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NEWS

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS 2009

The following events are held on an annual basis and are updated throughout the year. All dates and locations are subject to change and should be confirmed with sponsors before making travel plans. A mid-year update (after July 1, 2009) as well as general city information and detailed event calendars are available at www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com.

JANUARY 2009

JANUARY 15-21

Berlin and Beyond Film Festival

Castro Theater, 415-263-8760

www.goethe.de/sanfrancisco

This unique German language film festival provides highlights of recent European cinema.

JANUARY 15-31

San Francisco Dine About Town™

Various restaurants, 415-391-2000

www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com

Bi-annual event featuring more than 100 fine restaurants offering prix fixe lunches and dinners for special prices.

JANUARY 18

Vietnamese Tet Festival

Tenderloin District, Larkin Street, 415-351-1038

www.vietccsf.org

The 12th annual Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival celebrates Vietnamese culture with a Tet Festival queen, food, music, colorful pageantry and plenty of firecrackers in Little Saigon.

JANUARY 19

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Youth and Family Day and Freedom March Rally

Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 510-562-3372

www.norcalmlk.org

San Francisco honors the civil rights leader with a host of events including annual freedom march.

JANUARY 19

19th Anniversary of the Sea Lions' Arrival at Pier 39

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Pier 39 commemorates the 19th Anniversary of the sea lions' arrival for the Bay Area herring supply. Docents from the Marine Mammal Center will be on hand to illuminate the lives of these delightful creatures.

JANUARY 21**San Francisco Ballet Gala Opening**

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, 415-865-2000

www.sfballet.org

The opening program of America's oldest professional ballet company launches the 76th repertory season of full-length, classical and contemporary ballet performances.

JANUARY 23-February 1**Noir City 7: San Francisco Film Noir Festival**

Castro Theatre

www.noircity.com

Dedicated to noir philosophy, attitude and style in films, books, art and music, the festival is the largest of its kind in the U.S.

JANUARY 24-25**Golden Gate Kennel Club Dog Show**

Cow Palace, Geneva Avenue and Santos Street, 415-404-4111

www.cowpalace.com

More than 2,000 dogs and 135 breeds vie for "Best in Show" and compete in dog agility demonstrations daily.

JANUARY 24-FEBRUARY 15**Chinese New Year Parade and Celebration**

Chinatown, 415-982-3071

www.chineseparade.com

The festivities ushering in the Year of the Ox include a Chinese New Year Flower Fair (January 24-25) Miss Chinatown USA Pageant (January 31), and the Chinatown Community Street Fair (February 7-8). It's all built around a fantastic parade from Market and Second Street to Columbus Avenue on Saturday, February 7. Chinese New Year Day is January 26.

JANUARY 28-31**18th Annual Zinfandel Festival (ZAP)**

Fort Mason Center, Herbst and Festival Pavilions, 530-274-4900

www.zinfandel.org

Zinfandel, often called America's heritage wine, is the draw here. The theme for the 2009 festival is "Unmask Your Passion." More than 300 wineries participate in this food and wine tasting which draws some 10,000 wine lovers.

JANUARY 31**Monster Energy Supercross Series**

AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, 415-972-2000 or 800-225-2277

www.attpark.com

Motor sport racing competition featuring the top supercross riders in the world.

FEBRUARY 2009**FEBRUARY 1****Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Half Marathon & 5K**

Golden Gate Park, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

One of the most scenic half marathons ever features a course throughout Golden Gate Park and along the Pacific Ocean with both starts and finishes together in the park.

FEBRUARY 5-19**San Francisco Independent Film Festival**

Roxie and Castro Theatres and various locations, 415-820-3907 or 415-421-TIXS

www.sfindie.com

The 11th annual film festival screens the best of independent films and videos from the Bay Area and beyond.

FEBRUARY 6-8**San Francisco Arts of Pacific Asia Show**

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 310-455-2886

www.caskeylees.com

All periods of exceptional Asian art and artifacts of the People of the Pacific and Mainland Asian Region.

FEBRUARY 6-15**San Francisco Beer Week**

Bay Area

www.sfbeerweek.org

Local craft beer legacy and culture celebrated with as many as 150 events including beer dinners, cheese and beer pairing events, meet the brewer evenings, demonstrations, music, films, and even a museum exhibition exploring the history of Bay Area brewing, from Monterey to Sacramento and beyond.

FEBRUARY 7**KNBR/Giants Winter Fanfest**

AT&T Park, 415-995-6800

www.sfgiants.com or www.knbr.com

Fans can go "behind the scenes" and tour the Giants Clubhouse and Dugout as well as participate in an array of interactive games and displays on the Promenade and Club levels. Members of the 2009 Giants team will be on hand to sign autographs, pose for photos and participate in Q&A sessions.

FEBRUARY 7-8, 14-15**San Francisco Zoo's "Woo at the Zoo"**

San Francisco Zoo, One Zoo Road, 415-753-7165

www.sfzoo.org

Contrary to common belief, the animals will not "mate on cue" during the Zoo's adults-only affair (21 years and older), but one will learn the many facets to the birds and the bees of the animal kingdom.

FEBRUARY 11-16**Tulipmania Festival**

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Thousands of brilliantly colored tulips from all over the world coupled with free, guided tours.

FEBRUARY 13-15**42nd California International Antiquarian Book Fair**

Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 Eighth St., 415-962-2500 or 800-454-6401

www.sfbookfair.com or www.abaa.org

The world's largest rare book fair features a rich selection of books, manuscripts, maps and other printed materials, ephemera; and antiquarian books of all kinds.

