

# METRO SPIRIT

AUGUSTA'S INDEPENDENT VOICE

## MASTERS WEEK... FOR THE REST OF US.

For those of us who stick around, Masters week is a great opportunity to see some freaky @#!. Send us your weirdest, funniest pictures & we'll post them online for all to see. If chosen, your photo could be published in our "While You Were Away" segment and you will receive a Wild Wing Gift Certificate. Send your photos with a brief description to amy.christian@metrospirit.com.



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### Quote

"Everybody can't be afraid of knuckleheads and gangsters. If we were, they'd take over." -- Sammie Sias, Richmond County Neighborhoods Association Alliance

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## Van Morrison

Part Celtic bard and part soulster, 10 years of the Irish songmaster's performances revealed for audiences in new DVD

BY DWIGHT BEMISDERFER

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Video: Club Cream



### Events Calendar

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AUGUSTA, GA. - I was still in diapers when Van Morrison was hitting his stride and enjoying tremendous critical success with albums like "Moondance" and "Tupelo Honey." So, of course, it was years later before I would discover his exceptional body of work.

I first became interested in Van Morrison when, in high school, after years of loving the song "Domino," I discovered (to my astonishment) that it was sung by a white man. I had always assumed, when hearing great R&B numbers like "Jackie Wilson Said" and "Wild Night" blessing the radio waves, that this was the voice of a tremendous, black soul singer. I had no reason to believe otherwise.

Van Morrison, as I am now well aware, is a fiery-haired Irishman who hails from Belfast. His career extends from the mid-Sixties until this very day, and though he is still a massively talented individual, there is no denying that the distinctly formative years covered on the 100+ minute rockumentary "Van Morrison: Under Review (1964-1974)" [available next month at [mvdvisual.com](http://mvdvisual.com)] features some of his most enduring and exciting work.

Upon this DVD, which is an independent commentary on Van Morrison's classic early years, the audience is introduced to a panel of critics and journalists who share a keen affection for the man and his music.

They begin by discussing his early years with the fairly popular group, Them, who are perhaps best known stateside for their version of the Morrison-penned "Gloria" (you know, the one that goes "G-L-O-R-I-A, Gloooooooria"), and they continue on through a plethora of highly acclaimed solo albums that cemented Morrison's status as a darling of the critical world - though he was never as commercially successful as he deserved. Besides all that, included on the disc are key snippets of tape-recorded interviews with Van himself, which lends insightful depth into the mystique that is his wonderful prose.

In summary, I have to tell you a little story. I had befriended an individual several years back who had grown up listening mostly to rap, R&B, soul and a little bit of classic rock music. One day he came to me and, implying that he was just a tad bit bored with his own music collection, he wondered if I might suggest something "new" for him to listen to. I thought about it briefly, and handed him a copy of Van Morrison's "Moondance."

Within a few months, he had gone out and purchased CDs of nearly every other album that Van Morrison had recorded in the Seventies. The last time I spoke with that friend on the phone, he confessed to me that "these days, all [he] want[s] to listen to is Van Morrison." Now, if that's not an endorsement, I don't know what else is.

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June 19-22, 2008

METRO AUGUSTA  
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Talk talk

### CARNIVAL

April 20th  
1-5pm  
@ Enterprise Mill

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\$20/Child  
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Includes unlimited activities

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