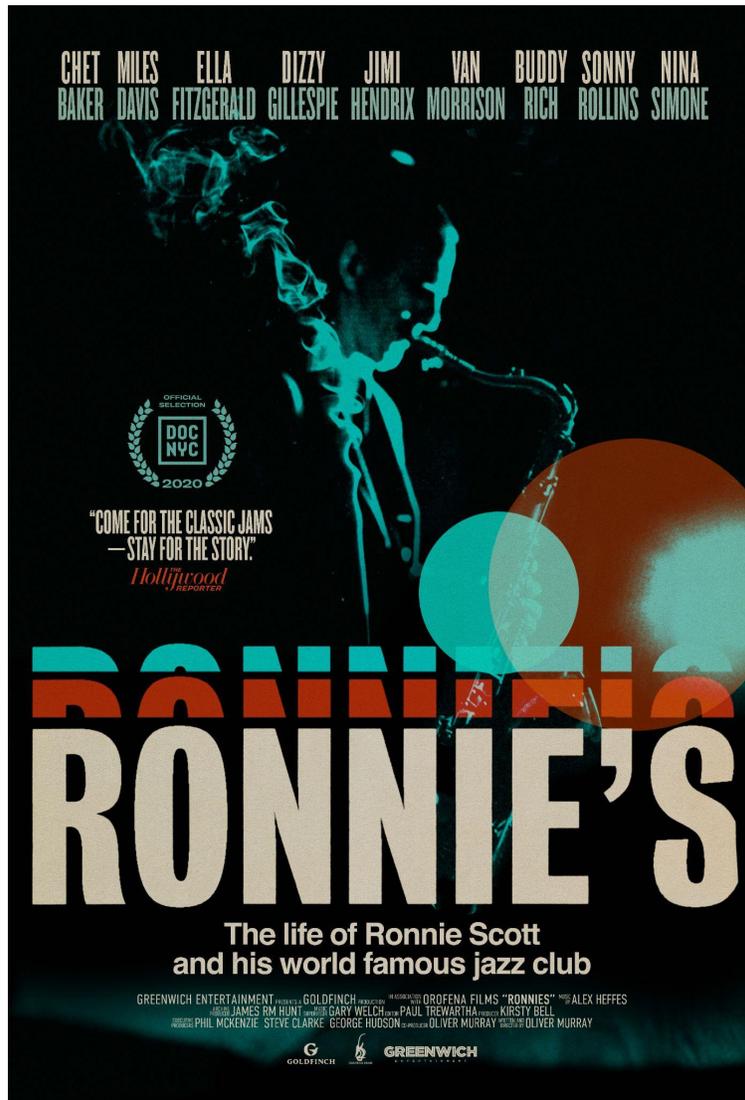


GREENWICH

ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTS



Runtime: 104 minutes

In Theaters and On Digital February 11, 2022

Publicity Contact:

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Logline

A chronicle of the life of saxophonist Ronnie Scott and his world famous London jazz club.

Synopsis

“Ronnie’s” is a celebration of the legacy of Ronnie Scott and his world famous jazz club. Featuring previously unseen and unheard performances as well as interviews with some of the most iconic figures in music, the film explores the club’s 60 year history and shines a light on the uncompromising men and women who built it and who took to its stage.

Named after the late tenor saxophonist who founded the club in London’s bohemian district of Soho in 1959 with business partner Pete King, Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club was inspired by the vibrant post-war music scene in New York and quickly became the city’s most famous music venue. Since then the club has consistently played host to the world’s greatest musical legends, including Chet Baker, Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Roland Kirk, Buddy Rich, Oscar Peterson and Nina Simone.



About Ronnie Scott

Ronnie Scott was among the earliest British musicians to have been influenced by Charlie Parker and became one of the finest jazz musicians in Europe. His chief motivation in starting a jazz club was to create a space where he and his contemporaries were free to play modern, forward thinking music. Ronnie was beloved by many, from the great and famous who frequented his club, to the many hard-up musicians who were often helped by his warmth and generous spirit. However, Ronnie was as complex and colourful as the music played on his stage. In private Ronnie battled with depression and when his untimely death occurred in 1996 it left the jazz community bereft of a respected and favourite leader.



