

## **Strong Women, Horse Acts and Mind Reading**

This year marks the third annual Lawrence Busker Festival, a celebration of street performing in the downtown district of Lawrence, Kansas. Last year saw record crowds turn out to see a variety of acts that included sword swallows, fire eaters, jugglers, dancers, musicians and mimes.

This year's line up of acts include a return engagement by Mama Lou Strongwoman who bent rods and broke hearts with her feats of strength and positive motivation at last year's festival. This Kansas native turned world traveler, bested her rivals by becoming a human tug-of-war and ripping up a phonebook before her opponent could even tear a page. Along with the show of strength, she gave encouragement for kids, especially girls, who may one day be strong women and men. She comes back stronger than ever with more amazing skills and motivations to this year's Busker Festival.

El Glenno Grande also will be coming to Lawrence to do a little horsing around on his own. El Glenno is the stage name of Glen Singer, internationally known physical comedian and street performer. His one man act is the comic portrayal of a gentrified horseman and his obliging steed. El Glenno Grande makes the street the stage and attempts to show off the finer skills of horsemanship while overcoming a few set backs along the way. His horse is actually a cleverly built costume that allows him to be both jockey and steed. The sight alone of this is enough to start you laughing. "His skill at making the most absurd situation seem possible and fully engaging the audience in it is unsurpassed" said Richard Renner, the festival's producer, "El Glenno will have the audience eating out of his horse's hand". Glen has taken his unequalled equestrian show to every continent for street and stage performances and will be doing 4 shows at the Lawrence Busker Festival.

Minds will be read, metal will bend, and ghosts will walk in an act of Bizarre theater. Prepare to question what you believe as Paranormalist Michael Morales performs traditional feats of mentalism and telekinesis, live on our streets. Come see him perform his amazing skills and mess with your mind at our festival late at night. Ten years ago, Kansas City West Bottoms resident Michael Morales, an Indonesian martial artist and dreadlocked trendsetter, organized freak shows. With a network of killer clowns, fire-eaters and burlesque dancers a phone call away, Morales took what he calls the "little bit of carny" he had in him and entertained the masses. A motorcycle accident at the end of 2004 switched his focus, altered his brain and gave him, he says, "the ability to bend metal." Witness a shorn, clean-cut Morales execute acts of subliminal influence, mentalism and telekinesis in a street show that, according to him, is "not recommended for religious fundamentalists or kids under 16." No volunteers will be asked to come onstage, but a high level of audience participation is required

for this intellectually challenging performance.

The Busker Festival runs from August 20th to the 22nd on 5 stages in the downtown Lawrence area. Performances will be scheduled at various places along Massachusetts Street for late Friday night, Saturday morning, late afternoon and evening. On Sunday you can see the buskers as they help out at the Kansas Fiddling Championships in nearby South Park. Workshops and demos for kids will be held Saturday morning August 21st at the Lawrence Arts Center for anyone wanting to know more about the unusual life of a street performer.

Face painting, chalk art and balloon artists will also add to the entertaining environment to make this a real treat for anyone willing to be there. For more information call Richard Renner at 785-749-2226 or go to [www.lawrencebuskerfest.com](http://www.lawrencebuskerfest.com)