



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2007

The White Stripes and Thom Yorke launch the new Centre Stage strand on Sky Arts

*Saturday nights at 9pm from December 1st
Sky Arts channel 267 and Sky Arts HD channel 268*

Sky Arts, the UK's only dedicated television channel to all areas of the arts, launches a new, weekly music strand called **Centre Stage**. Playing each Saturday night at 9pm from December 1st **Centre Stage** promises to blow you away with intimate gigs with contemporary artists to seminal concerts from legendary performers. Sky Arts and **Centre Stage** deliver the world's greatest musicians and most spectacular gigs into your front room.

The **Centre Stage** strand launches with the acclaimed music series, **From The Basement**. This groundbreaking 6-part music show features intimate live performances from some of the finest musicians on the planet including The White Stripes, Thom Yorke, Jarvis Cocker, Beck and Sonic Youth. With no audience or host, **From the Basement** allows the artist to take centre stage. Not only is the series filmed in high definition, but it sets a new standard in sound quality thanks to Grammy-Award-winning music producer Nigel Godrich.

Thom Yorke says: *"From The Basement was exciting because it came from the desire to cut out the crap that lies between the music and the viewer. To get plugged straight into the mains. No producer director egos messing it up. The highlight for me was listening to Kieren and Steve Reid jamming as the tape started rolling."*

Jack White III remarks: *"I don't think a music program has recorded a performance on analog reel to reel in thirty years. It was beautifully filmed, and the sound quality makes a performance on a regular TV talk show sound like a wax cylinder recording. No host. Thank God."*

Nigel Godrich of *From The Basement* comments: *"I'm a sad fan trying to bring the magic back to music TV."*

Centre Stage continues into the New Year with some legendary concerts. Sky Arts have hand picked some of the most talked-about gigs and acclaimed performances with many being shown in high definition for the first time. This includes the July 1969 Rolling Stones gig recorded in Hyde Park just two days after guitarist Brian Jones' death. Attended by over half a million fans, Jagger started the tribute by reading an excerpt from Shelley's *Adonais*. Powerfully moving, the concert features songs including *Jumpin' Jack Flash*, *I'm Free* and *Honky Tonk Woman*. **Stones in the Park** plays on January 19th 2008.

Other highlights into the New Year include **Eric Clapton: Crossroads**, recorded at Eric Clapton's 2004 3-day concert in Dallas in which he was joined by musical greats including BB King, Brian May, Carlos Santana and Buddy Guy for a once-in-a-lifetime showcase of rock

anthems, blues classics, and bluegrass hits. **Clapton Crossroads** plays from February 16th 2008.

The full **Centre Stage** Line up on Sky Arts:

Date	Title
Dec 1st 2007	From the Basement: The White Stripes, The Shins & Neil Hannon
Dec 8th	From the Basement: Thom Yorke, Albert Hammond Jr (The Strokes) & The Envelopes
Dec 15th	From the Basement: Beck, Jarvis Cocker & Jamie Lidell (Super Collider)
Dec 22nd	From the Basement: Sonic Youth, Laura Marling & Jose Gonzalez
Dec 29th	From the Basement: Super Furry Animals, Operator Please, PJ Harvey & Free Blood
Jan 5th 2008	From the Basement: Damien Rice, Autolux, E (from Eels), Architecture in Helsinki
Jan 12th	Queen and Paul Rodgers - Return of the Champions
Jan 19 th	Stones in the Park
Jan 26 th	Roy Orbison and Friends: A Black and White Night
Feb 2 nd	Eric Clapton and Friends: Band du Lac
Feb 9 th	The Pixies Acoustic
Feb 16 th	Eric Clapton : Crossroads
Feb 23 rd	Elvis Costello Live in Montreal featuring Allen Toussaint
Mar 1 st	Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars
Mar 8 th	Elvis Costello and the Impostors Live in Memphis

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Notes to Editor:

1/ **Sky Arts** (formerly Artsworld prior to 1 March 2007) is the UK's only television channel dedicated to all areas of the arts offering a distinctive mix of classical music, opera, dance, jazz, architecture, film, design, drama, and literature. **Sky Arts** is available in millions of Sky homes on Sky Channel 267 and in high definition as **Sky Arts HD** on Sky Channel 268.

2/ **British Sky Broadcasting (BSkyB)** is one of the UK's largest arts sponsors and is currently exclusive sponsor of The National Trust's Family Programme, and Sky Arts is National Tour Sponsor of English National Ballet as well as Season Sponsor of English National Opera until 2009.