

# 50 Essential Summer Festivals

The weather warms up and — suddenly, it seems — arts festivals are everywhere. So, for fans of pop, dance, theater and classical music, here's a look at potential cultural pilgrimages: from Verdi in Cooperstown to Shakespeare in Oregon, from Trisha Brown in Charleston to Kendrick Lamar in New Orleans. MAY 15, 2015

Photo

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## Pop Music

By STACEY ANDERSON

### City Parks Foundation's Summerstage

JUNE 3-AUG 12, NEW YORK

Now in its 30th year, SummerStage festival remains the quixotic ideal of New York entertainment for its talented and diverse performers, its luxurious al fresco locales throughout the five boroughs and its reliably giddy audiences. In this anniversary season, the festival's organizers, City Parks Foundation, up the offerings by a good 15 percent and host more events in Central Park, a welcome development. The season opens with a free performance by the **TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND** in Central Park and continues with **JUNGLE**, **ANGELIQUE KIDJO**,

past few years.

[hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)

## Photo



The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. Credit William Marsh

## Fringe Festivals

DATES IN JUNE THROUGH SEPT. ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Since the first one in Edinburgh in 1947, fringe festivals have become increasingly ubiquitous. It might make for an interesting (if rather zigzag and possibly insane) road trip, actually, to hit the **HOLLYWOOD FRINGE FESTIVAL** (June 11-28), then head to the **ST. LOU FRINGE**

(June 17-27), over to Maine for the **PORTFRINGE** (June 20-28), down to the **CAPITAL FRINGE** in Washington (July 9-26) and finally to the **NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL** (Aug. 14-30). An optional extension could include Boulder (Sept. 16-27) and Houston (Sept. 23-27). There are many of these; surely one is close to you.

## Powerhouse Theater

JUNE 26-AUG. 2, POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.

“Rain,” with a book by Sybille Pearson and music and lyrics by Michael John LaChiusa, is one of several workshops coming up at this annual collaborative new-works festival, a joint effort of New York Stage and Film and Vassar College. A lot looks intriguing on the schedule, including another **NEW MUSICAL FROM DUNCAN SHEIK** and a workshop of “Desire,” an evening of six short plays based on stories by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**, by the writers Elizabeth Egloff, Marcus Gardley, Rebecca Gilman, David Grimm, John Guare and Beth Henley.

[powerhouse.vassar.edu](http://powerhouse.vassar.edu)

## Chautauqua

JUNE 27-AUG. 30, CHAUTAUQUA, N.Y.

Theater is just one element in this arts festival, where each week has a theme — “Redefining Europe” and “Creating Livable Communities” are among the topics this summer — and a series of lectures and other entertainments allow for an immersive experience. On Chautauqua’s stages, catch “**OUR TOWN**,” “**HENRY V**” and Lynn Nottage’s “**INTIMATE APPAREL**,” and staged readings of new works by Jason Wells and David