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**“FREEDOM, PEACE, JUSTICE—THE USUAL STUFF”
FOLK LEGEND ARLO GUTHRIE BRINGS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF *ALICE’S RESTAURANT* TO CAL PERFORMANCES
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE SON ABE GUTHRIE, FRET WHIZ GORDON TITCOMB
AND THE MAMMALS**

BERKELEY, September 27, 2005 – On Thanksgiving Day in 1965, **Arlo Guthrie** began writing the song “**Alice’s Restaurant Massacree**.” Now, just a few weeks shy of the event’s 40th anniversary, Guthrie brings his musical message of social consciousness and activism to Zellerbach Hall on **Sunday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m.** as part of Cal Performances’ Centennial Season. With special guests that include his son **Abe Guthrie** playing keyboards and studio veteran **Gordon Titcomb** playing steel guitar, mandolin, and banjo. Guthrie will once again perform his epic song, which was too long for pop radio when it was released in 1967, but still became a huge hit. Today, “Alice’s Restaurant Massacree” is a common touchstone for a generation and remains “vastly funny on a dozen rehearsals” and “an unqualified and complete success” (*Rolling Stone*). Guthrie will also perform a wide variety of folk songs, including favorites such as Steve Goodman’s “City of New Orleans,” Guthrie’s own “The Motorcycle Song” and “Coming Into Los Angeles,” and many traditional numbers, including “This Land Is Your Land” penned by Guthrie’s father, the legendary folksinger and activist **Woody Guthrie**. Opening the show, and sometimes sharing the stage with Guthrie, will be the contemporary folk-rock quintet **The Mammals**.

“Alice’s Restaurant Massacree” began life as an epic saga of a simple favor—taking trash to the dump—that goes horribly wrong and eventually involves a police chase, a trial, community service, a psychiatrist, and a sergeant in the New York City draft office. Guthrie wrote the saga based on his own experiences after a Thanksgiving dinner in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The saga became a song, the song became a record, and the record became a

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major motion picture in 1969, directed by **Arthur Penn**. *Alice's Restaurant*—and the famous phrase, “You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant”—established Arlo Guthrie as a singer and storyteller independent of his famous father.

Guthrie's performance in Berkeley keeps alive the rich traditions and social values that have become synonymous with the 1960s, “Freedom, peace, justice—the usual stuff,” as Guthrie says. The concert will include many songs from Guthrie's beloved repertoire. The specific selections will be announced from the stage. (“I had a set list once—back in 1968,” Guthrie once quipped to the *Boston Globe*.) His renditions of the music of Bob Dylan, Cisco Houston, Pete Seeger, and of course his father, Woody Guthrie, are true and personal. “Some people think a folksinger is someone who just sings their own songs,” Guthrie has said. “That's a shame. It's like being of the tradition, rather than in it. I've taught myself to make any song I like my own. This is the secret of all great spiritual teachings: claim nothing as yours and everything belongs to you. If it doesn't make sense, it's probably true.”

ARLO GUTHRIE

Arlo Guthrie was born in Coney Island, New York in 1947, the son of legendary folksinger Woody Guthrie and Marjorie Mazia Guthrie, a dancer in the Martha Graham Company. His childhood was spent surrounded by musicians including Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Fred Hellerman and Lee Hays of The Weavers, Leadbelly, Cisco Houston, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Sonny Terry, and Brownie McGee. Guthrie began performing at age 13 and played in many famed Greenwich Village spots, including Gerdes Folk City, The Gaslight, and The Bitter End.

Over the last four decades he has toured throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. His concerts are a mix of music and storytelling “with George Carlin precision, Will Rogers wit and Buddy Ebsen's extrapolation” (*Anchorage Daily News*), and often include his daughter Sarah Lee Guthrie and her husband Johnny Irion in addition to his son Abe. Not all of his performances are acoustic folk experiences: he has performed over 40 concerts with 27 different symphony orchestras since 1998, including a performance at Boston Symphony Hall that was broadcast on PBS's “Evening At Pops.”

