

# FEST FOR ALL

## New activities join old favorites at annual festival

BY GEORGE MORRIS  
News Features staff writer

Music? Check. Arts? Check. Food? Check.

The annual something-for-everyone downtown festival known as FestForAll is back again this weekend, filled with both the familiar and new twists that keep things interesting. The free festival runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, and from noon-6 p.m. on Sunday, May 1.

“We want to engage as much as the community as possible,” said Kathy Scherer, deputy director of the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, which organizes the giant outdoor and indoor party.

One of the new features this year is “All the Right Moves,” a dance program celebrating “Bollywood” choreographed by Debbie Allen that will be held in the Shaw Center’s Manship Theatre. Seventy-eight local dancers

► **FestForAll** entertainment schedule and map. Page 18

ers under Allen’s tutelage will perform original dances. It’s the fourth time the Debbie Allen Dance Residency has come to Baton Rouge, but the first time it has been incorporated into FestForAll, Scherer said.

“The Debbie Allen Dance Residencies are very popular programs that the Arts Council coordinates, so this is a way for us to highlight the arts with this world-class choreographer during FestForAll.”

“All the Right Moves” will include tap, ballet, hip hop and ribbon work, and performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 29; at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30; and 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 1. Unlike the rest of FestForAll, this is a ticketed event. Tickets are \$22 at the door.

This won’t be the only dance program at FestForAll. The N’Fungola Sibo Dance & Drum Company offers traditional West African dance and drum performances, using African song, drum, dance and folklore. N’Fungola Sibo will perform from 2:30-4 p.m. Saturday on the North Boulevard Stage, which is located where North Boulevard meets River Road.

That is one of two stages — the other is on Third Street — that will otherwise be devoted to a wide range of musical acts, including jazz, rock, soul, country, African, blues, Zydeco and folk. Headliners include Grammy-nominated country and blues singer Jace Everett, Caesar Brother’s FunkBox, blues performers Henry Gray & The Cats, and Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble.

“We have a really diverse music lineup,” Scherer said. As usual, the same can be

said about the roughly 80 artisans who sell their work at FestForAll. Their works include clay, drawing, fiber, glass, jewelry, metal, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and woodwork. Festival-goers who spend \$30 or more with a visual artist can enter to win prizes by bringing the receipt to the FestForAll information booth, Scherer said.

FestForAll also will have a children’s stage featuring music, animals, martial arts and drama, and children’s activity stations.

Other new activities this year include: The Spring Art Walk from 3-8 p.m. Saturday. Art will be displayed inside downtown businesses. Coordinated by the Downtown Development District.

The Velo des Artes Bicycle

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Ronnie Moe, left, and Rena Darenbourg dance to the music of Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience at the 2010 Fest For All art and music festival.

Advocate file photo by LIZ CONDO

## Modeliste more than just a Meter

BY JOHN WIRT  
Music writer

Joseph “Zigaboo” Modeliste, drummer for the Meters, probably the funkier band the land has ever seen, returns to New Orleans this week to play multiple non-Meters gigs, including a May 5 show at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Also on his agenda are two Howlin’ Wolf appearances, the Drummer Cometh Super Jam on May 1 and Zigaboo’s Funk Revue on May 8.

As one-fourth of the Meters, Modeliste played New Orleans studio sessions for Dr. John, Lee Dorsey, the Wild Tchoupitoulas, Earl King, British stars

Robert Palmer and Paul McCartney and many more. The Meters released their own national hits, too, such as “Sophisticated Cissy,” “Look A Py Py” and “Cissy Strut.”

