KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD CURATES INAUGURAL BACKROADS BLUES FESTIVAL TOUR WITH BUDDY GUY, CHRISTONE “KINGFISH” INGRAM AND KWS BAND

Tickets On Sale to General Public Friday, April 15th at 11 AM.

April 12th, 2022 (BETHEL, NY) – Nonprofit cultural organization Bethel Woods Center for the Arts today announced that Backroads Blues Festival, Buddy Guy & Kenny Wayne Shepherd with special guest Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, will perform at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock festival on Sunday, August 14th. Tickets for the public go on sale Friday, April 15th at 11:00 AM (local for each venue).

Taking a few moments off from the Trouble Is.. 25th Anniversary Tour that celebrates the silver anniversary of the release of his RIAA certified Platinum selling breakthrough album, Shepherd discussed his vision for the Backroads Blues Festival. “These days nobody mounts a traditional touring blues festival. I conceptualized one that will give people a chance to see the best of the best all in one place. We are extremely excited that Buddy Guy will be with us for each show. He is, after all, the living king of the blues these days. Also worthy of great respect is Christone “Kingfish” Ingram who is revitalizing the blues in a potent and powerful way.”

He continued, “We’re featuring three successive generations of blues artists, underscoring the resonance of the genre.” He explained that the overall concept for Backroads Blues Festival is an extension of his award winning earlier 10 Days Out: Blues from the Backroads film and album project that saw him bring his band and a portable
studio on the road to join forces with both notable and unheralded blues artists documenting those collaborations along the way including Etta Baker, Pinetop Perkins, Honeyboy Edwards, Lazy Lester, Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, Hubert Sumlin and B.B. King, among others. That project was also certified as a Platinum seller by the RIAA. He expressed hope of producing a sequel to the 2007 release in the future.

“In the past, I really looked forward to those blues packages both as a fan and as an artist, so I decided to bring the concept back with the Backroads Blues Festival tour.” He recalled his transitioning from ticket holder to the B.B. King Blues Festival, where B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Etta James, Joe Cocker and the Neville Brothers performed, to starring as featured performer on several editions of the festival. “Those were very special shows and once that ended there was a void. Our Backroads Blues Festival Tour is firmly rooted in that same tradition.”

Buddy Guy added, “I’m excited to be part of the first annual Backroads Blues Festival and back out with Kenny Wayne and looking forward to jamming with Kenny and Kingfish.” Shepherd noted that while this year’s festival lineup consists of electric bands, “It’s possible we could do an all-acoustic show; we want to be as inclusive as possible. Christone “Kingfish” Ingram remarked, “To be back touring again is really great and the opportunity to join Mr. Guy and Mr. Shepherd on stage will be electric. These tour dates will be lots of fun.”

It’s worth noting that in addition to the Trouble Is… 25th Anniversary Tour and the launch of the Backroads Blues Festival, Kenny will be celebrating his 45th birthday with friends Samantha Fish, the Ally Venable Band and special guest, Blues Entertainer of the Year, Shemekia Copeland with whom he recorded last year’s Americana chart favorite “Hit ‘Em Back”. The two birthday shows are scheduled for June 11 (Sweetwater Pavilion/Ft. Wayne IN) and June 12 (Fraze Pavilion/Dayton OH). “We will always do what we can to support the music and use my platform to elevate the blues in any way we can.”

The presale for Bethel Woods Members begins Wednesday, April 13th at 10:00 AM. More than early entry, live music, and VIP access, membership provides vital support for museum education and creative learning programs, while offering exclusive benefits not available to the public. To learn about additional member benefits and presale access, please visit https://www.bethelwoodscenter.org/member.

A limited number of 2022 Bethel Woods Season Lawn Passes are available, fully transferrable, and guarantees a place on the open-air lawn for every Pavilion concert, including sold out and Pavilion-only performances. To learn more visit https://www.bethelwoodscenter.org/slp.

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About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts
Bethel Woods Center for the Arts inspires, educates, and empowers individuals through the arts and humanities by presenting a diverse selection of culturally-rich performances, popular artists, and community and educational programming. Located 90 miles from New York City at the site of the 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, the lush 800-acre campus includes a Pavilion Stage amphitheater with seating for 16,000, an intimate 422-seat indoor Event Gallery, the award-winning Museum at Bethel Woods, and a Conservatory for arts education programming.

Through the in-depth study and exhibition of the social, political, and cultural events of the 1960s, as well as the preservation of the historic site of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, Bethel Woods educates individuals about the issues and lessons of the decade while inspiring a new generation to contribute positively to the world around them. The not-for-profit organization relies on the generous support of individuals, corporations, and foundations to develop and sustain programs that improve the quality of life in the region and beyond.

For more information please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org.