

OFF-AIR event series 2011-2012

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4TH ANNUAL OFF-AIR EVENT SERIES ANNOUNCES MONTHLY LINEUP HIGHLIGHTING MUSIC, ART, FILM, POLITICS, HISTORY, AND MORE!

Series Kicks Off with Chicago Chef Battle 2011 at
Goose Island Brewery Loading Dock on Sunday, September 25 from 4-7pm

CHICAGO (August 19, 2011) – Chicago Public Media (WBEZ-Chicago) is thrilled to announce the station's fourth annual monthly event series, **Off-Air Series**, beginning this September and continuing through June. Extending the listening experience, the series allows public radio listeners and others to come *see* what they've been *hearing* and celebrate Chicago!

Off-Air Series again kicks off with the ever popular **Chicago Chef Battle 2011** where five local chefs will be challenged to create a dish using one of Goose Island's beers as an ingredient. The audience will have the chance to taste each dish and be the judge, with prizes for the winning chef. Last year Chef David Carrier took home the winning prize and this year the participants include **Jill Barron** (Mana Food Bar and the 2009 Chicago Chef Battle winner), **Chris Curren** (Blue 13 and Elate), **Carlos Ysaguirre** (Anteprima/Acre), **Leonard Hollander** (Marion Street Cheese Market in Oak Park), and **Heather Terhune** (Sable). The battle takes place at the Goose Island Brewery Loading Dock, 1800 W. Fulton Street, on **Sunday, September 25 from 4-7pm**. Tickets are \$15/general admission, \$12/WBEZ members, and \$10/students and are available at www.wbez.org/events.

Founded in 2008 as *Chicago Public Radio Presents*, the **Off-Air Event Series** presents ten unique experiences, one each month from September through June, taking place throughout the Chicago region. Each event covers a different topic from theater, art, film, music, and dance to politics, community, Chicago history, and more. Last year's series attracted nearly 6,000 people and since its launch, *Off-Air* has reached over 20,000 people. Popular events such as *The Winter Block Party for Chicago's Hip-Hop Arts*, *So Many Ways To Tell a Story!* in collaboration with Chicago Children's Museum, *What's Your Art? Celebrating the Art Centers of Chicago*, *Drive-In Double Feature*, and *Global Activism Expo* will again be presented while new events focusing on language, comic books, and history have been added to this year's lineup. Tickets for the entire *Off-Air Series* season will go on sale beginning September 1.

"The *Off-Air Series* is a tremendous way for us to serve our audience by creating high-quality programming at an extremely reasonable price, delivering diverse and compelling content that informs, inspires, enriches and entertains," says **Breeze Richardson, Off-Air Series Executive Producer**. "Through our radio broadcasts, online programming, and events like these we want to better connect audiences throughout the region to each other and to the world. And we want to give our audiences the invitation to explore something new."

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The 2011-2012 event series continues October through June with:

The Art of the Political: Can the Stage Be More Than Entertainment?

Sunday, October 9 at 7pm

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 North Lincoln Avenue

Three playwrights of color will present a showcase of new works, commissioned specifically on the subjects of race and class in America. These plays will be performed by select Chicago companies, specifically for this event, alongside an in-depth conversation hosted by WBEZ's Natalie Moore exploring theater's role in weaving politics and art together. Invited panelists include: Chay Yew (Victory Gardens Theater), Timothy Douglas (Remy Bumppo), and Chuck Smith (Goodman Theater).

The Chicago Manual: More than a Century of Style

Tuesday, November 8 at 7pm

International House at University of Chicago, 1414 East 59th Street

Now in its 16th edition, *The Chicago Manual of Style* is the must-have reference for everyone who works with words. Attendees will explore both the history and modern relevance of this authoritative text in an era where instantaneous global publication is only a tap, text, or tweet away. WBEZ's Alison Cuddy, UChicago scholars, and University of Chicago Press editors will discuss how the Manual continues to guide and adapt to the evolution of publishing. Participating panelists include: Anita Samen (Managing Editor of Books, University of Chicago Press), Carol Saller (Senior Manuscript Editor, University of Chicago Press, and author of Chicago Style Q+A), Jason Riggle (Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Director of The Chicago Language Modeling Lab), and Ben Zimmer (Former writer of the New York Times Magazine's On Language column, Executive Producer of Visual Thesaurus and Vocabulary.com).

