

Live Events

There's Magic in Moab at the Backyard Theater

by Sand Scheff

Everybody knows that Moab is a magical place. But did you know that Moab has its very own magic man? Rick Boretti has been wowing audiences throughout the west for years, and his Moab downtown magic show has become one of the longest-running outdoor magic shows in America. He performs his acclaimed jaw-dropping illusions every Saturday at 7pm to Moab Backyard Theater, an outdoor venue located in the heart of downtown Moab, just behind Zax.



Magician Rick Boretti

"I love doing magic at the theater," Rick says. "It's great to see people laugh, have a good time and the adults become kids again. People come back that have seen me over the years and become like family."

A working member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Boretti has been perfecting his craft over the years at festivals, theaters and private functions. He also specializes in the difficult sleight of hand known as "close-up magic", creating illusions that can leave audiences gasping. His fascination with magic started early.

"I was bitten by the magic bug when I was 6. Later when I learned to do a cut and restored rope my life was never the same. I like to have fun and for people around me to have fun. Magic is one great way to do this."

When he's not doing magic, Boretti is a Ranger and wildlife biologist in the heart of the Canyonlands wilderness, helping keep people and animal populations safe on the

San Juan river. But he's mostly famous around the Four Corners for one thing: magic.

"I'm always working on creating new miracles," he says. It is family fun with lots of laughs but hopefully strong magic."



You can catch Moab's "Magic Man" every Saturday at 7pm at Moab's Backyard Theater, located at 56 W. 100 South, just behind Zax. Admission is ten dollars for adults and 5 dollars for kids 5 and over. It's worth every penny to see the premiere magician in Southeastern Utah. Wednesdays are Free Bluegrass nights and Thursday is Free Honky Tonk Fusion with Juniper Drive.

Western Colorado's Palisade Bluegrass and Roots Festival Happens June 9-11

by Sharon Sullivan

Grammy award-winning musician Michael Cleveland began playing fiddle at age 4 after hearing a fiddler perform the classic song *Orange Blossom Special* at one of the many bluegrass music events he attended with his grandparents every weekend in southern Indiana.

Cleveland went on to attend the Kentucky School for the Blind in nearby Louisville, Kentucky where he learned the Suzuki method of violin. At home he played fiddle music.



Michael Cleveland

Cleveland and his band Flamekeeper will perform Sunday at the Palisade Bluegrass and Roots Festival, which will take place June 9-11, at Riverbend Park alongside the Colorado River.

In 2019, the International Bluegrass Music Association named Cleveland "Fiddle Player of the Year" for the 12th time. That same year, Cleveland's album *Tall Fiddler*, featuring Flamekeeper plus bluegrass stars Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Tommy Emmanuel, Bela Fleck, Tim O'Brien, Dan Tyminski, Del McCoury and The Travelin' McCourys, won a Grammy for "Best Bluegrass Album."

"We like to play bluegrass for people who may not have heard it before," Cleveland said during an interview with *Moab Happenings*. "But we don't play all traditional bluegrass—we came from that background but we like to jam, and play solos. That's kind of the theme of



Goodnight Texas

this new album. For many years I've put myself in a box of traditional bluegrass. This album and the one previous is my way of saying I love traditional bluegrass but it's not all I love and capable of."

Cleveland and Flamekeeper have performed a couple of times at the RockyGrass Festival in Lyons, Colorado, and has also played at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival.

Festivalgoers can expect to hear songs off of their new album *Lovin' of the Game*, which includes several special guest artists, like Billy Strings on the song *For Your Love*.

"It's a mix of original tunes and songs that haven't been recorded much," Cleveland said. We try and find great new songs or songs that haven't been done for a long time."

The bluegrass and roots festival begins Friday with a stellar lineup of Colorado-based musicians, with a slate of national artists performing Saturday and Sunday—including Lizzie No, Fireside Collective, Goodnight Texas, Keller Williams' Grateful Grass ft. The Hillbenders, and more. Gates open at 1 p.m. on Friday, and 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

As always, there will be a variety of food trucks selling food throughout the weekend. Artisan-crafted cocktails and locally-brewed beer—from Palisade's Peach Tree Distiller and Palisade Brewery will also be for sale. While you can bring food into the festival, no outside beverages are allowed. There's a water spigot where people can fill their water bottles for free.



