

## this weekend

**TODAY**  
**FMF2008**  
**At the Social**  
 Sam Rivers, Gerry Williams, ArtOfficial, The Aristocracy, and Gabe, Vitek and the Ivory.

**FMF2008**  
**At BackBooth**  
 X.O.X.O., Modern Day Escape, Leading the Heroes, In Violent Times, Hydrosonic, Fall of Envy and Munk.

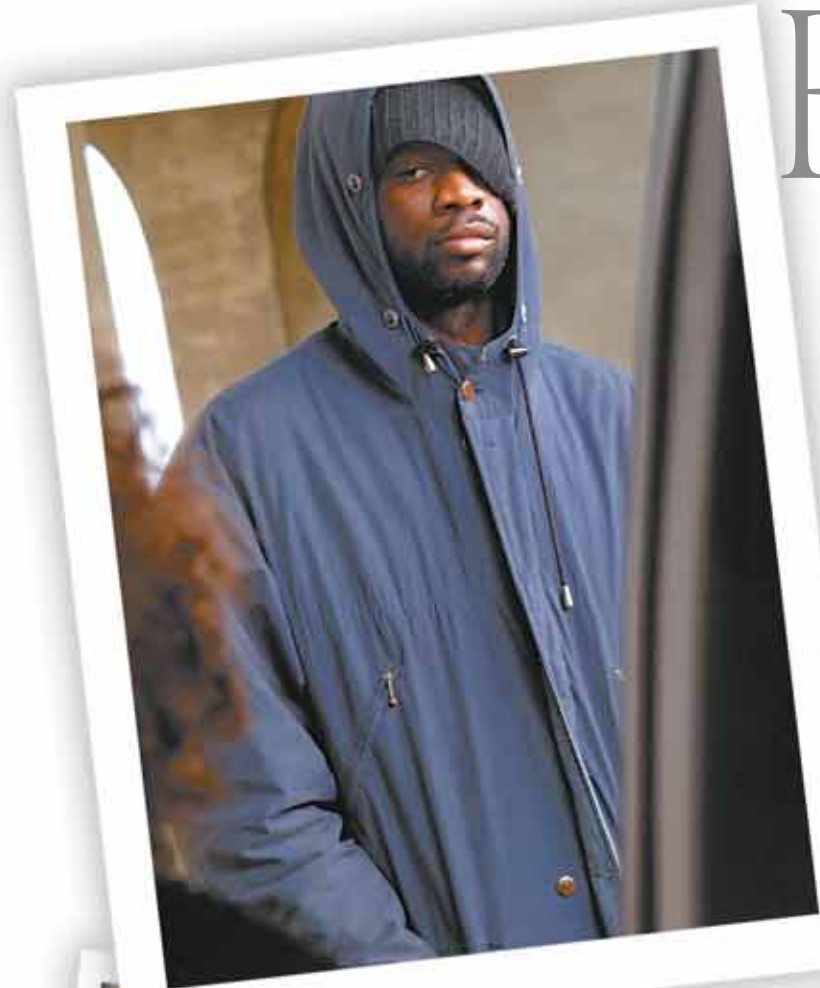
**FRIDAY**  
**FMF2008 at the Social**  
 Clayton Senne, Jay Nash, Plain Jane Automobile, Dang We're On Fire, Ladyfish Karrigan and Special SUPRISE Showcase!

**FMF2008**  
**At BackBooth**  
 Matt Butcher and the Revolvers, Hoot and Hellmouth, Rev. Payton's Big Damn Band, Dish and the Wedding Party.

**Hands Up!**  
**at Back Booth**

**SATURDAY**  
**FMF2008 at the Social**  
 A.M. Conspiracy, Death On Two Wheels, The Skyline Drive, Ponderosa, Million Year Echo and Atom Smash at the Social.

**MIDNIGHT MASS FREE** at Back Booth  
**Midnight 21+, \$4 UNDER 21,**



# Fla. Music Fest to rock Orlando

Downtown venues feature 250 bands

AMANDA SHAPIRO  
 Staff Writer

Nothing kicks off summer better than a festival packed with music, art and film. What's even better is a festival that doesn't require driving a million miles to stand in some desolate field for a concert where your seats make the performers look like ants.

The seventh annual Florida Music Festival starts today and runs until Saturday, bringing you three nights of the most eclectic combination of various art mediums.

"You've seen four insane shows, fell in love with an indie rock chick, danced on stage with a country metal band and had enough Miller Lite to flood three blocks of downtown Orlando. And this is just the first night of FMF!" states the FMF Web site.

