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The Elite Cafe: aging gracefully



St. Dominic's School to merge

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A kid grows up along Fillmore

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THENEWFILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ JULY 2011



A few old friends, a lot of new faces

Painting by RHONEL ROBERTS Design by Marcus Associates For the 27th time, Fillmore Street on the Fourth of July will be filled with a joyous noise as the Fillmore Jazz Festival returns July 2 and 3. Its by far the largest street party in the city, stretching from Jackson Street in Pacific Heights south through the Fillmore Jazz District to Edwy Street. Three music stages bring a wide variety of sounds, plus the usual mix of arts, crafts, curly fries and corn dogs. More inside:

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ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE
MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS
IN THE BEGINNING
POSTER ARTIST
SPECIAL EXHIBITION: BILL GRAHAM & THE FILLMORE

Film Society Strikes a Deal in Japantown

New People cinema will be its year-round home, not the Clay Theater

A FTER MORE than a year of exploring the possibilities, the San Francisco Film Society announced June 23 that it will establish a year-round home in the neighborhood and take over the programming of the stylish and hightech Viz Cinema in Japantown.

The cinema, in the New People complex at 1746 Post Street, opened in 2009 as part of a J-Pop Center devoted to contemporary Japanese popular culture.

"It's a 143-seat state-of-the-art singlescreen that we gave a test drive to during the International," said Graham Leggat, executive director of the Film Society, which sponsors the San Francisco International Film Festival nearby at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas. "It was hugely popular."

Last August the Film Society made an overture to take over the 100-year-old Clay Theater on Fillmore Street when its closure was threatened. Talks continued in fits and starts between the society and Clay Theater owner Balgobind Jaiswal, who also retained an architect to design townhouses

to be built above the venerable art film house.

"The Clay just became too much of a can of worms," Leggat said.

Jaiswal said his plans would move forward to retain the Clay as a movie theater.

"Our longterm strategy ... is to improve [the



The New People center on Post.

is to improve [the Clay] into a state-of-the-art facility," he said, "but the process is slow."

The Clay has been operated for many years by Landmark Theaters, which has repaired the marquee and expressed new interest in continuing to run the theater.

"We renewed our lease," said Landmark CEO Ted Mundorff, "and are working diligently with our landlord on both of us continuing operating the Clay for a long time into the future."

"We are still actively pursuing Landmark as a long-term tenant," said Jaiswal, "but the success of those negotiations depends on our ability to update the theater, and to fund the necessary improvements."



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CELEBRATION



The Elite was called the Lincoln Grill when it opened in 1928, but it looked much the same

AN ELITE BIRTHDAY

can be more than a lifetime in San Francisco's ever-changing restaurant world, Fillmore's venerable Elite Cafe on July 14 will celebrate three decades of serving up New Orleans cuisine in its historic Art Deco home. And that's only its

third incarnation. The warm and woody welcoming spot at 2049 Fillmore is rich in history.

It was built in 1928 during the height of Prohibition as the Lincoln Grill, then transformed in 1932 into the Asia Cafe, a chop suey house known to locals as a front for a gambling joint. Dozens of telephone lines were said to run into the basement.

It was also cheap.

"I remember getting a four-course meal - soup, salad and a meat dish with potato and vegetable, finished off with coffee and a dish of ice cream - all for a total cost of 85 cents," recalls local resident Joe Beyer of his arrival in the neighborhood in the 1950e

Times have changed, and so has Fillmore Street.

Duvall - a serial restaurateur who now owns Izzy's Chop House in the Marina renovated the space and opened it as The Elite Cafe. The neon sign that had hung

claiming The Asia Cafe was revised and rewired to announce The Flite Cafe An enduring image is the raw bar with oysters and clams on ice beckoning to passersby in the front window.

The Elite was one of three businesses that opened in 1981, heralding the renaissance of Fillmore Street as a major shopping and dining destination. The others were Fillamento, the home

design emporium that closed in 2001, and Vivande, Carlo Middione's Italian restaurant, which closed last year. Peter Snyderman took over as manag-

ing partner in 2005, doing away with the beckoning bivalves in the front window but restoring the original mahogany details and adding outdoor seating. Chef about town Joanna Karlinsky revamped the menu. bringing along her signature Meetinghouse biscuits, which remain on the menu still.

To celebrate its 30th birthday, the Elite is rising to its own occasion by erecting new two-seater booths in the back - the area used now mostly by napkin-folding staffer and locals in the know looking for a qui-In 1981, Tom Clendening and Sam eter place to talk. It will also offer a threecourse prix fixe menu for \$30 spanning the 30 days from July 15 through August 13.

For more information, visit theelitecafe

THE NEWFILLMORE

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Connecting the neighborhood

Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore are delivered to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and welcome your ideas and suggestions

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■ STREET TALK

New restaurants in the jazz district

Three new restaurants are in the works on Fillmore south of Geary in the Fillmore Jazz District. And all three look to be exciting and inventive new spots.

Details have already begun to

emerge about State Bird Provisions an unusual new concept slated to open this fall at 1529 Fillmore in the old Century Theater building that formerly housed Harput's. It will be a reincarnation of the husband and wife culinary team that ran Rubicon the ex-Financial District mainstay. The concept is mostly small plates offered on carts and trays.

It's named for the quail, Californ

nia's state bird, which stars in chef Stuart Brioza's signature crispy spiced quall dish.

spiced quall dish.

"So far, so good," says Brioza of
their progress. "I love that first block
of Fillmore south of Geary. It needs a little sprucing, but the old buildings and the old feel are great."

ZINC SHRINKS: Zinc Details, the showplace of modern home design and accessories, has closed its second store at 2410 California Street - which will be taken over by a medical group — and consolidated its furniture and furnishings at the flagship store at 1905 Fillmore.

"It's a good thing," says Zinc impresario Vasilio Kiniris. "It's great to have everything under one roof."

