# A GREAT DAY IN HARLEM

featuring the

## ART FARMER QUINTET

Art Farmer

*A Unique Evening of Film and Jazz*

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### Act I

***A Great Day in Harlem***

Producer: Jean Bach
Co-Producer: Matthew Seig
Editor: Susan Peehl
Narrator: Quincy Jones
Written By: Ms Bach, Ms. Peehl, Mr. Seig
Original Photograph: Art Kane
Original 16mm Film: Mona and Milt Hinton
Director of Photography: Steve Petropoulos

*INTERMISSION*

### Act II

***Art Farmer Quintet***

Art Farmer, Flumpet
Ron Blake, Saxophones
Ted Rosenthal, Piano
Kenny Davis, Bass
Yoron Israel, Drums

*Selections to be Announced from the Stage*

*A Great Day in Harlem presented by arrangement with IMG Artists, in cooperation with Castle Hill Productions, Inc. and Jean Bach.*

# A Great Day in Harlem

## *A Unique Evening of Film and Jazz*

### The Story Behind the Photograph

In 1958, Art Kane was invited to contribute to a special jazz issue of *Esquire* Magazine. Although Kane was considered one of New York's hottest young magazine art directors, he had not yet taken a professional photograph. However, he conceived the idea of an all encompassing group shot "of everybody," and, accordingly, put out the word for all jazz musicians in New York to meet him uptown at 10:00 am one summer morning - an exceptionally early hour for jazz musicians, who are used to finishing up at dawn.

The wonder is that anybody showed up at all. However, word of mouth prevailed, and Dizzy Gillespie, Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk, Count Basie, Art Blakey, Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Gerry Mulligan, Sonny Rollins, Art Farmer, Marian McPartland, Maxine Sullivan, Milt Hinton and dozens of others actually got there, and a valuable document was born.

It was on that morning that Kane took his first professional photograph, without benefit of lights or studio, using borrowed equipment, and with an inexperienced assistant who initially loaded the film backwards. The photograph appeared several months later on two pages in *Esquire* and made history.

### The Documentary

The film *A Great Day in Harlem* and the photo which inspired it present an extraordinary cross-section of people and musical styles that have comprised the evolution of jazz from its beginnings up to the avant garde. Included are conversations with and about the various jazz stars pictured, as well as archival performance footage, and a rare treasure unearthed just as production on the film began: some never-before-seen home movie footage filmed on that day by bassist Milt Hinton and his wife Mona. This allows us to see these great musicians arriving on the scene, greeting one another, displaying obvious affection for each other, and all but ignoring the man trying to get them to pose for the shot.

It was this mutual admiration and respect that producer Jean Bach sought to emphasize in A *Great Day in Harlem.* Bits of our culture slip away each day, memories fade, the influence of the earlier stars upon their successors often gets overlooked. Here was a chance to tell an important story, while providing some classic entertainment, a chance to celebrate the music that has been called America's only original art form.

In the case of a number of musicians, these were their last on-camera appearances. Art Blakey died only two months after filming his portion, and others who passed away prior to the completion of the project include Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Freeman, Buck Clayton and Max Kaminsky. Although these and subsequent losses in the jazz family leave us with only a handful of survivors from that great day, A *Great Day in Harlem* gives us at least a glimpse of these uniquely creative talents at their prime.

*[Please see the film credits for a complete list of people who appear in the film, along with all the technical credits, and profiles of the filmmakers.]*

## Art Farmer

"What I try to do with a song," says Art Farmer, "is to get as much enjoyment out of playing as I can. It's hard to verbalize, but the degree of enjoyment that I get out if it depends on just how natural it seems to me, and the natural feeling of playing this horn comes from really losing yourself in it, getting to the place where the song is second nature and you don't have to think about it. "

Over 40 years into his professional career, Art Farmer has made good on all counts. He has made over one-hundred recordings, and the pleasure in his playing is palpable on all of them. His facility and emotional depth are unmatched on the trumpet, the flugelhorn, and now a combination of the two: the "flumpet." This curiously named, but beautiful sounding instrument, which has now become Mr. Farmer's trademark, combines the dark, lustrous sound quality of the flugelhorn with the bright edge of the trumpet, and was specially developed for him by master brass craftsman David Monette.

Art Farmer has performed with an almost countless list of musicians, which reads like a virtual "who's who" of the greatest jazz artists of all time, including Benny Carter, Jay McShann, Dexter Gordon, Lionel Hampton, Clifford Brown, Quincy Jones, Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Thelonious Monk, Gigi Gryce, Charles Mingus and Art Blakey, among many others. He gained wide recognition in the mid-1950's, first with the Horace Silver Quintet and then Gerry Mulligan's famous "pianoless" Quartet. Greater fame came in the brief flourishing of the Jazztet, the legendary sextet he founded with saxophonist Benny Golson in 1959. In the 1960's, he formed a quartet with guitarist Jim Hall, but with jazz's popularity waning in the U.S. by mid-decade, Mr. Farmer soon accepted an invitation to join a radio orchestra in Vienna, Austria, where he makes his home to this day.

