



Sunday, October 28, 2007

Quotable Quotes from the Festival

For some, participating in creative arts programs provides hope and the ability to deal with some of life's challenges. This week we have had the opportunity to share this awesome experience with some of the best artists and performers in the country. Here is what a few of them had to say:

"This is fabulous – like going to an art museum."
 ~ Overheard from a visitor at the artists' interaction session on Tuesday.

chance to do what they love to do. I'm grateful for the opportunity."
 ~ Emma Nichols, Fresno, Calif.

"I've been called many things in my life, but this is the first time I've ever been called an artist."
 ~ Larry Beauford, Oklahoma City, Okla.



John Matthews from East Orange, N.J.

"The atmosphere here is very enjoyable. The food is good and the rehearsals are good. It keeps me moving. I appreciate the professional guidance. I don't know a C from a B, but I do know how to sing and I'm loving this!"
 ~ John Matthews, East Orange, N.J.



Valerie Sholes, from Tacoma, Wash.

"I was going to throw this piece away. My recreation therapist talked me into entering it and I'm glad she did!"
 ~ Valerie Sholes, Tacoma, Wash., about her winning artwork entitled, *Fishes*

"I've decided to make it [coming to the Festival] an annual event."
 ~ Michael Galante, Anchorage, Alaska

"Art helps me focus on something other than 'poor me.'"
 ~ Robert Treanor, Hastings, Minn.



Al Sciacqua, from Fresno, Calif.

"This is wonderful! I commend everyone who had a hand in it. It's so organized – even before we came, the music director sent us CDs with our music so we could practice and prepare ahead of time. I'm just awed by it all."
 ~ Al Sciacqua, Fresno, Calif.



David Wilson, from Seymour, Tenn.

"Bill [Hayworth] is my hero. He does an exceptional job. Everything I've seen, I've really liked. The production staff has changed since my last appearance in 2000 – it's great."
 ~ David Wilson, Seymour, Tenn.

"This is totally wonderful! This event helps lives that were interrupted by volunteering or being drafted to military service. The Creative Arts Festival gives veterans who put their talents on hold a

"This is hard work but it's rewarding. I respect the way they have put the production together – to envision this process and see it come together must be rewarding for the production staff, too."
 ~ Anthony Conley, Fresno, Calif.

"The Festival is much more elaborate than I thought it would be — and it's keeping me much busier than I thought I would be! I'm still waiting to be discovered."
 ~ George Farr, Minneapolis, Minn.

Today's Exhibit and Stage Show

The big day is finally here and there are just a few things want to remind you about so everything runs smoothly.



The Arts

* All artists and performers will depart for the Touhill Performing Arts Center at 12 Noon from the Renaissance Hotel.

* From 12:30 -1:45 p.m.,

the artists will attend the exhibit and discuss their work with visitors and audience members. This is always such an enjoyable time and we encourage each of you to meet as many people as possible, and welcome them to the exhibit and the show.

- * At 12:30 p.m., the performers will need to get into their make-up and costumes.
- * All performers should plan to meet at 1:30 p.m. for the traditional Festival warm-up and pep talk.
- * At 1:50 p.m., all performers should be on stage ready to go, and the artists should be seated in the auditorium by this time as well.
- * From 2 – 5 p.m., enjoy the stage show – lights, camera, action!
- * Buses will leave the Performing Arts Center at 5:30 p.m. to return to the Renaissance.
- * The Closing Ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. See you there!



Watch for the Festival Show on PBS this Fall



Excerpts from Sunday's stage performance will again be shown on selected Public Broadcasting System (PBS) stations next month. Under the terms of a partnership between VA and PBS station WITF in Harrisburg, Pa., they will condense the stage show into a 60-minute television presentation, which will then be closed captioned. It will be distributed through the National Educational Telecommunications Association

to PBS stations nationwide who have expressed an interest in airing the show. The target date for the broadcast on those PBS affiliates is the week of Veterans Day 2007, although some stations may choose to show it at a later time.

Unfortunately, because the show must be edited to fit the 60-minute format for airing, not all acts can be featured. Also, some may be shortened to fit the broadcast requirements. While it is up to each local PBS station to select programming, a number have already expressed an interest or committed to airing this year's show. Check your local PBS program schedule for more information.

Inner City Blues Welcomes Participation

As part of our final farewell at the Closing Ceremonies this evening, Frank's Creation Inner City Blues Band will perform beginning at 9:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom on the first floor.



