



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**The Grand 1894 Opera House**  
2020 Postoffice Street  
Galveston Island, Texas 77550  
www.thegrand.com / 409-763-7173 / 800-821-1894

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Piel, Event Coordinator,  
409.770.5066;

email:spiel@thegrand.com

Press Contact: Robyn Bushong, 409.744.7848

Email: rbush1147@aol.com

### **22ND ANNUAL GRAND KIDS FESTIVAL SET FOR APRIL 1ST IN CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN GALVESTON**

**GALVESTON ISLAND, TEXAS (8 March 2017.)** Celebrating the 22nd year of showcasing the arts to area families, this year's Grand Kids Festival, hosted by The Grand 1894 Opera House, takes place Saturday, April 1, 2017. The Festival will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Postoffice Street - from 20th to 23rd streets - in Galveston's historic downtown Cultural Arts District. Admission to the Festival is free.

In addition to two special performances of the Missoula Children's Theatre's performance of "Aladdin," the Festival will feature the popular Tipi Tellers telling historical and cultural stories from their giant tipi; entertainment by well-known puppeteer, Dru Woods; the chance to learn the art of spinning a yo-yo, a petting zoo, bubble pond, and food booths. Also, family-friendly performances by student choirs, dance groups, bands and musicians, along with professional family entertainment, plus over 50 booths - that showcase hands-on arts - round out the day's activities providing fun for children of all ages.

Highlights of the 2017 festival include performances by internationally-recognized, award-winning singer and author Johnette Downing. Dubbed the "Piped Piper of Louisiana Music traditions," Downing entertains with her "gumbo" of Cajun, Creole, Zydeco and Jazz- influenced songs.

New entertainment will include Tom's Fun Band - an interactive musical group which consists of acoustic guitar, ukulele, bass and drums and features the original songs of group founder, Tom Wilbeck. Also new will be an amazing drum circle with Dan Egger-Belandria and New World Synergy. This high-energy multicultural presentation infuses "explosive drumming" while demonstrating how Western culture has evolved through drumming and dance traditions. And, representatives from Beaumont's Gator Country will educate attendees about alligators and reptiles in our local area.

The Grand Kids Festival is the largest FREE art-focused children's event on the Gulf Coast. The Festival grounds will be free to the public as well as inflatables, petting zoo, and giant zip line. A fee will be charged for some activities and booths, such as food and face painting. For more information about the open audition for "Aladdin" or The Grand Kids Festival, visit [www.thegrand.com/TheGrandKidsFest](http://www.thegrand.com/TheGrandKidsFest), or call 409.770.5066, 409.765.1894 or 800.821.1894.

####

**PHOTO CUTLINE -**

**The 22nd Annual Grand Kids Festival, hosted by The Grand 1894 Opera House, is set for Saturday, April 1st in the Cultural Arts District of historic downtown Galveston. Festival hours are 10am-5pm. This fun, family festival features hands-on arts and craft activities for children of all ages, family-friendly live performances by student choirs, dance groups, bands and musicians; two special performances of the Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Aladdin" and so much more. Admission is free! For more information, visit [www.thegrand.com/TheGrandKidsFest](http://www.thegrand.com/TheGrandKidsFest), or call 409.765.1894 or 800.821.1894. (All Photos by Robyn Bushong.)**