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Annual Arts Festival to feature diversity of ethnic performers

Two-day event set at Roger Williams Park

Convergence III, the third annual New England Regional Contemporary Arts Festival, is to be held Saturday and Sunday in Roger Williams Park in Providence. It will feature a multi-ethnic performance of "Triple Decker," a production commissioned by the Providence Parks Department.

Robert Rizzo, director of Public Programming for the department, said the production, written by Marc Levitt, "will bring together musicians of different ethnic groups predominant in Providence history."

Through a combination of words and music, the performers will tell the story of immigration as it affected one of the city's neighborhoods, he said.

The show will be presented Saturday at 12:30 p.m. in the Rose Garden.

Sculpture on display

Later, folk music performer Barbara Schloff will be on the Rose Garden stage, followed by John Fuzek and Ann Rossoni, and then jazz artists Greg Abate and Diamond as the "Lizard Brothers, Saxophone Duo of the Future," Rizzo said.

Site-specific sculpture will be on display throughout the park, along with dance, theater and musical performances.

Also on Saturday, there will be a performance of "an interdisciplinary work combining sculpture, the black oral tradition of storytelling, dance-movement and drum, titled "A True History of Rhode Island," Rizzo said. The work was prepared by Ann Rocheleau, Valerie Tutson

and Romana Bass, and will involve students from the theater program at the Langston Hughes Center for the Arts, he added.

On Saturday at 3:30 p.m., at the Temple to Music, Art Moves of Marshfield, Mass., will perform "Circus of Life," a production that focuses on modern relationships through a combination of circus and everyday images. The 10-minute show will be repeated every half-hour. On Sunday, it will begin at 1 p.m.

Saturday's program will end with a performance by Meatballs-Fluxus, "Rhode Island's premier performance art troupe," Rizzo said.

Audience to participate

On Sunday, at 2 p.m., Mobius of Boston will present a two-hour audience participation theater-scavenger hunt piece titled "What's A Round."

At the Temple to Music, the 14-piece jazz ensemble Orange & Blue will perform at 2 p.m., and the chamber ensemble, Aequalis of Boston, at 5 p.m.

At 4 p.m., dance programs will be performed at the Japanese Garden by Groundwerx of Bristol and Nikila Cole of New Haven, Conn.

The festival will end with concerts "by two of Rhode Island's favorite reggae bands, the Mystic Jammers and Massai," Rizzo said.

The site-specific sculptures throughout the park will be produced by Rhode Island artists Douglas Borkman, Tracy Glover, Stephen Copel and Stephen Mohring, along with Ann Pettine-Roussell of Somers, Mass., Emile Birch of New Hampshire and Michael Caselli of New York City.