



A SONG FOR YOU: THE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS STORY



Directed and Produced by Keith Maitland

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Section: 24 Beats Per Second
Premiere Status: World Premiere
Country: United States
Language: English
Year: 2016
Runtime: 96min

"I've snuck backstage at nearly every concert I've attended since I was 15 years old, and it was in the spirit of that kind of 'backstage-pass' that I wanted to approach A SONG FOR YOU" - Keith Maitland (Director/Producer).

LOGLINE

From Willie Nelson to Wilco, Ray Charles to Radiohead, A SONG FOR YOU: THE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS STORY offers the ultimate backstage pass to 40 years of incredible music from the longest running music show in television history.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Packed wall to wall with the greatest music from Texas and beyond, with performances from Willie Nelson, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Ray Charles, Beck, Alabama Shakes, and Radiohead, A SONG FOR YOU: THE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS STORY is music to the ears of fans everywhere. This film highlights the PBS series' evolution, proving that after 40 years, ACL is more relevant now than ever before. Featuring interviews with dozens of artists and fans, and untold insights from long-time producer Terry Lickona, A SONG FOR YOU transcends the TV show and gives audiences a front-row seat and backstage pass to the greatest performances of the longest running music show in television history.

HISTORY OF AUSTIN CITY LIMITS

What is Austin City Limits?

The short answer is: Austin City Limits is a music performance television show that appears weekly on PBS.

The longer answer is that ACL is the longest-running music program in television history, the only television show to have been awarded the Presidential Medal of the Arts, and was recently recognized by Time magazine as one of the 10 most influential music programs of all time. It's a show that's presented a huge variety of musical styles and genres, hosting everyone from Willie Nelson to BB King to Foo Fighters and a show that's been enshrined as a Rock & Roll Landmark in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

But no one knew it would be any of those things back in 1974. That was the year KLRU (then KLRN) program director Bill Arhos, producer Paul Bosner and director Bruce Scafe hatched the idea in response to PBS's call for original programming from its member stations. Scafe had already directed the music show The Session for WSIU in Carbondale, Illinois, while Bosner was a dedicated fan of the so-called cosmic cowboy scene in Austin. After the latter turned Arhos on to Jan Reid's book *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock*, which covered the

progressive country scene, the trio came up with the idea of a TV program to showcase Austin's diverse mix of country, blues, folk and psychedelia. Thus Austin City Limits (title courtesy of Bosner, who saw the sign every week when he commuted from Dallas to Austin) was born.

The pilot was shot on October 14, 1974, and starred Willie Nelson, who was not yet the iconic American music figure he would become. (B.W. Stevenson was actually taped the night before, but the recording was deemed unusable.) The deliberate lack of production slickness and attention to audio detail pleased even the notoriously TV-shy Nelson, and Arhos pitched the pilot to PBS as part of its 1975 pledge drive. The show's success as a fundraiser was enough for Arhos to get ACL greenlighted as a series, and the odyssey began.

AUSTIN CITY LIMITS ARTISTS

Ryan Adams	Jimmy Cliff	Patty Griffin & Friends
Alabama Shakes	Coldplay	Grizzly Bear
Arcade Fire	Elvis Costello	Grupo Fantasma
Asleep at the Wheel	Crowded House	Ben Harper and Relentless7
Austin City Limits Celebrates	Ray Davies	Emmylou Harris & Rodney
40 Years	Dawes	Crowell
The Avett Brothers	Death Cab for Cutie	The Head and the Heart
Band of Horses	The Decemberists	Heartless Bastards
Courtney Barnett	Delta Spirit	Don Henley
Beck	Dixie Chicks	Iron and Wine
Dierks Bentley	Dr. Dog	Jason Isbell
Ryan Bingham	Drive-By Truckers	Etta James
Andrew Bird	Jakob Dylan	Jim James
The Black Keys	Steve Earle	Sarah Jarosz
The Black Angels	Kat Edmonson	Jesse & Joy
Bloc Party	Edward Sharpe and the	Jack Johnson
Blues Traveler	Magnetic Zeros	Sharon Jones & the Dap-
James Blunt	Kathleen Edwards	Kings
Bon Iver	Roky Erickson	Norah Jones
Jeff Bridges	Alejandro Escovedo	Juanes
Leon Bridges	Explosions in the Sky	Valerie June
Café Tacvba	Fleet Foxes	Robert Earl Keen
Calexico	Flogging Molly	Angelique Kidjo
Brandi Carlile	Florence + The Machine	The Killers
Hayes Carll	Ben Folds	B.B. King
Neko Case	Foo Fighters	Kings of Leon
Rosanne Cash	Ruthie Foster	Michael Kiwanuka
Cat Power	Franz Ferdinand	Alison Krauss & Union
Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds	fun.	Station
Manu Chao	Future Islands	Kris Kristofferson
Tracy Chapman	Ghostland Observatory	Femi Kuti
Cheap Trick	Vince Gill	K'NAAN
Kenny Chesney	Gnarls Barkley	Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Eric Church	Gomez	Kendrick Lamar
The Civil Wars	The Gourds	Miranda Lambert
Gary Clark Jr.	Shakey Graves	Ray LaMontagne

