

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **SAMMY DAVIS JR. LIVE IN GERMANY**
[Stereo] [TV-G] [CC]

LENGTH: 1/59

NOLA CODE: SAMD

CATEGORY: Music and Entertainment

OFFERED: Premium Service 18 offer, June 2007

RELEASE DATE: November 23, 2007

CONTRACT TERMS: 12 releases through December 31, 2009.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: Eagle Vision, Inc.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: World-renowned entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr. performs a set of timeless classics in SAMMY DAVIS JR. LIVE IN GERMANY, a 1985 performance filmed live at the Hohensyburg Casino in Dortmund, Germany. This captivating program features a number of favorites, including "Candy Man," "New York, New York," "I've Gotta Be Me" and the set closer "Mr. Bojangles."

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: Use the above program description for guide listing. A press kit, including fact sheet, press release, and song list will be posted to PBS Connect and APTONline.org. Color photos will be available via email and on APTONline.org.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS: Producer: Ulrich Erdt
Director: Ekkehard Böhmer

BROADCAST HISTORY: U.S. Television Premiere

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RELATED MERCHANDISE:

Individual viewer purchase: Recordings by Sammy Davis Jr. are available in retail outlets nationwide.

Pledge:

Program DVD, related CD.

VIEWER INQUIRIES:

American Public Television
Viewer Services
55 Summer Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
617-338-4455 ext. 202

WEB SITE:

www.sammydavis-jr.com

COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT:

Kerry Taylor
(617) 338-4455, ext. 121
kerry_taylor@APTonline.org

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CONTACT: Kerry Taylor
(617) 338-4455, ext. 121
kerry_taylor@APTonline.org

PRESS RELEASE

Legendary Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. Sings and Swings Through a Night of Classic Hits in New Public Television Special

*Magnetic special captures the amazing voice, impressions and dance moves of one of America's
greatest performers*

The incredible talents of Sammy Davis Jr. are on display in **SAMMY DAVIS JR. LIVE IN GERMANY**, airing on public television stations nationwide beginning November 23, 2007. The program, distributed by American Public Television (APT), features the legendary Davis performing a night of spectacular entertainment—from spot-on impressions to mesmerizing tap-dancing, and, of course, a sterling set list of Rat Pack classics, filmed live before a packed audience in Germany's famed Hohensyberg Casino.

Davis was renowned for his all-around talents as an entertainer. As a member of the "Rat Pack," along with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Peter Lawford, he scored dozens of top-10 singles and unforgettable albums. His 1963 album "Live at the Coconut Grove" is still considered one of the greatest live albums of the crooner era. He was acclaimed for his performances in films like *Porgy and Bess*, *Sweet Charity* with Shirley MacLaine and *Ocean's Eleven* with the rest of the "Rat Pack" members, as well as for his Tony-nominated Broadway turn in *Golden Boy*.

Captured in the midst of Davis' stunning mid-'80s resurgence, **SAMMY DAVIS JR. LIVE IN GERMANY** showcases the amazing entertainer at his finest. Davis begins with the unforgettable "Where or When," "New York New York," and his most well-known hit, "The Candy Man." He dazzles the crowd with a virtuoso tap-dancing performance to "Singin' in the Rain," and the soaring ballads "What

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Kind of Fool Am I” and “The Lady is a Tramp.” A jazzy, scatting improvisation swings through “I’ve Got You Under My Skin” to “The Girl from Impanema.”

His amazing ability for impressions comes to life on a rendition of “As Time Goes By.” Davis sings and laughs through spot-on sonic mimicry, crooning in the down-home folksy tones of Jimmy Stewart, the inimitable accent of Humphrey Bogart and the rat-a-tat gangster sneer of James Cagney. A drunken, slurring impression of Dean Martin leaves the audience in stitches, and astonishing recreations of the voices of Louis Armstrong and Nat King Cole brings them to their feet. He finishes the concert, clad in a traditional dancer’s outfit and hat, with an emotional “Mr. Bojangles,” to thunderous applause.

A glitzy, glamorous concert in the swingin’ style of the classic Rat Pack, **SAMMY DAVIS JR. LIVE IN GERMANY** is a captivating and intimate performance by one of the most talented, versatile entertainers of the 20th century.

SAMMY DAVIS JR. LIVE IN GERMANY is presented by Eagle Vision, Inc. in association with American Public Television’s Premium Service. The program is produced by Ulrich Eldt and directed by Ekkehard Böhmer.

About American Public Television

For 46 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation’s public television stations. APT distributes more than 300 new program titles per year and has 10,000 hours of programming in its library. It is responsible for many public television milestones including the first HD series and the 2006 launch of the Create channel featuring the best of public television’s lifestyle programming. APT is known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming. It has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules such as *Winged Migration*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves’ Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America’s Test Kitchen From Cook’s Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia’s Family Table*, *California Dreamin’ – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary & Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith’s Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs and classic movies. For more information about APT’s programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

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SONG LIST

SAMMY DAVIS JR. – LIVE IN GERMANY

“Where or When”

“New York, New York”

“What I Did For Love”

“Candy Man”

“I’m Singing in the Rain”

“What Kind of Fool Am I”

“The Lady is a Tramp”

“Improvisation / I’ve Got You Under My Skin”

“I’ve Gotta Be Me”

“For Once in My Life”

“As Time Goes By”

“Mr. Bojangles”

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BIOGRAPHY

SAMMY DAVIS JR.