THE LONG BAR GOODBYE: Cocktail king Reza Esmailia brought new life to the corner of Fillmore and Clay when he took over the Long Bar last year. He closed a few weeks ago. promising to reopen with a new name and a new look. Now come: word he's no longer involved, and what's next there is uncertain.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

School's Out Forever at St. Dominic's

T. Dominic's School closed for the final time at the end of the school year after more than a century of educating economically disadvantaged children in the neighborhood.

Yet the future for both the school and its Gothic home on Pine Street, erected in 1929, seems filled with promise.

The school has been known as the Megan Furth Catholic Academy, for a major donor, since it merged a few years ago with the Fillmore's Sacred Heart School, rescuing both from probable closure. Yet even as St. Dominic's Church leaders increased

enrollment and steered the independent school in a more dynamic direction — at a rent of \$1 per year — they've had their eyes on the building, which sits next door in the church's parking lot.

Now another merger is in the works. The school will join forces with Mission Dolores School, another endangered Catholic school with declining enrollment, which happens to have an expansive and historic home next to Mission Dolores.

And the church gets control of the school building, which it plans to transform into a new parish hall and community center.

"Ît's a win-win-win," says Father Xavier Lavagetto, pastor of St. Dominic's.

The new Mission Dolores Academy will open this fall with 250 students in kinderoarten through eighth grade — including



St. Dominic's School at 2445 Pine Street was dedicated in 1929.

almost all of St. Dominic's students. They'll gloriously colored stained glass windows. have an auditorium, a gymnasium - even a playground without cars parked in it - plus new computerized learning program.

"While it's super sad not to have them here, the possibilities are just magical," says Father Xavier. "Our school looks like a toy school compared to theirs. What's being created is a wonderful opportunity for the kids."

At a time when churches have been shrinking, St. Dominic's is one of the few parishes in the city — or the nation — that is growing.

"We were down to 18 kids in the church in 2000," says Father Xavier, "and now we've got 90-plus. There's been a real reju-

Adult education and community programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous are also growing. As a result, the church needs more space.

For now, existing programs will begin using the chool's former classrooms while renovations are considered and costs are estimated Then fund-raising will begin.

After the 1989 earthguake, St. Dominic's raised \$7.2 million for a seismic retrofit, which included the addition of nine flying buttresses. Then a decade-long restoration campaign, only recently completed, raised more than \$11 million to repair exterior masonry, replace interior furnishings

and restore the church's many

"We're trying to give people a little bit of a break," says Father Xavier. But he hopes an improving economy will make it possible for the transformation of the school building to begin in 2012.

"I think it'll be good for the whole neighborhood," he says. Eventually the goal is to remove the modular classrooms beside the school and the cyclone fence surrounding the parking lot, then landscape the block into a more park-like setting.

In 1863, the Dominican friars paid \$6,000 for the city block bounded by Steiner. Bush, Pierce and Pine Streets, founding the first St. Dominic's Church in 1873.

"The Dominicans have been here for nearly 150 years," says Father Xavier, "and we want to be here for another 150 years.



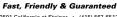
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CRIME WATCH

Concealed Weapon Van Ness Avenue and Post Street May 27, 12 a.m.

Officers on patrol saw a car make an unsafe turn. When citing the driver, they learned he had a suspended license. His front seat passenger then told officers that he was on felony probation for robbery. The officers asked the passenger to exit the car and face away from them so they could conduct a search. The man turned then suddenly ran. Several officers chased him, and he finally surrendered. As they arrested him, a fully loaded semi-automatic handoun fell from his waisthand. All four occupants of the car were transported to Northern Station. Two were released, but the driver and the passenger who fled were booked for several felonies; they were also carrying large amounts of methamphet-

Burglary Gough Street and Broadway

June 5, 3:20 p.m.

A resident called police to report that someone had broken into her home. The suspect climbed her back fence, removed a brick from her garden, then threw it through a rear glass door and entered the house. She heard the glass break and ran, screaming, toward the suspect. The man snatched her iPad, then fled. Dispatchers broadcast his description and responding officers detained a suspect nearby. Officers searched his backpack and found the woman's iPad, along with methamphetamine. The suspect was charged with several felonies.

Vandalism to Vehicle Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard June 6, 10:55 p.m.

Officers in a patrol car noticed a Muni bus stopped in the street. The driver told them a man had just broken a mirror off the bus, then fled. The officers located a chair. Another officer was pushed over a man matching the driver's description two blocks away and stopped him. A witness then informed the officers that the suspect had broken the mirror because the driver refused to let him board the bus through the back door. The man was cited for van-

Attempted Robbery Van Ness Avenue and Eddy Street June 7, 7:40 p.m.

A store manager was on her break when she saw a man take some items from a loud argument. Witnesses then saw one the shelf, then start to walk out the door. Believing he meant to steal the items, the manager approached him and asked him to put them down. The man suddenly grabbed her neck and, with his other hand, started him not far from the scene of the crime striking her. Store employees rushed to her and arrested him for assault. The injuries aid; one called the police. Officers arrived

to find several employees sitting on top of the suspect to hold him down. The officers placed him in handcuffs. The manager was not seriously injured. Because of the suspect's violent attack, he was charged with attempted robbery.

Auto Burglary Pine and Steiner Streets June 16, 9:30 a.m.

A woman sitting in her car inside a parking lot spotted two men breaking into a car parked on the street nearby. One reached into the car and removed a bag Then both fled. She called the police, and officers stopped two men matching the descriptions she gave. A parking control officer had seen one of the men dispose of a bag in a suspicious manner. The other suspect carried an Apple laptop under his arm. The man who had been robbed later identified the computer and bag as his property. Both suspects had broken spark plugs in their pockets, a common tool used by car burglars to shatter a vehicle's window Both were booked for multiple felonies.

