

BALTIMORE

The Best of Bawlmer

HONFEST PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE BIG HAIR AND QUIRKY DIALECTS OF 1950S AND '60S BALTIMORE WOMEN

"HONS" DECKED OUT IN BEEHIVE HAIRDOS AND CAT-EYED GLASSES celebrate the city's mid-20th-century working women and all things "Bawlmer" in HonFest, one of Baltimore's most popular street festivals. During the 22nd annual festival June 13–14, the streets of Baltimore's Hampden neighborhood are filled with living relics made famous in the film and musical *Hairspray*. Women—and men in "hon" drag—saunter down 36th Street (known to locals as "The Avenue") adopting the iconic attire and quirky accents of the 1950s and early '60s Baltimore working-class woman.

The term "hon" is a shortened, endearing version of "honey," used then by women when addressing neighbors, friends and family and still tossed around today in tongue-in-cheek conversation. The costumed Hons—sport-



A contestant vying to be crowned Baltimore's Best Hon at HonFest.

ing leopard prints, heavy false eyelashes, brightly painted lips and tossing out phrases in Bawlmerese—compete in contests like Little Miss Honette (for ages 3 to 7) and Best Beehive, hoping to be crowned Baltimore's Best Hon. Live music, both nostalgic and current, plays throughout the festival, which includes a dance party Saturday night. Offerings from food vendors include local specialties like crab cakes, snowball ice treats and "Natty Boh" beer. At a glamour lounge, you can even get your own beehive. honfest.net



California Chrome, ridden by Victor Espinoza, races to the finish line en route to winning the 139th Preakness Stakes.

Baltimore's Peak Performance

Even in a city crazy about its hometown sports teams, the Preakness—the middle jewel of thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown—is the largest single-day sporting event. This year's race will be May 16 at Pimlico Race Course. The infield gates open at 8 a.m., kicking off Infieldfest ("The People's Party"), a day filled with music acts, contests, activities and food from local vendors. The main event, the running of the 140th Preakness Stakes, takes place at 6 p.m. Want to experience Pimlico without the pandemonium? Head to the track a day earlier for Black-Eyed Susan Day and a race for the nation's top 3-year-old fillies. The 91st annual event is dedicated to the empowerment of women, featuring a women's health festival, an afternoon of filly races and a concert in the infield. **410-542-9400; preakness.com**

For additional event, attraction, restaurant and hotel information, visit baltimore.org



SAVE the DATE

FEDERAL HILL

KINETIC SCULPTURE RACE

May 2

Human-powered, amphibious, all-terrain art vehicles race around the streets and parks of Baltimore before splashing down into the Inner Harbor and floating to the finish. **410-244-1900; kineticbaltimore.com**

CITYWIDE

MARYLAND FILM FESTIVAL

May 6–10

Original documentaries, short films and features are screened in search of the newest wunderkind filmmaker like famous Baltimoreans John Waters and Barry Levinson. **410-752-8083; md-filmfest.com**

FEDERAL HILL

JAZZ, BLUES, WINE & ART FEST

June 7

Hear innovative homegrown jazz and blues in the city that produced Eubie Blake and Ethel Ennis with music on two stages, plus local art, wine and food. **410-727-4500; historicfederalhill.org**

INNER HARBOR

CHESAPEAKE CRAB & BEER FESTIVAL

June 13

Taste hard-shell, soft-shell and hard-fry crab; steamed shrimp; famous Old Bay seasoning and regional wines, craft brews and ciders at the annual festival, which also includes live music and a 5K Crab Run. **800-830-3976; mdcrabfest.com**

CAMDEN YARDS

AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL

June 20–21

The largest African-American festival on the East Coast features musical performances by headliners and emerging artists, cultural food, family activities and financial, professional and wellness seminars. **410-244-8861; africanamericanfestival.net**