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BLUEGRASS SATELITTE & RESCUE THE RUSSELL, INC. PRESENT
“THE CLOONEY-CROSBY CONNECTION”
Celebrating the lives, career and friendship of Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney

Rescue the Russell, Inc., in association with Bluegrass Satellite, will present “The Clooney-Crosby Connection” during the Fifth Annual Rosemary Clooney Music Festival in Maysville, Kentucky, on Saturday, September 20, 2003, at 10 a.m. at Maysville’s Opera Theatre.

The unique and special friendship between Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney will come to light at this film fest/salute which features Kathryn Crosby, Dante DiPaolo, Nick Clooney and film archivist Bob DeFlores.

Kathryn Crosby, widow of Bing Crosby, will join members of Rosemary Clooney’s family in answering audience questions and sharing memories of these two beloved entertainers and their families. World renown film archivist and Crosby family “film savior,” Bob DeFlores, will present a video tribute which will include rare clips of Bing and Rosemary.

Mrs. Crosby, who was married to world-famous entertainer and superstar Bing Crosby for 20 years until his death in 1977, met Rosemary at the same time she met Bing and

they forged a friendship that would last almost 50 years.

Kathryn Crosby is in her own right an accomplished performer, author, artist, nurse and teacher. She has just completed a companion volume to her 1983 book, "My Life with Bing," entitled "My Last Years with Bing." It is a lively narrative describing her life as Bing's wife and mother to three of his lively children. The book is full of personal anecdotes and color photos that even include vacations with Rosemary and her family.

Born in West Columbia, Texas, Mrs. Crosby began performing on the stage when she was 3. Since then, she's performed on stages from New York, San Francisco, London, Edinburgh, to Moscow – and Siberia! Her film career got a big boost by appearances in "Rear Window" and "Anatomy of a Murder", but she's perhaps most famous for her film role as the 'shrinking princess' in the Ray Harryhausen cult classic, "The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad." Her many stage roles include Margaret in "Dear Brutus," Hero in "Much Ado About Nothing," Cordelia in "King Lear," and Liza in "Pygmalion." She has performed in the title roles in "Sabrina," "Peter Pan," "Mary, Mary," "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," "Same Time Next Year," "Guys and Dolls," "I Do I Do," "Arms And The Man," "The Guardsman," "Oh Coward," "State Fair," and "Roberta."

Mrs. Crosby will be available after the program to sign copies of her book.

Dante DiPaolo, widower of Rosemary Clooney, will share stories of his early days as a dancer in Hollywood when at the age of 13 he met Bing Crosby and had a part in his

1939 movie, "The Starmaker." He'll also reminisce about the days on the road when Rosemary was touring with Bing and his family, in what would become his farewell tour. Dante will be able to offer a unique perspective on just how important the Crosby family was to Rosemary.

Rosemary's brother Nick, whose career includes tv anchorman, journalist, actor, songwriter, commentator, radio dj, talk show host, game show host, and author, will serve as M.C. for the event and also share his personal recollections of his sister's legendary friendship and his personal encounters with the man whom he describes as having had an, "astounding influence on American music, the jazz and swing era and the golden era of movies."

Film historian-preservationist Bob DeFlores, who is in the process of helping Kathryn Crosby restore her late husband's personal film collection, met Bing Crosby in 1977 when he uncovered some rare film clips of the crooner and established himself as a major film biographer. DeFlores grew up in Hollywood immersed in showbiz culture. His parents performed in movies, on the radio, and in nightclubs, and his passion for the cinema and jazz music developed early. He began collecting and restoring films in 1953, and has since amassed a library of thousands of works, including rare newsreels, cartoon shorts, sports footage, full-length features, and jazz and big band material. DeFlores has assisted many legendary performers in completing their film libraries, including Ginger Rogers, Shirley Temple, Kitty Carlisle and Loretta Young. In addition, he has become a primary resource for historical footage and clips used on A&E's *Biography* series, as well

as such galas as the Kennedy Center Honors and the Grammy Awards. Based in Richfield, MN, DeFlores frequently travels across the country to present work from his expansive archive at universities and various organizations.

Rescue the Russell, Inc. will receive 100% of the proceeds from this event. Those funds will aid in restoring Maysville's historic Russell Theatre, which 50 years ago was home to the world premiere of Rosemary's first motion picture, "The Stars are Singing."

Rescue the Russell Inc., was formed in 1996 when a group of local activists got together to purchase the historic building which was in a serious state of decline and disrepair. Their goal is to restore the historic theatre to its original splendor and that part of the theatre can be used as a museum dedicated to the Clooney family. Current estimates indicate it will take 3.5 million to restore the theatre and adjoining annex. To date approximately \$350,000 has been raised toward this goal.

Rescue the Russell, Inc. is pleased to be presenting this event in conjunction with The Fifth Annual Rosemary Clooney Music Festival. The festival was established in 1999 and featured Rosemary's performances every year up until her death. With the support of Rosemary's family, the festival continues in her honor. The event has boasted such performers as Michael Feinstein, Debby Boone, Former Miss America-Heather Renee French, George Clooney, Miquel Ferrer, Alison Krauss, the Big Kahuna and the Copa Cat Pack, The Whites, Ron Block, and the Peasall Sisters.

This event is being sponsored by Bluegrass Satellite, a satellite dish and equipment

business located in Maysville, Kentucky and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Basil Mattingly. Indicating their excitement about being associated with this event, Luanne Mattingly said, “Bas and I are happy to assist Rescue the Russell in providing such a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and learn more about Maysville’s own hometown girl and her special relationship with Bing Crosby while helping to restore this theatre that is such an important part of our history and community.”

Tickets will be available at the door for \$20.00.

For more information about the “The Clooney-Crosby Connection” or the Russell Theater, please contact Kathy Brown at 614-325-0879 or by email admin@rosemaryclooney.com.