

HOT HAPPENINGS

Chicago's roster of exhibits, festivals and performances changes constantly. Visit ChooseChicago.com for the most up-to-date calendar of events. (Dates are subject to change.)

Ongoing & Current

Deep Space Adventure

Daily

Adler Planetarium, 312-294-0360, adlerplanetarium.org

Go aboard the observation deck of a futuristic starship where you'll be surrounded by the larger-than-life phenomena of our dynamic universe.

The Second City's Improv All Stars

Mondays

UP Comedy Club, 312-662-4562, upcomedyclub.com



Attend a one-of-a-kind evening of improvised sketches, games and songs from comedy masters.

Improv Extravaganza Explosion

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Saturdays

UP Comedy Club, 312-662-4562, upcomedyclub.com

It's playtime! Bring the kids for an hour of interactive, family-friendly improvisation and sketch comedy.

Camino Real

Through 4/8

Goodman Theatre, 312-443-3800, goodmantheatre.org

Called "one of [Tennessee] Williams' most imaginative plays" by *The New York Times*, *Camino Real* is a sensual carnival of desire and desperation.

This Will Have Been: Art, Love & Politics in the 1980s Through 6/3

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 312-280-2660, mcachicago.org

The '80s era of me-ism, AIDS, social engagement and conservatism is represented in art that is arresting, heady and, at times, amusing and funny.

Genghis Khan

Through 9/3

The Field Museum, 312-922-9410, fieldmuseum.org



The story of this ruthless Mongol warlord is displayed through artifacts never before seen outside Mongolia.

Blue Man Group

Various show times

Briar Street Theatre, 773-348-4000, blueman.com

Experience a multi-sensory show that fuses theatrical spectacle and original music with comedy, art, vaudeville and science.

Million Dollar Quartet

Various show times

Apollo Theater, 773-935-6100, milliondollarquartetlive.com

See the smash hit musical inspired by the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

Randolph Street Market Festival

One weekend each month

1340 W. Washington St., 312-666-1200, randolphstreetmarket.com



This antique market and festival brings vintage treasures and one-of-a-kind finds to Chicagoans all year: 4/21-22, 5/26-27, 6/23-24, 7/29-29, 8/25-26.

March 2012

MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition

3/15-9/3

Museum of Science and Industry, 773-684-1414, msichicago.org

Just like the Discovery Channel's Emmy®-nominated TV show, this exhibit seeks to answer wild questions and urban myths through scientific experiments.

Rick Bayless in *Cascabel*

3/21-4/22

Lookingglass Theatre, 312-337-0665, lookingglasstheatre.org

Go on a theatrical adventure while enjoying a sumptuous feast, circus acts and a love story starring and co-created by celebrity chef and Chicagoan Rick Bayless.

Fela!

3/27-4/15

Oriental Theatre, 312-977-1710, broadwayinchicago.com

With masterful choreography by Bill T. Jones, this Tony Award®-winning production explores the extravagant world of Afrobeat legend, Fela Kuti.

April 2012

Jersey Boys

4/5-6/2

Bank of America Theatre, 312-977-1710, broadwayinchicago.com

The Tony®, Grammy®, and Olivier Award-winning hit musical returns to chronicle the life and times of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

The March

4/5-6/10

Steppenwolf Theatre, 312-335-1650, steppenwolf.org

Based on the Civil War novel, this large-scale, ambitious play of upheaval, courage and love is directed by Tony Award® winner Frank Galati.

Fish Men

4/7-5/6

Goodman Theatre, 312-443-3800, goodmantheatre.org

See the world premiere of *Fish Men*, Puerto Rican playwright Cándido Tirado's high-stakes game of urban chess hustlers, with biting humor and unforgettable characters.

C2E2: The Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo

4/13-15

McCormick Place North, c2e2.com

It's a pop-culture phenomenon. Surround yourself with the latest and greatest from the worlds of comics, movies, television, toys, games, anime, manga and video games. Plus, special guests including James Hampton (*Teen Wolf*) and wrestling's Jerry "The King" Lawler.

Being Shakespeare

4/18-29

Broadway Playhouse, 312-977-1710, broadwayinchicago.com

Celebrated British star Simon Callow weaves together excerpts from Shakespeare's plays and poems, breathing new life into his unforgettable characters and the real man behind the legend.

The Iceman Cometh

4/21-6/10

Goodman Theatre, 312-443-3800, goodmantheatre.org

Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy bring this famed Eugene O'Neill drama alive with raucous performances that build the tension in Harry Hope's iconic saloon to a devastating climax.

Spring Desire

4/25-5/6

Auditorium Theatre, joffrey.com/springdesire

See the Joffrey Ballet dancers in a trio of performances: one romantic, one high-energy and one a dramatic world premiere.