What's Your Art? Celebrating the Art Centers of Chicago

Saturday, December 3 from 12-5pm

Chicago Cultural Center Yates Hall, 78 East Washington

From Hyde Park to Pilsen to Ravenswood, there are amazing places of art exhibition, classes, and public events fostering the development of art and culture throughout Chicago. Thirteen Chicago Art Centers will gather together in one place to offer live demonstrations, hand-on activities and workshops. This visual art exhibition is a celebration of the role these spaces play in shaping the artist in each of us. Hosted specifically around the holidays, original artwork from Chicago artists will be on sale alongside a unique wrapping station, so that local artwork can be purchased as holiday gifts. FREE.

The 4th Annual Winter Block Party for Chicago's Hip-Hop Arts

Saturday, January 21 from 12-6pm, evening program at 8pm

The Metro, 3730 North Clark Street

Over 2,000 people attended the event last year, and this year's all day free party will again feature a visual art and graffiti gallery, breakdancing exhibitions, a film screening, literary event, music all afternoon by some of Chicago's best DJs, the Hip-Hop Barbershop, and more. The culminating ticketed evening event will be a retrospective on breakdancing in Chicago including a produced video feature with interviews and archive footage, live guests, and a live head-to-head dance battle hosted by the Legendary Brickheadz.

So Many Ways to Tell a Story!

Wednesday, February 8 at 6pm

Chicago Children's Museum, 700 East Grand Avenue

With words, songs, movements and sounds – there are so many ways to tell a story! Participating children help craft the night's story then sit back and see it performed live. Confirmed storytellers include Justin Roberts and Oba William King, who will join innovative Chicago-area movement and sound artists to facilitate the evening. Tickets are \$10/general admission (children and adults), \$8/WBEZ and CCM members & their children.

Chicago Sounds in the 80s: Underground Incubator

Tuesday, March 6 at 6pm

MCA Theater, 220 E Chicago Avenue

Sound Opinions hosts Jim DeRogatis and Greg Kot – two of the finest and best-recognized pop music writers in the nation – sit down with living legends from all three musical movements of the 1980s: house, industrial/Wax Trax, and indie underground punk to explore the music and politics of 1980s Chicago. The event will be presented in conjunction with the MCA exhibition “This Will Have Been: Art, Love & Politics in the 1980s” and complimentary tours of the exhibition will be available following the event.

Global Activism Expo 2012

Saturday, April 28 from 12-6pm

UIC Forum, 725 West Roosevelt Road

Derived from the “Global Activism Series” hosted by *Worldview’s* Jerome McDonnell, the Global Activism Expo has become WBEZ’s largest event of the year! This remarkable celebration – complete with music & food – brings together literally hundreds of Chicago-area global activists, each providing ways to immediately get involved and join the efforts Chicagoans are making every day to improve the quality of life in communities around the globe. FREE.

Drive-In Double Feature! Zombie Apocalypse

Thursday, May 17 at 8pm and 10pm

Cascade Drive-In, 1100 E. North Avenue, West Chicago, IL

Filmspotting hosts Adam Kempenaar and Matty Robinson host a Zombie Apocalypse Double Feature at Illinois’s largest outdoor cinema! Screening George Romero’s groundbreaking 1978 film, *Dawn of the Dead*, and Edgar Wright’s 2004 genre send-up, *Shaun of the Dead*, tickets are \$15/general admission (per car); \$12/WBEZ members (per car).

Superheros: Hollywood’s Rewriting of History

Friday, June 1 at 7pm

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 North Lincoln Avenue

Featuring prominent Chicago comic book illustrators and writers, this event will explore the use of comic books celebrating costumed crime fighters as adaptive literature for other visual media (such as film, television, and theater) as well as the future of comic book art in new media. Invited panelists include: Alex Ross (*Marvels, Kingdom Come*), Mark Millar (*The Authority, Kick-Ass*), and James Asmus (*Dark X-Men, The Runaways*).

About Off-Air Event Series

The ***Off-Air Series*** is a production of Chicago Public Media (WBEZ-Chicago), produced through collaborations with our Partners and friends, designed to bring together public radio fans, their friends and anyone else we can find to experience the rich traditions of Chicago culture. The 2011-2012 season runs September 2011 through June 2012.

Unless otherwise noted, tickets for all events are \$15 general admission, \$12 for WBEZ members, and \$10 for students with a valid ID. For tickets and a complete listing of all ten events go to: www.wbez.org/events

About Chicago Public Media

Chicago Public Media is an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation, and our world. Chicago Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Sound Opinions*, *Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR), *Eight Forty-Eight*, *Worldview*, and *Radio M*. It operates WBEZ 91.5 FM, one of the country’s premiere public radio stations, and Vocalo 89.5 FM, an experimental web/radio service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, please visit www.chicagopublicmedia.org.

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