

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

November 21, 1983

Folklore Society of Greater Washington
c/o Kathy Hickerson
P.O. Box 15262
Washington, D.C. 20912

Dear Members of the Board:

As I have explained to your President Kathy Hickerson in a recent phone call, my co-producer Steven Zeitlin and I have recently completed production on a new film -- Free Show Tonite -- a 60 minute documentary about the old-time travelling medicine shows. The film features oral history material about the shows and performances by Roy Acuff and other performers such as Snuffy Jenkins, Pappy Sherill and Greasy Medlin. The film was produced by the North Carolina Folklife Institute in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution Office of Folklife Programs. This January (either Friday the 20th or Saturday the 21st) the Smithsonian will sponsor the Washington premier of the film in the Carmichael Auditorium. We would like to invite the Folklore Society to co-sponsor the event with the Smithsonian.

The program would consist of the film introduction and screening at 6:30 PM in Carmichael Auditorium of the Museum of American History, a brief discussion with the producers following the screening in the auditorium, and a reception with light food and drinks and music in an adjoining reception room. If warranted, there could be a second screening in Carmichael immediately following the first, but there would be no reception following this showing.

The auditorium sits 250 people. 125 tickets would be set aside for FSGW use for the first screening, another 200 for the second if it is required. These could be sold and/or given away as you wished. But in return, FSGW would contribute a minimum of \$500 towards the cost of the program. (This is figured at the rate of \$4.00 per ticket.) Any ticket sales must be in advance because the Smithsonian does not allow tickets to events at Carmichael to be sold at the door. FSGW income above the \$500 minimum would be split 50/50.

The out-of-pocket costs for the program include (all approximate): catering -- \$600, music -- \$150, invitations and tickets -- \$100, postage -- \$40, auditorium and reception room rental -- granted by Smithsonian, janitorial services -- \$300, projectionist -- \$100 and security -- \$360. These charges total over \$1600. We hope to cover them from three sources -- the FSGW, the Smithsonian Folklife Program, and the producers of the film. In any event, the Society's share will be only as outlined above.

The producers and the Folklife Program intend to send out invitations to friends and associates inviting them to the program and providing them with free admission tickets.

The Society will receive equal credit with the Smithsonian on the invitation, tickets and any promotional materials connected with the event. Also, we would like a spokesperson from the Society to parti-

cipate in the introduction and/or post-screening discussion.

We feel that the film will be a great hit with the Society's membership and look forward to an exciting program and a good working relationship. Please give me a call if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul R. Wagner". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul R. Wagner
Producer
Office of Folklife Programs