

Bonnaroo 2009 promises greatness

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Last year's Bonnaroo music and arts festival featured a near-dawn performance by Kanye West, a classics-filled set from Metallica, new material from Chris Rock and a taste of nearly every musical genre imaginable. This year's lineup once again proves the annual event hosts some of the most diverse talent in the festival circuit.

"Bonnaroo has so many different types of music, and there is such an overlap in audiences that it's a cool thing for us to be able to perform for all these music fans," said comedian and actor Aziz Ansari.

The upcoming festival in Manchester, Tenn., marks Ansari's second time performing comedy at the weekend-long festival.

Ansari, a Columbia, S.C. native, writes and helps produce the sketch comedy series *Human Giant* on MTV and is featured in *Flight of the Conchords* as well as the recent movies *I Love You, Man*, *Observe and Report* and the upcoming *Funny People* with Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen.

Ansari brings his stand-up comedy to this year's Bonnaroo, and he said the festival remains one of his favorite places to perform.

"There is this energy that you get from the sheer number of people," he said. "Bonnaroo is definitely one of the best audiences you get to perform for, and it is always super fun."

In addition to comedy talent such as Ansari, Jimmy Fallon and *The Daily Show* correspondents John Oliver, Rob Riggle and Rory Albanese, the festival features musicians and artists from all over the world.

As one of the largest active festivals in the country, Bonnaroo features a broad range of talent, arts, food and vending for a collectively-shared experience, according to multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter Andrew Bird, performing at this year's event.

"(Bonnaroo) is this communal experience, and everyone is out in the middle of nowhere. The festival gets people out of their little communities and brings them together," Bird said.

Bird is currently on tour in Europe, but said he looks forward to the summer festival season.

"It's becoming kind of part of an annual cultural thing for the summer," he said,

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Photo Courtesy of Big Hassle Publicity
M.I.A., above, and Chris Rock performed at Bonnaroo 2008. Actor and comedian Aziz Ansari will perform comedy at Bonnaroo 2009. Phish, Beastie Boys and Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band headline the 2009 weekend-long festival.

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