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Summer sights & sounds: Ford Amphitheatre's 2011 summer season

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The outdoor Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood
Credits: Paul Antico



Slideshow: Ford 2011 summer season highlights

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This summer experience the best that the Los Angeles arts scene has to offer at the [John Anson Ford Amphitheatre](#), an intimate, outdoor venue where local artists converge in music, dance, spoken word and theater. The Ford's summer season is a program of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and is produced in partnership with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations.

Hollywood's Ford Amphitheatre, located across the way from the Hollywood Bowl, is one of the few L.A. venues dedicated to showcasing a diverse array of arts (from ballet and hip-hop dance, Korean film, and bluegrass to Yiddish theater, Ranchera music) reflecting the L.A. area's kaleidoscope of culture groups.

The summer season begins on June 4 at 8:30 p.m. with the nonprofit hip-hop dance group Culture Shock L.A. in "Which-a-Way?" a journey of street dance, hip-hop music and spoken word that follows the adventures of a young hero through a fantastical world.

The Ford Theatre is also known for its whimsical lineup of children and family programming in its [Big!World!Fun!](#) series comprised of eight summer Saturday morning hour-long music, dance and theater performances. Admission for children is free.

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The Ford also offers free [J.A.M. \(Jazzed and Motivated\) Sessions](#) or interactive workshops for amateur and seasoned artists alike. Guests are invited to move to the beat or explore a new instrument and connect with diverse artists and culture. Sessions take place on ten Monday nights, between June 13 and September 19

Other highlights of the season include:

June 10: [Summer Night in Korea: Film, Music, Food & More](#) – The Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles presents the U.S. premiere of the film thriller “Best Seller,” written and directed by Lee Jeong-ho.

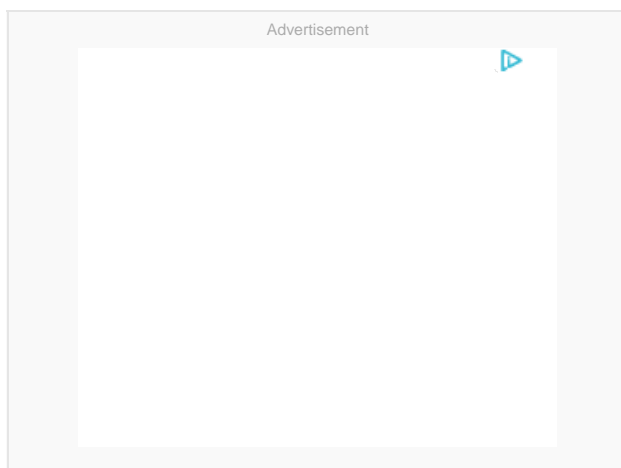
June 18: [Jazzmopolitan: Filipina Ladies of Jazz](#) – Concert headliner and Grammy Award winner Pauline Wilson will perform in a lineup including two up-and-coming jazz vocalists: Nicole David, who will do a duet with her father, London International Jazz vocalist champion Mon David, in honor of Father’s Day and Jaclyn Rose, who mixes jazz with soul.

June 23-25: [Los Angeles Film Festival](#) – This year’s films include: “Detective Dee and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame” from Hong Kong, “Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels of a Tribe Called Quest,” directed by Michael Rapaport and the live musical premiere of “The Seduction of Ingmar Bergman.”

July 2 : [Flypoet: 10 Year Anniversary Blowout](#) – An eclectic mix of poetry, live music and performance art.

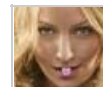
July 9: [Concierto el Rey II](#) – A night of music is dedicated to the late great Jose Alfredo Jimenez, the incomparable Mexican composer who propelled the *ranchera* genre to the mainstream of Mexican music and author of more than 1,000 songs.

July 22 & 23: [Into the Bollywoods](#) – blue13 dance company presents a spectacular Indian fairytale – the story of Jai on his journey up the beanstalk to conquer his villains, find the hero within and ultimately, as Bollywood tradition insists, get the girl.



Aug. 5: [Noche de Pasion](#) – 100 years of Spanish Guitar

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- Take a musical journey to Spain, Morocco, Egypt and beyond with guitar maestro David Maldonado and dancers Linda Cevallos (Dancing with the Stars), Cristina Hall and Katie Miller.

Aug. 6: [10th Edition of the L.A. Dance Invitational](#)

- This event features some of the hottest choreographers in Southern California and New York, including Holly Rothschild (String Theory), Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Adam Parson (Commonality Dance Co.), Lane Gifford (Lane & Co., NY), Lorin Johnson (Body Current Dance, formerly with ABT) and Nick Ross (Nicholas Andre Dance, NY).

Aug. 14: [Exaltation! Biblical Stories Through Music](#)

– Orchestral scores inspired by the Bible from film, Broadway and the concert hall are presented by The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony featuring the stories of Ruth (Franz Waxman's "Symphonic Suite"); Joseph (Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"); Adam (Jerry Bock's "The Apple Tree"); Isaiah, Jeremiah and Elijah (Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's violin concerto, "The Prophets") and more.

Aug. 26: [Kwan-Gyu Lim Dance Company presents "Winter, Spring, Summer & Autumn"](#)

– Current production techniques and musical influences introduce centuries-old dances to new audiences with an evening comprised of vignettes that bring to life the four seasons in Korea.

Sept. 15: [String Theory Live with Special Guest David Poe](#)

– The multi-media performance ensemble String Theory transforms the space with gigantic invented instruments and strings that stretch hundreds of feet envelop the audience in shimmering sound. Dance, original live music, video projections and songs by special guest David Poe.

Sept. 24: [Fiesta Mexicana IX](#)

– Fiesta Mexicana features the sensational Mariachi Monumental; Trio Casablanca; the voices of Roberto Romo, Cindy Luna and recording artist Belinda Gomez; and the phenomenal Banda Futura.

Sept. 25: [Bluegrass at the Ford](#)

– Considered one of the best bluegrass fiddlers of his generation, award-winner Michael Cleveland and his band, Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper (including its newest member, banjo master Charlie Cushman) fills the Ford with sweet, traditional bluegrass. L.A. band Loafer's Glory also appears, combining old-time music of rural Appalachia with latter-day sounds.

Oct. 8: [Tango Nuevo Cabaret by Sergei Tumas](#)

– This tribute to the music of Astor Piazzolla, who revived the sounds of the spiritual bandoneón in a modern context, is a love story told through the seductive language of dance and Piazzolla's music by an international cast of dancers, musicians and vocalists.

For the full Ford Amphitheatre season line up visit fordtheatres.org.

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Brittany Gash has worked as an Arts Administrator in Los Angeles for several years and has made it her mission is to explore the diverse art forms...

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