



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL™ READIES FOR FALL WITH SEPTEMBER PREMIERES

Washington, DC, September 30, 2009 –Smithsonian Channel goes back to school in September with original premieres that explore some of the unknown gems that American culture has to offer as well some of its natural wonders. From the extraordinary Depression era Federal Writers Project to the man said to be the inspiration for the Grateful Dead's "Uncle John's Band," to the musings of naturalist Nick Baker, every original series and special is presented in stunning HD and Dolby Digital 5.1 sound.

September Premieres:

SOUL OF A PEOPLE: WRITING AMERICA'S STORY – Sunday, September 6 at 8pm ET/PT

With the economy crumbling, millions of people without jobs, families being put out on the streets, and a general feeling of uncertainty, a newly elected president was anointed to lead the Nation out of its doldrums. This original two-hour documentary explores the Federal Writer's Project, one of the four arts programs funded by FDR's Works Progress Administration (WPA). The film is not only a story about the Project, but also an essential primer to the Great Depression.

Encore Dates: September 6 at 9:35pm, September 10 at 8pm, September 14 at 10pm, September 19 at 9pm, September 22 at 8pm

PLAY ON, JOHN: A LIFE IN MUSIC - Sunday, September 13 at 8pm ET/PT

Before Bob Dylan and the Band, there was John Cohen. Almost more than anyone else, he saved and celebrated traditional American Folk Music. And many believe that he is the inspiration for the Grateful Dead's famous song "Uncle John's Band." He has led a remarkable life and has become an American treasure. He is a musician, a painter, a documentary filmmaker, print maker and a photographer. He photographed the cover for his friend Dylan's "Self Portrait" album. This is the story of his amazing life's work.

SciQ – FRIDAYS at 8pm ET/PT Beginning September 4

This series takes kids on an adventure with three energetic young hosts who compete against each other to make discoveries in science and technology. "SciQ" features a wide range of themes from robots and underwater life, to the intriguing secrets of poop. Forget the stuffy science classroom and the trademark white lab coat. On SciQ, science is fun, active, and always an adventure. This season finishes with four new episodes: Spies; Human Performance; Food; Snow.

NICK BAKER'S WEIRD CREATURES – Fridays at 9pm ET/PT Beginning September 4

He's been featured as one of *People* magazine's most beautiful people, he sings in a blues band, and he keeps leeches in his refrigerator. Naturalist Nick Baker is the perfect person to go in search of some of nature's weirdest creatures, from an elusive armadillo that swims through sand dunes to a lizard that squirts blood from its eyes. For Nick, these are the unsung heroes of evolutionary biology. This month's episodes: The Real Gremlin; Swamp Things; The Hellbender; Invisible Lizard.

ABOUT SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS

Smithsonian Networks (SNI/SI Networks LLC) is a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution. It was formed to create new channels that will showcase scientific, cultural and historical programming largely inspired by the assets of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The networks will feature original documentaries, short-subject explorations and innovative and groundbreaking programs highlighting America's historical, cultural and scientific heritage. Visit them on the internet at www.smithsonianchannel.com.

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