About the Director

Oliver Murray is a filmmaker based in London, where he specialises in films and documentaries about the arts. He was raised on a sheep farm in England, studied Fine Art at The Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, and Film & Animation at The Pratt Institute in New York City. He moved to London to become a professional filmmaker in 2009. By combining his passion for film with his love of music Oliver started work as a music video director, creating videos for artists including The Horrors, Noel Gallagher and The Vaccines. He also became a busy commercials director, creating work for brands including Microsoft, Visa, Red Bull and Vice.

In 2017 Oliver founded Orofena Films - to date Oliver has written and directed two feature documentaries. His debut THE QUIET ONE, about the life and career of Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, was bought by Sundance Selects and premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival 2019 before enjoying a theatrical release across North America. RONNIES, a look at the legacy of Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, is a return to the world of music and his love of working with archive material. The film showcases some of the world's finest musicians and shines a light on the complex personality of the founder of the club, Ronnie Scott.

Oliver is currently developing a slate of documentary and drama projects in the UK and continues to create music videos and commercials.

Director's Statement

To music fans all over the world Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club is a temple built to witness and honour musical excellence. This film is a celebration of the men and women who dreamt of building such a place and in doing so changed the landscape of live music across the world forever. They were uncompromising, resourceful and ferociously loyal to one another in their quest to explore new sounds and create the perfect environment to play and listen to music.

I knew very little about the man behind the club's name and the era Ronnie Scott grew up in, so for me the process of making this film was one of fascinating discovery. Slowly but surely through months of careful research and intimate interviews with his friends and family the character of Ronnie Scott revealed himself - he was a complex man who seemed able to play many roles and wear many different masks. My hope is that the film offers a look at the truest, most honest version of Ronnie. This is Ronnie telling his story in his own words. It's a tale of great achievement and wonderful music but also a

deep-seated struggle with a traumatic illness - it was unknown to everyone except those closest to him that Ronnie suffered terribly from depression. Art has always been about taking your emotions and expressing them in your work, and music was Ronnie's medicine for his trauma.

Ronnie, together with his staggeringly talented contemporaries, performed on stage to communicate a magical unspoken poetry that healed wounded souls and celebrated unspoken joy. What Ronnie Scott and his business partner Pete King created has been touching people and lifting people up for 60 years. Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club continues to play an essential role in the cultural enrichment of London and its fame has spread across the world, lighting a path forward for audiences and musicians alike. What began as a haven for marginalised artists has emerged as a hallowed stage for the world's best musical practitioners. I will remain eternally grateful to all the contributing musicians, record labels and publishers for making this film possible, and to the film's producers for their unique trust and support. Long live Ronnie Scott's Club, the memory of Ronnie Scott and Pete King, and the joys of live music!

Featuring Performances By

OSCAR PETERSON
RONNIE SCOTT
DIZZY GILLESPIE
ROLAND KIRK
SONNY ROLLINS
CLEO LANE & JOHN DANKWORTH
MARY LOU WILLIAMS
BUDDY RICH
SARAH VAUGHAN
MILES DAVIS
JIMI HENDRIX
ELLA FITZGERALD
NINA SIMONE
VAN MORRISON & CHET BAKER BEN WEBSTER
AJAO

Featuring New Interviews With

BARBARA JAY
BILL BAKER
BRUCE FLEMING
BILL BAKER
CATHY RICH
CHRIS KING
CHRIS BLACKWELL
FRANCOISE VANET
GEORGIE FAME
GILES PETERSON
JIM HUNT
JOHN FORDHAM
KYLE EASTWOOD
LENNY BRESLAW
MARY SCOTT
MICHAEL PARKINSON
MICHAEL WATT
PAUL PACE
REBECCA SCOTT

SALLY GREENE
SIMON COOKE
SONNY ROLLINS
STELLA KING
VAL WILMER
WALLY HOUSER
QUINCY JONES

Credits

Writer & Director OLIVER MURRAY
Producer KIRSTY BELL
Executive Producer PHIL MCKENZIE
Co Producer OLIVER MURRAY
Producer for Orofena Films MILLY RILEY
Cinematographer BEN THOMAS
Production Designer SARAH KANE
Graphic Design INTRO
Archive Producer JAMES RM HUNT
Editor PAUL TREWARTHA
Music Supervisor GARY WELCH
Composer ALEX HEFFES
Post Production MOLINARE