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LEONARD COHEN LOOKS TO 'THE FUTURE' WITH HIS FIRST NORTH AMERICAN TOUR IN FIVE YEARS

Columbia recording artist Leonard Cohen, "one of pop's great noir poets," according to People magazine, has commenced his first North American tour since the release of THE FUTURE, A RECORD BY LEONARD COHEN. (See dates attached).

The tour, which began with a series of shows in Ontario, represent the artist's first North American concerts in nearly five years, since the 1988 world tour that followed the release of his previous album, I'm Your Man. That tour provided the backdrop for Columbia Music Video's Songs From the Life of Leonard Cohen, the one-hour-plus documentary and concert film that traces the career of the internationally respected poet, novelist and singer-songwriter.

"Mr. Cohen has lived the life of a poet, full of deeds and escapades that qualify for the realm of the extraordinary," wrote Karen Schoemer in the New York Times, following last autumn's release of THE FUTURE, his eleventh album in 25 years. The album continues to elicit the caliber of critical attention reserved for those in rock's pantheon -- from a rave in Creem magazine ("music for lovers who have grown up lost in the 'real world'... Cohen proves that he is the last remaining romantic of our age), to a 4-star review in Rolling Stone ("epic... A more troubling, more vexing image of human failure has not been written").

Leonard Cohen's songs have worked their way deep into America's conscience over the years, ever since "Suzanne," "Sisters of Mercy" and "Dress Rehearsal Rag" introduced him a quarter-century ago. But the collapse of the Berlin Wall, which prompted much of the writing for THE FUTURE, would ironically provide election year '92 with one of the songwriter's most memorable singles, "Democracy":

"It's coming through a hole in the air;
from those nights in Tienenman Square...
From the wars against disorder, from the sirens night and day;
from the fires of the homeless, from the ashes of the gay:
Democracy is coming to the U.S.A."

"In Canada we're taught to observe America very closely," he told Rolling Stone senior features editor Anthony DeCurtis. "I've lived a lot of my life in Europe, and I always found myself defending America. I found that people didn't understand that this was the great experiment, as catastrophic as it's become... In the hearts of the world some kind of prayer is being said for American democracy everywhere. This is where the eyes of the world are turned. Is it going to work? It's here that the experiment unfolds."

C O L U M B I A R E C O R D S P R E S S & P U B L I C I T Y

LEONARD COHEN NORTH AMERICAN TOUR ITINERARY

June 5	Kitchener, Ont.	Center In the Square
6	London, Ont.	Centennial Hall
7	Hamilton, Ont.	Hamilton Place
8	Ottawa, Ont.	Congress Centre
10	Montreal, Que.	Theatre du Forum
14	New York, NY	The Paramount
16-18	Toronto, Ont.	O'Keefe Center
19	Detroit, MI	State Theater
20	Chicago, IL	Park West
22	Minneapolis, MN	State Theater
24	Winnipeg, Man.	Walker Theatre
25	Regina, Sas.	Center of the Arts
26	Calgary, Alb.	Jack Singer Hall
27	Edmonton, Alb.	Jubilee Auditorium
29	Victoria, B.C.	Royal Theatre
30	Vancouver, B.C.	Orpheum
July 1	Seattle, WA	Paramount
3-4	San Francisco, CA	The Warfield
5-6	Los Angeles, CA	Wiltern Theater
8	San Diego, CA	Humphrey's
9	Santa Fe, NM	Paolo Soleri Amphitheatre
11	Austin, TX	The Backyard
13	Atlanta, GA	The Roxy
15	Glenside, PA	Keswick Theater
16	Boston, MA	Berklee Performance Center
18	Washington, DC	Lissner Auditorium

Band Members

Leonard Cohen	Vocals
Bob Metzger	Lead guitar
Jorge Calderon	Bass
Bill Ginn	Keyboards
Steve Meador	Drums
Paul Ostermayer	Saxophone
Bob Kurbo	Violin
Perla Batalla	Background vocals
Julie Christensen	Background vocals

For further information please contact Michele Mena at Columbia Publicity in New York, 212.833.5539; or for tour information please contact Renee Pfefer at 212.833.4424.