May

Cats

5/1-6

Cadillac Palace Theatre, 800-775-2000, broadwayinchicago.com

The show that revolutionized musical theater returns to Chicago with the magic, mystery and wonder that has enchanted families for decades.

Xtreme Bugs

5/19-9/3

Brookfield Zoo, 708-688-8000, brookfieldzoo.org

Learn about buzzing creatures through an exhibit with more than 1,100 real bugs and 25 animatronic models.

Roy Lichtenstein

5/23-9/3

The Art Institute of Chicago, 312-857-7104, artic.edu/aic

The scion of popular art is widely known for his blown-up cartoonish paintings that have been reproduced and copied en masse. But this exhibition combines all periods of his career to give the viewer a holistic understanding of Lichtenstein's artistic breadth.

Extreme Mammals

5/25/12-1/6/2013

The Field Museum, 312-922-9410, fieldmuseum.org

Explore extraordinarily bizarre creatures big and small, plus what might be the most extreme mammals of all: humans.

Belmont-Sheffield Music Festival

5/26-27

Sheffield Ave. between Belmont Ave. and School St., chicagoevents.com



Boasting some of the best local music acts in town, this street fest is where young urban professionals explore arts, crafts and fashion while enjoying a variety of food and drink.

MB Financial Bank Bike the Drive

5/29

Lake Shore Dr. between Bryn Mawr Ave. and 57th St., 312-427-3325, bikethedrive.org

The lakefront boulevard goes car-free for a day while thousands of cyclists pedal 30 miles.

June

Mayfest

6/1-3

Lincoln Square, mayfestchicago.com

German food, dancing and plenty of beer are the mainstays of this festive summer event.

Eastland: An Original Musical

6/6-7/29

Lookingglass Theatre, 312-337-0665, lookingglasstheatre.org

A boat brimming with Western Electric employees and their families leans port — but doesn't lean back, as families are torn apart and unexpected heroes emerge to rescue dozens of Chicagoans from a watery end.

Chicago Blues Festival

6/8-10

Grant Park, choosechicago.com

The world's largest blues festival features famed performers such as Buddy Guy and B.B. King, who come to play to more than half a million blues fans. Free admission.



Andersonville Midsommarfest

6/9-10

Clark St. between Foster Ave. and Catalpa Ave., 773-728-2995, andersonville.org

Join more than 50,000 people for two family- and LGBT-friendly days of music, children's entertainment, artisans showcasing their wares and delicious food.

Wells Street Art Festival

6/9-10

Wells St. between North Ave. and Division St., chicagoevents.com

See eclectic pieces of art — from paintings to glasswork — by more than 250 juried artists at this festival, one of the city's largest and most acclaimed fine arts happenings.

Grant Park Music Festival

6/13-8/18

Jay Pritzker Pavilion, grantparkmusicfestival.com

Attend the nation's only free outdoor classical music series, now in its 78th season, with music from the Grant Park Orchestra, Grant Park Chorus and many more.

Chicago Gospel Music Festival

6/21-24

Various locations, choosechicago.com

Renowned gospel artists perform on stages throughout the city, including main stage events on the former site of the Ida B. Wells public housing project in Bronzeville.

**TWIX® Presents:
TBS Just for Laughs Chicago**
6/14-19

Various locations,
justforlaughschicago.com
With shows at theaters and the hottest sketch comedy clubs, live standup and improv keeps audiences laughing.

Chicago Pride Fest® and Parade
6/22-23 (Fest), 6/24 (Parade)

Halsted Street, 773-883-0500,
northalsted.com
The official celebration of Chicago's GLBT community culminates in the Pride Parade at 10am on June 24. An eclectic lineup of crafts, food and entertainment takes over Halsted Street for a flamboyant, fun party.

Three Sisters
6/28-8/26

Steppenwolf Theatre, 312-335-1650,
steppenwolf.org
A Tony Award®-winning ensemble brings to life Anton Chekhov's classic story of a privileged family's changing fortunes.

**Old St. Pat's
World's Largest Block Party**
6/29-30

Old St. Pat's Church, 312-648-1021,
worldslargestblockparty.com
Meet and mingle with new people and single Chicagoans amid live music from big-name bands and great food.

Crowns
6/30-8/5

Goodman Theatre, 312-443-3800,
goodmantheatre.org
Regina Taylor's gospel musical sensation returns to the Goodman, promising audiences a rollicking good time.

July

Fourth of July Fireworks
7/4

Navy Pier, navypier.com
Watch the sky light up during a spectacular fireworks show choreographed to a patriotic score.



