

PRESS RELEASE

for immediate use

Bill Tapia's 100th Birthday Concert at Diamond Head Theatre

(Friday, January 11, 2008: Honolulu)

On February 23 at 7pm at Diamond Head Theatre, Honolulu will celebrate the longevity and legend of **Bill Tapia** who, at 100, is the world's oldest professional ukulele performer! Tapia turned 100 at the turn of this year, and wants to share his good fortune with his O'ahu fans with a special concert featuring longtime Hawaii friends.

Tapia has been delighting audiences with jazz chops and sharp wit both intact over the last decade. "To tell you the truth I don't even know how I'm living because I didn't have an easy life", Tapia told the Redding Record Searchlight before a recent sold-out show. "They took me out of school when I was 12 and half years old... so I worked in vaudeville. I worked all the time until now."

Tapia is the only musician on the planet who can say these words: "Here's a song I performed in World War I..." when he's introducing the unique version of "Stars and Stripes Forever" he came up with in 1918 at the age of 10.

Tapia's youth was spent performing and jamming with the top names of the day, including Charlie Barnet, Billy Holiday, Fats Waller, Bing Crosby and many more. While in Hawai'i he led his own big band and also worked with Island luminaries like Sol Hoopi'i and Johnny Noble. After World War II, Tapia and family settled in the San Francisco area, where he also offered guitar teaching. Now "Tappy" has a home in the islands too – just last year he bought a condo in Makaha so he could spend more time here in Hawaii.

On February 23 at DHT he will play with sultry Hawaiian singer Mihana and Grammy award-winning Jeff Peterson on guitar, with Ernie Provencher on bass. Mike Buck will MC, and more special guests will be announced nearer the time. Reserved tickets are available from Honolulu Box Office at 550-8457 and www.honoluluboxoffice.com, with prices ranging from \$42 (VIP "Diamond Head Circle" seats), \$32, \$22 and \$12.

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For more information contact Tim Bostock at 521-9699 or tbp@artsatmarks.com, phone interview with Bill Tapia and excellent new photos available

BILL TAPIA IN THE PRESS:

"As delightful as it is surprising... Tapia's 86-year career includes jams with long-gone pioneers of American music, including Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday and Fats Waller. ...Tapia takes his rightful place alongside these greats. He retains a sharp improvisational skill and capable instrumental ability..." BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

"At 97, Tapia may well be the world's oldest performing musician. His career includes stints with Bing Crosby and with tenor saxophone greats Vido Musso and Charlie Barnet. He pioneered the Hawaiian swing sound back in 1936..." SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

"You might (and boy, you'd be wrong) dismiss this as a novelty, considering his age. But Tapia is a master communicator with precision and his own brand of pizzazz." HONOLULU ADVERTISER

The 2006 CD Release "Duke of Uke" *"exposes musical treasures that document Tapia's importance as an innovator and pioneer in establishing the ukulele..."*

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

More background at www.billtapia.com and www.moonroomrecords.com

BILL TAPIA ON FILM: "To You Sweetheart Aloha" documentary has won many festival awards and great press. <http://www.walking-iris.com/sweetheartaloha/>