

JP Cutler Media

Jesse P Cutler
JP Cutler Media
3229 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
(o) 415.655.3431
(c) 415.318.9663
(e) publicity@jpcutler.com

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MONTALVO
ARTS CENTER

Montalvo Arts Center Presents...

Richard Thompson

Thursday – Saturday, Dec. 6, 7 & 8, 2007

Montalvo Arts Center – Carriage House Theatre, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga, Calif.

Doors: 6:30 p.m. Show: 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)

Doors: 7:00 p.m. Show: 8:00 p.m. (Friday & Saturday)

Tickets: \$30/35: Ticket Info: 408.961.5858, www.ticketmaster.com

"*Sweet Warrior* restores all the possibilities of his electric guitars, from steely architectural underpinnings to solos that can be as compassionate or biting as his words. Even when Mr. Thompson uses his caustic wit for laughs, the songs on *Sweet Warrior* hold a tension and vehemence that make their bitterness linger." -*New York Times*

"Thompson could be said to be an English [Bob] Dylan - only in some ways he's even better than that." -*The Guardian*

"As emotionally complex as his songs are, Thompson's guitar work is even more so, by turns sharp and tender, subtle and direct." -*USA Today*

On Dec. 6, 7 and 8, British guitar god and trail-blazing songwriter **Richard Thompson** performs all-request solo shows at Montalvo Arts Center's Carriage House Theatre in Saratoga, Calif. Thompson tours in support of his new album, *Sweet Warrior* (**Shout! Factory**, 5/29/07). Please be sure to include this event in your listings and "Critic's Choices." Interviews and photos are available upon request.

Recorded in Los Angeles and co-produced by **Simon Tassano**, Thompson invites well-known English double bassist **Danny Thompson** and **Sara Watkins** of **Nickel Creek** to perform on *Sweet Warrior*, his first electric recording effort since 2003. Coined by the artist himself, "a meditation on combat, both in love and war," *Sweet Warrior* scorches with overtly political songs involving former UK prime minister **Tony Blair** ("Sneaky Boy") and the Iraq war ("Dad's Gonna Kill Me"), and exhibits stories of heartbreak ("Poppy-Red") and bare-boned grief ("Francesca"). The collection of 14 tracks intertwines transcontinental influences (English jigs, Middle Eastern tonalities, Celtic music, ragas, Jamaican reggae, jazz) with his colorfully wielded language of diverse characters. Thompson's plugged-in electric guitar prowess comes alive on *Sweet Warrior* amongst the soaring touches of mandolin, organ, autoharp, harmonium, penny whistle and accordion.

Since his early teenage years leading the English folk-rock group **Fairport Convention**, which arguably had a very influential impact on the music coming out of Britain in the latter part of the 1960s (i.e. **The Who**, **Velvet Underground**, **Jethro Tull**), Thompson has released critically acclaimed albums both with his former wife, **Linda Thompson** (i.e. *Shoot Out The Lights*, *First Light*), and as a solo artist. Over the course of his 40 year music career, his songs have been covered by **Bonnie Raitt**, **Elvis Costello**, **David Byrne**, **Emmylou Harris**, **Los Lobos**, **Blind Boys of Alabama** and **David Gilmour**. In *Rolling Stone*'s 2004 list of all-time guitar greats, Thompson came in at number 19, ranking amongst such legends as **Jimmy Page**, **Eric Clapton** and **Jimi Hendrix**. Two years after his 2005 unplugged release, *Front Parlour Ballads*, and soundtrack work for **Werner Herzog's** documentary, "*Grizzly Man*," *Sweet Warrior* marks the return of Thompson's brilliant incendiary electric guitar wizardry. In the words of top U.S. critics, "Richard Thompson on acoustic guitar is a treat. On electric guitar, he's sublime..." (*Billboard Magazine*), and from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "On electric guitar he's merely brilliant; on acoustic he does things that don't seem humanly possible."

Thompson's upcoming three-night run at Montalvo Arts Center offers new fans and die-hard followers alike the rare pleasure of an all-request, audience-selected set list. Though Thompson acknowledges that while, "three nights of request shows...[pose] tremendous problems for the artist... [it affords] some amusement and confusion for the audience." A recipient of the **2006 BBC Lifetime Achievement Folk Award**, Thompson returns to the Bay Area for an unforgettable series showcasing his pioneering guitar work, and inimitable compositions both old and new. Nestled in the Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to forging long-lasting connections between the arts and the communities they serve through their creation, presentation and education in extraordinary ways and settings. For more information please visit www.montalvoarts.org.

Media Contact: Jesse P. Cutler, JP Cutler Media, 415.655.3431 publicity@jpcutler.com