



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
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OGS ANNOUNCES AT THE PLAZA SUMMER SERIES

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner, New York State Office of General Services (OGS) today announced the 2012 Summer *At The Plaza* series of free events that will be presented at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

New York State's 4th of July Celebration Presented by Price Chopper to Feature Tommy James and the Shondells

Wednesday, July 4 2 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Price Chopper has presented this Albany tradition since 1976. The annual holiday celebration features live music and fun for the whole family including the best fireworks show in the region. This year's event will kick off with the naturalization of new American citizens. Tommy James and the Shondells, with hit songs, "Mony, Mony" and "Crimson and Clover" will headline the musical stage. Other musical guests include Blue Machine and the Back 40 Band. New this year will be exciting aerial trapeze artists Airly Acrobatics. Be sure to check out the new rock-climbing wall, pony rides and petting zoo. There will be lots of activities for kids including, flight simulators from the Empire State Aerosciences Museum in Glenville, bounce rides, games, face painters, hands-on art projects, and sports games with the Valley Cats and the Siena Saints Mobile Experience. Area artisans, crafters and lots of local food vendors will be on hand to round out this fun-filled day.

GE's Kids Day

Sunday, July 8 Noon – 5 p.m.

Sponsored by General Electric, this is the place to be for kids of all ages. There will be tons of fun interactive games and activities, including "Our Zoo—Two By Two" featuring a wide array of exotic creatures including a kangaroo, a lemur and a bearded dragon! The main event, the Care Bear's "What Makes You Happy Live", will be a treat for kids and parents alike. The popular Roaming Railroad train will be chugging around the Plaza, taking you to your next stop to see Erica Pelton, author of the children's book *Sophie's Lovely Locks*, or over to the game areas with Radio Disney's Car Land and Jake and the Neverland Pirates activities, pony rides, face painting, arts and crafts and clowns.

Open Air Cinema *Puss in Boots* (2011)

Wednesday, July 25 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

New to the Plaza event series this year! Enjoy this popular contemporary family film under the stars at the Plaza.

McDonald's African American Family Day featuring Sugarfoot's Ohio Players

Saturday, August 4 Noon – 7 p.m.

Come celebrate the traditions and contributions of the African American community through music, art and dance featuring lots of family-oriented activities. The Ohio Players will deliver all their funk hits, such as "Fire," "Love Rollercoaster," "Who'd She Coo?" and "Skin Tight". Grammy winner Evelyn "Champagne"

King will perform her disco favorites including “Love Come Down,” “Betcha She Don’t Love You” and “Shame.” The Capital District Community Voices of Praise, numerous local choirs, dance groups, theater troupes, local talent contest winners and Nannie’s Double Dutch will also perform. Offstage kids activities include, Operation Safe Child, student theatrical troupes, pony rides, arts and crafts, clowns and face painting. Everyone will enjoy the Hamilton Hill Arts Center African Village, health screenings, a replica of the Emancipation Proclamation on display at the NYS Museum, and more.

Open Air Cinema *Star Trek* (2009)

Wednesday, August 8 7:30 pm. – 10 p.m.

Truly enjoy the stars, both above and on screen, while watching the newest version of the groundbreaking sci-fi classic *Star Trek*.

Empire State Plaza Food Festival

Wednesday, August 15 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sample foods from around the region while enjoying the sounds of musical acts all day long. The festival’s lunch time show will feature the classic rock sounds of Message from Vega. Keep on rocking through dinner with three courses of music featuring local start-ups, Alta Mira; true-blue classic rockers, Rare Earth; and 90’s alt rockers, Tonic. This *At The Plaza* favorite features a large farmers’ market with a wide variety of fresh market goods, cheeses and wines. Be sure to catch lunch or dinner at one of more than 50 specialty vendors serving up delicious fare to satisfy many palettes.

Local Legends Live! Featuring Mike Doughty!

Saturday, September 8 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Local Legends Live is fast becoming a Capital Region music tradition. The official selection committee consisting of local music critics, bloggers, and radio hosts are working on a showcase of the area’s best homegrown artists, which will be announced shortly! Headlining the show is Mike Doughty, formerly of Soul Coughing. The Plaza will echo with indie rock hits such as "27 Jennifers," "Looking at the World from the Bottom of a Well," and "Busting Up a Starbucks." His new release “Yes and Also Yes” is gaining acclaim by music critics across the globe, so come on out, enjoy the tunes and support the area’s next generation of stars before they hit the big time!

Hannaford Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Saturday, September 22 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Join us in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at this exciting family festival featuring music that will have the whole crowd dancing. Entertainers include international musicians Amarfis y la Banda de Attake and La Excelencia Salsa Band. There’s more exciting entertainment to be announced, so be sure to mark your calendars! You won’t want to miss this event celebrating the many facets of Hispanic culture, food and entertainment.

All of the Summer *At The Plaza* events are FREE at the Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave., Albany. Free parking in the East Garage is also available. During Food Festival, free parking in the East Garage begins at 5 p.m.

For more information and performance updates on any of the above listed events, find the Empire State Plaza on Facebook at facebook.com/empirestateplaza, on Twitter at twitter.com/plazaevents or call the OGS Convention & Cultural Events Office toll free at 1-(877) 659-4ESP, or visit our website at www.empirestateplaza.org.

For information on the Dunn Memorial Bridge work or travel and road conditions, please call 511 or visit www.thruway.ny.gov.

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