

Blues Legend B. B. King Shares Story for HistoryMakers Archives

The Year of the Blues officially kicked-off in February.

Tributes, television specials and live performances are scheduled across the country to celebrate the music and its musicians throughout the year.

Therefore, it's only fitting that The HistoryMakers, the nation's largest video archival collection of African American video oral histories, selected the Ambassador of Blues, Mr. B.B. King for this year's celebrity interview. The event, "An Evening with B.B. King" will be held in Chicago, the Blues Capital, on Friday, October 24th at 8:00 p.m. at the Art Institute of Chicago, 230 S. Columbus Drive.

R & B legend Isaac Hayes will conduct the one-on-one interview with Mr. King for The HistoryMakers Fourth Annual Fundraiser.

The interview will be taped before a live audience to air as a national PBS-TV special next year. In past years, "An Evening With..." celebrity interview honorees have been Harry Belafonte interviewed by Danny Glover, Dionne Warwick interviewed by Diahann Carroll and Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis interviewed by Angela Davis.

"This evening is very exciting because it brings together two of the most influential musicians of our time representing blues and R & B," said Julieanna L. Richardson, The HistoryMakers founder and Executive Director. Ms. Richardson

continues, "These musicians share a special bond, they both have roots in Memphis soul and their influences are deeply rooted in the African-American music experience."

The HistoryMakers is the largest national not-for-profit organization, dedicated to recording and preserving the personal histories of well-known African Americans as well as unsung heroes whose path-breaking achievements might otherwise go unrecognized. To date, 700 interviews have been added to the archives.

At 78 years young, Riley B. "B.B." King has spent more than half a century on the road. Since he started recording in the 1940s, he has released over fifty albums, and averaged more than 250 performances a year. King's music continues to mesmerize audiences around the globe and define the blues worldwide.

His signature hit, the 1970's "The Thrill Is Gone," and "Everyday I Have the Blues," are still concert favorites and his unique playing style has made him one of the 20th century's most influential guitarists.

King has also won 11 Grammy Awards and was awarded the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award in 1987.

For more information, please call The HistoryMakers at 312.674.1900 or visit <http://www.thehistorymakers.com>.

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