

Welcome to the

2011 Michigan Renaissance Festival

Take a time-travel adventure into the 16th century at the 32nd annual Michigan Renaissance Festival. Join our Queen Elizabeth in a jubilee! Inside our turreted gates, visitors enjoy the sights and sounds of a 17-acre village, complete with building reproductions of Renaissance shops and a magnificent castle. Continuous entertainment takes place on the streets, on 16 themed stages and fields; featuring full-contact armored jousting, comedy and theater shows, games, people-powered rides and so much more! Fabulous food and more than 195 artisans displaying their gallery-quality juried art complete the experience.

DATES & TIMES:

The 32nd annual Michigan Renaissance Festival takes place during seven weekends, including Labor Day, in 2011: August 20 – October 2. The village gates open at 10 a.m., officiated by the shire's beloved Queen, and closes at 7 p.m. With so much to see and do, Festival guests are encouraged to arrive early each day.



LOCATION:

Easy to find, the village of Hollygrove is located in Holly, Michigan, off I-75, Grand Blanc exit 106, on Dixie Highway between Pontiac and Flint, and borders Holly and Groveland townships. Just follow the signs to our expanded parking facilities. Guests are invited to park for free.

TICKETS:

At the Gate: Adult:\$19.95 In Advance: Adult:\$16.95

Children (5-12):\$10.95 Children (5-12):\$6.50

Children 4 years and under admitted FREE!

Seniors/Students:\$16.95

(Students: with proper school I.D. - Seniors: 60+ with I.D.).

SEASON PASSES: Adults: \$79.95 - Children (5-12) \$42.95

Royal Pass \$120.00 - available at the box office or in advance through our main office.

ATTENTION MEDIA:

For your convenience, Hollygrove has a special Media Entrance located to the left of the front gates. We ask that you bring proper credentials with you. Please contact the Marketing Department regarding interviews or photo opportunities you would like to schedule with Festival staff, entertainers and/or artisans.

Marketing Department: (248) 634-5552

PATRON DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

- Established: 1979
- Yearly Attendance: 200,000 - 250,000 people
- Festival runs: 16 days
- Patrons come from these regions:
 - 53% Detroit/Oakland/Macomb Area
 - 42% other areas in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, or Illinois
 - 70% of patrons' annual income is over \$40,000
 - 70% of patrons stay at the festival all day (9 hour duration)



Fantastic Special Events

BLACK STONE CASTLE CAFE

Our new Blackstone Castle Café offers gourmet sandwiches, salads and special themed dinner feasts daily! Reservations for the themed feasts are highly encouraged.

ROYAL HIGH TEA

It's Tea Time with the Royal Court! As a guest of the Queen, you will enjoy a light, four-course luncheon featuring scones, sandwiches and scrumptious desserts, as well as a selection of teas all while witnessing humorous entertainment. Her Majesty even honors you with a special souvenir! This special event takes place at 4:00 pm each day.

RENAISSANCE SMOKER

The Renaissance Smoker has an atmosphere fit for a king, knight or a peasant. Relish in a regal ambiance while enjoying quality cigars, a superb snack buffet, premium ales and unique entertainment all in a bawdy atmosphere! Held at 5:30 pm each day.



Peculiar Realities and Silly Stuff!

LIFE IN THE 1500s

- Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and were still smelling pretty good by June. However, if they started to smell not so sweet, the bride would carry a bouquet of flowers to hide the odor.
- Baths equaled a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and children, then finally the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it! Hence the saying, “Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.”
- England is a small country so they soon started running out of places to bury their dead. So they would dig up coffins and reuse the graves. They noticed while reopening many of the coffins that one out of 25 coffins would have scratch marks on the inside! They soon realized they had been burying people alive! To prevent this from happening in the future they would tie a string on the wrist of the dead, thread it through the coffin, up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would then sit in the graveyard all night to listen for the bell. Hence after working the “graveyard shift” they would know if someone was “saved by the bell” or if they were just a “dead ringer”.

Display your knowledge of the Renaissance period. When approached by any Renaissance character who has a witty comment, surprise him or her with a clever rebuttal by combining one word from each column, preceded by “Thou.” You’ll be guaranteed to stir some excitement and catch the outrageous villagers off-guard!

