

PRESS RELEASE

MOVIE TO TELL TALE OF NORTH EAST PROMOTER...

A North East music promoter who was responsible for bringing some of the world's top bands to Wearside is to have his incredible story turned into a multi-million pound movie.

Sunderland's Geoff Docherty booked some of the best known groups in the 60s and 70s, bringing them to the city to perform at the now-defunct Bay Hotel and The Locarno Ballroom along with promoting major gigs at Newcastle City Hall. Among his many claims to fame were hiring Free for just £35 and also managing to convince greats such as Pink Floyd, Rod Stewart, The Who, Pink Floyd, David Bowie and even Led Zeppelin to appear.

Geoff's story was told in the hit autobiography *A Promoter's Tale* which is now to be made into a movie by North East company, Sharp End Productions Ltd.

The regional production company is headed up by Alan Sill and Graham Waite who are poised to go to Los Angeles and to Film 4 to discuss the project.

"Geoff's story is absolutely amazing," said Alan, a former Royal Television Society awards nominee who has worked as a freelance cameraman and photographer.

"There isn't anyone in the rock and pop world that he doesn't know or hasn't met and the fact that he brought so many big names to the area is incredible."

Co-producer Graham Waite, a senior lecturer at the University of Teesside who has been involved in a number of radio and television productions said they project has already had a positive response even at this early stage.

"We have been talking to some very exciting people about *The Promoter's Tale* and we honestly believe that Geoff's story is one that will make great big screen viewing," he said.

Mf

2.

The project has already won backing from the regional screen agency for the North East, Northern Film and Media, which have provided funding towards script development and is fully behind the film.

“Sharp End Productions is an exciting new company for the North East and Northern Film & Media are very pleased to have been able to financially support the treatment development for this promising drama,” said Helen Ross, NFM’s Production and Development Manager.

“It is vital that we provide such companies with the opportunity to develop their ideas and reach the commercial market. Geoff’s book provides a great basis for drama - It is a great idea, a great story and deserves every success.”

NOTE TO NEWS DESKS

For further information/interview requests please contact Sorted PR on 0191 265 6111.

July 23 2008