



artsmart

The **International African Art Festival** features arts and crafts vendors, food and music. Kids can listen to storytelling or participate in a youth talent search. Today through Monday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Commodore Barry Park, **Brooklyn**. Free, 718-638-6700, iaafestival.org

nycpicks



BLOOMBERG PHOTO

The city skyline as a light show

fireworks

The annual Independence Day festivities begin Monday at 9 p.m., and the best viewing spots are below 59th Street with an unobstructed view of the sky.

WEST SIDE HIGHWAY

WHAT The most popular viewing sites are along 12th Avenue and the West Side Highway from 22nd Street to 59th Street. Also, two of the Hudson River piers — Piers 54 and 84 — are open for viewing. Arrive early; piers close upon reaching capacity.

WHEN | WHERE Access points are along 11th Avenue at 24th Street, 26th to 30th streets, 34th Street, 40th to 44th streets, 47th to 52nd streets, and 54th to 57th streets. Pier 54 entry: 14th Street. Pier 84 entry: 44th Street.

INFO Free

ON THE WATER

WHAT Get a little closer to the action on a NY Waterway July Fourth Cruise. Perched on a boat in New York Harbor, the action will soar around you. Food and drink available for purchase while a DJ keeps the vibe going.

WHEN | WHERE Cruises board at 6 p.m. from multiple locations in New York and New Jersey.

INFO \$80, \$70 (kids 3-12), nywaterway.com

ABOVE THE FRAY

WHAT The rooftop terrace at midtown hotel Ink48 offers Hudson River views that rank among the best. If you're looking to spend a bit of cash, an open bar and a buffet await.

WHEN | WHERE 6-10 p.m., 653 11th Ave. at 48th Street.

INFO \$300, ink48.com or email reservations@printrestaurant.com

— MARIE ELENA MARTINEZ

BY JEANNE FURY
Special to Newsday

The dog days of summer are around the corner. If you're going to sweat, you deserve to be entertained while doing so. These free outdoor shows in New York City this month should distract you from the rising temperatures.

1 RAEKWON + SMIF-N-WESSUN

WHAT One of Wu-Tang Clan's most critically acclaimed MCs, Raekwon has a storytelling style that's Hitchcockian in its ability to put listeners on edge. Released Tuesday, Smif-N-Wessun's new album, "Monumental," was one of the year's most-anticipated releases. Expect throngs of hip-hop die-hards to come out of the woodwork. With Joell Ortiz

WHEN | WHERE Saturday, July 9 at 7:30 p.m. Prospect Park Bandshell, Prospect Park West and Ninth Street, Brooklyn

INFO prospectpark.org

2 PATTI SMITH

WHAT Smith merged poetry and music onstage at CBGB before the word punk existed, but she's hardly tired of telling stories, as her recent award-winning book, "Just Kids," made clear. A riveting performer with an ace sense of humor, Smith still delights in bringing power to the people. Free, but tickets are required (available online or two per person at the entrance the day of show).

WHEN | WHERE Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m. Castle Clinton at Battery Park, State Street and Battery Place

INFO rivertorivernyc.com

3 4KNOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

WHAT The Siren Fest at Coney Island is no longer, but the Village Voice is still providing plenty of free music with the 4Knots Festival. The inaugural event features dark psych rockers the Black Angels, local anthemic punks Titus Andronicus, and Davila 666, a Puerto Rican six-piece that plays fuzzy, '60s-influenced garage rock. With: Oberhofer + Eleanor Friedberger.

WHEN | WHERE Saturday, July 16 at



PHOTO BY STEVEN SEBRING

Patti Smith and her band will perform in Battery Park on July 14.



Raekwon plays Prospect Park.

1 p.m. Pier 17, South Street Seaport, 89 South St.

INFO villagevoice.com/4knots

4 METRONOMY

WHAT With the current crop of '80s-inspired acts liberally layering synths and effects pedals, this English electro-pop band stands out with minimal, tidy arrangements that give off a chic, über-cool air. Leave your Day-Glo clothes at home, and remember to iron your shirt. With: Class Actress

WHEN | WHERE Thursday, July 28 at 6 p.m. Pier 54, West Street and 13th Street

INFO riverrocksnyc.com



Damrosch Park hosts Lesley Gore.

5 PONDEROSA STOMP: SHE'S GOT THE POWER!

WHAT The years between Elvis and the British invasion belonged to girl groups, who played a major role in crafting what would become the definitive sound of rock and roll and youth culture. Lesley Gore, La La Brooks (the Crystals), Arlene Smith (the Chantels) and many more will revisit the songs of that sensational era.

WHEN | WHERE Saturday, July 30 at 5 p.m. Damrosch Park Bandshell, 70 W. 65 St.

INFO lcoutdoors.org