

Fairs, festivals & FUN

The summer season will feature local events such as the 35th Country Fair and the Oregon Bach Festival

BY JOSH LINTEREUR
PULSE REPORTER

After the drenched days of spring give way to the dog days of summer, Eugene's summer festival season kicks into high gear. Here are several events that are not to be missed.

The 2005 Oregon Bach Festival runs from June 23 through July 10 and includes a lineup of 50 events, including choral-orchestral works, chamber music, lecture-concerts, family shows and other social events.

This year's edition of the revered festival includes two buzzed-about debuts. The first, "La Pasion Segun San Marcos," is the Pacific Northwest premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's celebrated rendition of "The Passion according to Saint Mark." It unfolds with the flair of a South American street festival, complete with the rhythmic movements of salsa, mambo, flamenco and tango.

"If there's one show in the schedule you have to see, that would be it," said George Evano, the festival's director of communications. "It will be the only time it's seen in the Northwest in the near future."

The most affordable opportunity to see "La Pasion" is on June 23, when tickets will be offered for \$12 to \$22.

Tickets for the June 24 performance range from \$29 to \$49.

This year's Bach festival also includes the unveiling of a lost opera by 19th-century romanticist Felix Mendelssohn. "The Uncle From Boston," was recently uncovered in a Berlin library through research by the festival's artistic director, Helmuth Rilling. The July 3 performance will be the first time the opera has been performed in a concert setting in the U.S. Check out the festival's Web site at www.oregonbachfestival.com for a complete listing of performances and ticket prices.

Alton Baker Park is a popular outdoor spot during summertime, and it will be the site of the 22nd annual Art and the Vineyard, held July 1-4. The four-day event attracts 25,000 visitors who come to sip wine from more than 15 area wineries while browsing paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures and other crafts.

More than 140 artists will participate in this year's festival, which publicity coordinator Marsha Shankman said is a record number. The event also features live music each day, and a fireworks display around dusk on the Fourth of July. Proceeds from the festival help fund the Maude Kerns

Art Center. The event costs \$5 daily or \$10 for a three-day pass if tickets are purchased in advance.

Each year a wooded setting 13 miles west of Eugene becomes the state's fourth-largest city during the Oregon Country Fair. Celebrating its 35th year, the annual counter-culture happening features live entertainment, crafts, food, and educational displays. This year's fair is scheduled for July 8-10. Tickets must be purchased in advance at a Ticketwest outlet. Tickets aren't sold at the fair site at any time. Three-day passes are offered for \$40 and single-day tickets are \$13-\$16 in advance.

The summer festival season comes to a close with the Lane County Fair, held August 16-21. Marketing manager Carrie Matsushita said this year's fair has taken on a more urban feel while also staying true to its agricultural roots.

And that means fairgoers can see livestock during the day and pop stars at night. Hoobastank, John Michael Montgomery, Diamond Rio, David Lee Roth and Tracy Byrd are the featured performers at this year's fair.

"The beauty of the fair is that it appeals to all ages," Matsushita said. "We've got it all." For a complete list of fair events and ticket information, go to www.atthefair.com/press.html.

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Books: Stores reluctant to sell through third-party site

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35 percent this past year and he is looking to hire someone to run Tsunami's Internet business.

But Landfield isn't ready to ditch the brick and mortar concept just yet. Tsunami hosts an array of year-round cultural events that he feels are important to the community and his business. By leveraging the potential of the Internet and remaining a community gathering spot, he sees potential in the future of his store.

"It's kind of a one-two punch," he said. "I think we're going to keep ticking and maybe even thrive."

The Smith Family Bookstore hasn't been as quick to enter the cyberspace fray. Smith said she would like to launch a private Internet site before the end of the year, but she's reluctant to sell books on a third-party site like Abebooks. "We don't necessarily want to use a service that could inevitably kill us," she said.

But with more than 500,000 titles and two locations, Smith Family can deal with the changing marketplace differently than smaller retailers can.

Smith said business is growing at

the downtown location and plans are in motion to expand the store this fall. A Springfield store is in the works, but at the campus location, which traditionally draws a good slice of business from students, the traditional strategy is changing.

Smith said young people are reading less and textbooks publishers are introducing new copies of their books at a rapid pace, which erodes the shelf life of used textbooks. Eventually Smith said they might stop buying and selling used textbooks.

"I see us changing from a university bookstore, serving students and faculty, to looking at the broader community," she said.

And while her business hasn't been as challenged by the market forces that have sent smaller used book retailers to bed, she feels her store's fate is connected with other locally owned booksellers.

"We are only referring customers to other independent stores and I get the feeling that we're all doing that," she said. "I feel like we're all supporting each other and are concerned about the same things."

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Film: Works try to break usual clichés

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"Phone Booth" and "Cellular") gives rise to the hope that his works might become an example for others on how to break the usual clichés and come up with something that moves outside the confines of a genre. We can only pray.

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Travellers: Film avoids complications

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much interest happens. The government official eventually gives up his vague dreams of America for the love of a rice paper maker's daughter, but this change feels preordained rather than natural. I'm not saying it's not possible, but the film takes it as a given rather than bothering to go into details or make anything too complicated.

The film will open this Friday at the Bijou Art Cinemas.

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