

32ND SOLANO STROLL
SOLANO AVENUE, ALBANY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2006

Staffers took the Official Jitney out to attend the two biggest and most notable Season faires. The Official Island-Life Jitney is an occasionally painted Mazda possessed of a demoniacal smoking transmission and erratic electrics which long since have succumbed to the blandishments of a mischievous succubus imp. This vehicle wheezed to the top of Mountain Boulevard, glided briefly along the sidewalk there, scattering pedestrians and poodles in its wake before coming to a stop with a belch of smoke in the free lot provided by the locality for the Event. Stopped in first to the nestled nook of Montclair for its Jazz and Wine fest. Aubin cellars won our prize for Best of Show with a capable and smooth Pinot Noir, limited edition, with robust flavor, depth of character and evocative aromas. The Jazz was largely West Coast swing situated on three stages and of no particular note at either one. Still, the location set among the pines of Monclair's hills was not a bad place to while away an afternoon. Beer tix were \$4 per glass and wine went at \$5 per glass plus \$3 per "taste". A taste consisted of 1/3 glass of a standard glass.

From the hoity-toity, we descended in our primer-streaked, smoking hulk of clashing valves and complaining pistons to the Albany plains and the hoi polloi, which featured some two miles of Solano Avenue from San Pablo in Albany to The Alameda in Berkeley. It is not only the largest open air street festival in California, it is the largest in the country. Every cross street was blockaded the entire length, allowing hundreds of musicians and vendors to dominate the annual Solano Stroll, a feast of food, artifacts and sounds. The festival is the largest in the Bay Area and typically attracts fractions of a million of people when the weather behaves. Sunday, the sun shone and the throngs thronged.

Here Adrien West performs all of Ravel's "Bolero". Solo. With aid of Casio loop.



We took in several acts ranging from politely ambitious to truly accomplished. Among the latter we include the Brazilian jazz combo Girl Talk, and the Latin flavored Incendio.



Incendio, a duo consisting of Jorge Duarte and Jeffrey Stubblefield with percussion, tosses in sambas and canciones that really cook with excitement.

Their live CD "dia y noche" is available from [www. incendiomusic.com](http://www.incendiomusic.com).

We have written about Girltalk before and find that Valerie Bach's artistry continues to deepen with her continuous explorations into various styles.

