



Sting Performs Songs from 'The Last Ship' on Tyneside Where 23 Cunard Ships Were Built

April 27, 2015

SOUTHAMPTON, England, April 27, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- Sting delighted audiences in his hometown with songs from his latest album and Broadway musical 'The Last Ship' on 24th and 25th April 2015 to benefit the Sage Gateshead 10th Birthday Appeal. These were the only UK performances of their kind and were supported by Cunard in the company's 175th anniversary year.

Cunard has historic links to the shipyards of the Tyne and a proud heritage with the North East. This great partnership saw 23 Cunard ships being built on Tyneside, 15 of them at Swan Hunter including ones that became the stuff of legend like the four-funnelled Mauretania and Carpathia, which rescued all the survivors from Titanic.

Sting said:

"The Last Ship' stories are based on the community I was brought up in, the shipbuilding community of Wallsend, and so to bring it back here like this is a wonderful honour and very emotional. I'm thrilled to be here.

"I was born and raised as close to the river as you can possibly get. I lived in Gerald Street, which is one of the streets that lead down to the shipyard, and I could walk out of my house and see giant ships at the end of my street, which was a massive symbol for me. I watched them launched, which is a kind of apocalyptic event for a child. I watched thousands of men walk down to the yard every day and watched them walk back home every night and wondered with some trepidation whether that wouldn't be my destiny too. I didn't want it to be - I had other dreams.

"But like everyone in the town we were immensely proud of the ships that were built there, some of the largest, most important ships ever built, right there at the end of my street – some of them by Cunard. And that was something that the town got a lot of pride from."

Last October, Sting performed songs from 'The Last Ship' on board Cunard's flagship, Queen Mary 2, in New York.

He continues, "I played on the Queen Mary 2 last year - she was berthed in New York City. What a beautiful ship - I had a great time entertaining the crew and some of the passengers. It was something I'd like to do again."

David Dingle, Chairman of Cunard, said:

"We're delighted that in Cunard's 175th anniversary year, we have been able to give back, through Sting's 'The Last Ship' shows at the Sage Theatre, to the Tyneside community whose shipyards built no fewer than 23 Cunard ships, including legendary liners like Mauretania and Carpathia. 'The Last Ship' has songs that go to the heart of this country's shipbuilding industries and reflect Cunard's own proud heritage with the North East."

In benefitting the Sage Gateshead's 10th Birthday Appeal, proceeds raised from the performances will ensure that its vital work in the region will continue.

About Cunard

Cunard, operator of the luxury ocean liners Queen Mary 2, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth, has long been synonymous with the quest for new discoveries and the epitome of British refinement since the company's first paddle-wheeled steamer, Britannia, crossed the Atlantic in 1840. Cunard voyages bring together like-minded travellers who seek a civilised adventure and relish the Cunard hallmarks of impeccable White Star Service, gourmet dining and world-class entertainment. Today, Cunard offers the only regularly scheduled trans-Atlantic liner service and continues the legacy of world cruising which it began in 1922.

World's Leading Cruise Lines

Cunard is a proud member of World's Leading Cruise Lines. Our exclusive alliance also includes Carnival Cruise Lines, Holland America Line, Princess Cruises, Costa Cruises and Seabourn. Sharing a passion to please each guest and a commitment to quality and value, World's Leading Cruise Lines inspires people to discover their best vacation experience. Together, we offer a variety of exciting and enriching cruise vacations to the world's most desirable destinations. Visit us at www.worldsleadingcruiselines.com.

Cunard is also here:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cunard

YouTube: www.youtube.com/wearecunard

Blog: www.WeAreCunard.com

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/cunard

Twitter: www.twitter.com/cunardline

Cunard photography is available online at www.cunardimages.com

Login ID: press

Password: guyonda

For additional information about Cunard, contact:

Jackie Chase, Cunard Line, 661-753-1035, jchase@cunard.com

Maria Andriano, MGA Media Group, 212-251-1015, maria@mqamediaigroup.com
Cindy Adams, MGA Media Group, 917-282-2464, cindy@mqamediaigroup.com

RELATED LINKS

<http://www.cunard.com>

Photo - <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20150427/211881>

SOURCE Cunard