

Street performers run special risks for their



BACKSTAGE PASS

Tonight on *Backstage Pass* at 9:30 on Detroit Public Television, we continue our summer season with a look at artists with similar roots. Performers are special people who expose themselves to enormous risks every time they go on stage. After all, poll after poll tabs public speaking as Americans' most common fear. What if you have? What if you freeze up? What if the audience doesn't like you?

All valid worries, but now take it to the next level: what if the audience just keeps on walking? That's street performing, the toughest job in the arts. And on tonight's *Backstage Pass*, we enjoy the work of two former streetcorner artists who are achieving mainstream success.

Madeline Peyroux learned her craft from the street musicians of Paris' Latin Quarter. When she was 16, she started as a hat passer for a group of busking musicians called The Riverboat Shufflers, eventually convincing them to let her sing.

The results were so impressive that the leader of a competing busking troupe, The Lost Wandering Blues & Jazz Band, gave her an impromptu audition. He liked what he heard, and Madeline spent the next three years touring Europe in a cramped Mercedes.

Madeline's voice is so hauntingly reminiscent of Billie Holiday that she cannot escape constant comparisons to the enigmatic blues diva. In fact, she lists a whole roster of influences, including Patsy Cline, Fats Waller and Bessie Smith. But perhaps her strongest influences come from the streets themselves. As Madeline says, "Songs I learned from different friends will always be associated with those street musicians I met in Paris. With a song like 'Walkin' After Midnight,' there's more to it because you've lived it."

And if you were sitting at home trying to make sense of a piece of sheet music. It's a whole other world. Peyroux recently made her Atlantic Records debut with her new CD, "Dreamland." Tonight, we'll bring you her performance of the Fats Waller classic, "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter."

Closer to home, Robert Bradley got his chops on the streets of Detroit. His father moved the family to the Motor City in the mid '60s when he scored a job as an auto plant. Robert dropped out of high school and traveled the country performing music wherever he could - coffee houses, Baptist churches, and of course, on the streets. In 1968, he returned home to Detroit, for years a fixture passing the hat at Eastern Market.

Then one spring day in '92 while working the corner of Griswold and State, Robert's voice carried through an open window at White Room Studios, where the former members of EMI Records alternative band Second Self were playing. They loved what they heard and coaxed him into the studio to jam.

They've been together ever since and recently released their self-titled debut CD, "Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise," on the RCA Record Label. Tonight, we'll air for you the first cut off their CD, a visceral blues riff called "Belly Bona."

When you think of fine art, where do you picture it? In a museum? In an exclusive private collection? Well, we started a series of reports in our first season that fits the peripatetic theme of tonight's show: We set out to demonstrate that you can find art in the most unexpected places, and one of our *Backstage Pass* art correspondents, Gerry Craig, is a case in point. Gerry curates the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the Detroit Zoo and she continues to be our guide to art in unusual places all over Detroit.

It all started with the personal tour she gave me of the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery, a permanent exhibit that can be seen seven days a week, with rotating shows in the exhibit hall throughout the year. The next temporary exhibit is "Coral Reef Masterpiece Photography," which opens Sept. 6.

Also on the Big Show, we look at the debut production by the Detroit Actors Guild at the Alley Theatre, Terrence McNally's "Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune." We were graced with a scene from the play performed by actors Mary Bremer and David Regal.

While they're on summer hiatus from theatre production, the Alley is presenting "Detroit Unplugged," a showcase of local musical performers every Thursday night, including some Backstage Pass alumni. All this happens tonight at 9:30 on Channel 56. Now get out there!

Fair from page E1

When the kids get restless parents can take them over to the Turner Jack Kids Games Pavilion where they can take part in potato sack races, the spaghetti eating contest or sugar cube stack.

Every day at 4 p.m. area high school marching bands, girl and boy scout troops, clowns and more will participate in the Ford Motor Co. Parade showcasing new Ford products.

Participating bands from Observer & Eccentric communities include, Farmington Harrison High School Marching Band (4 & 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19), Garden City High School Marching Band (4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22), Birmingham Seaholm High School (4 & 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23), and North Farmington High School (4 & 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27).

The East Lansing rock band The Verve Pipe will be among the acts headlining the event. The quintet, whose RCA debut album "Villains" has sold more than 1 million copies thanks in part to the single "The Freshmen," performs Saturday, Aug. 30.

James Brown and Little Richard kick off the fair on Tuesday, Aug. 19. Joe Walsh (Wednesday, Aug. 20), 702 and 112 (Friday, Aug. 22), John Michael Montgomery (Monday, Aug. 25), former New Edition singer Johnny Gill (Friday, Aug. 29), and the dance acts Crystal Waters, Robin S., and Lil' Suze (Sunday, Aug. 31) are among those slated to appear.

"We certainly know that there's a direct correlation with the kind of entertainment we have and the kind of attendance we have," said Laurie Allen Marrocco, the fair's assistant general manager.

"We want people to know that we're a venue that has a little bit of Fine Knob, a little bit of the Detroit Zoo. It's a combination of going to your uncle's farm, Cedar Point, Pine Knob, and your favorite art festival."

The concerts are held 8 p.m. nightly in the bandshell and are free with a paid admission.

For thrill seekers there's the midway with more than 65 wild rides from which to choose, and Pepsi's Screaming Swing, an electrifying ride that raises its riders 180 feet above the earth, rotating in a full 360 degree loop at speeds of 65 miles per hour.