FEBRUARY 13-15

San Francisco Tribal, Folk & Textiles Arts Show

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, Marina Blvd. and Buchanan St., 310-455-2886

www.caskeylees.com

More than 80 folk and ethnic art dealers exhibiting tribal arts, pottery, textiles and jewelry from around the world.

FEBRUARY 13-21**Black Choreographers Festival**

Dance Mission Theater and various Bay Area locations, 415-273-4633 (ticket information)

www.bcfdhereandnow.com or www.dancemission.com

Celebrating African and African American dance and culture with two weekends of dynamic performances, featuring award-winning Bay Area choreographers and companies.

FEBRUARY 19-22**San Francisco Ocean Film Festival**

Fort Mason Center, Cowell Theatre, Marina Blvd. and Buchanan St., 415-561-6251

www.oceanfilmfest.org

These films focus on the "earth's last frontier," including everything from documentaries to narratives.

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 8**Bay One-Acts Festival (BOA)**

Eureka Theatre, 415-776-7427

www.threewisemonkeys.org

This showcase for new playwrights usually features a dozen new and exciting works by Bay Area writers.

FEBRUARY 20-22**San Francisco Rod Custom & Motorcycle Show**

Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave., 866-270-1955

www.sfcustomshow.com

Nine buildings filled with some of the world's hottest custom cars, hot rods and motorcycles make this the largest car show on the West Coast.

FEBRUARY 22**Academy of Friends Academy Awards Gala**

Fort Mason Center, 415-995-9890

www.academyoffriends.org

A gala celebration benefiting Bay Area AIDS/HIV organizations

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 1**Noise Pop**

Various locations,

www.noisepop.com

San Francisco's premier independent music, film and art festival is a full-scale cultural happening which also includes gallery art shows, a music-themed film festival, an indie-designer trunk sale and educational panels.

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1**The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair**

Fort Mason Center, 415-383-7837

www.crystalfair.com

Over 40 exhibitors celebrating earth and spirit with a wide variety of gems and minerals (quartz, amethyst, tourmaline, etc.), jewelry, metaphysics, healing tools and the mystical arts.

MARCH 2009

MARCH 5-8

Pacific Orchid Exposition

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 415-665-2468

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.htm

The 57th annual edition of the San Francisco Orchid Society's show dazzles with 150,000 flowers including hundreds of award winners selected by the American Orchid Society.

MARCH 6-JUNE 21

SFJAZZ Spring Season 2009

Various venues, 866-920-5299

www.sfjazz.org

Presenting a variety of concerts between March and June, including some family matinee performances. Check the Web site for performance schedule and venues.

MARCH 12-22

San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

Castro and Sundance Cinemas Kabuki Theatres, 415-863-0814, ext. 110

www.asianamericanmedia.org

The 27th annual event is the biggest event in North America dedicated to the exhibition of Asian American and Asian cinema; festival features more than 130 films and videos from around the globe.

MARCH 11-APRIL 11

13th Annual Youth Speaks Teen Poetry Slam

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Oakland Museum and La Pena Cultural Center, 415-255-9035 ext. 17

www.youthspeaks.org

Youth Speaks, one of the leaders in Spoken Word performances, works with 45,000 teens annually and is a presenter of local and national youth poetry slams, festivals, reading series and more. Preliminaries take place in March followed by the semi-finals and finals, climaxing with the Grand Slam Finals at the San Francisco Opera House in April.

MARCH 12-29

ODC/Dance Downtown

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 415-863-6606

www.odcdance.org

Described as "fierce, evocative and exhilarating," the annual spring performance of ODC/Dance always garners praise from local critics.

MARCH 14

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Second and Market to Civic Center, 415-395-8417

www.sfstpatricksdaysparade.com

One of San Francisco's largest annual parades and one of the longest-running parades in the U.S. is celebrated with live music, dance, beverages and traditional Irish cuisine. The 157th annual parade starts at 11:30 a.m.

MARCH 14-15

Contemporary Crafts Market

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 415-995-4925

www.craftsource.org

More than 250 of the nation's top craft artists will come together to display and sell expertly handcrafted decorative, functional and fine art such as wearable art, ceramics, intricate jewelry, unique glassware and much more.

MARCH 15

Emerald Across The Bay 12K Race

Sausalito to San Francisco, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

The largest run ever to cross the Golden Gate Bridge ends with a world-class post-race party at Fisherman's Wharf.

MARCH 16-21

Bouquets to Art

de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 415-750-3504

www.bouquetstoart.org

The 25th annual event celebrates the beauty of flowers combined with fine art. Extravagant floral arrangements from some of California's top designers and lectures by several world-renowned floral designers.

MARCH 18-22

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

San Mateo Event Center, 415-771-6909 or 800-569-2832

www.gardenshow.com

Fourth largest show in the country and the largest in California showcases display gardens, spring planting, gardening accessories, cut flowers, decorations and much more.

MARCH 21

San Francisco International Chocolate Salon

Fort Mason Center, Herbst Pavilion

www.sfchocolatesalon.com

Those with a yen for chocolate can indulge in artisan, gourmet and premium chocolate; more than 50 chocolatiers, confectioners, wineries and other culinary artisans will be on hand. Chef and author talks, wine pairings and live chocolate body frosting are also part of the fare.

MARCH 21-29

24th Annual Jewish Music Festival

Various locations throughout San Francisco and East Bay, 510-848-0237

www.jewishmusicfestival.org

Oldest major festival of Jewish world music in the U.S.

