

# Festival boasts strong lineup despite budget

The annual event will remain similar to previous years, bringing back old favorites and attracting some new acts

**Aaron Shakra**  
Pulse Reporter

On the surface, the Willamette Valley Folk Festival, now in its 33rd year, won't appear much different from previous years when it returns to campus on Friday. However, what won't be as apparent are the challenges programmers faced this year.

UO Cultural Forum Program Director Justina Parsons-Bernstein said while the festival's budget has remained a constant \$15,000 in recent years, costs for producing the Folk Festival last year reached \$45,000, with additional money being underwritten by the Cultural Forum. Parsons-Bernstein said she decided coordinators should be able to use their budgets for their own areas of programming this year.

"I do think that the spending did get out of hand from the past, and it's been reigned in," Parsons-Bernstein said. "Support needs to come from other entities — that's too heavy a bill for us."

Folk Festival Producer Amy Bowers said planning for the Folk Festival has been a yearlong process, and retaining the celebra-

tion's familiar format — five stages and three days — was important.

"I was kind of on a mission," Bowers said. "I would have disappointed the community and myself if it was a two-day festival."

Bowers said because she could not reduce the costs of the festival's stage and security; it left her with the task of having to barter with musicians to perform for reduced pay or for free.

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Folk Festival producer

"A lot of it was negotiating with musicians," she said. "As far as stage and security, you can't really adjust that."

Parsons-Bernstein said she was confident in this year's lineup of performers. She mentioned two groups specifically: Solo Dos en Tijuana, performing on Friday at 8:30 p.m. on the main stage, who she described as "Tom Waits-ian"; and the Kathak Indian Dancers, whose style

serves as the underpinning of flamenco, performing on Saturday at 5 p.m. on the main stage.

Variety band The Sugar Beets will close out on Saturday, performing at 9 p.m. on the main stage. The Sugar Beets have played at the Folk Festival for a number of years. Drummer Brian West, the band's newest member, said it is important for the group to have something fresh and exciting to play each year.

"Even though we've done it for many years, it's all we think about," West said. "We don't want it to be the same band every year."

West hinted at the possibility of the band members wearing costumes and said he hopes festival-goers will check out the indoor events — such as those in The Buzz Coffeehouse — because the Folk Festival isn't all about the main stage. The Eugene Weekly printed the Folk Festival schedule free of charge, and radio-station KLCC is broadcasting music.

Bowers said although this year's scant budget may create difficulties for next year's festival planning, she remains optimistic.

"It's going to be tough — you've just got to be resourceful," she said. "Hopefully, everything works out."

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## Entertainment Calendar

### Friday, May 16

**8 p.m.** — Loretta Lynn (country), Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center, Seventh Avenue and Willamette Street, 682-5000, \$32-\$42

**8:30 p.m.** — Middle Eastern Dance Guild of Eugene (traditional and interpretive dance), Cafe Paradiso, 115 W. Broadway, 484-9933, \$4 cover

**9 p.m.** — Cynthia Mullis (jazz saxophone), Luna, 30 E. Broadway, 344-6948, \$6

**9:30 p.m.** — Bus Driver & Radioinactive as The Weather, Awol One, Andre Afram Asmar (hip-hop), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave., 687-2746, \$8 advance, \$10 door

**9:30 p.m.** — Little Charlie and the Nightcats (rock), Wild Duck Music Hall, 169 W. Sixth Ave., 485-3825, \$12, ages 21 and over

### Saturday, May 17

**8 p.m.** — "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" (theater), Soreng Theater, Hult Center, Seventh Avenue and Willamette Street, 682-5000, \$20-\$35

**8:30 p.m.** — Shelley James Musicbox (soulful danceable pop rock R&B), Luna, 30 E. Broadway, 344-6948, \$7

**9 p.m.** — Tony Kaltenberg (solo guitar shaman with percussive trancey fingerstyle) Cafe Paradiso, 115 W. Broadway, 484-9933, \$10.50 advance

**9:30 p.m.** — Drumattica,

Deflower, Avery Bell (rock), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave., 687-2746, \$7 cover

### Sunday, May 18

**3 p.m.** — University Symphony (classical), Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave., 346-5678, \$3 students and seniors, \$5 general admission

**9:30 p.m.** — Swingin' Utters, Youth Brigade, Pistol Grip (punk rock), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave., 687-2746, \$10 advance, \$10 door

### Tuesday, May 20

**9 p.m.** — Bluegrass Jam (jam session), Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd., 431-6603, free

### Wednesday, May 21

**9 p.m.** — Oregon Wind Ensemble and UO Symphonic Band (symphony), Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave., 346-5678, \$3 students and seniors, \$5 general admission

**9 p.m.** — The Roots with Cody Chestnut and Skillz (hip-hop), McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette St., 345-4442, \$22.50

**9 p.m.** — Living Daylights (jazz funk), Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd., 431-6603, \$5

### Thursday, May 22

**8:30 p.m.** — Justin Hopkins (acoustic), Cafe Paradiso, 115 W. Broadway, 484-9933, \$5 door

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