

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Acclaimed Author Michael Wallis to Sign Copies of “David Crockett” June 4 at Full Circle Bookstore

Oklahoma City, May 20, 2011 -- Celebrated historian and writer Michael Wallis will be signing copies of his new book, “David Crockett: The Lion of the West,” from 3 pm to 6 pm Saturday, June 4, at Full Circle Bookstore in northwest Oklahoma City.

In addition, Wallis will sign copies of “Pretty Boy: The Life and Times of Charles Arthur Floyd,” his history of the infamous Depression-era bank robber, which is now available in paperback.

In Wallis’ latest, the Tulsa author leads readers through an engrossing exploration of truth and myth surrounding the legendary 19<sup>th</sup> century frontiersman. “David Crockett” drills past the Disneyesque folklore, painting a vivid and fascinating portrait of the real-life storyteller, congressman and martyr of the Alamo.

Wallis’ previous bestsellers include “Billy the Kid,” “Oil Man” and “Route 66.” That latter book led to Wallis leading his vocal talents to Pixar’s animated hit motion picture, “Cars.” The Route 66 scholar provided the voice of the Sheriff in that 2006 movie and the upcoming sequel, “Cars 2.”

Full Circle is located on the first level of 50 Penn Place.

*For more information:*

*Dana Meister, Full Circle Bookstore (405) 842-2900*

*Phil Bacharach, Bacharach Communications (405) 568-0348*

Though hundreds of books and dramatizations  
(including in 1831 “The Lion of the West,” featuring a

caricature of Crockett called Nimrod Wildfire, and, of course, the 1950s "Davy Crockett" television series with its unforgettable theme song) have been written about Crockett, DAVID CROCKETT: THE LION OF THE WEST [W. W. Norton & Company; May 16, 2011; \$27.95 cloth] is the first to truly sift through the fact and fiction to reveal the matted hair beneath the proverbial coonskin cap. The result is certain to become the definitive account of one of the most recognizable names in American History. Indeed, the popularity of Crockett skyrocketed within only months of the Disney premiere, when over a \$100 million was spent on at least three thousand different Crockett items, from pajamas, to lunch boxes and toy rifles. But the real Crockett who grew up in a backwoods cabin was by no means a country bumpkin who "killed him a b'ar" at the age of 3. As Wallis masterfully shows, Crockett was an early American enigma whose true story is often more interesting than the tall tales told after his death.

Set against the backdrop of a fledging nation, Crockett, born into a humble Tennessee family in 1786, was a precocious child, reared as much by the untamed wilderness of Eastern Tennessee as the financially cursed parents who cared for him. Evoking Crockett's youth like no other biographer has done before, Wallis brilliantly narrates the adventures of a boy whose Huck Finn-like childhood not only featured vicious kidnappings, daring escapes, and unrequited adolescent loves, but created a man so celebrated for his hunting and storytelling ability, that over a century after his death, Disney would create a show in his name.

Wallis also reveals a young man who would disappear alone into the unexplored canebrakes, only to return months later with harrowing tales of escaping the death traps and murderous natives of America's backwoods. It was fodder that would serve Crockett well for the rest of his life, first as a

likeable soldier under Andrew Jackson in the ruinous Indian Wars, and then, later, during his meteoric rise as an unlikely Congressman and presidential prospect (these latter endeavors having gone largely overlooked since Crockett's death). Using his unrivaled knowledge of early American history, Wallis tracks the one-time Congressman all the way through his final ride to Texas, where Crockett would meet his inglorious end at the Battle for the Alamo.

As a renowned biographer of other, equally mythified American characters, such as "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Billy the Kid, Wallis employs his refined historical microscope to both undercut the folklore that has long enshrouded Crockett's final moments, and give us the necessary facts about how our most cherished frontiersman's really perished at the hands of the Mexican army.

Wallis's newsworthy revelations—using information that has only recently become available—gives us the revelatory and authoritative Crockett biography history fans have long

awaited. The result is an extraordinary evocation of a true American hero and the rough-and-tumble times in which he lived.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Michael Wallis, author of the bestselling *Mankiller*, *Oil Man* and the highly acclaimed *Pretty Boy: The Life of Charles Arthur Floyd*, helped to bring about the great revival of Route 66 in the 1990s with his remarkable journalistic and photographic travelogue, *Route 66*, which became an enormous bestseller. A member of the National Writers Hall of Fame, Wallis has published over sixteen books and has won numerous honors and awards. He lectures nationally, and frequently appears on television. Wallis was the voice of *The Sheriff* in the Golden Globe-winning, animated Pixar motion picture features, *Cars* and *Cars II*.

Wallis lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and will visit Oklahoma City, Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis, Santa Fe, Austin, and San Antonio on book tour this Spring.

**TITLE:** DAVID CROCKETT: The Lion of the West

**AUTHOR:** Michael Wallis

**PUBLICATION DATE:** May 16, 2011

**PRICE:** \$27.95

**ISBN:** 978-0-393-06758-3

Also available for the first time in Norton Paperback:

**TITLE:** PRETTY BOY: The Life and Times of Charles Arthur Floyd

**AUTHOR:** Michael Wallis

**PUBLICATION DATE:** May 16, 2011

**PRICE:** \$16.95

**ISBN:** 978-0-393-33818-8