Bettye LaVette
Amos Lee
John Legend & The Roots
Black Joe Lewis & The
Honeybears
Jenny Lewis
Lykke Li
Local Natives
Los Lonely Boys
Los Lobos
Lyle Lovett
Lyle Lovett & Friends: A
Songwriters Special
Nick Lowe
The Lumineers
Aimee Mann
Damian Marley
Steve Martin
Dave Matthews Band
John Mayer
Tim McGraw
James McMurtry
Tift Merritt
The Milk Carton Kids
The Steve Miller Band
Monsters of Folk
Van Morrison
Mos Def
Bob Mould
Mumford & Sons
Kacey Musgraves
My Morning Jacket
The National
Willie Nelson & Asleep at
the Wheel
The New Orleans Social Club
Randy Newman
Joanna Newsom
Nickel Creek

Nine Inch Nails
Paolo Nutini
Okkervil River
Old Crow Medicine Show
Roy Orbison
Brad Paisley
Pearl Jam
Pinetop Perkins
Madeleine Peyroux
Phoenix
Portugal. The Man
Preservation Hall Jazz Band
John Prine
Punch Brothers
Queens of the Stone Age
R.E.M.
The Raconteurs
Radiohead
Corinne Bailey Rae
Bonnie Raitt
Nathaniel Rateliff & the
Night Sweats
Rilo Kiley
J. Roddy Walston & The
Business
Rodrigo y Gabriela with
C.U.B.A.
Carrie Rodriguez
Raphael Saadiq
Emeli Sandè
Bob Schneider
Ed Sheeran
The Shins
Shovels & Rope
Sturgill Simpson
Sleater-Kinney
Sam Smith
Sonic Youth
Esperanza Spalding

Spoon
St. Vincent
Mavis Staples
Sufjan Stevens
The Swell Season
James Taylor
Susan Tedeschi
Tedeschi Trucks Band
Thao & The Get Down Stay
Down
Them Crooked Vultures
Thievery Corporation
Allen Toussaint
Trombone Shorty & Orleans
Avenue
tUnE-yArDs
KT Tunstall
TV on the Radio
Tweedy
Vampire Weekend
Vintage Trouble
Tom Waits
The War on Drugs
M Ward
Dale Watson
Gillian Welch
What Made Milwaukee
Famous
Jack White
White Denim
Widespread Panic
Wilco
Lucinda Williams
Gretchen Wilson
Cassandra Wilson
Steve Winwood
Carolyn Wonderland

Keith Maitland (Director/Producer) An Emmy-nominated director of feature documentaries, Maitland and his team at Go-Valley immersed themselves in the 40 years of Austin City Limits music history. At the same time, they embedded with the Austin City Limits production team to capture behind-the-scenes, backstage, rehearsal, and performance moments with the incredible artists who graced the ACL stage in Season 40 to create the ultimate fans' digest of the longest running music program on TV. As a live music fan, Maitland couldn't have asked for a greater opportunity to capture the energy and magic of the live music experience and the untold history of an American music institution.

2016 marks the release of two feature docs from Keith Maitland. Both *A SONG FOR YOU: THE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS STORY* as well as *TOWER*, a feature documentary about the 1966 University of Texas tower shooting will premiere at the 2016 SXSW Film Festival. His last film, *THE EYES OF ME*, a year-in-the-life of four blind teens, premiered at SXSW in 2009, broadcast on PBS' Independent Lens and was honored with a Barbara Jordan Media Award by the State of Texas. Maitland is a director of documentary features, commercials, and TV series; his credits also include 7 seasons with NBC's *LAW & ORDER* as an assistant director. Keith is a graduate of the University of Texas, the Director's Guild of America Trainee Program and the PBS Producer's Academy.

Sarah Wilson (PRODUCER/CAMERA) returned to her hometown of Austin, Texas after nine years of studying and working in New York City. A documentary and commercial photographer as well as Director of Photography for documentary films, Wilson's clients include the *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *Time*, *HGTV*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Texas Monthly*, *Mother Jones* among others. Prints from past personal projects have been acquired by the permanent collections at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, The Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, and the Lishui Photography Museum of China. Current projects include "Our Desired Future," a look at the tenuous state of Texas ground water, and "Deep Time: An artist's journey; sifting through the stratigraphy of paleontology and family." Sarah Wilson is currently developing new documentary and narrative projects with her husband, Keith Maitland.

Susan Thomson (PRODUCER) spent over 12 years as a media consultant in Dallas, Los Angeles and London, with roles in strategy, operations and distribution at Warner Bros., Sony Pictures, Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Really Useful Group", and the BBC. Susan co-founded and co-produces *FilmMatters*, a dialogue that focuses on the use of film to encourage social change. *FilmMatters* has been programmed within festivals and as a stand-alone symposium. She holds a BBA from the University of Texas. In addition to *A SONG FOR YOU*, Susan is a producer for *TOWER*.

Hillary Pierce (COORDINATING PRODUCER) After several years working in the film and television industry in her native North Carolina, Hillary began her documentary career in NYC at Maysles Films under the tutelage of Direct Cinema pioneer Albert Maysles. While earning her MFA in Documentary Film at Wake Forest University, Hillary assisted faculty member and Kartemquin filmmaker Peter Gilbert teaching Visual Storytelling. She produced and directed *THE ONE WHO BUILDS*, a documentary about Dr. Omer Omer, once a Sudanese refugee, now an American citizen who is paying it forward as the director of a refugee resettlement organization in the American South. The film won Best Short Documentary awards at both

Kansas City Film Fest and Boston International Film Festival and is currently on a university screening tour. Now based in Austin, Texas, she writes and produces non-fiction projects, joining Go-Valley in 2014. In addition to A SONG FOR YOU, Hillary is a part of the producing team for TOWER.

Austin Reedy (EDITOR) is an Austin, TX based editor, who has worked on several independent films and television series that have shown on PBS, A&E, Discover, History and TLC. Reedy also edited TOWER, directed by Keith Maitland.