

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA**
[TV-PG] [Stereo] [CC]

LENGTH: 1/60

NOLA CODE: ZAZA

CATEGORY: Music & Entertainment

OFFERED: Premium Service Year 19

EXPECTED RELEASE: June 1, 2008

CONTRACT TERMS: Twelve releases to be completed by June 30, 2010. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: Strobosonic

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: **ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA** features Dweezil Zappa, Steve Vai, Terry Bozzio, Napoleon Murphy Brock and six other virtuosic musicians performing Frank Zappa's music. Filmed with 12 cameras at the Roseland Theatre in Portland, Ore., and the Paramount Theatre in Seattle, Wash., in December 2006, this special presents highlights from the Zappa catalogue. Songs include: "I'm the Slime," "Black Page," "The Torture Never Stops" and more.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: Use above description for guide listings. A press release will be posted to PBS Connect and APTonline.org. A promotional Web clip can be downloaded for station Web use from the catalogue page found on APTonline.org. Color photography will be available via email and will also be posted on APTonline.org.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS:

Directors: Pierre and François Lamoureux
Producers: Pierre and François Lamoureux
Executive producers: Pierre Lamoureux,
François Lamoureux and Dweezil Zappa

BROADCAST HISTORY:

U.S. Television Premiere

RELATED MERCHANDISE:

Individual viewer purchase:

Recordings by Frank and Dweezil Zappa are available in retail outlets nationwide.

Pledge:

Program DVD: "Zappa Plays Zappa" 2-DVD set;
Related CD: "Zappa Plays Zappa" CD; related
DVD/CD set: "Zappa Plays Zappa" 2-DVD/3-CD
FAN-PAK; related CD: "Trance-Fusion"; related
CD: "One Shot Deal"; Zappa Plays Zappa
performance tickets

VIEWER INQUIRIES:

www.APTonline.org

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PRESS RELEASE

Dweezil Zappa Showcases Father's Body of Work in ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA

In **ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA**, a new concert special airing nationwide on public television stations beginning this June, Dweezil Zappa perpetuates his father's legacy by creating and leading an ensemble of virtuosi musicians and executing Frank's songs – considered by some to be the most demanding compositions in rock repertoire. In the process, Dweezil ensures that Frank's incredible body of work survives and is shared for generations to come.

"It seems to me that people my age (38) and younger know the Zappa name a little bit, but they don't know a lot about the music," says Dweezil, explaining the original impetus behind the creation of the project in 2004. "They might know some of the songs that accidentally got on the radio, but those songs don't represent the totality of Frank's output. I feel that Frank's music needs to be proposed to a new audience," he adds.

ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA features Dweezil Zappa, Steve Vai, Terry Bozzio, Napoleon Murphy Brock and six other virtuosic musicians performing Frank Zappa's music. Filmed with 12 cameras at the Roseland Theatre in Portland, Ore., and the Paramount Theatre in Seattle, Wash., in December 2006, this special presents highlights from the Zappa catalogue, including: "I'm the Slime," "Black Page," "The Torture Never Stops" and more.

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To prepare for this concert tour, Dweezil focused on Frank's work from the mid- to late-'70s, as well as some personal favorites from his youth. He reacquainted himself with his father's music by listening, in chronological order, to every single one of Frank's albums (more than 80) to understand the evolution of the music. He then relearned to play guitar like his father by adopting a picking technique devised by veteran player Frank Gambale. And, by teaming up with an experienced and talented ensemble of multi-instrument playing musicians, Dweezil ensured Frank's complex compositions would be played with the utmost respect.

With its infectious attitude, the **ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA** project will capture the attention of a new audience and inspire them to discover the intricate musical landscape of Frank's vast catalog of albums for themselves. Indeed, it ain't Dweezil on display here, it's the *music*. Period.

ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA is presented by Strobosonic in association with American Public Television's Premium Service. The program is executive produced by Pierre Lamoureux, François Lamoureux and Dweezil Zappa, and directed and produced by Pierre and François Lamoureux.

About American Public Television

With more than 10,000 hours of programming in its library, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations for 47 years, distributing more than 300 new program titles per year. APT milestones include distribution of the first HD series on public television and the 2006 launch of Create – the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. Known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming, APT has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *Carreras Domingo Pavarotti in Concert*, *Winged Migration*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia's Family Table*, *California Dreamin' – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy With David Starkey*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies.

