

Live Music

Moab Backyard Theater Returns for Its 2025 Season, Celebrating 12 Years!

The Moab Backyard Theater returns for its twelfth 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 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.

The Backyard Theater Free Bluegrass Wednesdays starting March 19th brings their tradition of live bluegrass music for the 98th 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, 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 sixth year. Admission is free.

Also onsite this year is the beloved 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 12th birthday. See you There! Located at 56 west 100 South, behind Zax. And be sure to mention you read about Moab Backyard Theater in *Moab Happenings*.



Blues/Americana Artist David Starr to Perform in Grand Junction's Radio Room, March 22

By Sharon Sullivan

Blues/Americana musician David Starr is a favorite at the KAFM Radio Room—an intimate listening venue at KAFM Community Radio at 1310 Ute Ave., in Grand Junction.

For the past six to eight years Starr has performed yearly in the Radio Room, and always before a packed audience. He returns this year, Saturday, March 22, from 7-10 p.m. to celebrate the upcoming release of his new CD *Must Be Blue*.

"It's just a great little space," Starr said. "I love playing there. It's very intimate, (the musician onstage) is close enough to connect with the audience."

The Arkansas native is based in Cedaredge, Colorado, where he helped found the Grand Mesa Performing Arts and Events Center, and owns Starr's Guitars. He's produced more than 10 albums, tours internationally, and has shared the stage with artists like John Oates (of Hall and Oates) and John McEuen. And, he's opened for musicians such as Karla Bonoff and the band, America.

Each year Oates and Starr perform together at the performing arts and events center in Cedaredge.

"His music is authentic; his songs are honest; full of emotion and truth. A voice you will never forget," said Oates, regarding Starr's music.



Starr is known as a master guitarist who has performed at Folk Alliance International, AmericanaFest, and Southwest Regional Folk Alliance. He played more than 70 concerts per year, including tours in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. He often tops the Colorado Music Chart and is one of the most downloaded artists on Airplay Direct.

Starr's upcoming show in the Radio Room will differ somewhat from his typical show. For this performance he'll be bringing with him his Nashville friends, Mark Prentice and Michelle Nicolo Prentice. Michelle is a singer, and Mark Prentice is a Grammy-winning record producer and in-demand studio performer and hit songwriter. "They'll do a full set to open the show (perhaps some

Carole King tunes, jazz, and even some opera) followed by the three of us together performing my own material, Starr said. "It's a really cool set. It'll be a lot of show for the money. They are very, very talented."

The same concert, "David Starr and Friends," will take place Friday, March 21, as part of the Spring Concert Series at the performing arts center in Cedaredge.

Starr's team in Nashville—where Starr goes to write and record—coined the phrase "Blusicana" to describe Starr's music. "I grew up playing the blues," although the last few years his music has often been described as Americana—thus, the new descriptor, "Blusicana," said Starr.

Tickets for the Grand Junction show are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information or for tickets visit: <https://kafmradio.org>



You can pick up Moab Happenings in Grand Junction!

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