MARCH 28

Earth Hour

www.earthhour.org

Major cities around the world, including San Francisco, show that the simple act of turning off lights for one hour can have a lasting impact on climate change.

APRIL 2009

APRIL 2-5

Junior Grand National Stock Show

Cow Palace, 415-404-4111

www.cowpalace.com

Members of 4-H and FFA, ages 9-19, compete for cash awards for their show animals including including steers, hogs, sheep, goats and rabbits; a professional bull riding event is also part of the schedule.

APRIL 2-25**DIVAFest**

Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy St., 415-931-1094

www.theexit.org

A theater festival with a "female persuasion" dedicated to the work of women writers and artists throughout the U.S.

APRIL 3-19**Macy's Flower Show**

Macy's, Union Square, 415-393-3333

www.macys.com

This annual floral tribute is a spring tradition; the 63rd annual show transforms windows and store interiors into a floral masterpiece. Celebration includes guest speakers and special in-store events.

APRIL 7**Opening Day – San Francisco Giants**

AT&T Park, 415-972-2000 (info), tickets at www.tickets.com

www.sfgiants.com

The San Francisco Giants open their 2009 season at AT&T Park.

APRIL 11**International Lao New Year Festival**

Civic Center Plaza, 415-680-4027

www.laonewyear.com

Showcasing Lao culture, pride and heritage from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

APRIL 11-12, 18-19**Cherry Blossom Festival**

Civic Center and Japantown, 415-563-2313

www.nccbf.org

This is the 42nd annual festival, one of California's most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions. Two consecutive weekends of performances, crafts, food, martial arts and exhibitions. A colorful parade will be held on Sunday, April 19 starting from the Civic Center to Japantown, 1 p.m.

APRIL 12**Union Street Spring Celebration & Easter Parade**

Union St. between Gough and Fillmore, 800-310-6563

www.sresproductions.com

More than 30,000 people turn out for "the biggest little parade in San Francisco," which features children's activities, alfresco dining, the Easter Bunny, a petting zoo and flowers from local garden clubs.

APRIL 23-MAY 7**San Francisco International Film Festival (SFIFF)**

Castro Theater, Sundance Cinemas Kabuki Theatres and other venues, 415-561-5000 or 415-931-FILM

www.sffs.org

The 52nd annual event is an extraordinary showcase of cinematic discovery and innovation. Since its inception in 1957, the SFIFF has hosted hundreds of prominent guests from Spike Lee to Bette Davis and presented almost 6,000 films from more than 120 countries to nearly two million filmgoers.

APRIL 24-26

2009 San Francisco New Living Expo

Concourse Exhibition Center, 415-382-8300

www.newlivingexpo.com

Choose a new career path, build better relationships, improve health and discover the latest in new mind/body therapies. More than 100 renowned speakers and 275 exhibits sharing natural health products, body therapies, healthy foods and more.

APRIL 24-MAY 3

Bay Area National Dance Week

415-568-5861

www.bacndw.org

All dance! All free! All week! is the motto of Bay Area National Dance Week. More than 300 artists and organizations participate annually; events include classes, performances, lectures, open rehearsals, open houses, workshops, film screenings, etc.

APRIL 25

San Francisco International Beer Festival

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion

www.sfbeerfest.com

Sample more than 300 incredible beers from some of the best craft brewers in the world as well as a variety of offerings from some of San Francisco's best restaurants. Must be 21 or over to enter.

APRIL 25-MAY 25

San Francisco Decorator Showcase

415-447-3115

<http://www.decoratorshowcase.org/>

With 32 years of excellence in design and the decorative arts and 20,000 visitors annually, this event is nationally recognized as one of the premier showcase houses in the country. A stately four-story Georgian mansion located at 2830 Pacific Ave. will be transformed this year.

APRIL 26

Opening Day on the Bay

415-331-0702

www.picya.org

Kick off sailing season on San Francisco Bay with a festive boat parade and the blessing of the fleet.

APRIL 26-OCTOBER 11 (EVERY SUNDAY)

Golden Gate Park Band

Music Concourse, Golden Gate Park, 510-530-0814

www.goldengateparkband.org

Since 1882, the Golden Gate Park Band has performed regularly in the park. Pack a picnic and enjoy this perennial pleasure.

MAY 2009

MAY 2

Cinco de Mayo

Dolores Park, Dolores and 18th St., 415-206-0577

www.sfcincodemayo.com

This community-based cultural heritage event commemorates the self-determination of the indigenous people of Mexico.

MAY 2-3

Annual Norway Days

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 415-297-2147

www.norwayday.org

Largest Norway-only festival in the U.S. showcases the best of Norwegian culture, food and music. Family-friendly festival with entertainment, cooking demonstrations, crafts, clothing, food, art and more.

MAY 2-OCTOBER 31

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

Yerba Buena Gardens, 415-543-1718

www.ybgf.org

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival encompasses more than 150 artistic, cultural and community events from May through October in Yerba Buena Gardens. Events include popular and operatic music series, cultural festivals, dance performances, international music concerts, visual art exhibits, theater and spoken word performances.

MAY 9

KABOOM

Piers 30/32

www.kfog.com

The 16th annual fireworks celebration sponsored by KFOG Radio features a synchronized soundtrack, live music and children's stage.