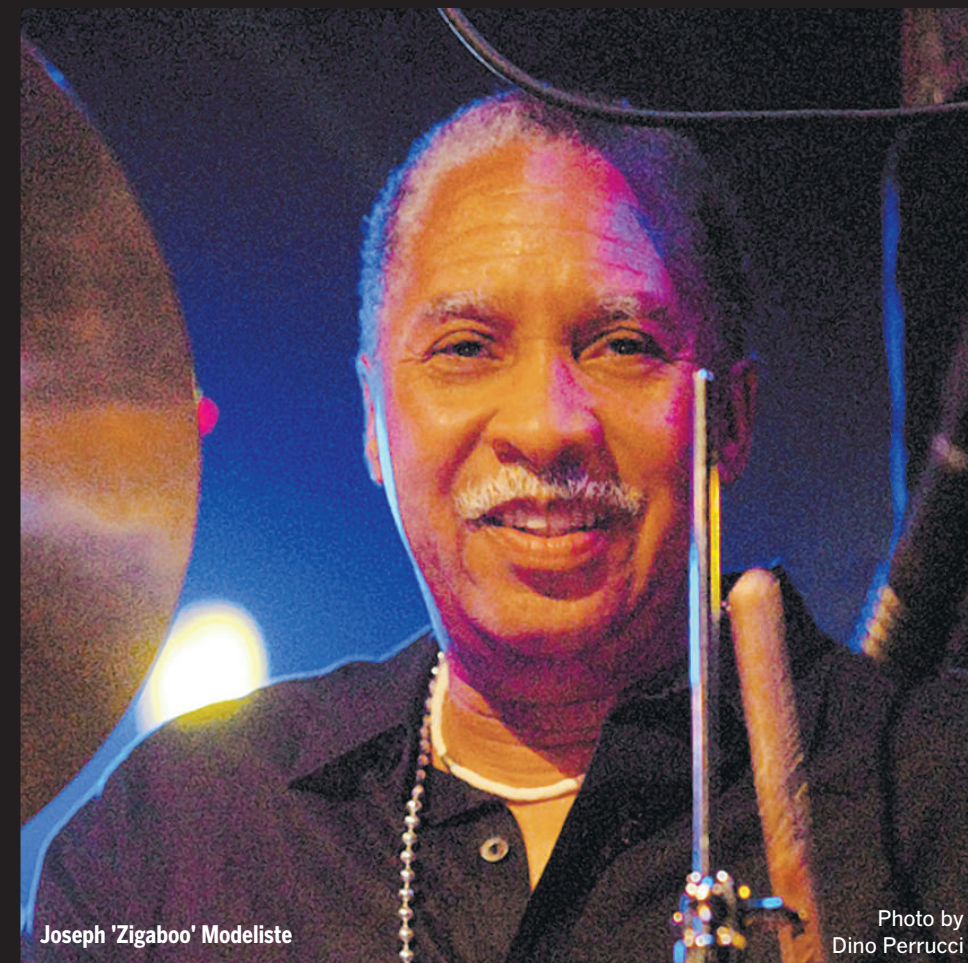
### Joseph ‘Zigaboo’ Modeliste

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 5 (2:05 p.m.).  
**WHERE:** New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Modeliste’s upcoming gigs include another of his occasional Meters reunions. In June, he’ll join Dr. John and fellow original Meters Art Neville, George Porter Jr. and Leo Nocentelli

at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn. They’ll play a full-length rendition of *Desitively Bonnaroo*, the 1974 Dr. John album that inspired the Bonnaroo

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Joseph ‘Zigaboo’ Modeliste

Photo by  
Dino Perrucci

## Jazz Fest celebrates music, culture, cuisine

By Fun staff

Among the world’s greatest music and cultural events, the 42nd annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival runs April 29 through May 1 and May 5 through May 8. Second in fame and attendance among New Orleans events only to Mardi Gras, the Jazz Fest and its two weekends of music, cuisine, art and crafts again takes place at its longtime site, the Fair Grounds Race Course in the city’s Gentilly neighborhood.

Even as the festival stays rooted in the indigenous music of Louisiana — including jazz, New Orleans rhythm-and-blues, blues, funk, Cajun and zydeco music — Jazz Fest and its 12 stages are more eclectic than ever.

