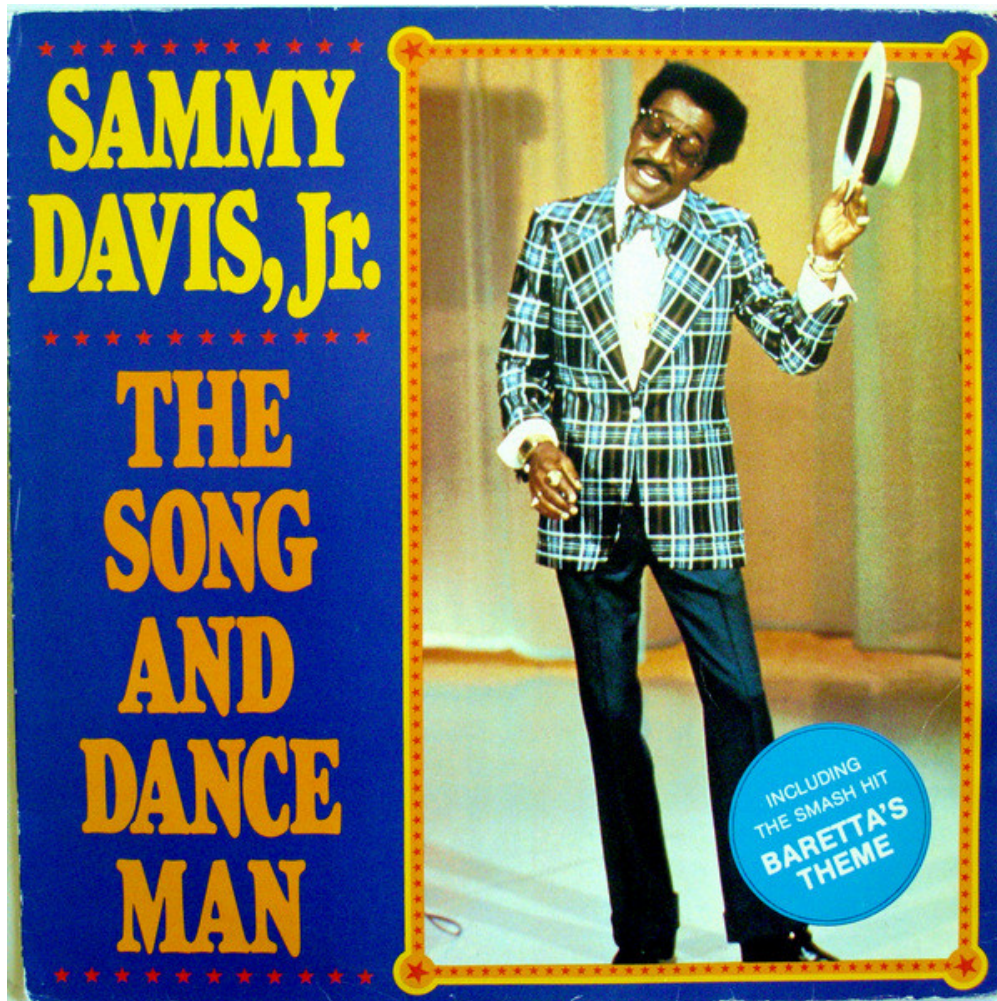


Throwback: Sammy Davis Jr. - Baretta's Theme (Keep Your Eye On The Sparrow)





Sammy Davis Jr. recorded "Baretta's Theme (Keep Your Eye On The Sparrow)" in 1975. *Baretta* was a detective series that ran on CBS from 1975 to 1978. Davis was going through a transition in his career, having recently signed a contract with 20th Century Records. It was a new era in music, and Davis was dealing with ageism in the music industry and trying to find his place. Jim Gilstrap sang on the initial recording, but the studio told songwriter Morgan Ames they couldn't have a Black singer sing the theme to a white show. Davis's version debuted during the show's second season, which was a success.

Davis's "Baretta's Theme" became a hit in the Netherlands, Sweden, and Belgium, inspiring Davis to record more television themes. Morgan Ames and Dave Grusin wrote the song, which was one of the most expressive TV show songs of the '70s. Davis's Broadway background did not inhibit his ability to sing funk, soul, and disco, all three genres heavily embedded in the tune. The *Baretta* theme and Davis's covers of other television

show songs were included on *The Song And Dance Man* album, which was released in 1976 to foreign markets but not in the United States. [Deadline](#) revealed that Hulu will no longer pick up the Davis limited series from Lee Daniels starring Elijah Kelley, which is currently being shopped to other media companies.

Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me Trailer

[youtube id="qu8AV81ANTw"] This is the first trailer for the documentary *Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me*. Â Davis was a child prodigy who became famous in Las Vegas after having a hit record, starring on Broadway having his own TV show and being in the Rat Pack film *Ocean's 11*. He fought racism his entire career and was a supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. Davis was friends with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and he participated in the March On Washington. *Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me* is the first documentary about his life and there are interviews with Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Crystal, Quincy Jones and Kim Novak. The film will debut next month at the Toronto Film Festival.

Lionel Richie Is Producing A Sammy Davis Jr. Biopic



Lionel Richie is co-producing a biopic about the late Sammy Davis Jr. with Mike Menchel and Lorenzo di Bonaventura. The movie is based on the 1965 memoir, *Yes I Can: The Story Of Sammy Davis Jr.*, written by Davis, Burt Boyar and his wife Jane. Davis grew up in the world of entertainment because both of his parents were vaudeville performers. At age 7 he co-starred in the 1933 21-minute film *Rufus Jones For President* with Ethel Waters.

By the '50's Davis was starring on Broadway in *Mr. Wonderful* and in the '60's he had his own TV show and became a member of Frank Sinatra's Rat Pack of famous actors. He made several movies during the '60's including the original *Ocean's 11* and became a headlining act in Vegas at the Frontier Casino. Davis was not immune to the segregation at the time even though he was a top act and he was forbidden to stay at the casino or have a dressing room. Later in his career, he refused to work at segregated venues. Davis was a supporter of civil rights and participated in the March On Washington and was a supporter of Jesse Jackson's PUSH organization. Davis and his wife Altovise were the first African-Americans invited to spend the night at the White House courtesy of then-president Richard Nixon.

Davis died in 1990 after a 6-month battle with throat cancer but his legacy is all over pop culture. Eddie Murphy and Tommy Davidson are just two of the comedians to impersonate him and he has been mentioned numerous movies and TV shows. Don Cheadle portrayed him in *The Rat Pack* and Amy Winehouse sang about him in her song "Me and Mr. Jones."

The upcoming unnamed film has the support of Davis' heirs and Richie added, "It's an honor for me to bring the life of one of my idols and friends to the screen. I'm so grateful to be working closely with the Davis family on this and couldn't be happier to be moving forward on this passion project."