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going out guide Best Bets



Best events this weekend

Going Out Guide staff | Updated 10/02/2010

The area's best makers of funky, homemade knickknacks gather to sell their creations at the annual Crafty Bastards festival. There are plenty of standout concerts: Parent-approved rockers They Might Be Giants play a free show at Millennium Stage, ascendant rap star Drake is at Constitution Hall and Scottish faves Teenage Fanclub and the Vaselines team up at 9:30 Club. And get your drink on at Capital City Brewing Company's Mid-Atlantic Oktoberfest.

Capital City Brewing Company's Mid-Atlantic Oktoberfest [Save to Go Out List](#)

Arlington, VA | 10/2

It feels as if we're being short-changed, but Oktoberfest, as a general rule, ends in early October. So if you haven't celebrated the arrival of fall with some suds just yet, here's one of your best opportunities. Capital City Brewing Co.'s annual block party attracts more than 30 local, regional and national breweries, which will pour four-ounce samples.

They Might Be Giants [Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | 10/2

The cult-favorite college rockers turned parent-approved kids rockers play a free show.

Teenage Fanclub and The Vaselines [Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | 10/2

A co-headlining show with Teenage Fanclub and The Vaselines at 9:30 Club? Let's not spend time questioning exactly how this is happening in 2010 and just be happy that it is. Both decades-old Scottish bands are touring behind strong new albums but this is the only date they are sharing a bill. The Vaselines were made mildly famous to a certain generation (that'd be "X" thanks to the die-hard fandom of Kurt Cobain). Their lone album '80s album is a unique touchstone of indie pop, with it's decisively twee arrangements, random bursts of noise and the sexually suggestive lyrics. They're still plenty randy and raw on "Sex With an X," their reunion album after more than two decades apart. Teenage Fanclub is decidedly more polished; "Shadows" is another elegant collection of finely-honed power pop.

D.C. Lady Arm Wrestlers [Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | 10/2

Amateur female arm-wrestlers bend biceps to raise money for charity.

Bowen McCauley Dance 15th Anniversary Celebration & Performance [Save to Go Out List](#)

Arlington, VA | 10/2

The local modern dance troupe celebrates its anniversary by performing some of its favorite works.

Turkish Festival [Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | 10/3

Cultural programs are featured along with Turkish crafts, music and cuisine.

Esperanza Spalding [Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | 10/3

Esperanza Spalding has enchanted jazz dilettantes with the delight she pours into her performances and her catchy compositions, while earning the grudging appreciation from aficionados for her prodigious bass chops. On her new album, she's exploring the classical roots talent does in a chamber music setting at Lincoln Theatre.

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Sonny and the Sunsets

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | 10/3

Sonny Smith is a name that sounds like it's from another era, a moniker you'd see on a scratchy 45 in an old jukebox. This is fitting for the songs Smith writes and performs with his band, the Sunsets. But while those tunes are certainly brimming with retro charm, evoking the likes of the Everly Brothers and Buddy Holly, they feel more timeless than old-fashioned. Well-crafted pop songs featuring sweet harmonies and lilting melodies that tell stories of misfortune have been in favor for decades, and Smith is the kind of songwriter who will ensure they will sure to stay in fashion for decades to come.

Drake

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | Through 10/3

If there is a youth movement happening in hip-hop at the moment, Drake is surely at the forefront of a class that includes Wiz Khalifa, Kid Cudi and D.C.'s own Wale. The Toronto-born protege of Lil' Wayne has shot to the top of the hip-hop world thanks to his nonchalant flow and top-notch beats from the likes of hitmakers Just Blaze, Kanye West and Timbaland. His network television good-looks (he starred on Canadian sitcom "Degrassi: The Next Generation") don't hurt, either.

Mount Vernon Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Alexandria, VA | Through 10/3

BYO blanket for this popular fall wine festival: There are plenty of reasons to stay and lounge. The fest features music, wine from more than a dozen local producers and candlelight tours of the estate and George Washington's old wine cellar. (You'll also get Mount Vernon's stellar vistas at sunset.)

Washington Wizards Training Camp

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Fairfax, VA | Through 10/3

Meet former players, work on your game in the skills and drills area, and watch the team close out training camp with an open scrimmage beginning at 12:30 p.m.

VelocityDC Dance Festival

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | 10/7 - 10/9

Performances by the Washington Ballet, CityDance Ensemble, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Furia Flamenca and Urban Artistry highlight the second year of this festival.

Puzzling (a) Space

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | Through 10/22

Paintings, installations, video and performances by Soun Hong, Chakraphan Rangaratna, Ding Ren and Eric De Leon Zamuco.

King Arthur

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Arlington, VA | 10/3 - 10/31

Bring an umbrella for Synetic Theater's wordless play about the legendary king; to make a splash for its first show at its new Crystal City space, the troupe performs the show on a "water stage" covered in a few inches of water.

Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s

[Save to Go Out List](#)

Washington, DC | Through 7/10/11

During the Great Depression, there was one place the downtrodden could look for signs of better days: the World's Fair. The National Building Museum is remembering the events in Chicago, San Diego, Dallas, Cleveland, San Francisco and New York.

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