

**BALLET**  
FROM PAGE B1

program resurrects three works performed by the celebrated Russian dance company Les Ballets Russes de Diaghilev.

The most magnificent of the pieces is *Le Sacre Du Printemps*, which translates into *The Rite of Spring*.

Created by legendary choreographer Vaslav Nijinsky to music by the equally renowned Igor Stravinsky, the piece's debut in Paris incited street riots. The ballet depicted a fertility rite, during which a girl is sacrificed. Consequently, the piece was performed only a few more times and considered a lost masterpiece.

Nijinsky's sister Bronislava Nijinska choreographed *Les Noce*, which is also set to



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFREY BALLETT OF CHICAGO

music by Stravinsky. Four grand pianos accompany the vibrant depiction of a Russian peasant wedding.

The third selection, *Parade*, was a collaboration by several

well-known artists of the time: Leonid Massine choreographed the piece, Pablo Picasso designed the set and Jean Cocteau created the circus theme.

"It was revolutionary at the beginning of the 20th century to bring together different artists," commented Carol Halsted, dance coordinator at the Detroit Opera House.

Of course, the Diaghilev-era choreography was itself radical. "It absolutely revolutionized what was being done at the time," said DiChiera.

Today, pieces like *Les Noce* and *Le Sacre Du Printemps* are considered the building blocks of modern and contemporary choreography, said DiChiera.

"These pieces altered the evolution of dance and have been influential up to the current day,"

**ART FAIRS**  
FROM PAGE B1

BRAC executive director. "Our silent auction of works, donated by artists, grows bigger and better every year. And we have lots of new art activities for families — patriotic flag T-shirts (\$12) to decorate with stamps or painted silk scarves (\$8) to make for fun, or treasure boxes.

**FAMILY FESTIVAL**

"We want this to be a family festival. We have a variety of live entertainment and new food including healthy alternatives from Lettuce Plant It in Southfield. There's plenty of great food, great fun."

This year for the first time the weekend begins with a trolley tour of Birmingham galleries 6-9:30 p.m. Friday, May 9. While Sherril Stanton is excited about partnering with local businesses to feature art indoors, the BRAC special events coordinator is ecstatic about artists in the Birmingham Fine Art Festival outdoors.

The quality of work has increased as word of mouth about the festival spreads among artists on the art fair circuit. For the first time this year judges will award \$2,600 in cash prizes for Best of Show. The monetary awards are sure to draw even more artists to create a larger pool from which to choose.

"I'm excited about artists like Karen Howell of Pennsylvania whose porcelains are based on the Japanese legend of the Rabbit and the Moon," said Stanton. "There are a lot of interesting types of art — Birmingham artist Andrew Madvin's glass flowers are for outdoors and indoors. They

have a glass bloom mounted on a steel stem and are lyrical and beautiful. About one-third are new artists working in fiber, photography, and glass.

"There will be very colorful lampworked glass beads by Lee Cori Flinn from New Mexico acrylic abstract paintings by Bill 'Wild' Weldon. Sherri Tracey of Illinois is bringing 2-D mixed media. She begins with batik then adds wire, wood, silver leaf to create works with titles like *Journey into the Woods*. They're very colorful and tell a story."

**ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE**

Cerantist Joe Smith doesn't have as far to travel as most of the artists in the festival. Smith is an instructor and artist-in-residence at Cranbrook's Kingswood Upper School in Bloomfield Hills. His functional plates, vessels, bowls, plates, and serving pieces come in rich colors that remind him of the bronze patina of sculptures on campus.

Smith studied ceramics at Kansas City Art Institute in Missouri before moving to Michigan to study with Tony Hepburn at Cranbrook Academy of Arts. This is his first time in the Birmingham show.

"I'm looking forward to it," Smith said. "Back in the '80s and early '90s I did art fairs but teaching is a full-time job. Birmingham's the only show I've applied for this year."

"I've been throwing 24 years. My works changed over the years. It used to be clean unbroken lines, but my latest work is looser and has a Zen quality as if a Zen master was following me around. There are hidden things in my work a good eye can find."

**BIRMINGHAM FINE ART FESTIVAL**  
Where: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 10; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 11  
Where: Shain Park, north of Merrill, east of Balis, downtown Birmingham. For more information, call (248) 644-0866

**Entertainment Schedule**  
Saturday, May 10

- 11 a.m. Tri-Force, rock and blues
- Noon The DirtBros, folk, classic rock, bluegrass, blues
- 1 p.m. Village Players of Birmingham perform music from Side Show
- 2 p.m. Donna Lee Holman, country
- 3 p.m. Sheila Landis Trio, jazz
- 4 p.m. The Hope Orchestra, high-energy original music
- 5 p.m. Michael King Band

Sunday, May 11

- 11 a.m. Blackman and Arnold Quartet
- Noon Julie Kovich, progressive pop
- 1 p.m. David Nefesh, ballads
- 2 p.m. Brazil and Beyond, music from new Beatles CD
- 3 p.m. Chris McCall
- 4 p.m. Hotsmoke, rock n' roll

# OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

**National Amusements**  
**Showcase Cinemas**  
**Showcase Dearborn 1.8**  
Michigan & Telegraph  
313-551-3440  
Showtimes: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
\*Late Show Fri. & Sat.

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The World's Best Theaters  
Birmingham May 10, 11 & 12  
Showtimes: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Now opening: *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*

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## Shop for art at street fairs

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

The Birmingham Fine Art Festival kicks off a great time to shop for gifts. In fact, many people begin their holiday shopping at this time of year. So grab a pair of comfortable shoes and plan on making a day of it.

Here's a list of upcoming art fairs. Admission is free except where noted.

- Greektown Arts Festival** - 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 16, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 17, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 18, on Monroe, St. Antoine and Beaubien, in Detroit's Greektown, (313) 963-3357
- Jambalaya Street Festival** - 4-10 p.m. Friday, May 30, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 31, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 1, (248) 334-4600 or [www.pontiacfestival.com](http://www.pontiacfestival.com)
- Livonia's Arts & Crafts Festival** - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 7-8, Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh at 8 Mile Road, (734) 466-2540
- Art on the Avenue** - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 7, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 8, on Monroe and Garrison, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, (313) 543-3095
- Royal Oak Clay & Glass** - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 15, on Washington between Fourth and Lincoln, (248) 547-4000
- Art in the Sun** - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, June 14-15, in downtown Northville, (248) 349-7640
- West Bloomfield Arts Festival** - Presented by Chamber of Commerce 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22, on the grounds surrounding Henry Ford Medical Center on Maple Road, (248) 626-3636
- Art Around the Pond** - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 21, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 22, on the grounds surrounding Henry Ford Medical Center on Maple Road, (248) 626-3636
- Art on the Green** - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1, on the Franklin Village Green, west of Franklin Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads, (248) 694-3093
- Art & Apples** - 4-7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, Rochester Municipal Park near Pine St. at University, (248) 651-4110
- Spotlight Arts and Gifts Bazaar** - 4-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, downtown Rochester. Benefits Meadow Brook Theatre, (248) 378-6840
- Detroit Festival of the Arts & Children's Fair** - 4-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 14-15, in Detroit's University Cultural Center, (313) 577-8088
- Birmingham Art in the Park** - presented by Cosmo Ground to benefit its arts programs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, Shain Park, (248) 644-0866

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