Island City Waterways

Last year’s free and rousing art happening in Alameda was such a smash that Rhythmix Cultural Works—a collective that promotes an all-ages engagement in the arts—decided to do it again. Alamedans and friends from around the Bay get to explore local history on four scheduled walking tours along Crab Cove and the adjacent beach while connecting with musicians, dancers, actors and storytellers.

May 19 & 20
Crab Cove, Crown Memorial State Beach, Alameda

How Weird Street Faire

There’s not much one can do to stand out at this paean to what so many of us have always loved about San Francisco: you’re welcome to let your hair down and freak flag fly, high and proud. This year’s The Disco Ball Inferno theme invites a look back to the outra-gorgeous and groovy ‘70s. Wear your Farrah Fawcett hair, hot pants, silver platform shoes, bell-bottoms, anything at all, but come and have a ball.

May 6
Howard Street

Raices del Carnaval: 40th Festival and Parade

The raices (roots) of Carnaval run deep through the Mission, and in its 40th year the festival honors its past and present with vibrant and gorgeous poster art by Michael Rios (who created the art for Santana’s multi-platinum “Supernatural” album) and hometown heroes Malo, who take the stage (and play their ‘70s era hit “Suavestra”) before La Princesa de Salsa India, direct from Puerto Rico.

May 26 & 27
Harrison Street, Mission District

Lucrezia’s Family: The Renaissance Borgia Dynasty

The Borgias, of Spanish and Italian nobility, were a complicated family, and this fascinating two-day series of performances and lectures explores many of their darkest and admirable deeds. Credited for being significant patrons of Renaissance art, family members were also suspected of crimes ranging from adultery and incest to bribery and murder, with the Medici among their enemies.

May 4 & 5
Marines’ Memorial Theatre

Michael Feinstein’s Return

The master singer, pianist and namesake of Feinstein’s at the Nikko returns to the Union Square cabaret for a five-night run in honor of the 5th anniversary of the venue that replaced the RRazz Room. Don’t miss this chance to see Michael, who’s taking a short break from his current gig as artistic director for the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana.

May 16 → 20
Feinstein’s at the Nikko

DocLands

This documentary fest showcases 43 titles including “The Valley of the Wolves,” a visual diary of the months Jean-Michel Bertrand spent tracking a family of wolves in the French Alps, as well as “McQueen,” which charts the rise—and personal demons—of the late Alexander McQueen. The tormented British fashion star, known for his outrageous designs and runway extravaganzas, committed suicide despite achieving international success at an early age.

May 3 → 6
Rafael Film Center, San Rafael

Eight Hours Don’t Make a Day

Thanks to a recent restoration, R.W. Fassbinder’s 1972/73 television miniseries is on tour. Through a trenchant drama about an unruly, working class family, and an elliptical narrative structure, the German filmmaker examines socio-political issues and cultural upheaval confronting post-war West Germany, from affordable housing and labor practices to racial bigotry. Envisioned as an eight-part series, only the five episodes shown here were shot.

May 11 → 13
BAMPFA, Berkeley

The Young Karl Marx

Raul Peck (“I Am Not Your Negro”) directs this historical drama about class struggle and two intellectual giants who wanted to upheend the Old World order. It tells its biographical story about Communism’s rise by focusing on the friendship between Marx (August Diehl), then a struggling writer, and his nemesis, Friedrich Engels (Stefan Konarske), the scion of a wealthy family.

May 18
Goethe-Institut San Francisco

The Judge

Erika Cohn’s portrait of Judge Khloud Al-Faqih chronicles the long road traveled and obstacles surmounted by the first female jurist appointed to a Middle East Sharia court. Her career started—and could have ended—when, as a young attorney, she announced to Palestine’s chief justice that she wanted to join the bench and he laughed in her face. Tenacious and undeterred, she mentors women and fights for equal justice in a misogynist system stacked against them.

Apr. 30 → May 3
Roxie Theater

Dark Decade

Subtitled “Please help I am drowning,” this series falls down the cinematic rabbit hole with films revolving around San Francisco circa 1969-1978, a turbulent decade when the dewy-eyed optimism of the Summer of Love took a sinister turn. Paul Schrader’s “Patty Hearst,” which details the SLA kid-napping of the heiress, and “Zodiac,” David Finch’s disturbing, sordid dramatization of the serial killer case that terrorized San Francisco, are among the movies shown.

May 24 → 27
YBCA

COMPLETE ARTS LISTINGS AT SF ARTS ORG