With the resurgence of jazz in the 90's, Art Farmer has enjoyed renewed popularity, both in the U.S. and abroad, and has achieved recognition as one of the world's jazz masters. This was reinforced in August 1994, when he was honored by New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center and Wynton Marsalis, with a special concert in tribute to his lifetime of musical achievements, featuring Gerry Mulligan, Benny Golson, Jim Hall, Slide Hampton and Ron Carter, among others. In June 1994, Mr. Farmer was also awarded the Austrian Gold Medal of Merit.

Art Farmer was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1928, into a musical family that included his twin brother, the respected bassist Addison Farmer, who died in 1963. Growing up in Phoenix, he studied piano and violin, but then took to the bugle and then eventually to the cornet. Playing in a local dance band by the age of 15, he was completely won over to jazz by the sound of the trumpet in a big band and the excitement of jam sessions, both of which he heard when various big bands came through town.

He and his brother soon ventured west to Los Angeles and were immersed in the thriving jazz scene, where they met such influential artists as Hampton Hawes, Eric Dolphy and Charlie Parker. Art soon began getting steady work, and after stints with many different bands, he ended up back in L.A., where he often took day jobs in order to have the chance

to play with and learn from such masters as Benny Carter, Gerald Wilson and Dexter Gordon. Also in Los Angeles, he recorded his first sides, including his heralded original *Farmer's Market,* with tenor saxophonist Wardell Gray.

By 1953, Mr. Farmer was playing in the Lionel Hampton band and settled in New York, where he had the chance to play with many of the giants of jazz, including an especially memorable experience with tenor titan Lester Young. In addition to his high-profile work with Horace Silver and then Gerry Mulligan, Mr. Farmer also participated in the avant garde experiments with Teddy Charles, Teo Macero and George Russell, and his mastery of all types of music earned him the reputation of being able to play anything.

Art Farmer continues to maintain a full schedule of concerts, club dates, clinics and festivals throughout Europe, the U.S. and Japan. He also plays and records with large orchestras. He recorded the Brandenburg Concertos with the New York Jazz Orchestra, and in September 1994, he performed Haydn's First Trumpet Concerto with the Austrian-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic Orchestra.

Whatever the context, Art Farmer treats each composition with the same meticulous melody and harmony, with a unique sense of swing and grace. Art Farmer is a jazz master playing at the peak of his considerable powers.

## A GREAT DAY IN HARLEM - THE FILMMAKERS

**JEAN BACH, Producer**
For decades, Jean Bach has been part of the jazz scene the film brings to life. She has been listening to and writing about jazz since the big band era, when she was a journalist in Chicago. Active in television and radio for decades, Bach produced The Arlene Francis Program, New York's top-rated talk show, for twenty-four years. A GREAT DAY IN HARLEM stems from a life-long passion to bring the joy and brilliance of jazz to a broad audience.

**MATTHEW SEIG, Co-Producer**
Matthew Seig has directed numerous jazz documentaries, including five episodes of the acclaimed Masters of American Music series, including Sarah Vaughan: The Divine One (for the PBS series American Masters), and Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday (Cable ACE Award, best cultural documentary), documentaries on Thelonious Monk and Count Basie, and The Story of Jazz. He has served as an associate producer and production executive on many films for renowned director Robert Altman, and for years has been active in distributing and exhibiting independent cinema.

**SUSAN PEEHL Editor**
A GREAT DAY IN HARLEM was edited by veteran documentary editor Sue Peehl, whose many editing credits include two episodes of the acclaimed Masters of American Music series: Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday, and the award winning The World According to John Coltrane. Most recently, she edited Pat Martino: Open Road, a new documentary about the jazz guitarist.

# A GREAT DAY IN HARLEM

## CREDITS

Producer: Jean Bach
Co-producer: Matthew Seig
Editor: Susan Peehl
Narrator: Quincy Jones
Written by: Jean Bach, Susan Peehl, Matthew Seig

With

Dizzy Gillespie
Art Blakey
Art Farmer
Chubby Jackson
Paula Morris
Marian McPartland
Eddie Locke
Ernie Wilkins
Mona Hinton
Robert Benton

Sonny Rollins
Hank Jones
Johnny Griffin
Scoville Browne
Taft Jordan, Jr.
Bud Freeman
Gerry Mulligan
Elain Lorillard
Robert Altschuler
Steve Frankfurt

Buck Clayton
Horace Silver
Milt Hinton
Felix Maxwell
Everard Powell
Max Kaminsky
Benny Golson
Nat Hentoff
Mike Lipskin

Original Photograph: Art Kane
Original 8mm Film by: Mona and Milt Hinton
Director of Photography: Steve Petropoulos
Music Consultant: Johnny Mandel
Archival Consultant: Mark Cantor
On-Line Editor: Phil Fallo
Animation Camera: Ralph Petri
Post Production Audio: Roy B. Yokelson, Antland Productions
Title Design: Andreas Combuchen, Frankfurt Balkind
Title Animation: Michael Bianchi

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***A Great Day in Harlem featuring the Art Farmer Quintet***
appears by arrangement with IMG Artists,
420 West 45th Street, NY 10036.