

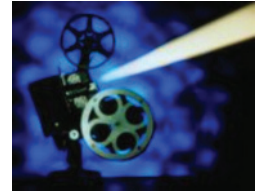
live an
original life

**2009
Summer Guide to
Free (or Almost Free!) Events in NYC**

Bummed about trading in those Morimoto dinners for Micky D's? Or your summer place in the Hamptons for a tent upstate? Fret not... Our 2009 summer guide has recession-proof ways to enjoy this summer more than any before. So, grab your family, friends, or coworkers and dance, picnic, sing, watch, eat, and travel your way through the heat.

**Enjoy!
Your friends at Axiom**

Movies and Theater



HBO Bryant Park Summer Film Festival

The **Bryant Park** movie series is back again this summer and, as always, will feature some of the greatest movies - and actors - of the 20th century. Screenings kick off **every Monday at dusk** (between 8:00pm and 9:00pm) but the mad dash for lawn real estate begins at **5:00pm**. Make sure you don't leave home without a blanket, a picnic basket and your patience!

June 15: The Sting
June 22: Breaking Away
June 29: Gold Diggers of 1933
July 6: Dog Day Afternoon
July 13: How Green Was My Valley

July 20: Harold and Maude
July 27: The Defiant Ones
August 3: Kramer vs. Kramer
August 10: The Magnificent Seven
August 17: Close Encounters of the Third Kind

[Click here](#) for more information.

Hudson River Flicks

Yearning for the great movies of... 2008? Whether you want to watch a stoned James Franco, a heartbroken Carrie Bradshaw or an Oscar nominated action flick (nope, that's not an oxymoron), Hudson River Park's summer movie festival is the place for you. Grab your (free) popcorn and head to **Pier 54** (14th & West) every **Wednesday in July and August at 8:30pm** to catch up on all the "must-see" flicks you missed last summer...

July 8: Iron Man
July 15: Vicky Christina Barcelona
July 22: The Dark Knight
July 29: Hancock

August 5: Tropic Thunder
August 12: Sex and the City: The Movie
August 19: Pineapple Express

For fun the whole family can enjoy, head to back to the pier at **8:30pm** on **Fridays in July and August** for the RiverFlicks kids screenings, including favorites from your childhood and theirs!

July 10: The Wizard of Oz
July 17: Kung Fu Panda
July 24: Ghostbusters
July 31: Star Wars: The Clone Wars

August 7: Muppet Movie
August 14: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa
August 21: Curious George

For details, [click here](#).

Summer on the Hudson: Movies under the Stars

For a waterfront movie experience, head to Riverside Park South at **Pier 1 at 70th Street** on **Wednesdays in July and August** for Summer on Hudson's summer movie festival. This year's flicks honor of the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial by celebrating New York throughout the ages. Movies start at **8:30pm** but we suggest packing a picnic, grabbing a friend and getting there on the earlier side...

July 8: The Age of Innocence (1870s)
July 15: Wall Street (1980s)
July 22: Dinner at Eight (1930s)

July 29: The Out-of-Towners (1970s)
Aug 5: Drums Along the Mohawk (1760s)
Aug 12: Sweet Smell of Success (1950s)

Broadway in Bryant Park

Want to catch the best of Broadway al fresco and, better yet, for free? Starting July 9, head over to **Broadway in Bryant Park** **each Thursday** for a music-filled lunch hour (**12:30-1:30pm**) that is sure to leave you humming and dancing your way (Mary Pop-pins style!) through the rest of the week.

For more information, [click here](#).

Shakespeare in the Park

This year Shakespeare is sharing the stage with Euripides, and fans of scorned gods and banished sorcerers (and really, who isn't?) are sure to be thrilled. Performances start at **8:00pm every Tuesday through Sunday** at the **Delacorte Theater in Central Park**. If a day-long commitment for tickets is too much for you to handle, take advantage of the Public Theater's online system that allows a select few sign up for tickets virtually.

June 9-July 12: Twelfth Night

August 11-September 6: The Bacchae

For details, [click here](#).

Shakespeare in Riverside Park

If you're looking for all Shakespeare, all summer long, head to the "other" Shakespeare in the Park, located at the **North Patio of Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument**. Every **Thursday** one of Shakespeare's finest works will be performed starting at 6:30pm.

