

Purple Phoenix Productions
is pleased to present

The Unforgettable Nat 'King' Cole

A Tribute Concert

This tribute concert features gifted vocalist/entertainer **Sheldon Craig**, accompanied by a live 9-piece jazz band. The program includes songs that the legendary Nat "King" Cole recorded and performed during his career, including "Mona Lisa", "Walkin' My Baby Back Home", "Nature Boy", "Route 66", "Straighten Up and Fly Right", "L-O-V-E", "Avalon", "Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucoup", "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer", "Ramblin' Rose", "Papa Loves Mambo", "When I Fall In Love", "Smile", "Send For Me" and his trademark hit "Unforgettable".

Nat "King" Cole made history as the first African-American to host his own national television show – a variety program which featured many of his friends, who were also top performers of the day (Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Harry Belafonte, Eartha Kitt) who performed on his show for little or no pay as the series was never able to find national sponsorship in such a racially segregated time.

Cole performed in many short films, sitcoms, and television shows and played W. C. Handy in the film *St. Louis Blues* with Pearl Bailey, Cab Calloway, Eartha Kitt and Mahalia Jackson. He also appeared in *The Nat King Cole Story*, *China Gate*, *The Blue Gardenia*, and *Cat Ballou* (his final film), which was released several months after his death in 1965 at the age of 46 of lung cancer, having been a life-long 3-pack-a-day smoker.

In 1990, he was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 1997 was inducted into the *Down Beat* Jazz Hall Of Fame. In 2007, he was inducted into the Hit Parade Hall of Fame. In 2000, **Cole** was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of the major influences on early rock and roll.

Mr. Craig, an accomplished entertainer in his own right, brings the excitement of a Nat "King" Cole concert to life with astounding ease, electrifying his audiences in every performance.



Photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

Sheldon Craig in THE UNFORGETTABLE NAT "KING" COLE

"Sheldon Craig [is] a singer dripping with great talent, a beautiful voice, and a personality that rivals both"
- Michael Dresdner, South Sound Blog

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