

Leinenkugel Stage • Sunday 4:40 p.m.



Denise LaSalle

Truly one of the hardest working talents in music today. With a career that spans thirty plus years, there isn't a thing she hasn't seen. The youngest daughter of eight, Denise learned how to fend for herself. She made a commitment to the music industry.

When Denise was still a school girl growing up in rural Mississippi, her destiny appeared to her in the form of a white woman sitting on a front porch. The woman heard young Denise

singing "Far Away Places" while she was walking home from school. The song was her favorite at the time and the woman called out, "Hey, singer, come here!" That was the first of many evenings singing for this woman and the first time that Denise dared to dream that her extraordinary vocal talent could ensure her future success.

At an early age, she moved to Chicago to live with her brother. She attended night school, was an avid reader and even sold fiction stories to True Confessions and Tan magazines all at the age of 15. Denise was raised as a Baptist and sang for the Zion Temple choir for many years. She joined a female gospel singing group, The Sacred Five, and performed throughout metropolitan Chicago.

Beginning in 1971, she released "Trapped by a Thing Called Love," her first certified gold record. Since then, she has continued to write, record and produce songs ranging from soul to gospel to true blues. In 1997, she released "Smokin' in Bed" – it was an instant hit. The next year she received Living Blues Critics Award for the album and Female Blues Artist of the Year.

Denise's new album, "This Real Woman," was recorded at "Papa" Willie Mitchell's Royal Studio in Memphis (where she had cut her 1971 #1 hit "Trapped By A Thing Called Love") stands as one of the efforts in Denise's 30 plus years of making music. This double-volume album covers everything from blues to country, folk and R&B, including the original version of "Trapped By a Thing Called Love."