



310 Depot Street, Suite 3
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tel 734.994.5999 ext 203
Fax 734.994.5885

www.annarborsummerfestival.org

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Media Contact:

Robb Woulfe, Executive Director
(734) 994-5999 ext 203, rwoulfe@umich.edu

Festival Announces 2010 Top of the Park Schedule

Featuring three weeks of live music, dance, outdoor movies, and other entertainment

Highlights include Global Parties, KidZone, Grassrootz Stage, After Dark DJ sessions, Body Masterpiece Face Painters, Craze-Crew Stunt Team, Planet Rock Climbing Wall and introducing Acoustic Café Live @ Top of the Park

When: Tuesday through Sunday nights from June 18 through July 11, 2010
Opens: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday; 5:00 p.m. Friday – Sunday; closed on Mondays
Where: Ingalls Mall at Washington Street between Fletcher and Thayer Streets
Admission: Suggested donation per visit of \$3 per individual or \$5 per family
More Info: www.annarborsummerfestival.org

ANN ARBOR – The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is pleased to announce the entertainment schedule for Top of the Park, which runs from Friday, June 18 through Sunday, July 11, 2010.

One of Ann Arbor's favorite community celebrations, Top of the Park offers admission-free concerts, movies under the stars, open-air performances, street arts, family attractions, and a wide variety of cultural activities for the whole community to enjoy. Focusing primarily on local and regional artists, this annual outdoor performance series and social gathering is the perfect complement to the national and international scope of the festival's indoor, ticketed performances held at different venues around town.

This year's Top of the Park season is anchored by 49 music and dance acts, 8 guest DJs, and 13 feature films. In addition, a dozen area teen bands will play the Grassrootz Stage on Saturdays. The lineup features 26 acts making their festival debut, as well as many returning local favorites, with three-quarters of the artists based in Ann Arbor and surrounding communities. Highlights on this year's Rackham Stage include **The Sun Messengers, Lady Sunshine and the X-Band, NOMO, Black Jake & the Carnies, Saoco, Misty Lyn & The Big Beautiful, Juice, The MacPodz, Orpheum Bell, Mr. B, Twistin' Tarantulas, FUBAR, Yoshi, Madcat & Kane, The West Side Winders**, and national recording artist **JJ Grey & Mofro**. Although the event will be "dark" on Monday nights, this year's music schedule features earlier start times, more bands on weekend evenings, and longer set lengths for select artists. Once again, films will be shown at 10:00 pm on the inflatable outdoor screen.

The festival's Top of the Park activities will continue to be presented at Ingalls Mall, located directly in front of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies on Washington Street near the Burton Memorial Tower. The festival opens at 6:30 p.m on Tuesday through Thursday, with expanded weekend hours on Friday through Sunday, this year opening at 5:00 p.m. As announced earlier this year, Top of the Park will be closed on Monday nights.

Although Top of the Park continues to be admission-free and open to all, the festival will once again be encouraging attendees to make a per visit donation of \$3 per individual or \$5 per family. All attendees making an onsite donation will receive a sticker showing their financial support. The festival has set a goal of raising \$45,000 from Give 3 donations this year, which is slightly higher than the \$40,000 it raised last year from onsite collections.

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival remains an important cultural destination that continues to present accessible and affordable arts and entertainment experiences to the broadest audience possible. With over 80 percent of its events free to the public, the festival's community impact is far-reaching. Featured attractions this year include: **Grassrootz Stage**, an emerging artist space specifically designed to showcase local teen talent; **After Dark @ Top of the Park**, a series of late-night DJ sessions mixed by local artists in The Grove area of the beverage garden on Friday and Saturday nights; **KidZone**, an activity tent for children and their parents to discover and explore a wide variety of hands-on arts activities; and **ReTreat**, a new health and wellness program being launched at Top of the Park this year, featuring mind/body sessions such as yoga on the lawn, tai chi, Pilates, and more.

Other notable events include the festival's opening night celebration, **First Friday**, which takes place on June 18, and includes a colorful 30-piece marching band procession with Chicago-based circus punk ensemble **Mucca Pazza**, followed by a street dance party with local favorites **My Dear Disco**. Other special programs this year include an opening weekend return engagement with extreme face painting troupe **Body Masterpiece** from June 18-20; a 25-foot portable climbing wall on Ingalls Mall staffed by **Planet Rock** from June 25-27; and an extreme sports thrill show performed by **Craz-E-Crew Stunt Team** that features professional BMX riders, skateboarders, and in-line skaters on July 3 and 4. The closing night festivities of **So Long Sunday** are scheduled for July 11, and will feature **George Bedard & the Kingpins** playing the traditional last set of the season, followed by a screening of the musical classic **West Side Story**.

