



Media Release

For Immediate release: 08/23/07

Contact: Jackie Schatell, Publicist, 201-618-7444, jaclyn1111@aol.com

Creator of Legendary Album Covers to Hold Exhibit
Album Collectors and Music Lovers will be Thrilled by this Show

Vernon, NJ – If you love the music of the 1960's to today, and can remember buying record albums by such greats as The Doors, Carly Simon, Bread, Patty Smith, Reba McEntire, Ted Nugent, and Barry Manilow then you are in for a real treat this fall. Some of the thousands of album covers created by Robert Heimall, will be featured in a month-long exhibit called, "The sound, the color, the feeling of Blues," from September 1, 2007 to October 20, 2007, at the at The Sussex County Arts & Heritage Council Gallery, which is located at 9 Moran Street, Newton, NJ 07860. The Opening Reception is on September 8, 2007, from 4 – 7 pm. With a live band and closed off street. Attendees will view 24 framed original covers and thumb through 50 plastic enclosed covers, along with original art and memorabilia. Admirers will also be able to purchase posters created by Bob of some of his favorite album covers. Please call 973-383-0027 for more details.

Before the age of cds, MP3 players and MTV, album covers sold records. Fans couldn't download music; rather, they had to buy albums in order to hear their favorite singers. Album covers were in fact the faces of artists. They were attractive and engrossing. From the complex and often imitated *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club* album cover to the simple and beautiful cover of Patty Smith's *Horses* album, these 12 3/8" x 12 3/8" works of art influenced the public to purchase records. These album covers were created by visionaries like Robert Heimall, who has said that at one time he was creating more than 300 album covers a year.

If you look up Bob Heimall on Google.com, you will see more than 30 pages with references to his name. One of those links, MSNmusic.com, lists Bob with 96 cover art credits. In fact, Robert L. Heimall has been the credit on thousands of record album and book covers for artists including The Door's, Carly Simon, Bread, Jim Croce, Harry Chapin, Cyndi Lauper, 4 Tops, John Lennon and Yoko Ono. These albums range from *Dickey Betts & Great Southern*, which is the second solo album by Dickey Betts of The Allman Brothers Band and was recorded with his band "Great Southern" in 1977, to the

John Lennon and Yoko Ono album, *Milk and Honey (Bonus Tracks)*, which came out in 2001 – just three years after John’s death and involved superimposing a photo of John with one of Yoko. Other titles include: Ted Nugent’s *State of Shock*, which was released in 1979; Patti Smith’s debut album *Horses*, which was released in November 1975; *Blue Angel*, which was released in 1980 by the band of the same name that was fronted by a pre-fame Cyndi Lauper; Carly Simon’s *Anticipation*, which was released in 1971; the Kinks’ *Sleepwalker (Velvet Bonus Tracks)*, which was released in 2005; *Barry Manilow Live*, which was released in 1977; Reba McEntire’s 1982 release *Unlimited*; and The Doors’ *Absolutely Live* 1970 release. These are just a few of the thousands of albums with covers designed by Bob Heimall, some of which can be viewed on Bob’s website.

A number of these famous covers by Bob Heimall, whose album cover *Horses* for Patty Smith was listed as one of “The Top 100 Album Covers of All Time,” in *Rolling Stone* magazine, will be shown at the exhibit. In addition, Bob’s “Carly Simon album, *No Secrets*, is on permanent collection at The California Museum of Science and Industry’s Electronic Media Exhibit.

Bob has fond memories of his career. He traveled all over the world to meet with the artists and photograph them. One of his most memorable experiences occurred when Jim Morrison told the President of Elektra Records that Bob was really talented and should be taken care of. A few months later, Bob became the youngest art director in the business.

“Jim Morrison’s kind words truly helped shape my career,” says Heimall.

Once, Bob needed to meet with Ray Davies of the Kinks, at the Chelsea Hotel in New York City, and then later that same day he had to fly to Muscle Shoals, Alabama, to see Dickie Betts of the Allman Brothers. The dilemma was over what to wear in order to relate to both musical greats.

