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Press Release

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The Grand and UW-Marathon County to Host Public Screenings of Award-Winning Documentary *Take Me To The River*

WAUSAU, WI – November 1, 2017 - On Thursday, November 2, The Grand Theater and UWMC Lecture & Fine Arts will co-host a special screening of the documentary *Take Me To The River* in preparation for the live concert of the same name at The Grand on November 7.

Two free, public screenings will be held on Thursday in the auditorium (Room 133) at UW-Marathon County. The 12:15 PM screening will feature the 45-minute classroom version of the film, and the 7:00 PM screening will feature the full-length documentary. Both screenings will feature an introduction and post-viewing discussion led by UWMC History Professor Brett Barker.

Part of The Grand's Community Engagement Series, these screenings aim to give more context to the *Take Me To The River* LIVE event at The Grand, as well as provide a space for community exploration and discussion. Professor Barker will help facilitate a conversation about the intergenerational, cross-cultural, and gender inclusive musical influence of Memphis in the face of discrimination, and how audiences can relate this to their own communities.

Take Me To The River (2014) previously premiered at the SXSW Film Festival, where it received the highly prized Audience Award. A celebration of Memphis' ever-evolving music scene – featuring deep dives into the careers of Mavis Staples, Bobby Rush, Yo Gotti, Snoop Dogg and more – the documentary earned has recognition from the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, and more, as well as numerous awards.

The film inspired the extensive nationwide tour, which will appear at The Grand on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM. The live concert experience will feature performances from Grammy winners William Bell, Bobby Rush, and Charlie Musselwhite, as well as many other talented musicians who will chart the musical evolution of Memphis from blues to hip-hop.

The document screening and live concert are both supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Wisconsin Arts Board and the Crane Group.