Press Release
For immediate release
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2015 Isthmus Jazz Festival features the Great Freddy Cole Quartet

The Wisconsin Union Theater is delighted to announce the line-up for this year’s Isthmus Jazz Festival. Held on Friday, 6/19 and Saturday, 6/20, the festival offers free performances and workshops in several venues at Memorial Union, and a ticketed performance by the Freddy Cole Quartet on Saturday at 8pm at Shannon Hall in the Wisconsin Union Theater. Purchase tickets online or call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787). Tickets can be purchased at the box office in the Wisconsin Union Theater or at Vilas Hall (entrance on East Campus Mall, 821 University Avenue). Ticket prices are as follows: General Public: $32, 28, 20, Wisconsin Union Members & Non UW-Madison Students: $28, 24, UW-Madison Faculty & Staff: $30, 26, UW-Madison Student (with ID): $10.
Cole is the youngest of Edward and Paulina Nancy Cole’s five children. Three of his elder brothers--Eddie, Ike and Nat (“King” Cole)--were all musicians taught by their mother. “I started playing piano at five or six,” Freddy recalls. “Music was all around me.” In the Chicago home of his youth, visitors included Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Lionel Hampton.

Cole began playing and singing in Chicago clubs as a teenager. He moved to New York in 1951, where he studied at the Juilliard School of Music and found himself profoundly influenced by John Lewis, Oscar Peterson and Teddy Wilson. He recorded several albums for European and English companies during the 1970s that helped him develop a loyal overseas following and learn to sing in other languages.

Cole leads a quartet on piano and vocals with guitarist Randy Napoleon, bassist Elias Bailey, and drummer Quentin Baxter. They regularly tour the US, Europe, the Far East, South America and South Africa.

While there are certain unmistakable similarities in timbre to his brother Nat, his voice is raspier, smokier, jazzier. His phrasing is closer to that of Frank Sinatra or Billie Holiday and his timing swings even more. His vocals – suave, elegant, formidable, sometimes spoken and articulate – make him the most respected lyrical storyteller in jazz.

Says The New York Times, “Freddy has an impeccable sense of swing… he is, overall, the most maturely expressive male jazz singer of his generation, if not the best alive.”

2015 Isthmus Jazz Fest Schedule:

Friday, June 19
Terrace

4:30-6:00pm TBA
6:30-7:30pm High School All Stars
8:00-9:30pm Sweet Minute Big Band
10:00-11:30pm Joel Paterson Trio featuring Chris Foreman

Rathskeller:

6:00-7:30 Ben Ferris Octet
8:00-9:30 Edi Rey y Su Salsera
10:00-11:30 New Breed Jam

Fredric March Play Circle Theater – Presented by the Madison Music Collective:

7:00-9:00pm George Russell's Four Dimensions of Melodic Construction
9:00-11:00pm The Girls In The Band film followed by Q & A

Saturday, June 20
Terrace

11:00am-12:30 Black Star Drum Line (performance/workshop)
1:00-2:00pm Edgewood Big Band
2:30-4:00pm Clay Lyons Quartet
4:30-6:00pm Alison Margaret Quintet
6:30-8:00pm Tony Castaneda Latin Jazz Superband
8:00-9:30pm Freddy Cole with UW Jazz Orchestra (Shannon Hall) $
9:30-12:00 Madison Neophonic Orchestra

Fredric March Play Circle Theater – Presented by the Madison Music Collective:

12:30-2:00pm Pop To Jazz (performance/workshop)
2:30-4:00pm The Masters of String Jazz (lecture/performance/workshop)
4:30-5:30pm Freddy Cole Stories and Q and A

The festival is Presented by the WUD Performing Arts Committee and the Wisconsin Union Theater.

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