The 2011 lineup features modern rock bands Arcade Fire and the Decemberists, rock veterans Robert Plant, Jeff Beck and Bon Jovi, returning favorites Jimmy Buffett and Willie Nelson, contemporary R&B stars John Legend and Lauryn Hill, new stars Amos Lee and Jamey Johnson and classic New Orleans stars Allen Toussaint,

► **Jazz Fest** schedule. Page 19

Irma Thomas, Dr. John, Dave Bartholomew and the Neville Brothers.

Fans of *Treme*, the HBO series set in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans, will also see many performers who’ve made guest appearances in the show, including Kermit Ruffins, John Boutté, Deacon John and Big Chief Monk Boudreaux.

The 2011 festival also presents a celebration of Haitian music and culture including performers Wyclef Jean, Tabou Combo and Boukman Eksperyans and demonstrations of crafts and traditional Voodoo drumming.

**TICKET INFORMATION:** Single-day tickets are \$45 in advance, \$60 at the gate. Children’s tickets for ages two through 10, available at the gate only, are \$5. Ticket packages for the first weekend are \$120 and \$160 for the second weekend.

Tickets are available at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>, Ticketmaster outlets or by calling (800) 745-3000. Tickets can

be purchased in person at the Jazz Fest ticket office located at the New Orleans Arena box office. Tickets are subject to additional service fees.

The festival also offers three premium ticket packages, the Big Chief VIP Experience, Grand Marshal VIP Pass and Krewe Of Jazz Fest VIP Pass.

**JAZZ FEST EXPRESS SHUTTLE:** Shuttle and festival admission tickets are on sale at shuttle departure locations each day of the festival beginning at 9:30 a.m. Shuttles begin operating at 10:30 a.m. and will run until all patrons have been transported from the Fair Grounds.

Shuttle locations are at The Steamboat Natchez Dock, Toulouse St. at the Mississippi River; Sheraton Hotel, 500 Canal St.; and City Park next to Marconi Meadows. Festival admission and roundtrip shuttle price is \$62 in advance, \$77 day of event. Roundtrip shuttle cost \$14 in advance or \$17 day of the event.

Express shuttle tickets may also be purchased through TicketMaster at <http://www.ticketmaster.com/Jazz-Fest-Express-tickets/artist/859688>.

# JAZZ FEST

## MODELISTE

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festival's name.

"That's something that came from out of nowhere," Modeliste said from his home in Oakland, Calif. "It should be pretty eventful. I love that album."

Modeliste recently substituted for Dr. John's ill drummer, the late Herman Ernest, for a few dates.

"We had a chance to hang out a little bit and I was telling John, 'You know, when they put that *Desitively Bonnaroo* record out, I don't think the record company knew what to do with it. They let it fall by the wayside.'

"I think it's one of the best albums John made during that time. And I gotta agree with George (Porter Jr): Allen Toussaint (the album's producer-arranger) has his own way of formulating his music. There won't be another Allen Toussaint for a long, long time. The cat is brilliant."

While *Desitively Bonnaroo* at Bonnaroo is the past revived, Modeliste's latest CD, *New Life*, brought together a new crew of New Orleans and Bay Area musicians. From New Orleans there's keyboardist Joe Krown, percussionist Bill Summers and master arranger Wardell Quezergue. Representing the West Coast are former Tower of Power trumpeter Mic Gillet, saxophonist Norbert Stachel and the Irish, former Commitments keyboardist Eamonn Flynn.

Production for *New Life* began while Modeliste and wife, Kathy, were making a go at living in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. They'd moved from California to the drummer's hometown in anticipation of a Meters reunion that ultimately didn't happen. "So while I was down there I was getting bored, twiddling my thumbs," the drummer recalled. "I told my wife, 'I gotta go in the studio. This is our opportunity. I'll get a chance to get the New Orleans flavor from some of the best musicians in the area.' And that's what I did."

But when the time came for the couple to return to California, the album wasn't finished. That led to *New Life* becoming a bicoastal project.

"I had been spoiled by playing with the musicians around New Orleans," Modeliste said. "But when I moved out here,

the first thing I did was get involved with the talented musicians available here."

