



[SAM PHILLIPS] Male, 25 – 40. excellent actor; “Father of Rock’n’Roll” and founder of Sun Records who discovered Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and many others including Roy Orbison and B.B. King; a towering and charismatic figure in American music.

[START]

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(to AUDIENCE)

Ain't they somethin'?

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1A INTRODUCTION (UNDERScore)

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Every one of my boys started right here, and we've been blessed this past year. Blessed with success beyond our wildest imaginings. Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, and Johnny Cash.

*(PHILLIPS crosses downstage...lights begin to dim on QUARTET who exit in the dark)*

And my name is Samuel Cornelius Phillips. Pretty big name for a little red dirt Alabama country boy, huh? This is mah company. Sun Records. See, I was a radio man. Come to Memphis right after the war...and prob'ly could'a been a big wheel here. But there's a cussedness 'bout me. It's hard as hell to work for someone else. And another thing, I didn't just wanna PLAY the tunes, I wanted to RECORD 'em. So, first of 1950 I threw the cards in the air, and started Sun Records. Now don't be thinkin' I just fell in the luck bucket findin' these kids. It ain't that easy. There were a LOTTA years when dee-jays wouldn't play none a'my records. Back then, I'd PAY 'em, and they still wouldn't play 'em. If I hadn't had

*Continue...*

PHILLIPS (CONT'D)

faith in what I was doin', I'd a' given up a long time ago. Now, you might'a heard that I had to sell ol' Elvis to RCA, so he ain't on Sun Records anymore. Well, RCA called again...and who do you think they wanna buy now?

*(PHILLIPS invites AUDIENCE to guess)*

Me! Yeah, offering a LOT of money to fold Sun Records into RCA. Move up to New York City...work exclusively with Elvis again. I been stallin' 'em, but they're lowerin' the boom on me. They want an answer--by close of business tonight.

*(lights transition into studio)*

Hey fellas. Elvis just called. He's up the street at Jo-Jo Coogie's place and he's comin' by directly. Don't none of y'all tell Carl when he gets here. Got it?

BROTHER JAY AND FLUKE

Yup.

PHILLIPS

Them boys prob'ly ain't seen each other since I had 'em doin' shows offa that ol' flat bed truck in Grenada, Mississippi.

[END SIDE 1]

[START SIDE 2]

PHILLIPS

*(to AUDIENCE)*

Now, the boy busted out real big, real quick--but my distributors kept "forgettin" to pay me. So comin' up on Christmas 1955, I was flat-on-my-ass broke. I couldn't even afford to buy presents for my wife Becky and my boys, and RCA Victor's talkin' to me about buyin' Elvis. "Sure," I'd tell 'em, "you can have him--for forty thousand dollars." They're saying, "We could fix the World Series for less than that!" Then...here comes this honkin' big check from RCA Victor and Elvis--is gone.

*(bitterly)*

Six months later, the only thing ever'one remembers is me sellin' his contract, an' they're all tellin' me I'm the King of Fools. But Sun couldn't have made it to the spring of '56 without that check. Paid all my bills, bought me a radio station and quite a bit of stock in a little business that started up just down the street called--Holiday Inn. Well, if I'm a fool, I'm a happy fool.

*(FLASHBACK ENDS)*

[END SIDE 2]