

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Peter, Paul & Mary perform 8 p.m. at the Meadow Brook Music Festival, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills. Tickets \$32.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn, call (248) 645-6666.

SATURDAY



Jack-in-the-Box Productions presents Neil Simon's "Jake's Women," 8 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile Road, east of Farmington Road. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7 senior citizens and students with ID. Call (734) 797-JACK.

SUNDAY



Swashbucklers invade Hollygrove in a "High Seas Adventure," 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, during the 20th Annual Michigan Renaissance Festival, 12600 Dixie Highway, Holly Township. Tickets \$13.95 adults, \$11.75 seniors age 60 and older, \$5.95 children (5-12), children age 4 and younger, free. Advance tickets \$12.50 adult, \$5 children (5-12). For information, call (800) 601-4848, or (248) 634-5552.

HOT TICKETS



Hot Tik: Little Eva brings her "loco-motion" to the St. Mary's Preparatory campus at Orchard Lake and Commerce roads in Orchard Lake for a "Fabulous '50s and '60s Festival," Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 26-29. Festival opens 6 p.m. Thursday-Friday, noon Saturday-Sunday. Little Eva and Dickey Lee begin performing 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (248) 683-0530.



Poster: J. Walter Thompson artist Grazyna G. Wierzbicka designed this year's Ford Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival poster. The poster design was selected from more than 55 entries in an agency-wide competition. The poster will be sold for \$20 at the festival.

Montreux celebrates two decades of musical diversity

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
fprovenano@cc.homedcomm.net

At the inaugural Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival in 1979 — a transitory time from disco to punk and new wave — the concern among organizers wasn't just whether there was widespread appeal for jazz, but if people would cross Eight Mile Road, and find their way to the Detroit riverfront.

The millions who have attended Montreux over the years and listened to legendary jazz artists such as Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie among others probably realized that boundaries are self-imposed.

Now in its 20th year, Montreux has contributed to rehabilitating the image of downtown Detroit as much as any other annual cultural event.

This year's festival, Friday-Monday, Sept. 3-6 at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit features an 8 p.m. performance on Sept. 6 by Dave Brubeck, and an impressive line-up of Detroit jazz alumni in what promoters are calling a "Motor City Jazz Reunion."

Drawing on international and local talent has been a hallmark of the festival. More than 40 groups are from the immediate area.

"We always have a strong, local component. No other festival books as many home-grown acts," said Jim Dulzo, who became director of the festival in 1994 when Musical Hall Center for the Performing Arts took over from Detroit Renaissance as organizer of Montreux.

Local acts include the fusion music of Original Moon from West Bloomfield, singer Sheila Landis of Rochester Hills, guitarist Larry Nozaro of Novi, and Ed Nuccelli and his Big Band of Southfield.

Sense of place.

"Our mission was to create a great cultural event for the city," said Dulzo.

"We've been around for a generation," he said. "That means there are now people who are bringing their kids, and we're increasing the number of people being reached by the music and the message."

The message, according to Dulzo, is not only about coming together across racial, ethnic and class boundaries. It's about celebrating the uniqueness of what he refers to as the "Detroit attitude."

Among the notable performers with Detroit roots and "attitude" are:

- Yusuf Lateef & Eternal Wind
- The Elvin Jones (who played drums for John Coltrane) Jazz Machine
- The Charles McPherson Quartet
- The Tommy Flanagan Trio
- The Bob James Quartet with Alexander Zanjic
- The Kenny Garrett Quartet.

A special tribute to Marcus Belgrave will also feature Garret, Gori Allen and Bob Hurst.

Perhaps more than any other musical style, jazz creates a sense of place and mood. In a town whereby home-grown music is usually associated with either the legendary Motown sound or rock, a question begs to be asked: "Is there a particular Detroit sound?"

"It's not necessarily a sound, but an attitude," said Dulzo. "Detroit musicians play hard, that's their reputation."

Perhaps the greatest legacy of Montreux, said Dulzo, is that people no longer think twice about crossing Eight Mile Road and heading to the riverfront.

"We've found a way to bring the community together and celebrate our musical legacy."

See festival entertainment schedule highlights inside.

FESTIVAL

Arts, Beats, Eats draws new local talent

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@cc.homedcomm.net

For Skeeto Valdez, playing the Arts, Beats and Eats festival in downtown Pontiac will be a special sort of homecoming.

While his band, King Konga, is based in southern Mississippi, Valdez was born and raised in Detroit. He has been living in Redford for about four years and commutes to King Konga shows across the country.

"This is my stomping grounds," he said. "I'd like to play this area a little more."

Valdez joined King Konga just over one year ago. Band members found him through an Internet search after he won a drum contest in the Detroit area. For those who will get their first taste of King Konga at the festival, Valdez describes its sound as world music. A musician who has

WHAT: Arts, Beats & Eats — A celebration of art, music and humanity
WHEN: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Sept. 3-5; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 6
WHERE: Downtown Pontiac
WHAT ELSE: Check www.artbeatsand eats.com or call (248) 975-8850 for more information.

been playing drums for nearly 20 years, he joined the band because it offered him an opportunity to cover broad musical ground. The band has been compared to a variety of musical acts, from Dave Matthews Band to Hootie and the Blowfish.

Arts, Beats and Eats may be the first festival King Konga will play in the metro area, but it certainly isn't the largest. The band was recently asked to perform at Woodstock. Still recuperating from the energy and overall experience, Valdez said he's

ready to hit the stage again 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4 on the Pepsi Stage. Playing festivals differs from regular shows, he said, because the sense of intimacy at a club gig is lost. "At a festival you have a lot more space," he said. "You have to try to project the musical vibe out to reach people. We try to touch them with what we do."

Another band likely to reach out through their music at Arts, Beats and Eats — Knee Deep Shag — will perform 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3 on the Pepsi Stage. Drummer Jeff Moehle, whose family lives in Troy, said the band's presence was personally requested at this year's festival. Ticking time between recording another CD — which is due in November — and performing regularly, Knee Deep Shag agreed.



Rick Matie and Sheila Landis

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