

NEWS



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LAVAY SMITH PERFORMS FEBRUARY 12 IN SUNNYVALE

Forties and Fifties Jazz and Blues for “Red Hot” Valentine’s Day

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Jazz and blues diva Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers will perform Valentine’s Day weekend with a concert at Sunnyvale Theatre, Saturday, February 12, at 8 p.m., as part of the City’s Evenings of Cultural Arts concert series.

Glamour girl Smith’s lush voice recalls past greats like Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, Dinah Washington and Little Esther Phillips, as she performs classic swing jazz and sultry blues from the Forties and Fifties. Her sassy, sexy stage presence has made her a long time Bay Area favorite and frequent performer at blues and jazz festivals nationwide. She’s won kudos from critics at the *Los Angeles Times* and *Boston Globe*, as well as jazz specialty publications, including *DownBeat* and *Jazziz*, and famous fans, including big band leader and R&B impresario Johnny Otis, Dan Akroyd – who hosts the radio program House of Blues Radio Hour – and former President Bill Clinton.

Lavay’s all-star band, together since 1989, is one of the best in the business. Musical director, pianist and arranger Chris Siebert is a noted authority on swing, jazz and blues music.

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The Red Hot Skillet Lickers line-up includes trumpet players Mike Olmos, Bill Ortiz and Allen Smith; trombone player Danny Armstrong; saxophonists Jules Broussard, Howard Wiley, Robert Stewart, Charles McNeal and Pete Cornillon; guitar player Charlie Siebert; bass players David Ewell and Marcus Shelby; and drummer Darrell Green.

The musicians' individual credits read like a who's who of jazz and blues. Members have performed and recorded with Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra and Wynton Marsalis, among many others.

The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single subscriptions start at \$80. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. Group discounts are available. For tickets, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at (408) 733-6611. The box office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit *Arts.inSunnyvale.com* on the Web.

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