

Go global in Bonita: Arts Worldwide returns Saturday

Staff Reports

Thursday, April 12, 2012

Get an global arts intensive Saturday: Join in or just watch as dancers take to the floor and artists demonstrate their sculpture in the Arts Worldwide Festival in Bonita.

Now in its 12th year, Arts Worldwide is an afternoon of performance and visual artists from many cultures from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, at the Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs.

Performers from cultures throughout the world — Japan, Africa, Ireland, China, Greece and more — will take the stage continuously to perform traditional dances, music and theater from their countries.

One of the most popular performers, Masaji Terasawa, returns with his fantastical syrup sculptures, blown on the spot. Known as the Candy Man, Terasawa has been performing at Walt Disney World's Epcot theme park for more than a decade. His art resembles glass blowing, created from a simple piece of rice syrup toffee, which he transforms into winged dragons, dolphins and other creatures.

The Delou African Dance Ensemble from Africa have set stories of arid plains and tribal histories into the rhythm of dance, and are known throughout Florida for their colorful dance and drumming. Kellyn Celtic Arts Dance Academy, which has been teaching the art of Irish step dance, Celtic dance and Scottish Highlands dance for 10 years in the Bonita area, will bring the traditions of centuries of Irish and Scottish social dancing.

In other parts of the center, visual artists will be creating arts of all mediums, and with influences from all cultures and time periods. Live demonstrations will take place throughout the day, and pieces will be on display and for sale.

"Creation stations" for both children and adults will be set up so visitors can try their hands at art. The projects are suitable for all ages, and adults will find projects geared especially for them. All skill levels are welcome to create.

Others may get a free caricature, having their faces painted by a Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs artist or watch magician John Roberts create sleight-of-hand illusions.

Lunch will be available at refreshment stands. The optional \$2 admission donation will

benefit Center for the Arts community projects. "You just can't beat the personal experience of live dance, painting, drawing and sculpture — we all want to try it; we all want to be there to experience it," said Susan Bridges, president of the center, in a news release on the upcoming festival. "It's fun and a great experience to share with a friend or family member. The arts are perfect tools with which to build great memories and experiences."



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