Recognized throughout much of his career as "the world's greatest living entertainer," Sammy Davis, Jr. was a remarkably popular and versatile performer equally adept at acting, singing, dancing and impersonations -- in short, a variety artist in the classic tradition.

A member of the famed Rat Pack, he was among the very first African-American talents to find favor with audiences on both sides of the color barrier, and remains a perennial icon of cool. Born in Harlem on December 8, 1925, Davis made his stage debut at the age of three performing with Holiday in Dixieland, a black vaudeville troupe featuring his father and helmed by his de facto uncle, Will Mastin; dubbed "Silent Sam, the Dancing Midget," he proved phenomenally popular with audiences and the act was soon renamed Will Mastin's Gang Featuring Little Sammy. At the age of seven Davis made his film debut in the legendary musical short *Rufus Jones for President*, and later received tap-dancing lessons courtesy of the great Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. In 1941, the Mastin Gang opened for Tommy Dorsey at Detroit's Michigan Theater; there Davis first met Dorsey vocalist Frank Sinatra -- the beginning of a lifelong friendship.

In 1943 Davis joined the U.S. Army, where he endured a constant battle with racism; upon his return from duty, the group was renamed the Will Mastin Trio. Three years later they opened for Mickey Rooney, who encouraged Davis to begin including his many impersonations in the Trio's act; where previously they had exclusively performed music, the addition of comedy brought new life to the group, and by the beginning of the next decade they were headlining venues including New York's Capitol club and Ciro's in Hollywood. In 1952, at the invitation of Sinatra, they also played the newly-integrated Copacabana. In 1954 Davis signed to Decca, topping the charts with his debut LP Starring Sammy Davis, Jr.; that same year he lost his left eye in a much-publicized auto accident, but upon returning to the stage in early 1955 was greeted with even greater enthusiasm than before on the strength of a series of hit singles including "Something's Gotta Give," "Love Me or Leave Me" and "That Old Black Magic." A year later Davis made his Broadway debut in the musical *Mr. Wonderful*, starring in the show for over 400 performances and launching a hit with the song "Too Close for Comfort."

In 1958 Davis resumed his film career after a quarter-century layoff with *Anna Lucasta*, followed a year later by his acclaimed turn in *Porgy and Bess*. Also in

1959 he became a charter member of the Rat Pack, a loose confederation of Sinatra associates (also including Dean Martin, Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop) which began regularly performing together at the Sands casino in Las Vegas. In 1960 they made *Ocean's Eleven*, the first in a series of hip and highly self-referential Rat Pack films; although Davis' inclusion in the group was perceived in many quarters as an egalitarian move, many black audiences felt he was simply a token -- the butt of subtly racist jokes -- and declared him a sell-out. His earlier conversion to Judaism had been met with considerable controversy within the African-American community as well; still, nothing compared to the public outcry over his 1960 marriage to Swedish actress May Britt, which even elicited death threats (the two divorced in 1968; Davis married Altovise Gore in 1970, and they remained together until his death). Still, Davis remained a major star, appearing in the 1962 Rat Pack film *Sergeants 3* and scoring a major hit with "What Kind of Fool Am I?" Two years later he returned to Broadway in the long-running *Golden Boy*, scoring a Tony nomination for his performance.

In 1964, the third Rat Pack film, *Robin and the Seven Hoods*, was released; two years later, in the wake of the publication of his autobiography "Yes I Can," Davis was also among a number of musical luminaries, including Sinatra and Louis Armstrong, who co-starred in the jazz drama *A Man Called Adam*. In 1968 he and Lawford teamed as *Salt and Pepper*; the picture was a hit, and a sequel, *One More Time*, appeared in 1970. In between the two Davis delivered one of his most memorable screen performances in Bob Fosse's 1969 musical *Sweet Charity*; he also appeared in a number of television features, including *The Pigeon*, *The Trackers* and *Poor Devil*. In 1972 Davis topped the pop charts with "The Candy Man," from the film *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*; from 1975 to 1977, he hosted his own syndicated variety show, *Sammy and Company*, and in 1978 starred in the film *Sammy Stops the World*. However, in the late 1970s and through much of the 1980s Davis's profile diminished, and he was primarily confined to the casino circuit, with a 1988 comeback tour he mounted with Sinatra and Martin largely unsuccessful. His appearance in the 1989 film *Tap* was much acclaimed, but it was to be his last screen performance—a lifelong smoker, Davis died of cancer on May 16, 1990.

~ Jason Ankeny, All Music Guide

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