

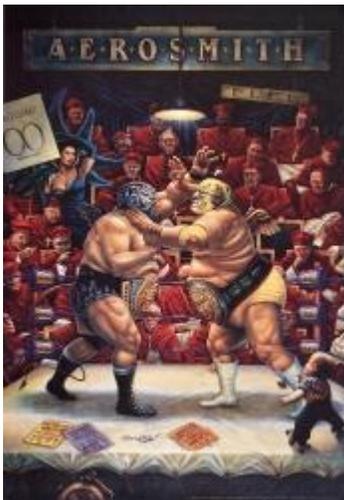
Concert Posters - BGP - Bill Graham Presents

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by Michael Erlewine

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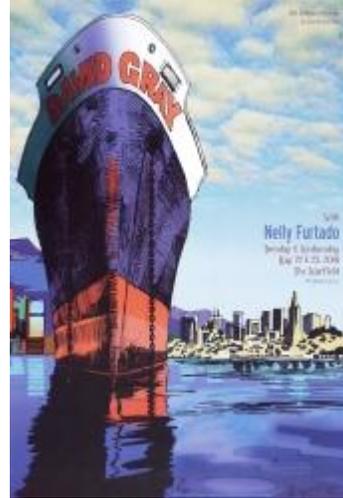
The Bill Graham Presents series started in 1985 and is still running today. It boasts over 325 posters. It differs from the BGF series (which is held at the Fillmore West) in that all of these events are held anywhere but at the Fillmore venue. Usually, these are large-scale events, requiring a stadium or coliseum, for groups like the Rolling Stones and so forth. And, unlike the New Fillmore Series, which hold events every week, the Bill Graham Presents BGP series is periodic, as needed, and correspondingly there are fewer of them. Some of these posters are oversize, very rare, and thus hard to find. Many are oversize. The list of artists reads like a directory of modern poster artists and includes:



Aerosmith by Randy Chavez

David Singer, Amacker Bullwinkle, Chris Shaw, Christopher Peterson, Chuck Sperry, Craig Howell, Dave Huckins, Frank Wiedemann, Harry Rossit, Jim Phillips, Jonathan Hess, Lisa Eng,

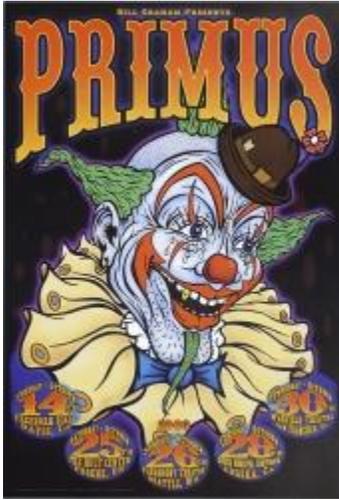
Randy Chavez, Randy Tuten, Rex Ray, Su Suttle (aka Susan Tagg), Winston Smith, and many others.



David Gray by Christopher Peterson

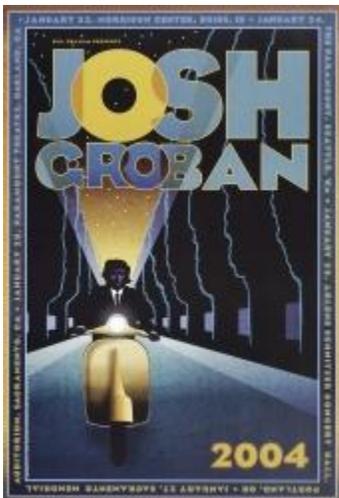
The BGP posters series differs from its sister venue, the BGF (New Fillmore) Series in that most of the BGP posters were for special events, big acts like the Rolling Stones, the Allman Brothers, Spinal Tap, acts probably too large to book into the Fillmore Auditorium, where the BGF dances were held. Although I have not data, my guess is that more thought (and perhaps money) was put into the hands of the artists doing the work for this series. And a BGP poster is considered more prestigious than a more local venue.

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Primus by Chris Shaw

BGP events were held all over the Bay Area, at the largest of venues, places like the Oakland Coliseum, the Cow Palace, Arco Arena, and so forth. And the posters were larger. Sure, many of them are the roughly 13 x 19" size, standard for BGFs, but throughout this series are interspersed much larger posters, what are called 'oversized' pieces, 18 x 24", 20 x 28", and even 20 x 30". These are some big posters, and rare.



Josh Groban by Frank Wiedeman

Just try to find these oversized posters. Very difficult. Unlike the BGF series,

where the posters were handed out at the end of the show, the oversized BGP posters were not. Many of them are now selling for hundreds of dollars a piece, IF you can even find one.

This is a, for the most part, distinguished series, distinguished by the size of the acts and the posters, and by the quality of many of the pieces. Leafing through a set is trip in itself.

This series can be purchased at WolfgangsVault.com.