

For Immediate Release-



***The Singers* Starring Revered Singer-Songwriter Chris Smither Wins Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film**

MOJO (★★★★): Eighty this year with five-and-a-half decades of LPs behind him, Smither sounds as good, maybe better than ever.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: Mr. Smither has taken the blues in a direction entirely his own: stoic existential ruminations sung in a pained, weathered moan and set to quietly virtuosic guitar.

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Wise words pour forth from Chris Smither – observations and aphorisms, similes and internal rhymes, run-on sentences and concise quips, all in a conversational flow. The careful construction of Smither’s lyrics is a thing of beauty and the bedrock of his bluesy folk music...



Producer Jack Piatt and Chris Smither (Photo by Jeremy Piatt)

CHRIS SMITHER LINKS:

[Artist bio](#) | [Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [Apple Music](#) | [Bandcamp](#)

March 20, 2026 - Northampton, MA: On March 15, *The Singers*, directed by Sam A. Davis, won the Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film. Starring **Chris Smither**, **Mike Young**, and **Judah Kelly**, *The Singers*, inspired by the 19th century Russian story by Ivan Turgenev, tells the story of an impromptu singing contest at a dive bar that turns a lonely night into a soul-baring moment of shared harmony. *The Singers* is [streaming now on Netflix](#).

On being part of the film, Smither reflects, "Making the film was wild. I think my manager got an email from the team, had a phone call with producer Jack Piatt to see if this was a real thing or not, let me know that she had a feeling about this one, and I was on a plane to LA - all in three days. I was on set at an old Moose Lodge bar for a total of 4 days. Watching Sam direct and operate the camera was great. The whole crew was on it. It was a fantastic time. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

Smither continues, "The 24 hours leading up to the ceremony were kind of surreal. When Kumail Nanjiani announced it was a tie, I thought "It's happening. It's really happening." And then *The Singers* was announced. Time kinda stopped. The cast and crew and I were in the upper mezzanine, and we just suddenly exploded. I have never cheered so long and loud in my life. Then we all went out to the lobby and spent the next 30 minutes hugging and basking in glory. Surreal. The rest of the night was hanging out at the Netflix after-party and then at the Vanity Fair party. So great to be a part of this Oscar-winning film. Huge thanks to Sam Davis and producers Jack Piatt and David Breschel."

Smither released his powerful 20th studio album, [All About The Bones](#), May 24, 2024 on Signature Sounds. Melding his spare, assured playing with his gruff vocals and wry, witty lyrics, Smither explores mortality with a collection that cuts to the core of the matter, the bones. Smither's rumbling baritone, percussive foot stomps and Delta-blues influenced picking infuse the songs with the rhythms and imagery of his native New Orleans. Recorded at Sonelab Studios in Easthampton MA by **Justin Pizzoferrato** (Sonic Youth, Dinosaur Jr., the Hold Steady), *All About the Bones* has a feel that is somehow baroque and austere at once. Smither is backed by longtime colleague **David "Goody" Goodrich** (electric guitar, electric diddley bow, percussion), **Zak Trojano** (drums, percussion), **Chris Cheek** (baritone sax), and **BettySoo** (vocals).

"It's a theme that surfaces many times in the album," Smither explains of the album's title. "It's the search for the essence, the inner framework that holds everything together, which we hope will be lasting, and like everything, is transitory."

After six decades of sharpening his knife as a songwriter, Smither can damn near conjure anything with a flick of his wrist. God and the Devil are opened here. Mortality is too. Politics,

consciousness, renewal, family, vulnerability, surrender... Smither has sat with these topics like so many Zen koans, for so long, that every line is a pearl.

More About Chris Smither:

A master singer-songwriter and blues guitarist, Smither grew up in New Orleans where he was inspired by the acoustic blues of Mississippi John Hurt and Lightning Hopkins. In the mid-sixties, he moved to Boston to be part of the folk and blues scene that centered around Club 47 in Cambridge. That is where he met the like-minded Bonnie Raitt who recorded his songs "I Feel the Same" and "Love You Like a Man."

As noted by *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *MOJO*, NPR, and others, in the decades of travels to his most recent album, ***All About the Bones***, Chris Smither has gone from up-and-comer to journeyman to veteran to icon, and yet the whole time his path has more closely resembled Joseph Campbell's "Hero with a Thousand Faces"- an unblinking, fearless trek into the depths of struggle and revelation, and a return back to the land of the living, to share the hard-won treasures found along the way. His restlessness is long gone, and his eyes are fixed "where the moonlight falls on some never-to-be-seen horizon" ("Still Believe in You"). The light given off from his music casts our own lives into a sublime and welcome clarity.

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