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ARTISTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS ANNOUNCED FOR ATHFEST 2010 JUNE 23rd THROUGH JUNE 27th IN ATHENS, GA

KIDFEST, FILMFEST, ARTIST MARKET AND STAGES EXPANDED THIS YEAR

ATHENS, GA--ATHFest is the annual arts and music festival held each June in historic downtown Athens, GA, a town long renowned for its thriving music scene. For the past 13 years, **ATHFest** has showcased the best in local, regional, and nationally recognized Athens-based talent. *Everyday with Rachel Ray* calls it "...one of the country's great indie music festivals." From 2005-2009, **ATHFest** has been included in the "**TOP 20 Events**" by the Southeast Tourism Society.

The festival kicks off on Wednesday, June 23rd with the **ATHFest Comedy Showcase** at the New Earth Music Hall. Hosted by TJ Young, comedians include Joe Zimmerman (Rooftop Award Winner, "Charlotte's Best Comedian" - *Creative Loafing*), Dan Weeks (Atlanta Stands Up Award winner) and more. Tickets are \$10.00 and \$5.00 with an AthFest wristband.

ATHFest FILMFest at Ciné also begins on June 23rd. Film events include: **Music Video Show**, a local video showcase; **TeenScreen**, featuring a lineup of diverse short films made by filmmakers under 18; **Athens Picture Show**, presenting locally produced short and feature length films; and **Rock Docs**, a series of new rock documentaries including the world premiere of "Vic Chestnutt Celebration;" the Athens debut of "Of Montreal: Family Nouveau;" "The Doors: When You Are Strange;" and more. Tickets for admission discounted with an AthFest wristband. The full details are at www.athenscine.com.

On Thursday, June 24th at 8:00 PM, **The Flagpole Music Awards** will be held at the historic Morton Theatre presenting the winners of the *Flagpole Magazine's* annual reader's choice poll. The performers and presenters will be announced the week before the show.

This year, close to 200 bands and artists will perform over the course of festival. **ATHFest** has expanded to include TWO main stages located on Washington Street at Pulaski in front of the 40 Watt Club, and on Washington Street at Lumpkin near The Georgia Theater.

KIDSFest, which includes its own performance stage, will be held on Hull Street on either side of Washington Street on Saturday, June 26th and Sunday, June 27th from 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Music appropriate for all ages will be presented, including Pam Blanchard & the Sunny-Side Up Band, Sara O'Brien & The Honeybabes, Boone Hood, Chris The Bucketman and more. **KIDSFest** encompasses arts and crafts, Sam's Path Petting Zoo, a Taekwondo clinic, inflatables and the Spider Jump. A small fee may apply to some activities.

The music on the outdoor stages begins on Friday, June 25th 5:00 P.M. The "headlining" artists this year are **MODERN SKIRTS, PACKWAY HANDLE BAND, PERPETUAL GROOVE, BUBBA SPARXXX, KINCHAFOONEE COWBOYS** and **CRACKER**. Other bands performing on the outdoor stages over the course of the weekend include **David Dondero, Ken Will Morton Band, Stewart & Winfield, Five-Eight, Holly Golightly & The Brokeoffs, Dave Barbe & The Quickhooks, Spring Tigers, The Incredible Sandwich, Vinyl Strangers** and so many more!

All performances on the outdoor stages are open to all ages and are free of charge to the public.

The evening's "club crawl" takes place on Friday and Saturday night. Wristbands may be purchased for \$15.00 in advance or for \$20.00 at the festival that will give patrons unlimited access to 16 music venues encompassing **The 40 Watt Club, 283 Bar, Caledonia Lounge, Farm 225, Flicker Theatre, The Globe, Go Bar, Last Call, Little Kings Shuffle Club, The Melting Point, New Earth Music Hall, Rye Bar, and Tasty World.** Venue age and capacity restrictions apply. **Nuci's Space** and **Ciné** are all-ages venues. With performers from all genres of music, a sampling counts **Dead Confederate, Caroline Aiken, John Keane & Nathan Sheppard, Venice is Sinking, Music Hates You,** and more as just a few of eclectic line-up scheduled this year's club crawl. Electronic music is even represented with **The Wired Dance Music Festival**, featuring DJs, experimental hip-hop, and electro-house music, at New Earth Music Hall on Saturday from 2:00 PM until 2:00 AM on Sunday. The cover charge for Wired is \$10.00 or \$5.00 with a wristband.

The full line-up of music may be found at WWW.ATHFEST.COM.

Travel packages, available via the website, offer a variety of accommodations and include AthFest wristbands, AthFest 2010 compilation CDs, vouchers for T-shirts, and other cool AthFest gear delivered to your hotel.

Since 1997, AthFest, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to music and arts education, has organized this highly acclaimed annual festival. The proceeds from events such as AthFest and the upcoming Athens, GA Half-Marathon support year-round educational efforts in local schools.

This program is supported in part by the Grassroots Arts Program of the Georgia Council for the Arts through an appropriation of the Georgia General Assembly in partnership with the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center.

The festival will be held rain or shine.

For more details go to: WWW.ATHFEST.COM

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