

## Photo Shoot and Film Pay Homage to American Jazz Musicians in Paris

“A GREAT DAY IN PARIS” LOOKS AT THE U.S. JAZZ DIASPORA IN FRANCE

**Paris, May 23, 2008**—The finest **American Jazz musicians living in Paris** will come together in the city of lights on **Friday, June 6**, for a **group photo in homage to Art Kane’s iconic portrait** of the greatest Jazz musicians in 1958 Harlem. The event will be captured by a **French Cuisine film** crew as it explores the contemporary face of the vibrant American Jazz community in Paris, in a parallel homage to the 1994 documentary, ***A Great Day in Harlem***.



Courtesy of Art Kane Archives

Harlem August 1958. Esquire magazine asks **Art Kane**, a young, unknown New York photographer, to come up with a photo for a piece on the **Golden Age of Jazz**. That same month, Kane assembles **57 of the greatest American jazz musicians** and performers on the steps of a typical Harlem building for a group portrait. The photo launched his career and became the **most famous jazz picture of all times**. “I came up with this really outrageous idea, and it unfolded in front of my eyes just as I’d envisioned it,” said Kane. “Seeing all those musicians moving up there onto those steps on 126th St, it was magnificent.” The story behind this famous photograph was recounted in **Jean Bach’s documentary *A Great Day in Harlem***, which was nominated for Best Documentary at the 1995 Academy Awards.

Paris, fast forward fifty years. **Ricky Ford**, a renowned American tenor saxophonist who has been living in Paris for more than 15 years, suggests the idea of **gathering American jazz musicians in Paris**, together with French jazz performers who play with them, for a photo called “**A Great Day in Paris**.” The photo session will be filmed in the French capital by a crew from the **French Cuisine** production company, which will also follow these musicians on stage and in their every day lives as it **documents the American jazz diaspora in Paris**. Both the photo and the documentary should be released in **January 2009** for the 50th anniversary of the publication of Art Kane’s iconic portrait.

**Director Michka Saäl**, a filmmaker working in both Canada and France, has written and directed several documentary and fiction films. Her latest production, ***Prisoners of Beckett***, was selected for the Cannes 2007 Independent Cinema program and nominated for two Canadian Gemini Awards.

***For more information:***

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