June: The Tempest

July: Hamlet

August: A Midsummer Night's Dream

For details, [click here](#).

Music and Dance



Philharmonic in the Park

On **July 14 and 17** join fans of the New York Philharmonic as they take over the typically sunbather/soccer player-laden **Great Lawn in Central Park** for the annual Philharmonic in the Park concerts. Performances start at **8:00pm** but if you want a seat near the bandshell (and fans of the non-talking variety) be sure to arrive as close to 6:00 as possible. If your interest lies in background music to go along with a picnic, friends and a view of the park, take your time... the lawn is called "great" for a reason.

For more information, [click here](#).

Good Morning America Concert Series

If Broadway in the Park doesn't quench your thirst for outdoor music, check out the Good Morning America Summer Concert Series at **Rumsey Playfield in Central Park**. Concerts usually begin at **8:30am** but if you want a glimpse of the performers, grab your cup of joe and head over when the park opens at 6:00am.

Axiom picks...

May 29: Lionel Richie

June 5: John Legend

June 12: Jonas Brothers

June 26: Cast of Broadway's Hair

July 3: Brad Paisley

July 10: Queen Latifah

July 31: Kelly Clarkson

August 14: Kenny Chesney

For a complete list of summer artists, [click here](#).

NBC Rockefeller Plaza Concerts

Never allowing themselves to be outdone by their early morning rival, NBC puts together their own schedule of early-morning performances at the Today Show's outdoor concert series in **Rockefeller Plaza**. Most concerts start at **7:00am on Friday mornings** but same rules apply... you'll have to get there long before the sun has risen to truly be a part of the action, so set your alarm for an ungodly hour if you hope to see any of the pop phenoms.

Axiom picks...

May 29: Taylor Swift

June 5: The Dave Matthews Band

June 12: Black Eyed Peas

June 19: The Jonas Brothers

July 3: Rob Thomas

July 10: Rascal Flatts

Aug. 7: Jason Mraz

Aug. 21: Natasha Bedingfield

For a complete list of performers, [click here](#).

Naumburg Orchestral Concerts

If practice makes perfect, then the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts are as good as it gets. The oldest free outdoor concert series in the US is back this summer with its signature symphonic and semi-classical music at the **Naumburg Bandshell and Mall Concert Ground** (66th-72nd street) **at 7:30pm** on select evenings this summer.

June 23: The Knights with Lara St. John

July 7: Naumburg Orchestra

July 21: Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players

August 4: Imani Winds

[Click here](#) for more information.

Central Park Summer Stage

If you ever questioned the melting pot of tastes that make up NYC, the City Parks Foundation's Summer Stage at **Central Park** is sure to rid you of any doubt. Once again, a vast array of performers offer a little something for everyone, including the brand new "Word" series featuring some of the greatest authors of our time. **Dates and times vary.**

Axiom picks...

June 12: Josh Ritter and The New York Pops, 8:00pm
June 13: Smokie Norful, Tye Tribbett & G.A., and Ruben Studdard, 3:00pm
June 16: Indigo Girls, 6:00pm
June 17: Wally Lamb and Zoe Heller, 7:30pm
June 25: 311, Ziggy Marley, and The Expendables, 5:00pm
July 13: Metropolitan Opera Summer Recital, 8:00pm
July 18: Q-Tip, Chester French, Little Dragon and Benji B, 3:00pm
August 6: Asbury Shorts: An Evening of the World's Best Short Films, 7:30pm

For a complete schedule, [click here](#).

Clinton Concert Series

Meet your friends at Hudson River Park's **Pier 84** and **Clinton Cove Park**, the perfect sites for you to take in a sunset and the sounds of an eclectic mix of bands. All concerts are FREE, one hour long and begin at **6:00pm**. Lawn seating only.

June 8: NYCity Slickers (bluegrass with hard-driving instrumentals)
June 22: The Mercantillers (folks, bluegrass, and rock-n-roll sounds)
July 13: Roosevelt Dime (country soul with bluesy flavor)
July 27: Gregorio Uribe Big Band (16-piece band blending Afro-Columbian rhythms with funk and jazz)
August 10: Soul Understated (soul mixed with R&B, funk and jazz)
August 24: Stephen Beasley Project (soul, rock, and funk flavored with a world music slant)

For more info, [click here](#).