He formed his own record label, Rising Son Records, in 1983 and the company now offers Guthrie's complete catalog of music. His most recent album, *Live in Sydney*, was released by Rising Son Records on August 9, 2005 and contains songs and stories recorded at the Seymour Centre in Sydney, Australia on June 12, 2004. The album includes two CDs and a booklet with song lyrics, stories, and photos from the tour. Abe Guthrie and Gordon Titcomb also appear on the album.

In 1991 Guthrie purchased the Trinity Church in Great Barrington, Massachusetts—where the Alice's Restaurant saga begins—renamed it **The Guthrie Center** after his parents, and opened it as a not-for-profit interfaith foundation and a place to meditate. The Guthrie Center and the separate **Guthrie Foundation** provide community services such as an HIV/AIDS referral service, art and music classes for children recovering from abuse, a lecture series, and leadership on issues such as the environment, healthcare, cultural exchange, and education.

ABE GUTHRIE AND GORDON TITCOMB

Abe Guthrie has been performing with his father for more than 15 years, playing keyboards and singing. He also works behind the scenes as Arlo Guthrie's road manager. He is a musician, producer, composer, and engineer, and has contributed to all recordings released by Arlo Guthrie's record label, Rising Son Records.

Arlo Guthrie asked **Gordon Titcomb** to join him onstage for a few songs in the spring of 2002, and Titcomb has been touring with Guthrie ever since. Titcomb has been a studio musician for 25 years, performing in more than 2,000 recording sessions with artists such as **Paul Simon, Shawn Colvin, Erasure, Travis Tritt, and Hank Williams Jr.** He's best known for playing pedal steel guitar and mandolin, but also plays guitar, dobro, and five-string banjo. He released his first solo album, *The Last Train*, earlier in 2005 through Rising Son Records.

THE MAMMALS

Described by the *Washington Post* as “acoustic traditionalists, to be sure, but the subversive sort,” the folk-rock quintet **The Mammals** combines Appalachian fiddle-banjo alchemy, their own contemporary lyric poetry, and a dynamic rock and roll rhythm section into a

sound that is “wild, mirthful, and masterful” (*Boston Globe*). The band’s members include **Tao Rodriguez-Seeger** (guitar, banjo, and vocals; grandson of folk legend **Pete Seeger**), **Michael Merenda** (banjo, guitar, and the group’s primary songwriter), **Ruth Ungar** (fiddle and vocals), **Chris Merenda** (drums), and **Jacob Silver** (bass). Their music is an infectious mix of social commentary and fiddle-banjo-guitar artistry.

The band formed in 2001 and has toured from their home base in Woodstock, New York every year since, including stops at the Newport Folk Festival, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Great Waters Folk Festival, and the Wheatland Music Festival. Their albums include *Born Live* (2001), *Evolver* (2002), and *Rock That Babe* (2004).

The Mammals sharing the stage with Arlo and Abe Guthrie continues the longstanding musical partnership between the Guthrie and Seeger families.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Arlo Guthrie’s *Alice’s Restaurant* 40th Anniversary Massacre Tour with Special Guests Abe Guthrie, Gordon Titcomb & The Mammals** on Sunday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall are priced at \$24.00, \$36.00, and \$48.00. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Arlo Guthrie's *Alice's Restaurant*

40th Anniversary Massacree Tour with Special Guests

Abe Guthrie, Gordon Titcomb & The Mammals

Arlo Guthrie, piano, six- and twelve-string guitar, harmonica, and other instruments

Abe Guthrie, keyboards

Gordon Titcomb, steel guitar, mandolin, banjo

The Mammals

Program: Arlo Guthrie will perform "Alice's Restaurant Massacree" along with a variety of favorites, to be announced from the stage.

Tickets: \$24.00, \$36.00, and \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.