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'SONGS FROM THE LIFE OF LEONARD COHEN' ONE HOUR-PLUS LONG-FORM VIDEO
DOCUMENTS CAREER OF WORLD-CLASS POET, NOVELIST AND SINGER/SONGWRITER

Columbia recording artist Leonard Cohen's career as an internationally respected literary figure and musician for more than three decades is the subject of SONGS FROM THE LIFE OF LEONARD COHEN, a one hour-plus documentary and concert film that has been commercially released by Columbia Music Video.

While THE FUTURE, A RECORD BY LEONARD COHEN, his eleventh album in 25 years, continues to elicit the caliber of critical attention reserved for those in rock's pantheon -- from a 4-star review in Rolling Stone to the cover of the new issue of Goldmine -- there are those who will be drawn to the laureate's extraordinary background, as presented in this long-form video.

Originally produced in 1988 for the BBC's 'Omnibus' series, the program provides an in-depth study of Cohen's development as poet, novelist and singer-songwriter. Utilizing his Carnegie Hall concert of July '88 as a musical backdrop, the action covers a wide berth, from early childhood in Montreal to the life of a young bohemian living on the isle of Hydra; from musical encounters with Judy Collins and the New York '60s folk movement, to an outdoor show in Athens during the '88 tour.

The producers were given access to Cohen's private archive of family home movies shot by his father, a film buff who passed away when Leonard was a child. Another important resource was "Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Leonard Cohen," a 1964 documentary centered in Montreal, "the great shining Jerusalem of the North." Featured is a reading from The Spice Box of Earth, the volume of poetry that catapulted Cohen to international recognition in 1961.

In addition to such narratives as an homage to the poet Garcia Lorca (which introduces "Take This Waltz") there are many revealing episodes. Most enlightening is the spring '88 visit to his home in Hydra, where he hadn't lived for some 15 years, or visited for four years. There, Songs From a Room was composed; and the wire (from "Bird On a Wire") was still clearly visible outside the window.

"His remarkable lyrics and unique voice," the voice-over cites the New York Daily News towards the closing moments, "have made his 20 year journey as a soldier of the heart one of the most interesting odysseys in popular music."

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