



Life Is Great!

Adam Boretz -- May 31st, 2011

By now, you already know that the audio version of Keith Richards's fabulous memoir, *Life*, won Audiobook of the Year at this year's Audies.

Well, PW and Listen Up caught up with Joe Hurley and Team Hachette. And here's what they had to say about the project and their big win.

Narrator **JOE HURLEY**:

"I was in Paris, playing a festival, sound-checking with 'Sing Me Back Home,' when I got the exciting call. Ninety-eight percent of France was on strike. I caught the only flight back to NYC at 6 am, arms full of guitars and luggage, and arrived sleepless at JFK, where I was driven to the studio, had a cup of tea, and began recording an hour later.

"[I was] jet-lagged but ready to go. If any '*Life*' wakes you up, it's Keith Richards! His story is part of our history. It was a huge honor to help narrate his amazing memoir, and to be in such stellar company — Johnny Depp's superb narration and Keith himself, of course, was fantastic — [it was] such a privilege. [Keith] is rock & roll, pure and simple, and he's also an extraordinary storyteller.

"As a musician, it was even more of a gift to be asked. The tales are spellbinding. I'm sure Sinatra would agree... It's Keith's world, we just live in it ... Stepping into that world, with *Life*, was a thrilling experience. Deepest thanks to Michele for steering the ship, and to Keith for the opportunity to help navigate his uncharted waters! The Joie de vivre of it all, Keith's *Life*, is a wondrous thing indeed."

Publisher Director **ANTHONY GOFF**:

"I'm so very proud to be a part of the team behind Audiobook of the Year. It was a rare privilege to bring together such iconic legends — brilliant storytellers — and have the project come together as a magnificent, historical audiobook."

Senior Manager of Marketing and Publicity **MEGAN FITZPATRICK:**

“What an honor to have been recognized out of a field of such incredible competition. I was holding my breath all night long! With 18 finalists in this year’s Audies, we thought we had a good chance at a few awards, but I was still stunned by the recognition.

“The discerning Audies judges and dedicated organizers are amazing — literally thousands of hours of listening weighed carefully in so many categories. Knowing that they need to balance different strengths in their judgements — production, performance, and beyond that, for Audiobook of the Year, marketing, publicity, and sales — makes their feat in having tackled a record number of over 1,100 entries this year all the more impressive.”

Associate Director of Production **MICHELE MCGONIGLE:**

“*Life* was and will always be a special project to all who worked on it, (lived it, as it were). Joe, Johnny, and Keith were spectacular and I am grateful for all their hard work, long hours, and dedication to this title. The love and respect for Keith and his life are palpable through out the audiobook.”

To listen to Johnny Depp reading an excerpt from the Audiobook of the Year, [CLICK HERE!](#)

And to take us into tomorrow, here are Keef and the boys — along with some very special guests — performing one of my favorites, *Salt of the Earth*:

<http://blogs.publishersweekly.com/blogs/ListenUp/?p=168>