

VENTURING OUT

MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

For 21 years, women from the United States and all corners of the globe have converged in western Michigan for the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, a six-day event featuring music, dance and workshops. Last year's festival attracted nearly 8,000 women, and organizers expect an even larger gathering this summer.

The festival runs Aug. 13-18. Among the 40 musical performers already scheduled are Phranc,

Travel

Jane Siberry, Dar Williams, Kick La Luna and 7 Year Bitch. Comedians Michele Balan, Elvira Kurt and Karen Ripley are also expected.

Along with the musical offerings, the festival offers more than 300 workshops on women's issues and a craft bazaar displaying the works of 140 craftswomen.

Most attendees camp on-site in tents or RVs. Because of the cooperative nature of the event, everyone is requested to volunteer for two four-hour work shifts during their weeklong stay, or one shift if attending only for the weekend.

The Womyn's Music Festival takes place on a 650-acre woodland, surrounded by the Manistee National Forest, near Hart, Mich., northwest of Grand Rapids. Prices range from \$55 for a one-day ticket on Sunday to \$250 for the six-day pass. Other combinations are also available. Ticket prices include all activities, concerts, dances, food, workshops, films and on-site camping. A limited number of tickets are also available for economically disadvantaged women.

For more information on the festival, send a large self-addressed stamped envelope to WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458.

HOTLANTA

The crowds, sights and beautiful bodies on display at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta will be just a warm-up for the annual Hotlanta River Expo, held Aug. 8-11. Once again, the four-day event offers a variety of activities including rafting in the Chattahoochee River, the Miss and Mr. Hotlanta contests, a Thursday night Victory party, two Saturday dances and the Sunday T-Dance.

For more information or to purchase ticket packages allowing access to all events, call (404) 874-3976.

PROVINCETOWN CARNIVAL WEEK

Drag out your best Conan the Barbarian or Catherine the Great duds (please leave the horse at home), as Provincetown, Mass., celebrates its 21st annual Carnival Week, Aug. 21-28, with the theme "Myths and Legends."

The eight days of festivities kick off with the

Grand Opening Ball on Wednesday, Aug. 21, and are followed by events such as the Artist's Ball, the "Myth Thing" Party, the Canine Carnival, the Legends in Leather Party and The Grand Parade, featuring an eye-catching assortment of floats and marchers. Carnival ends with the Fall of Rome closing ball, held Aug. 28.

Because this end-of-summer event draws thousands of revelers, some hotels have a seven-night minimum. Book ahead. For more information and a free copy of the Provincetown Business Guild's 42-page guide to events, call (508) 487-2313.

THE ONLY WAY TO GO

The International Gay Travel Association was founded in 1984 to improve the services available to gay and lesbian travelers, travel agents and related businesses. Membership has boomed in recent years, from 525 members in 1993 to more than 1,200 today.

If you and your friends wanted to spend two weeks in Hawaii, Greece or France, it's likely that a mainstream travel agent would know little about gay hotels, night life or attractions. They might even get hostile if asked. IGTA members would not only know about them, but might even have been there themselves.

The IGTA gives consumers an easy way to recognize gay or gay-friendly agents familiar with the many aspects of gay travel—whether for business or pleasure, in the United States or overseas.

With members in 46 states and 28 foreign countries, the IGTA is a recognized force in the both the gay and mainstream travel industries. Some 60 percent of the IGTA's members are travel agents, with the rest being tour operators, hotel and bed-and-breakfast operators,

publications and airlines.

IGTA president Tracy Michaels explains that despite recent examples of homophobia in both Colorado and Costa Rica, and the difficulties still sometimes faced by travelers with HIV, the mainstream travel industry is now actively courting lesbian and gay travelers.

"The mainstream travel industry is finally recognizing the size and strength of our marketplace," says Michaels. "Most of the major airlines, including Quantas, American, Virgin, United, KLM and Continental now have gay marketing campaigns. Fortunately, as we're being taken more seriously as consumers, it seems societal attitudes are changing as well."

There are three ways to find an IGTA agent. The first is to look for the logo on a travel agency's window or in ads. The second is to call the organization's toll-free number, 1-800-448-8550, to get the names of agents in your area. Or third, you can visit IGTA's Web site at <http://www.rainbow-mall.com/igta>.

Travel tips by Sasha Alyson.

Do you have questions about gay travel that you'd like to see addressed? Companies that did a great or not-so-great job for you? Experiences you'd like to share? I'd like to hear them. Send them to me at Alyson Adventures, PO Box 181223, Boston, MA 02118, or via e-mail at AlyVenture@aol.com.

BLUESTONE & HOCKLEY REALTY, INC.

Commercial sales & leasing

A proud member of the community for more than 26 years

RICHARD C. LEVY

Vice President
Associate Broker

4445 SW Barbur Blvd.
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 222-3807

Travel the world,
but call us first...



232-5944

1-800-232-5944

1939 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland

HEART OF THE WEST

3rd Annual
Heart of the West
Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2 & 3
A Women's Dance & Music Extravaganza

The Desert Heart of Holidays
Our Heart Holiday weekend
kicks off at 3 p.m. Thursday
and ends at 3 p.m. Sunday

Featuring...

- Holly Near
- Sistah Blue
- Lynn Lavner
- Dos Fallopia
- Ann Lincoln
- Fjell & Reeves
- Pam & Maggie
- Maiden Voyage
- Kathryn Warner
- with Sandy Ayala
- Flower & McLaren
- Lucie Blue
- Tremblay
- and Much More!!!

Crafts
Deadline
8/25/96

4 Day Pass **\$259**
3 Days \$219

CALL FOR EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT!!

Speakers, Workshops,
Crafts, Dances Karaoke &
First Class Womyn's Entertainment
at the Majestic Stardust Resort & Casino

Rooms start at \$65 for two. You must mention "Heart of the West" to receive our group rate. Reservations after 9/30/96 are based on availability. Call the Stardust Resort at 1-800-634-6757

More info?
Call
1-800-GET-PLUS

Plan Your Commitment
Ceremony with Us ♥

email: heart@pluspro.com
<http://www.pluspro.com>