Recognized as one of the best blues bands in the St. Louis area, they are inviting Festival participants to join in their jam session. Female vocalist Sandra Carter and male vocalist Charles "Skeet" Rodgers are greatly inspired by the harmonics the band expresses. The band includes lead guitarist

Thomas Johnson, harmonica player Christopher Taylor, drummer Sam Coleman, saxophonist Blind Willie Dineen, trumpeter Rob Endicott and bass guitarist Frank Dunbar. You can either sit back and enjoy the blues music or bring your own instrument of choice and join in the fun.



“Show Me” Missouri ...



St. Louis Music & Art

Turn on any radio or take a stroll on Blueberry Hill and you'll quickly be able to see the influence of the arts and musical culture of St. Louis.

In fact, you can literally stroll down the St. Louis Walk of Fame, on the sidewalks of University City Loop, centrally located in the St. Louis area, to see the stars from our city. The Walk of Fame is a non-profit organization founded in 1988 to provide a showcase for the cultural heritage of St. Louis and to advance the knowledge, awareness and appreciation of great St. Louisans and their accomplishments.

The Walk of Fame itself consists of sets of brass stars and bronze plaques honoring individuals from the St. Louis area who made major national contributions to our cultural heritage. Each star features the artist's name, and an accompanying plaque contains a brief biography.

From the early days of rhythm and blues to today's rap scene, St. Louisans have had an ear for legendary tunes. Local legends who changed the course of modern American music include Scott Joplin, Chuck Berry, Johnnie Johnson and Tina Turner. Those keeping that

spirit alive today include Henry Townsend, Bennie Smith and Dave Black.

The St. Louis musical heritage is strong, and ever evolving, witnessed from recent artists such as Nelly, Michael McDonald, Robynn Ragland, Chingy and Stir.

These groups and individuals have been recognized for breaking new ground, and some have met with major record label success. St. Louis is truly fertile ground for talented and innovative music.

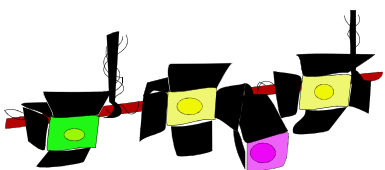
If the written word or acting is more to your liking, the city boasts the great literary minds of Maya Angelou, Joseph Pulitzer and Tennessee Williams. Great actors, including Josephine Baker, Phyllis Diller, Buddy Ebsen, Red Foxx, Betty Grable, John Goodman, Kevin Kline, and Marsha Mason all hail from the area.

So take a walk at the St. Louis Walk of Fame to see some of the 116 stars representing nationally renowned artists, and pay tribute to these men and women of distinction with their roots in St. Louis.



The map for St. Louis' Walk of Fame

Let Us Entertain You - Tonight!



It's been quite a week of rehearsing, performing, learning and exploring, but tonight it is our turn to entertain you! Come to the Closing Ceremo-

nies this evening in the Grand Ballroom on the first floor of the hotel. Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. with the rhythmic sounds of St. Louis' own Inner City Blues Band.

The formal program begins at 7 p.m., with host site director Glen Struchtemeyer serving as our master of ceremonies for the evening. We will also hear from key leaders from the three organizations who present this wonderful event each year; Executive Director of Help Hospitalized Veterans, Mike Lynch; National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan; and the Honor-

able Lisette M. Mondello, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Several special awards will be presented during the program, and this year's recipient will be named for the Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award, presented each year to one individual who demonstrates true dedication to the creative arts program. Also tonight, the 2007 host site director will ceremoniously pass the baton to next year's host site staff from Loma Linda, Calif.

After the formal ceremony concludes, the celebration continues at around 9:30 p.m., when the Inner City Blues Band returns for more entertainment and fun. Hope to see you there!



PHOTOS FROM THE FESTIVAL

Let Us Entertain You! (At Friday Night's Rehearsal)



Dwayne Scheuneman from Dunedin, Fla., dances with partner Amie Fisher.

Marvin Hooper from Temple, Texas; Ed Hall from Harker Heights, Texas; and Lansing Dowdell from West Haven, Conn., perform as part of the show.



Julie McGuire, from Miami, Fla., performs "Habenéra" from the musical Carmen.



John Prather from Draper, Utah, sings "La Fleur" from the musical Carmen.

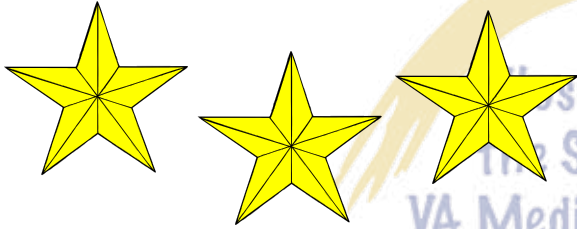


Wayne Valentine from St. Louis, Mo., performs his rendition of "Melodies."

Steve Crawford from Grand Junction, Colo., strums his original piece "Tree House."



Around the Festival



PHOTOS FROM THE FESTIVAL



Tandy Leather Company representative Jim Koerber assists Ernest Knox from Temple, Texas, with his leather craft project.



(L to R) Kenny Wayne from Yarnell, Ariz.; Arman Barajas from Santa Fe, N.M.; and Jose Llamas, VA staff, are interviewed by Courtney Cooper, anchor for KSDK's (NBC affiliate) show "Window on St. Louis" on Friday afternoon.



The Creative Writing Workshop offered participants insight into enhancing their writing techniques.

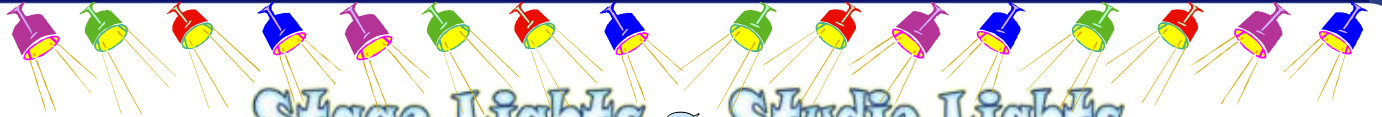


Participants toured the St. Louis History Museum where a replica of the Spirit of St. Louis, the airplane flown by Charles Lindbergh on his famous solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic, is on display.



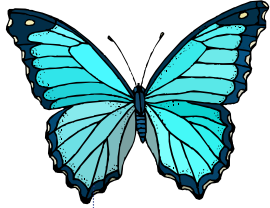
Joe Lamb, from Warrens, Wisc., highlights his medals as he is photographed with singer, actress and entertainer Jane Powell. Festival participants had the opportunity to meet with Powell during the week of activities.

Arts F



Stage Lights & Studio Lights

Beating the Butterflies

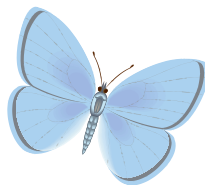


Whether you're performing a violin solo, dancing with a partner, making your theatrical debut or showing your winning piece of art, stage fright can be a very real challenge for many artists and performers. No matter if you are alone on stage or sharing it with dozens of others; or whether you are explaining your art to a limited few back home or to hundreds of guests at a formal art exhibit, stage fright really can be reduced or even eliminated.



It's natural to get a little nervous about performing or standing in front of others, but if you've got a really bad case of stage fright, you might want to take a look at the following tips to prevent you from being too nervous.

- » Accept that stage fright is a natural reaction to performing or standing in front of an audience.
- » Decide ahead of time what you might do if something goes wrong.
- » Imagine the absolute worst thing that could happen to you if things went terribly wrong. Now, estimate the chances of that really happening. It's really low.
- » Make sure you know your lines well if you are performing; practice how you will explain your artwork.
- » Eat lightly and avoid foods that are known to upset your system.
- » Realize that stage fright is generally about the anticipation that builds up before the performance, and once you get out on stage, the nervousness typically goes away.
- » A simple exercise before getting on stage or going out to meet the audience is to make a visual run-through of yourself in whatever role you're performing. Incorporating this with slow, deep breathing can help you.
- » Relax, have fun, and enjoy the exhibit and the show!



Arnold Huffstutler from Fairfield, Ohio, displays his woodworking piece entitled, *The Last Supper*.



A or Your Info



The hospitality room will only be open today from 10

a.m. till noon, in the Boardroom on the 12th floor. Thanks to all our gracious hospitality room volunteers.

Location	Day	Hours
Boardroom	Sunday	10 a.m. - Noon



for Sunday,
October 28, 2007

**Both meals today will be served in
Grand Ballrooms C&D.
Brunch: 8 - 11 a.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.**

Sunday Brunch

Chilled Assorted Juices, Sliced Fresh Fruit, Muffins, Bagels, Croissants, Scones
Scrambled Eggs with Assorted Toppings, Biscuits & Gravy
Cinnamon French Toast, Country Ham, Bacon
Roasted Potatoes, Fruit Yogurt

Closing Banquet

Baby Greens with Roma Tomatoes; Julienne Carrots, Squash and Zucchini; Breast of Chicken Stuffed with Basil and Proscuitto; Finished with Buerre Rouge Demi Glace
Chef's Selection of Fresh Vegetables and Starch; Artisan Rolls; Chocolate Seduction Cake

Vegetarian Option

Cheese Tortellini in Alfredo Sauce with Fresh Vegetables

Medical Suite

If you have a medical concern, your team leader can help you contact the Medical Suite at extension 4025 or 4026.