MAY 10

How Weird Street Faire

Howard and Second Streets

www.howweird.org

Billed as a "street fair for the 21st century," the event includes nine stages of music over seven city blocks; food and vendors from around the world, and educational booths.

MAY 16

Uncorked – The San Francisco Wine Festival

Ghirardelli Square, 415-775-5500

www.ghirardellisq.com

Enjoy tastings from a variety of Bay Area wineries and experience the ambience of the waterfront and entertainment throughout Ghirardelli Square and along Beach Street.

MAY 16

Asian Heritage Street Celebration

Larkin Street near Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St., and Little Saigon area, 415-321-5894

www.asianfairsf.com

A celebration of all Asian cultures, the Asian Heritage Street Celebration promotes and fosters Asian Pacific American identity; live entertainment and more than 50 vendors makes this one of the largest pan-Asian events in the U.S.

MAY 16-24

Young at Art 2009

de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 415-750-3600

www.famsf.org

The de Young Museum teams up with the San Francisco Unified School District to present a celebration of student creativity and arts education showcasing visual and performing arts by 3,500 students from 250 schools.

MAY 17

ING Bay to Breakers

The Embarcadero to the Great Hwy., 415-359-2800

www.ingbaytobreakers.com

Since 1912 tens of thousands of people have gathered in San Francisco to see the world's largest footrace unfold as more than 70,000 costume-clad runners and walkers push off at 8 am.

MAY 20-31

San Francisco International Arts Festival

Various venues, 415-399-9554 or 800-838-3006

www.sfiarf.org

Annual multi-disciplinary festival brings together the world community of artists and audiences to present and commission innovative, collaborative projects and performances.

MAY 23-24

Carnaval 2009

Mission District, 415-651-1811

www.carnavalsf.com

Celebrating its 31st anniversary San Francisco's version of Mardi Gras, one of its largest annual public events, features exotic carnival dancers with a mixture of latino, jazz, samba, Caribbean influences. Festive parade on Sunday morning draws upon a broad cultural pageantry.

MAY 31-JULY 11

National Queer Arts Festival

Various venues, 415-864-4124

www.queerculturalcenter.org

The Queer Cultural Center presents this month-long festival at numerous venues around San Francisco and also has an extensive online component. Readings, gallery tours, performances and film screenings are part of this multi-disciplinary festival.

JUNE 2009

JUNE 1-15

San Francisco Dine About Town™

Various restaurants, 415-391-2000, www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com

Bi-annual event featuring more than 100 fine restaurants offering prix fixe lunches and dinners for special prices.

JUNE 6-7

Union Street Eco-Urban Festival

Union Street between Gough and Steiner, 800-310-6563

www.unionstreetfestival.com

One of San Francisco's largest, free art festivals offers an organic farmers market, arts and crafts created with recycled and sustainable materials and eco-friendly exhibits; 150 artists, 20 gourmet food booths, live entertainment on two stages as well.

JUNE 6-7

The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair

Fort Mason Center, 415-383-7837

www.crystalfair.com

More than 40 exhibitors celebrating earth and spirit with a wide variety of gems and minerals (quartz, amethyst, tourmaline, etc.), jewelry, metaphysics, healing tools and the mystical arts.

JUNE 6-28 (WEEKENDS ONLY)**Ethnic Dance Festival**

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 415-474-3914

www.worldartswest.org

One of the largest events of its kind in the country featuring real people, real dances and real music of Northern California communities.

JUNE 9**Cable Car Bell-Ringing Competition**

Union Square Plaza, 311 or 415-701-2311(outside Bay Area)

www.sfmta.com

Operators of San Francisco's world-famous cable cars make beautiful music in this annual competition. Noon-1pm.

JUNE 13-14**Fiesta Filipina 2009**

Civic Center Plaza, 866-9-FIESTA

www.FiestaFilipinaUSA.net

The biggest Filipino festival in America celebrates the Philippines' Independence Day with musical performances, a talent search and more.

JUNE 13-14**North Beach Festival**

Washington Square Park, 415-989-2220

www.sfnorthbeach.org

San Francisco's oldest street fair delights with juried arts and crafts, live entertainment, pizza toss, animal blessings and other surprises. Sponsored by the North Beach Chamber of Commerce. Validated parking is available.

JUNE 13-14**Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon**

Various venues, 424-653-1900

www.escapefromalcatraztriathlon.com

The 1.5 mile swim to Alcatraz, 18-mile bike ride and eight-mile run through the Golden Gate National Recreation Area with a finish at Marina Green draws some 2,000 triathletes/relay teams annually.

JUNE 14**Haight Ashbury Street Fair**

Haight St. between Masonic and Stanyan Sts., 415-664-2970

www.haightashburystreetfair.org

Music, arts, crafts and food are the mainstay of this event celebrating the cultural history and diversity of one of San Francisco's most internationally celebrated neighborhoods - the Haight-Ashbury district. A new area, The Children's Alley, will be added for 2009 along Belvedere and Haight for families with children ages six to 12.

JUNE 18-28

Frameline: San Francisco LGBT Film Festival

Castro Theatre, 415-703-8650

www.frameline.org

This is the world's premier showcase for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender cinema.

JUNE 20-21

Juneteenth Festival

Civic Center and Fillmore District,

www.sfuneteenth.org

The African American community celebrates the 1865 announcement of emancipation in Texas. The largest celebration outside of Texas includes live entertainment, food, arts and crafts. Parade begins at Civic Center Plaza.

