

Sheila E. Talks To Billboard About Her BET Prince Tribute



Sheila E. talks to *Billboard* about the logistics of her amazing tribute to Prince at the BET Awards this year. There were initial plans to have Morris Day, Chaka Khan, Larry Graham and The Revolution but things did not work out on schedule. She also explains how she chose the songs and the challenge of their quick rehearsal time. Read the whole interview [here](#).

BET Awards 2016 Prince Tributes

The 2016 BET Awards gave Prince a lot of love last night with tributes throughout the show. Stevie Wonder sang "Take Me With U" with Tori Kelly before Jennifer Hudson's church performance of "Purple Reign" had many people in tears. Maxwell shared his new single "Lake By The Ocean" before performing Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U." Erykah Badu, The Roots and Bilal gave life to "The Ballad Of Dorothy Parker" and "The Beautiful Ones." Janelle Monae had a fun performing "Delirious," "Kiss," "Pop Life" and "I Would Die 4 U." Sheila E's tribute ended the night with a medley of Prince songs including "Housequake," "Erotic City," "Let's Work," "U Got U The Look," "A Love Bizarre," "The Glamorous Life," "America" and "Baby I'm A Star." Prince's first wife Mayte danced during the Sheila E's tribute. Oddly enough D'Angelo and Chaka Khan were not present but were definitely missed. BET did a great job honoring Prince's legacy.

Throwback: Sheila E.- A Love Bizarre

[youtube]eLr0n-L7450[/youtube]

Sheila E. started playing percussion when she was 3 years old under the influence of her Latin jazz timbalero father Pete Escovedo who was the bandleader of the group Azteca. At age 17 she started touring with artists like Lionel Richie, Diana Ross and George Duke among others. In the '80's she began working with Prince during the *Purple Rain* recording sessions. It is her vocals that are heard with Prince on his classic "Erotic City." In 1984 her first solo album *The Glamorous Life* was released and ["The Belle Of St. Mark"](#) and ["The Glamorous Life"](#) were hit songs. *Romance 1600* was her second album and it was released in 1985 with the gem of the set being "A Love Bizarre." She performed the song in the film "Krush Groove" that also came out in 1985. The musician released another album in the '80's and appeared in four films including Prince's concert film "Sign Of The Times." Between 1991 and 2001 Sheila E. recorded three albums but they never garnered the attention that her work with others did. Magic Johnson's "The Magic Hour" TV show made her the first female bandleader on late night television in 1998. Her talents are continually in demand at events with Prince and several other artists. She is also the co-founder of the Elevate Hope foundation for abused children. Her most recent accomplishment was her participation in the television show "Gone Country" with the goal of creating a hit single.

Earth Wind & Fire 40th Anniversary

[youtube]TC6C5s_CKwE[/youtube]

Earth, Wind & Fire celebrated 40 years in the music industry at the Monster Retail Awards show in Vegas. Sheila E and Stevie Wonder joined them. Maurice White was in the audience and the band came off the stage to encourage his playing of kalimba.