

# BALTIMORE

## A New Kind of Rock Opera

WHO KNEW LIFE IN THE MEDIEVAL ERA WAS SO GROOVIN'?

IF THE STORY OF JESUS CHRIST can be successfully adapted into a “superstar” contemporary musical, why not the parables surrounding the courts of Byzantine emperors?

In June, the Baltimore Rock Opera Society takes on *Amphion*, a rock 'n' roll tragedy set in Constantinople in the year 532 that fuses spectacle of music, dance and blood.

The society is a group of musicians who call themselves The BROS. For this production they have assembled a 12-piece band to play surf, psychedelic and arena rock songs with heavy world-music influences. A rock chorus raises the intensity to a frenzied pitch, and an ensemble of dancers interprets and characterizes the emotion onstage.

The story follows the captivating Amphion, a court musician to the Emperor Justinian, who on the eve of a historic peace with the Persian Empire

finds himself torn between his patriotic duties and his newfound love for a powerful ambassador's daughter. Amphion's songwriting prowess swayed the people of Constantinople in wartime and won him the affections of the beautiful Nasreen. Now he finds himself caught between cultural and political boundaries. Will his talent and charisma be enough to save him from a dreaded fate?

This is contemporary theater at its finest. And hippest. The crowd is

largely 20-somethings and millennials who think nothing of raising an ignited lighter in the middle of a song to show appreciation. June 10–26. [baltimorerockopera.org](http://baltimorerockopera.org)



A scene from *Amphion*.



John Waters

## Hairspray in Concert

John Waters narrates a “semi-staged” production of his award-winning, homegrown feature film and Broadway musical show—dramatized within a classical music performance—at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. *Hairspray* is the tale of a teen, plump and plain, who surprisingly wins a spot on a local Baltimore television dance show in the segregated 1960s and ultimately launches a campaign to integrate the show. The overriding premise was about outing prejudice of that era—not just racial but also the image-driven social snobbery and demographic divide that was prevalent throughout the city. Waters' narration is more than a retelling of the story; it's an entertaining epilogue peppered with the inspiration, back stories and anecdotes that surrounded the creation of the movie. The performance features full orchestra and vocalists alongside a Broadway cast in elaborate costumes and breathtaking staging. June 3–5. **410-783-8000**, [bsomusic.org](http://bsomusic.org)

For additional event, attraction, restaurant and hotel information, visit [baltimore.org](http://baltimore.org)



## SAVE the DATE

### CITYWIDE

#### 18TH ANNUAL MARYLAND FILM FESTIVAL

May 4–8

Catch the best new domestic and international film features and shorts. Events often include famous Maryland-native storytellers of screen like David Simon and John Waters. **410-752-8083**, [md-filmfest.com](http://md-filmfest.com)

### PIMLICO

#### RUNNING OF THE 141ST PREAKNESS STAKES

May 21

The middle jewel of thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown features a day of headlining music acts, horse races and local food vendors leading up to the main attraction at about 6 p.m. **410-542-9400**, [preakness.com](http://preakness.com)

### CITYWIDE

#### MARYLAND DEATHFEST XIV

May 26–29

A four-day heavy metal music festival featuring an international array of bands representing every realm of this underground music genre. [marylanddeathfest.com](http://marylanddeathfest.com)

### HAMPDEN

#### HONFEST

June 11–12

Heaps of beehive hairdos, quirky knickknacks and local food at the neighborhood of Hampden's famously flamboyant fest, celebrating “Bawlmer's” iconic mid-20th-century working women. [honfest.net](http://honfest.net)

### MOUNT CLARE

#### B&O RAILROAD AMERICAN GIRL WEEKEND

June 18–19

Girls and their dolls attend a tea party and ride a train to the Mount Clare Museum House to explore how American Girls lived during Revolutionary and Colonial times. **410-752-2490**, [borail.org](http://borail.org)