“I decided to wear blue jeans and cowboy boots with a velvet jacket, and it did the trick,” says Heimall with a laugh.

One of the covers that will be shown in the exhibit is of Lonnie

Mack, who played the early 60's hit *Memphis* and whose guitar playing influenced Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughn.

“This is a great example of the types of covers I am showing in this exhibit,” says Bob. “I am not necessarily only showing covers with star quality, but rather, I am sharing my favorite covers with artistic graphic impact. I actually did four covers for Lonnie, and exhibiting a photo of myself together with him on his uncle Will's ferry boat on the Mississippi River.”

Bob remembers doing the cover for George Burns' *Young at Heart*, in which Bob suggested that George let the beautiful model play with the cigar around George's mouth.

“George gave me a wink and a smile and said that no one touches my cigar,” says Bob.

“When I was shooting the Doors at the Fillmore East in the early 1970's, I met a fellow photographer named Linda Eastman who I became friendly with,” says Bob. “One day she told me that someday she would marry one of these guys – meaning a musician – and I laughed years later when I found out that she had married Paul McCartney.”

“I attended a publicity party at the NY Hilton in the penthouse with a 360 degree view of New York for the debut of The Doors 4th album, *Soft Parade*, and when I saw Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin and Jimmy Hendrix all in the same room, I said to myself, ‘Bob, it doesn't get any better than this.’”

Bob has been featured on *60 Minutes* and *Dateline*, and has taught at the Pratt Institute and the School of Visual Arts. He has also won many awards for his work with the Art Directors Club of NY and the LA, Society of Illustrators, AIGA, CA Magazine, NY & LA Type Directors Club and his work has been published in *Graphis*

Magazine, as well as in many books on record album cover art. Bob was also nominated for “Album Cover of the Year” by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), and has been a judge for NARAS for many years.

Bob’s career has spanned six decades. As a young man, he spent his summers surf boarding in Cape May and Wildwood, NJ. When the fall started, the graduate of the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art would get jobs working in stores like Bloomingdales for the Christmas holiday season. After that part time job at Bloomie's ended in January '68, his "employment agent" in NYC sent Bob and his portfolio up to Elektra Records for an interview. Bill Harvey, Elektra's Art Director hired him immediately. Bob loved having a creative vehicle for his art. When Elektra was sold to Warner Communications, in the early 1970’s, he left and went to work for Clive Davis at Arista Records, which was called Bell Records at the time. Bob created their entire corporate image, including their logo, which is still used today. He also created all of their album covers, from inception, for the first five years they were in business.

He later moved to Maui to surf and started *Valley Isle Visuals*, with Jack Holzman, and then relocated to New York to work for AGI (Album Graphics Inc.), which had a contract with Polydoor Records. When AGI decided to simplify and solely become printers, they helped set Bob up with his own business, called Bob Heimall, Inc. There, Bob created video covers, record covers and laser disc covers for Pioneer Artists (of Pioneer Electronics). He also did work for the Metropolitan Opera and Sony and created logos for Pepsi and *Life Magazine*. Then, one day, Bob closed his doors in NYC and moved to his studio at home in Vernon NJ and continues his freelance work of art, graphic design, photography and painting to this day.

For the last 27 years, Bob has been further developing his artistry as a photographer and impressionist artist. He likes to take

photos that look abstract and then paint them with an impressionist eye, using a pallet, knife and oils. His favorite photos have been taken in Cape May, Sussex County and in the Dominican Republic, where he has been a missionary for his church many times over the past few years. One of his paintings for the mission was auctioned off for \$2,500. All of his proceeds for these paintings go to the mission. So far, Bob has raised \$7,000 for the mission.

His inspirations have been Monet, Seurat and Picasso. While residing in Vernon, Bob joined The Sussex County Arts & Heritage Council, where he has shown his artwork at their gallery and has been chosen as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Bob is available for commissioned design work and photographic assignments. Please go to www.robertheimall.com to view Bob's artwork, photography and album covers.