

## Chicago Blues Fest Growing, Changing 6th Event Adds Concert Site, Wider-Ranging Styles

BY MOIRA McCORMICK

CHICAGO A tribute to Louisiana music and an expanded festival site will highlight the sixth annual Chicago Blues Festival to be held here June 9-11 in downtown Grant Park



LEOTIS

### NEW ON THE CHARTS

Leotis, a native of the Bronx, N.Y., scores his first song on the Hot Black Singles chart with "On A Mission," the first single from his debut Mercury album of the same name.

The 24-year-old singer, whose full name is Leotis Clyburn, began his career as a performer at a young age. While in high school, he was chosen to sing on national radio commercials and later won an Alvin Ailey dance scholarship. After college, he turned his attention to musical theater. He was featured in the touring production of "Bubbling Brown Sugar" and appeared on the original Broadway cast recording of "Your Arm's Too Short To Box With God."

Leotis' music-industry affiliation is twofold: In addition to singing backup for Miki Howard and performing as a solo artist, he is currently working as a representative at ASCAP. His new album is slated for release May 8 and includes a remake of the Five Steps' 1970 hit, "O-o-h Child."

JIM RICHLIANO

and at nearby Navy Pier. Among the scheduled headliners are Buddy Guy, Taj Mahal, Solomon Burke, A.C. Reed, Dr. John, Irma Thomas, Rockin' Dopsie, and Allen Toussaint.

The free festival, presented by Old Style and the City of Chicago, is expected to outdraw last year's three-day total of 580,000 people, according to festival coordinator Barry Dolins of the Mayor's Office of Special Events. Other Blues Fest sponsors include Pizza Hut, White Castle, AT&T, progressive album rocker WXRT, and CBS affiliate WBBM-TV. The festival will be broadcast over National Public Radio station WBEZ-FM via satellite to NPR stations nationwide.

As in years past, the entertainment will begin each afternoon with sets at the smaller Crossroads and Front Porch stages, before the evening's main performances at Petrillo Bandstand.

This year, for the first time, afternoon shows also will be held at Navy Pier to accommodate the growing crowds at the festival. "We're also showcasing a broader spectrum of the blues," says Dolins. "The Navy Pier sets will be more intimate and folk oriented."

Blues Fest '89 is preceded this year by an official Blues Month, May 7-June 11, featuring activities such as a blues-related film festival, art exhibit, and photo exhibit.

The evening of June 9 is Sweet

Home Chicago night, with headlining performances at Petrillo Bandstand by Chicago-bred talent. A tribute to blues club matriarch Theresa Needham will feature regular acts from her landmark club, Theresa's, which closed in 1987. The Howlin' Wolf award will be presented to this year's honoree by Buddy Guy and last year's recipient of the award, Willie Dixon.

The Blues On The Lake show June 10 will feature the Johnny B. Moore Revue, Taj Mahal, A.C. Reed, Lynn White, and Solomon Burke. The Goin' To The Bayou show June 11 will feature headlining sets by Rockin' Dopsie and Dr. John and Allen Toussaint in a tribute to Professor Longhair.

Dolins says the Goin' To The Bayou night continues a Blues Fest tradition of spotlighting different cities and regions, such as the 1987 tribute to Memphis and the West Coast spotlight in 1988. Fest officials are traveling to the annual Louisiana Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans this month to make announcements regarding the Louisiana music night. Also, the New Orleans club Tipitina's will salute Chicago blues during the New Orleans jazz festival with an April 30 show featuring Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, and Lonnie Brooks. Louisiana's Rafe and Kenny Neal also will be featured at Blues Fest this year.

### RADIATORS HEAT UP WITH NEW ALBUM

(Continued from page 30)

"Zig-Zagging Through Ghostland" should be more attractive to radio, adds Caplan.

"'Confidential' is already top 10 at album radio and we hope to cross over 'But It's Alright' to top 40 [radio]—which is something we were unable to do last time," he says. The Radiators' version of "But It's Alright," a cover of the 1966 J.J. Jackson hit, also was produced by Hardy.

As usual, touring will be the key tool in swelling the group's traditional base. In fact, money traditionally allocated for a promo video may instead be spent on tour ad-

vertisement.

"We're hitting the road again, Jack, until the road starts hitting back," says vocalist/guitarist Dave Malone. Solid on the East Coast, the band will follow its current concert swing there by playing the West Coast where it is not yet as strong.

If the Radiators succeed in playing bigger venues, Volker hopes to match the new album's improved sound with a bigger stage and better lighting. "We want to create an atmosphere," he says, "that matches the music more than just the smoke in barrooms."



