

BILL MAGEE

Voted the Best Blues Band in San Diego by the San Diego Music Association and *Reader Magazine*; one of the most sought after local bands in the city. He has also been featured in numerous newspaper, radio and television interviews.

Since his first CD, "Steppin' Out", he has just been tearin' up the San Diego Blues Scene. His album "Low Down Dirty Blues" has received rave reviews in several publications such as "Blue Ink". His latest work entitled "Good Morning Mississippi (Thank You For Being My Home)" is available online at his website <http://billmageeblues.com>

Bill's own New York/Chicago style blues live performances are electrifying. You'll be moving and grooving to every one of his beats. Bill Magee connects with his audience as his music flows like magic.

Being born and raised for awhile in the back woods in Collins, Mississippi, Willie (Bill) Magee grew up loving music. On his Father's little radio, he listened to the legends of Blues music on the late-night music programs of the Deep South.

However, it was during his childhood that he also learned about tragedy. With no warning, his mother passed away when he was only thirteen. It was a blow that would see him and his older brother Deloy end up sharing a tiny one room flat in Ithaca, New York.

While hanging out at the Community Center, Willie began to form a friendship with guitarist, Butch Rosenberg. They spent many hours listening to Rhythm and Blues on the radio. Willie especially had an avid interest in the styles of blues legends like Muddy Waters, Elmore Leonard and B.B. King.

Working part time at a department store after school, he managed to save enough money for his first guitar- a \$29.99 Montgomery Ward special. Much to the dismay of his brother, music became Willie's life and he practiced steadily for a solid year. Music also led him to join his first band at fourteen years old.

Working with various local bands, he was soon earning money, he also managed to graduate from High School... the FIRST in his family to do so! His driving ambition was to become the "best guitarist" in the country. He also made a vow to Deloy to SOMEDAY play at the Apollo Theatre.

Moving to the Big Apple, he rented a flat in Harlem directly across from the Apollo. He dreamed of having his name on the marquee. Before long, he was working seven nights a week. One night he decided to check out a group named the "King Curtis Band" at the Small Paradise Club. Asking to sit in, he played three songs until the regular guitarist joined in. The air was electric as the guitarists traded off solos and riffs.

That summer, 1963, another budding musician now known as Jimi Hendrix, along with Willie, entered the music scene together in the band they formed known as 'Jimmy James and the Flames'. By 1967, Jimmy James had left for England and eventually made music history. In the meantime, Willie put together his own band the 'Kansas City Playboys'.

Willie's professionalism kept him touring the "Chitlin Circuit" and on the New York scene when he was home.

During this time, Bill Magee played with some of the greats: B.B. King, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, Otis Redding, John Lee Hooker, Bobby Blue Bland, Wilson Pickett, and Bo Diddley among others in venues like the Regal and McCormick Place in Chicago, the Royal in D.C., Madison Square Garden, Fillmore East, the Baby Grand, as well as both Yankee and Shea Stadiums. Several years were spent on the road opening for the James Brown Revue including the Apollo Theater... and the vow made to his brother became a reality.

With the birth of his fourth child, Willie finally had enough of the music business, including the years of relentless touring, late nights, etc. He gave it up for a 9-to-5 and fatherhood. Relocating in San Diego in 1987, he continued his hiatus until 1993. With music still in his blood, Bill was let to return to performing. Slowly at first, he began to 'get his chops back' after being out of the business for almost nine years.

The artist now known as Bill Magee is one of San Diego's rare finds and is the REAL DEAL. Catch him live at one of the many establishments he plays! A good time will be had by all.