

# hp ENTERTAINMENT

## Detroit native leaves law to boogie-woogie full time

By **DAWN AULET**  
HP Features Editor

A number of years ago, Matt Ball attended a boogie-woogie festival in his hometown, near Detroit. It is no exaggeration to say that festival changed Ball's life.

"I practiced law briefly," Ball said. "I was reading self-help about following your passion and took a leap of faith. I was just unhappy in that career choice and it's around the time that I went to that festival and talked to some musicians."

That was in 2001, and by 2005, Ball was doing music full time.

These days, Ball works full time as a musician, performing and teaching.

"I teach not only locally but I teach online," he said. "I teach

around the clock really because of the different time zones that I accommodate."

Ball will perform at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, from 7-9 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$12 and children 12 and under are free.

He will be playing boogie-woogie as well as selections from the American songbook.

"It's a very rhythm-filled way of playing the piano," he said of boogie-woogie. "I think it has a very broad appeal. It's very easy to listen to, catch the beat. It runs the gamut of appeal in terms of age groups."

This is the first time he has played at Box Factory, but he has been performing on the west side of Michigan routinely.

Boogie-woogie is a non-written

tradition, a style of blues music that developed in the 1920s. It was developed in African-American communities since the 1870s. It eventually extended to cross genres.

Ball describes his program as swing dance, New Orleans song and boogie-woogie piano.

"It's a very rhythm-filled show and suitable for all ages," he said. People will sometimes even get up and dance.

"Sometimes it just takes the first person," he said.

As to how being a full-time musician compares to practicing law, Ball finds one much more fun.

"It's a lot more fun to play music, particularly when it's a well-received performance," he said. "It's just a world apart."

Contact: [daulet@TheHP.com](mailto:daulet@TheHP.com), 932-0363



Photo provided

Matt Ball, more well known as the Boogie-Woogie Kid, will perform at Box Factory for the Arts from 7-9 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$12 with kids 12 and under free.



Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Many Blue Landscapes, by artist Mariana Noreña, is currently on display at the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph.

## Lake focus

Krasl Art Center hosts exhibit focusing on Lake Michigan

By **DAWN AULET**  
HP Features Editor

ST. JOSEPH — Have you ever gazed out onto Lake Michigan on one of those days when the lake and the sky are similar in color, when the line that separates the sky from the sea is mostly indiscernible? Have you had a moment in your own life when your metaphysical horizon was hidden from you?

For Mariana Noreña, that is one of the moments that inspired her to create art.

"Most of my work is relating how my body is responding to a place," she said. "The one of the silks was inspired by winter, when the fog meets the lake.

"(I) was starting to question ... not having a horizon, which means that you don't have a path or something stable. It meant for me that I could create my own path."

The silks piece she refers to is on exhibit at Krasl Art Center in its In the Lab exhibit space. The show "Many Blue Landscapes" includes the piece Titled Untitled (Lake Michigan), which features silk, black beans, indigo, ceramic beads, paper and cotton thread.

"This piece is inspired when the winter fog meets the lake and gives the feeling that the horizon is lost or erased," Noreña said in her written description of the piece. "I imagine myself in the middle of the frozen lake and for a moment I think of the infinite, in something that has no limits, as if life was offering me the chance to paint my own horizon.

"There is something about this moment that makes me



An untitled piece containing concrete, sand, water, sticks, rocks, flowers and weeds from Lake Michigan is part of Many Blue Landscapes, by artist Mariana Noreña, currently on display at the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph.

feel calm and peaceful as if I am where I am supposed to be. Here and now."

All of the pieces that are part of In the Lab: Mariana Noreña are inspired by Lake Michigan.

"It's talking a lot about my relationship with Lake Michigan," Noreña said. "Lake Michigan is a part of Chicago that makes me feel at home."

Noreña moved to Chicago in August 2021 to pursue her master of fine arts degree. She is originally from Bogotá, Colombia.

The silk piece was the first one she created after beginning her advanced degree. But the largest piece in the exhibit is titled "The House That Lives Within Me/ La Casa Que Habita Dentro De Mi, 2023."

It is perhaps the first thing that captures visitors' visual attention when they arrive at the exhibit. Hanging from the ceiling is a dome that Noreña constructed from

wood. "The dome took six months to make," she said. "It started as a place that I wanted to create; a piece that makes you feel at home. It's more like a hug, (to) make you feel comfortable."

The whole piece is multi-sensory. There are things to see, hear, smell.

"I started to think about this dome or this place that feels like a house," Noreña said. "I wanted for you to hear something, for you to smell something."

On the floor beneath the dome is a steel plate. There is soil beneath your feet from Chicago and Columbia and corn incorporated into the sculpture. Corn grows in both places and was a way to express the energy of both places and is one thing that unites them.

"This piece serves as a way of coming into my home: to this introspective space and moment," Noreña said in her description of the piece.

