

DALLAS HARVEST FESTIVAL

Vamped up entertainment schedule pleases all

From karate demos to children's theater group, there's something for all.

By SARAH HITE
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Two stages mean double the entertainment at this year's Dallas Harvest Festival which kicks off at noon on Sunday, Sept. 18.

First-time solo entertainment committee chairperson Gina Major Ackerman has booked nearly two dozen local acts, from karate demos to a children's theater group, to keep adults and youngsters smiling all afternoon.

"This year we wanted to vamped up the entertainment and take everything up a notch," said Major Ackerman.

She said this year two acts are sure to bring a crowd to the ninth annual festival: Damian the Magician for the kids, and former WNEP-16 broadcaster and folk musician Mike Lewis for the adults.

Both acts will close out the festival on two different stages: Damian on the Frontier Community Stage, located at the Dallas Hardware Centre parking lot, and Lewis on the Lewith and Freeman main stage at the end of Main Street.

Major Ackerman said her focus this year was on keeping similar styles of entertainment "blocked" together to make it easier for families to plan their perusal of the grounds.

"The entire main stage entertainment schedule will be posted at the community stage. The community stage schedule will be posted at the main stage and both schedules will be posted around the festival grounds," she said. "I think the better you plan, the more families can get around to everything."

Other acts include a multitude of local youth dancers from Take the Stage Dance Studio in Trucksville, the Back Mountain Dance Studio in Dallas, the David Blight School of Dance in Wilkes-Barre and Pittston and the Dallas High School Junior Varsity Cheer Team.

Festival-goers can watch professional groups, such as the Emerald Isle Step Dancers and Misericordia University dance instructors Raphael and Lauren Cooper, during the event, too.

"When you notch up the entertainment level, my feeling was let's not only notch up main stage, do a great job of it, but also get great acts for the second stage," said Major Ackerman.

Six local singers and musical groups will also grace the stage during the event, including the Step by Step Praise Band from the Shavertown United Methodist Church, Christian pop singer Caroline H. Thomas and vocalists from the Major Performing Arts Center.

Other fun acts include demonstrations by the PawsAbilities 4-H Seeing Eye Dogs and the United Fighting Arts Association and a performance of the fairytale "Rapunzel" from the Northeast Youth Theatre sponsored by Hildebrandt Learning Centers.

One favorite of the festival is Changing Habits, a local group of women who perform songs from the film "Sister Act" to raise money for Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas.

"We try really hard to provide something for everybody," said Major Ackerman.



Changing Habits, a musical outreach ministry from Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas, performs at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.

BILL TARUTIS FILE PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Fitness instructor Terri Besecker, of Shapes Total Fitness, demonstrates body pumping at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.



Kennedy Wood, 5, of Trucksville, right, and Brooke Piscotty, 5, of Hanover Township, wait to perform on stage at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.

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Gina Major Ackerman
Dallas Harvest Festival
Entertainment Committee Chairperson

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Lewith and Freeman Main Stage

Emcee: Carol Sweeney
Noon - Festival opening with the National Anthem sung by Bryn Harvey
12:15 p.m. - Step by Step Praise Band from the Shavertown United Methodist Church
12:55 p.m. - Dallas High School Junior Varsity Cheer Team
1 p.m. - Take the Stage Dance Studio performers
1:30 p.m. - Back Mountain Dance Studio performers
2 p.m. - Best of Open Mic Winners
2:30 p.m. - David Blight School of Dance performers
3 p.m. - Emerald Isle Step Dancers
3:30 p.m. - Changing Habits
4 p.m. - Kiss The Pig Contest winner announced
4:20 p.m. - Major Performing Arts vocalists
5 p.m. - Mike Lewis

Frontier Community Stage

Emcee: Jennifer Rogers
Noon - PawsAbilities 4-H Seeing Eye dogs
12:30 p.m. - Damian the Magician, sponsored by Salon Nouveau
1:20 p.m. - Northeast Youth Theatre's "Rapunzel," sponsored by Hildebrandt Learning Centers
2:15 p.m. - Latin dance and Zumba demonstration by Cooper's Ballroom dancers
2:45 p.m. - Caroline H. Thomas, teen recording artist
3:15 p.m. - Twice Blessed, music of the 60's and 70's
4 p.m. - At Home, contemporary music
4:45 p.m. - Unified Fighting Arts Association demonstration
5:15 p.m. - Damian the Magician, sponsored by CK's Summer Treats and More and Salon



Sam Aying, of Mountain Top, performs on stage at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.



Dallas Harvest Festival second-place Open Mic winner Noah Sunday-Lefkowitz, of Shavertown, performs Jim Brickman's "Peace" at the 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival.