

# BACKLOT FESTIVAL

art | music | community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BACKLOT FESTIVAL PLANNED FOR THE KAUFMAN ARTS DISTRICT 9/21/19

*There's a party in Astoria, and you're all invited!*

(ASTORIA, NYC) The Kaufman Arts District is thrilled to announce our second BACKLOT FESTIVAL, a free event open to the public to celebrate art, music, and community. Featuring performances, musical acts, readings and exhibitions throughout the District, the Backlot Festival is anchored by a custom-built midway on the Kaufman Astoria Studios backlot. The Festival occurs **2pm to 8pm on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019.**

With over a dozen spaces showcasing the combined work of over 50 individual artists, the Backlot Fest promises a bit of something for everyone. Features on the Backlot itself include:

- Our spectacular **OPENING CEREMONY**, featuring the 40+ members of [Fogo Azul](#), Astoria's own all-female Brazilian drumline.
- The inaugural **QUEENS MUTT SHOW**, a dog show crowning the "Best Mutt in Queens," staged in collaboration with [Château Le Woof](#) and the [Animal Cares Centers of New York City](#).
- The **TABLEAUX VIVANTS** fashion show, from artists [Raxann Chin](#), [Jodie Lyn-Kee Chow](#), [Rebecca Goyette](#), and [Alexis Karl](#) activating the costumes of the [TDF Costume Collection](#).
- A very special visit from Sesame Street's head of Character Design **LOUIS HENRY MITCHELL**, who will be performing live character renderings accompanied by his friend **ELMO**.
- The **BACKLOT MARKET** a selection of the best in Queens craft and small business, curated by Michael Gillen, director of the [Made in Queens](#) initiative of the [Queens Economic Development Corporation](#).
- The **SNAQ-LOT @ BACKLOT** an open-air food market curated by Joe DiStefano, the "Food King of Queens," and founder of the popular [Chopsticks & Marrow](#) blog.

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In addition to these activities the Backlot Festival offers a wide range of performances staged at satellite venues throughout the Kaufman Arts District, animating the whole neighborhood. Some of these satellite venues include:

- **RIOULT STAGE**

A Black-Box stage at the newly-established [Rioul Dance Center](#), hosting a series of performances from the [Rioul Dance Company](#), the [Astoria Performing Arts Center](#), and select local choreographers.

- **ZUKOR THEATER STAGE**

Featuring a pop-up film festival curated in collaboration with the [Astoria Film Festival](#), and featuring local films, plus a special appearance by Astoria filmmaker [Dito Montiel](#), hosting a very special presentation of his Astoria-made feature, [A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints](#).

- **UKE-HUT STAGE**

A stage dedicated to the music of the “Jumping Flea,” at the City’s only dedicated [Ukulele shop](#), featuring a free Ukulele workshop.

- **BEANS&LAGER STAGE**

A stage featuring jazz and comedy, from the neighborhood’s newest music and food venue, [Beans & Lager](#).

- **LITERARY STAGE**

A stage dedicated to the literary arts, featuring poets from the [Queensbound Poetry Project](#), writers from the [Newtown Literary Journal](#), and a very special selection of readings by the writers of the [Fortune Society](#) writers’ workshop.

- **LATIN BEAT STAGE**

A purpose-built stage in the side-room of Tacuba Restaurant, showcasing the Latin sounds of the [Alvaro Benavides Group](#), [Strings N Skins](#), and more.

In addition to these satellite offerings will be a host of participating restaurants, offering food-and-drink specials, and more.

The whole festival is free for all to attend. While tickets are not required, pre-registration is recommended. To pre-register, see here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/backlot-festival-2019-tickets-67247857151>

For a complete and updated listing of events and timings as of 8/30, visit [backlotfestival.nyc](http://backlotfestival.nyc)