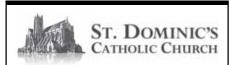
Battery of a Police Officer Fillmore and O'Farrell Streets June 18, 2:55 p.m.

A brawl involving large groups of people broke out at this year's Juneteenth celebration Officers arrived and identified two men as the major combatants. As they placed one of them under arrest, they were surrounded by people involved in the fight. who aggressively pressed them to release the man. The officers managed to restore order and took the suspect to the station.

Shortly afterward, another fight broke out at the same celebration; officers moved in to make arrests. One man swung his fist at an officer but she ducked the blow. As other officers struggled to take the subject into custody, one officer was struck numerous times by an elderly woman in a wheeltable, and sustained ligament damage to his hand. Finally the most belligerent individual was taken into custody and charged with several crimes, including battery of a police officer. The woman in the wheelchair

Geary Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue June 19, 3:30 p.m.

Two men who had been together all day talking and drinking, suddenly broke into man pull out a knife and stab the other mar several times in his leg. The assailant fled Responding officers aided the injured man then searched for the suspect. They located sustained were not life threatening.



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NEW NEIGHBORS

Stylish options for lookin' good

Two new shops have opened in the neighborhood to keep the locals looking good. Anton Cura has opened the clubby Attention to Detail Barber Gallery (left) at 2180B Sutter Street, near Pierce, Cura is a eran of the New Chicago Barbershop on Divisadero Street.

At 1908 Fillmore, Lindsey Glaser has opened DryBar (right), a different kind of hair salon: It does no cutting or color, only blowouts in what she's calling "a blow dry bar." Among the options on the menu are a Manhattan (sleek and smooth). Southern Comfort (big hair with volume) and a Mai Tai (messy and beachy). In keeping with the theme, there's always champagne











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July 2011 NEW FILLMORE 5

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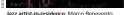


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FILLMORE JAZZ FESTIVAL







World music artist-in-residence: Jackeline Rago, with the Venezuelan Music Project

Old Friends & New Faces

Artists-in-residence highlight Fillmore's 27th Fourth of July weekend of jazz

By Jason Olaine

F YOU'RE A JAZZ FAN like me you've probably been looking forward to the Fourth of July weekend on Fillmore since last year's massive and festive street party. No place else celebrates the Fourth like the Fillmore as our historic promenade hosts the largest free jazz festival in the west.

This year the Fillmore Jazz Festival celebrates its 27th year and I had the honor of programming the music on the Sutter Street and California Street stages. Here's some insight into the music you'll be hearing there.

This year we have two artists-in-residence - one a jazz musician, the other a world music artist. Basically this means they will be performing both days, with somewhat different configurations.

Our jazzman is MARCO BENEVENTO, who I've had the pleasure in years past of booking at the Newport Jazz Festival, at the JVC Jazz Festival in New York, at Carnegie Hall and at Grand Central Station - as well as hiring him to re-arrange and record an upcoming Disney jazz album.

Obviously I like this guy a lot. He's a pianist and keyboardist who is consistently unpredictable. Steeped in the history of jazz and classical music, he's also willing to mess with electronics and samples — or even build his own instruments — to twist and shape sound into lush soundscapes and trancelike moods. Publications from Rolling Stone to Keyboard magazine sing of his experimental yet accessible nature. Be sure to catch him closing the California Stage on

Saturday with his acoustic group and on Sunday at the



A Yoshi's partnership

Superstar flamenco guitarist OTTMAR LIEBERT (above) ups the ante at this year's Fillmore Jazz Festival by appearing for a short set on Saturday afternoon at the Sutter Street stage — in addition to appearing at Yoshi's on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. It's the result of a new collaboration with Yoshi's artistic director Jason Olaine, who booked the entertainment this year on the California Street and Sutter Street stages. Fillmore blues legend Bobbie Webb continues to book the Eddy Street stage

same snot with his electric setup. Perhans you'll see why All Music Guide claims he's "a musician so original that he can ultimately only be judged against his own

Our world music artist-in-residence, JACKELINE RAGO, uses her profound skills as a singer, guitarist, composer, arranger, producer, educator, multi-instrumentalist and multi-band leader to bring her native Venezuelan folk music to new audiences.

On Saturday morning on the Sutter Street stage, she leads her spirited quartet, THE VNOTE ENSEMBLE, through Latin, jazz and Venezuelan folk rhythms and song Defiantly ignoring musical boundaries, they're able to create new musical paths that join joropo and swing, gaita and soul and bebop and calypso. As Chuy Varella, the esteemed music director at KCSM radio says, "This is Latin jazz with an original perspective that is, qualitatively, one of the best things happening in the SF Bay Area's world music scene.

Then on Sunday morning she breaks out her larger vocal-driven ensemble — the VENEZUELAN MUSIC PROJECT. Using many folkloric instruments, including Venezuela's national instrument, the cuatro, the group will present an energetic, colorful, entertaining show that combines the indigenous Venezuelan, West African and Spanish-European influences of the group. It's definitely a crowd pleasing show.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Both days will feature some amazing artists from both the jazz and world music genres. The nouveau flamenco guitarist and



PROGRAM

SATURDAY | JULY 2

10:00 Jenna Mammina Contemporary Jazz Orchestra 3:30 California Honeydrops - 6:00 Marco Benevento Acoustic

4:00

10:00 - 11:30 The VNote Ensemble 12:00 1:30 The Nigerian Brothers 2.00 2:35 Ottmar Liebert Faith Ako 2:55 3:30

6:00 Mingus Amungus

FDDY STREET STAGE

10:00 - 11:30 Jave and Friends 12:00 - 1:30 Alvon & The All-Stars

4:00 6:00 Lagos Roots

SUNDAY | JULY 3

CALIFORNIA STREET STAGE

10:00 - 11:30 Weather Wayne Marcus Shelby Trio - 1:30 3:30 Kim Nalley

4:00 - 6:00 Marco Renevento Electric

SUTTER STREET STAGE

10:00 - 11:30 Venezuelan Music Project 12:00 . 1.30 Markus James Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz 2:00 3:30 4:00 - 6:00 Los Pinguos

FDDY STREET STAGE

10:00 . 11:30 Future Perfect Rand 12:00 - 1:30 The George Lacson Project

Scary Larry & the Blues Monsters

Jason Olaine, artistic director at Yoshi's on Fillmore, helped book the musiclans performing at the Fillmore Jazz Festival this year.

