

Fiesta cheers immigrant stew

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Body

Fiesta Day 2002. The Tampa melting pot called Ybor City celebrates its Cuban, German, Italian, African-Cuban, Jewish and Spanish ***immigrant*** roots with this 56-year-old street festival Saturday.

After breaking away from the Knights of Sant'Yago Illuminated Night Parade in 1998, the festival continues to grow, attracting more than 50,000 people each year. But it still remains close-knit with the Ybor community, more so than mega-events of Guavaween and Gasparilla.

The feel is festive and focused on an ethnic theme, not beads and booze.

RSVP8

HIGHLIGHTS:

International Food Fair: More than 60 vendors serving Cajun, Spanish, Asian, Greek and Italian dishes. Don't miss the giant paella from Columbia Restaurant.

Kid's ***Fiesta*** at Centennial Park: Burn off kids' extra energy with a climbing wall, swings, bounce tent, duck pond and a music stage.

Arts and Crafts Market Place: Paintings, glassware, wind chimes and more augment the usual Ybor Fresh Market. You could be there all day looking at the 75 booths.

Flag Parade: Topping off the day's festivities is the 4 p.m. parade. Marshall Fernando Noriega will lead marching bands and groups in colorful ethnic costume, and of course, flags, flags, flags.

10 a.m.-6 p.m., Ybor City. Call (813) 283-5023.

GOINGS ON

8 - TODAY

Julio Iglesias. The self-made king of Latin didn't shake his bon-bon to become a world sensation. He earned it with a string of hard-won accomplishments. He earned a law degree from Cambridge, then won the 1968 Spanish Song Festival. In the 1970s, he toured Europe and Latin America to get a contract with CBS International. He topped the charts with singles in Spanish, French, Italian and English. Then came some more hits - this time with Willie Nelson, Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder - in the 1980s. Now, resting on his laurels and singing mostly in Spanish, he sells out venues where ever he goes. 8 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater. Call (727) 791-7400.

16th Annual Steve Otto Chili Cook-off. Cooks try to please judges' palates with their fiery concoctions. You can try a bowl without signing a waiver for burned tongues. Just fork over \$ 5. Florida State Fair, I-4 and U.S. 301, Entertainment Hall No. 12, Tampa. Call 621-7821.

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Web Skills for Business and Marketing certificate program. A combination of day and evening seminars for people who want to create Web sites designed specifically for business. Saturday mornings and certain weeknights. Registration is required. University of South Florida, MHH building, room 116, Tampa. Call 974-5201.

10 - SUNDAY

Cake. The Sacramento-based quintet delivers funky lyrics with poker faces and peppy riffs that leave you wondering if they're joking. After skyrocketing to university pop stardom with *Going the Distance* in '96, each of the next three albums has produced chart-topping, radio-friendly sing-alongs. 7 p.m. Jannus Landing, 16 2nd St. N, St. Petersburg. Call (727) 896-1244.

On the Waterfront. "I coulda been a contenda." See where the infamous line all started in this 1954 winner of eight Academy Awards including Best Picture. Leonard Bernstein launched his career when he composed the film's score. 3 p.m., \$ 5. Tampa Theatre, 711 N Franklin St. Call 274-8981.

Burn the Floor: Expect to see breathless rhumbas to heavy metal renditions in this dance competition, which was inspired by Elton John's 50th birthday party, created by a man with a hand in "Lord of the Dance" and fashioned after a Vegas show. Championship dance couples from 15 countries will shake it to make sure you get your money's worth. 2 and 7 p.m. \$ 35-\$ 45. Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater. Call (727) 791-7400.

Walt Willey: His character Jackson Montgomery isn't a stand-up kind of guy on *All My Children*, but that doesn't stop Willey from touring the comedy circuit. 8:30 p.m., \$ 18-\$ 20. Side Splitters, 12938 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa. Call 960-1197.

Viola Studio Recital. 8 p.m. \$ 3-\$ 4. University of South Florida Music Recital Hall, 4202 E Fowler Ave., Tampa. Call 974-2311.

An Affaire of the Heart. Annual fundraiser for Stageworks Theatre featuring silent auction and musical entertainment by Nathan Burton. 4-8 p.m., \$ 30. Don Vicente Restaurant, 1915 Avenue Republica de Cuba, Ybor City.

Tampa National College Fair. "What do you want to do with the rest of your life?" Many times that is an easier question to answer than issues concerning admission, financial aid and entrance exams. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tampa Convention Center, 333 S Franklin St. Call (703) 836-2222.

