

941 Theater News

Arts at the 941!

Independent Craft Market Reaches a Breakthrough

The Philadelphia Independent Craft Market enjoyed huge success at the 941 Theater Saturday, October 4th, with what is said to be the biggest turnout yet.

People of all kinds were shopping for handmade vintage jewelry and hats while sipping on FREE Pabst Blue Ribbon.

If that wasn't great enough, the live music kept all the happy shoppers on their feet with four bands that combined their styles to produce an amazing mix of sets.

"They all brought people out and they all gave the market their own flavor," Julie Rabocvi, head of the Philadelphia Independent Craft Market stated, adding that the bands were "awesome" and "amazing."

Inside the Market, sounds of



Shoppers view the wares.

Johnny Cash echoed from The New Time as The Sweetheart Parade rocked out to their gothic folk blues genre. Banjo strings were heard from Wes Mattheu and The New Way Down while Your Midway Host provided unique sounds of old folk music, influenced by The Civil War.

"Amazing combination, I feel very lucky I got the line up I did,"

Rabocvi stated, obviously pleased with the turnout of the bands and their contribution to the Market.

While Rabocvi admitted that the first few hours of the Market were slow, she was appeased that once one o'clock hit, people were fully refreshed and ready to

shop and have a good time. Fortunately, on this particular Saturday, there was a steady stream of people, resulting in a wonderful turnout and incredible time. Those who couldn't make it definitely missed out.

"...And who doesn't love swiping that credit card on a shopping spree?"

Different vendors, including The Farmers Daughter, Captain Vintage, Jesse Rinyu, Eric Remer and Nicole Rae Styer all contributed their own distinctive style to the table, stirring up



Everybody at the craft market is good looking!

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The New Time band plays in the concessions area.

all kinds of people who appreciate creativity. Vintage Dealers, Knitters, Indie Craft Artists, a women who sold awesome vintage hats and more came together to promote their irreplaceable products.

“It’s only gonna get better in time,” Jesse Rinyu, a vendor who sold individual art at the Market, said when describing the success of Saturday’s event.

Rinyu appreciates the art of creativity and urges more people to participate in Philly’s Indie Craft Market insisting, “There’s no reason not to check it out.”

And who doesn’t love swiping that credit card on a shopping spree?

Jack Verrelli, a manager with the 941 Theater, mentioned that the customers and vendors were both highly pleased that credit cards were able to be used. The 941 designed a system so that all of the vendors can receive credit card payments. This system benefited vendors and customers alike with easier access to the financial particulars of their craft fair finds.

“Vendors did very well, even better than past craft markets,” Verrelli added, confirming that the October 4th festival proved to be a success.

Without the support of those who made contributions to the festival, Rabocvi guarantees the Market would not have been such an accomplishment. In a recent MySpace bulletin, Rabocvi thanks all those who participated in the event, and hopes that the assistance continues.

Due to popular demand, what once started out as a warm weather market has now turned into a monthly, year round event. Now facing the colder months and upcoming holidays, The Philadelphia Independent Craft Market can rest assured that the best is yet to come.

“It’s awesome there is now a space where people can come out and make some money and at least have a good time,” Rabocvi notes.

When asked if there was anything special about the market she would like to talk about, Rabocvi simply added that, “It restores my faith in Philadelphia,” noting that she is excited to continue producing successful results for each subsequent Market.

The Independent Craft Market is free to the public and occurs once or twice every month during the day on the weekend. Its sister event, The Big Art Show, has a cover charge to attend but is free for the artists who are presenting their work. Both events have live music and free refreshments.

You can get info for both events by going to their website bigartshow.com, myspace at myspace.com/randomsquirllelab or joining the 941 Theater mailing list at 941theater.com.

If you are an artist who would like to be included in the show you can email craftmarket@bigartshow.com.

**“It restores
my faith in
Philadelphia”**

written by Bonnie Dugan