True to form, Modeliste's fourth solo CD contains inspirational songs.

"I look at all the big stars," he said. "They have beautiful orchestrations, everything is well produced; but if you pan through their records there's never anything that really deals with reality. Most people want to hear make believe. I'm rich. I've got these girls. I've got these cars. I roll like this."

"But I can't think like that and never did. So, with my records, I'm always trying to send a message. For this new record, I deal with musical reflections and healings for every day ups and downs and all the heavy-duty stuff that's going down on people today."

New Orleans singer Leslie Smith co-wrote the lyrics for one message song, "Was Not Meant To Be."

"It's to let people know, 'Hey, listen it's never over till it's over. Just because times are really hard, don't give up.'"

A vibrant variety show of a CD, *New Life* also features "Ate Ball Waltz," a Meters-style instrumental featuring drumming that echoes the distinctive style of one of New Orleans' great drummers, the late Charles "Hungry" Williams.

"All of that legendary stuff that Hungry and Earl Palmer did, the current drummers of New Orleans don't understand," Modeliste said. "But they have to reconnect with that, because that's our groove. It don't belong to me, it belongs to the indigenous musicians of Louisiana. So, in order to keep the culture following, somebody had to record that groove so the current musicians can hear it."

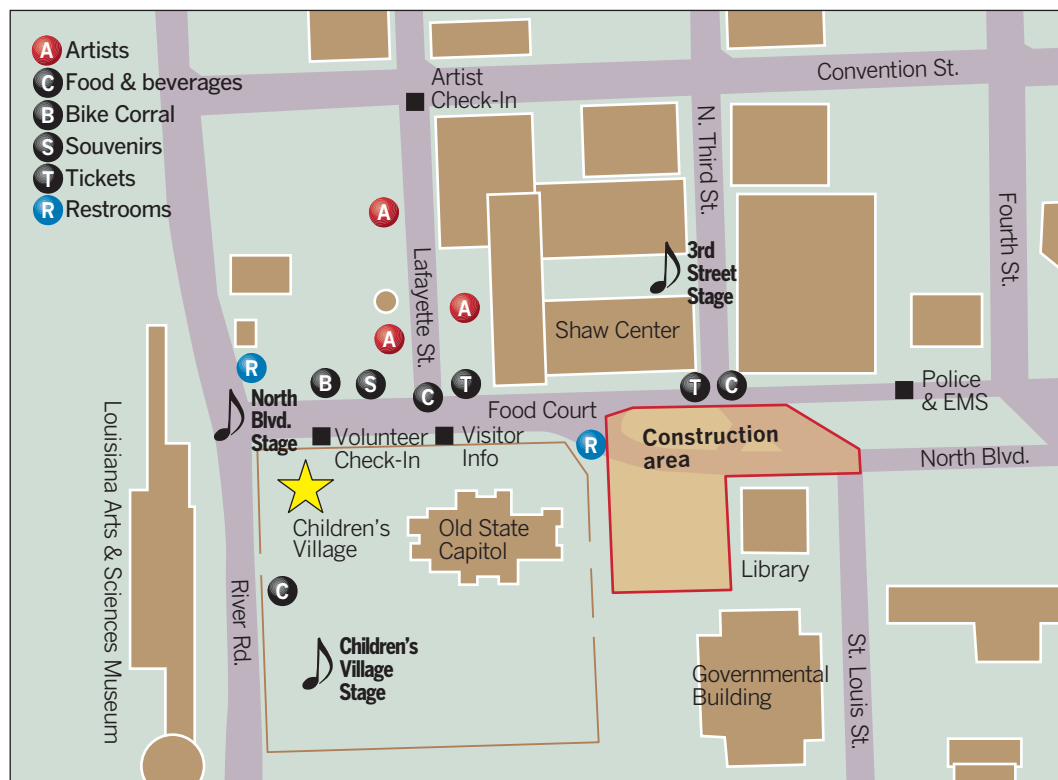
Modeliste also contributes a new song to the Mardi Gras repertoire, "At The Mardi Gras."