The Fourth on Fillmore Features Jazz, World Music

► FROM PAGE 7

contemporary music superstar, OTTMAR LIEBERT, will make an appearance on Saturday at 2 p.m., in between holding down two sets a night that weekend at Yoshi's San Francisco.

Easing us into the first day and the festival Saturday morning is vocalist JENNA MAMMINA, an artist who can take Elvis Costello or Abbey Lincoln songs and seamlessly weave her stories and tasteful arrangements together — "a free soul, a breath of fresh air onstage" the late, great Chronicle critic Phil Elwood satur

Other highlights on Saturday include the COMPEMPORARY JAZZ ORCHESTRA, retruting for a spirited set of modern jazz arrangements; the debut of the CALFORNIA HONEYDROPS (SF Week); *Best Soul & R&B Band*]; the raucus and rollicking jazz-hip hop-funk of MINGUS ANUNGUS; he sweet strains of Hawaii from Faith AKO and the West African folk music set



to harmonies and percussion with THE NIGERIAN BROTHERS.

Sunday morning jumps headlong into the music of jazz titan Wayne Shorter, with powerhouse saxman Michael Zilber's weather wave. Next up, SF's favorite bassist-bandleader and regular Fillmore Jazz Festival headliner marcus steeley returns with his trio, featuring vocalist Renee Wilson. Then another perennial festival favorite — currently enjoying a headlining run at the Rrazz Room — dynamic jazz and blues vocalist Kim Malley will heat up the California Stage, finishing things up with the return of Marco Benevento's group.

On the world music Sutter stage,

On the world music Sutter stage, the Venezuelan Music Project kicks off Sunday morning, followed by singerguitarist MARKUS JAMES & THE WASSONRAI, melding sounds of West Africa with American delta blues. Next up is five time Grammy nominee, master musician, educator and trombonist-composer Wayne Wallace and the wayne Wallace LAIM JAZZ QUANTET. And to close the final day in a fina nod festive fashion, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, the fabulous LOS PINGUOS — who will also be performing an encore performance at Yoshi's on

So we have a few old friends returning this year and a lot of new faces making their Fillmore debut. Bottom line: You can't go wrong this year at the Fillmore Jazz Festival — you just have to be there.

Fillmore on Tuesday the 5th.

Jason Olaine is artistic director of Yoshi's San Francisco. He has also programmed the Newport Jazz Festival, the Newport Folk Festival, the JVC Jazz Festival in New York and Miami, among others, and is a Grammy-winning record producer.

Eddy Street Stage Keeps Blues Alive

Legendary Fillmore bluesman headlines

the hippest easy-going free street party San Francisco has to offer, and this year should be no exception.

The blues will be well represented Saturday on the Eddy Street stage by AMONA THE ALL-STABE.—featuring 2005 Cuitar Player of the Year Alvon Johnson — and by the one and only local blues legend BOBBE: "SPIDER" WEBB AND THE SMOOTH BUES BAND. Last year they had the lower end of Fillmore Street "electric siding" all Over the place.

"I am the Fillmore," Webb declares. "I was raised in the Fillmore. I'm still here." In acknowledgment of his long history in the Fillmore, Webb was once

history in the Fillmore, Webb was once again responsible for choosing the other groups booked to play on the Eddy Street stage.

Closing the stage on Saturday afternoon is LAGOS ROOTS, a rocking Afro-beat band sure to set the street on fire. They are the real deal, pumping out pulsating African rhythms and backed by a solid horn section that will have the street dancing like there's no tomorrow.

And then there's Sunday. The FUTURE







The Elite Cafe

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Fillmore," says Fillmore blues master Bobbie Webb, who rules the Eddy Street stage.

PERFECT BAND is usually inside 1300 on Fillmore restaurant on Sunday mornings for the famous gospel brunch. They'll be out on the street to get the day started.

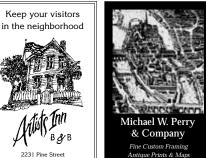
Midday THE GEORGE LACSON PROJECT delivers a youthful blend of jazz, funk and old-school blues. Big, brassy blues singer-songwriter KAYE BOHLER takes the stage next, and we'll see if the critic was right who said, "I'm telling ya, this lady has more than a little Aretha in her big,

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beautiful blues belt." Finish the day with swamp blues from scary larry and the blues monsters.

Clubs in the Jazz District are doing their part, too. Rasselas will feature ROBERT STEWART playing during the JazzFest, which is bound to be a total party. And the Boom Boom Room will once again have the local group STEPPIN playing free both days.

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■ IN THE BEGINNING



'Honey, you got one of me'

Ruth Dewson (above), the longtime proprietor of Mrs. Dewson's Hats and the self-proclaimed Mayor of Fillmore Street, helped start the Fillmore Jazz Festival in 1984.

She recalls approaching promoter Terry Pimsleur, who had started the Union Street Festival, about creating a similar street fair on upper Fillmore, where new businesses were opening and trying to improve the struggling commercial strip. But she was rebuffed, told there weren't enough people or merchants on Fillmore to make a street fair successful.

"I fold her, 'Honey, you got one of me, that's enough,' " Dewson recalls. "I like to tackle things that people say we can't do."

