

WANDERING PERFORMER GUIDELINES

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR 442 Lawrence Street~ Eugene OR ~ 97401 (541) 343-4298

The Oregon Country Fair is an Oregon non-profit, tax-exempt corporation made up mostly of Fair participants. Each year, the number of participants gets larger, while space inside the Fair stays the same. Performing space is at a premium.

The Fair contains twelve stages: Main Stage, Shady Grove, Blue Moon, Youth Stage, Hoarse Chorale, Chela Mela Meadow, Circus Stage, W.C. Fields, Daredevil Meadow, Gypsy, Energy Park, and Community Village. All stages are booked in their own particular manner prior to the Fair.

We also have wandering performers. Some performers may have just paid their way through the front gate or just finished a booked set. Because of this flexibility, we must all heed certain common sense considerations for each other, not to mention consideration for the atmosphere of the Fair itself.

To fully participate in the Fair, the wandering performers need to recognize their overall role in the Fair. It is the community spirit, the movement of the Fair as a whole piece of theatre or music, that we are seeking to create, rather than just a chance to blow our own horns. For three days, personal, perhaps spiritual, but certainly community relations, are where it's at.

When wandering as a performer, remember that the paths are lined with booths, full of paying supporters of the Fair, expecting to go about their Fair business and experience from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. They would like to have you along. So would we, providing we are all good anarchists and don't step on each others' toes.

THE BASIC PERFORMER GUIDELINES ARE:

1. Never set up or start a show that competes for the audience of anyone else's performance in the same area (especially sound-wise). Likewise, we must all share the available space, so rotate!
2. Do not allow your audience to block the aisles.
3. Playing in front of a booth? You must clear that with all booths affected FIRST!!!
4. Cooperate with the Fair and Entertainment staff.
5. Hat passing tastefully please.
6. Battery-powered amplifiers and recorded music are prohibited.
7. If you will not follow these simple rules, you do not belong, in this cooperative atmosphere. You will be escorted from the Fair.

Most of us already know and use these guides, but, for those who don't, here's further explanation. The main problem in the past has been a relatively small space and lots of performers vying for it. Too many people have been tempted to set up in spots they wouldn't normally choose, or to just "go ahead and play, what does it matter?" The only equitable way to work this out is cooperative rotation. Play a set, then let someone else use the space. It's one thing if no one wants the spot, but you can recognize someone waiting to play. **THIS IS NOT A BATTLE OF THE BANDS! ALL STAGES HAVE PRIORITY.** If someone else's audience can hear you at all, you are too close! You are responsible for the actions of your audience. Generally, it is quite easy to maintain a healthy byway simply by asking your audience to help keep the path open. (You may find it helpful to suggest where the aisle should be, both in where you set up and what you say.)

Finally, all of the crew and Stage Managers are donating their time for the benefit of the whole. These people are the official facilitators. Cooperate with them and we will all keep smiling.