Washington Square Music Festival

Washington Square Park may still be closed and under construction but that certainly isn't stopping the Washington Square Music Festival. Undaunted, they'll celebrate their 51st season of free concerts... albeit in a new venue at **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church** (371 Sixth Avenue). Seating is first-come, first-served so be sure to get there before the **8:30pm** start time.

June 5: The Festival Chamber Orchestra with Lutz Rath, cello; Steven D. Hartman, clarinet; David Taylor, trombone; David Oei, piano
June 19: The Festival Chamber Ensemble with Eriko Sato, violin; Lutz Rath, cello; David Oei, piano; Steven D. Hartman, clarinet; Lucia Hyunju Song, soprano

For more information, [click here](#).

Give Back!



The Fifth Annual Housing Works Open Air Street Fair

The lovely cobblestone block of Crosby Street between Prince and Houston will be closed to cars on Saturday **June 6, 2009 from 10am to 6pm** (Rain date June 7) for **Housing Works' Annual Open Air Street Fair**. Get your fill on books, records and CDs (for \$1 a piece), plus clothing, shoes, accessories and housewares from Housing Works Thrift Shops (on an "all-you-can-stuff" \$20 a bag basis). If that's not enough to get you there, Puck Fair will be serving up Sixpoint Ale, the Housing Works Café will be dishing out sliders and you can cool down with Van Leeuwen frozen treats... all in the name of charity. All profits go to [Housing Works](#), which provides lifesaving services for homeless and low-income New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS.

For details, [click here](#).

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: Rock & Run on the River

Mark your calendars for **June 7**, and join fellow do-gooders for Memorial Sloan-Kettering's third annual **Rock & Run on the River!**

[Register today](#) and enjoy a fun-filled morning of fitness, food, and entertainment at this inspirational 5K run/walk and survivorship celebration. Check-in opens bright and early at 6:30am Hudson River Park's Pier 84 (12th Avenue & 44th Street) and the event runs from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

Proceeds from the event support research, programs, and services provided by MSK's [Cancer Survivorship Initiative](#).

NYC Laboratory School: TASTES

If taking a less active approach to do-gooding is more your style, head to TASTES from the Meatpacking District through Chelsea, an unprecedented food festival on Saturday, May 30 from 11:30am-3:00pm. Tickets to the event will get you samplings from some of the area's best including Amy's Bread, Barocco Café, Billy's Bakery, Buddakan, Cookshop, Pastis, and Tia Pol, among others.

All funds benefit essential programs at [NYC Laboratory School for Collaborative Studies](#).

[Click here](#) to get your ticket.

Get Moving (Dance, Sports and Festivals)



Summer on the Hudson

Whether you're seeking recreation or relaxation, Riverside Park is sure to have something for you. Their annual Kayak, Pilates, Yoga, Dance and Music offerings are back and they've added special events to please fishermen, moms and everyone in between!

Axiom picks...

- Celebrate mothers and the people who love them with a music and art-filled afternoon at the 6th Annual **Mamapalooza Outdoor Extravaganza**. (Pier 1 @ 70th Street - **May 31**, 12:00pm-5:00pm)
- Spend the day fishing with the Urban Park Rangers, singing sea shanties with Astrograss, and enjoying the cool river breezes at the West Harlem Piers Park **Fishing Festival** (W. Harlem Piers Park @ 125th Street - **June 13**, 11:00am-5:00pm)
- **Symphony Space** takes its popular reading series outdoors for a special presentation of short stories brought to life by some of New York's best actors. (Pier 1 @ 70th Street - **July 19**, 4:00-6:00pm)
- Who says you have to go to the country to enjoy a proper County Fair. Check out the **7th Annual Westside County Fair** and celebrate the change of seasons with carnival rides, games, music, square dancing, sideshow performers, a petting zoo and a greenmarket. (Pier 1 @ 70th Street - **September 13**, 4:00-6:00pm)

And our Annual Favorites...

