

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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ROB THOMAS SETS FALL TOUR OF NORTH AMERICA IN SUPPORT OF NEW ALBUM *CRADLESONG*

GRAMMY® AWARD WINNER RETURNS TO RUTH ECKERD HALL
ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7 PM
WITH ONE REPUBLIC AND CAROLINA LIAR

Tickets go on sale this Friday, July 17 at noon

July 14, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Multiple Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter Rob Thomas has announced dates for his full-scale tour of North America in support of his new release *cradlesong* and companion DVD *Live at Red Rocks*. The two-month itinerary is slated to kick off on September 23rd at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida and end with a multi-night stand at the famed Beacon Theater in New York beginning on November 12th. The tour will include special guests One Republic and Carolina Liar. For further information, go to www.robthomasmusic.com. Rob returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall on Saturday, September 26 at 7 pm for the first time since his sold-out performance in May of 2006. Tickets go on sale this Friday, July 17 at noon.

The new tour, dubbed “cradlesong tour ‘09,” is Thomas’s second full-fledged solo tour and the first in support of his new Emblem/Atlantic Records release *cradlesong* which hits stores and digital retailers nationwide on June 30th. *cradlesong* is the follow-up to Thomas’s record-setting solo album *...Something to Be* which debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* chart and marked the first time a male artist from a rock or pop group debuted at #1 with his first solo album. The first single off *cradlesong*, *Her Diamonds*, already gave the multi-platinum singer songwriter his best Hot 100 start in his 16th overall trip to the *Billboard* chart and continues to grow at radio. The entire album is currently streaming free of charge through Rhapsody (www.rhapsody.com/vh1) and VH1’s *The Leak* (<http://theleak.vh1.com>) as part of a unique and multi-faceted, multi-platform initiative whose centerpiece is a robust television advertising campaign featuring Thomas and visual clues that fans will recognize as references to his decade-long career, set to the music of *Her Diamonds*.

Rob Thomas is one of the most distinctive vocalists and accomplished songwriters in contemporary music, garnering a string of accolades – both for his work as lead singer and primary composer with matchbox twenty as well as for his solo work and collaborations with other artists. In 2004, the Songwriters Hall of Fame presented Thomas with its premiere “Starlight Award” – created to recognize a songwriter in the early years of his or her career who has already made a lasting impact. He has won numerous BMI and ASCAP Awards, and has earned the Songwriter of the Year crown from both *Billboard* and *BMI*, two years in a row.

Thomas has written and performed a remarkable string of hits, including matchbox twenty's #1-charting *Push*, *3AM*, *If You're Gone*, *Bent*, *Disease*, and *Unwell*, plus such favorites as *Real World*, *Back 2 Good*, *Mad Season*, and *Bright Lights*. His smash collaboration with Santana, the Thomas-penned *Smooth*, earned Rob three Grammy Awards and ranks #1 on *Billboard's* "Top Hot 100 Rock Songs" chart and #2 on the magazine's "Hot 100 All-Time Top Songs." He has also worked with the likes of Willie Nelson, Mick Jagger, Marc Anthony and Bernie Taupin. Combining all of his projects, Thomas has contributed to sales of more than 80 million records.

Reserved tickets priced at \$91.50, \$71.50 and \$51.50 will be available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 727.791.7400 or by logging onto www.rutheckerdhall.com. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from noon to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime. A limited number of Gold and Silver VIP packages priced at \$566.50 and \$421.50 are available through ticketmaster.com.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall is known for its 2,180-seat, acoustically perfect auditorium. Artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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