

July 25, 2018  
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**HIPPIEFEST TOUR 2018 TO ROLL INTO PARK PLAYHOUSE  
ON "MAGIC" BUS  
FILLED WITH HALCYON DAY HIT MAKERS INCLUDING  
VANILLA FUDGE, RICK DERRINGER,  
MITCH RYDER & THE DETROIT WHEELS  
AND BADFINGER FEATURING JOEY MOLLAND**

**FORT LAUDERDALE** – The Parker Playhouse invites you to let your freak flags fly, once again, as the immensely popular Hippiefest tour -- featuring Vanilla Fudge, Rick Derringer, Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels and Badfinger featuring Joey Molland -- returns to celebrate an incredible era in music and American culture on Sunday, August 5 at 6 p.m.

**We're not ones to keep you hangin' on!**

Vanilla Fudge was one of the first American groups to infuse psychedelia into a heavy rock sound to create "psychedelic symphonic rock," an eclectic genre which would, among its many offshoots, eventually morph into heavy metal. Although, at first, the band did not record original material, they were best known for their dramatic, heavy, slowed-down arrangements of contemporary pop songs which they developed into works of epic proportions. In 1967, the band, formerly known as The Pigeons, changed their name to Vanilla Fudge and the rest is history. It wasn't long before the band -- featuring organist/vocalist Mark Stein, guitarist/vocalist Vince Martell, drummer/vocalist Carmine Appice and bassist/vocalist Tim Bogert -- was touring extensively behind its covers-heavy, jam-oriented, self-titled debut album, *Vanilla Fudge*, to expand their fan base. It was released the day after the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album (6/2/1967) and quickly rose up the charts to No. 4 without the aid of a big hit single. In 1968, the group performed their heavy-rocking, trippy, psychedelic version of The Supremes' "You Keep Me Hangin' On" on The Ed Sullivan Show and released their second album, *The Beat Goes On*, that also escalated into the Top 20. The band toured with Jimi Hendrix, played dates equal-billed or headlined with groups such as Cream, Janis Joplin and Jefferson Airplane, among many others; late in the year, they toured with the fledgling Led Zeppelin as their opening act. Over the years, the band (now consisting of Stein, Martell, Appice and eight-year member, bassist/vocalist Pete Bremy) has continued to perform and record together. In 2016, they released their most recent studio CD, titled *Spirit of '67*. Last year, Vanilla Fudge celebrated their 50th Anniversary!

**Rock and Roll, Hoochie Koo!**

When guitar slinger Rick Derringer breaks into his legendary rock anthem, "Rock and Roll, Hoochie Koo," you'll likely see many an air guitar in the audience. Now more than four decades after its release, the hugely popular hit continues to be a staple on classic rock radio and has been featured in several movies over the years including the Richard Linklater cult classic, *Dazed and Confused*, and other flicks including *The Spirit of '76*, *Rush*, *Stag* and *What A Girl Wants*. It's a little known fact that before his success as a solo artist, Derringer had a band at the age of 17 called The McCoys that had a No. 1 hit in 1965

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called "Hang on Sloopy." Yep, that's him! The song would eventually be knocked out of the top spot by the Beatles' "Yesterday." In 1966, Derringer and the band would find themselves opening up for the Rolling Stones on their entire American tour. Although "Rock and Roll, Hoochie Koo" was written and recorded a few years earlier with friend and legendary guitarist Johnny Winter, it would be Derringer's solo version in 1973 that would propel him into the stratosphere of rock stardom. In 1977, Derringer appeared on Led Zeppelin's last North American tour. In the years to follow, he would perform with such artists as Alice Cooper ("Under My Wheels"), Steely Dan ("Show Biz Kids" and "Chained Lightning"), Richie Havens, Edgar Winter, Johnny Winter and Weird Al Yankovic among others. In the past few years, he has performed on a variety of package tours including Rock'n'Blues Fest, Rock Legends and Hippiefest.

