



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Kimberly Greene • A Taste of Colorado
(303) 295-6330 • Kim@ATasteofColorado.com

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Kids' Amusement Abounds at A Taste of Colorado

*KidZone, KidzStage, Carnival Rides, Festival of Mountain and Plain Area
Offer Fun, Educational Activities*

DENVER – Featured acts, including the McTeggart Irish Dancers, World Spin Top Champion Jon Gates, and The Magic of Stuart Hayner, are set to appear at the 26th annual A Taste of Colorado on the KidzStage presented by MIX 100. Children can stay busy for hours with games, carnival rides, educational exhibits, and more. The four-day, free admission, food, music, and entertainment Festival will take place Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 through Sept. 7, in Downtown Denver's Civic Center Park.

The **KidZone** is a family-friendly area offering play equipment and a great variety of free, hands-on craft activities for children of all ages. Kids and adults can also enjoy **carnival rides and games** Saturday through Monday, presented by **KOOL 105**. KidZone hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 4; and 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat., Sept. 5 through Mon., Sept. 7.

There will be plenty of music, magic, clowns, and puppets on the **KidzStage** presented by **MIX 100**. Festival favorite, **The Wick School of Irish Dance**, incorporates rhythmic footwork, athletic agility, and individual expression into each of their performances, as they have continued to do since 1987. **Bonnie Phipps** and **Scott Bennett** will present, "**Rhythm, Rhyme, Story and Song**," a collection of music and tales from all over the world, plus original and contemporary material. Phipps uses hot pink and turquoise autoharps to heighten the action in her stories, in addition to playing the spoons, the jaw harp, and paper bags. "**The Magic of Stuart Hayner**" has been accumulated from his 30-plus years of experience, including more than 300 different balloon sculptures, mind-powered magic, and Western card-slinging.

The following is a lineup of children's entertainers on the KidzStage presented by MIX 100:

FRIDAY, Sept. 4

11:45 a.m. & 2:15 p.m.

Merry-Andrew Afoot presents A Cowboy's Tail

- More -

12:45 p.m. & 4:15 p.m. Comedy and Magic with Ann Lincoln
1:45 p.m. Learn to Juggle with Ann Lincoln
3:15 p.m. & 5:15 p.m. Interactive Music with Sue Schnitzer
6:15 p.m. World Spin Top Champion Jon Gates
Roving entertainment: Ann Lincoln Juggling, Comedy, and Magic

SATURDAY, Sept. 5

10:45 a.m. Paul Borrillo as Poppy the Clown
11:45 a.m. McTeggart Irish Dancers
12:45 p.m. & 5:15 p.m. Cody Landstrom, Magical Entertainer
1:45 p.m. Learn to Juggle with Cody Landstrom
2:15 p.m. World Spin Top Champion Jon Gates
3:15 p.m. & 6:15 p.m. Rhythm, Rhyme, Story and Song with Bonnie Phipps and Scott Bennett
4:15 p.m. Wayne and Wingnut Comedy Ventriloquist Show
Roving entertainment: Cody Landstrom Magic; Paul Borrillo as Poppy the Clown;
Wayne Francis Ventriloquism

SUNDAY, Sept. 6

10:45 a.m. Paul Borrillo as Poppy the Clown
11:45 a.m. Music for Kids with Eric West
12:45 p.m. & 4:15 p.m. Madziva Mana Marimba, an African Celebration
of Music and Storytelling
1:45 p.m. Poppy the Clown’s Juggling Workshop
2:15 p.m. & 5:15 p.m. The Magic of Stuart Hayner
3:15 p.m. & 6:15 p.m. Jim Jackson presents My Silly Leftovers
Roving entertainment: Paul Borrillo as Poppy the Clown; Jim Jackson, Clown/Juggler;
Stuart Hayner, Pocket Magic and Balloons

