

BY JULIE WENGER WATSON

Dan Zanes brings Grammy-winning tunes to Guthrie Green

Award-winning “family music” artist Dan Zanes is coming to town for a free show at Guthrie Green, an urban park in the heart of downtown Tulsa. Zanes and his band will perform at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 15 as part of Tulsa Roots Rocks The Green, an all-ages concert series featuring internationally touring musicians. Pack a picnic, grab a blanket and head to the thriving Brady Arts District for a relaxing afternoon of music the entire family can enjoy.

Former frontman for the Del Fuegos, an early ‘80s garage rock band out of Boston, Zanes now makes his home in New York City. His music reflects both his pop-rock roots and his own wide-ranging musical tastes. Zanes has collaborated with musicians as diverse as Lou Reed, Debbie Harry, Ziggy Marley and Philip Glass.

“I definitely do have broad musical interests,” Zanes told me in a recent interview. “I’m very, very grateful that I’ve gotten to work with people that I love, people that I respect and really look up to. I’m a fan. I’m a music fan. To work with Philip Glass or the Blind Boys of Alabama, these are tremendous artists.”

Behind Zanes’ humor, catchy hooks and diverse collaborations is the musician’s fundamental belief that making music is for



DAN ZANES

Photo Credit: Concerted Efforts

everyone. “The message behind what I do is really that music making is something that is available for everyone. This is an experience that everyone can have, and I think, should have,” he explained. “I think we should all know what it’s like to participate in music making, especially in these times that we live in. It’s easy to slip into being a consumer, but a lot of times, people growing up don’t always realize

just what they’re missing with that. If you leave it to the professionals, then you miss out on an experience.”

Zanes wants his music to mirror the diversity he sees around him. “We try to make music that sounds like New York. That’s really what it’s about,” he commented. “It’s really just trying to be inclusive, trying to make sure that everybody is at the party. When I walk down the

street, I see people from all over the world, and so I want my record to sound like that.”

Tulsa Children’s Museum and the Tulsa City-County Library are helping bring this show to town. The ever popular Buddy Bookworm, the library’s official mascot and one of the few invertebrates with his own Twitter account, will be on hand to greet the kids, and children can visit the Bookmobile, which will be parked nearby. The Children’s Museum, which opened its amazing Discovery Lab in Owen Park last spring, will have hands-on interactive activities available for the younger audience members.

Two additional bands follow the Dan Zanes’ performance on the 15th, one of which is KONGOS, a group of young musicians originally hailing from South Africa. Wear your dancing shoes and plan to make a day of it! Arrive early and check out the Guthrie Green Market.

Tulsa Roots Rocks the Green is a free, five Sunday concert series that runs Sept. 8 – Oct. 6. Opening day features the infectious Latin rhythms of Austin’s Grupo Fantasma. Philbrook Museum of Art will host weekly arts and crafts projects for the kids. For more information and a complete schedule, visit www.tulsarootsmusic.org