

HARBORFEST'S 2008 CULTURAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Caribbean Islands



For the past eight years, Harborfest has included a cultural component program spotlighting a different country each year exploring its geography, culture and arts through a variety of activities and workshops before the festival begins, and through activities during the festival. The program has provided youngsters with information about China (1999), Ghana (2000), Brazil (2001), Ireland (2002), India (2003), Mexico (2004), Australia (2005), Ivory Coast (2006) and Italy (2007).

In 2008, Harborfest's cultural component will be the Caribbean Islands. To celebrate this component we are planning a variety of events including the following:

❖ Children's Musical Theatre Production

"In Quest of Columbus" will be performed during the festival. The musical, under the direction of Bobbie Palange and Rocky Farden, is about Columbus and his first landfall in the New World – Samana Cay – an island in the Caribbean. Auditions for the play will be the week of April 21st. The musical will be performed several times during Harborfest 2008 (July 24-27) on the Children's Stage.

❖ Pirate Island Madness

To add to the excitement of this event we plan to bring The Scottish Pirate, Thomas MacGregor to the festival and to participating schools for a spring performance. Thomas MacGregor is an historical character come to life—a pirate musician who plays the bagpipes, pennywhistle, cittern, mandolin, guitar and the Irish drum. In 1715 he was captured by the infamous pirates Ben Hornigold and Blackbeard who forced him to become a pirate musician. Thomas is a combination of music, humor and storytelling—all in a Scottish pirate costume. He encourages young people to read, gives them titles of pirate books, a bibliography and other enriching materials—a high quality early childhood program.

Other events still being planned include:

- ❖ Island Treasure Hunt
- ❖ Pirates & Princess Day at the Movies—a warm winter day at the movies
- ❖ "Pirates and Princess" Gala—tentatively planned for Harborfest week
- ❖ Spring Caribbean Island Workshops
- ❖ Pre- Parade & festival workshops

Sponsorships are still available for overall title and individual event sponsors. Contact Maggie at 342-7120 or sponsorship@oswegoharborfest.com for complete details.

