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Arts & Entertainment

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ACOUSTIC PERFORMER, Winner

Marc Ballini

Massachusetts transplant Marc Ballini has made a name for himself in Brew Town as a top-notch acoustic performer. His approach to music is reflected in his one-man-wrecking-crew style of self-promotion. Although his latest release, Better for Me, fea

ART GALLERY, Winner

Hotcakes Gallery

Address: 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee, WI 53212
Phone: 414-961-7714

If you've never heard of Mike Brenner's gallery, Hotcakes, it may be because it's a located a good distance from the typical set of Gallery Night venues. In a blink-and-you'll-miss-it spot in Riverwest, Hotcakes caters to the "I really like art, but I don't know if I can afford it" crowd while maintaining an impressive lineup of exhibitions that appeal to the most serious art connoisseurs. (Ashley Tibbits)

| map | calendar |

BEST BLUES BAND, Winner

Hounds Tooth

Started this past spring, Hounds Tooth has already made quite a name for itself in the Milwaukee area. Gritty-voiced frontman Matt Beeman sings covers as well as original material, including soul classics, blues and bluesy rock numbers. (Kathy Nichols)

COUNTRY BAND, Winner

Chasin' Mason

Milwaukee's Chasin' Mason is a country band with enough pop elements to cross over for wide audience appeal. In a town where the country scene isn't very large, the band has managed to make itself known with a good mix of originals and covers. They also maintain a grueling schedule that takes them around the country for as many as 10 shows per month. Their diversity and musicianship has made them a consistent favorite for the festival circuit as well as the genre's club scene. (B.B.)

COVER/TRIBUTE BAND, Winner

The Toys

The Toys, a 10-year-old cover band, specializes in hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Their repertoire ranges from John Denver to AC/DC, the Beastie Boys to Dead or Alive. The Toys won the 2006 Wisconsin Area Music Industry Award for best band or solo act from southeast Wisconsin. (Kathy Nichols)

DANCE COMPANY, Winner

Danceworks

Address: 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: 414-277-8480
Email: swilbur@tds.net

Danceworks Performance Company, an inextricable part of the Milwaukee dance community, is known for bringing humor, virtuosity and serendipity to its performances. Future performances cater to a broad range of audiences, from devotees of Ravel's Boléro to those interested in the movement lexicon of everyday behavior. The Danceworks studio offers classes in ballet, modern, yoga, hip-hop, jazz and more. As part of its Mad Hot Ballroom Milwaukee project, ballroom and tap dance will be taught at three Milwaukee public schools. (Amie Segal)

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FEMALE VOCALIST, Winner

Miss Katie

As fellow band members Jefferson Del Rio, the Brando, Gen "Porkchop" Clouse and Sean Feather provide the gritty musical backdrop, the sultry thunder of Miss Katie's voice leads Fat Bottom Special on a rock 'n' roll tour of Hendrix, Stones and Heartbreakers, among others. She takes the mic and makes it look good at places such as Rooters and summertime festivals across the state. Miss Katie, we're all eyes. (Jenn Danko)

JAZZ ARTIST, Winner

Ellen Winters

A fixture at Milwaukee's summer outdoor festivals, Ellen Winters has swept this category for three years in a row, and with good reason. Her refined voice, with its clean tones and expressive nuances, breathes new life into most every traditional song. Just as exciting as the covers are the songs she pens herself, heartfelt opuses crafted in the spirit of the classics but filtered through the lens of a strong, thoroughly modern woman. (Evan Rytlewski)

LOCAL FILMMAKER, Winner

► Today In Milwaukee

The winning organ-based jazz trio **Medeski Martin and Wood** save some of their most adventurous work for their sessions with **John Scofield**, one of the biggest names in modern jazz guitar. Their latest collaboration, this

Best of Milwaukee 2006

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Local Music
- **Bush Should Engage Iran and Syria**
News Feature
- **Best Not Good Enough**
Art Kumbalek

Recent Feedback

- **Way to Go Ryno**
Gwen and Mary from MATC
Dec 07 | 17:59
Keep up the good work. We're proud of you! ...
- **Art Kumbalek Kicks Ass!!!!**
Mark LaFortune
Dec 07 | 16:16
I just need to say that I read Art's

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Graham Killeen

A fantasy-edged Western called Six Bullets may be the earliest buzzworthy submission to the 2007 edition of the Milwaukee International Film Festival. The film, which was test screened in June at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts and will be submitted to Sundance and other winter film fests, is the brainchild and debut effort from writer/director Graham Killeen. Killeen, who has been writing, designing and directing theater throughout the area since the early '90s, formed the film company Signal Fire Films in 2003. His stage credits include productions of Swan Lake and The Giving Tree. (Todd Lazarski)

