

Cruel summer

You don't know what you've got till it's gone. So quit your whining about the heat, and take advantage of these summer events—before it's too late! *By Dorkys Ramos*



IT HAPPENS EVERY year: We spend all winter begging for summer to arrive and when it finally does, we complain about the oppressive heat. Here are four free outdoor events to squeeze every last drop out of this blazing season—before you're prying for its return once more.

Brighton Jubilee

The annual beachside event returns with multicultural entertainment, including Bay Ridge's Frankie Marra, a Peruvian band and Russian performers from DaNu Radio. Afterward, eat your way around the world via international food vendors. → Brighton Beach Ave and Corbin Place (brightonbeach.com). Sun 28 10am–6pm; free.



Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit

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This semiannual festival was inspired by Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning's attempts to sell artwork to Greenwich Villages passersby to make rent. The 80th-anniversary exhibition features the return of nudes

(after a long-standing ban) as well as photography and handmade crafts. → University Place and E 13th St (wsoae.org). Sat 3–Mon 5 and Sept 10–11 noon to 6pm; free.

BR Day New York

With the Olympic Games in Rio, Brazil has been on our minds all summer. Continue the festivities as NYC's Little

Brazil celebrates the country's Dia da Independência with its annual Labor Day weekend fest. Brazilian TV personality Otaviano Costa serves as MC, with live performances by singer Preta Gil, pop rock

band Jota Quest and duo César Menotti & Fabiano.

→ Sixth Ave and 42nd St (brazilianday.com). Sun 4 1–6pm; free.



West Side County Fair

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You don't have to move out to the boonies to enjoy a good ol' county fair. Just head west toward the Hudson River for carnival rides, games, live bands and sideshow performers (including aerialists). Don't forget the cotton candy! → Riverside Park at W 7th St (nycgovparks.org). Sun 4 1–6pm; free.

LIES TO TELL TOURISTS

Did you know that a real-life New York creep inspired Andrew Lloyd Webber to write *The Phantom of the Opera*? In the late 19th century, a rich patron of the arts attended every performance of *La Bohème* at the Metropolitan Opera House (featuring the ravishing prima donna Mimi) in a beaded pearl mask. He showered Mimi with gifts, but never spoke to her, which she found terrifying. It was only when he waited after the show one night with a morbid present—a necklace made of alligator teeth—that she asked him to leave her be. No one ever saw him, or the mask, again.



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