



## **WAR with Special Guests Canned Heat & JJ Walker Table Mountain Concert Series Presented by Modelo Especial, Toyota and Valero**

On opening night of the 2023 Big Fresno Fair is the KMJ's Big Fresno Fair Kickoff Concert featuring WAR with special guests Canned Heat and JJ Walker! The fun happens on Wednesday, October 4 at 7 p.m. as part of the Table Mountain Concert Series presented by Modelo Especial, Toyota, and Valero!

THE YEAR WAS 1969...And these 'kids' had the nerve to carry the name WAR at a time when peace was the slogan in an anti-Vietnam America. "Our mission was to spread a message of brotherhood and harmony." Original Band Members included; Lonnie Jordan/singer/keyboardist, Howard Scott/guitars/ vocal, Lee Oskar/harmonica, B.B. Dickerson/bass vocals, Harold Brown/drums/ vocals, the late Thomas "Papa Dee" Allen/congas/timbales, and Charles Miller /saxophonist/flutist.

"Our instruments and voices became our weapons of choice and the songs our ammunition. We spoke out against racism, hunger, gangs, crimes, and turf wars, as we embraced all people with hope and the spirit of brotherhood. It's just as apropos today" WAR, the original street band, was brought together by veteran record producer Jerry Goldstein ("My Boyfriend's Back", "Hang On Sloopy", "I Want Candy") and rock legend Eric Burdon (ex-lead singer of the top British band The Animals). "I first saw some of the guys who would eventually become WAR playing at a topless beer bar in the San Fernando Valley, backing Deacon Jones, the pro football player, and knew immediately how potent these kids were," states Goldstein. "I was friends with Eric and he was ready to throw in the towel on the music scene and return to Newcastle. He was tired of the 'rock' thing and desperate for a fresh authentic sound. I called him the morning after I first saw the band and made him return to the club the next night with me. Eric was so blown away by what he had heard that he jumped on stage to jam with them. The guys weren't familiar with Eric or The Animals. I had them in the studio within a week, and the rest is history!"

Canned Heat rose to fame because their knowledge and love of blues music was both wide and deep. Emerging in 1966, Canned Heat was founded by blues historians and record collectors Alan "Blind Owl" Wilson and Bob "The Bear" Hite. Hite took the name "Canned Heat" from a 1928 recording by Tommy Johnson. They were joined by Henry "The Sunflower" Vestine, another ardent record collector who was a former member of Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention. Rounding out the band in 1967 were Larry "The Mole" Taylor on bass, an experienced session musician who had played with Jerry Lee Lewis and The Monkees and Adolfo "Fito" de la Parra on drums who had played in two of the biggest Latin American bands, Los Sinners and Los Hooligans.

The band attained three worldwide hits, "On The Road Again" in 1968, "Let's Work Together" in 1970 and "Going Up The Country" in 1969 became rock anthems throughout the world with the latter being adopted as the unofficial theme song for the film Woodstock and the "Woodstock Generation."



Despite these untimely deaths and assorted musical trends, Canned Heat has survived. They have performed at world-renowned venues such as Paris' Olympia, both Fillmore Auditoriums, The Kaleidoscope, Carnegie Hall (with John Lee Hooker), Madison Square Garden and even Royal Albert Hall and have played more festivals, biker gatherings and charity events than any other band in the world. They and/or their music have been featured on television (In Concert, David Frost, Merv Griffin, Midnight Special, Playboy After Dark, etc.), and in films ("Woodstock," "Flashback," and "Forrest Gump") etc. Their legend has recently been heard and felt in various television commercials ("On The Road Again" for Miller Beer and Chevrolet, "Goin' Up The Country" for Geico Insurance, Pepsi and McDonalds, "Let's Work Together" for Target Stores and Amazon along with other songs for 7-Up, Levi's and Heineken Beer).

Now, more than fifty years later and with forty albums to their credit, Canned Heat is still going strong. They have been anchored throughout the past fifty-three years by the steady hand of drummer/band leader and historian, Adolfo "Fito" de la Parra. Continuing on into his twelfth year, New Orleans' legend, Dale Spalding is on harmonica, guitar and lead vocals and for the past two years, inventive bassist, Rick Reed became part of the lineup after stints with Paul Butterfield, John Mayall and the Chicago Blues Reunion. The newest addition on lead guitar and vocals is the incredible Jimmy Vivino. Jimmy is best known for his 28 year association as guitarist, arranger and music director for Late Night with Conan O'Brien. Before that, he had a 20 year career playing with artists including Al Kooper, Charlie Musselwhite, Michael McDonald and many others.

Jimmie JJ Walker is an American actor and comedian. Walker is best known for portraying James Evans Jr. (J.J.), the oldest son of Florida and James Evans Sr. on the CBS television series *Good Times* which originally ran from 1974-1979. Walker was nominated for Golden Globe awards for Best Supporting Actor In A Television Series in 1975 and 1976 for his role. While on the show, Walker's character was known for the catchphrase "Dy-no-mite!"

Whether it's his first love of performing stand-up or captivating millions with his Emmy-winning role as "J.J. Evans" in the iconic television series "Good Times," Jimmie Walker has now been entertaining audiences around the world for over four decades.

Raised in the South Bronx, he went to Dewitt Clinton and Theodore Roosevelt High School, Jimmie first achieved success as a stand-up comedian working in Harlem with The Last Poets and The Black Panthers in the late 1960's and early 1970's, then on the "Chitlin' Circuit," working with such legends as Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Gladys Knight & The Pips, The Four Tops, Earth, Wind And Fire, Bob Marley and the Wailers, Chuck Berry, Tina Turner, Jerry Lee Lewis, Randy Travis, Peter Frampton, and Diana Ross & The Supremes. His overwhelming charisma and command of the stage caught the eye of "Good Times" producer Norman Lear, and his career to superstardom was on its way.



Even after the historically successful run of “Good Times” ended, Jimmie continued to stay in the limelight as seen by his countless appearances on “The Tonight Show,” “Late Night with David Letterman,” “Merv Griffin,” and “The Mike Douglas Show.” He’s also kept his acting skills sharp with guest appearances on “Everybody Hates Chris,” “The George Lopez Show,” and “Scrubs” and classic movies “Airplane” and “Let’s Do It Again” with Sidney Poitier as well as finding time to write a New York Times best-selling book, two Grammy Nominated Comedy Albums and film an up-coming stand-up special.

#### **WAR Highlights**

- 1973 | Best Selling Album of 1973 with their album *The World Is A Ghetto*.
- September 16, 1970 | Performed with Jimi Hendrix on his last public performance.
- 2019 & 2014 | Nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
- Honored with 17 gold, platinum, or multi-platinum awards for their songs.

#### **Canned Heat Highlights**

- 1966 | Canned Heat was founded
- 1968 | Band attained worldwide hits “On The Road Again,” “Let’s Work Together”
- 1969 | Headlined the 1969 Woodstock Festival
- Canned Heat music has been featured on television and films such as *Woodstock*, *Flashback* and *Forrest Gump*.

#### **JJ Walker**

- 1974–1979 | Portrayed James Evans Jr. (J.J.) on the CBS television series *Good Times*
- 1976 & 1976 | Nominated for Golden Globe awards for Best Supporting Actor in a TV Series
- 1970s | Named Time Magazine’s “Comedian of the Decade”
- Has worked with legends such as Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Earth Wind and Fire and Bob Marley to name a few

**WAR – Wednesday, October 4 @ 7 p.m. – Ticket Prices: \$35, \$25, \$15**