There are lots of ways to participate in the Michigan State Fair, even if you don't own any chickens or cows. To join the fun, show up a half hour before the contest begins to register. Call (313) 369-8310 for information.

Bears Family Grove

- Tuesday, Aug. 19: Hog Calling Contest - 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 21: Bubble Gum Blowing Contest - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 23: Solo Baton Competition - 10 a.m. Team & Corp Competition - 12:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 24: Choir competition - 10 a.m. Pom-pom competition - 1 p.m. Twine Competition Stage Contest - 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 25: Senior Contests - 12:30 p.m. Oldest Man & Woman Contest Most Grandchildren

Longest Married

- Most Recently Married Couple
- Baldest Head
- Prettiest hat
- Queen & King of Senior's Day
- Tuesday, Aug. 26: Longest Ponytail - 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 27: Balloon Blowing Contest - 4 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 29: Diaper Derby Children's Contest - 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 31: Clown's Competition - 10 a.m.
- Monday, Sept. 1: Husband & Wife Calling Contest - 2:30 p.m.

Farmer Jack Kid's Pavilion/Kleenex & Huggies

- Tuesday, Aug. 19: Kick the Shoe Contest - 3 p.m.
- Corn Eating Contest - 5 p.m.
- Corn Relay - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 20: Carrot Drop Contest - 3 p.m.

Onion Run Contest - 6 p.m.

- Celery Relay - 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 21: Apple bobbing Contest - 3 p.m.
- Stick Horse Contest - 5 p.m.
- Slick the Tail on the Horse Contest - 7 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 22: Cherry Spitting Contest - 3 p.m.
- Cherry Pie Eating Contest - 5 p.m.
- Balloon Race - 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 23: Egg Toss Contest - 3 p.m.
- Milk Bucket Race - 5 p.m.
- Egg & Spoon Race - 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 24: Water Balloon Toss Contest - 3 p.m.
- Parent Calling Contest - 5 p.m.
- Hula Hoop Contest - 7 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 25: Hot Potato Contest - 3 p.m.
- Doughnut Eating Contest - 5 p.m.
- Potato Sack Race - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 26: Kiddy Crawl Contest - 3 p.m.
- Asparagus Relay - 5 p.m.
- Ring Toss Contest - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 27: Sugar Cube Stack Contest - 3 p.m.
- Spaghetti Eating Contest - 5 p.m.
- Spoon Full of Sugar Contest - 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 28: Kick the Bucket Contest - 3 p.m.
- Clothes Pin Drop Contest - 5 p.m.
- Balancing Race - 7 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 29: Fair Fight Contest - 3 p.m.
- Rope Skip Contest - 5 p.m.
- Hopping Race - 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 30: Don't Spill the Beans Contest - 3 p.m.
- Bean Bag Toss - 5 p.m.
- Crab Race - 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 31: Balloon Clown Face Contest - 3 p.m.
- Peanut & Spoon Race - 5 p.m.

Bo from page E1

Richards, Ron Wood and Richie Sambora.

Along with Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and Chuck Berry, Diddy's music forms the rhythm and blues backbone of

rock and roll music. A musical form energized by Elvis, broadened by the Beatles and sustained by the Rolling Stones, The Who, Led Zeppelin and other innovative rock bands.

These days, however, Diddy might be better remembered by the younger crowd for his commercial appearances. Several years ago, he appeared in Nike ads alongside another "Bo" - former athlete Bo Jackson. And last year, he was featured in Taco Bell's "Run for the Border" commercials.

Yet it's not all about commercialism for Diddy. He performs

concerts and campaigns on behalf of the homeless, and is active in the anti-drug movement.

Like his brazen music, Diddy has always gone his own way. And in his incompromisable style has celebrated being a "500 percent man."

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Dancin' in the Street Children's Entertainment

FINAL WEEK!

This Week's Guests include:

Friday, August 15

Storyteller Jeane Pichel 1-2 p.m.

This masterful storyteller weaves tales of fantasy & delight!

Marc Thomas with Max the Moose 2-3 p.m.

Music and Ventrilequism for the entire family!

Won't you join us?

On Fourth Street between Main & Walnut in Rochester

(Part of Dancin' in the Street)

Plus! Fill out the entry form below and bring it with you to qualify to win prizes generously donated by the following businesses:

Mitzelfeld's

Sally Huss Gallery

The Home Bakery

HALFWAY DOWN THE STAIRS

Children's Bookshop

1997 Dancin' in the Street • Children's Entertainment

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zipcode: _____

(Please, one entry per child. Random drawing.)

Different Prizes Every Week!

Sponsored By:

The Rochester DDA and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers present:

Dancin' in the Street

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS!

LIVE MUSIC

7-10 PM

Fourth Street between Main & Walnut

APPEARING THIS FRIDAY, AUGUST 15!

Back by popular demand - the Motown sound of the Sun Messengers

Q95.5

LOCAL TEEN BANDS 4pm-5pm

PLUS!

Afternoon entertainment for the kids! 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Great Food From Your Favorite Rochester Restaurants!

- Buscomi's Pizza & Subs
- Kruse & Muer on Main
- Mr. B's
- O'Shea's
- Out to Lunch
- Rochester Chop House
- The Sheik
- Chez Pierre

Enter to win a Handmade Wrought Iron Patio Collection from Casual Concepts, valued at over \$1500.

Register to win at Casual Concepts, 828 N. Main St. or at the Information Booth during any of the Dancin' in the Street evening concerts. Winner will be drawn at the evening concert on August 15th. See entry form for details.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors: