

Festival gives new meaning to 'holiday blues'

Just in time for the first snowflakes of the season, the Anti-Freeze Blues Festival marks winter with an always-imaginative line up of blues artists. Blending the best in local Detroit blues and most notable of national acts, the festival expands this year to add an extra day.

From Friday-Sunday, Jan. 4-6, the tradition lives on at Ferndale's Magic Bag. Jeremy Haberman, owner of the Magic Bag, said when he first worked on the festival — in December 1996 — it lasted three days. Since then, he's stuck with a two-night only line-up.

Benefit
"The most difficult thing for this festival is to find headliners who can come to Detroit on that weekend," he said. "Trying to find different acts able to make it into town on that weekend as far as national talent is always a struggle. We have to find artists with a capacity to draw a substantial amount of people."

The festival also serves as a benefit for the Detroit Blues Society, so organizers work to raise as much money as possible for the non-profit after covering its costs. Haberman said last year the club was able to donate a couple thousand dollars to the organization, to contribute to blues education. "It really depends on how well it does," said Haberman.

The showdown

For the first time, the festival will close with a third night devoted solely to blues guitarists. The Guitar Showdown featuring Larry McCray will bring some of the best guitarists in the area together. "This year Jeff Grand, whose part of the music community, shared this idea," said Haberman. "We've thought about it in the past. He was really psyched."

The plan is to put about eight axemen on stage and let them go. The night will likely be broken into two separate sets. "They're all amazing blues guitar players: Bobby East, Jeff Grand, Jim McCarty, Mark Pazman, Robert Noll, Larry McCray who is the headliner."

Though McCray is expected to do an abbreviated set of his own material, the evening is likely to

STREET SCENE



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

become, in Haberman's words "a huge guitar jam."

New to the festival this year are acts like Bonnie Temps Rouille and Fingers Taylor, who is best-known as Jimmy Buffett's harmonica player.

Got Blues?

The continued success of the festival is testament to the thriving blues scene in the Detroit area. "I think it's really strong," said Haberman. "Not only is it strong, it's bursting onto the national scene. I think R.J. Spanglor has a lot to do with that. The guy has an impeccable ear for talent and desire to bring back the stars of yesteryear. He's revived the careers of Alberta Adams, Joe Weaver. R.J. is on it."

Learn more about the blues artists coming from near and far at the Anti-Freeze Blues Festival. The eighth annual Anti-Freeze Blues Festival benefits the Detroit Blues Society and features Robert Lockwood Jr., Thoretta Davis, Grand/McCarthy, Madcat & Kane and Bonnie Temps Rouille 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4. Tickets for Friday cost \$20.

Koko Taylor, Alberta Adams, Greg 'Fingers' Taylor, Uncle Jessie and Robert Jones take the stage 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5. Tickets for this show only cost \$25.

The final night of the festival features a guitar showdown with Larry McCray, Johnnie Bassett, Robert Noll, Mark Pazman, Bobby East and some special guests, 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6. Tickets for Sunday performances are \$15 each. Tickets for any or all shows are available in advance at the box office. It's all happening at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward, in Ferndale. Check the Web at www.thegenicicbag.com or call (248) 544-3000.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (248) 625-1900 or e-mail at scasola@oc.homestead.net.

East Lansing film fest is accepting entries

Got a documentary or feature length movie in the bag?

Ready to screen that student or short film you've worked so hard on last semester?

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The 6th Annual East Lansing Film Festival, March 21-24, is accepting submissions through Jan. 8. Any genre, any length and any format is acceptable.

The festival awards cash prizes to winners in several categories and offers an Audience Choice Award for best feature, documentary and short film, as well as Michigan's Own Film Competition, a showcase of films by Michigan filmmakers.

Entry fees are \$35 for feature films and documentaries over 70 minutes and \$25 for documentaries under 70 minutes, shorts and student films.

Send entries, postmarked by Jan. 8, to the East Lansing Film Festival, P.O. Box 4880, East Lansing, MI 48823. Check the festival Web site at www.elf.com for a submission form. Or call Susan Woods, director, or Kristen Hatfield, program director, at (617) 336-5802.

Taubman to perform at the JCC

Entertainer and composer Craig Taubman will perform at 3 p.m., Jan. 27, at the Jewish Community Center, 6800 West Maple, West Bloomfield.

The award-winning musician has appeared in concert in 36 states and five countries, released 14 albums and has written countless musical scores for television, radio, videos, and advertising campaigns.

He has appeared on radio, television and in stage productions.

Taubman began performing at age 15 when a camp counselor encouraged him to play guitar and lead services. His interest in music became interwoven with his passion for Jewish history and culture.

He is the founding director of Yad B'Yad, a city-wide teen performing arts program in Los Angeles. He also produces the best-selling Celebrate Series, a compilation CD project representing the best in Jewish music.

Tickets are \$6 for Jewish Community Center members, \$8 for non-members, \$24 for a center member family of four and \$32 for a non-member family of four. Tickets include admission to the 1 p.m. Tu B'Shevat seder and the 2 p.m. children's mitzvah activity, co-sponsored by the Michigan coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division, Young Adult Shabbat Services, B'nai B'rith Leadership Network and the Sarah and Irving Pitt Child Development Center of the Jewish Community Center.

Call the Jewish Community Center Jewish Life and Learning Department at (248) 432-5577 for tickets.



Family Concert: Craig Taubman will perform on Jan. 27 at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

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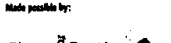
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A+ Application Deadline Wednesday, January 16, 2002 Call (248) 738-3568

