

Willis Alan comes to the Kessler in Oak Cliff

Written by By TERRY MATHEWS, News-Telegram Arts Editor
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Willis Alan Ramsey's doing a gig at the historic Kessler Theatre in Oak Cliff Sunday, June 12 ...
I have plenty of room in my Trailblazer if you want to hitch a ride.

Willis Alan's lone, self-titled 1972 album has influenced musicians like Lyle Lovett, Robert Earl Keen, Jimmy Buffett and Jerry Jeff Walker. Mention his name to any artist and the response is almost always, "Yeah, man. That album is one of my all-time favorites."

In the early part of his career, Lyle Lovett said, "I want to be Willis Alan Ramsey."

His music is the soundtrack to my life. The "green album" is always in the CD player in my car, at home and on my iPod.

If you like good music, well-played by one of the best Texas has ever produced, then catch this show. It just doesn't get any better than Willis Alan Ramsey.

Here's what the Kessler's website has to say:

The Kessler Theater is pleased to present the legendary Texas singer-songwriter Willis Alan Ramsey.

Before Lyle Lovett released "Step Inside This House," other versions of his songs have been covered by Jerry Jeff Walker, Waylon Jennings, Shawn Colvin, Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Widespread Panic.

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His music gets around.

Opening the show on this particular evening will certainly be a familiar voice to Dallas-Fort Worth music lovers, Ramsey's wife, the great Alison Rogers.

The doors for the show open early at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25. The show starts at 7 p.m.

An interviewer once asked Clint Black-respected as a songwriter in spite of his place in "Commercial Country" what five albums he'd want with him on a desert island. He reportedly rattled off a mixed list of country and rock artists, and then, as an afterthought, named one more: "Willis Alan Ramsey." He's that good.