

News Release  
Public Information  
Department

April 2001

Brooklyn Museum of Art Goes a Little Bit Country  
At the, May 5 First Saturday from 6–11p.m.

Brooklyn may be a big city but on May 5 it will go a little bit country. **First Saturday** at the **Brooklyn Museum of Art** will feature an old-fashioned hoedown complete with two country bands and a square dance. The evening will also include free polka and square dance lessons, a performance by a traditional Afro-Haitian dance troupe, a free film screening, and curator talks.

Works by students in a **BMA Master Class and Art Contest** will be judged with cash prizes and gift certificates awarded to the winner. The winning art will be reproduced on a telephone calling card. The master class and contest are sponsored by Sprint.

Since it was introduced two years ago, **First Saturday** has become enormously popular, with thousands of visitors attending the Museum's **free** program of art and entertainment each month. All evening long, Mummy's Café serves a wide selection of sandwiches, salads, and beverages and a cash bar offers wine and beer. Parking is a flat rate of \$4 starting at 5 p.m. All other Saturdays the Museum closes at 6 p.m.

Visitors to **May 5 First Saturday** may also enjoy free admission to the continuing exhibitions *Committed to the Image: Contemporary Black Photographer* and *A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects*. The Museum's permanent collections, including the newly reinstated African Gallery, ancient Egyptian masterpieces, American and European painting and sculpture, and the arts of India, East Asia, and the Pacific Islands will also be accessible.

Have you ever met a cowboy from Brooklyn? How about a Latino cowboy from Brooklyn? Now's your chance. The unique and inventive alternative country band **Swampbelly** performs from 6 to 9 p.m. Swampbelly's style draws on early folk and country influences, including Hank Williams and Johnny Cash. The band is led by guitarist and vocalist A. Bogs, and includes "Slippery" Joe Gonzalez (lead guitar), Lael Llaverias (drums, back up vocals), Ernesto "Gums" Gomez (harmonica), "Hired Gun" Slaney (mandolin), "Cousin" Cheo Bogs (Bass), and Rebecca Hall (back up vocals).

At 7 p.m., visitors to **First Saturday** may enjoy a traditional Afro-Haitian music and dance performance by Brooklyn's own **La Troupe Makandal**. Award-winning master drummer Frisner Augustin directs this exciting professional dance troupe.

**May 5 First Saturday** will also include talks on the exhibition *A Family Album Brooklyn Collects* by Elizabeth Easton, Curator of European Painting and Sculpture, at 7 p.m. and Professor Amy Brook Snyder 8 p.m. *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Jacques Demy, 1964, 90 min., not rated, in French with English subtitles) will be screened at 9 p.m. In this unusual love story, Catherine Deneuve plays a young woman who marries another man when her lover leaves for military service. The film's dialogue is entirely sung to an award-winning score by Michel Legrand.

Grab your partner and do-si-do on over to the Beaux-Arts Court for free square dance and polka lessons at 8 p.m. Then practice your new skills at a square dance party from 9 to 11 p.m. which will feature fancy fiddling by Brooklyn-based **Jaybird**.

Jaybird is headed by Samuel Zygmuntowicz on fiddle and vocals, with Jody Kruskal on accordion and vocals. Special guests will join the duo. Zygmuntowicz and Kruskal have worked together for ten years as part of the acclaimed contra dance band "Grand Picnic," specializing in American fiddle and dance music. As Jaybird, they blend traditional styles with original songs and contemporary arrangements.

Major support for First Saturdays is provided by The Edward John Noble Foundation, the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, and Sprint/Sprint PCS. The New York Times is media sponsor.

May 5 Schedule of Evening Programs

- 6–9 p.m.     **Music: Swampbelly** is a group of Latino cowboys from Brooklyn. Enjoy innovative country music with a south-of-the-border slant. (Hall of the Americas, 1st floor)
- 6:30 p.m.     **BMA Master Class and Art Contest:** High school art students learn and compete for prizes. Sponsored by Sprint.
- 7 p.m.         **Performance: La Troupe Makandal** performs traditional Afro-Haitian music and dance with master drummer Frisner Augustin. (Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium, 3rd floor)
- 7 p.m.         **Curator Talk:** Elizabeth Easton, Curator of European Painting and Sculpture, discusses the exhibition A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects. (Meet in the Grand Lobby)
- 8 p.m.         **Modern Voices:** Artists, Curators and Critics Speak Out: Professor Amy Brook Snider discusses the exhibition A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects. (Meet in the Grand Lobby)
- 8–9 p.m.     **Free Dance Lessons:** Take advantage of square dance and polka lessons for the whole family. (Beaux-Arts Court, 3rd floor)

- 9 p.m.       **Film: The Umbrellas of Cherbourg** (Jacques Demy, 1964, 90 min., not rated, in French with English subtitles). Catherine Deneuve plays a young woman who marries another man when her lover leaves for military service. The film's dialogue is entirely sung to an award-winning score by Michel Legrand. (Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium, 3rd floor)
- 9–11 p.m.   **Square Dance Party:** Swing your partner or roll out the barrel to the sounds of Jaybird, who will play square dance and polka music. (Beaux-Arts Court, 3rd floor)

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<http://www.brooklynart.org>

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Admission:**

Contribution \$6; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$3. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits can be arranged through the Education Division, ext. 234.

**Directions:**

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

**Museum Hours:**

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Museum Caf open until 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Museum Libraries and Archives are open by appointment. Museum shops are open 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; till 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.