

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
CHICAGO OFFICE OF TOURISM

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## **“FALL” IN LOVE WITH CHICAGO THIS AUTUMN SEASON!**

### Highlights of Activities and Events Held in Chicago from September – November, 2008

The autumn season is the perfect time to explore Chicago. With fantastic special events, long-awaited museum exhibitions, and an entire month dedicated to showcasing the city's visual artists, the autumn season is the perfect time to explore Chicago. There is always something to do in Chicago!

Visitors to the city are invited to make their first stop the Visitor Information Center in the Chicago Cultural Center, located at 78 East Washington Street.

For more information on visiting Chicago this fall, or to book accommodations, visit [www.explorechicago.org](http://www.explorechicago.org). (Note to media: a separate release with information on winter holiday activities is also available.)

#### **Special Events**

Millennium Park hosts two of the hottest free concerts of the year this September. On Friday, September 11, 2009 **Stars of the Lyric Opera** returns for a glorious concert dedicated to the men and women of the armed services. The concert features Deborah Voigt, James Morris, and more performing with Sir Andrew Davis and the Lyric Opera Orchestra. On Thursday, September 17, 2009 the world renowned **Joffrey Ballet** returns to Millennium Park to present a free performance for its favorite audience – Chicago. Don't miss this stunning program that captures the beauty and athleticism of The Joffrey Ballet.

Chicago showcases the best of international music at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual **World Music Festival: Chicago**, Friday, September 18 through Thursday, September 24, 2009. This year's festival features 56 artists from 33 countries performing 55 events at 21 venues, all in 7 days in one amazing city. Half of the events are free and the rest are \$15 or less.

**Chicago Gourmet** is a celebration of food, wine and the city's rich culinary heritage in Millennium Park on September 26-27, 2009. Now in its second year, Chicago Gourmet is presented by the Illinois Restaurant Association and sponsored by Southern Wine and Spirits of Illinois. Two days of high-end food and wine tastings, informative demonstrations, educational seminars and celebrity chef appearances will showcase Chicago's unparalleled culinary community.

**Chicago Artists Month** is an annual celebration of Chicago's vibrant visual arts community. Over 200 events take place during the month of October, including exhibitions of emerging and established artists, openings, demonstrations, tours, open studios and neighborhood art walks at museums, galleries, parks, neighborhood art centers, artists' studios and other locations throughout the city. The 2009 theme, Chicago Artists Month 2.0, refers to the concepts of interactivity and connectivity associated with Web 2.0, and highlights the ways in which artists interact with their audiences, interface with other artists, and use technology in order to create and distribute their work - locally, globally and virtually.

The **Chicago Country Music Festival**, a weekend full of music and dancing in Grant Park, takes place from October 3-4. The Chicago Country Music Festival, once a part of the Taste of Chicago, is celebrating its 19<sup>th</sup> year in 2009 with headliners including Miranda Lambert and John Rich.

On Sunday, October 11, 2009 runners from all 50 states and over 100 countries will set out to accomplish a personal dream. The **Bank of America Chicago Marathon** is known globally for its fast, flat course. Elite athletes and amateurs alike annually target the race for its potential to generate personal, national and world records. In addition to its speed, the course offers a scenic tour of Chicago as it weaves through 29 diverse neighborhoods and dozens of local and historic landmarks. Runners are guaranteed to see all that is great about the city of Chicago.

**Fashion Focus Chicago 2009** brings the season's hottest new looks to Millennium Park and venues throughout the city. From October 22 – 25, 2009 experience four days of runway shows, see cutting edge designs from local emerging fashion talents and stay ahead of the trends with previews of the designers' latest collections for Spring 2010.

Halloween is more than a day in Chicago; it's an entire season known as "**Chicagoween**". The city, its parks, buildings and streets are decorated and filled with an array of activities for children and adults of all ages. On Saturday, October 24, 2009 kids can join in the fun by marching in costume as part of **The State Street Halloween Happening Parade**. The parade steps off at noon at the corner of State and Randolph streets. Following the parade, kids can enjoy trick-or-treating, a performance by Midnight Circus and a costume contest—all at Franken (Daley) Plaza.

