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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Exclusive 30th Anniversary Memorial Tribute to John Belushi
- ONE NIGHT ONLY - March 5

With Special Guest Paul Shaffer of "The Late Show With David Letterman"

Joliet, IL: A Blues Brothers show with a Belushi blessing as this is the *ONLY* Blues Brothers show sanctioned by Dan Akroyd and the John Belushi Estate. The Official Blues Brothers Revue will bring their highly anticipated concert act to the Rialto Square Theatre on Monday, March 5 at 8PM for a special one night only event. A memorial tribute will be paid to John Belushi marking the 30th anniversary of his death. To honor John Belushi during this event special guest **Paul Shaffer** will perform in the band along with the *ORIGINAL MEMBERS* of the Blues Brother Band **Tom "Bones" Malone, Matt "Guitar" Murphy, "Blue Lou" Marini**, plus added guest, **Otis Day ("Animal House")**. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all Blues Brothers enthusiasts! Tickets are on sale now and are priced at \$40 to \$55. Tickets may be purchased at the Rialto Box office located at 102 N. Chicago Street, or ordered by calling 815/726-6600 between 9am and 5pm Monday through Friday. On performance days the box office remains open until the completion of intermission. Tickets are also available at 800-982-2787, through all Ticketmaster outlets or online at www.ticketmaster.com or www.rialtosquare.com.

ABOUT PAUL SHAFFER

World-renowned bandleader Paul Shaffer has been David Letterman's musical director and sidekick for the past 30 years. A Grammy Award-winning master of musical and verbal improv, he has conducted a televised jam that included Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, Tina Turner, George Harrison, Ringo Starr, and Jeff Beck; been musical director at the White House, authored the best-selling memoir *We'll Be Here For the Rest of Our Lives*, and traded on-air quips with celebrities from Julia Roberts, Tina Fey, and Nathan Lane to Bill Murray, Donald Trump, and Jack Black.

Shaffer began his music career in 1972 as the musical director for the Toronto production of *Godspell*. He went on to play piano for a Broadway show called *The Magic Show* in 1974, then became a member of the house band on NBC's popular *Saturday Night Live (SNL)* television program from 1975 to 1980 (except for a brief departure in 1977). Shaffer also regularly appeared in the show's sketches, notably as the pianist for Bill Murray's Nick the Lounge Singer character, and as Don Kirshner.

Shaffer occasionally teamed up with the Not Ready for Prime-Time Players off the show as well, including work on Gilda Radner's highly successful Broadway show and as the musical director for John Belushi and Dan Akroyd whenever they recorded or performed as The Blues Brothers. Shaffer was to appear in the duo's 1980 film, but, as he revealed in October 2009 on CBS Sunday Morning, Belushi dropped him from the project. In a nasty memo to fellow

SNL colleagues, Belushi said that he was unhappy that Shaffer was spending so much time on a studio record for Radner. Belushi said that he had tried to talk Shaffer out of working on the album in the first place in order to avoid sharing Shaffer's talents with another *SNL*-related project. Shaffer later reported that he was in (unrequited) love with Gilda Radner. He would go on to appear in 1998's *Blues Brothers 2000*.

Since 1982, Shaffer has served as musical director for David Letterman's late night talk shows: as leader of "The World's Most Dangerous Band" for *Late Night with David Letterman* (1982–1993) on NBC, for which he also composed the theme song, and as leader of the CBS Orchestra for the *Late Show with David Letterman* (1993–present) on CBS. Letterman consistently maintains that the show's switch to CBS was because NBC "fired Paul for stealing pens" or some other facetious reason. Shaffer has also guest-hosted the show a few times when Letterman was unavailable, including during Letterman's January 2000 medical leave for quintuple heart bypass surgery, and during the birth of Letterman's son Harry in November 2003.

ABOUT THE BLUES BROTHERS:

This will be a night not to be missed for any true Blues Brothers fanatic, happening right in the city where the boys first broke out in Joliet.

It almost seems like yesterday that brothers Jake and Elwood Blues – played by John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd – invited the world to join them on their 'mission from God'. The hit movie *The Blues Brothers* was a loveable tale of redemption about a pair of overage juvenile delinquents who set out to save the Catholic orphanage where they grew up from the tax man. In the film, they re-form their rhythm and blues band, The Blues Brothers, and organize a benefit concert to raise \$5,000 to help "the Penguin" pay off the debt. But things didn't go quite according to plan for Jake and Elwood and their mission devolved into a journey of misadventure and mayhem. In the process Aykroyd and Belushi created one of best-loved movies of all time with some of the most extraordinary musical performances ever recorded on film.

It's that music that the *Official Blues Brothers Revue* is all about. The production is a rollicking blues show officially sanctioned by Dan Aykroyd and the John Belushi Estate.

After auditioning over 400 performers, Aykroyd and John Belushi's widow, Judith, hand-picked veteran blues artists Wayne Catania and Kieron Lafferty to play Jake and Elwood Blues.

The *Official Blues Brothers Revue* bursts onto the stage for a one-of-a-kind stage show that faithfully recreates the magic of *the Blues Brothers* including the music, comic antics and affectionate character quirks that made blues fans out of millions of rockers in the 1970s and '80s. The show boasts Blues Brothers staples like *She Caught The Katy*, *Shake A Tail Feather*, *Minnie The Moocher*, *Sweet Home Chicago*, *Messin' With The Kid*, *Rubber Biscuit*, *Soul Man*, *I Can't Turn You Loose* and a host of other tunes from the five popular albums recorded by Belushi and Aykroyd.

Judith Belushi has been a hands-on member of the show's creative team, providing approval of scenic and costume designs and participating to the selection of key production personnel. An accomplished writer, graphic designer and artist, she met John Belushi at Wheaton Central High (IL) and began dating him during her sophomore year. They moved to New York in 1973 where Judy went to work for the *National Lampoon* and became associate producer for *The National Lampoon Radio Hour*. Judy and John married in 1976 and remained together until John's untimely death on March 5, 1982.

Wayne Catania, who plays the eccentric Jake Blues, began his entertainment career in the mid 1970's as a drummer and vocalist touring rock and R&B bands and gradually established the compelling stage persona that is now his trademark. Writing and recording for movie soundtracks established him as a popular writer, drummer and vocalist. He is also a successful actor and can be seen in *Relic Hunter*, *Doc* and *15 Minute Death*.

Kieron Lafferty plays the harmonica virtuoso Elwood Blues. As a kid, this Toronto musician/singer/songwriter sneaked into his father's nightclub and witnessed great groups like Sam & Dave, CCR and the Doors and spent his youth playing the blues, R&B and jazz circuits. He has released several CDs, including the critically praised 'Sensible Religion' and 'Seven Sisters' and performed in several independent art films including the Sci-Fi musical *Synchronicity* and in A&E's *Lost in Las Vegas*.

Recently, Kieron and Wayne joined creative forces with Judy Belushi and Anne Beatts (*Saturday Night Live*) to write the pilot for a television show based on the continuing adventures of Jake and Elwood.

Brought to you by the Rialto Square Theatre & WRXQ

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