

Awards recognize rock's cream of the crop

By Anne Wheeler

Members of the rock music industry give recognition to their own when *The 2nd International Rock Awards* air live Wednesday, June 6, on ABC.

An industry event established to honor the world's greatest rock performers, the presentation will feature the "Living Legend Award" and awards in 12 other categories.

This year, British-born rock singer, guitarist and songwriter Eric Clapton will receive the "Living Legend Award" for his continual contributions to rock music.

Born March 30, 1945 in Ripley, England, Clapton began playing the guitar at 15, and in 1964 made his debut album as a member of the group The Yardbirds. Two years later he formed the group Cream, with bassist Jack Bruce and drummer Ginger Baker, and recorded the hit songs "Sunshine Of Your Love," "White Room," "Classrooms" and "Badge."

After Cream broke up in 1968, Clapton formed the group Blind Faith, with Baker, Steve Winwood and Rick Grech. In 1970, Clapton recorded his first solo album, *Eric Clapton*, which



Eric Clapton, singer, guitarist and songwriter, will receive the "Living Legend Award" at *The 2nd International Rock Awards*, airing live from New York City, Wednesday on ABC.

yielded the popular song, "After Dominoes and released the two-record *Layla*. His album *461 Ocean* Midnight." Shortly thereafter, Clapton formed the band Derek and the *Boulevard* was released in 1973.

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