The Medical Suite is open today from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Lindbergh A & B. In case of an emergency after hours, you may call (314) 450-0299.

Transportation Schedule

For Monday Morning

Please check the time of your flight home, and be ready to catch the shuttle from the hotel to the St. Louis Airport at the time indicated. Please bring your luggage to the hotel lobby 30 minutes before the hotel departure time to get it loaded onto the bus. Safe travels home, everyone!

Flight Time	Hotel Departure Time
6 - 6:59 a.m.	4 a.m.
7 - 8:29 a.m.	5:30 a.m.
8:30 - 9:59 a.m.	7 a.m.
10 - 10:59 a.m.	8 a.m.
11 - 11:59 a.m.	9 a.m.
Noon - 12:50 p.m.	10 a.m.
1:44 - 2:54 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
3:35 - 4:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
5:24 p.m.	3:15 p.m.

For any other arrangements, please contact Festival transportation at (314) 450-6444.

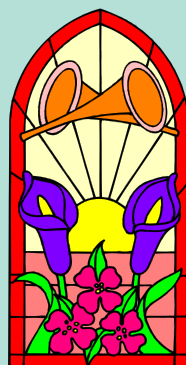
Church Services Today

Interfaith Service

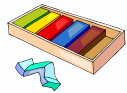
This morning at 9:30 a.m.
Heathrow A & B, (1st floor)
Services provided by
Reverend John Buck

Catholic Mass

Our Lady of the Presentation
This morning
Transportation provided
Please meet promptly at 8:30 a.m.
in the main lobby.



Fair
High 60°
Low 38°



Artists



Performers



Sunday, October 28, 2007

8 – 11 a.m. Brunch at hotel – Grand Ballrooms C&D
 8:30 a.m. Depart from lobby for Catholic Mass (for those who wish to go)
 9:30 a.m. Interfaith Service – Gatwick A&B
 10 a.m. – Noon Hospitality Room Open – Boardrooms 3&4, 12th Floor
 10:30 a.m. Team leader meeting – Gatwick A&B
 11 a.m. Team leaders meet with artists
 Noon Board buses and depart for Touhill Performing Arts Center
 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Artists at art exhibit to discuss their work with audience members – Touhill Performing Arts Center
 2 – 5 p.m. Stage show performance – Touhill Performing Arts Center
 5:30 p.m. Depart for hotel
 6:30 p.m. Pre-Ceremonies Musical Entertainment, Inner City Blues Band
 Closing celebration dinner and remarks
 7 - 9:30 p.m. Entertainment and dancing – Inner City Blues Band
 Grand Ballrooms, 1st Floor

8 – 11 a.m. Brunch at hotel – Grand Ballrooms C&D
 8:30 a.m. Depart from lobby for Catholic Mass (for those who wish to go)
 9:30 a.m. Interfaith Service – Gatwick A&B
 10 - 11 a.m. Block Rehearsal - Grand Ballrooms A&B
 10 a.m. – Noon Hospitality Room Open – Boardrooms 3&4, 12th Floor
 10:30 a.m. Team leader meeting – Gatwick A&B
 11 a.m. Team leaders meet with performers
 11:45 a.m. Board buses
 Noon Depart for Touhill Performing Arts Center
 12:30 p.m. Performers into costume and makeup
 1:30 p.m. All performers meet in Whitaker Rehearsal Hall, Green Room (121) for warm up and pep talk
 1:50 p.m. All performers on stage
 2 – 5 p.m. Stage show performance – Touhill Performing Arts Center
 5:30 p.m. Depart for hotel
 6:30 p.m. Pre-Ceremonies Musical Entertainment, Inner City Blues Band
 Closing celebration dinner and remarks
 7 - 9:30 p.m. Entertainment and dancing – Inner City Blues Band
 Grand Ballrooms, 1st Floor

Monday, October 29, 2007

ALL DAY DEPARTURES

6 – 9 a.m. Breakfast at hotel – Grand Ballrooms C&D

Please check with your team leader or the posted schedule outside of Grand Ballrooms A & B for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.

NVCFAF Web site
www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov

After you return home, be sure to visit the Festival Web site and share the address with your friends and family (www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov). Many activities from the week are already there, and within the next few weeks a comprehensive photo gallery and slide show will be added. Look for the wonderful photos our photographers have been taking all week of the rehearsals, workshops, off-site trips, special events and activities, and, of course, today's art exhibit and stage show. It will give you a great way to remember and share this wonderful week in St. Louis.