

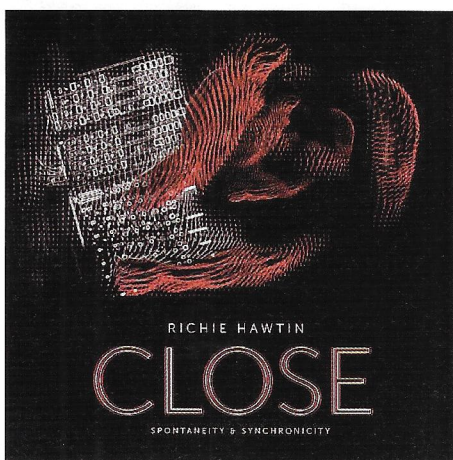
DROPS

Ashley Hamilton's 449 Productions and Alex Orbison, on behalf of Roy's Boys Films, have optioned the rights to *The Beatle Who Vanished* from author Jim Berkenstadt, known as the "Rock & Roll Detective." They'll serve as executive producers on the project, which spotlights a piece of Beatles history highlighted in Berkenstadt's book, published in 2013, about how drummer Jimmie Nicol was asked to fill in for a tonsillitis- and pharyngitis-stricken Ringo Starr on the Fab Four's first world tour in 1964. Nicol spent two weeks as a Beatle touring Denmark, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand, and later "vanished" upon Ringo's return to the group. The new project will either be a film or television series. For more information, contact Bob Merlis at BobMerlis@BobMerlis.com.



Tony and Grammy winner Billy Porter's new studio album, *Billy Porter Presents The Soul of Richard Rodgers*, drops April 14, featuring new takes on classic Richard Rodgers songs. That includes solos and duets from Porter as well as Cynthia Erivo (*The Color Purple*), Renée Elise Goldsberry (*Hamilton*), Leslie Odom Jr. (*Hamilton*), Patina Miller (*Pippin*), Pentatonix, India.Arie, YouTube sensation and *Kinky Boots* star Todrick Hall and more. For details, contact Rick Miramontez at Rick@OMDKC.com.

Richie Hawtin challenges the distinction between DJing and live performance with a new 75-minute audio-visual show, which takes you closer to his unique way of performing. The show, *CLOSE - Spontaneity & Synchronicity*, explores the relationship between human creativity and the innovative technologies that enable the freedom of improvisation. Using intimately placed cameras, this man versus machine relationship unfolds onscreen in real-time bringing the audience closer than before to



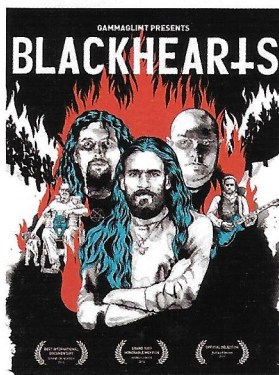
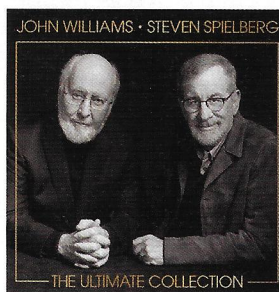
BILLY PORTER

Hawtin's intuitive gestures. The Canadian artist will debut the show at both weekends of *Coachella* on the *Mojave Stage* to commence the first engagement of *CLOSE's* worldwide tour. Alexandra Greenberg, agreenberg@msopr.com, has complete details.

Before becoming the youngest director to receive an Academy Award for Best Director and helming smash-hit films *La La Land* and *Whiplash*, Damien Chazelle began his career with *Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench*. A jazz musical film written and directed by Chazelle while he attended Harvard, it tells the story of a young couple; a budding trumpeter and aimless introvert whose relationship falls apart. Chazelle's fellow Harvard student Justin Hurwitz composed the film with big band and orchestral sounds, coupled with Chazelle's lyrics. The soundtrack dropped March 17. Contact George Corona at Geo@TerrorBird.com for more information.

John Williams & Steven Spielberg: The Ultimate Collection delivers an "essential sampling" of Williams' musical scores for Spielberg's films through a three-CD set and bonus DVD on *Sony Classical*. Released on March 17, the collection includes two previous discs of Williams' music for Spielberg films, which he recorded with the *Boston Pops Orchestra* for *Sony Classical: The Spielberg/Williams Collaboration* (1991) and *Williams on Williams: The Classic Spielberg Scores* (1995). They include music from *Sugarland Express* through *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List*. The new third disc was recorded in 2016 and features music from *Indiana*

Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Amistad, The BFG, Lincoln, The Adventures of Tintin, Catch Me If You Can, Saving Private Ryan and more. The bonus DVD is *Steven Spielberg & John Williams: The Adventure Continues* by filmmaker/historian Laurent Bouzereau. Shoshie Aborn at Shoshie@BigPictureMediaOnline.com has more information.



Blackhearts, a documentary that tells the story of three diehard black metal fans, will be released in digital and DVD formats on April 11. The film, which was awarded Best International Documentary at the 2016 *Sound on Screen Film Festival* and Grand Jury Honorable Mention at *Nordic Docs 2016* among other accolades, follows Sina of Iran, Hector of Colombia and Kaiadas of Greece as they travel to Norway, the birthplace of the music they love. Contact Clint Weiler at Clint@MusicVideoDistributors.com.

OPPS

SOM Talk Live, a new podcast by *SOM Magazine* founder and owner Rueben Wood, wants entertainment professionals to guest on the show and talk about the trade, including actors, musicians, directors and producers. For booking inquiries, contact John Peterson at Info@SOMMagazine.com.

Be R.A.W Designs, in conjunction with *Focus TV*, needs a production assistant intern for its new live broadcast three days a week from its West Hollywood studios. Responsibilities include booking guests, set design, content