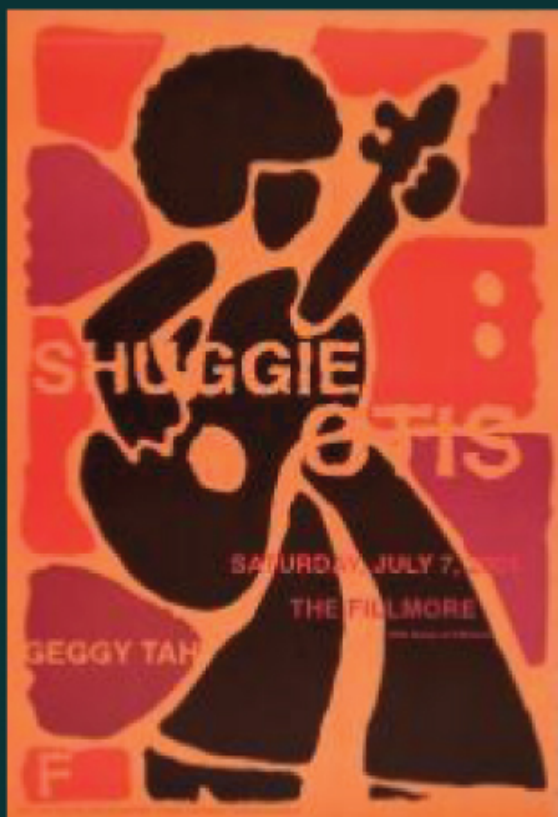


BGF: New Fillmore



by Michael Erlewine

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Concert Posters - BGF

The New Fillmore Series

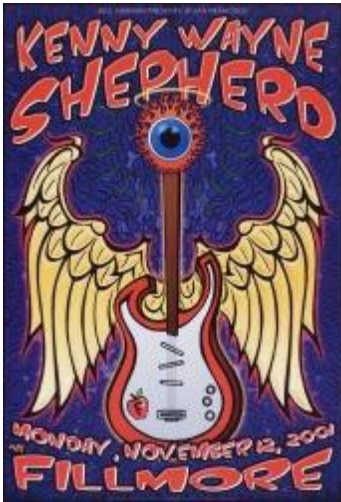
by Michael Erlewine

The original Bill Graham series ended in early July of 1971, with two additional concerts, one in June of 1972 and another in June of 1973. That was the end of the original scene at the Fillmore West. In March of 1988, some 16 years after the original Fillmore series ended, Bill Graham re-established weekly shows at the Fillmore Auditorium. The venue was temporarily closed by the San Francisco earthquake of 1989. After Graham's death in 1991, the building was restored to its present condition, and shows continued. This series, which is verging on 600 posters at this point, has been going ever since. These posters, as were the original BG series, are handed out to patrons at the end of each show. This series is often called the "New Fillmore," or simply the BGF series.



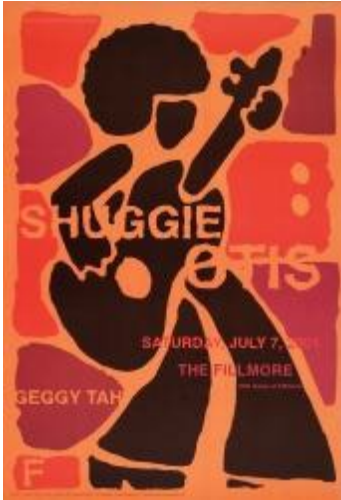
Robert Earl Keen by Christopher Peterson

Today, in late 2004, the BGF series is still going strong, even though Bill Graham Presents was first sold to SFX, and later to Clear Channel. As of this writing, there are more than 622 posters in this series, making it one of the two longest runs of posters in existence, the other being its companion venue BGP (Bill Graham Presents), boasting more than 325 events. Either of these has outrun any of the classic sets, like the Family Dog and the original BGs.



Kenny Wayne Sheperd by Chris Shaw

For the most part, all of the BGF posters are 13 x 19 inches, and flawlessly printed on good stock. The list of artists would be too long to warrant printing here, but include masters like: Alton Kelley, Amacker Bullwinkle, Chris Shaw, Christopher Peterson, Chuck Sperry, Craig Howell, Frank Wiedemann, Harry Rossit, Jim Phillips, Joel Elrod, John Howard, Jonathan Hess, Randy Tuten, Rex Ray, Ron Donovan, Steven Cerio, Winston Smith, and many, many others. All of this under the eagle-like aegis of artist and producer Arlene Owseichick.



Shuggie Otis by Scott Idleman

This series can be purchased at WolfgangsVault.com.

There are so many posters in the series and it has been going on for so long that, only recently, have collectors really attempted to assemble a complete collection. At about 1000 posters, this is no small feat. This is a huge number of posters, so many that one person can't even lift them all! The band list alone runs into the many hundreds of names. Paging through them, which I just did, is like taking a trip through modern music history. It took hours too.

The art in these series ranges far and wide, from awesome stop-you-in-your-tracks pieces, to the witty

and humorous, the in-your-face, and an ample amount of average pieces. Some lousy pieces too. There is enough material here to keep an art gallery in rotation virtually forever.

This is, to the best of my knowledge, a complete set of the BGF: New Fillmore posters.



Craig David by Arlene Owseichik

This series may be purchased at WolfgangVault.com