



All about The Nines (music festival)

EVENTS JULY 20, 2013 BY: MARJORIE LAPRADE

Summer is half over, which means that entertainment venues are in full swing. Gear up for the upcoming arts festival of Central Massachusetts, [The Nines](#). Mark your calendars to head towards Willard Field in Devens, MA for August 10, 2013. This event will feature a trifecta of music, comedy and visual arts.

Headlining the music portion of this festival is [Explosions In The Sky](#). Sound familiar? They wrote the movie soundtrack for Friday Night Lights and will be touring with [Nine Inch Nails](#) this fall. Their instrumental rock builds into “cathartic mini-symphonies” to pack a punch of emotion. Don't miss their epic sound!

There are three stages at this event. Let's look at the schedule for the 9 o'Diamonds stage. The first act to grace the stage will be [Walter Sickert & the Army of Broken Toys](#). Their act is unusual and artful. They use a myriad of instruments, conventional and unconventional. Their fashion sense is somewhere between circus-like, burlesque, gothic and steampunk. Their music is just as eclectic, but about exploration of sound. The next act on that stage will be [Shuggie Otis](#). Shuggie is the son of famed Johnny Otis. At a young age, he was musically gifted and continues to write and perform in many styles including jazz, funk, blues, soul and R&B. He has worked with many of the greats and even turned down a few offers to work with other legendary musicians. The third act sharing that stage will be [Walk Off The Earth](#). This indie band became popular by posting cover songs on Youtube, but they also write original tunes. Fourth in line is [Delta Spirit](#). Delta Spirit has played at Coachella and Lollapalooza and has music featured in a few movies and television shows. [Dr. Dog](#) is the next musical act on that stage. This Philadelphia band was featured on several late night TV shows.

Would you like to be a featured musical act during this concert? The first act on the Lucky Cat stage will be the winner from the [Sonicbids](#) Website. [Matt Pond](#) (formally Matt Pond PA) is the next up to bat on this stage. The next musical treat is [K. Flay](#). Her sound is an interesting mix of Indie electronic rap. Last on this stage will be [Kid Koala](#). He is a scratch DJ that has toured with many big name groups, contributed to the soundtracks on movies, television and fashion runway shows.

The comedy stage will feature [Erin Judge](#), [Ken Reid](#), [Jenny Zigrino](#), [Joe List](#), [Bethany Van Delft](#), [Mehran Khaghani](#), and the [Comedy Studio](#). Erin Judge is a female comedian that travels with the [Pink Collar Comedy Tour](#). Ken Reid's shows are regularly sold-out. Jenny Zigrino is involved with the Women in Comedy Festival and has worked with Tom Green and Gilbert Gottfried. She is Boston-based and thus nominated as "Boston's Best Comedian" for 2013. Joe List was a Boston native and now lives in New York City. If you like Bethany Van Delft at this show, you can also catch her at the Goddesses of Comedy. Mehran Khaghani is a renaissance man of the entertainment world. He wears many hats: comedian, actor, emcee, event producer, etc. Boston fans may have seen him perform at Faneuil Hall.

There will be various artists in attendance. In the line-up you will find [Chris Cyr](#), Moses Buyondo, Dr. Thomas B. Malone, Camilo Neves, [Phyllis Ewen](#), [Lia Sunshine](#), [Ryan Gardell](#), [Rachel Manly](#), Kenny Ide, [Heather-Katie Aziz](#), Gregory Barry, [Nikki Stephens](#), [Catherine Evans](#), and Lisa Wiesner. If you aren't familiar with Chris Cyr's work, you should take a look at his illustrations. Children have vivid imaginations, but they have nothing on his surrealist visions. One look at his work makes you want to know more about the story and absorb yourself into the looking glass of some other world. Moses Buyondo is a noted teacher and musician of Ugandan music. His colleague, Dr. Thomas B. Malone, is a composer and fellow teacher that focuses on the music of other cultures. Camilo Neves owns a gallery as well as contributes to the art world with his own visions. Phyllis Ewen is a sculptor. Her recent work with sculptural drawings are layered both literally (with paper) and metaphorically with social commentary. "Northern Waters" is particularly visually engaging. Lia Sunshine has

many talents. She is a painter, fire performance artist, hypnotist, sculptor, etc. She has several paintings and other art objects for sale on her Website. The paintings are exquisitely full of symbolism, detail and emotion. Ryan Gardell is a local graphic designer and visual artist of multiple medias. He uses bold color and dynamic line forms to create his breath of work. Rachel Manly is an art educator whose main focuses are printmaking and textile design. "Kenny Ide has practiced movement arts for 5 years. He believes it is a mental, physical and spiritual discipline much like martial arts,yoga and dance combined. He performs with Fire and LED props to entertain and bring joy and wonder to peoples lives while personally gaining spacial awareness and freedom of movement through my flow practice." Nikki Stephens also works with LED lights and fire, but concentrates on hoop dancing. Heather-Katie Aziz is an art teacher whose own works focus on the oceans and wildlife. Gregory Barry is active in the art world as an educator, artist, and art groups. Catherine Evans is mainly an installation artist. She uses found objects and repurposes them to ascend beyond their common use. Lisa Wiesner deals with the botanical arts. In addition to those independent artists [Rollstone Studios](#) and [Fireseed Arts](#) will have representation from their projects.

What art show is complete without wine? There will be a beer garden serving both beer and wine, so don't forget to bring your ID! Photo enthusiasts beware, only non-professional cameras are allowed. Leave the SLR at home and use your point-and-shoot or camera phone to capture your memories.

Do you wonder why they chose "The Nines" as the name for the festival? The Nines' Website says this:

"When you are going out on the town for a really special good time, you get "dressed to the nines". That's how it started. Then we named the Patron of the Arts (VIP) tent "Cloud 9". And named the stages "Nine 'O Diamonds" and "Lucky Cat". Maybe you already know the comedy tent is named "Stich" because we hope you'll laugh so hard you'll be in stitches...while a stitch in time saves...you guessed it. The art installation and gallery area is called the Muse Garden after the nine muses in Greek mythology.

And there's more as you'll find out at the festival. Not to mention all the musical references..."

General tickets are available for \$55 a person through [ticketmaster](#) via their Website or their hotline (800-653-8000). Tickets can also be purchased same day at The Nines Box Office. If you are local to that area, you can also purchase tickets at [Enterprise Bank](#) in Acton. For the arts connoisseur, you may want to purchase VIP tickets for \$115 a person: "Patron of the Arts tickets include premier parking, fast lane entry, access to the private Cloud 9 lounge, arts garden and viewing area, complimentary beverages and hospitality, air conditioned restrooms, the NINES official 2013 poster and more." This is a family friendly event, with children under the age of ten admitted for free as well as free parking.

[<http://www.examiner.com/article/all-about-the-nines-music-festival>]