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Classic Posters - Wes Wilson Images for Classic Posters

by Michael Erlewine

When I thought of creating Classic Posters, one of the first artists I approached to do a treatment for the site was Wes Wilson, generally acknowledged as the father of psychedelic posters. Somehow it made sense to ask Wilson, since he helped to start it all, and I liked the idea of the whole thing coming full circle and back to him. He was very gracious in accepting and I asked him to come up with some ideas for an image.



The first image he sent was this one, with "Classic Posters" in his no-famous style and a picture of an aging hippie. Wilson said it reminded him of his friend Chet Helms.



This was soon followed by an equally interesting one, with the face of a woman. Everyone like the woman, because Wilson is famous for his wonderful treatment of women in his whole run of Fillmore posters. He told me he wanted to do some more work on the woman's face, and pretty soon this showed up.



We all loved it, and Wes Wilson set about to finish the sketch and put color to it. The finished piece is included below. This was the 'seed" and part of the vision that helped fuel this project. As it turned out, when we went to the web, it was not convenient for the web builders to use such a large image, because we needed all kinds of navigation buttons and what not. I wanted to show this sketch in full, and will use it around the site, wherever we can. I want to thank Wes Wilson for helping us out and for doing all that he has done for the poster community. Thanks Wes!



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