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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BBQ + Beer + Barenaked Ladies = Ribfest**

### *Sixth Annual Mid-America Ribfest Cycles into Council Bluffs July 16-19*

(Council Bluffs, IA) –What do you get when you mix a gigantic main music stage full of great artists, along with eight nationally acclaimed BBQ teams from all over the country, complete festival food fare, inflatables for the kids, and, of course, lots of ice cold beer? The answer is the 6th Annual Mid-America Ribfest, July 16-19, 2009.

The event will take place on the Mid-America Center grounds and will feature Barenaked Ladies and Hairball along with local and regional favorites on the Michelob Ultra Sound Stage. Hairball will take the stage on Friday night and Barenaked Ladies on Saturday night.

All of the National BBQ teams will compete for the coveted People's Choice Award. Patrons will vote throughout the weekend to determine the winner, which will be announced Sunday afternoon. During the event, patrons can purchase full and half-slab rib dinners, along with various other barbequed specialties, side dishes and sauces. Some of the rib cookers also offer children's meals.

**Barenaked Ladies** were founded in 1988 and hail from Toronto. In their 20-year existence they have recorded ten studio albums, a live album, released a greatest hits package and sold more than 14 million albums. The band has carved a niche amongst music fans with such classic songs as "One Week," "Pinch Me" and "If I Had \$1,000,000." Their most recent recording efforts include the albums *Barenaked Ladies Are Me* in 2006 and *Barenaked Ladies Are Men* in 2007 as well as Juno-nominated children's album called *SNACKTIME!* in 2008.

**Hairball** is the world's ultimate 80's rock impersonation act. Their unique dual frontman assault sets them apart from every other 80's tribute band. They cop the personas of the era's legendary frontmen while rapidly changing elaborate costumes, and then completing their transformations with dead-on visual and vocal performances. They alternate their stage time, bringing new characters to the stage every five to ten minutes. This rapid-fire style is constant, enabling Hairball to represent more than 20 of the 80's biggest and most colorful rock 'n roll superheroes in one night.

**This years national BBQ cooking teams include** Aussom Aussie Australian BBQ Co. of Sydney, Australia; Big Boned BBQ of Hixson, Tennessee; Texas Rib Rangers BBQ of Denton, Texas; Howling Coyote Southwest BBQ of Chicago, Illinois; Chicago BBQ of Burr Ridge, Illinois; Texas Outlaws BBQ of Elizabethtown, Kentucky and Willingham BBQ of Minnesota. Cooking teams are subject to change.

Advance all-weekend passes are available for \$15 from Friday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m. through Thursday, July 16 at 10:00 p.m. All-weekend passes are good anytime Friday through Sunday.

**WHAT:  
HOURS AND  
DAY OF SHOW  
ADMISSION:**

Sixth Annual Mid-America Ribfest  
Thursday, July 16: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Admission = FREE

Friday, July 17: 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.  
Admission = \$5

Saturday, July 18: 11:00 a.m. – Midnight  
Admission = \$5 from 11 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
\$20 from 5:00 p.m. - Midnight

Sunday, July 19: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Admission = \$2

- All-weekend passes can be purchased in advance for \$15 up until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 16 and are valid anytime Friday – Sunday. Day of show admission rates apply at gate
- All admissions include entertainment
- Children 12 and under are free with an accompanying adult
- Free parking

**ADVANCE ALL-WEEKEND**

**PASSES ON-SALE DATE: Friday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m.**

All-weekend passes can be purchased at the MAC Box Office, online at [midamericacenter.com](http://midamericacenter.com) or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com), all Ticketmaster locations, or charge by phone at 1.800.745.3000 through Thursday, July 16 at 10:00 p.m. For more information, call the MAC Box Office at 712.326.2295.

**VENUE:** Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs – Parking Lot

**MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.midamericacenter.com](http://www.midamericacenter.com)

[www.hairballonline.com](http://www.hairballonline.com)

[www.myspace.com/hairballrocks](http://www.myspace.com/hairballrocks)

[www.bnlmusic.com](http://www.bnlmusic.com)

[www.myspace.com/barenakedladies](http://www.myspace.com/barenakedladies)

[www.cowboysbbq.com](http://www.cowboysbbq.com)

[www.aussomaussie.com](http://www.aussomaussie.com)

[www.bigbonedbbq.com](http://www.bigbonedbbq.com)

[www.texasribrangers.com](http://www.texasribrangers.com)

[www.coyoteroadhousebbq.com](http://www.coyoteroadhousebbq.com)

[www.willinghamsbbq.com](http://www.willinghamsbbq.com)

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**About Mid-America Center**

The SMG-managed Mid-America Center located in Council Bluffs, Iowa is a 9,000-seat multi-purpose arena, convention center and exhibit hall. SMG is the leading private facility management company with headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. With 202 venues, SMG controls over 1.5 million entertainment seats worldwide and 10 million square feet of exhibit space. For additional company information, visit [www.smgworld.com](http://www.smgworld.com). For more information regarding the Mid-America Center, contact SMG at 712.323.0536.