JUNE 21–AUGUST 23 (EVERY SUNDAY)

Stern Grove Festival

Stern Grove, 19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd., 415-252-6252

www.sterngrove.org

The Stern Grove Festival celebrates its 72nd season of free Sunday concerts featuring renowned music and dance groups set in a beautiful outdoor amphitheater in the heart of San Francisco.

JUNE 27-28

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Celebration Parade

Embarcadero to Civic Center, Market St., 415-864-FREE

www.sfpride.org

San Francisco's annual celebration of lesbian and gay pride culminates with a festive parade from the Embarcadero to the Civic Center on June 28.

JULY 2009

JULY 4

Fourth of July Waterfront Festival

Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Dazzling fireworks, local bands, food, arts and crafts ignite this annual waterfront party. Fireworks begin around 9 pm. Dress warmly.

JULY 4-5

Fillmore Street Jazz Festival

Fillmore St. between Jackson and Eddy Sts.,

www.fillmorejazzfestival.com

Three stages of continuous jazz performances, more than 300 artists booths and international food courts with some of the best food and beverages that San Francisco has to offer.

JULY 10-12

San Francisco Silent Film Festival

Castro Theatre, 415-777-7908,

www.silentfilm.org

The San Francisco Silent Film Festival presents silent films accompanied by live music. This festival promotes silent film as art and historical record.

JULY 16-26

Midsummer Mozart Festival

Herbst Theater and various Bay Area venues, 415-627-9141

www.midsummermozart.org

A Mozart musical festival featuring world-renowned artists and a first-class local orchestra.

JULY 23-AUGUST 10

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

Castro Theater and other venues around the Bay Area, 415-621-0556 (info), 866-558-4253 (tickets)

www.sfjff.org

Films from American and international filmmakers showcase the diversity and vitality of Jewish culture. The festival is the first, oldest and most prestigious celebration of its kind in the world.

JULY 26

San Francisco Theater Festival

Yerba Buena Gardens/Center for the Arts/Zeum Theater, 415-543-1718

www.sftheaterfestival.org

An amazing one-day, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., annual celebration of live theater. More than 130 theater groups perform short pieces —drama, comedy and musical — on 17 stages. Plus 30 shows for children. Free admission.

JULY 26

Up Your Alley Fair

Dore Alley between Folsom and Howard and adjoining block of Folsom between Ninth and 10th streets, 415-777-3247

www.folsomstreetfair.com

Similar to September's Folsom Street Fair, which is the climax of Leather Pride Week, this event has a more local appeal for leatherfolk and draws some 12,000+ attendees.

JULY 26

San Francisco Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K Run/Walk

Ferry Building, The Embarcadero, 415-284-9653

www.runsfm.com

Enjoy the amazing city of San Francisco by taking part in one of the world's great marathons. The USAT&F Certified course is a "best of San Francisco" tour and includes a loop over the Golden Gate Bridge. Choose from running the marathon, half marathon, progressive marathon or 5K run/walk races.

AUGUST 2009

AUGUST (TBA)

BATS Summer Improv Festival

Fort Mason Center, Bayfront Theater

www.improv.org

More than 100 improvisers from near and far gather for the annual festival to take classes and perform onstage; professional ensemble shows Friday and Saturday throughout the month; student shows every Sunday night. Among the highlights are the annual "grudge match" competition between Northern and Southern California.

AUGUST 1

Positively 6th Street Fair

Sixth St. at Minna Alley, 415-538-8100 ext. 202, www.positively6thstreetfair.org

Community togetherness is celebrated in this event specifically designed for low income residents who live on the busy Sixth Street corridor; live entertainment, food and services are provided free of charge.

AUGUST 1**Jerry Day**

Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, 40 John F. Shelley Dr., 415-272-2012

www.jerryday.org

The Excelsior District celebrates native son and Grateful Dead leader Jerry Garcia with an outdoor concert and family fun.

AUGUST 1-2**San Francisco Aloha Festival**

Parade Grounds, Presidio, 415-281-0221

www.pica-org.org or www.sanfranciscoalohafestival.org

Two-day arts festival celebrating Pacific Islanders' culture, Polynesian dance, islander food, music, ethnic arts and crafts, educational workshops and activities.

AUGUST 1-2**San Francisco Gem and Mineral Show**

San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way, 415-564-4230

www.sfgms.org

Rock hounds abound at this annual show featuring pre-historic fossils, lapidary, unique jewelry and educational demonstrations.

AUGUST 1-SEPTEMBER 31**AfroSolo Arts Festival**

Various venues, 415-771-AFRO (2376)

www.afrosolo.org

Celebrating its 16th year, featuring celebrity and emerging African American artists in various performances such as theater, dance, music, spoken word and visual arts.

AUGUST 8-9**Nihonmachi Street Fair**

Japantown and Japan Center, 415-771-9861

www.nihonmachistreetfair.org

This 36th annual Japanese festival features lion dancers, taiko drummers, Japanese arts and crafts, musical entertainment, food and children's events.

AUGUST 14-16**ACC Craft Show**

Fort Mason Center, 800-836-3470

www.craftcouncil.org

This is the largest juried craft event in the West, featuring more than 250 of the nation's premier craft artists. Works of art include hand-blown glass, clay and ceramic objects, wearable art, metal works, wooden furniture, quilts and baskets.

AUGUST 23-24**Family Winemakers of California Wine Tasting**

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 916-498-7500

www.familywinemakers.org

Originally a "to the trade only" event, this annual tasting has evolved into a highly anticipated event where many new, hard-to-find wines debut. These are the largest tastings of California wines in the world and a showcase for the state's small, family-owned wineries.

