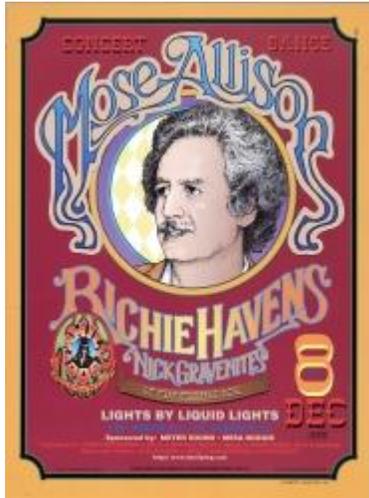


Classic Posters - The Maritime Hall Series

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by Michael Erlewine

Michael@Erlewine.net



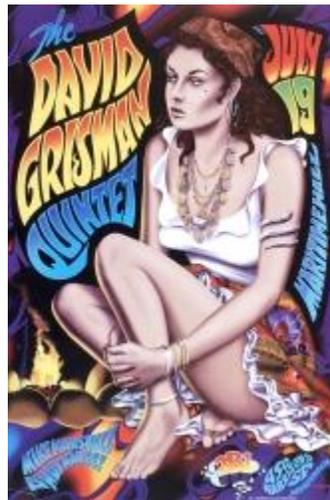
Family Dog at the Maritime Hall

In 1994, the Family Dog group decided to once again launch a dancehall, this time at the Maritime Hall at 450 Harrison Street, along the waterfront at the foot of the Bay Bridge. Then in 1995, the original founder of the Family Dog, Chet Helms, along with local promoter/musician Boots Hughston, Pepperland promoter Bobby Blackburn, and photographer Grant Jacobs more formally re-launched the Family Dog dances at Maritime Hall.



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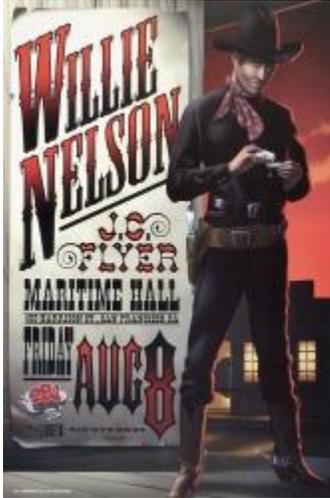
The hall is a 3-story building that includes a ballroom that holds 2,300 people, a smaller room (1,200 capacity), and even a restaurant/blues club called the Deep Sea Dog. They installed a custom sound system, developed by sound pioneer John Meyers, and made ready for some killer light shows, from legendary figures like Bill Ham and the Brotherhood of Light. Plans also included an 8-camera video projection system that kept everyone in touch with the main stage and recording equipment.



Maritime Hall Productions

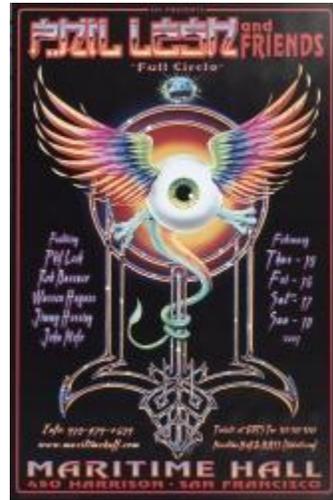
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A five-year lease was signed, but the Family Dog shows only ran from the opening on October 27, 1995 through May of 1996, after which the Maritime Hall shows were no longer Family Dog productions, but became Maritime Hall Productions and then was operated by the production company 2B1, which ran shows at least until late 2002.



Maritime Hall Productions

The result is a series of some 129 or so posters, mainly monthly calendars, most with cards that, until recently, have mostly been ignored by collectors. It is often the case that a series is not appreciated when it is running, but as soon as it stops, collection begins. That is happening now with the Maritime Hall materials. It is a nice set and a longer set than most, almost as long as the original Family Dog series.



Maritime Hall Productions