"As you stand on soil from the two lands that I now call home, I invite you to be centered, grounded; to be lulled by the sound of the tree that gives shade to my house, to smell the rosemary planted in my garden in Colombia and to feel the constant motion of Lake Michigan. To surrender into the possibility of discovering a profound sense of closeness with a place of belonging."

The exhibit also features rocks from beaches in Chicago, poetry and amulets. It is open to the public when Krasl Art Center is open through Nov. 26.

Noreña also is hosting two artist talks on the exhibit. Both are virtual. The first, from noon-12:30 today, will be on Facebook Live, and the second, a private event that requires registration, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Oct. 19. For more information, visit [krasl.org](http://krasl.org).

Contact: [daulet@TheHP.com](mailto:daulet@TheHP.com), 932-0363

## Swift's 'Eras Tour' might shake up the movie business

By **JAKE COYLE**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Greg Marcus has been in the movie business for years but he never expected to be urging moviegoers to take out their phones during a film — let alone to be crafting friendship bracelets in preparation for an opening weekend.

But there the chief executive and chair of the Marcus Corporation is in a promotion for his theater chain headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, stringing beads together while humming "Shake It Off."

Movie theaters are readying for an onslaught like they've never seen before, beginning Friday when "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" debuts. The concert film, compiled from several Swift shows at Southern California's SoFi Stadium, is expected to launch with \$100 million, or possibly more. Advance ticket sales worldwide have already surpassed \$100 million.

Swifties will descend. Dancing will be encouraged.

"This is different," says Marcus. "Take your phone out. Take selfies. Dance, sing, get up, have a good time. We want to create an atmosphere."

Concert films, of course, aren't anything new. Just last month, the Talking Heads classic "Stop Making Sense" returned to theaters for a decades-later encore. But "The Eras Tour" heralds something new and potentially game-changing in the movie industry.

Two of the biggest stars on the planet — Swift and, in December under a very similar arrangement, Beyoncé — are heading into cinemas in first-of-their-kind deals made directly with AMC Theaters that circumvent Hollywood studios and which, for now, leave streamers waiting on the sidelines.

But how did the once declared-for-dead multiplex become the go-to place this fall a pair of stars previously at home on Netflix?

When studios began diverting some of their titles to streaming platforms, movie theaters began think-

ing harder about how they could fill their screens — a question exacerbated this autumn by an actors strike that's led to the postponement of big releases like "Dune: Part Two."

Movie theaters are increasingly not just a marquee of movie showtimes but a big-screen stage for a variety of visual media. BTS earlier this year released a concert film, with higher ticket prices and limited showtimes. The Metropolitan Opera has for years done popular live broadcasts in theaters.

Few acts can do what Swift and Beyoncé can. Their expected success is unlikely to be replicated. But "The Eras Tour" could be the start of an expansion of what, exactly, a movie theater can be. Think the Sphere, only much cheaper and in most towns.

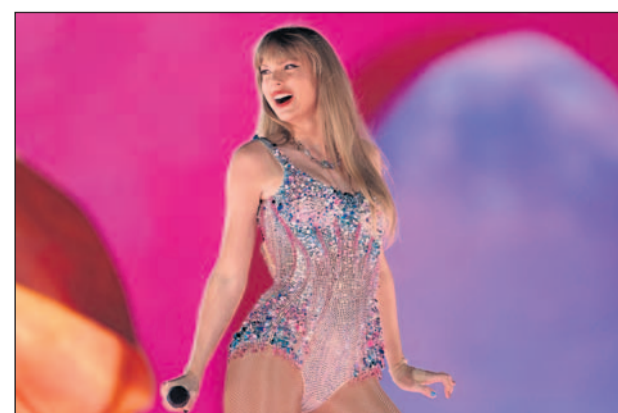
"You could say we're in the movie business, but really we're in the getting-together-with-other-people business," says Marcus. "The more we do of it, the more the customers will think about it and the more talent will go: This is something I could do."

Swift's camp was motivated to get the film out even as her stadium tour continues internationally. The tour, which is projected by Pollstar to gross some \$1.4 billion, crashed Ticketmaster's site, saw sky-high resale mark-ups and left many fans priced out.

The movie, directed by Sam Wrench, would be a way for millions more to experience the Eras Tour. Adult tickets are being sold for \$19.89, a reference to her birth year and 2014 album, a re-recording of which is due out Oct. 27. That's higher than the average movie ticket but several thousand less than many tickets to see Swift live.

It's arriving uncommonly fast, too, just a little over two months since the SoFi shows. Speed was one reason Swift's father, Scott Swift, is said to have sought out a direct deal with AMC. Swift produced the film, herself, and, with 274 million followers on

See **SWIFT**, page B8



George Walker IV / AP

Taylor Swift performs during "The Eras Tour" in Nashville in May.