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# **First Festival & New \$7 Million Ride Kick-Off Silver Dollar City's 50<sup>th</sup> Year**

*World-Fest Features Fiery Fiddles, Balancing Monks, Fire Limbo  
April 8 – May 9*

(Branson, Mo. 3/10) **Silver Dollar City's 50<sup>th</sup> celebration goes global for World-Fest featuring *Fiery Fiddles*, fire limbo and a Mexican dance troupe, *all new* for the park's international festival. Plus, the **Zhejiang Balancing Monks of China** return, one of the festival's most popular groups ever, presenting awe-inspiring acrobatics, all during **World-Fest, April 8 – May 9**, at the Branson, Missouri theme park.**

**Additionally, as part of the 50th Celebration, Silver Dollar City features its new \$7 million ride *Tom & Huck's RiverBlast*, a super-soaking water raft ride themed around the adventures of fun-loving, mischief-makers Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. With RiverBlast opening Spring 2010, some of the first riders will be from all across the globe, as World-Fest performers take to the waters of the Mighty White River in what is promising to be America's Biggest Water Battle.**

**World-Fest's new *Fiery Fiddles* showcases the world's only aerialist fiddler, Janice Martin, who plays as she soars above the stage, along with Nova Scotia's champion fiddler, Jennifer Roland, renowned for her country-style fiddling and step-dancing. Also new are the Trinidad Drums & Dance show with fire limbo, stilt dancing and steel drums, and the Calpulli Danza Mexicana, a 16-member dance troupe, presenting the colorful costumes, high-energy dances and mariachi music of Mexico.**

The Zhejiang Balancing Monks and their troupe of two dozen acrobats perform amazing feats of balance, agility and strength in shows that drew top ratings with park guests in their U.S. debut at World-Fest last year. Additional returning groups include a Russian brass band, Gauchos dancers and drummers from Argentina, pan-flute musicians from Ecuador, Ireland's premier harpist, and an Austrian yodeler.

"We continually bring new groups to World-Fest so our guests can experience new cultures and unique ethnic entertainment every year, as well as enjoy their favorite returning

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groups,” says World-Fest Coordinator Rex Burdette. “Plus, our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday weekend falls within World-Fest and our new ride is debuting, so we have an opportunity to celebrate in multiple ways with our friends from around the world.”

The 1<sup>st</sup> of May weekend is the **Birthday Celebration Weekend**, filled with events including a parkwide birthday party, special concerts with the *Ozark Mountain Daredevils* on April 30, the official debut of the new *Great American Country Nights* evening show May 1, and a special *Night of Praise* concluding the events on May 2. Guests can sample the official Silver Dollar City Birthday Cake, chosen by a national recipe contest conducted through *Taste of Home* magazine.

Throughout World-Fest, **dining is an international experience at *Tastes of the World***, a pavilion of global specialties. Guests can feast on selections such as Irish stew, Mexican carnitas, Greek salads, Ecuadorian skillet, and desserts from German apple dumplings to tiramisu.

For those who want to learn the art of international cuisine, **Silver Dollar City’s Culinary & Craft School** offers classes on international specialties including *A Mexican Fiesta* and *East Meets West – Cashew Chicken*. Classes are offered within the 3,000 square-foot timber frame house with its state-of-the-art kitchen showroom and Craftsmen’s Showcase room furnished with the work of the park’s expert craftsmen. Class schedules are available on the website, [www.silverdollarcity.com](http://www.silverdollarcity.com).

***World-Fest, April 8 – May 9, presented by Humana***, is open Wednesdays through Sundays. For information: 800-831-4386 or visit [www.silverdollarcity.com](http://www.silverdollarcity.com).

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**NOTE TO PRESS:**

Saturday, May 1, is Silver Dollar City’s 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party! For working press on assignment, the party is at noon in Echo Hollow with dignitaries and performers. Save the date and plan to come. For details, call 417-338-8210.