

City's NYE Celebration: Do they 'got what you need'?

Written by Staff Writer

Thursday, 13 December 2012 11:27 -



A live concert. Fireworks. A midnight countdown. Great food and drink. A spot to watch the college bowl games. Basically everything you'd expect from a first-class New Year's party, right in the middle of downtown Columbia, South Carolina.

The date is certain, the schedule in place, and finally, the bands have been announced. City of Columbia's Famously Hot New Year is raring to go, barring any Mayan prophecy actualization.

This year's lineup promises to deliver for the entire city's demographic, with national and local acts that will dazzle and light up the night to compliment the fireworks display.

Columbia-based artists Reggie Sullivan and Terence Young and The Finesse Band will be performing at Famously Hot New Year. Sullivan has performed with musical legends such as Olivia Newton-John, Wycliffe Gordon, and Herlin Riley. In May 2012, Reggie released his first solo album, "Together." Terence Young and The Finesse Band boast some of the best musicians in the Carolinas: band leader and guitarist Terence Young, lead vocalist Eric Mayweather, pianist Byron Counts and bassman Sam Jenkins combine their smooth styles of Motown, jazz, and R&B soul perfectly. The group has shared the stage with legendary acts The Temptations, Ashford and Simpson, The Ojays and others.

Headlining the event will be The Wallflowers, Atlantic Starr, and DJ Biz Markie.

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Atlantic Starr is the class-act quartet that always has and always will deliver strong! The sound of these established hit makers features powerhouse harmonics and potent lead vocals soaring over dynamic, soulful rhythmic tracks. Known for hits such as "Always" and "Secret Lovers," their trademark ballads have made Atlantic Starr a musical force.

The group's latest single is "My Best Friend," from their album *Metamorphosis*. The album is a testament to the growth and progression in their songwriting, and shows their relentless commitment to artistic excellence. Longtime fans, rest assured—enticing ballads like "Am I Dreaming" and "If Your Heart Isn't In It" are very much a part of this new musical adventure!

Atlantic Starr is made up of original members Wayne Lewis and Jonathan Lewis, along with Melessa Pierce, and L' John Epps.

The legendary DJ Biz Markie has been beat boxing his way into hip hop fans' heads and hearts for more than 26 years. With work that includes the Billboard Top 10 hit "Just a Friend," Biz delivers humorous, witty rhymes that make him loveable and admired by music fans all over.

He currently DJs in club and concert venues all over the world and boasts a fan base that stretches from New York City to Japan to Europe.

Born to embrace hip-hop, Biz is originally from Harlem. He later moved to Long Island, where he gained notoriety by his early teen years for beat boxing and rhyming. At the age of 14, Marcel Hall dazzled his neighborhood under the alias of Biz Markie. His made his music scene debut in 1985 beat boxing for Roxanne Shante of the Juice Crew. From then on, Biz began blazing a trail and building his reputation within the world of rap and hip-hop. Now 26 years older—and immensely wiser—Biz is the definition of longevity. He is universally praised by the ever-fickle and unforgiving hip-hop industry and has remained once of the most notable and memorable artists and DJs within that industry.

You can find Biz spinning and performing for major celebrities in America and abroad. He has under his belt such mega-events as The Grammy's After Parties, The Pre-Oscar Party, Will Smith Movie Premiere Events, the Essence Festival, and events hosted by the Magic Johnson

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Foundation, State Farm (50 Million Pound Challenge), and ESPN. He has also appeared at such occasions as the Super Bowl, NBA Allstar Weekend, CIAA Weekend and many more.

Biz Markie shows no signs of stopping! He consistently books over 200 shows a year. He is still pioneering innovative works and has no creative constraints, moving with ease through multiple genres outside of hip hop—for example, he just finished projects with the alternative rock band The Flaming Lips.

Biz's television credits include VH1's "Celebrity Fit Club," "Nick Cannon's "Wild N Out" on MTV, and recently, Nick Jr's "Yo Gabba Gabba," doing the beat box of the day. Fresh off the "Yo Gabba Gabba" national tour, Biz has appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live and Late Night with Jimmy Fallon.

General Admission is FREE, while upgraded tickets for perks including an indoor party space, open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and adjacent parking are available. FHNY will be held on Columbia's Main Street between Gervais and Lady Streets—right in front of the South Carolina Statehouse. The event begins at 7 p.m. (gates open at 6 p.m.) on December 31, 2012. Get tickets or register for free general admission at FamouslyHotNewYear.com.

Available ticket upgrades:

- Premier tickets (\$25 until December 16, and \$30 afterward). Premier ticket holders will have a viewing area that puts them close to the action along with a special entrance that will allow them to skip the crowds at the General Admission gates. They will also have access to separate vendors.

- Cîroc Crescent Lounge tickets (\$100 until December 16, 2012, and \$125 afterward). Crescent Lounge ticket holders will enjoy perks including an indoor lounge, open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and reserved indoor parking adjacent to the event, along with full access to the Premier and General Admission areas.

Visit www.FamouslyHotNewYear.com for more details and to purchase tickets and register for

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the event. General Admission guests are also strongly encouraged to register online before the event to enjoy faster check-in.

The City of Columbia and the Famously Hot New Year board are seeking the help of organizations as well as individual volunteers to help with the production of the most rocking New Year's Eve party in the Southeast! Volunteers will receive an FHNY 2013 vest as well as some fun New Year's Eve goodies. Volunteers are needed on December 31, 2012, from 5 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. We are currently seeking around 100 people to volunteer for setup, event operation, and breakdown. Volunteers can register at <http://www.famouslyhotnewyear.com/volunteer/>