### **Good Golly Miss Molly!**

The hits began for Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels at the tail end of '65, with the release of their first hit single, "Jenny Take a Ride!." In 1966, they recorded and began to perform a medley featuring Little Richard's "Jenny Jenny" and Chuck Willis' classic R&B song, "C.C. Rider." The song would quickly enter the Top Ten charts, setting the stage for what was to come that year. Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels would follow up their initial hit with two more in '66 including a rendition of the Righteous Brothers' "Little Latin Lupe Lu" and the song that would, ultimately, be their biggest hit, "Devil With A Blue Dress On/Good Golly Miss Molly." A year later, in typical Detroit fashion, the band kept their pedal to the metal and delivered another Top Ten song called "Sock It To Me-Baby!" At the end of 1979, Bruce Springsteen would pay tribute to the band by performing the "Detroit Medley," a selection of the band's greatest hits including "Devil With A Blue Dress On/Good Golly Miss Molly," "Jenny Take A Ride!" and "C.C. Rider" for the triple live *No Nukes* album. In 1983, Ryder released an album titled, *Never Kick A Sleeping Dog*, produced by John Cougar Mellencamp that thrust him back into the spotlight with the Prince-penned song, "When You Were Mine." He has recorded over two dozen albums in his illustrious career and continues to tour all over the world. Known for his incredible live show, he will be bringing all his hits in a night to remember.

### **If you want it, here it is, come and get it!**

If you're aware of such classic rock songs as "Come and Get It," "No Matter What," "Day After Day" and "Baby Blue," then you'll thoroughly enjoy the Hippiefest performance of Badfinger featuring Joey Molland. A veteran of Hippiefests past, Molland returns with the music he helped make famous. At the end of 1969, he auditioned for a band called The Iveys that would soon be renamed Badfinger. As they say, the rest is history. From 1970 to 1972, the band would experience four consecutive worldwide hits. Molland departed in 1974, quickly forming another band called Natural Gas that would go on to tour with Yes and Peter Frampton. In the years to follow, he would perform with various incarnations of Badfinger in addition to putting out a few solo projects. Due to its use in the finale of the hugely popular TV show, *Breaking Bad*, "Baby Blue" has had a recent resurgence of sorts, being introduced to a whole new audience and generation. In late March of 2015, a song Molland wrote years ago titled, "Sweet Tuesday Morning," was released on iTunes to benefit WhyHunger, a grassroots support organization started by the late, great Harry Chapin. Recorded by Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) and a new songstress by the name of Savannah, the song features Molland on guitar and harmony vocals. He continues to enjoy performing the hits for fans all year long.

Hippiefest is celebrating its ninth tour this year with greatest hits that span the generations. Here's your chance to show your kids (and their kids) what you've been talking about all these years and relive the past with the new generation... no shoes, no shirt, no problem! And remember, just like great music, tie-dye never goes out of style. Come out and enjoy the fun in an evening to remember.

All dates, times, programs, artists and ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

Tickets are \$47.50-77.50. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of Parker Playhouse. Buy tickets online at [ParkerPlayhouse.com](http://ParkerPlayhouse.com) and [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com); by phone at 954.462.0222; in person at the Parker Playhouse box office Tuesday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and at the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office.

The Parker Playhouse, located in Holiday Park at 707 N.E. Eighth Street in Fort Lauderdale, is an affiliated venue of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which provides programming and management of the facility. The Broward Center 2017-2018 season is presented by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation.

For more information visit [ParkerPlayhouse.com](http://ParkerPlayhouse.com), like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheParkerPlayhouse](https://www.facebook.com/TheParkerPlayhouse) and join the conversation on Twitter with [#ParkerPlayhouse](https://twitter.com/ParkerPlayhouse).

*Sun Sentinel* is a proud sponsor of the Parker Playhouse.

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#### ABOUT PARKER PLAYHOUSE

The neo-classical Playhouse Parker is one of Fort Lauderdale's first venues. Built by Dr. Louis Parker, the playhouse opened its doors on February 6, 1967 and is managed now by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This 1,168-seat, fully equipped theater plays an important role in the community by fueling economic development, while also bringing the community together with performances, activities and educational programming.

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