Kayaking on the Hudson **Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00am-5:00pm @ 72nd St**

Pilates on the Hudson: mat class **Tuesdays at 6:30pm, 66th St Plaza**

Yoga: Evening Salute to the Sun **Wednesdays in July at 6:30pm, 66th St Plaza**

Let's Dance (Lessons and Dancing) **Sundays in June at 6:00pm, Pier 1 @ 70th St**

Acoustic Sundays Sundays starring **July 12 at 7:00pm, Pier 1 @ 70th St**

For more information and the entire list of summer activities, [click here](#).

River to River Summer Festival

Even the most seasoned New Yorker can find themselves in the South Street Seaport with a look of confusion typically only seen on the face of a Big Apple tourist. Luckily, the **River to River Festival** is here to make exploring the area easy and fun. Become an expert of all things "downtown" while checking out the fee-free highlights that make up this festival!

Axiom picks...

June 25: **New York City Opera** - 7:00pm in Battery Park City's Rockefeller Park

July 1: **King Lear** - 7:00pm at Castle Clinton

Mondays in July: Check out **Movie Nights** on the Elevated Acre. This year's line-up includes The Seven Year Itch, The Taking of Pelham One Two Three, **West Side Story** or the Sweet Smell of Success - 8:00pm at 55 Water St.

August 1 & 2: **Merce Cunningham** (and Joyce Theater) Dance Company - 6:00pm in Battery Park City's Rockefeller Park

For complete information on scheduled events offered daily throughout the summer, [click here](#).

Hudson River Moondance

Dance the weekend to a close at Hudson River Park's Moondance Festival. Tap your toes to the hottest swing, salsa, and tango bands. Don't know the difference between a two-step and a shuffle step? Come early (**at 6:30pm**) and take advantage of the free dance lessons sponsored by Dance Manhattan or free-style and enjoy the **live band starting at 7:00pm**. The festival overlooks the **Hudson River on Pier 54** at 14th Street.

July 12: George Gee Band (Swing)

July 19: Hector Del Curto's Eternal Tango Orchestra (Tango)

July 26: Los Hermanos Colon (Salsa)

August 2: Nu Guajiro (Salsa)

August 9: David Berger Jazz Orchestra (Swing)

[Click here](#) for more information.

10th Annual Blues BBQ

Transport yourself to a real southern BBQ at the 10th Annual Blues BBQ. Enjoy smoky BBQ ribs prepared by New York's best, and listen to top blues artists from around the country! We can't think of a better way to spend the afternoon on **Sunday, August 23 from 2:00-9:00pm (at Pier 54)**.

For more information, [click here](#).

The New York Botanical Garden

Want to be just like the Obama's? The New York Botanical Garden can help you share at least one similarity: planting your own vegetable garden! Learn all you need to know about growing your own grub at this summer's **The Edible Garden** and soon enough you'll be giving Alice Waters a run for her money.

Axiom picks...

- Wednesdays and Saturdays starting June 17: Skip Fairway in favor of the Botanical Garden's weekly **Farmers Market** and fill up on affordable, locally grown produce and fresh and nutritious baked goods to get you through the week.
- June 27-28: Help the NYBG kick off their summer with the **Opening Weekend: The Edible Local Garden** festival featuring cooking demonstrations with world-renowned chefs and food, wine, and beer sampling.
- July 30: Summer Desserts: Berries, Pastries, and Chocolate takes center stage at the weekly **Edible Evenings: A Celebration of Wine, Beer, and Food** series. Other themes include Beer, Wine, and More and Grilling from the Garden Thursdays, July 9-August 20, 6:00-9:00 pm.

For a complete listing of New York Botanical Garden exhibits and events, [click here](#).

Get Out of the City



Jones Beach Theatre

A hop, skip and a jump away

If joining hundreds of New Yorkers on the Great Lawn isn't enough for you, slab on your SPF 30 and head to any one of Long Island's white sand beaches. Whether you hit up **Jones Beach**, **Robert Moses**, **Long Beach** or **Sunken Meadow**, it's the perfect getaway for friend and family groups alike.

For more information on Long Island's beaches, [click here](#).