11 - MONDAY

Marshall Tucker Band. Suited perfectly for the State Fair, these down-home tunes bring back the glory days of '70s Southern rock with ditties such as *Heard It In A Love Song* and *Can't you See*. Yee-haw! 7:30 p.m., \$ 7 plus fair admission. Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 N U.S. 301, Tampa. Call 621-7821.

Verizon Classic. Like golf? You live in Florida, you have to like it. (Like it or not.) The 15th annual Senior PGA Tour's Verizon Classic attracts some of the tour's biggest moneymakers. Viewing should be fair in this stadium golf course if you're trying to take a peek at Arnold Palmer. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Feb. 17, \$ 20-\$ 80. Tournament Players Club of Tampa Bay, 5300 W Lutz-Lake Fern Road, Lutz. Call 265-4653.

12 - TUESDAY

Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass. The 76-year-old Davis has been playing music professionally since he was 14 and revamped the sound of country to incorporate his instrument, the horn. For 33 years, Davis and the Nashville Brass have been whooping up country fans. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., \$ 7 plus fair admission. Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 N U.S. 301, Tampa. Call 621-7821.

Merle Haggard. He's the original bad boy of country that everyone tries to emulate - except for his stay at San Quentin. 7:30 p.m., \$ 7 plus fair admission. Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 N U.S. 301 Tampa. Call 621-7821.

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Larry Reeb. He gives tips on everything you would gamble on, from marriage to the lottery to children, when he's performing as the black-sheep, politically incorrect, Uncle Lar persona. 8:30 p.m. Tues.-Feb. 14 and Feb. 17; 8 p.m.- 10:30 p.m. Feb. 15 and 16. \$ 5-\$ 14. Side Splitters, 12936 N Dale Mabry Highway. Call 960-1197.

13 - WEDNESDAY

Pablo Francisco. He proves stand-up doesn't have to be stand-still. Creating audio and visual pictures to get a laugh has landed him a regular spot on FOX's Mad TV, and time on Comedy Central's Short Attention Span Theater and Make Me Laugh. Improv, 1600 E Eighth Ave., C-112, Ybor City.

Gov't Mule. There's more to Southern rock than the slimy antics of Kid Rock. When Warren Haynes and Allen Woody broke off from the Allman Brothers Band and debuted in '95, they attracted the likes of the Red Hot Chili Peppers' Flea to Phish bassist Mike Gordon wanting a little taste of what these Southern rockers cook up. 7 p.m. Wed. \$ 17-\$ 20. Jannus Landing, 16 2nd St. N, St. Petersburg. Call (727) 896-1244.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band: What started as a place for New Orleans jazz musicians to jam in the '50s has evolved into a four-decade-long collaboration named after the hub that once housed them: Preservation Hall. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., \$ 7 plus fair admission. Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 N U.S. 301, Tampa. Call 621-7821.

Basketball: UT Spartans women vs. Florida Tech, 5:30 p.m., UT Spartans men vs. Florida Tech, 7:30 p.m. \$ 5 adults, \$ 3 seniors and students. University of Tampa Sports Arena, 401 W Kennedy Blvd., Tampa.

14 - THURSDAY

Patti Labelle. This diva has what many are lacking: grace. It paid off. She was the first African-American act ever to appear at New York's Metropolitan Opera House. Other career highlights include teaming with Burt Bacharach and a Grammy in 1994 for Best Female R&B Performance. Now, she's back with *When a Woman Loves*. 8 p.m., \$ 40-\$ 75. Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater. Call (727) 791-7400.

Sound of Music Sing-A-Long. Don't know what to do with those old floral curtains? Wrap yourself up and go as the von Trapp family children to the Sound of Music Sing-A-Long. Or just go as yourself and be part of the interactive touring movie. Subtitles are provided for people who forgot the words. Charmian Carr, who played Liesl in the musical, will be there to meet and greet. Proceeds go to Big Brothers Big Sisters. 7:30 p.m., \$ 25. Tampa Theatre, 711 N Franklin St., Tampa. Call 274-8286.

Florida Orchestra: A Salute to Rodgers and Hammerstein. The Orchestra strums up a wide array of examples from this songwriting duo such as *It's A Grand Night for Singing*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma!* and more. 8 p.m., \$ 24.50-\$ 42.50. Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Carol Morsani Hall. Call 229-7829.

Want to send out an RSVP to the Tampa area? Fax press releases at least 10 days before publication to Amy Abbott at 226-3381, or mail to 1000 N Ashley Drive, Suite 700, Tampa, FL 33602. Amy's phone number is 226-3408 and her e-mail is abbott@sptimes.com.

Graphic

PHOTO, (3); DRAWING; Beatrix Potter puppet characters; Walt Willey of All my Children; Pablo Francisco; ***Fiesta*** Day logo

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