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East Side Monthly

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New England Regional Arts Festival comes to Roger Williams Park

The Providence Parks Department presents the third annual New England Regional Contemporary Arts Festival, Convergence III. Many artists and musicians from throughout New England will be participating in one of the most unique art festivals presented in New England. Site-specific sculpture installations, dance, theatre and music performances will be presented at various locations throughout Roger Williams Park.

One of the many highlights of this two-day festival will be a multi-ethnic performance entitled "Triple-decker." Commissioned by the Providence Parks Department, the one-hour performance, written and narrated by storyteller Marc Levitt, will bring together musicians of the different ethnic groups that predominate in Providence history. Through the combination of spoken words and music the performers will tell the story of immigration as it affected one of the many neighborhoods in Providence. This performance will take place at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15 in the Rose Garden.

Also on Saturday's program will be local folk music performer Barbara Schloff of the Rose Garden stage at 2:30 p.m., followed by John Fuzek and Mary Ann Rossoni at 3:30 p.m. Fuzek and Rossoni will be followed by local jazzgreats Greg Abate and Diamond as the "Lizardi Brothers," Saxophone Duo of the Future.

Musical performances will not be the only attraction to Saturday's portion of the Festival. An interdisciplinary work combining sculpture, the black oral tradition of storytelling, dance/movement and drum, title "A True History of Rhode Island" conceived by Ann Rocheleau along with storytellers Valerie Tutson and Romana Bass, will involve students from the Langston Hughes Center for the Arts theater program. Using poetry, songs and stories to relate the journey from Africa to the "New World." Performance times will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Both performances will take place at the Rose Garden.

At the Temple to Music field beginning at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Art Moves from Marshfield, MA will be performing "Circus of Life." This work will present modern life relationships by combining circus and everyday imagery to produce a rich visual and socially provocative experience. Performances will last approximately 10 minutes and be performed every half-hour. Sunday's performances begin at 1 p.m.

Saturday's program will come to a close with a performance by Meatballs/Fluxus, R.I.'s premier performance art troupe.

Throughout the two days of the festival, site-specific sculptures by artists Emile Birch, New Hampshire, Michael Caselli, NYC, Slater, R.I., Douglas Borkman, R.I., Tracy Glover, R.I., Stephen Copel, R.I. Stephen Mohring, and Ann Pettine-Roussell from Somerset, MA, will be installed throughout Roger Williams Park. The sculptures will vary from a 16' fresh-water bass plug located in the water behind the Temple to Music to a piece about what was once in the hand of the sculpture of President Lincoln located near the Park Museum.

Dance will be represented by Groundwerx of Bristol, R.I. and Nikila Cole of New Haven, CT. Ms. Cole will choreograph a dance for four dancers presented at the Japanese Garden on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Mobius of Boston will present a two-hour scavenger hunt/Theater piece titled "What's a Round." Fifteen performers working with the concept of "round" will develop a series of images with objects, sound and actions that related to the word and/or shape. Audience participants will be provided a list of clues to assist them in their search through the park.

Concerts by the fourteen piece jazz ensemble Orange Then Blue and the chamber ensemble Aequalis of Boston will be presented at the Temple to Music on Sunday at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. respectively.

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

Open house at Emanu-El

Temple Emanu-el welcomes all new and prospective member to our annual Open House on Sunday, September 16th, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The mornings activities will include a light breakfast and tours of the facilities.

The many organizations within the Temple community will have representatives on hand to discuss the year-round calendar of programs. For the children, there will be High Holiday arts and crafts and a treasure hunt.

Temple Emanu-el, a Conservative synagogue, is a center for Jewish study, worship, social action and celebration.

Located in Providence at the corner of Sessions Street and Morris Avenue, we look forward to seeing you at the Open House. For further information, please call the Temple office at 331-1616.