### Upcoming Exhibitions

**Chicago Model City**, a new free exhibition at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, is a huge scale model of Chicago accurate down to the last detail. It covers 400 city blocks with 1000 buildings. Presented as part of the year-long celebration of Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago, the exhibit is open through November 20, 2009.

The allure of diamonds, a prized symbol of strength, wealth, and love, has persisted for centuries. The Field Museum's "**The Nature of Diamonds**" exhibition is an in-depth and beautiful look at the strongest natural substance on Earth. Discover its geological make-up, mining origins, cultural significance in art, literature, and ornamentation, as well as applications within modern science and technology. This exhibition opens October 23, 2009, the same day The Field Museum reopens the newly refurbished "**Grainger Hall of Gems**" – featuring more than 700 pieces of jewelry, cut stones, and raw stones as they are found in nature. This is the most comprehensive exhibition of its kind between the east and west coasts.

The Museum of Science and Industry's newest permanent exhibit – **YOU! The Experience** – opens on October 8, 2009. More than just a body, you are a complex blend of your choices, your personality, and your environment. *YOU! The Experience* brings these elements together in a 15,000-square-foot interactive exhibit examining and celebrating the experience of life itself—mind, body and spirit. Whether "aging" your face 20 years according to your lifestyle choices; testing your basketball moves with a virtual coach; or playing Mindball, a game of "competitive relaxation" in which players win by controlling their brainwaves, you will see yourself—and your health—in new and fascinating ways. The Museum is also offering free general admission on weekdays from Oct. 8-30.

**The Art Institute of Chicago** recently opened its internationally acclaimed expansion, the Modern Wing by Renzo Piano, built to house its collections of twentieth- and twenty-first-century art and design. In addition to special exhibitions in the Modern Wing, other fall museum highlights include *Playing with Pictures: The Art of Victorian Photocollage* (October 10 to January 3), the first exhibition ever devoted to these 19th-century private photo albums composed of family photos in absurd and nearly surreal settings, and *Apostles of Beauty: Arts and Crafts from Britain to Chicago* (November 7 to January 31), a monumental exhibition of hundreds of objects from the movement's leading designers, including William Morris and Frank Lloyd Wright.

### Theatrical Highlights

Don't miss **Young Frankenstein** at the Cadillac Palace Theater from November 3 – December 13, 2009. This wickedly inspired re-imagining of the Frankenstein legend follows bright young Dr. Frankenstein (that's Fronkensteen) as he attempts to create a monster—but not without scary and hilarious complications. The brains behind the laughter is mad genius and three-time Tony® Award-winner Mel Brooks himself—who wrote the music and lyrics and co-wrote the book—along with his record-breaking team from The Producers.

It's an **Addams Family** portrait you've never seen before! Watch as two-time Tony Award® winners Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth star in this magnificently macabre new show which runs at the Oriental Theater from November 13, 2009 – January 10, 2010. Gomez, all mad impetuosity, Morticia, equal parts fire and ice, Fester, restless and romantic, Pugsley, for whom immediate gratification can't come soon enough and Wednesday, eighteen years old and finally feeling what it means to be a woman. A family that's quite shockingly, and endearingly, just like yours.

Visitors and Chicagoans planning to entertain out-of-town guests can receive Chicago brochures, reserve hotel accommodations and receive trip-planning assistance by calling toll-free 1.877.CHICAGO (1.877.244.2246), or visiting [www.explorechicago.org](http://www.explorechicago.org). Brochures and information on Chicago's exciting events and activities are also available at the Visitor Information Centers. The centers are located at Chicago Water Works, 163 East Pearson Street at Michigan Avenue and the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 East Randolph Street. The TTY toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1.866.710.0294.

The Chicago Office of Tourism, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is the official City agency dedicated to promoting Chicago to domestic and international visitors and to providing innovative visitor programs and services.

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