Drew Shoots the City

Ms. Barrymore, Tim Gunn and 82 More Celebs Snap a Stunning NYC
Your perfect Labor Day weekend

Friday, Sept 4
You don’t have to head to Belmar this Labor Day weekend to go on a “trip.” Take one inside Central Park with The Buddha Prince (enter at Central Park West and 103rd St, Fri 4–5:30pm; Sat 5–6pm, donation $10), an outdoor walking play that tells the story of the Dalai Lama’s life.

Tonight, the Brick debuts Amuse Bouche: A NY Clown Theatre Festival Hors D’Oeuvre (575 Metropolitan Ave between Lorimer St and Union Ave, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, bricktheater.com, Fri 4–Sept 27), a series of bite-size performances. Canarsie Suite: At the Edge of Vaudeville (Fri 4, Sat 5 at 8pm; Sept 11, 12 at 10pm) involves guillotines, knife throwing, and song and dance.

Saturday, Sept 5
You’ve probably passed Monster Island on your way to the L train, but now you can finally explore it. The art building opens its doors for the Monster Island Block Party (Kent Ave at Metropolitan Ave, Williamsburg, Brooklyn; 917 860 8282; 2–10pm, former), hosted by nonprofit gallery Secret Project Robot. Expect performances from 15 bands, art openings (check out “The Sky Show” at SIR), and an all-day barbecue courtesy of Mollusk Surf Shop.

Ditch your precious DVR for cabinallo-farrar’s video-DVD-TV installation Venerations (Applause 1), which closes today at the Chelsea Art Museum (556 W 22nd St at Eleventh Ave, 212-256-0179) and features clapping audio from talk, reality and celebrity shows. Hooraay for…you!

Sunday, Sept 6
Why watch people run when you can watch tugboats tug? Approximately 20 vessels will dot the Hudson River during the Great North River Tugboat Race and Competition at Hudson River Park (shoreside viewing from Hudson River Park and Pier 84 at 44th St and Riverside Park South; 212-757-1600, workingharbor.org; 9:30am–2:30pm). Afterwards, crews will morph into nautical cowboys and attempt tolasso a cleat on the pier. Ahoy!

Or mix maritime pleasures with artistic delights and grab a free ferry to the second annual Governors Island Art Fair (Battery Maritime Building, 10 South St near the Staten Island ferry; visit govisland.com for a schedule; Sat 5–Sept 27; Sun, Sat 11am–6pm; Sat 5 reception 3–4pm, from), presented by theheads Collective. Tour pieces from a mix of independent artists, performers and international galleries, showcased within the island’s now-abandoned army barracks.

Monday, Sept 7
Earn your extra day off by touring the various spots and haunts of the labor movement. Big Onion’s We Built New York: A Labor History Tour (meet at the northeast corner of Fifth Ave and Washington Sq North, 212-349-2090, 2pm, $12–$15) stops at the sites of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and the first Labor Day Parade, among others.

No time to rest those barking dogs of yours—now that you’re thoroughly enlightened, journey back to Brooklyn for Beats & BBQ: The Labor Day Send Off at Art Land Bar (609 Grand St between Leonard and Lorimer Sts, Williamsburg, Brooklyn; myspace.com/artlandbar; 4–10pm, free). Grub from Daddo’s Little Grill is free with the purchase of a beverage, and you can groove to soulful dance music from DJ Dawn Aneas and DJ Adastra in between face stuffing. Say so long to summer with a full stomach and a haze wave goodbye.—Sharon Steele

Best of the fests

Fri 4–Mon 7
The 2009 Coney Island Rockabilly Festival
Country and punk music collide at this third annual showcase of more than 100 psychobilly bands: Catch the Memphis Morbids and others on Friday 4 (Rpm; $12–$15), then gawk at scantily clad flesh at the Big Burlesque Blow Out (Sat 5 at 8pm; $20–$25) and Miss Pin Up Coney Island contest (Mon 7 at noon; free). Cha Cha’s Coney Island Boardwalk at Stillwell Ave, Brooklyn (myspace.com/cockalily_records; 88–860).

Fri 4–Sun 6
Howl Festival
Has the East Village/Lower East Side lost its soul? Howl, not! A 24-hour reading of Allen Ginsberg’s namesake poem (Fri 4–6:30pm) is the crux of this annual arts fest, but the jam-packed weekend also includes Jackie Factory’s Low Life 3: Viper Mad, a theatrical review about the Bowery’s debaucherous history (Sun 6–5:30pm), and a Hip Hop Howl show and a small-press fair. FREE Tomykins Square Park, Ave A between 7th and 10th Sts (howlfestival.com).

Sat 5, Sun 6
Brazilian Day Festival
Sip on your caipirinhas and flip-flop to Timas Square for the 25th anniversary of Brazil’s Independence Day, which transforms Little Brazil (Timas Square east) into a celebration with samba dancers, Brazilian bands, and traditional food stands. You may even spot the next Gisele Bündchen at the Brazilian Day Music Festival (at the Brazilian Day Music Festival pagetem; free). For more information, visit brazilday.net.com. Sat, Sun 10am–7pm.—Cristina Bocchi