

Preview events kick off city-wide Spirit & Place Festival

Festival's 16th year brings a focus on the body to Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS – The annual Spirit & Place Festival is kicking off with the announcement of festival preview events. The city's largest week-long collaborative festival takes place November 4-13.

Now celebrating its 16th year, the Spirit & Place Festival is an extensive civic celebration engaging upwards of 20,000 people throughout central Indiana in dozens of programs presented by more than 100 organizations. Its mission is to promote community engagement, appreciation for diversity, public imagination and creative collaboration among arts, humanities and religion. The preview events serve up opportunities to reflect in advance on this year's theme of "the body."

"This year's festival is an extraordinary feast of ideas," says Festival Director Pam Blevins Hinkle. "Over 40 events – performances, poetry readings, exhibits, panel discussions, workshops, and more – explore how the body shapes, and is shaped by, culture, faith, medicine, and technology, among others."

October 18 – Chew on This: Moonshine and Morality

A one-night "think and drink" discussion, *Chew on This* uses the power of food and drink as a catalyst for conversation. Complementing the Indiana Historical Society exhibition "You Are There 1920: Busted! Prohibition Enforced," the event encourages open discussion about the legislative, political and social themes in the Prohibition Era and modern parallels in today's society. Presented in partnership with Indiana Humanities, WFYI, the Athenaeum Foundation and the Indiana Historical Society, *Chew on This* begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18. Tickets are \$15, and RSVP is required at www.indianahumanities.org/chewonthis.

October 18 – Sin's Last Stand

After *Chew on This*, see members of three local burlesque troupes – Bottoms Up Burlesque, Angel Burlesque, and Crème des Le Femmes – in a performance celebrating the roots of American burlesque and the shift in feminine mores created during Prohibition. Presented in partnership with the Indiana Historical Society, Historic Athenaeum, and WFYI, information and \$10 tickets are available at <http://www.bottomsupburlesque.com>. Audience members must be 21 or older.

November 1 – Dressing Indianapolis

An IndyTalks program presented in partnership with the Indianapolis Museum of Art, *Dressing Indianapolis* brings a new perspective to style with the question, "How do we adorn a city?" Touching on the ability of city style to sway urban identity and community development, all are invited to join a dialogue on the parallels and intersections between

fashion design and urban design. *Dressing Indianapolis* will be held at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.

Body Blurbs

An ongoing activity, Body Blurbs capitalizes on this year's festival theme in the playful spirit of Twitter. In 120 characters of hilarious prose or heartbreaking reflection, all are encouraged to submit a power-packed personal narrative about the body. Leading in to the 2011 festival's various categories, submission focus can range from nutrition, illness, activity, obesity, therapy, body image, addiction, faith, and more. Post now and throughout the entire festival at <http://www.spiritandplace.org/BodyBlurbs.aspx>.

For details on all Spirit & Place programs and events, visit www.spiritandplace.org.

About the Spirit & Place Festival

The Spirit & Place Festival stimulates conversation, community building and action through collaboration among arts, religious, and civic organizations. Spirit & Place is a community project managed by The Polis Center, part of the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Major financial contributors include Lilly Endowment Inc.; the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, BohlsenPR; H. Wilbur Hardacre Charitable Trust Inc.; The Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of CICF; Marian University; IUPUI; IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI; IU School of Medicine; North United Methodist Church, University of Indianapolis, and Wishard Health Services, as well as more than 200 other community partners and donors. For more information, call The Polis Center at (317) 274-2455 or visit www.spiritandplace.org. The 2011 festival takes place November 4-13.

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