

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

ENTERTAINMENT



Brotherhood attractions will present Con Funk Shun, live at the Paramount Theatre, Sat. 9 p.m., Aug. 16th. Tickets are on sale now. See advertisement below for more information.

Making it happen

"Got To Be Enough," the first single from Con Funk Shun's most recent album "Spirit Of Love" shows a further maturity of their sound, which Billboard recently described as: "Horns, a smooth rhythm track and a fluid lead vocal...with a danceable beat." The funk base from which Con Funk Shun drew its name relies heavily on bass and drums with superlative highlights from a tight horn section and extraordinary lead and background vocals.

The seven ingredients that make up the favorable Con Funk Shun recipe are: Michael Cooper, lead vocals, electric guitar and electric sitar; Karl Fuller, trumpet, flugelhorn, valve trombone and background vocals; Paul Harrell, soprano and tenor saxophones, flute and background vocals; Cedric Martin, bass guitar and background vocals; Felton Pilate, lead vocals, trombone, keyboards and electric guitar; and Danny Thomas, keyboards and background vocals.

"Spirit Of Love" follows three consecutive gold albums on Mercury Records: "Secrets" (1977), "Loveshine" (1978) and "Candy" (1979). But the foundations for those successes were laid a dozen years ago in the city they still call home, Vallejo, California. While still in high school in the Bay Area community Michael Cooper on piano and Louis McCall on drums became Project Soul. Within a year the group expanded to its present lineup. The next three years were spent tightening their sound in and around the San Francisco area.

Local success allowed them the opportunity to go on tour with the Soul Children. Having received a sensational response to their California discovery, Soul Children asked Project Soul to move to Memphis where they are based.

It was at this time that the group changed its name to Con Funk Shun. Their affiliation with the Stax recording artists resulted in an appearance in the "Wattstax" movie, where they also supported Rufus Thomas.

After what they consider a good experience, Con Funk Shun left Soul Children the following year to expand independently. They stayed in Memphis where the geographics allowed them to play more states by virtue of their proximity.

Outstanding stage presence and excellent musicianship earned them billing on tours featuring Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind & Fire, the Commodores and others nationally while internationally they became such a popular performance act that they toured Japan three times in eighteen months. Easily evident on stage was the musical versatility of the group. They were and are adept at everything from get down funk to melodic and harmonious ballads.

The first opportunity to record came soon with two singles cut in Memphis and distributed regionally. These first attempts brought them to the attention of Mercury Records who signed them in 1976 and released their debut album in the same year. "Con Funk Shun" sold well for a first outing, paving the way for their second album "Secrets" to spawn the No. 1 single "Ffun."

Gaining audiences' adoration as they toured nationally, "Shake And Dance With Me" became their second hit single almost immediately upon release of the next album "Loveshine." A large percentage of American music fans and concert goers were ConFunkShunized.

"Candy" reinforced their solid footing with the singles "Chase Me" and "Let Me Put Love On Your Mind," leaving their mark. Year-end industry reports in 1979 found them as one of the top ten R&B acts.

"Spirit Of Love" takes the group one step further. "We're aiming for growth creativity and in terms of our audience. We're hoping to keep those who have supported us in the past and to catch some different ears this time," explains Felton Pilate.

"Love Struck" is reminiscent of the "Shake And Dance" tradition. "Juicy" whets the palate of funk lovers who can clap along to the single "Got To Be Enough" and smile to "Happy Face."

Con Funk Shun takes a well deserved "Curtain Call" with ballads like "Honey Wild," "All Up To You" and the mellow "Early Morning Sunshine." Outstanding vocals beautifully sweetened with a full horn sound and string section illustrate a growth that peaks with the pop-oriented treatment of "By Your Side" and the lyrical title cut.

When not pre-recording or rehearsing at Melody Sound, their 8-track Vallejo studio, or traveling on tour, each group member has his own identity. But together they are Con Funk Shun.

BILLY PRESTON AND SYREETA TO APPEAR ON SEASON PREMIER OF "BANDSTAND," SEPT. 6



Billy Preston and Syreeta, one of the hottest duos in the record business, will be special guests when Dick Clark's "American Bandstand" makes its season premier on Saturday, September 6, on ABC-TV.

"With You I'm Born Again," from the film "Fast Break," propelled Billy and Syreeta to a lengthy stay atop the charts. They will perform that song, plus their current Motown single, "One More Time For Love" on Bandstand.

Although the pairing of these two has produced a tremendous success, both Billy and Syreeta maintain successful separate careers.

Syreeta, the former Mrs. Stevie Wonder, has recorded and co-written (with Wonder) "Blame It On The Sun" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," which are included on her Motown album, "Syreeta."

Preston has been regarded as one of the best keyboard players in the business since 1962, when he joined Little Richard's band. He has, since, worked with a spectrum of artists that include the Beatles, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Barbara Streisand and the Rolling Stones.

He has also emerged as a successful solo artist, with hits including "That's The Way God Planned It," "Nothin' From Nothin'" and "Outa-Space."

How does "American Bandstand" host Dick Clark feel about the duo? "It's a great way for us to kick off the 29th season of 'Bandstand,' with such great people and artists as Billy and Syreeta."

Portland wrestlers compete

(Continued from Page 1 col 6)

Marney Taylor says the annual cost for training, equipment and travel averages about \$10,000 per boy. Both parents say they try to make each wrestling event a family outing.

The boys father, better known as Gabel said, "The family has to come up with money when the boys need it. We send them to the best training school in the country, because we want them to be the best. When your kids have a gift, you can't always skip and put them second over money."

He adds, "For the past 7 to 8 years its been a real hardship for our family. Sending the boys to the World Wrestling Festival is a good example of hardships. We had to

borrow over \$3,000 to send the boys to Sweden. But it was once in a life time chance we couldn't let them miss. Not very often do any Black children get to see what the rest of the world is like. I wish Marney and myself could have been there with them. But it just wasn't possible.

Right now the Taylor family is trying to raise at least \$3,000 to pay back their loan. Several local agencies and groups like the NAACP, (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and others have been contacted. Both boys are trying to raise funds to pay back the loan. Persons who would like to donate funds to the Taylor family should call 245-2097. Or mail their contributions to Taylor Fund, 2529 S.W. Plum Court, Portland, Oregon 97219.

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advance \$9.50 Day of show.

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