LOCAL TV PERSONALITY, Winner

Mike Gousha, TMJ-4

He's gone but won't be easily forgotten. After many years of anchoring for TMJ-4, Mike Gousha retired earlier this year, leaving behind a high standard for his geniality and cultivation. He was unfailingly knowledgeable and always a class act. In a world that suffers increasingly from lack of civility and intelligent discourse, Gousha was a beacon. He will be missed. (David Lührssen)

MALE VOCALIST, Winner

Tommy Hahn

Proudly proclaiming himself as one of the "Kings of College Radio" in his band's track of the same title, Tommy Hahn leads the four-piece power-pop band Revolush. His former career as a solo acoustic performer and a theater actor doubtlessly helped him develop his fearless, clearly understood vocal style. (Kathy Nichols)

MOVIE THEATER, Winner

Oriental Landmark Theatre

Address: 2230 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: 414-276-8711

With its eclectic Near Eastern and Far Eastern detailing, the Oriental was an architectural landmark years before it became part of the Landmark cinema chain. Open since the end of the silent era, it remains Milwaukee's only functioning movie palace from the 1920s—at least until the Avalon in Bay View is up and running. Even the economic decision to split the theater in three hasn't diminished the Oriental's splendor. In recent decades it has screened mostly foreign and domestic movies from beyond Hollywood and has become the focal point of the Milwaukee International Film Festival. (Dave Lührssen)

| map |

MUSEUM, Winner

Milwaukee Art Museum

Address: 700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: 414-224-3220

The soaring Santiago Calatrava-designed addition to the museum has been the subject of books and essays and has become the backdrop for several advertising campaigns. Suggesting the bleached skeleton of a prehistoric bird, or perhaps a clipper ship at sail, the Calatrava has housed important exhibitions of Biedermeier furnishings, Turkish art and the paintings of Rembrandt, and played host to Present Music and the Milwaukee International Film Festival. The permanent collection includes the pop art of Andy Warhol, the work of earlier pathfinders such as Wassily Kandinsky, an impressive array of 19th-century impressionists and realists and artifacts from the Middle Ages and earlier epochs. The Milwaukee Art Museum is a must-see for out-of-town visitors, and, with its varying main exhibitions, deserves several visits a year from local residents. (Dave Lührssen)

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PLACE TO LEARN TO DANCE, Winner

Danceworks

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Phone: 414-277-8480

Email: swilbur@tds.net

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R&B/FUNK GROUP, Winner

Eddie Butts Band

Eddie Butts is one of the Midwest's most enduring regional acts. This group's combination of jazz, pop and R&B has won them a number of Wisconsin Area Music Industry Awards. A staple at both Summerfest and State Fair, the band's playlist includes covers of artists ranging from Willie Nelson to Blondie. (Kathy Nichols)

RADIO PERSONALITY, Winner

Bob and Brian 102.9 THE HOG

Morning-radio duo Bob & Brian remain at the top of their early-riser game, bantering through games of devil's advocacy and telling lies to their listeners. Dr. Bob Madden is so proud of his fibs that he has listed some of his best ones on the 102.9 THE HOG Web page; Brian Nelson is more interested in boasting about how he masterminded America's hardest contest, "You Still Can't Win." (Jenn Danko)

RADIO STATION, Winner

102.1 FM WLUM

Over the past three decades, one thing has remained consistent for 102.1 FM: the call letters. Aside from this, the station has morphed from disco and soul in the late '70s to rap and hip-hop a decade later to all things rock through the '90s. Recently, the station made a bold move back to basics, ditching the last of its syndicated shows—"Loveline"—and adopting the slogan "Independent. Alternative. Radio." WLUM's newfound dedication to Milwaukee listeners is making waves; their increasing popularity for playing alternative and indie rock has made them this year's reader-voted best in the city. (Matt Richter)

RAP/HIP-HOP GROUP, Winner

Black Elephant

Unlike other "positive" hip-hop groups that rely on preachy songs and heavy-handed

column every ...

Art of Many Faces

Nicole K. Hauser
Dec 07 | 13:32
Editor, please note correction!!
Susan Evans did not ...

What!!!!??

Phil
Dec 07 | 11:13
Joe, Don't you ever tire of whole
"Bush is dumb or ...

Nicolo

The Rev
Dec 07 | 09:35
Nic Onorato is a GOD!...

December

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messages. Black Elephant delivers militant manifestos over commanding beats that shine with the lushness of neo-soul and the jazzy imagination of early '90s Native Tongue acts, but is also driven by the urgency of underground, hardcore rap. With a massive sound every bit as commanding as their evocative moniker implies, this trio has rightly been hailed as one of the local hip-hop scene's biggest treasures. (E.R.)

ROCK BAND, Winner


Marashino

Marashino is one of those bands that started out of high school, evolving into a seasoned act by the time members reached their early 20s. Four years ago, the Menomonee Falls quintet started doing hard rock and pop covers, but the band has become better known recently for their original music. Their releases include Marashino (2003) and Diseased Room (2004). Their youth and experience, including sharing the stage with major acts such as Seether, will no doubt work to their advantage in the future. (Brian Barney)

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