

# Live Events

## Music, Storytelling, Humor Coming to Grand Junction's Avalon Theatre

by Sharon Sullivan

There are at least two reasons to consider a trip to western Colorado in March.

On Friday, March 17, singer-songwriter A.J. Croce will perform "Croce Plays Croce" – an evening of music that will feature classic songs by his late father Jim Croce, who died in a plane crash when A.J. was 2. Jim Croce was an American folk singer, whose records sold more than 50 million.

And on Friday, March 31, Garrison Keilor will take the stage for a night of storytelling, humor, poetry and music.

Both events take place at the Avalon Theatre in downtown Grand Junction.

**A.J. Croce** is a virtuoso piano player and will perform a complete set of classics by his father – songs like *Operator*, *Time in a Bottle*, and *You Don't Mess Around with Jim*, as well as some of his own music, plus songs that influenced both him and his father.

Around the age of 4, A.J. Croce lost his sight due to horrific abuse from his mother's then-boyfriend. He spent half a year in a hospital and was totally blind in both eyes for six years. It was during this period that he began playing piano, inspired by blind pianists Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder. He regained sight in his left eye when he was 10.



A.J. Croce. Photo by Joshua Black Wilkins

Charles and Stevie Wonder. He regained sight in his left eye when he was 10.

A.J. Croce has toured with artists such as Willie Nelson; Lenny Kravitz; Earth, Wind and Fire; and B.B. King. He's produced 10 studio albums that have all landed on several charts, including Top 40, Blues, Americana, Jazz, College, and Radio 1.

### Garrison Keilor

Many may remember Garrison Keilor from "A Prairie Home Companion," a radio show performed before an audience that he hosted for 40 years. The writer-comedian invented a town called Lake Wobegon, "where all the children are above average, even though he himself grew up evangelical in a small separatist flock where all the children expected the imminent end of the world," according to his web site.



Garrison Keilor



of limericks, and is working on a musical and a Lake Wobegon screenplay. He also continues to do "The Writers Almanac" which is sent out daily to Internet subscribers for free.

Keilor's "Garrison Keilor Tonight" at the Avalon on March 31, will feature sonnets, limericks, and musical jokes, touching on the theme of "the beauty of growing old."

The evening will include an a cappella sing-along with the audience singing from memory an odd medley of patriotic songs, pop standards, and hymns, ending with the national anthem.

Since his retirement Keilor has written a memoir, and a book



Doors open for both of these events at 6:30 p.m., with shows starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$29-\$49.

To avoid higher ticket prices from other web sites visit: <https://www.avalontheatrej.com/upcoming-events>



### Live at Red Cliffs MARCH schedule

- 03.03. THURSDAY 6-9 PM DULCE
- 03.03. FRIDAY 6-9 PM DULCE
- 03.04. SATURDAY 6-9 PM DULCE
- 03.05. SUNDAY 6-9 PM DULCE
- 03.09. THURSDAY 6-9 PM DOC KOTA LOST BUFFALO
- 03.10. FRIDAY 6-9 PM BROKEN ARROW
- 03.11. SATURDAY 6-9 PM BROKEN ARROW
- 03.12. SUNDAY 6-9 PM DOC KOTA LOST BUFFALO
- 03.16. THURSDAY 6-9 PM SHANNON MEREDITH
- 03.17. FRIDAY 6-9 PM SHANNON MEREDITH
- 03.18. SATURDAY 6-9 PM DOWN IN THE ROOTS
- 03.19. SUNDAY 6-9 PM SHANNON MEREDITH
- 03.23. THURSDAY 6-9 PM DOC KOTA LOST BUFFALO
- 03.24. FRIDAY 6-9 PM VAL & ALAN BROWN
- 03.25. SATURDAY 6-9 PM VAL & ALAN BROWN
- 03.26. SUNDAY 6-9 PM DOC KOTA LOST BUFFALO
- 03.30. THURSDAY 6-9 PM GLENN SHERRILL
- 03.31. FRIDAY 6-9 PM GLENN SHERRILL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL [info@liveredcliffslodge.com](mailto:info@liveredcliffslodge.com) OR CALL 435-259-2003

## Moab Backyard Theater Returns for 2023: Celebrating 10 Years!

The Moab Backyard Theater returns for its tenth season of bringing open air live music and magic to locals and visitors alike. The Theater, located at 56 W 100 South, just behind Zax, opens for business this year on Saturday, March 15th

Magician Rick Boretti will be returning his internationally acclaimed magic show back to the Theater Stage every Saturday starting on March 15. Rick's hilarious and mystifying show is one of the "don't miss" selections on Trip Advisor and Yelp. A member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Rick blends lots of humor with great illusions in a one of a kind family-friendly show. Admission is 10 dollars for adults and 5 dollars for kids 3 and up.