So "Jazz and All that Art on Fillmore" was launched on the Fourth

of July weekend in 1984 and has grown through the years in scale and ambition, eventually being renamed the Fillmore Jazz Festival.

"Right from the beginning it was a success," Dewson says.

She has been battling health problems and now lives in an assisted living facility, but she's planning to be back in her store at 2050 Fillmore Street for this year's festival.

"I'm gonna have a chair outside on the street," she says. "And all the people that like me and love me and want to see me, I'm gonna be sitting outside."

newfillmore.com | video: "Present at the creation"



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8 NEW FILLMORE July 2011

A Painter Combines His Love of Music, Art

By Kellie Ell

P HONEL ROBERTS has a weakness for the colors of summer. He often for the colors on summer paints in bright, vibrant pigments to capture the heat of the season. "I love, love, love color," Roberts says.

"You will rarely see anything from me that is black and white. It will always be color." This year the Northern California

native's painting of a jazz trumpeter is featured on the posters and T-shirts commemorating the 27th annual Fillmore Jazz Festival. The image was inspired by a childhood memory of legendary trumpet player Hugh Masekela.

"It has a lot to do with my upbringing," says Roberts, who grew up in Stockton singing in choirs and playing piano. He mances and people's reactions," he says. "I first heard Masekela play "Grazing in the Grass" on his 13th birthday and says the dimension." melody reminds him of "summer and happier times every time I hear it."

His mother and aunt were also musi-

"Growing up in that environment, with music around me, I like to see perfor-



wanted to capture that - to give it another fusion of art, color and vibrancy which symbolizes the essence of jazz," says Peter Ordinary moments in time chronicling Fitzsimmons, executive director of the Fillmore Jazz Heritage Center, where Roberts'

people, places and things have become "the backbone of what I do" in the studio, he says. "I'm really motivated by the human figure, that movement. I'm attracted to it. People relate to it."

Fillmore artist Rhonel Roberts featured on the year's festival

junior high. "My mom saw that I had a tal-

ent and encouraged me," he said. Later he studied the basics of color composition, art history, printmaking and sculpture at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. Afterward he used his talents as a draftsman and illustrator, working for various Internet companies and as an ar teacher in Sunnyvale.

With his background in art and a love of music, it was only a matter of time before he began painting musicians. His studio and website are filled with images of some of his favorites: Miles Davis, Sarah Vaughn, Aretha Franklin and Thelonious Monk.

Roberts lives near Fillmore Street and works from a studio in the artist collective at Hunter's Point shipyard. His day job is n the home decor department at Neimar Marcus, which he calls "just another can-

Someday he hopes to concentrate exclusively on painting. "It's great to be an African-American painter, which we don't have a lot of, to be able to bring this to the world, to have my own voice, to touch lives," he says. "This is just a sneak peak of paintings have been exhibited. "The poster what's to come from me."

evokes both the mood and feeling of the Roberts will be exhibiting his paintings old Fillmore jazz era and today's Fillmore." in a booth at the jazz festival near Pine Roberts began taking art classes in



Bill Graham in the Fillmore

The Fillmore Jazz Heritage Center at 1320 Fillmore Street has extended its exhibition PRESENTING: BILL GRAHAM until July 17. In his own words, and with family pictures and memorabilia from the Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, the exhibition follows Graham from his childhood in war-torn Germany to a new life in New York, his emergence as a concert promoter in psychedelic San Francisco and his enduring influence on the way rock music is presented Much of the story takes place in the neighborhood

FIRST PERSON

King OF THE

Fillmore

How a scrappy showman turned the Fillmore Auditorium into the temple of rock 'n' roll

By RILL GRAHAM

HE FILLMORE AUDITORIUM was located on Fillmore and Geary, which was like 125th Street and Lenox Avenue in Harlem. What I liked about it was the space. There was a real stage. It was a theater, a real showplace. I loved the size of the floor and the height of the

In there, Charles Sullivan, a black businessman, had booked a lot of the best R&B acts. Usually they would play in Oakland because they could draw more people there. But Charles had put on James Brown and Duke Ellington. At the Fillmore, Bobby Bland and the Temptations had played on shows that Charles Sullivan produced.

Charles was a very big man. He stood about 6'5" and weighted 270 or 280 pounds. He always wore a suit and tie. Charles had cigarette vending machines in the hotels and the bars. He owned a liquor store as well. He also had other things going on. But he was legal. Straight, straight, straight.

We made some arrangements about the bar because he wanted to keep the concessions. I said, "Well, I'm gonna bring in our people and our food but I'll work something out with you." I insisted that he let me run the place that night. It was a one-shot deal. For maybe a couple of hundred bucks. He was very nice. We needed a dance permit but I didn't have one. Of course he had one because he operated the place. So he allowed us to use his permit and didn't charge me for it.

I wrote up a handbill for the second benefit. It said, "The Mime Troupe is holding another appeal party Friday night, December 10, 1965, at the Fillmore Auditorium. The first party last month at the Troupe's South-of-Market loft was so successful that hundreds of the Troupe's friends were turned away because there was no space for them. This time there is a larger hall to dance in and many of the same artists and entertainers will be there, as well as some new ones. The place is huge and like, it's there."

I seemed to have a knack for it. The carrying out of the details of public assemblage. Working the room and hiring the right people to do security. Little by little after the first and second benefits, certain things began ticking me off.

Knowing that the participating extras in this movie were going to tell me whether I was doing the right thing or the wrong thing, I began to realize what could be done without being asked to make it better. I saw I could earn my living by trying to get closer and closer to the way something should be. With me, it was public assemblage.

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How Bill Graham Turned the Fillmore Into the Temple of Rock

NOW, WALTER, THE COP ON THE BEAT, Wasn't too happy about these shows taking place. There was the December show and the January show and he sort of let the word out that he didn't like it. For the February show, I put up a notice on the wall stating that I was applying for my own dance hall permit downtown because Charles Sullivan had said I should. Just in case anything went wrong, in terms of insurance and so on.

