

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Texas Heritage Music Foundation Radio Documentary Series on Rockabilly Music, *Whole Lotta Shakin'*, receives 2007 Peabody Award

KERRVILLE, Texas—The Texas Heritage Music Foundation is proud to announce that its 10-part radio documentary series on the history of rockabilly music, *Whole Lotta Shakin'*, has been awarded the 2007 Peabody Award for excellence in electronic media.

Established in 1940 and administered by the University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, the George Foster Peabody Awards program recognizes distinguished achievement and meritorious public service by TV and radio stations, networks, producing organizations, individuals and the World Wide Web and is the oldest and most prestigious honor in electronic media.

Produced by Lex Gillespie and distributed by Public Radio International, *Whole Lotta Shakin'* blended rare interviews, archival radio broadcasts and vintage music from both obscure and well-known rockabilly artists of the 1950s. Hosted by renowned rockabilly and alternative country music artist Rosie Flores, *Whole Lotta Shakin'* was distributed to more than 700 radio stations to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Carl Perkins's classic *Blue Suede Shoes*.

Gillespie is an award winning Washington D.C.-based freelance radio and television producer/journalist who has produced numerous programs for National Public Radio and others. His credits include the DuPont-Columbia and Peabody award-winning radio series for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, *Jazz Singers and Black Radio: Telling It Like It Is* and the 2005 Peabody award winning radio documentary series, *Let the Good Times Roll*.

Other recipients of the 67th annual Peabody Awards include *The Colbert Report*, Comedy Central's cable-news satire; *A Journey Across Afghanistan: Opium and Roses*, a documentary from Bulgaria's Balkan News Corporation; and *Univision's Ya Es Hora*, a

public-service campaign that taught legal aliens how to apply for American citizenship. In all, there were thirty-five recipients of the 2007 George Foster Peabody Award.

Kerrville-based Texas Heritage Music Foundation is a non-profit educational foundation whose mission is to preserve and perpetuate traditions in Texas music, to examine the background of Texas music, to trace influences and patterns in Texas music, to document the role Texas music has played in society, and to provide free educational programming to the Texas community. Founded in 1987, THMF has created and sustained several successful projects in and around the Hill Country. They include: Texas Heritage Living History Weekend (formerly the Jimmie Rodgers Jubilee), the Texas Music Coffeehouse Series at Schreiner University, The Bard Project, The Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund, and the Texas Oral History Project. The foundation's executive director, Dr. Kathleen Hudson, is an English professor at Schreiner University and author of *Telling Stories, Writing Songs: An Album of Texas Songwriters* (University of Texas Press, 2001) and *Women in Texas Music: Stories and Songs* (University of Texas Press, 2007).

For more information on *Whole Lotta Shakin'* and other programs of Texas Heritage Music Foundation, visit the foundation's website: www.texasheritagemusic.org. For more information on the Peabody Awards, visit www.peabody.uga.edu.