

Gangsters In The Groove

Plays homage to Heatwave's Gangsters of the Groove, and the Love story.



Heatwave

Heatwave was an international funk /disco musical band featuring Americans Johnnie Wilder, Jr. and Keith Wilder (vocals) of Dayton, Ohio. Englishman Rod Temperton, Swiss Mario Mantes (bass), Czechoslovakian Ernest "Bilbo" Berger (drums), Jamaican Eric Johns (guitar) and Briton Roy Carter, (guitar).

They were known for their successful songs "Boogie Nights", "Always and Forever " and "The Groove Line".

Touring the London nightclub circuit billed as Chicago's Heatwave during the mid-1970s allowed them to refine their sound, adding a funk groove to disco beats.

Their third single, "Boogie Nights" from their debut album, scored number two on the British popular music charts in January, and also became a number 2 success in America in November. The group's debut album, Too Hot to Handle, was released in the spring of 1977, giving Heatwave a number eleven success in the U.S.

Continuing to use Barry Blue's production skills, Heatwave released their second album Central Heating in April 1978. Lead single "The Groove Line," reached number seven in the charts. During the late 1970s the band changed, and although Temperton would continue writing new songs for Heatwave, penning award-winning songs for some of funk's and the worlds biggest names, including and The Brothers Johnson Herbie Hancock and Quincy Jones , but his most famous partnership remains the one forged with Michael Jackson, writing three songs for his 1979 Epic debut Off The Wall "Rock With You," "Off The Wall" and "Burn This Disco Out", and three songs for the 1982 Thriller LP, including the title track.

Despite these changes Heatwave were about to return to the studio, only to suffer a tragedy: Mantese attended a party at Elton John's house in London. He was with his girlfriend, who decided to go home early from the party, reason unknown. When Mantese arrived home, she was furious with him, perhaps from an incident that happened at the party and stabbed him. The knife hit him in the heart and for several minutes, he was clinically dead. When, after several months, he awoke from coma, he was blind, mute and paralysed in his entire body.

To date, he has no memory of this tragic event. He decided not to press charges against his girlfriend, and moved in with her after leaving the hospital.

That's LOVE

Heatwave's popularity was on the wane, though, as the November single "Gangsters of the Groove" proved to be their last popular music success.

<http://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/gangsters-of-the-groove/id202654740?i=202654966>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfmEqMRWmsg>

Jewellery by



Objects for life,
Objects for love