

Festival Highlights

CURATED BY LAURA FRAENZA



Island City Waterways

Last year’s free and roving 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 outrageous 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

Raíces del Carnaval: 40th Festival and Parade

The *raíces* (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 “Suavecito”) 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 dastardly 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 Medicis among their enemies.

May 4 & 5
Marines’ Memorial Theatre



Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra

Latin Jazz legend-in-his-own-right Arturo O’Farrill (son of the legendary composer/conductor Chico O’Farrill) joins forces with fellow Grammy-winners Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra for a tour of academic institutions and arts theaters throughout the state in support of social justice. Their stop in Berkeley benefits KPFA-FM and DACA Support Services and follows a stint at Stanford with Cornell West.

May 9 → 17
Various venues

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

Film/Video Highlights

CURATED BY SURA WOOD

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 tortured 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.

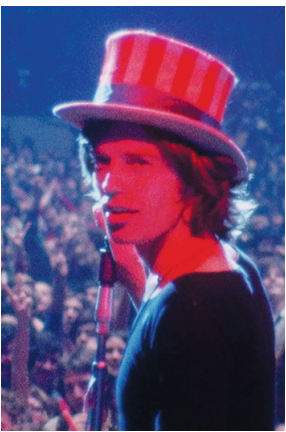
May 11 → 13
BAMPFA, Berkeley



RBG

Julie Cohen and Betsy West’s informative doc is a profile of the complex background of 85-year-old Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a tough, sharp-witted and outspoken jurist who exhibits a playful side as well as a good sense of humor. The film includes excerpts from her 1993 confirmation hearings, when she was interrogated by an all-male Senate committee, and anecdotes from her children, school chums and law colleagues.

May 4 → 17
Embarcadero Cinemas



Courtesy AGFA

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 kidnapping of the heiress, and “Zodiac,” David Fincher’s disturbing, sordid dramatization of the serial killer case that terrorized San Francisco, are among the movies shown.

May 24 → 27
YBCA

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 upend 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 journalist, and his protégé, Friedrich Engels (Stefan Konarske), the scion of a wealthy family.

May 18
Goethe-Institut San Francisco



The Judge

Erika Cohn’s portrait of Judge Kholoud Al-Faqih chronicles the long road traveled and obstacles surmounted by the first female jurist appointed to a Middle East Shari’a 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