If the sun hasn't soaked up all of your energy, journey over to the **Jones Beach Theatre's** open air arena for performances by some of today's top artists.

Axiom picks...

June 2, 4, 5: Phish

June 26: Aerosmith w/ ZZ Top

June 27: No Doubt w/ Paramore and Janelle Monáe

July 8: Def Leppard w/ Poison and Cheap Trick

July 21, 22: Dave Matthews Band w/ Old Crow Medicine Shop

Aug. 7: Jason Mraz w/ G. Love & Special Sauce

Aug. 8: Crosby, Stills & Nash

Aug. 26: Jimmy Buffett

For a complete schedule, [click here](#).

Hudson Valley Wineries

1-2 hours from Manhattan

What to do:

Napa didn't make it onto your summer's economic stimulus plan? Not to worry...the Hudson Valley is America's oldest wine making and grape-growing region and within driving distance of NYC! And similarly, a visit to Hudson Valley Wine Country offers winery tasting rooms and award-winning wines made from classic European varieties, regional hybrids and even fruit wines. Beyond the wineries, enjoy hiking on Mohonk mountain, boating in Lake Minnewaska, Horseback riding, Antiquing and everything else the Hudson River Valley has to offer.

Where to stay:

[Anton's On The Lake Country Inn & Marina](#)

[Buttermilk Falls Inn & Spa](#)

[Mohonk Mountain](#)

Where to eat:

[Depuy Canal House](#)

[Magnanini Vineyard and Restaurant](#)

Axiom picks...

- Join the wineries on the [Shawangunk Wine Trail](#) as they transform their tasting rooms to a different wine producing country. Armed with your "Passport", travel the Wine World and discover the best of each "Country's" food paired with delicious wines from the Shawangunk Wineries. Your Passport comes with Visas for each "country" good for the day and a souvenir Wine Trail etched wine glass.
-

Ashram Escapes

1.5-4 hours from Manhattan

What to do:

Some people need high-thread-count sheets to relax. For the rest of us, a weekend away from New York that offers escape for the mind, body and soul is enough.

Axiom picks...

- Only an hour north of New York, [Ananda Ashram](#) in Monroe, New York is where many of the city's popular yoga teachers, such as Jivamukti's Sharon Gannon and David Life, hold court. Retreat registrants can also sign up for music, dance, and

Sanskrit classes when they are there or book an Ayurvedic facial and massage. Even though there's a strict no-alcohol policy (sorry, no Sancerre after that shavasana), the vibe at Ananda is fairly mellow. Morning meditation doesn't begin until nine, and coffee is served.

- For a stricter (and more silenced) experience, head to the [Insight Meditation Society](#) in Barre, Massachusetts. One of their claims to fame: When the Dalai Lama visited, he went bowling in the basement. Accommodations are clean, simple, and dormlike. Participants are asked not only to refrain from uttering a word to each other but also to part with their cell phones (yes, you have to say goodbye to the crackberry) and forgo reading or writing of any kind. Days are filled with sitting and walking sessions of both loving-kindness (metta) and insight (vipassana) meditation.

Rockland, ME

6 hours and 55 minutes from Manhattan

What to do:

There are museums to explore, Penobscot Bay to sail, islands to discover and mountains to climb. What more could a city slicker ask for?

Where to stay:

[Berry Manor Inn](#)

[Samoset Resort](#)

Where to eat:

[Amalfi on the Water](#)

[Primo](#)

Axiom picks...

- For a bit of history, check out the [Farnsworth Art Museum](#) featuring authentic New England paintings, including some from the great Hopper.
- For a schedule of lobster, water, relax, repeat, check out the 5-day [Maine Lobster Festival](#) from July 29-August 2. The main eating tent is located on Penobscot Bay offering beautiful views to go with your tasty treat. Once you've had your fill of the shelled sea creature, burn those calories by joining at The Great International William Atwood Lobster Crate Race. The person who walks on water longest, wins. If you aren't ready to fill up again, sit back and enjoy the annual parade...
- If the festival isn't enough to get the salty New England air pumping through your body, head over to the [Maine Lighthouse Museum](#). Its peerless collection of Fresnel lenses and old fog bells, should do the trick.