

**RLJ Entertainment's Athena Brand  
Acquires North American EST, SVOD, and Home Video Rights  
To Groundbreaking, All-Star Music Series**

***SOUNDBREAKING:  
Stories from the Cutting Edge of Recorded Music***

**Series features more than 150 exclusive, star-studded interviews**

**Coinciding with the PBS broadcast,  
each episode will be available for next-day Digital Purchase beginning Tues., Nov.15 and  
Athena will release the 8-part series on DVD and Blu-ray on Tues., Nov. 29**

[\\*Trailer](#)

Silver Spring, MD, June 15, 2016 – **Athena**, an **RLJ Entertainment, Inc.** (NASDAQ: RLJE) brand that specializes in high quality, informative, non-fiction programming, has acquired the electronic-sell-through (EST), subscription video on demand (SVOD), and home video rights in North America to the new, groundbreaking music documentary **Soundbreaking: Stories from the Cutting Edge of Recorded Music** from Higher Ground LLC. Produced in association with the late legendary music producer **Sir George Martin**, and the filmmakers Show of Force, LLC, the highly-anticipated eight-part series took over five years to make and features more than 150 exclusive and original interviews with some of the most celebrated recording artists, producers, and music industry pioneers of all time sharing behind-the-scenes stories celebrating the art of recording. Artists include **Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Elton John, Roger Waters, Joni Mitchell, Roger Daltrey, Linda Perry, Quincy Jones, B.B. King, Annie Lennox, Dave Stewart, Tom Petty, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Rosanne Cash, Steven Van Zandt, Billy Idol, Beck, RZA**, and more.

Coming off its critically-acclaimed premiere at SXSW in March 2016, SOUNDBREAKING's North American broadcast premiere begins on PBS member stations on Monday, November 14 with next-day availability to buy digitally via multiple platforms including iTunes, Amazon Video, Vudu, Google Play, Microsoft Movies & TV, and Sony Interactive Entertainment. Athena will release SOUNDBREAKING on DVD and Blu-ray on Tuesday, November 29.

Mark Stevens, President of Acorn Brands at RLJ Entertainment, said, "With more than 150 exclusive interviews and rarely seen footage, Higher Ground, Sir George Martin, and Show of Force have created a remarkable, one-of-kind music documentary series sure to become iconic. SOUNDBREAKING is exactly the kind of high caliber, non-fiction programming we seek out to offer consumers through our Athena brand."

In eight captivating episodes, SOUNDBREAKING charts a century's worth of innovation and experimentation, and offers a behind-the-scenes look at the birth of brand new sounds. From the Beatles' groundbreaking use of multi-track technology to the synthesized stylings of Stevie Wonder, from disco-era drum machines to the modern art of sampling, the series highlights the dynamic tension between the artificial and the natural—between the man-made and the God-given—and explores the way in which that tension has continuously redefined not only what we listen to and how we listen to it, but our very sense of what music is and can be. In the end, SOUNDBREAKING makes us hear the



songs we love in a whole new way, and illuminates the sonic alchemy by which the music we listen to becomes a fundamental part of who we are.

SOUNDBREAKING is presented by Higher Ground in association with the late Sir George Martin, and produced and directed by Emmy and Peabody Award®-winning filmmakers **Maro Chermayeff** and **Jeff Dupre** of Show of Force. The original concept was created by Maxim Langstaff for Wildheart Entertainment.

The great Sir George Martin passed away in March 2016. He is a six-time GRAMMY® Award winner and recipient of the Recording Academy Trustees Award, and producer of more than 50 number-one hit records. SOUNDBREAKING marks his final project.

Organized thematically, each episode of SOUNDBREAKING tells stories of pop music icons who used their determination, ingenuity and guts to create works of art that have touched us all. Stories within the episodes include: *The Art of Recording*, *Painting with Sound*, *The Human Instrument*, *Going Electric*, *Four on the Floor*, *The World is Yours*, *Sound and Vision*, and *I Am My Music*

To learn more about SOUNDBREAKING, visit [www.soundbreaking.com](http://www.soundbreaking.com)

An RLJ Entertainment, Inc. brand (NASDAQ: RLJE), Athena releases provide an authoritative and entertaining learning experience through high quality, informative, non-fiction programming. Past DVD releases include: **Playing Shakespeare**, **Joseph Campbell's The Power of Myth**, **The Story of Women and Power**, **Understanding Art**, **The Making of the President: The 1960s**, **Battlefield Detectives**, **The Story of Math**, **Civil War; The Untold Story**, **Time Team**, and more than a dozen programs from iconic journalist **Bill Moyers**. Athena DVD sets are available from select retailers, catalog companies, and direct from RLJ Entertainment at (888) 870-8047 or [AcornOnline.com](http://AcornOnline.com).

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**RLJ Entertainment, Inc.** (NASDAQ: RLJE) is an entertainment content distribution company in primarily North America, the United Kingdom, and Australia. RLJE's titles are distributed in multiple formats including broadcast television (including satellite and cable), theatrical and non-theatrical, DVD, Blu-Ray, digital download, and digital streaming.

With its popular OTT branded channels, Acorn TV (British TV) and UMC (Urban Movie Channel), RLJE targets distinct, premium audiences and Urban niche audiences. The company grows its proprietary digital channels through development, acquisition, and distribution of exclusive rights of program franchises and feature film content.

Through Acorn Media Enterprises, its UK development arm, RLJE owns all rights to the hit UK mystery series *Foyle's War* and is developing new programs. RLJE owns 64% of Agatha Christie Limited, which manages the intellectual property and publishing rights to some of the greatest works of mystery fiction, including stories of the iconic sleuths *Miss Marple* and *Poirot*. Through its proprietary e-commerce web sites for the Acorn brand in North America and the UK, the company also has direct contacts and billing relationships with millions of consumers. For more information, please visit [RLJEntertainment.com](http://RLJEntertainment.com), [Acorn.TV](http://Acorn.TV), and [UrbanMovieChannel.com](http://UrbanMovieChannel.com).

#### **About Higher Ground LLC**

Higher Ground is the creator of the SOUNDBREAKING entertainment brand. The firm was founded by David H. Langstaff and a small group of music lovers to produce the SOUNDBREAKING project, which grew out of a relationship between Sir George Martin and the Langstaff family. Through SOUNDBREAKING, Higher Ground aims to educate audiences on the relatively brief history of sound recording – just over one hundred years – which is one of the most important stories of the twentieth century.

## **About Show of Force, LLC**

Show of Force was founded in 2006 by veteran film and television producers Maro Chermayeff and Jeff Dupre and is known for creating award-winning feature documentaries, event television series and groundbreaking transmedia projects. Their work includes the Peabody and Emmy Award-winning *Marina Abramović: The Artist is Present* for HBO, *Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace*, the 2014 SXSW Jury Prize winner for Best Documentary Short; *Mann v. Ford*, a feature-length documentary for HBO; the 6-hour PBS series *Circus*; and the Emmy Award-winning 10-hour PBS series *Carrier*. Their projects *A Path Appears* and Emmy Honors recipient *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, based on the bestselling books by the Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, were broadcast on PBS/Independent Lens. These multi-platform initiatives reached more than 50 million people worldwide, garnered some 3 billion media impressions and included mobile games and a Facebook game with over 2 million players worldwide. Further information can be found at: [www.showofforce.com](http://www.showofforce.com), @SOFilm, @SOFsocialgood.

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