group of Kansas City saxophonists – the “SAXplosion” Ensemble will conclude the day's music program with an improvisational tribute to Charlie Parker.

Film screenings include “Fiddler's Dream”, a documentary on Kansas City jazz violinist Claude “Fiddler” Williams by local filmmaker Stinson McClendon. A complete list of scheduled screenings and performances is available at the Reel Images Film & Video Group's website – [www.reelimages.org](http://www.reelimages.org).

An "Opening Ceremony" will take place at 10:30am on Saturday at the Charlie Parker sculpture (behind the Museums on Vine) prior to the start of the Yardbird Festival. Kansas City community and jazz organization leaders, area musicians and all other interested parties are invited to attend.

“We want all of Kansas City to come out for what promises to be a memorable, fun-filled and entertaining event” says Rodney Thompson, Reel Images Film & Video Group Project Director.

Support for the 2011 Yardbird Jazz & Film Festival is provided in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood, Tourist and Development Fund. Community organization and business supporters include the American Jazz Museum, the McDaniel Hazley Group, the Fields and Brown Law Firm, Phillips-West Public Relations & Communications and KKFI Community Radio.

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