AUGUST 28-30

San Francisco's Outside Lands Music & Arts Festival

Golden Gate Park

www.sfoutsidelands.com

More than 60 bands drew an estimated 150,000 concert goers for the first Outside Lands festival in 2008; the diverse line-up includes a mix of rock, Latin, hip-hop, reggae, rap and folk.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 20 (WEEKENDS ONLY AND LABOR DAY MONDAY)

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

Main Post Parade Ground Lawn, Presidio, 415-558-0888

www.sfshakes.org

A Comedy of Errors is Shakespeare's version of slapstick comedy; puns, mistaken identities and wordplay tickle funny bones in this summer's fresh take in the fresh air of the Bard's best.

SEPTEMBER 2009

SEPTEMBER (TBA)

Portola Festival

San Bruno Avenue between Bacon and Silliman Sts., 415-574-9170

www.portolafestival.org

Portola Festival on San Bruno Avenue was created to spotlight the diversity, character and distinctiveness of one of the city's most interesting and fastest growing neighborhoods.

SEPTEMBER 1-30

Architecture and the City

Citywide, 415-362-7397

www.aia.org/archandcity

Sponsored by AIA San Francisco, the largest architectural and design festival in the U.S. includes a series of architectural tours, film screenings, exhibitions, design lectures, home shows and more. In 2008, more than 20,000 people attended the festival.

SEPTEMBER 4-7

Sausalito Art Festival

Sausalito, 415-332-3555

www.sausalitoartfestival.org

Sausalito's yearly art festival has been showcasing stars from the contemporary art world since 1952. Browse fine art and crafts along the beautiful bay shore.

SEPTEMBER 6

Harrison Street Fair

Entry gates located on Harrison Street at 11, 12 and 13th (Division) Streets, 415-255-8658

www.harrison.org

This Labor Day weekend tradition organized by PrideWorks draws more than 5,000 "hairy, hunky guys" and is a celebration of all that is furry and fun. Restricted to ages 21 and over.

SEPTEMBER 9

San Francisco Symphony's Opening Gala

Davies Symphony Hall, 415-552-8000

www.sfsymphony.org

The San Francisco Symphony initiates its 2009-10 season with a gala opening evening.

SEPTEMBER 9-20

San Francisco Fringe Festival

*Exit Theatre and other downtown venues,
415-931-1094 (info), 800-965-4827 or 415-673-3847(tickets)*

www.sffringe.org

The 18th annual festival is a marathon of 40-plus shows with low price tickets and a wide variety of alternative, classical, comedy, cabaret and new theater open to all performers on a non-curated basis.

SEPTEMBER 11

San Francisco Opera Opening Gala

War Memorial Opera House, 415-864-3330

www.sfopera.com

The 2009-10 season begins with the annual opening night gala, Opera Ball 2009.

SEPTEMBER 12-13

Ghirardelli Square Chocolate Festival

Ghirardelli Square, 415-775-5500

www.ghirardellisq.com

Discover unique chocolate desserts and delicacies from Ghirardelli and beyond at this annual chocolate celebration.

SEPTEMBER 13

San Francisco Opera Concert in the Park

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, 415-864-3330

www.sfopera.com

Enjoy this outdoor venue and free admission to an afternoon opera concert featuring arias and ensembles by the stars of the San Francisco Opera and the Opera Orchestra.

SEPTEMBER 13

Banana Chase 5K and 10K and Young Champions Race

Golden Gate Park and Kezar Stadium Track, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

Come join the 5K run for everyone at Golden Gate Park; there will be races just for kids. All races begin and end at the stadium.

SEPTEMBER 19-20

Family Day Kite Festival

Marina Green, 415-383-0500

www.fdkf.org

Free, open-air, panoramic and eco-friendly event features all forms of kiting from kite-flying to kite-boarding to kite-boating.

SEPTEMBER 20

Comedy Day

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, 415-820-1570

www.comedyday.com

Laugh out loud ... it's the 29th anniversary no less of this free comedy "concert" featuring 30 of the U.S.'s and Bay Area's best comedians.

SEPTEMBER 24-27

45th Annual Big Book Sale

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 415-626-7500

www.friendssfpl.org

Sponsored by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, this is the largest book sale on the West Coast. A logistical feat that involves more than 300,000 books in 50-plus categories, 350 volunteers, 8,000 boxes and 300 tables, the sale is free and open to the public.

SEPTEMBER 26

Sausalito Floating Homes Tour

Sausalito, 415-332-1916

www.floatinghomes.org

Self-guided tours from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. include access to 20 of the most unique homes in the world; docents are onboard to describe Sausalito's incredible waterfront style and to answer questions.

SEPTEMBER 26-27

San Francisco International Dragon Boat Festival

Treasure Island, www.sfdragonboat.com

Nearly 100 dragon boat teams and 2,500 paddlers from across North America will race the 500-meter course; festival also features entertainment and children's activities.

SEPTEMBER 26-27

Autumn Moon Festival

Grant Ave. between California and Pacific Sts., 415-982-6306

www.moonfestival.org

This event features multicultural entertainment, traditional lion and dragon dances, arts and crafts, lantern village, moon cakes and children's activities.

SEPTEMBER 27

Folsom Street Fair

Folsom St. between Seventh and 12th Sts., 415-777-3247

www.folsomstreetfair.com

The "daddy of all leather celebrations," the Folsom Street Fair is the largest leather, alternative and fetish street fair in the world drawing some 400,000 attendees annually, dressed in leather, rubber, uniforms, drag or very little at all.