Ten days later, I had to go downtown to get my license. When I went, I didn't go with a lawyer. I thought it was an automatic thing. Some woman before me wanted to fix up a beauty shop. Somebody else wanted to change around his lawn. We all had to go in front of the Board of Permit Appeals in the Hall of Justice on Howard Street. I came next. Deputy Chief Scott was holding these hearings. He said, "Anyone in the room opposed to Mr. Graham getting a permit?

These two men stood up. One was Police Lt. Leo Haves from Northern Station. The other was a rabbi from the synagogue next door to the Fillmore. Rabbi Elliot M. Burstein from Congregation Beth Israel, 1939 Geary. A man in his late 30s or early 40s. I was asking for my permit so I could put on a Batman Dance on March 18, 19, 20. The police lieutenant had a petition with 27 names on it. All local merchants who were opposed to me doing business there.

Then the rabbi came up to testify. Deputy Chief Scott said to him, "Yes, rabbi?" His very first lines were, "Your Honor, Mr. Graham's peoples, dey're urinating on mein holy valls."

Í said, "You gotta be out of your mind. Those stains have been on your walls for at least 50 years."

There was a little alleyway that separated the Fillmore from the synagogue. They pissed against this wall, they pissed against that wall. I knew they did. But may before I ever got there. When people are stoned, they piss. Like when a dog sees a hydrant. When I saw the lieutenant come up and then the rabbi come up, I thought, "This isn't an automatic. This isn't just a formality that I'm going through here." Because of their objections, the permit was

When I left there, I called Alan Myerson, a lawyer I knew. Alan recommended Bill Coblentz. First I had to go to Charles Sullivan. I said, "Charles, for the next show, I need to use your permit again. Because the police want to put me away. I'm a white scene in a black neighborhood and it means work for them "

He said. "Yeah. I'm with you. Bill. Let's just see what

Unbeknownst to me, the police had already begun very quietly suggesting to him, "Why let anybody else use your permit?" But he hadn't told me that.

FTER I GOT HOLD OF COBLENTZ, I told Charles Sullivan my problem. Then I put on my suit and tie and went to see every merchant in the neighborhood. White, Oriental and black. I went to the grocery store where I bought all my hot dogs. I said to the guy there, "You sell me your stuff and then you tell me you don't want me here? It's not right." The Chinese people who ran the joint on the corner where I always ate. I wined and dined them socially I became a waiter. I just put on my waiter's mind. "How are you today?" I would

Some guy would be standing in his store in the middle of the day. There'd be no business whatsoever. Every other second, I would keep saying to him, "I know you're a busy man. But do you mind? I don't want to take up too much of your time." The petitions had been taken around by Walter, the cop on the beat. He had collected all the signatures. In the next few weeks, I went from merchant to merchant and got 24 of them to say it was okay, they had no real objection to my running my business there.

I knew that in court no one can argue with religion or kids because you always lose. So I went to see the rabbi next door on my own. I walked in and he said. "Yes. Mr. Graham?" He had an office upstairs in the synagogue and he never once asked me to sit down. I stood in front of him and stated my case. I took the soft approach. Rather than say, "Why did you say those stains were from my

clients?" I said, "Look, I'm trying to run my business here and what is it that you're objecting to

He started lecturing me right off the bat. "Do you know what life is all about?" Real pontification. "Do you know what I'm doing here? People of the Jewish faith come here to pray and read the Torah."

"Yes, I know. But what is it you're objecting to?" Somehow, he finally got to, "You don't understand. What do you know from persecution? Do you know what happened to my people all these years?"

I realized he thought he was talking to a goy. He said, "You don't know, you don't understand, you don't have the suffering."

Before I blew up, I said, "Can I ask you a question, rabbi? Have you ever been outside the United States? "What has that got to do with persecution?"

"Have you?"
"No."

"How dare you talk to me about persecution?" In about 30 seconds, I left him have it. What happened to my mother and my sisters [in the Holocaust]. I told him everything. At top volume. "Calm down. Mr. Graham, calm down," he said. This was his other classic line. "I didn't know, I didn't know, You're a Yid?"That was the one that killed me. That made me

NE DAY AFTER THAT, in the late afternoon, Charles Sullivan came to the Fillmore. This was late March or early April. He didn't look too good, "Bill," he said, "I have to talk to you," He sat me down and said, "I got to level with you. They're leaning on me hard and I got a business to run and I got a wife and kids and I have to pull my permit. I can't go no further, Bill, I gotta pull it."

I'd felt that this was coming. I didn't know whether to go somewhere else, or what to do. I do remember going home that night and saying, "Well, we'll go in the morning and get our stuff." As far as I was concerned, it was over.

The next morning, I got to the Fillmore and there was Charles Sullivan sitting on the steps. Same suit, shirt and tie from the day before. He was disheveled and it was obvious to me that he had been up all night. I went and put my hand on his shoulder and said, "You all right?" And he said, "Bill, I want to talk to you.

So we went upstairs to my little cubbyhole office and he proceeded to tell me his life story. How he had been born in New Orleans and had to leave the South because he couldn't take always being challenged because he was such a big black man. How he had made his way up to Chicago and started working in the meat packinghouses, met his wife, saved some money and decided to come out to California, the land of promise. Along the way, the white man had messed with him. Every time he was due a promotion and some white guy got it instead, Charles would say, "I didn't cause no one no harm."

He said, "Bill, I came out here and I saved my money and I started cetting into vending machines and I bought a little piece of property and opened a liquor store and I put my kids through school. I had some setbacks but Γm doin' okay now. Now these guys downtown are leanin' on me hard and they want me to take my permit away from you. Now I watched you start . .