COLUMN 1

bawdy
vain
errant
frothy
wayward
warped
saucy
yeasty
bootless
recking
mammering

COLUMN 2

beetle-headed
flap-mouthed
dizzy-eyed
half-witted
ill-nurtured
sheep-biting
weak-hinged
weather-bitten
common-kissing
pox-marked
fly-bitten

COLUMN 3

foot-licker
apple-john
flap-dragon
horn beast
measle
pignut
snipe
wagtail
barnacle
wheyface
vassal

Interview Opportunities

QUEEN ELIZABETH GLORIANNA

Caroline Jett, Florida - Tampa Bay Area

Caroline Jett has been a professional actor longer than she cares to admit... over 25 years! She is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and has appeared in numerous films, television shows and commercials. Because she loves stage and improvisation, Caroline found the perfect blend when she began performing 16 years ago with the Bay Area Renaissance Festival in Largo and Tampa, Florida as well as the Medieval Fair in Sarasota, Florida over seven years ago. Although it means being away from home for an extended period, Caroline is thrilled to be back for an amazing 12th year playing Queen Elizabeth at the Michigan Renaissance Festival.



LORD HIGH MAYOR

DAYYFFYDD DEANNGGLLYNN

David Harris, Flint - Michigan

In 1982 Dave was first cast as The Lord High Mayor. Since his character is Welsh, he did some research and came up with his character's name, nobody has gotten it right since! In 1987 he married Sue Amidon, an artist at the festival. Their children (Shawn, Christina, and Christopher) all have been part of the festival since a very young age. Shawn has been with MRF for 25+ seasons, Christopher for 20+ seasons. Christina 'retired' from MRF after 15 seasons. This is Dave's 30th season with the festival and his ninth officially as Special Events Coordinator. In "real" life Dave is a Configurable Networking Computing Administrator (self proclaimed computer geek) at BrassCraft LLC.

Sensational Themed Weekends

ENJOY DIFFERENT SPECIAL EVENTS AND RENAISSANCE THEMES EVERY FESTIVAL WEEKEND!

BUCCANEER BEER FEST (August 20 - 21)

- Pet Fest
- Beer Tasting
- Jack Sparrow Look Alike Contest
- Tattoo Contest

HIGHLAND FLING (August 27 - 28)

- US Canadian Highland Games
- Men in Kilts Competition
- Celtic Village

ROYAL ALE FEST (September 3, 4 & 5)

- BBQ Competition
- Microbrew Beer Tasting
- Clam Bake

WONDERS OF THE WORLD (September 10 - 11)

- Belly Dance Competition
- Wine Tasting
- Sign Language Weekend

ITALIAN CARNIVALE (September 17 - 18)

- Wine Tasting
- Arm Wrestling Competition
- Chili Cook Off

FESTIVAL FRIDAY/MASQUERADE BALL

(September 23)

- Educational activities for students
- Night time Festival Celebration

HARVEST HUZZAH (September 24 - 25)

- Traditional Archery Competition
- Homebrew Competition
- Beer Tasting

SWEET ENDINGS (October 2 - 3)

- Chocolate Festival
- Fencing Competition
- Juggling Competition



Michigan Renaissance Festival

For 32 years, the Michigan Renaissance Festival has provided Holly with a unique venue that regularly attracts more than 220,000 visitors from Michigan and surrounding states. When the Festival first began back in 1979 on the grounds of Columbiere in Clarkston, Michigan, the Renaissance Festival attracted under 11,000 patrons during our 5 weekend event. Years later the Festival found a more permanent home where it currently stands, just 12 miles south of Flint on Dixie Highway. The pageantry of a 16th century village is evident in the wide variety of activities. Entertainment is not only featured on sixteen stages, but in the lanes and on an interactive level with the patrons. From peasants to royalty, the people of the village of Hollygrove visit with guests to provide a day to remember! Highlights include the thrilling full contact joust with armored knights and horses, the intensity of the Human Combat Chess Match and the hilarity of acts like the Washing Well Wenches, Ded Bob and Ample and Trite. The Realm is filled with amazingly talented artisans who offer their unique wares and often share their skills in craft demonstrations. Beautiful glassware, crafted leather, exotic jewelry and Renaissance clothing are just a few examples of the masterpieces that can be found in the marketplace. Visitors are advised to skip breakfast and save their appetite for the fresh baked goods, soup in a bread bowl, Scotch eggs, apple dumplings and of course, the famous turkey legs that are cooked over an open flame. The array of foods is overwhelming and sure to satisfy any cravings! It is truly fun for the whole family since the Renaissance Festival also offers games, human-powered rides, and a Children's Realm that features a castle playscape as well as free activities for younger visitors.

The Michigan Renaissance Festival invites everyone to celebrate along with us as we enter our 32nd season. Huzzah and cheers for 32 years!

