

Guide to Festivals for July 2010

5th Festival of Contemporary Musical Styles: In Bordj Bou Arréridj, until July 6

The 5th Festival of Contemporary Musical Styles featured a long list of various artists, including Raï star Faudel, music group “WTB” from Oran, Azou Hood Killer, Cheb Khalas, Hakim Salhi, rock band “Good Noise”, Djamel Laroussi, and more. Local bands also participated in performances held outdoors, downtown, near the old city stadium.

“Lire en Fête”: July 15-30 in Algiers and other cities

The first children cultural festival “Lire en Fête” (Joy in Reading) will take place in Algiers and in the Wilayas of Blida, Bouira, Boumerdès, Tipasa, and Tizi Ouzou. The festival will feature several workshops. In Algiers, the celebration will be held in the El Kettani Square in Bab El Oued and will include various workshops open to children of all ages, namely reading, writing, manual activities, and theater. The festival will also include mobile libraries which will provide all sorts of reading material for kids.

Hawzi music: July 13-19 in Tlemcen

18 musical associations from various cities around the country will be competing for best performance award in this festival, including Koléa’s Dar Gharnata, Ibn Bahdja from Mostaganem, Errachidia from Mascara, Blida’s El Abadia, El Inchirah from Constantine, Ennahda from Oran, El Mouhidia from Nedroma, and others. The event will also include two conferences (“Saïd el Mendassi: Poet of the Maghreb” and “The Art of Hawzi between Tlemcen and Constantine”) and tributes to the artists Droussi Kaddour, Ahmed Serri, Salah Boukli, and Cheikh Mohamed Ghaffour.

Amateur Theater: July 17-26 in Mostaganem

This 43rd edition of the festival will involve 21 theater groups (10 local and 11 foreign) and will coincide with the commemoration of the passing of two major Algerian theater figures, namely Si Djilali Mustapha Benabdelhali, founder of the Mostaganem Festival who died 20 years ago, and Abderrahmane Kaki, the famous stage actor who passed away 15 years ago.

Diwan in Algiers: July 15-20

The Bois des Arcades' Théâtre de Verdure at Riyadh El Feth will feature performances by Malian diva Oumou Sangaré and the Tinariwen band, Wlad El Haussa and other Malian and Moroccan artists. In addition to the daily performances, scheduled for every evening at 8:30, master classes and movies, including a film by Ali Farka Touré, will be held during the day, as well as a photo exhibit by the artist Djemmai, held at the foyer of Ibn Zeydoun Hall.

Timgad Festival: July 7-16

The 32nd edition of the festival will take place in the new outdoors theater, where 5,000 spectators will cheer some of the greatest voices among Algerian singers, including Cheb Akil, Asma Djermouni, Hakim Salhi, Triana of Algiers, and many other Algerian and foreign stars.

Youth music at Oum El Bouaghi: Until July 7

This 4th festival took place in two venues: music performances were held at the "Zerdani Hassouna" municipal stadium, whereas families could relax at the "Nouar Boubekeur" cultural center. The opening ceremony included a tribute to the singer Katchou, followed by a show by Cheba Zehouania. The festival program also featured Hamid Belbèche, Mascula, Zinedine Bouchaâla, Amina Zoheïr, Mourad Djaâfri, Cheb Ares, Hakim Salhi, Lotfi Double Kanon, and Yacine Achouri.

Folk dance festival: July 10-17 in Sidi Bel Abbès

The 6th international folk dance cultural festival will feature 18 dance groups from various areas of the world, including Morocco, Mali, and Lebanon, and different regions of Algeria. This year, Palestine is the honored guest. The festival will take place at the city's Théâtre de Verdure and the Kateb Yacine Cultural Center, where conferences will be held.

Children's theater: Until July 11 in Khenchela

For the third consecutive year, the city of Khenchela will host a festival that included participants from 12 wilayas and two foreign countries (Syria and Palestine) presenting 14 theater shows.

Numerous artists took part in this year's festival, including Salah Ougrout, Mohamed Adjaimi, and Bahia Rachedi. The festival's program also included conferences such as the one held on "Drama in Child Play". Other artists, such as Carlo Ferrante, Amor Mayouf, and Mouafok Djilali entertained children at writing workshops.

Djemila festival: July 22-30

Lebanese music star Majda Roumi is expected to perform at the 6th Djemila International Festival, joining other great artists, such as Najoua Karam, Saber Eribaî, Ouail Kafouri, Elissa, Lotfi Bouchnek, Diana Haddad, Kadhém Essaher who will entertain the public at the ancient theater of the city known in Roman times as Cuicul.