DWEEZIL ZAPPA

Dweezil has recorded under his own name and with his brother, Ahmet, in their band Z. Six-string heroics aside, Dweezil has nurtured a successful television career, starting early on as an MTV veejay when he was only 17. He has appeared in films (*Pretty in Pink*, *The Running Man*) and composed the music for several television shows including the *Ben Stiller Show* and the hit WB comedy, *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*.

In addition to cauterizing his fingertips learning to play the music of Frank Zappa for the upcoming tour (**ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA**), and lending his studio wizardry to the Zappa archives (his multi-channel production work on the recent Frank Zappa release, *QuAUDIOPHILIAc*, is positively mind-blowing), Dweezil has this to say about his upcoming album, "To me the record is like a weird audio movie. I really tried to create an interesting flow with it." And the tour rehearsals, "Prepping for the tour has been like preparing for a medieval battle where going into it your sharpest weapon is a spoon. But I'm pretty deadly with that spoon now."

Source: <http://www.zappa.com/zpz/players.html>

FRANK ZAPPA

Frank Zappa was rock and roll's sharpest musical mind and most astute social critic. He was the most prolific composer of his age, and he bridged genres – rock, jazz, classical, avant-garde and even novelty music - with masterful ease. Under his own name and with the Mothers of Invention, Zappa recorded more than 80 albums' worth of material in his 52 years. ...Not surprisingly, he was occupied nearly every waking hour by the composing, recording, editing and performing of music. He also found time to produce and collaborate with acts as widely varied as Captain Beefheart, Jean-Luc Ponty, Grand Funk Railroad, Wild Man Fischer, the London Symphony Orchestra and Berlin's Ensemble Modern.

He was born Frank Vincent Zappa in Baltimore, Maryland. Gifted with a keen interest in music from an early age, he became conversant in everything from doo-wop - to which he cast an affectionate nod on the album *Cruising With Ruben and the Jets* - to the "serious" music of classical composers Bartok and Stravinsky and avant-garde pioneers Varese and Shoenberg. In 1965, Zappa joined the Mothers of Invention (previously the Soul Giants and later, simply the Mothers), who were deliberately and diabolically unconventional. From the way they dressed to the music they played, Zappa intended the Mothers to be provocative, controversial and unafraid of the consequences. He often quoted mentor Edgard Varese's credo, "The present-day composer refuses to die!"

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Zappa brought a high degree of compositional sophistication to a genre that had typically taken its cues from the simplistic chord progressions of songs like “Louie, Louie.” At the same time, Zappa freely acknowledged the naive genius of “Louie, Louie” and the unalloyed brilliance of ‘50s doo-wop and R&B, even incorporating them into his program material. Zappa greatly extended the range of rock, composing oratorios, symphonic pieces, ballets, digitized extravaganzas for the Synclavier keyboard, and satirical musicals. A brilliant guitar soloist who recruited similarly adventurous musicians, Zappa helped further the art of improvisation in a rock context. Over the years, his ensembles included such notable musicians as keyboardist George Duke and guitarist Steve Vai.

Zappa’s work sold largely to a core audience who faithfully attended his concerts and bought his records. His popularity with a broader audience peaked in 1973-74 with the albums *Over-nite Sensation* and *Apostrophe*, which married crude humor and virtuoso playing; both went gold (500,000 copies sold). Zappa finally infiltrated the Top Forty in 1982 with “Valley Girl,” a keenly observed satire of California “airhead” culture, complete with slang-driven repartee from daughter Moon Unit. This song’s title subsequently became a national catchphrase. At last being given some overdue recognition by the music industry, Zappa also went on to win a Grammy for his 1986 album *Jazz from Hell*. In 1993, Frank Zappa died at age 52 of prostate cancer, but not before culling, mixing and sequencing enough material from his vast archive to ensure the release of even more albums long after his passing.

Source: <http://www.rockhall.com/inductee/frank-zappa>

ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA

"I'm the Slime"

"Pound for a Brown"

"Don't Eat the Yellow Snow"

"St. Alfonzo's Pancake Breakfast"

"Father O' Blivion"

"Black Page #1"

"Black Page #2"

"Echidna's Arf (Of You)"

"Black Napkins"

"The Torture Never Stops"

"Sofa"

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