



Maybellene

The Story
By Tad Leach



I have been a car guy since I was a kid, when there were no smartphones, Internet, etc. Cars were FREEDOM. I've had a number of fun cars since then; a 421 '64 Pontiac, '54 Buick (like our old family car), 2004 "'53 Commemorative Edition" Corvette", '59 Custom Buick Electra 225 convertible, and a '39 LaSalle Concept Car, among them. As I approached the milestone age of seventy, several other things struck me. I was twenty-five years older than my dad when he passed away and a prostate cancer survivor. It dawned on me that if I was going to do that one last perfect car, I better get going. Fortunately, my wife Sue ("The Big Boss") whom I've been married to for over 52 years, told me to follow my dream.



In watching all the various car shows, I really took a liking to Dave Kindig of Kindig-It Design and his team on Velocity Channel's "Bitchin' Rides". Dave has such great vision and detail, and his team has all the experience and skill to make it happen. I contacted Dave and liked what I heard, so I went down to his shop. I'd been thinking about a '56 Lincoln Premiere, as I always liked the look - a true 50's car with fins. He talked to a local classic car dealer who happened to have a '58 Continental, which also had great lines and fins. It was a limited run (3,048) and is the longest production convertible other than rare 1934-37 Cadillac V16's. I looked at it and told Dave I liked it, but there were several things that I didn't; fender skirts and a chintzy stamped panel across the back. Dave showed me a design, which resolved those issues so we went with it. I wanted to have a unique car with unique features and lots of power.



A focal point is the all-aluminum custom V12 made by Ryan Falconer of Falconer Racing engines. It's the only one of about fifty he's made that's supercharged: 940 HP and 1,040 FT LBS of torque. I asked Dave to do a clear bubble in the hood, like the '53 Oldsmobile Fiesta's that had that as an option to show off their new "Rocket 88" engine. The finished car speaks for itself!



"Maybellene" debuted at SEMA in November 2017 and has been at a number of indoor shows so far in 2018. Maybellene has won numerous awards: including *Best Custom at the Grand National Roadster Show*; *Best Custom and King of Kustoms* at the Sacramento AutoRama; and *Best Custom, John D'Agostino Award of Excellence*, and *Grand Sweepstakes (Best of Show) Award* at the Portland Roadster Show.

