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'The Wrecking Crew' Returns to Nashville for Two Special Engagements

Film about legendary group of West Coast Studio Musicians, at hit at Nashville Film Festival and Festivals Nationwide, returns to Music City -- with non-profit status -- for Screenings at the Belcourt and NAMM.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee -- July 8, 2011 -- They were the studio musicians behind some of the biggest hits in the 1960s and 70s. From "Be My Baby" to "California Girls;" "Strangers in the Night" to "Mrs. Robinson;" "You've Lost that Lovin' Feelin'" to "Up, Up and Away;" and from "Viva Las Vegas" to "Mr. Tambourine Man," the group dubbed **The Wrecking Crew** played on them all. Six years in a row in the late 1960's and early 1970's, the Grammy for "Record of the Year" went to Wrecking Crew member recordings.

But like the Funk Brothers at Motown, who finally got the credit they deserved with the film "Standing in the Shadows of Motown," the story of the Wrecking Crew and its influence on the West Coast Sound and pop music has largely gone untold. Until now.

"The Wrecking Crew," a documentary film produced and directed by **Denny Tedesco**, son of legendary late Wrecking Crew guitarist **Tommy Tedesco**, was a sensation at the closing night of the 2008 Nashville Film Festival and went on to win the hearts (and ears) of filmgoers at every subsequent festival. It now returns to Nashville for two special engagements: **Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Belcourt Theatre, and Saturday, July 23, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Nashville Convention Center as part of the NAMM show.**

Tickets for the Belcourt Theatre screening, available at the Belcourt Box Office or online at <http://www.belcourt.org>, are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for seniors, students, American Federation of Musicians members and Nashville Film Festival members. The NAMM screening is included with admission to show, \$15 in advance; \$20 at door on day of screening. Both screenings will include a brief Q&A with director Tedesco.

The film includes studio performance footage, interviews and anecdotes from many of the Wrecking Crew members. Among them are drummer **Hal Blaine**, guitarist **Tommy Tedesco**, bassist **Carole Kaye**, guitarist **Al Casey**, percussionist Earl Palmer, saxophonist **Plas Johnson**, bassist **Joe Osborn** and pianist and keyboardist **Don Randi**. Those testifying to the influence of The Wrecking Crew include **Brian Wilson**, **Jimmy Webb**, **Herb Albert** and **Glen Campbell**, the latter a part-time member of the group.

Renowned musicians who have seen the documentary have raved. “The Wrecking Crew’ is the best documentary yet about the recording scene,” said **Steve Miller**. “I loved it.” **Elvis Costello** said it’s “a wonderful, touching and... hilarious film about the unsung stars of so many records that you carry in your heart.”

Peter Frampton added, “It was incredible! It had everything I wanted to see and more that I didn’t expect ... it shows that these legendary musicians, who we listen to everyday, are anything but invisible.”

Why the film hasn’t reached a wider audience, even though it is championed by all who see it, is becoming a bit of lore itself. A labor of love by director Tedesco, the film is also ultimately a love letter to the legacy of his late father and musician friends in the Crew. Documenting the work of musicians on such iconic songs, however, can be cost -- and distribution -- prohibitive. According to the American Federation of Musicians, the film may one of the largest soundtracks of any film in history, with 131 music cues. With songs by Frank Sinatra, Nancy Sinatra, The Monkees, The Byrds, The Beach Boys and dozens of others, the cost of licensing the music for the film is estimated at more than \$300,000.

“The cost of licensing the music is the only reason the film has not been released,” says Tedesco. “But quitting was never an option. So the next mission was to raise the final funds to help pay for the licensing.”

Tedesco came up with a unique solution: make “The Wrecking Crew” a non-profit. The film is now eligible for funding through the International Documentary Foundation, a California non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. IDA’s Fiscal Sponsorship Program has provided the 501(c)(3) nonprofit umbrella to more than 300 film/video projects, many of which have gone on to success at festivals and markets, getting distribution and/or broadcast, or even garnering prestigious awards from the film community.

So when Nashville film and music lovers attend one of the film’s area screenings, they are not only buying a ticket to a film, they are making a donation to securing a legacy, and supporting

the documentation of music history. It's a chance to do for The Wrecking Crew what "Standing in the Shadows of Motown" did for the Funk Brothers, and have a blast doing it. As Vintage Guitar Magazine declared, "'The Wrecking Crew' is in a league with the best music documentaries ever made" and as *Variety's* Joe Leydon declared, it's "a treasure trove of witness-at-creation anecdotes and enduringly potent '60s pop classics ... a well-nigh irresistible treat for aficionados of music from the era when acts like the Beach Boys, the Associations and the Monkees were topping the charts."

For more information about "The Wrecking Crew" film and The Wrecking Crew musicians, please visit <http://www.wreckingcrewfilm.com/> or the The Wrecking Crew [Facebook](#) Page.

The Belcourt (<http://www.belcourt.org>) is located at 2102 Belcourt Avenue in Nashville, (615) 846-3150. NAMM (<http://www.namm.org/>) takes place at the Nashville Convention Center, 601 Commerce St.

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