



## Counting Crows, Hootie & the Blowfish set to open The 155<sup>th</sup> Great Allentown Fair

*Dual bill of eclectic rock bands play on Preview Night August 28*

### For Immediate Release

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*Allentown, Pa.*— The Counting Crows and Hootie & the Blowfish, two eclectic rock bands that took turns dominating the radio waves in the '90s, will open The 155<sup>th</sup> Great Allentown Fair on August 28.

Tickets for this show go on sale Saturday, June 2. They are \$50 and \$45.

A newcomer to the Fair, the Counting Crows' peak recording period yielded such fan favorites as "Roun' Here," "Mr. Jones," "Rain King," and "A Long December." In 2003, the band scored an Oscar nomination with "Accidentally in Love" from the Shrek 2 soundtrack.

Regarded as an exceptional touring band that routinely alters its standard sets and song arrangements to keep each live show unique, the Crows' vivacious performances are punctuated by lead singer Adam Duritz's passionate vocals and engaging stories on stage.

Last summer's CD release, "New Amsterdam: Live at Heineken Music Hall 2003," apparently reminded Crows' followers of the band's live performance magnetism. Paired with the Goo Goo Dolls, they hit the road selling an average of 10,000 tickets a night for one of the most successful tours in 2006.

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The Bay Area band is made up of Duritz, David Immergluck, David Bryson, Jim Borgios, Charles Gullingham and Dan Vickrey.

Hootie & the Blowfish exploded on the music scene in 1994 with its album “Cracked Rear View” going platinum 16 times. The compilation produced “Hold My Hand,” “Let Her Cry,” “Time” and what has become the band’s anthem, “Only Wanna Be With You.”

The band from South Carolina took home “Best New Artist” recognition from the 1996 Grammy Awards. A year later, its rendition of “I Go Blind,” a song originally recorded by a Canadian group, turned out to be a surprise hit off of the TV series “Friends” album soundtrack. Hootie brought out a live album in 2006, “Live in Charleston: The Homegrown Concert Event.”

Hootie’s highly identifiable lead singer, Darius Rucker, was a presenter on the recent Academy of Country Music Awards, informing the audience that he plans to embark on a solo country career in the fall to augment his career as Hootie’s frontman.

The three other band members are Mark Bryan, Dean Felber, and Jim “Soni” Sonefeld.

June 2 is also the first day of ticket sales for the Fair’s Wednesday, August 29 previously announced show, the Badboys of Rock Tour featuring Hinder, Papa Roach and Buckcherry. Tickets for this show are \$35.

Tickets still remain for the Fair’s Thursday, August 29 show with Brad Paisley and special guests Taylor Swift, Jack Ingram and Kellie Pickler as well as the Saturday, September 1 American Idols Live! 2007 show.

Additional information is available by calling 610-433-7541 or by visiting the Fair’s Web site at [www.allentownfairpa.org](http://www.allentownfairpa.org).

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