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Contact: Hayley Armstrong
Advertising and Communications Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 356-7796 (mobile)
Hayley.Armstrong@kyderby.com

**DOWNSA AFTER DARK TO SUPPORT WATERSTEP
WITH 'SADDLES AND SNEAKERS' THEME**

Night Racing Returns to Churchill Downs Racetrack Friday Night at 6 p.m. ET

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, May 18, 2023) – Flex your favorite sneakers and bring another pair to donate for a good cause as Downs After Dark returns to Churchill Downs on Friday night. In addition to supporting nonprofit WaterStep, guests can enjoy popular local artists and DJs while experiencing racing under the lights with the theme “Saddles and Sneakers.”

Guests are encouraged to wear their coolest sneakers and take advantage of the free sneaker cleaning station provided to make all “kicks” shine like new. For each pair of new or gently-used sneakers donated to WaterStep at the onsite drop-off stations, guests will receive two (2) general admission tickets to Twilight Thursday on May 25. Donated shoes are sold by WaterStep to raise funds that support their work to provide safe water solutions to third-world communities and those impacted by disasters. In addition to contributing to microenterprise ventures in these countries, the WaterStep model provides affordable footwear and keeps on average 30,000 pounds of shoes out of landfills each month.

“WaterStep is delighted to bring awareness to our shoe donation model and water solution initiatives through the excitement of Downs After Dark, Saddles and Sneakers,” said Kellie Moore, Director of Strategic Initiatives for WaterStep. “For every three pairs of shoes donated, you can provide a lifetime of safe drinking water. Better quality shoes mean stronger funding power so we thank you for making sure shoes of any size or style are in acceptable condition and free from mold or mildew.”

The heartbeat of Downs After Dark will be located near the VIP and Clubhouse Gates with music on the Main Stage throughout the night, including DJ Getzy from 5:15 – 8:00 p.m. and the beloved DJ Glittertitz from 8:30 – 11:30 p.m. Guests can expect an urban-inspired artist showcase from local artists, Braylyn “Resko” Stewart and Darryl Tucker as they create art through the construction of photo moments around the track. Artist Clay Mata will personalize sneakers in real time with the iconic derby imagery including Twin Spires, Thoroughbred horses, red roses or stargazer lilies.

Admissions gates will open Friday at 5 p.m. with the first race beginning at 6 p.m. The final race and “last call” is at 10:42 p.m., but the Saddles and Sneakers party will continue until 11:30 p.m. Friday’s forecast calls for partly sunny skies with a high of 79 degrees.

General admission to Downs After Dark is \$25 which includes a reserved seat on the first floor and an official program. Guests under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Limited premium dining packages are available starting at \$109 per person. Outdoor third-floor box seats are on sale for \$35 per person. Reserved seating can be purchased online at www.ChurchillDowns.com/Tickets.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack (“CDRT”), the world’s most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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