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Saturday, June 10, 2006

Do you want to rock and roll all night? Marion is your place; KISS tribute band kicks off Popcorn Festival on Sept. 7

From Staff Reports

MARION - Downtown Marion will be invaded by the KISS Army as it takes the main stage of the Marion Popcorn Festival on Thursday, Sept. 7.

Previously announced were contemporary country group Trick Pony on Friday and Starship with Mickey Thomas on Saturday. All performances begin at 8:30 p. m. and are free of charge.

Decked out in outrageously theatrical costumes and makeup with stage shows that featured elaborate lighting and many special effects, rock band KISS became a phenomenon during the 1970s. It was the quality of their music, however, that kept them releasing albums and touring for nearly 30 years. Their fan club became known as KISS Army, which is where this tribute band acquired their name.

"I want to rock and roll all night and party everyday," said Marion Popcorn Festival president, Dean Castanien, "has got to be right up there with the most easily identifiable rock anthems of all time. As a tribute band, these guys do an awesome job of getting it right, and are the perfect way to kick off a great lineup of main stage entertainment."

KISS Army is comprised of Jim Seda as Gene Simmons, Gary Stevens as Paul Stanley, Mike Sivo as drummer Peter Criss, and Val Popovic as Paul "Ace" Frehley. The four drive themselves to authentically capture KISS' hard rock anthems and guitar-powered ballads.

As a tribute band, KISS Army covers many of the original band's mega hits. Fans will remember "Stutter," "Rock Bottom," "C'Mon and Love Me," "Deuce," "Black Diamond," "Parasite," "Hotter Than Hell," "Detroit Rock City," "Beth," "New York Groove," and "Sure Know Something." However, the band's most recognizable refrain came from their 1975 Alive! album, and there hasn't been a single KISS concert since that release that did not feature "Rock and Roll All Nite" as an

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Courtesy of Kiss Army

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Festival will crown two queens

MARION - Marion Popcorn Festival Scholarship Program will hold a meeting 2 p.m. Sunday at the American Red Cross Office, 1849 Summerset Drive.

encore.

KISS Army's performance is being sponsored by Thiel's Wheels Harley-Davidson, and Castanien indicated a Bike Nite is being planned in conjunction with Thursday's main stage festivities. Complete details, Castanien said, will be announced as soon as the particulars are in place. Kernel sponsorship seats for KISS Army or any of the main stage performances are available by calling 740-383-2076.

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Originally published June 10, 2006

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The meeting is for those who wish to become contestants and their parents. The program has been expanded this year and will be crowning two festival queens. Contestants between the ages of 17 (or a high school senior) and 22 will be competing for the title of Miss Marion Popcorn Festival. Contestants ages 13 through 16 (or a junior in high school) will be competing for the title of Miss Teen Popcorn.

All contestants must currently live, work, or be enrolled in and attending classes in Marion, Delaware, Hardin, Crawford, Morrow, Union or Wyandot counties.

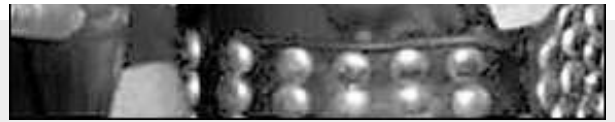
The Marion Popcorn Festival Scholarship Program competition will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, at River Valley High School.

About the festival

Currently in its 26th year, the Marion Popcorn Festival is the largest popcorn festival in the world with an annual attendance estimated in excess of 250,000 over the three-day festival.

For more information, visit our web site at www.popcornfestival.com or call 740-387-FEST.





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