The Backyard Theater Free Bluegrass Wednesdays bring their tradition of live bluegrass music for the 8th straight year with local "legends", Quicksand Soup, a five piece high energy band with lots of traditional and contemporary influences and tons of original songs and favorites. The band consists of David Steward on lead guitar, Eric Jones on mandolin, Alan Snow on bass, Tamara Freida on fiddle and songwriter Sand Sheff, All five band members sing. They play old time style in front of a couple of old time microphones. The shows start at 7pm sharp beginning March 15, and seating for the popular show is first-come, first serve. The show is free.

On Thursdays, honky tonk fusion band Juniper Drive brings its unique mix of

American standards and classics back for its fifth year. Admission is free.

Also onsite this year is the fabulous local family food truck, El Local, with southwestern and Mexican taste sensation specialties all made fresh to order.



So if you want a trip to yesteryear, when live entertainment outdoors was part of the American experience, come on down and join the one-of-a-kind Moab Backyard Theater celebrate their 10th birthday. See you There! Located at 56 west 100 South, behind Zax.

## 2023 Moab Events

for more event information .. go to [www.moabhappenings.com](http://www.moabhappenings.com)

- Mar 3-5 ..... Moab Run the Rocks (long distance running event)
- Mar 11-14.. Moab Skinny Tire Festival (road bicycle event)
- Mar 17-18. Banff Mountain Film Festival
- Mar 18 ..... Canyonlands Half Marathon and 5 Mile Run
- Mar 25 ..... Behind the Rocks Ultra (long distance running event)
- Mar 25-27... Moab Rocks (mountain bike race)
- Apr 1-9..... Easter Jeep Safari
- Apr 6-7 ..... Jeep Safari Expo
- Apr 8..... Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr 14-16.. Green River Dirt Bike Rally
- Apr 15 ..... Fallen Peace Officer Trail Ride
- Apr 15 ..... Amasa Trail Race (dist running)
- Apr 19-23.. Cruise Moab (Toyota 4x4 event)
- Apr 29..... Moab Rotary Car Show
- May 2-6 ..... Bronco Safari (4x4 offroad)
- May 4-6..... Bikerpelli (biking from Fruita to Moab)

- May 6..... Gran Fondo Moab (road cycling)
- May 11-13. Bikerpelli (biking from Fruita to Moab)
- May 11-14.. Raptors on the Rocks (4x4 offroad)
- May 13 ..... Thelma & Louise (running long dist) Marathon, 1/2 Marathon, 15k & 50K
- May 13..... CO2UT Desert Gravel
- May 19-21... Willys Overland Rally
- May 21-26... Gone Moab (Nissan offroad event)
- May 27-28... Moab Arts Festival
- May 27-29... Barrels 4 Bucks
- Jun /Jul/Aug.. Moab Free Concert Series
- Jun 2- 4..... Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo
- Jun 9-10 ..... Kokopelli Relay (road cycling from Moab to St. George)
- Jun 9-17 .... High Water Moab Music Festival
- Jun 18-24... Desert Rats Kokopelli 150 (running event from Fruita to Moab)
- Jun/Jul/Aug... Summer Free Movie Series at Swanny Park

- Jun 24 ..... Bears Ears Ultra (Monticello) (long distance running event)
- Jul 1-4..... Grand County Fair
- Jul 4 ..... Independence Day Celebration
- Jul 24 ..... Pioneer Day Celebration
- Aug 21-Sep 15... Moab Music Festival
- Sep 2-4 ..... RR4W Labor Day Campout (four-wheel drive event)
- Sep 9-16 ... Moab Charity Rally (fundraiser)
- Sep 15-16. Green River Melon Days
- Sep 16-17. Moab Century Tour (road bicycle event)
- Sep 23..... Youth Garden Harvest Festival
- Sep tba..... UT High School Mt Bike Race
- Sep tba..... Red Rock Arts Festival
- Sep 29-Oct 1... Outerbike (Mountain Bike Expo)
- Sep 30..... Moab ArtTrails Exhibition
- Sep 30 - Oct 8... Plein Air Moab
- Oct 7..... Arches Marathon & Half, 15k & 50k
- Oct 13-17 .. Moab 240 Endurance Run

- Oct 20-22... Moab Celtic Festival "Scots on the Rocks"
- Oct 21-22.. Red Canyon Powwow
- Oct 26-28.. Jeep Jamboree
- Oct 28-29.. Canyonlands Ultra (long distance running event)
- Oct 29..... Day of the Dead Celebration
- Oct 29-Nov 3... Moab Folk Camp
- Oct 31 ..... Trunk or Treat
- Nov 3-5 ..... Moab Folk Festival
- Nov 3-6..... Moab Craggin' Classic (rock climbing event)
- Nov 4..... Soup Bowl Fundraiser
- Nov 4-5 ..... Moab Trail Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K & Kids K
- Nov 11..... Turkey Trot
- Nov 18..... Dead Horse Ultra (15k, 30k, 50k, 50 mile)
- Dec 1..... Holiday Tree Lighting
- Dec 1-2..... Holiday Craft Fair
- Dec 2..... Electric Light Parade

## Moab Happenings

Make sure your event gets the attention it deserves.

Email event dates to: [info@moabhappenings.com](mailto:info@moabhappenings.com) 435-259-8431