Rolling Bandstand. Dick Clark meets with members of the Spinners during the announcement of this summer's American Bandstand concert tour, which will feature the Spinners, the Association, the Guess Who, and the Drifters. Sponsors of the tour will be Canada Dry and VH-1. (Photo: Chuck Pulin)

AB BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES		AMUSEMENT BUSINESS®			
ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	P omoter
GRATEFUL DEAD	Rosemont Horizon Rosemont, Ill.	April 11-13	\$944,795 \$19.50	49,193 54,042 sellout	Jim Prods. Monarch Entertainment Bureau
NEIL DIAMOND	ARCO Arena Sacramento, Calif.	April 14-15	\$655,196 \$20/\$18.50	33,188 sellout	Arch Angel Bill Graham Presentations
BOB HOPE TONI TENNILLE	Fox Theatre Detroit	April 12-16	\$441,928 \$37.50/\$32.50/ \$25/\$5	21,541 24,100 sellout	Class Ring Prods.
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Myriad Convention Center Oklahoma City, Okla.	April 11	\$245,490 \$17.50	14,348 sellout	Bayer Prods.
R.E.M. INDIGO GIRLS	Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto, Ontario	April 12	\$218,467 (\$258,665 Canadian) \$23.75	11,007 12,500	Concert Prods. International
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Kansas Coliseum Wichita, Kan.	April 10	\$210,000 \$18	12,000 sellout	Contemporary Presentations
POISON TESLA	Tacoma Dome Tacoma, Wash.	March 28	\$196,878 \$18.50	10,882 17,700	Media One
R.E.M. INDIGO GIRLS	Richfield Coliseum Richfield, Ohio	April 6	\$180,753 \$18.50/\$17.50	10,289 12,000	Bilklin Prods.
WHOOPI GOLDBERG	Trump Castle Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, N.J.	April 7-9	\$176,000 \$40	4,400 sellout	Irishouse
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Lubbock Municipal Coliseum Lubbock, Texas	April 15	\$169,406 \$16.50	10,600 sellout	Sardate Concerts
BON JOVI SKID ROW	SIU Arena Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale, Ill.	April 8	\$166,260 \$17	9,780 sellout	Jim Prods. Irishouse
TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD MINNIE PEARL	Fox Theatre St. Louis	April 14-16	\$156,347 \$19.90/\$16.90/ \$13.90/\$7.90	11,035 17,196	Fox Concerts
RANDY TRAVIS WILLIAMS & REE	George M. Sullivan Sports Arena Anchorage, Alaska	April 7	\$151,380 \$20	7,786 8,751	Social Moments Promotions
METALLICA QUEENSRÛCHE	Kellogg Arena Battle Creek, Mich.	April 14	\$140,250 \$16.50	8,500 sellout	Cliffar Door Prods.
SANDI PATTI	Reunion Arena, Dallas	April 15	\$128,202 \$13.50/\$12.50/ \$10.50	10,091 13,987	Evenings In Arlington
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND TANYA TUCKER	Roberts Municipal Stadium Evansville, Ind.	April 15	\$126,420 \$17.50	7,691 8,362	Richard Mitchell Prods.
JOSE JOSE LOS CAMINATES ALBERTO VASQUEZ	Los Angeles Sports Arena Los Angeles	April 9	\$121,860 \$25/\$20/\$15	7,637 8,500	SIS Irishouse
METALLICA QUEENSRÛCHE	Wendler Arena Saginaw Civic Center Saginaw, Mich.	April 15	\$117,167 \$16.50	7,101 sellout	Cliffar Door Prods.
STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES	Olympic Saddledome Calgary, Alberta	April 14	\$113,891 (\$134,391 Canadian) \$21.50/\$20.50	6,811 8,000	Donald K. Donald Prods. Concert Prods. International Periscope Prods.
BAD COMPANY Y & T VIXEN	ARCO Arena Sacramento, Calif.	April 16	\$110,445 \$20/\$18.50	6,675 8,500	Bill Graham Presentations
OAK RIDGE BOYS T. GRAHAM BROWN	Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich.	April 15	\$109,395 \$16.50	10,559 14,551	Glass Palace Promotions
CINDERELLA WINGER BULLETBOYS	Greensboro Coliseum Greensboro, N.C.	April 16	\$104,878 \$17.50	6,463 7,000	Cliff Entertainment
CINDERELLA WINGER BULLETBOYS	Orlando Theatre Orlando, Fla.	April 9	\$104,379 \$16.50	6,761 7,500	Fantasmas Prods.
TIFFANY	Tri-Cities Coliseum Kennewick, Wash.	March 31	\$90,453 \$16.50	5,581 6,467	Media One
RANDY TRAVIS WILLIAMS & REE	Big Dipper Arena Fairbanks, Alaska	April 8	\$85,340 \$20	4,267 4,554 sellout	Social Moments Promotions

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