OCTOBER 2009

OCTOBER 2-4

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass

Speedway Meadows, Golden Gate Park

www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com

This free celebration of music in the park includes a who's who of top entertainment.

OCTOBER 2-4

Oktoberfest By The Bay

Pier 48 near AT&T Park, 888-746-7522

www.oktoberfestbythebay.com

Bringing Munich's autumn beer festival to the Bay, Oktoberfest features non-stop singing, dancing, music, German food and beverages.

OCTOBER 2-NOVEMBER 1

Free Night of Theater Celebration

Various venues; 415-430-1140

www.tixbayarea.com

Billed as a "free-for-all," this program has been expanded from one night to a rolling giveaway of an estimated 8,000 free tickets over four weeks.

OCTOBER 3 (TENTATIVE)

LoveFest

Market Street and Civic Center, www.sflovest.org, 415-820-1423

Annual dance music parade and festival features a participatory parade with upwards of two dozen floats culminating in a giant outdoor dance club at Civic Center Plaza.

OCTOBER 3-NOVEMBER 1 (WEEKENDS ONLY)**ArtSpan/San Francisco Open Studios**

Various locations, 415-861-9838

www.sfopenstudios.com

San Francisco's most exciting artists open their doors to the public and reveal their latest projects, how they work and what's for sale.

OCTOBER 4**Glide Bridge to Bridge Run**

Golden Gate Bridge to Bay Bridge, 415-995-6868

www.bridgetobridge.com

Participants run from the Bay Bridge to the Golden Gate in this seaside 12K and 7K race.

OCTOBER 4**Blessing of the Fishing Fleet**

Fisherman's Wharf

www.visitfishermanswharf.com

Traditionally the first Sunday in October, this event goes back several centuries.

OCTOBER 4**Castro Street Fair**

Castro St., 415-841-1824

www.castrostreetfair.org

Arts and crafts booths, live entertainment, dancing and music are all part of the fun at this gay-friendly street festival.

OCTOBER 6-11**The Presidents Cup**

Harding Park Golf Course.

www.pgatour.com/tournaments/presidentcup/ or www.harding-park.com.

Team match play competition features 24 of the world's top golfers — 12 from the United States and 12 from around the world, excluding Europe; past U.S. Team players include Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Jim Furyk. Past International Team members include Vijay Singh, Ernie Els and Adam Scott.

OCTOBER 8-13**Fleet Week San Francisco**

Aquatic Park and Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf, 650-599-5057

www.fleetweek.us

Fleet Week is the Bay Area's opportunity to honor the nation's men and women of the Navy and marine services. Navy ship tours and air show. Reserved seating and corporate packages available.

OCTOBER 9-17**Litquake 2009**

Citywide, www.litquake.org

A San Francisco literary festival showcases hundreds of the Bay Area's finest writers for a week of readings, discussions, films, cross-media happenings and more.

OCTOBER 9-18

San Francisco World Music Festival

Various venues, 415-561-6571

www.sfworldmusicfestival.org

Music festival showcases the musical diversity from the Bay Area and around the globe by presenting high quality world music performances by master artists both locally and overseas, and from traditional to contemporary explorations.

OCTOBER 11

San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade and Festival

Fisherman's Wharf and North Beach, 415-703-9888

www.sfcolumbusday.org

The City celebrates its Italian heritage with a lively parade through North Beach with food, music, entertainment and celebrities, beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11.

OCTOBER 15-18

Sundance Stompede

415-820-1403

www.stompede.com

San Francisco's annual Country Western weekend for the LGBT community and friends. Join hundreds of cowboys and cowgirls as they dance their feet off with three days of workshops and three nights of open dancing.

OCTOBER 16-29

San Francisco Documentary Film Festival (DocFest)

Roxie Cinemas, 3117 16th St., 415-820-3907

www.sfindie.com

These documentaries, while exploring fun and lighthearted subject matter, often uncover serious truths. Promoted by the SF IndieFest.

OCTOBER 17-18

Treasure Island Music Festival

www.treasureislandfestival.com

Internationally renowned artists gather for a spectacular two-day, outdoor concert festival featuring local designers, artists, food and beverage.

OCTOBER 18

Fiesta on the Hill

Cortland Avenue between Bocana and Folsom St., Bernal Heights, 800-310-6563

www.sresproductions.com

For more than two decades this neighborhood street fair has drawn more than 15,000 people to this family-friendly event featuring pony rides, a petting zoo, pumpkin patch, local artists and live music. **a**

OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 8

San Francisco Jazz Festival

Various locations, 866-920-5299

www.sfjazz.org

One of San Francisco's biggest and best musical festivals features local, national and international jazz artist performances at locations throughout San Francisco.

OCTOBER 23-24

Exotic Erotic Ball and Expo

Cow Palace, 415-567-BALL (2255)

www.exoticeroticball.com

A celebration of "flesh, fetish and fantasy" the ball has been titillating San Francisco audiences for 30 years and is considered one of the No. 1 adult-themed party events in the world. The two-day Expo features its own entertainment lineup, in addition to more than 100 exhibits.

OCTOBER 23-25

International Vintage Poster Fair

Landmark Building A, Fort Mason Center, 650-548-6700

www.posterfair.com

The oldest and largest vintage poster fair in the world features American and European posters from the 1890s to the 1980s.

