

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Craft Beers Featured Event Oregon Brewers Festival opens Thursday

The Oregon Brewers Festival, one of the nation's longest running and best loved craft beer festivals, celebrates its 25th year, opening Thursday, July 26 and continuing through Sunday, July 29 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

With a laid back attitude and scores of award-winning beers, the festival provides an opportunity to sample a variety of craft beer styles. From Belgians to Browns,

The 25th annual Oregon Brewers Festival opens Thursday, July 26 and continues through Sunday, July 29 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

Doppelbocks to Dunkels, Pales to Pilsners and Scottish ales to Stouts, the Oregon Brewers Festival serves up more than 20 beer styles from 82 craft breweries from around the country.

There are 84 beers in the main tent – one per brewery plus two gluten-free offerings – and another 40 plus varieties in the Buzz Tent.

This year, organizers have also announced they will add a Sour Beer Tent to the festivities, bringing awareness of one of the latest craft beer trends.

The event also features four days of live music, food booths, craft vendors, industry promotions, home brewing displays and a root beer garden.

Admission to the festival grounds is free. Minors are welcome when accompanied by a parent.

Musician Ends Self-Imposed Exile

Bobby Womack relaunches career at age 68

(AP)— Bobby Womack is seeking a rare second act at age 68.

A gospel and soul singer, a songwriter and a guitar player with few peers, Womack is largely a forgotten figure today — but one who is getting a close re-examination. His new album, "The Bravest Man in the Universe," was produced by Damon Albarn, and Womack has ambitious plans for a tour later this year — if his body and doctor coop-

erate.

His return is a welcome development for those who recognize his deep contributions to modern music — as Sam Cooke's guitarist, the writer of the Rolling Stones' first hit and someone who scored many of his own during his solo career.

Some worried Womack might not have the same vitality that made him one of the most inspiring and imitated artists of his generation. And even Womack wondered sometimes. He admits to having seizures during his tour with Albarn's Gorillaz several years ago and his health problems loomed large.

"Yet as so often is the case with

Bobby," said Mark Rowland, executive producer of the "Unsung" series, "he gets counted out over and over in different ways throughout his career, and yet he keeps coming back."

The "Unsung" episode that aired in January on TV One which featured Womack was among the most watched and commented upon in the series.

Womack hopes for a little drama in the next chapter of his career and calls "Bravest Man" a fresh start. It's his first collection of original material in 18 years — since he quit the life to save his life. He gave up music because he was addicted to



With health and drug problems behind him, musician Bobby Womack makes his return with a new album, "The Bravest Man in the Universe."

drugs and alcohol. Drugs and music. Music and drugs. The two were so intrinsically entwined, he felt the only way to really quit one was to give up the other.

The way he sees it, he's carrying the torch for all those friends who fell victim to the lifestyle or were forgotten by time.

"I've got to represent some of the greatest soul singers that ever walked in life. I still feel that they don't get their props for what re-

ally happened," he said. "Since I've outlived 90 percent of those people, I said, 'Let me make a statement.'"

"The Bravest Man in the Universe" is a broadside at soul traditionalists looking for a recreation of something Womack might have dropped in the 1960s or '70s at the height of his influence. Programmed beats and electronic sounds skitter behind Womack's voice and a smattering of traditional instruments, including piano and Womack's guitar.

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