MONDAY, Sept. 7

10:45 a.m. & 1:45 p.m. Birgitta De Pree presents Ugly Ducks and Other Tales

11:45 a.m.	The Wick School of Irish Dance
12:45 p.m. & 4:15 p.m.	Mary Sue & Cari Music with Kids
2:45 p.m.	Finding Stories Workshop with Brigitta
3:15 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.	Peter Davison, Movement Artist/Juggler
5:15 p.m.	Wayne and Wingnut Comedy Ventriloquist Show
Roving entertainment:	Birgitta De Pree Stilt Walking; Wayne Francis Ventriloquism

Nursing mothers and families can visit the **Baby Oasis** presented by **ColoradoKids.com**, a convenient area located in the KidZone for parents to nurse, change diapers, and relax in a private environment complete with a rocking chair. An assortment of supplies will be provided, including diapers and baby wipes.

Families can journey back to the roots of Colorado and have fun learning about the state’s pioneer past, nature, and the environment. In the **Festival of Mountain and Plain area**, featured artisans will demonstrate Navajo weaving and culture, spinning, rug braiding, lace crocheting, felting, instrument-making, and quilting, along with the popular blacksmith demonstration. At the **Rocky Mountain Raptor Program** exhibit, children can learn about birds, their environment, and their interactions with humans. Free gold panning and educational materials on dinosaurs, volcanoes, rocks and minerals, and energy production and conservation are available at the **Colorado Mining Exhibit**.

Kid-friendly food vendors will be located along the perimeter of the KidZone selling hot dogs, pretzels, popcorn, and more. A Taste of Colorado is also an opportunity for parents to encourage their children to try new foods from places like Venezuela, the Middle East, Asia, and India, as many of the restaurants offer “taste-sized” portions for one to three tickets.

In addition to the KidzStage, the Main Stage and three other stages located throughout the Festival will serve up a continuous menu of entertainment, featuring rock, country, jazz, blues, and ethnic music and dance groups.

More than 50 of Colorado’s favorite food establishments will be selling a wide variety of small portions to full meals, ensuring that there will be something for every palate. The Fine Dining area, sponsored by Sub-Zero and Wolf, will host some of Denver’s finest restaurants. The Culinary Showcase features local and nationally-renowned chef demonstrations creating simple, yet elegant meals.

Festivalgoers can shop in more than 250 Marketplace booths for original arts and crafts, home and gift items, furniture, jewelry, imports, and more. Shoppers can also explore the Home & Lifestyles area, which features a variety of exhibitors displaying products and services such as window installation, kitchen remodeling, cookware, basement refinishing, and salons and spas.

Sponsors of this year’s Festival are: 9NEWS, Aggreko, All Copy Products, American Medical Response, American Satellite – An Authorized DIRECTV Dealer, Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, Blue Moon, Cascadian Farm, Cold Front Distribution, Coors Light, *The Denver Post*, Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc., Dreyer’s Grand Ice Cream, Eldorado Natural Spring Water, Famous Dave’s Bar-B-Que, Grand Lodge On Peak 7, Killian’s, LÄRABAR, LBA Realty, Levinson Eye Clinic, Microtech-Tel, Mike’s Hard Lemonade, Molson, Muir Glen, The Other White Meat Tour, PEPSI, PlayStation, Residence Inn Denver City Center, SOYJOY, Sturgeon Electric, Sub-Zero & Wolf, T-Mobile® Limited Operated by On The Go Wireless, and Travelers Insurance.

Festival hours are Friday, Sept. 4, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Monday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Festival of Mountain and Plain ... A Taste of Colorado is a community celebration that is produced by and benefits Downtown Denver Events, Inc., the Downtown Denver Partnership family’s community events non-profit organization. The Festival is an opportunity for people throughout the region to come together to experience and appreciate our diverse cultural traditions, and to learn more about our state’s Western heritage. The Festival highlights visual and performing arts in addition to featuring educational programs and culinary demonstrations.

Visit www.ATasteofColorado.com, www.facebook.com/ATasteofColorado, www.twitter.com/ATasteofCo, www.myspace.com/ATasteofColorado, or call (303) 295-6330 for more information.

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