

"ROCK & REVOLUTION EXHIBIT" IN ANN ARBOR
Opens December 2nd, 2011 through January 15, 2012
Ann Arbor District Library on Fifth Avenue
November 10, 2011

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

I will be leading off the first in a three-part series of exhibits, concerts, and panels in Ann Arbor Michigan to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the "John Sinclair Freedom Rally" in Ann Arbor which was originally held on December 10th of 1971. The rally was a protest and concert that included celebrities like John Lennon, Yoko Ono, Phil Ochs, Stevie Wonder, Archie Shepp, Bob Seger, and many other performers and groups. Poets and speakers included Allen Ginsberg, Bobby Seale, Jerry Ruben, and others.

At the time poet and activist John Sinclair was in prison serving a ten-year term for having been found with two joints of marijuana in his possession. This very significant concert and protest captured national attention and resulted in Sinclair's release from prison three days later. This eventually helped to change the marijuana laws in Ann Arbor to a mere \$5 fine for possessing less than two ounces.

Michigan Rock-Concert Posters

The first event in this series, to be held on December 2nd at the Ann Arbor District Library, will be the opening of the "Rock & Revolution Exhibit," which will be in place until January 15th of 2012. Along with historical documents from the time and a gallery of Sixties images by photographer Leni Sinclair, the exhibit will contain dozens of framed and matted Michigan rock-concert posters from my personal collection.

And to open the exhibit I will give an all-illustrated talk on the music poster scene in Michigan during the 1960s and 1970s with special focus on John Sinclair and the work of poster artist Gary Grimshaw.

This opening talk looks to be as much of a party as a presentation. Many folks from back in the day will be in attendance including both Leni Sinclair and poster artist Gary Grimshaw. John Sinclair, who is flying in from Europe, also plans to attend. Sinclair's plane lands about an hour before my talk begins. He told me that he will try to come right to the gig from the airport.

After the presentation ends (around 9 PM) we will probably adjourn to the local Starbucks on the corner of Main and Liberty streets in Ann Arbor and continue the party.

Posters enthusiasts like me, plus anyone that was at the original rally in 1971, historians, Sixties folks, and friends of the Sixties, please join us for the celebration.

ROCK & REVOLUTION EXHIBIT
Friday December 2, 2011 at 7 PM
Ann Arbor District Library
November 28, 2011

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

I will be opening the "Rock & Revolution Exhibit" this coming Friday December 2, 2011 at the Multi-Purpose Room of the Ann Arbor District Library at 343 South Fifth Avenue with a short illustrated talk on Michigan Rock Concert Posters of the 1960s and 1970s followed by a get-together with refreshments. There is no charge.

My friends Gary Grimshaw, John Sinclair, Leni Sinclair, Peter Andrews, and many others will also be present and we are setting aside time after the presentation to just hang out for a while. You are all welcome.

The exhibit includes over 30 framed and matted concert posters from my personal collection as well as classic photographs by Leni Sinclair from back in the day.

I include here an image of the poster for the event created by legendary poster artist Gary Grimshaw. This event launches a series of shows and panels dedicated to the John Sinclair Freedom Rally which took place in late 1971, a landmark event.

Hope to see some of you there.