Keller Williams

The Palisade Bluegrass and Roots Festival is a family-friendly festival with a slew of festival-



The Hillbenders

related activities going on throughout the weekend. Nearby camping sites are available for purchase by festival attendees. Reservations can also be made at nearby hotels or an RV park.

For tickets and more information visit: www.Palisademusic.com

SAVE THE DATES
MUSIC
IN THE
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2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Tuesday - May 23 - **Stray Grass**
Tuesday- June 20 - **Exit 42**
Tuesday - July 18 - **Wild Flight**
Tuesday - August 15 - **Still House String Band**
Wednesday - September 6 - **Stray Grass**

TWO RIVERS WINERY (Redlands)

Advance tickets - \$15
Tickets available at the gate - \$20

For information - www.artcenterguild.org,
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2023 Moab Events

for more event information .. go to www.moabhappenings.com

- May 2-6 Bronco Safari (4x4 offroad)
- May 4-6 Bikerpelli (biking from Fruita to Moab)
- May 6 Gran Fondo Moab (road cycling)
- May 11-13. Bikerpelli (biking from Fruita to Moab)
- May 11-14.. Raptors on the Rocks (4x4 offroad)
- May 13 Thelma & Louise (running long dist) Marathon, 1/2 Marathon, 15k & 50K
- May 13 CO2UT Desert Gravel
- May 19-21... Willys Overland Rally
- May 21-26... Gone Moab **cancelled**
- May 27-28... Moab Arts Festival
- May 27-29... Barrels 4 Bucks **cancelled**
- Jun /Jul/Aug..Moab Free Concert Series
- Jun 2- 4..... Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo

- Jun 9-10 Kokopelli Relay (road cycling from Moab to St. George)
- Jun 9-17 MMF High Water Moab Music Festival
- Jun 18-24... Desert Rats Kokopelli 150 (running event from Fruita to Moab)
- Jun/Jul/Aug... Summer Free Movie Series at Swanny Park
- Jun 24 Bears Ears Ultra (Monticello) (long distance running event)
- Jul 1-4 Grand County Fair
- Jul 4 Independence Day Celebration
- Jul 24 Pioneer Day Celebration
- Aug 21-Sep 15...Moab Music Festival
- Sep 2-4 RR4W Labor Day Campout (four-wheel drive event)
- Sep 9-16 ... Moab Charity Rally (fundraiser)

- Sep 15-16. Green River Melon Days
- Sep 16-17. Moab Century Tour (road bicycle event)
- Sep 23..... Youth Garden Harvest Festival
- Sep tba..... UT High School Mt Bike Race
- Sep 29-Oct 1... Outerbike (Mountain Bike Expo)
- Sep 29-Oct 1... Red Rock Arts Festival
- Sep 30 Moab Art Trails Exhibition
- Oct 7..... Arches Marathon & Half, 15k & 50k
- Oct 13-17 .. Moab 240 Endurance Run
- Oct 20-22...Moab Celtic Festival 'Scots on the Rocks'
- Oct 21-22.. Red Canyon Powwow
- Oct 26-28.. Jeep Jamboree
- Oct 28-29.. Canyonlands Ultra (long distance running event)

- Oct 29..... Day of the Dead Celebration
- Oct 29-Nov 3... Moab Folk Camp
- Oct 31 Trunk or Treat
- Nov 3-5 Moab Folk Festival
- Nov 3-6 Moab Craggin' Classic (rock climbing event)
- Nov 4..... Soup Bowl Fundraiser
- Nov 4-5 Moab Trail Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K & Kids K
- Nov 11 Turkey Trot
- Nov 18 Dead Horse Ultra (15k, 30k, 50k, 50 mile)
- Dec 1 Holiday Tree Lighting
- Dec 1-2 Holiday Craft Fair
- Dec 2 Electric Light Parade

Moab Happenings

Make sure your event gets the attention it deserves.

Email event dates to: info@moabhappenings.com 435-259-8431