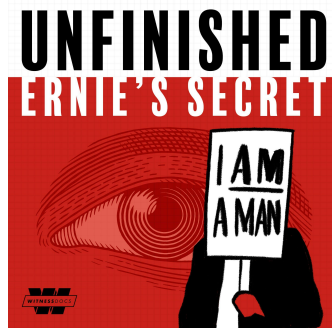




STITCHER ANNOUNCES *ERNIE'S SECRET*, THE NEWEST INSTALLMENT OF ITS CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED *UNFINISHED* SERIES

Produced in collaboration with The E.W. Scripps Company and hosted by Wesley Lowery, new season unravels the double life of civil rights photographer-turned FBI informant Ernest C. Withers

[Watch video trailer HERE](#)



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New York - June 15, 2022 – **Stitcher** today announced the third season of its critically-acclaimed, award-winning series *Unfinished*. Co-produced by Stitcher's **Witness Docs** and **The E.W. Scripps Company**, *Ernie's Secret* tells the story of the double life of Ernest C. Withers, an African American journalist dubbed the "original civil rights photographer." The ten-episode season premieres on June 29. An audio trailer is available [by clicking here](#), and a video trailer is available [by clicking here](#).

Ernest Withers covered the civil rights movement from start to finish, capturing some of its most iconic moments. He was the only African American photographer to attend the trial for Emmett Till's murder in Mississippi in 1955. In 1956, he shot the image of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph Abernathy riding one of the first integrated buses in Montgomery, Alabama, which circulated the world over. Twelve years later, he took the first pictures of Dr. King in his coffin following his assassination in Memphis. He marched with the movement's leaders, put himself in the middle of protests and took enormous risks to document the struggle. As such, he was a trusted civil rights insider whose iconic photography helped propel the movement forward.

After his death, however, it was revealed that Ernest was secretly a "racial informant," helping J. Edgar Hoover's FBI to keep tabs on and even, at times, undermine the struggle for equal rights in the South. In *Unfinished: Ernie's Secret*, journalist **Wesley Lowery** (CBS News, Washington Post) provides a new perspective and insights on government overreach and whether Withers was coerced and simply caught up in FBI surveillance during the Civil Rights Movement.

In a statement, Wesley Lowery says: "Ernest Withers was one of the nation's most important black photographers. He was also an FBI informant. There could be no better time than now – as civil rights activists take to the streets to demand a more just and equitable nation – to revisit forgotten chapters of the Civil Rights Movement, to remember the remarkable lengths our government has been, at times, willing to take to disrupt social change, and to consider the ethical, personal and historical implications of Ernie's secret."



"This series explores America's unfinished business, giving new perspective to parts of our history long-thought closed," says **Kameel Stanley, Executive Producer of Witness Docs**. "Our third season is no exception, and we're excited to work with the team at Scripps to tell the story of Ernest Withers, a man caught between two seemingly incompatible worlds."

Unfinished: Ernie's Secret is inspired by the book *A Spy in Canaan* by **Marc Perrusquia**, who also consulted on the making of the podcast. The series is Executive Produced by Witness Docs' **Kameel Stanley** (*Toxic: The Britney Spears Story, Unfinished: Short Creek*), and E.W. Scripps' **Ellen Weiss** (*Verified, Sold in America*). Additional production support by Senior Producer **Roy Hurst**, editing by **Tracey Samuelson**, mixing by **Casey Halford**. The show's music is composed by **Edward "Tex" Miller**.

SXM Media, the combined advertising revenue organization of Sirius XM Holdings Inc., has exclusive global ad sales rights for *Unfinished: Ernie's Secret*. SXM Media is the gateway for marketers to the #1 U.S. podcast advertising network in reaching weekly podcast listeners, per Edison Research.

The series joins an already impressive lineup of prestigious documentary and narrative projects at Witness Docs, which includes, among others, *Heaven's Gate*, the *Verified* series, and the Webby-Award winning *Toxic: The Britney Spears Story*.

Unfinished: Ernie's Secret will be available on [Stitcher](#), the SXM App, and all major podcast listening platforms. For more information, visit [witnesspodcasts.com](#).

About Wesley Lowery

Wesley Lowery is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author. Lowery was previously a correspondent for CBS News, and a national correspondent at the Washington Post, specializing in issues of race and law enforcement. He led the team awarded the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting in 2016 for the creation and analysis of a real-time database to track fatal police shootings in the United States. His most recent project, *Murder With Impunity*, an unprecedented look at unsolved homicides in major American cities, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2019. His first book, *They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement*, was a New York Times bestseller and was awarded the Christopher Isherwood Prize for Autobiographical Prose by the LA Times Book Prizes.

About Stitcher

Stitcher, a subsidiary of SiriusXM, is the best place to listen to, produce and monetize podcasts. The Stitcher app is one of the world's most popular podcast listening platforms, with a growing network of original content and a premium subscription service. Stitcher is home to Stitcher Originals, Black lifestyle and culture network More Sauce, top-ranked comedy podcast network Earwolf, and award-winning documentary network Witness Docs.

About Scripps

The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP) is a diversified media company focused on creating a better-informed world. As one of the nation's largest local TV broadcasters, Scripps serves communities with quality, objective local journalism and operates a portfolio of 61 stations in 41 markets. The Scripps Networks reach nearly every American through the national news outlets Court TV and Newsy and popular entertainment brands ION, Bounce, Defy TV, Grit, ION Mystery, Laff and TrueReal. Scripps is the nation's largest holder of broadcast spectrum. Scripps runs an award-winning investigative reporting newsroom in Washington, D.C., and is the longtime steward of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Founded in 1878, Scripps has held for decades to the motto, "Give light and the people will find their own way."

About SXM Media

SXM Media is the combined sales organization of Sirius XM Holdings Inc., spanning its SiriusXM, Pandora, and Stitcher audio entertainment platforms and services, including that of Midroll, the leading podcast advertising network representing over 300 of the world's largest podcasts. With a reach of more than 150 million listeners, SXM Media gives brands, creators, and publishers access to the largest digital



audio advertising platform in North America. SXM Media also serves as the exclusive advertising and sales representative for other platforms and podcasters, including major entities such as SoundCloud (exclusive U.S. advertising representative) and the NBCUniversal News Group (exclusive advertising representative for NBC News and MSNBC podcasts, with additional sales rights to CNBC podcasts).

About SiriusXM

Sirius XM Holdings Inc. (NASDAQ: SIRI) is the leading audio entertainment company in North America, and the premier programmer and platform for subscription and digital advertising-supported audio products. SiriusXM's platforms collectively reach approximately 150 million listeners, the largest digital audio audience across paid and free tiers in North America, and deliver music, sports, talk, news, comedy, entertainment and podcasts. Pandora, a subsidiary of SiriusXM, is the largest ad-supported audio entertainment streaming service in the U.S. SiriusXM's subsidiaries Stitcher, Simplecast and AdsWizz make it a leader in podcast hosting, production, distribution, analytics and monetization. The Company's advertising sales arm, SXM Media, leverages its scale, cross-platform sales organization, and ad tech capabilities to deliver results for audio creators and advertisers. SiriusXM, through Sirius XM Canada Holdings, Inc., also offers satellite radio and audio entertainment in Canada. In addition to its audio entertainment businesses, SiriusXM offers connected vehicle services to automakers. For more about SiriusXM, please go to: www.siriusxm.com.

Source: SiriusXM

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