

Four months after a successful engagement at the Orleans, James Darren is back.

The actor/singer/director performs at 8 p.m. through Sunday. Tickets are \$34.95. If this show is anything like the last, fans are in for a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Darren is a consummate performer -- great vocals, lots of humor and interaction with the audience (something many younger entertainers have never learned to do).

One of his most memorable movies was "Gidget," in which he played the role of Moondoggie, co-starring with the late Sandra Dee, who played Gidget. Dee died Sunday.

Darren's career has taken many turns over the past 40 years. He started out as a film actor, beginning with "Rumble on the Docks" in 1956. In 1959 he appeared in Gidget and sang the title tune and "There's No Such Thing as the Next Best Thing to Love," which turned him into a singing sensation.

Among his most memorable songs of the '60s were "Goodbye Cruel World" and "Angel Face."

Darren juggled two careers in the '60s, making hit records and hit movies. Among his notable films are "Let No Man Write My Epitaph" (1960), "The Guns of Navarone" (1961) and "Hey There, It's Yogi Bear" (1964).

Darren starred in the 1966 TV series "Time Tunnel" and co-starred in "T.J. Hooker" from 1983 to 1986.

In the late '70s and early '80s, he toured with comedian Buddy Hackett.

In the TV series "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," Darren played the role of a lounge singer, which rekindled his interest in performing onstage...

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Columnist Jerry Fink

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