Modeliste and his wife, whom he calls his CEO, release his recordings themselves.

"I didn't want to be controlled by the conglomerates," he said. "They'll put up the money to put out numerous albums on you but you don't see no royalties, you don't see nothing and, when it's all over, they own everything. I stopped following that rule."

"I believe in trying to do it as first class as I can and paying my musicians very well. So we finance everything, we're in control of every nuance. That's the way we like it."

## FESTFORALL ATTRACTIONS



Advocate map by JOHN GIPSON

## MUSIC STAGE SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, APRIL 30

#### THIRD STREET STAGE

10:45-11:45 a.m. — BR Music Studios ('80s rock)  
 Noon-1 p.m. — Phat Hat (popular hits)  
 1:15-2:15 p.m. — Betsy Braud Jazz Nurse (jazz)  
 2:30-3:45 p.m. — Jake Smith (soul, rock)  
 4-5:15 p.m. — Papa Grows Funk (New Orleans funk)  
 5:30-7 p.m. — Jace Everett (country, blues)

#### NORTH BOULEVARD STAGE

Noon-1 p.m. — Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca (Congo rumba and Pan-African style)  
 1:15-2:15 p.m. — The Bedlamville Triflers (rockabilly)  
 2:30-4 p.m. — N'Fungola Sibò Dance & Drum Company (African rhythm)  
 4:15-5:30 p.m. — David Egan & Buddy Flett (blues)  
 5:45-7 p.m. — Caesar Brother's FunkBox (brass)

#### CHILDREN'S VILLAGE STAGE

11:15 a.m.-noon — Baton Rouge Zoo  
 Noon-12:30 p.m. — Taekwondo Plus  
 1-1:30 p.m. — Heart N Soul Jump Rope Group  
 1:30-2 p.m. — Runnels, drama  
 2-4 p.m. — Baton Rouge Music Studios  
 4-4:45 p.m. — David Vincent's Martial Arts & Fitness  
 5-6 p.m. — Dorothy & Her Shaky Egg Band  
 6-7 p.m. Betsy Braud & Company

## FESTFORALL

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Ride will tour public art in downtown Baton Rouge and surrounding neighborhoods starting at 8:30 a.m. Sunday before riding to FestForAll as it opens at noon.

The ride is coordinated by the Baton Rouge Advocates for Safe Streets. Those who ride a bike to the fest can park at the BRASS bike corral.

The Country Roads American Gothic Photo Booth. Those who sign up for the "Country Roads This Week" can have their photo taken, and the photos will be accessible after the

festival at <http://www.country-roadsmag.com>.

The FestForAll Costume Contest will provide trophies for best costumes as decided by festival judges.

Costumes that celebrate art, culture, Baton Rouge and Louisiana are encouraged. Register to participate at <http://www.artbr.org>.

### SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011

#### THIRD STREET STAGE

Noon-1:30 p.m. — Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band (Grammy Winner: Zydeco)  
 1:45-3:15 p.m. — Herman Jackson's Big Band (jazz, R&B)  
 3:30-4:30 p.m. — Michael Foster Project (brass)  
 4:45-6 p.m. — Henry Gray & the Cats (blues)

#### NORTH BOULEVARD STAGE

12:30-1:30 p.m. — Quiana Lynell and The Lush Life (jazz, funk, soul)  
 1:45-2:45 p.m. — Polly Pry (folk, Americana)  
 3-4:15 p.m. — LSU Jazz Quartet (jazz)  
 4:30-6 p.m. — Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble (Zydeco, R&B)

#### CHILDREN'S VILLAGE STAGE

Noon- 1 p.m. — Baton Rouge Music Studios  
 1:15-2 p.m. — Baton Rouge Zoo  
 2-3 p.m. LA Dancers Sing-a-Long  
 3-3:30 p.m. — Costume Contest  
 3:30-4:15 p.m. — Greater King David Cherubim Choir  
 4:30-5:30 p.m. — Dorothy & Her Shaky Egg Band