

Entertainment

Billy Preston To Shine With Don Rickles In Sahara's Congo Room!

As much as Rickles will warm an audience with his unique and cutting brand of humor, Billy Preston will charm them with his

unmatched talent as a musician. Preston is opening for Rickles during his engagement at the Sahara's

Congo Room July 19-28.

Preston learned about the life of a musician early on. Born in Houston, Preston and his family moved to Los Angeles when he was one to follow his mother's singing/acting career. He learned to play the piano at the age of two and at seven was playing organ in church and directing the church choir.

By the age of 10, he had made his symphony debut and appeared in his first movie. In 1962, Preston joined Little Richard's band for a gospel tour of England. When the tour began, it included Gerry and the Pacemakers and the Beatles. "George Harrison and I got friendly 'way back then,'" says Preston. Although asked to perform with the Beatles on that tour (Preston had to turn down the opportunity that time due to



Billy Preston

Richard's possible protests), he later became 'the fifth Beatle.' Preston participated in the 'Let It Be' film and album session and signed on with Apple Records.

Preston has performed with such names as Ray

Charles, Mahalia Jackson, Sam Cooke, Quincy Jones, George Harrison, Aretha Franklin, Sly and the Family Stone and a host of others. His hits include "That's the Way God Planned It," "Will It Go Round in Circles,"

"Everybody Likes Some Kind of Music" and "Nothing from Nothing."

After signing on with Motown Records, his first project was the soundtrack for the movie "Fast Break." Preston has begun serious acting lessons and has four musical films to his credit.

His personal hobbies include his automobile collection and raising horses on his ranch.

Billy has several albums in the works and his strong religious convictions keep him actively singing and playing at church. He is quick to credit his talents as "A God given gift."

Rickles and Preston will perform twice each night on July 26 and 27 and in the early show throughout the remainder of the engagement.



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