In addition to the Leonard Bernstein masterpiece, this year's movie lineup features a mix of genres, ranging from classics and cult favorites to more recent blockbusters. The festival's outdoor cinema schedule was selected by online voters in a promotion that ran earlier this year where the festival asked the community to select the movies that would be screened at Top of the Park. Close to 1,500 participants voted for their favorites films, choosing such titles as **Raiders of the Lost Ark**, **Casablanca**, **Avatar**, **The Princess Bride**, **Star Trek**, among others. The winning write-in Wild Card choice was Ed Wood's legendary **Plan 9 from Outer Space**, considered by many to be one of the worst films ever made. This sci-fi classic will be screened at Top of the Park on July 1, the night prior to the festival's Mainstage engagement with Cinematic Titanic, the masters of B-movie

riffing, which will play the Michigan Theater for two performances. Also added to this year's screening schedule, the festival will partner with the **Ann Arbor Film Festival** to show 15 minutes of shorts each Thursday night, prior to the evening's feature film.

Another new program this year is **Acoustic Café Live @ Top of the Park**. The popular syndicated radio show, heard around the country and worldwide on Voice Of America, hits the road and travels to the festival for a series of live concert tapings with host Rob Reinhart and surprise musical guests. Hosted in a tent within the beverage garden on Sunday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 p.m., these performances and interviews will give patrons an intimate musical experience with national touring artists in the genres of folk, acoustic rock, roots, country, and more. Admission is free, but tent seating is extremely limited, and is taken on first come, first served basis approximately one half-hour before each performance. Regularly scheduled entertainment on the Rackham Stage begins at 5:00 p.m., immediately following the Acoustic Café tent performance. Surprise guests for Acoustic Café will be revealed on the day of show.

In addition to an eclectic mix of entertainment, Top of the Park's Culinary Row features a variety of food offerings available for purchase from some of Ann Arbor's favorite eateries and caterers. Vendors at Culinary Row include: **Oasis Grill, Rendez-Vous Café, Stucci's, Sugar Shack, Silvio's Organic Pizza, Sweetwaters, Ray's Red Hots, Tios Mexican Café** and others. Many of the food vendors offer special kids menus and picnic dinners available for purchase.

As announced last month, the festival's Mainstage series features a wide variety of established and emerging artists that include: **Patty Griffin, Chris Isaak, Bernadette Peters, Capitol Steps, Caravan Palace, Die Roten Punkte, Marc Broussard, John Pizzarelli, Afro-Cuban All Stars**, and more. Tickets are currently on sale through the festival ticket office at (734) 764-2538.

A detailed schedule of Top of the Park events follows. Additional activities and attractions will be added to the website in the coming months. For the latest updates on season information, patrons are encouraged to visit the festival website at: annarborsummerfestival.org.

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival's mission is to present a world-class celebration of arts and entertainment that enriches the cultural, economic, and social vitality of the region. Started in 1983, the festival attracts more than 60,000 people each year from the local community and throughout Southeast Michigan.

Festival Ticket Information:

In Person: Michigan League Ticket Office, 911 N. University Avenue

By Phone: (734) 764-2538

Online: annarborsummerfestival.org

Festival Venue Information:

Hill Auditorium

825 N. University Avenue

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

911 N. University Avenue

Michigan Theater

603 E. Liberty Street

Power Center for the Performing Arts	121 Fletcher Street
University of Michigan Museum of Art	525 S. State Street

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is made possible with support from the 2010 Series Sponsors: Bank of Ann Arbor, Benard L. Maas Foundation, O&W, Inc., Sesi Motors, and Toyota. Additional support is provided by Allergy and Immunology Associates of Ann Arbor, Edward Jones, Elastizell Corporation of America, First Martin Corporation, Highlander Graphics, Howard Cooper Import Center, Miller Canfield, Phire Branding Company, State Street Area Association, University Lithographers, U.S. Wine Imports, and Whole Foods Market. Media partners for the season include: AnnArbor.com, Ann Arbor Observer, Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, and WQKL 107.1 FM. The Ann Arbor Summer Festival's 2010 season is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

2010 TOP OF THE PARK Entertainment Lineup and Supporting Activities

Friday, June 18 | First Friday (Opening Night)

5:00 PM Body Masterpiece Extreme Face Painters
5:00 PM Tokyo Sexwhale
7:00 PM Mucca Pazza
8:45 PM My Dear Disco
10:30 PM After Dark with DJ Body Rock

