

Early Endorsements from Advance Viewings

“Carol Sloane, one of the unsung heroes among jazz singers of the 20th century, is the subject of a brand-new documentary, a portrait of an almost-star who lived the jazz life, practicing her craft at night, 'round about midnight, and working day jobs to pay the bills. She was a legal secretary, a host for a supper club and -- notably -- a teacher of the art of jazz singing. As a vocalist, everyone loved her. Ella Fitzgerald was a fan. Carmen McRae, too. She was a regular guest on 'The Tonight Show.' She subbed for Annie Ross in the famous Lambert, Hendricks and Ross trio. Sloane was the surprise hit of the 1961 Newport Jazz Festival. She appeared at the mother of all jazz clubs, the Village Vanguard in Greenwich Village, where singers rarely headline. *Sloane - A Jazz Singer* covers all that -- and much more. Pivoting on a late-life comeback show at Birdland, the iconic midtown NYC club, the storyline traces Sloane's preparation for the gig. This is the singer's last chance, the last dance -- and an opportunity to leave a punctuation mark upon a life lived well. The film is a proper couplet to the renowned *20 Feet from Stardom*, a profile of the great backup singers of rock 'n' roll. Like those regal vocalists, Sloane, a true star, deserves the spotlight once and for all. This film needs to be seen by everyone who loves music -- and those who understand the challenges of growing up and growing old...”

Jazz writer Joe Vanderford

“I was first introduced to the artistry of Carol Sloane 30 years ago by my dear friend Sir Richard Rodney Bennett. I will never forget the first time I heard her sing. My entire being was lifted. I felt that I was spiraling upward and taken on a transcendent journey. The beauty of her voice, the rhythmic and melodic invention, and the passion she sang with were unlike anything I'd ever heard... *Sloane - A Jazz Singer* is a touching portrait of this great artist, an honest picture of the dedication, struggles and triumphs of this singular person. It tells a story with many layers - sometimes painful, sometimes jubilant - but in the end, always life affirming.”

Jazz pianist Bill Charlap

“Carol Sloane is one of America's finest jazz singers. Her immense talent through personal song-interpretation is second to absolutely none. *Sloane - A Jazz Singer* is an important story, beautifully documented. It is a very real and intimate look into the life of a great artist, and reveals Carol Sloane's deeply creative process as well as the beautiful and open-hearted relationship she had with her audiences throughout her career. You will be touched and inspired.”

Recording artist Catherine Russell

“*Sloane - A Jazz Singer* is a film that poignantly demonstrates the effects of America's shifting musical tastes in the 1960s. Through the eyes and voice of Carol Sloane, we learn through first-hand account of the numerous musicians - particularly Black

female singers -who drove Carol's passion to become "one of the best." The telling of Carol's remarkable story as a jazz singer is structured over a simple premise: At age 82, does she still have what it takes to fill a room and meet the challenges of making a live recording at New York City's legendary Birdland. The historic value of Carol's story expands beyond the topic of jazz. There exists a subtextual essay on aging (especially as an artist) and the sheer force of will and human resilience to carry one through trying times. The film gives insight into a singer's process for making a song's lyric land true to a listener. It also lets us draw our own conclusions about Carol's personal mission of carrying the torch for the women who paved the way before her."

Performing arts historian Michael Weaver

"Carol Sloane was an extraordinary talent who demonstrated immense perseverance over the course of her career. Highly influenced by the Black female jazz vocalists she grew up listening to as a young teen, her own talents allowed her to become part of that special group of female singers who performed with acclaimed jazz musicians around the world. While she gained great respect and formed close associations with a host of musicians, songwriters and people in the music industry who supported her throughout her career, roadblocks grew as she came of age in the industry at the time when other forms of music were taking hold across America and a new wave of rock music attracted new fans. This documentary allows the viewer to clearly understand the challenges faced. Her work was built on the backs of other artists who inspired her; this is the universal story of music. We watch Carol tell her story from the bittersweet eyes of an elder Carol Sloane. The story is one of sadness and loneliness mixed with triumph. I believe this film will prove an excellent teaching tool at universities to motivate students in music, history, film, and women's studies."

Robust Records founder Mitch Collman

"It's not often you come across a music documentary where the greatness of the film equals the greatness of the subject. "Sloane: A Jazz Singer" is a film of that caliber. It looks stunning and grabs the viewer immediately. The juxtaposition of the current and historical footage and images tells you right up front that you're about to embark on a very special journey. Although there are many who deserve this quality of treatment, there is no one who is more deserving than the incredible Carol Sloane, especially to those of us here in her home state of Rhode Island. Bravo to all involved. As they say, "I can't wait!"

Rick Bellaire, Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame