



Telluride Bluegrass Festival: Forty Years of Festivation

By Dan Sadowsky (Author), Sam Bush (Foreword), Chris Thile (Afterword), Various

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Revered as a sold-out cultural phenomenon in the world's most spectacular location -- Telluride, Colorado -- the term 'Progressive Bluegrass' was practically invented among the community of astounding musicians who brought the cutting edge of pure country music inventiveness to a fresh breed of hyper-appreciative audiences. **Telluride Bluegrass Festival: Forty Years of Festivation** tells the colorful story of the stumbles and spills of the Festival's modest early stages through to its mind-blowing fortieth anniversary.

Published by Planet Bluegrass, this elegantly hardbound collector's edition (just 5,000 copies in print) features more than 350 carefully curated photos; gorgeous full-page reproductions of each year's art poster; essays by Sam Bush, Chris Thile, and dozens of others; and lively year-by-year accounts by 29-year festival MC Pastor Mustard (aka Dan Sadowsky).

Throughout the 216-page book artists and crew share their personal stories with the Festival including: Adam Aijala (of Yonder Mountain String Band), Alison Brown, John Cowan, Chris Daniels, Durfee Day, Jerry Douglas, Jane Dunham, Craig Ferguson, Béla Fleck, Nick Forster, Emmylou Harris, Vince Herman (of Leftover Salmon), Sarah Jarosz, Dave Lamb, Winston Marshall (of Mumford & Sons), Willy Matthews, Kooster McAllister, Del McCoury, Edgar Meyer, Billy Nershi (of String Cheese Incident), Tim O'Brien, Peter Rowan, Marikay Shellman, Dan Sherman, Steve Szymanski, Sally Truitt, Sara Watkins, and Pete Wernick.

With creative direction from renowned painter William Matthews and design by former *Rolling Stone* designer Hans Teensma, the cover features an animated lenticular image of Sam Bush ("The King of Telluride") debossed into the faux-leather binding.

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Editorial Review

Review

Whether you've been every year, only once, or you still have it on your bucket list, this 216 page hardbound collector's edition book is an absolute must-have for anybody who has ever felt the lure of the Telluride Bluegrass Festival... The book is like a career-spanning box set that is a phenomenally entertaining trip down memory lane. Photos of the early rickety stage and unmanicured festival grounds will astound today's attendees, and watching the evolution of the haircuts of bluegrass is even more enthralling. ...The book allows us all to laugh, while so splendidly painting the history of one of the world's top music festivals. (5 out of 5 stars) --Marquee Magazine

40 Years of Festivation is hardbound in Spanish Leather, a 216-page celebration of one particular slice of American history. It's a gonzo-style look at a community brimming with creativity, energy, and a frontier spirit. In its essence, it captures a town and a festival that equates home for so many. Year-by-year accounts make up most of the book, and were written by longtime festival MC Pastor Mustard in a hilarious, irreverent style, often in twenty-minute spurts (the best part: the captions add as much as the prose). At its heart, **40 Years of Festivation** is a coffee table book, not an archive, but the pages have something for everyone, whether you've attended the festival for most of your life, the past few years, or it's still on your bucket list. --Relix Magazine

The book is a beautiful thing to behold. It's hardbound in Spanish leather (nod to Bob D.) with an animated lenticular image of Sam Bush right in the center of the cover. That's the technical way of saying if you stare at the book's cover photo of Sam and you move your head around, he appears to come to life and starts doing his signature Mandolin chop which is, of course, the universal bluegrass signal for 'buckle up, we're about to have some serious fun.'

[The book] is a lens focused on the evolutionary trail of not only the festival, but the people who attend, the musicians who perform and the mountain town that has played host for four decades. Not many music festivals can boast such loyalty, and not many books can capture such devotion so well. --Boulder Weekly

About the Author

Dan Sadowsky emceed the Telluride Bluegrass Festival for twenty-nine years under his nom-de-guerre, Pastor Mustard. Additional voices include Sam Bush, Chris Thile, Bela Fleck, Tim O'Brien, Emmylou Harris, and many others.

Users Review

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