He was shaking as he talked to me. "Yesterday, they really got to me," he said. "Sayin', 'You got vending machines, Mr. Sullivan, and you got liquor stores and you got your little business going and why don't you let us deal with that man and back off?"

And he said, "Bill, it's my life. After I saw you last night, I started thinking about myself and what I been through and what they're making you do now." Then he just broke down. He said, "I can't do it. I can't. I just can't back off. I can't pull that permit away from you.

He leaned forward and got all choked up. His eyes were red from no sleep. He was angry inside and he said, "No, no, no. I just ain't going to let this happen now. You just go back downtown, man. And you beat those white

He was the guy, Charles. He was it. I don't know if I could have ever found another place. Why would I have even tried? That mas the place.

Excerpted from Bill Graham Presents: My Life Inside Rock and Out by Bill Graham and Robert Greenfield. C David and Alex Graham. Published by Doubleday.



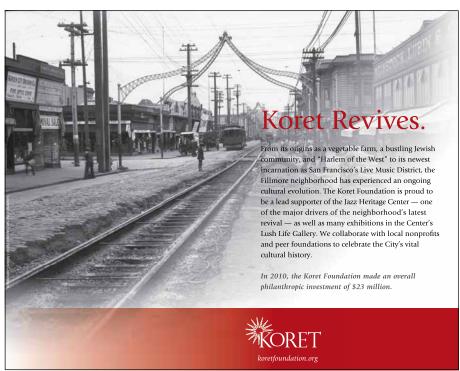
Bill Graham outside Winterland, a former ice skating rink at Steiner and Post Streets, where he presented many memorable rock concerts

'Nothing ever replaced Winterland'

Winterland was my ongoing, free-form space. I loved that place. People loved it because when they got in there, it was like their bowling alley or their shvitz. It was their joint. They loved that they could sit all the way around the stage.

It was a great house One that was as good to me, if not better, than the original Fillmore. I can probably count more great shows there than at the Fillmores because they ended in 1971 and Winterland went on for another seven years. All the great New Year's Eve shows with the Grateful Dead were there.

After Winterland closed, we did shows at the Kabuki Theater and the Old Waldorf and the Warfield Theater. We got into clubs. But nothing ever replaced Winterland. After Winterland, San Francisco changed. The communal aspect of going to shows disappeared.





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Single Family Homes

2882 Pine St	1	1	3	864	5/18/11	612,850	661,000
2035 Greenwich St	3	3	4		5/27/11	1,268,000	1,162,500
2523 Steiner St	3	2	1	1379	5/27/11	1,450,000	1,260,000
1613 Lyon St	3	2.5	2	1980	5/27/11	1,287,000	1,275,000
1973 Greenwich St	3	2.5	3		6/8/11	1,795,000	1,800,000
1778-1780 Green St	4	3.5	2	3502	6/9/11	2,495,000	2,415,000
2730 Union St	3	2.5	1		6/3/11	2,495,000	2,495,000
2010 Lyon St	5	4.5	1	3956	6/1/11	3,375,000	3,200,000
2744 Steiner St	6	3.5	2		5/27/11	3,450,000	3,225,000
2655 Scott St	3	2.5	2		5/24/11	3,300,000	3,244,769
2844 Broderick St	4	5	2	3936	6/8/11	3,950,000	3,825,000
2747 Green St	5	4.5	2	5165	5/24/11	4,800,000	4,800,000
2420 Pacific Ave	10	8.5	2	10650	5/17/11	8,700,000	7,400,000
Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Lofts							
2760 Sacramento St #6	1	1	0	1220	5/31/11	250,765	250,765
2999 California St #404	0	1	0	653	5/26/11	339,000	309,000
1817 California St #307	1	1	1	537	6/2/11	325,000	340,000
2149 Lyon St #1	2	1	0		5/24/11	439,000	439,000
1998 Broadway #1202	1	1	1	700	6/2/11	539,000	520,000
2556 Gough St #A	1	1	1	799	6/10/11	589,000	570,000
2164 Pacific Ave	2	2	1		5/24/11	675,000	630,000
2230 Pacific Ave #202	1	1	1	730	5/26/11	648,000	648,000
2060 Sutter St #407	2	2	1	988	5/18/11	685,000	665,000
2149 Lyon St #5	2	1.5	1		5/24/11	699,000	699,000
2802 Clay St	1	1	1	940	6/15/11	695,000	715,000
3103 Jackson St	2	1	1		5/24/11	729,000	729,000
2200 Sacramento St #605	1	2	1	850	5/27/11	795,000	750,000
1800 Washington St #110A	2	2.5	1	1083	6/7/11	765,000	754,888
1998 Broadway #907	2	2	1		6/1/11	815,000	782,000
3542 California St S	2	1	1	1195	6/14/11	799,000	799,000
1701 Jackson St #801	2	2	1		6/7/11	859,000	839,900
1600 Webster St #402	2	2	2	1313	6/14/11	939,000	894,500
2112 California St	2	2	2		5/20/11	1,135,000	1,050,000
3493 Sacramento St	3	2	1	1508	5/18/11	1,075,000	1,075,000
2756 Baker St	2	1.5	1		5/23/11	1,100,000	1,100,000
2144 Broderick St	2	2	1		6/10/11	1,295,000	1,295,000
2100 Green St #502	2	2	1		5/31/11	1,375,000	1,300,000
2249 Clay St #1	3	3	2	1960	6/9/11	1,345,000	1,328,000
3330 California St #1	3	3.5	1	1855	5/24/11	1,625,000	1,590,000
2001 Lyon St	3	2	1	2598	6/2/11	1,795,000	1,795,000
2190 Broadway #5E	3	3.5	1		6/14/11	2,795,000	2,660,000
2621 Pacific Ave	3	3.5	1	2772	5/18/11	2,998,000	2,725,000
1958 Vallejo St #9	4	4.5	1	2749	5/25/11	3,250,000	3,035,000

10 bedrooms for \$7.4 million

Both the volume of sales and the average sales price of single family homes moved upward during the past month. But a couple of notable single family homes sold for significantly reduced prices, including 2420 Pacific Avenue, a Georgian mansion designed by German architect Julius Ernest Krafft, which exchanged hands to only its third owner since it was built in 1902. Originally listed at \$12.8 million but ultimately sold for \$7.4 million, the 10-bedroom, 8.5-bath property features magnificent views, a ballroom, nine fireplaces and a formal reception room in its 10,650 square feet of living space. After a serious price adjustment, 2523 Steiner Street was sold last month for \$1.26 million by the bank that owned it. The renovated 3-bedroom, 2-bath house with distinctive exterior wooden framing, since painted, had been listed for \$3.3 million in 2006.