With a bill of 250 bands featuring Blue Man Group and Pras of The Fugees, this year's lineup won't disappoint. The participating venues span the length of downtown Orlando's stretch of bars and clubs, placing talented musicians and artists from every genre on the stages.

For those who have never experienced an FMF weekend, here's how it works.

A wrist band can be purchased at any of the venues, which will get you into any of the participating locations. You only pay once for admission, then hop from place to place. For the most part, the festival caters to the legal crowd, offering entrance to those 21 and up.

However, there are select venues that welcome the 18-and-up crowd with warm, open arms. As an added bonus, this year's festival will make history by featuring an all-ages event at Wall Street Plaza. At this all-ages event, the Blue Man Group performs the music portion of their theatrical get-up.

"Keeping with the eclectic nature of the summer festival circuit," states the FMF Web site, "the seventh annual Florida Music Festival announces the sensory overload of the Blue Man Group in a special, never-seen-before outdoor headlining performance."

The Blue Man Group's resident music director, Dave Traver, said he is excited about the FMF setup. Traver has overseen both the music at the Blue Man Group show at CityWalk and the music being performed at this year's festival.

When asked if he had any worries about the smaller stage for their show at Wall Street Plaza, Traver dismissed the idea, noting that he thinks there will be "more fun and energy from practically being on top of each other."

For those who are familiar with the typical high-energy Blue Man Group setup, Traver assures that the Wall Street performance will offer a new crowd dynamic, using improvisation to create what he calls a "more exciting and more organic" experience.

While you're racing from venue to venue to catch your favorite band, try to allot some time to visit Rock Walk at the CityArts Factory. The gallery will feature the work of visual artists whose work has been inspired by music. Rock Walk will showcase a variety of visual art forms, including mixed media, acrylic paintings, live band photography and ink print.

FMF is also home to the Indie Film Jam. This year, FMF attendees have a new wave of features, shorts and music videos to sift through. The screenings are usually followed by a Q-and-A session, inviting festival-goers to interact.

Put on your best "I'm not socially awkward" face and head downtown for a mind-blowing, thought-inspiring festival fueled by Orlando's local talent. It's pretty rare to find concert tickets that don't cost an arm and a leg once you tack on all of the "look at it, smell it and touch it" fees that ticket sellers attach for the supposed trouble they had to go through to print your ticket. FMF is close, it's affordable and it's got something to offer everyone.

The event costs \$10 to \$15 for a day and \$25 for the full three days. For the official schedule of events, head over to [www.fmf2008.com](http://www.fmf2008.com).

PHOTOS COURTESY FLORIDA MUSIC FESTIVAL AND BLUE MAN GROUP ORLANDO

For the first time Blue Man Group and Pras from the Fugees will open and close this weekends Florida Music Festival spanning from today, May 15 till Saturday, May 18.

## Blood art: a living positive

WHITNEY HAMRICK  
 Variety Editor

Orlando artist Keith Theriot paints expressionist stream-of-consciousness art using his own HIV-positive blood to create form and perspective.

He uses his personal experience and his experience as a social worker in charge of housing and case management for people with HIV and AIDS as inspiration.

"We have about 16,000 new cases in a four-county area,"

Theriot said. "That's outrageous. We battle between second and third as highest state and this area is second. Sometimes, we tie with Miami."

Theriot got tested in 1989 when he went with a promiscuous friend as moral support. When the test results came back, Theriot was HIV positive and his friend wasn't.

"After getting over the fact that AIDS was going to kill me and it became manageable like diabetes, I decided to create a series of paintings as a celebra-

tion of life and that's where the blood painting came from," Theriot said.

He got the idea to use blood in his artwork after pricking his finger on a staple while unstretching a canvas.

"I was getting pretty sick at the time, and that's when I had the epiphany that it's killing, but it's keeping me alive and so I did this rather dramatic thing with blood in 1992," Theriot said.

Theriot created a studio in

PLEASE SEE VESTA ON A10



SARAH ROGERS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Keith Theriot sits on the paint-splattered floor of his home studio. Theriot's recent collection exhibits women in inkwash, charcoal, and Theriot's HIV positive blood.

SATURDAY THURSDAY • EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT  
 THE HOTTEST PARTY IN ORLANDO.

578 N. ORANGE AVE. | ORLANDO, FL | 32801  
 HOTLINE: 407.872.0066  
 VIP: 321.251.8059



UPCOMING EVENTS • CLUB FIRESTONE

SATURDAY, MAY 17 - DJ SUSS ONE  
 SATURDAY, MAY 24 - JUNKIE XL AND TOMMIE SUNSHINE  
 THURSDAY, MAY 29 - STEVE AOKI  
 THURSDAY, JUNE 12 - LADYTRON AND DATAROCK

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