

MUDPUPPY RECORDINGS CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY WITH POSITIVE REVIEWS, AWARD NOMINATION

Athens, GA (January 9, 2009) – The past twelve months have been busy for the fledgling Mudpuppy Recordings label of Athens, Georgia.

Mudpuppy's inaugural year began with a two-day recording session inside a chilly juke joint in North Mississippi and concluded with a shared Blues Music Award nomination for the blues travelogue film, *M for Mississippi: A Road Trip through the Birthplace of the Blues* just weeks ago. It was a year filled with crazy characters and more music than most can imagine.

“Mudpuppy began as a quest to record authentic roots music where it lives and breathes,” said Kari Jones, the label's founder. “If nothing else, I think we've succeeded at that so far. The past year has been amazing. There were so many once-in-a-lifetime moments.”

Mudpuppy's debut album – what Jones refers to as a “studio-quality field recording” – captured Delta blues legend James “T-Model” Ford at his favorite neighborhood haunt playing for friends and fans. Showcasing solo-acoustic to full-tilt band performances, Ford's *jack daniel time* reveals a cantankerous octogenarian who's far from retirement. It's a CD that's garnered praise from around the globe and revived interest in Ford's career.

Living Blues magazine noted, “In an age where there are precious few T-Model Ford's still running, it's especially good to hear this one continuing to hit on all four cylinders.” Blues Revue pointed out, “You can't get much more down and dirty than T-Model Ford's approach to Delta blues. [The song] ‘Hi Heeled Sneakers’ is a rock n' roll tour de force.”

Across the water, Blues Matters in the UK proclaimed, “This is as authentic as Mississippi Blues gets. It could easily be a long lost recording from some obscure '30s recording artist” while Blues In Britain called the album, “Straight down the line juke joint blues as authentic as it gets. Rating 9 (out of 10).”

On the heels of the new CD, Ford was also included in a much-heralded joint film project involving Mudpuppy Recordings.

Just two months after the *jack daniel time* recording session, Mudpuppy's Kari Jones joined forces with Roger Stolle of Cat Head Delta Blues & Folk Art and Jeff Konkell of Broke & Hungry Records to film *M for Mississippi: A Road Trip through the Birthplace of the Blues*.

“From the moment Jeff and I first approached Kari about working on the movie project, she’s been enthusiastically on board,” said Stolle. “In addition to assisting with the production itself, she created the ‘Behind the Scenes’ segment that you find in the DVD’s bonus features.”

Filmed over one rough-and-tumble week in the Mississippi Delta, the movie documents a dozen obscure blues veterans (including Ford), capturing music and interviews in their yards, homes and juke joints. The five-member production team was rounded out by cinematographer Damien Blaylock and sound engineer Bill Abel. The resulting film was profiled by public radio, Vanity Fair.com and others before garnering a Blues Music Award nomination from the Blues Foundation.

“The Blues Music Award is the highest honor in blues music,” according to Mudpuppy’s Jones. “We are very proud of the nomination. I think it says a lot about the importance of the musicians featured in the project.”

M for Mississippi was nominated in the DVD of the Year category. The award ceremony will be held in Memphis this May and brings together blues performers, industry representatives, and fans from all over the world.

In addition to the media profiles and award nomination above, the movie reviews have been overwhelmingly positive.

Living Blues magazine declared, “[*M for Mississippi*] has to rank high among the most important blues events of 2008” while Big City Rhythm & Blues summed up the film stating, “For fans of real deal, rough and ragged Mississippi Delta blues, it doesn’t get much better than this.”

In a Vanity Fair article on-line, Mike Sacks wrote that *M for Mississippi* performs “a mission not dissimilar to what Ry Cooder set out to achieve when he recorded and filmed the musicians of the Buena Vista Social Club.” And the Blues Foundation’s own Ricky Stevens called the film “undoubtedly the most entertaining, most watchable blues documentary I have ever seen.”

Primary sponsors for the movie included the Roots & Blues Association, LiveBluesWorld.com, Delta Music Experience, and the Mississippi Film Office.

For more on Mudpuppy Recordings and the label’s on-going projects, music fans can visit www.mudpuppyrecordings.com on the web.