Saturday, June 19 | Salsa Saturday

5:00 PM Body Masterpiece Extreme Face Painters
5:00 PM ReTreat (mind/body sessions on the lawn)
5:00 PM Grassrootz Teen Stage
6:30 PM Saoco
8:30 PM Orquesta Sensacional
10:30 PM After Dark with DJ Nick Ayers

Sunday, June 20

4:00 PM Acoustic Café Live @ Top of the Park (limited seating tent show)
5:00 PM Body Masterpiece Extreme Face Painters
5:00 PM Tsars
6:30 PM Jill Jack Band
8:00 PM JJ Grey & Mofro
10:00 PM *Star Trek*

Monday, June 21 (DARK)

Tuesday, June 22

6:30 PM Global Party: Polish Heritage Event featuring The Kielbasa Kings
8:00 PM Misty Lyn & The Big Beautiful
10:00 PM *The Princess Bride*

Wednesday, June 23 | Wizard Night

6:30 PM The Rachael Davis Band
8:00 PM Harper
10:00 PM *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

Thursday, June 24

6:30 PM Yoshi
8:00 PM Funktion
10:00 PM *Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds*

Friday, June 25

5:00 PM Portable Climbing Wall with Planet Rock
5:00 PM The West Side Winders
6:30 PM Valerie Barrymore and Foundation of Funk
8:30 PM The Sun Messengers
10:30 PM After Dark with DJ Cataclysmic

Saturday, June 26 | Soul Saturday

5:00 PM Climbing Wall with Planet Rock
5:00 PM ReTreat (mind/body sessions on the lawn)
5:00 PM Grassrootz Teen Stage

6:00 PM The Saints of Soul
8:30 PM Lady Sunshine and the X-Band
10:30 PM After Dark with DJ Electric Marmalade

Sunday, June 27

4:00 PM Acoustic Café Live @ Top of the Park (limited seating tent show)
5:00 PM Climbing Wall with Planet Rock
5:00 PM Ariel & Zoey (Eli, too!)
6:15 PM Black Jake & the Carnies
8:00 PM Artist TBA
10:00 PM *Sherlock Holmes*

Monday, June 28 (DARK)

Tuesday, June 29

6:30 PM Global Party: Middle Eastern Celebration
8:00 PM Driving Sideways
10:00 PM *Avatar*

Wednesday, June 30

6:30 PM Cadillac Cowboys
8:00 PM Orphem Bell
10:00 PM *Casablanca*

Thursday, July 1

6:30 PM Gemini
8:00 PM Madcat, Kane & Maxwell Street
10:00 PM *Plan 9 from Outer Space*

Friday, July 2

5:00 PM Dave Sharp's Secret Seven
7:00 PM Howling Diablos
9:00 PM NOMO
10:30 PM After Dark with DJ Smokey "Baby Powder" Johnson

Saturday, July 3 | Swing Saturday

5:00 PM ReTreat (mind/body sessions on the lawn)
5:00 PM Grassrootz Teen Stage
6:45 PM Accidentally Hip Big Band
9:00 PM The Terraplanes
10:30 PM After Dark with Artist TBA

Sunday, July 4

4:00 PM Acoustic Café Live @ Top of the Park (limited seating tent show)
5:00 PM Craz-E-Crew Stunt Team
5:30 PM Red Sea Pedestrians
7:00 PM Craz-E-Crew Stunt Team
8:00 PM Twistin' Tarantulas
10:00 PM *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Monday, July 5 (DARK)

Tuesday, July 6

6:30 PM Global Party: Tejano Conjunto Dance Party featuring Los Bandits de Michigan

8:00 PM FUBAR
10:00 PM (500) *Days of Summer*

Wednesday, July 7

6:30 PM Juice
8:00 PM Salmagundi
10:00 PM *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*

Thursday, July 8

6:30 PM October Babies
8:00 PM The Ragbirds
10:00 PM *Fantastic Mr. Fox*

Friday, July 9

5:00 PM Annie Capps Band
6:30 PM Groove Spoon
8:30 PM The Macpodz
10:30 PM After Dark with DJ SEEK SELEKTA

Saturday, July 10

5:00 PM Grassrootz Teen Stage
6:00 PM Bugs Beddow Band
8:30 PM Hullabaloo
10:30 PM After Dark with DJ SaxTaxi

Sunday, July 11 | So Long Sunday (Closing Night)

4:00 PM Acoustic Café Live @ Top of the Park (limited seating tent show)
5:00 PM Cairn to Cairn
6:30 PM Mr. B's Joybox Express
8:00 PM George Bedard & the Kingpins
10:00 PM *West Side Story*

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