

A party for the world at Pacifica's Earth Day Festival

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The Pacifica Beach Coalition's 2013 Earth Day Environmental Festival begins at 11:30 am on Saturday. It includes a myriad of wonderful speakers, booths, activities and food. It also marks the fourth year that Ian Butler — Pacifican, musician, songwriter, environmentalist, comic, author and certified arborist — has been the man behind the Festival's entertainment. He will begin this year's show at 11:45 am with the Sardine Family Circus.

The Sardine Family Circus hails from England and currently calls Pacifica's RV park "home." Alex and his sister Meisje, are second generation acrobats, and are the youngest of eight siblings in a circus family. Their dad and mum started doing street shows in Europe 36 years ago. Family friend Kevin rounds out the San Francisco spinoff of the "Sardine" Family, a name John Griffiths (dad) came up with years back in the Ukraine, when the family was working with the British traveling troupe, the Tibetan Ukrainian Mountain Troupe. Apparently the entire Griffiths family was jammed into a rather small vehicle and when they got out, another member of the circus exclaimed, "Look, sardines!" The performers do many things that no one should try at home — balancing on each other's shoulders, aerial back flips, standing atop the highest rung of a ladder which is leaning against, nothing, and juggling on top of a 10-foot unicycle.

Frequent San Francisco street performers who have traveled the world, they were first discovered by Butler, when he noted one of the performers riding a unicycle to Safeway. They are proud to be a part of Pacifica's Earth Day celebration, a cause that they all agree, is close to their hearts.

At 12:30 p.m, Matt Jaffe & the Distractions climb on board the Earth Day stage. All from Marin County, the band members are Matt Jaffe on vocals and guitar, Sammie Fischer on bass and backing vocals, and Alex Coltharp on drums and backing vocals. Their producer is Jerry Harrison of Talking Heads fame. Fischer and Coltharp are 18. Jaffe turns 18 on Pacifica's Earth Day. Jaffe writes the band's songs and all three band mates determine the arrangements.

Well worth an online listening investigation, Jaffe describes their music as rock. "Although we genre-bend without shame, incorporating elements of reggae, punk, country, and pop," Jaffe said. "I usually think of our music as a modern update of my favorite artists, such as Elvis Costello, Talking Heads, The Clash, David Bowie - not that those artists need to be updated in any way!"

The band's venue résumé to date includes the Roxy Theatre in Hollywood, Sweetwater in Mill Valley, and Slim's in San Francisco.

"We are very excited to play at the beach in Pacifica," Jaffe said. "The whole concept of Earth Day resonates with the minimalist ethos of the band, as well as my personal leanings. As a vegetarian and someone who tries to bike places as frequently as possible (that is, when I don't need to lug a guitar and amp), it's a thrill to be able to combine my music with a crucial environmental cause. We are looking forward to supporting the Earth Day festivities while playing our first Pacifica show."

At 1:15 p.m, Brazilian born, long-time Pacifican, multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger and singer Celia Malheiros will take her musical story to the Earth Day stage. Malheiros, who has performed and recorded

with such legends as Hermeto Pascoal, João Bosco, Luiz Brasil, Thomas Clausen and Carlos Malta, will be performing solo on guitar, voice, Brazilian percussion (pandeiro, tamborim and agogo), and Peruvian percussion (cajon).

Malheiros, who has played all over the world, and locally at such places as Yoshi's, Brava Theater, and every Friday night at Pacifica's A Grape in the Fog, said six months ago she returned from a powerful music adventure in Brazil. For the second time she was invited to create music on an explorer expedition on the Amazon River. She also played all over her "first" hometown, Rio. The artist said she is honored to be a part of Pacifica's Earth Day.

"I am passionate about helping to keep this planet clean and beautiful as nature is itself. I am working on a new CD about the Amazon. It is based on indigenous tales and myths but that is really about our planet. I took the Amazon as a place to start and also because I am Brazilian and have indigenous background. Helping to bring out the awareness on our environment is part of my mission as a musician."

In 1992, Malheiros wrote a song for the first Earth Summit that was held in Brazil. That song, "Terra Mae" (Mother Earth), was played in 157 countries.

"We don't own the planet we are just one of the species that lives here!" Malheiros said. "We have a lot to learn from nature and also from the indigenous inhabitants as they are directly connected to nature and its sacred wisdom. The further we get from nature the more out of balance we become. I think the key is to inform and educate the new generations so they can help keep our amazing blue planet thrive."

Drifting Sand will arrive on the Earth Day stage at 2 p.m. Band mates are Surfer Spud on lead vocals and keyboards, Reefrider Bruce on surf guitar, Rider on beachin' bass and vocals, and Woodie on surf drums and vocals. Two of the band members live in Pacifica but all surf here and consider it home.

The band is celebrating its 20th anniversary and is in the midst of recording its third record "Summer Splash."

"Like our other two releases, it has songs about surf, sand, sun and summer — and beach girls too!" Surfer Spud said. "Our sound is what we call 'surfpop.' (Also the name of the band's first album.) We basically mix traditional 60s surf music with 80s new wave pop and hope the result is a fun summer music soundtrack for any generation to enjoy."

In the last six months, the band's venue lineup has included the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, a holiday party for Yelp, a "big antique warehouse" in San Francisco, and a surf night bar gig at the Pioneer Saloon in Woodside. They'll be playing the KFJC Battle of the Surf Bands at the Surf Spot Restaurant on May 18.

"We love Pacifica and all of its beaches and want to do everything we can to keep the community clean and involved in environmental affairs," Spud said. "We've all been doing beach cleanups for many years and truly believe it's up to each and every individual to make a difference in their community — and have fun along the way! This is the second Earth Day celebration in Pacifica we'll be at and we're as stoked as ever to be involved again. See you at the beach — surf's up!"

Saturday, April 20, Pacifica Beach Coalition Earth Day 2013. Earth Day Action: 9 to 11:30 a.m., Earth Day Environmental Festival at Linda Mar Beach, South Lot: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.