©Navy Pier

Taste of Chicago
7/11-15
Grant Park, choosechicago.com



Chicago restaurants set up booths at this massive foodie fair, complete with cooking demonstrations, entertainment, live music and tons to taste.

Chinatown Summer Fair
7/15

Wentworth Ave. between Cermak Rd.
and 24th St., chicagochinatown.org



Enjoy the best in Asian cultural entertainment including a Dragon and Lion Dance Procession, live music, food, Chinese arts and crafts exhibits, street vendors and a children's play area.

Chinatown Dragon Boat Race
7/21

Ping Tom Memorial Park,
chicagochinatown.org



Experience the excitement as teams compete in a race along the Chicago River on beautifully decorated dragon boats, plus explore music, food, crafts and performances from Chicago's cultural centers.

**Green City Market
Chefs' BBQ Benefit**
7/12

Lincoln Park, 773-880-1266,
greencitymarket.org



See nearly 100 of the city's celebrity chefs partner with Chicago farmers to create dishes from a bounty of local foods, from meats to produce to cheese.

Pitchfork Music Festival
7/13-15

Union Park, 866-468-3401,
pitchforkmusicfestival.com



A launching pad for major music careers, Pitchfork is where you can discover more than 40 of independent music's best bands and artists before they hit the big time.

Windy City Ribfest
7/13-15

Lawrence Ave. and Broadway St.,
chicagoevents.com

The best local and national ribbers mix it up with three days of classic and hot music acts at this fourth-annual summer festival.

Gold Coast Art Fair
7/14-15

Grant Park, 847-926-4300,
amdurproductions.com

See the works of more than 350 juried artists from around the world, with prices ranging \$25 to \$25,000.

**Rock 'n' Roll
Half Marathon**
7/22

Downtown Chicago, 800-311-1255,
runrocknroll.competitor.com/chicago
Bands line the course of this foot race, which starts and finishes at Grant Park.

August

Lollapalooza

8/3-5

Grant Park, lollapalooza.com



The music festival to end all music festivals celebrates its 21st year with 200,000 spectators and rocking performances. See page 37 for all the details.

Northalsted Market Days®

8/11-12

Hasted Street, 773-883-0500, northalsted.com

The Midwest's largest street fair attracts more than 100,000 people to GLBT events that range from musical acts on three stages to foods and crafts vendors.

Chicago Air & Water Show

8/18-19

North Ave. Beach, choosechicago.com



In the largest free show of its kind in the United States, exuberate sky and lake performances are visible along the lakefront from Fullerton Avenue to Oak Street.

In-Fashion: The Magnificent Mile Shopping Festival

8/24-9/6

The Magnificent Mile, 312-409-5560, themagnificentmile.com

The nation's first shopping festival celebrates its second year with designer and celebrity appearances, trunk shows and entertainment along Michigan Avenue.

Chicago Jazz Festival

8/30-9/2

Various locations, jazzinchicago.org/jazzfest



This 34th annual free event is known for attracting some of the top names in jazz for four days of blowout tunes.

Chicon 7: The 70th World Science Fiction Convention

8/30-9/3

Hyatt Regency Chicago, chicon.org

Also known as "Worldcon," this international event is the premier gathering of authors, artists, fans, dealers and more in the global science fiction community.

North Coast Music Fest

8/31-9/2

Union Park, northcoastfestival.com

This free-spirited fest, which bills itself as "Summer's Last Stand," features hip-hop, electronica and jam bands as well as food vendors and craft beer.

Book of Mormon Begins 12/11

Bank of America Theatre, 800-775-2000, broadwayinchicago.com

It's satirical. It's irreverent. It's explicit. It's full of heart. And now, it's coming to Chicago.

The Book of Mormon, winner of nine Tony Awards® including Best Musical, takes on organized religion in a way that is hilarious, poignant and shockingly sweet.

The story:

Two naïve, optimistic Mormon missionaries are sent to violence-stricken Uganda to share their scripture, but struggle to connect with the locals, who are more concerned with famine, poverty and AIDS.

The feedback:

"A crowning achievement so good, it makes me angry." – Jon Stewart, *The Daily Show*

"The funniest musical of all time." – *Entertainment Weekly*

"The best musical of this century." – *The New York Times*

Creators: Trey Parker and Matt Stone (of *South Park* fame), and Robert Lopez (*Avenue Q*)



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SEPTEMBER IN CHICAGO

Ryder Cup – 9/25-30 – In one of golf's most exciting events, Team USA and Team Europe battle it out on the course to win the coveted Ryder Cup. See page 102 for details.

Chicago Gourmet – 9/28-30 – More than 100 chefs and restaurants set up shop in Millennium Park.

Find details on these events and plenty more in the the Fall/Winter Official Visitors Guide.