The volume of condominium sales increased slightly last month, but the average sales price slipped a bit. Sales of both single family homes and condos are expected to slow during San Francisco's summer real estate season.

NEW LISTINGS: At the corner of Steiner Street is 2400 Vallejo Street, an Albert Farr-designed 1905 craftsman. The 6-bedroom, 4.5-bath home features an elevator and panoramic views for just under \$4 million. A classic Victorian near Fillmore Street, 2250 Bush Street has a modern floor plan that includes 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, a gourmet kitchen, private library, wet bar and three-car garage for \$2.195 million. A wide variety of new condos hit the market as well, ranging from a \$400,000 1-bedroom garden unit in prime Pacific Heights at 2114 Baker Street #1 to a two-level condo with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and views to the north, but no parking, for just over \$3 million at 2462 Broadway, Also new on the market is a full-floor luxury view apartment in the nine-unit co-op building at 2288 Broadway, at the top of the Fillmore hill, with 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, It's listed at just under \$6 million.

 Data and commentary provided by VICTORIA STEWART DAVIS at Pacific Union. Contact her at vdavis@pacunion.com or call 345-3760.



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LOCALS

Growing Up Along Fillmore: A Kid's Paradise

By CHARLIE GREENE

THE CORNER of Jackson and Fillmore was the center of the universe when I was growing up at 2449 Jackson Street in the 1950s and 60s You could get anywhere in the city on four Muni bus lines — the 22-Fillmore, 80-Leavenworth, 3-Jackson and 24-Divisadero — plus the Washington-Jackson cable car.

The 22-Fillmore — the Double Deuce — was my favorite. It could take you north to the Marina or south through the Fillmore, the Mission and all the way to Potrero Hill. I used to ride my skateboard on Fillmore, holding on to the round wire holders on the back of the bus to get a running start. I will never forget the chug-achug sound the 3 and 22 made going up and down the hills of San Francisco.

The cable cars were really loud, but it was cool when they rang the bell letting everyone know they were taking off. My older sister would get dressed up with white gloves and patent leather shoes and ride the cable car with my mom to go shopping downtown at the City of Paris, I. Magnin's and Blum's. I was jealous she got to have the coffee crunch cake at Blum's. It was the best.

The end of the cable car line was at Washington and Fillmore, also home to Joe's Smoke Shop, which had great greasy burgers and Nehi orange sodas. There was a barber shop next door. Across the street was the Unique Market. where my mom had a charge account I used for soda, chips, candy - anything a kid could want.

I was back on Fillmore in early June for an alumni breakfast at Stuart Hall School for Boys on Broadway.



The end of the line for the Washington-Jackson cable car

I took the same sidewalk I took to school every day for eight years, walking along Fillmore from Jackson to

After breakfast I stopped to visit with Phil Kaplan at Bond Cleaners on Fillmore near Jackson. His shop is the only one left from when I was growing up. Bond Cleaners has been there since 1952, the year I was born. Tom's drugstore was next door and had every magazine a kid could want - and some I wasn't supposed to look at.

The really cool thing about growing up here was Alta Plaza Park. My first memory of the park was when I was four years old. I ran away from my babysitter and crossed Steiner Street for the first time alone. She quit on the spot after calling my mother to come and get me. Poor mom hurt her back walking up the hill into the park to find me. Of course I blamed it all on my sister

The views from Alta Plaza were amazing. You could see the bay with the Golden Gate Bridge on the north and a huge swath of the city on the south.

These days, kids communicate by texting and cell phones. But back then, my neighborhood friends and I used the fences in our backyards. We all lived on the square block of Jackson, Steiner, Washington and Fillmore. If we wanted to get hold of each other, we would climb the fences to get to our buddy's house, then use our secret whistle to call him outside.

When I was around 14 or 15, I used to walk down Fillmore with a friend to the Fillmore Auditorium on Geary, On Sunday afternoons, Bill Graham let kids in for the concert. I will never forget the first time I saw him. He was screaming at someone, saw us and invited us upstairs for free apples and the concert. Country Joe & the Fish opened for the Yardbirds, with Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page. The light show was surreal.

I was a white kid growing up near a black neighborhood in the 1960s, and anything south of Pine Street was considered a little scary. I remember walking down Fillmore past Pine during the Watts riots. An elderly black man told me point blank that this was neither the time nor the place for a white kid to be out for a walk. "Just get on home," he instructed me.

There were a lot more bars on Fillmore Street when I was growing up. There was the Hillcrest on the northwest corner of Sacramento and Fillmore, the Hideaway a few doors north and Minnie's Can Do Club farther south. Then there was Lee's Liquors on the southeast corner of Fillmore and Sutter Lee's and the corner store a block south at Post and Fillmore would (hush-hush) sneak us white boys in to buy liquor after hours.

I live in Marin County now and walking back on Fillmore is a real treat. It used to drive my kids crazy when I made them go on the tour of my old neighborhood. But to this day I remember the cable cars rumbling by my house on Jackson Street and I miss the foghorns early in the morning.

Fillmore will always be the 'hood I loved and cherished



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