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Top of the Town 2009

A peek at our must-read annual round-up of who's who and what's what in the Mile-High City.

Edited by Lindsey B. Koelher
 July 2009

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Top Dive Bar

Editors' Choice

Lincoln's Road House

The slightly schizophrenic menu—meatloaf cheeseburger, pot roast burrito, and shrimp Creole bruschetta—at Lincoln's Road House is telling of its varied clientele. A biker bar at heart, this Platt Park joint also welcomes suits, area locals, and anyone looking for a good time. So pull up a stool, grab a cold Coors Light, and stop by for free live music on Fridays and Saturdays. *1201 S. Pearl St., 303-777-3700*

Readers' Choice

Don's Club Tavern

Better known as Don's Mixed Drinks, this Denver dive bar mainstay has been kicking it since 1947 with strong drinks, old furniture, and ice-cold beer. Although Little Pub Holdings (owners of Wyman's and the Spot Bar and Grill, among other bars) purchased Don's in 2004, it looks like they haven't put a cent into the joint. For that, we thank them. *723 E. Sixth Ave., no phone*

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Top Theater Company

Editors' Choice

Paragon Theatre

While you won't find fancy costumes or elaborate sets at this grassroots theater company, you can expect captivating shows. Paragon gets to the crux of good theater: thoughtful plays and evocative acting. Classics like Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* ring with nostalgia, and comedies like the offbeat *Love Song* will have you laughing out loud. Even the Colorado Theatre Guild has taken note, awarding several Paragon actors its "Best Of" recognitions. *Paragon performs at the Crossroads Theater, 2590 Washington St., 303-300-2210*

Readers' Choice

Curious Theatre Company

Curious Theatre founder and producing artistic director Chip Walton travels regularly to New York City to scout new plays, and when he finds one he likes, he brings it to his well-oiled company. Thanks to Walton's travels, in the 2008-2009 season Denver saw *Speech & Debate*, a quirky off-Broadway hit, as well as Sam Shepard's *Curse of the Starving Class*. For next year, Walton has already lined up several regional and world premieres. *1080 Acoma St., 303-623-0524*



Top Summer Festival

Editors' Choice

Aspen Summer Words and Jazz Aspen Snowmass — together

Need a culture fix? Head to Aspen. The annual weeklong Summer Words soiree celebrates all things literary with author readings, panel discussions, and writing retreats moderated by an army of literary notables. Add to the mix Jazz Aspen Snowmass' multiweekend showcase, which offers a diverse lineup of jazz musicians and ensembles, from Jamie Cullum to Smokey Robinson. Our suggestion, if the timing is right (2009's June dates overlapped): Do a little of both—creative inspiration by day, rhythm and blues by night, all enhanced by the timeless allure of Aspen. Multiple venues, Aspen. *Aspen Summer Words, 970-925-3122; Jazz Aspen, 970-920-4996*

Readers' Choice

Mile High Music Festival

Last summer's inaugural weekend music extravaganza at Dick's Sporting Goods Park bowled us over here in the Mile-High—not to mention the scores of fans who traveled hundreds of miles to see the likes of Tom Petty, Dave Matthews, and John Mayer. The sun was hot, the lines were long, the beers in demand...but, all said and done, nearly 100,000 folks left their cares behind to groove at Colorado's largest-ever national band explosion. Headlining in '09 are Tool, Widespread Panic, and the Fray. *July 18 to 19, 6000 Victory Way, Commerce City, 303-727-3535*



Read the full story in the July 2009 issue of 5280 Magazine.

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