OCTOBER 25

Pumpkin Pandemonium

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Kids in costume can trick or treat throughout Pier 39's shops, restaurants and attractions. Enjoy pumpkin carving demonstrations, face painting and a pumpkin patch.

OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 1

San Francisco Fall Antiques Show

Fort Mason Center, 415-989-9019

www.sffas.org

The oldest continuously operating international antiques show on the West Coast. Currently celebrating its 28th year, the show includes 70 distinguished antiques dealers from America and Europe selling a broad range of antique merchandise.

NOVEMBER 2009

NOVEMBER 6-14

American Indian Film Festival

Palace of Fine Arts and Landmark Embarcadero, 415-554-0525

www.aifisf.com

The world's oldest festival dedicated to films by and about Native Americans showcases new and exciting work.

NOVEMBER 7-8

Fabulous Food Festival

Concourse Exhibition Center, Eighth and Brannan Streets, 415-388-7208

www.pacificexpositions.com

Consumer specialty food show offers everything from cheeses to chocolates for sampling and sale from more than 150 exhibitors and sponsors. Musical entertainment, demos and lectures as well.

NOVEMBER 13-15

San Francisco Green Festival

www.greenfestivals.org, 800-497-1994

A joint project of Global Exchange and Co-op America to bring individuals, businesses and investors together to work cooperatively on positive economic solutions for communities and the environment, this is one of the largest and most authentic sustainability events in the world.

NOVEMBER 20

Embarcadero Center Building Lighting Ceremony

Justin Herman Plaza, Embarcadero Center, 800-733-6318

www.embarcaderocenter.com

Bring the family to stroll through a holiday fair, enjoy live entertainment and witness the lighting of the Embarcadero Center's dramatic office towers which illuminate the San Francisco skyline with 17,000 lights throughout the season.

NOVEMBER 20-22

San Francisco Hip-Hop Dance Festival

www.sfhiphopdancefest.com

Micaya, local teacher, choreographer and producer presents hip hop dance companies from around the world at this award-winning, multi-cultural dance festival.

NOVEMBER 22

Holiday Harmony and Pier 39 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

A multi-cultural celebration, Holiday Harmony features Bay Area groups performing seasonal favorites from around the world. Pier 39's majestic tree, adorned with 400 glistening ornaments and 2,000 twinkling lights will be lit at 5:30 p.m. in the Entrance Plaza; festivities begin at 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER 26

Turkey Trail Trot

Golden Gate Park

www.turkeytrailtrot.com

This invigorating fun run or walk has become a popular Thanksgiving Day tradition.

NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 6

San Francisco International Automobile Show

Moscone Center, 415-331-4406

www.sfautoshow.com

More than 40 of the world's major car manufacturers display 2009 model cars, trucks and vans plus special displays.

NOVEMBER 27

Ghirardelli Square Tree Lighting Ceremony

Ghirardelli Square, 415-775-5500

www.ghirardellisq.com

Ghirardelli's magical square comes alive with colorful performers, music, Mr. and Mrs. Claus and a 50-foot Christmas tree lighting up the night.

NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 20 (WEEKENDS ONLY)

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

Cow Palace, 415-897-4555

www.dickensfair.com

The Dickens Christmas Fair revives the tradition of an old English Victorian Christmas with theaters, a music hall, dance parties, taverns, shops, stalls, food, street vendors and period costumes.

NOVEMBER 28-29

The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair

Fort Mason Center, 415-383-7837

www.crystalfair.com

More than 40 exhibitors celebrating earth and spirit with a wide variety of gems and minerals (quartz, amethyst, tourmaline, etc.), jewelry, metaphysics, healing tools and the mystical arts.

NOVEMBER 28-29, DECEMBER 5-6

Celebration of Craftswomen

Fort Mason Center, Herbst Pavilion, 415-431-1180

www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org

Visit the 31st annual celebration of the nation's largest women's craft fair featuring fine quality crafts from 300 artists, working in glass, fiber, ceramics, jewelry, leather, paper, sculpture, wood and other fine arts.

NOVEMBER 29

Run Wild for a Child 5K and 10K

Golden Gate Park, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

This 10K run and 5K run/walk, where participants often dress in costumes, benefits San Francisco Firefighters Toy program.

DECEMBER 2009

DECEMBER 5

Union Street Fantasy of Lights

Union Street between Van Ness and Steiner, Fillmore Street from Union to Steiner, 800-310-6563

www.sresproductions.com or www.unionstreetsf.com

Costumed characters, Santa, merchant open houses and activities for children launch the holiday season along this famous street in San Francisco, 3 to 9 p.m.

DECEMBER 8-27

San Francisco Ballet Nutcracker

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave., 415-865-2000 (tickets)

www.sfballet.org

"Nutcracker" performed by America's oldest ballet company presents Tchaikovsky's beloved family classic every year.

DECEMBER 12

Parol Lantern Festival & Parade

Bayanihan Community Center, 1010 Mission St., 415-348-8042

www.bayanihancc.org

Grand pageantry of more than 1,000 glowing lanterns; annual Parol celebration has become a must-see holiday event. Bay Area Filipino community gathers for the sixth annual celebration of holiday spirit, hope, unity and pride. Parade begins at 5 p.m. from center and ends at Jessie Square.

DECEMBER 26

Emerald Bowl

AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, 415-947-BOWL (2695)

www.emeraldbowl.org

Enjoy the color and excitement of high impact college football as two of the country's top teams clash at the Emerald Bowl on the day after Christmas.

7.9.2009