

EVENTS

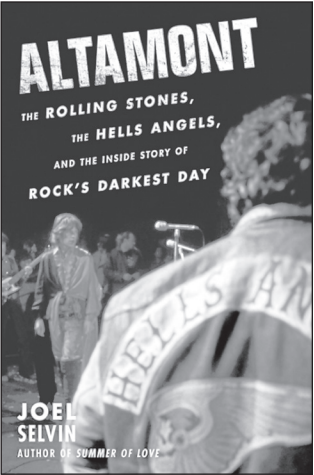
Woodstock in hell: ‘Altamont’ tells of ‘Rock’s Darkest Day’

ALTAMONT: THE ROLLING STONES, THE HELLS ANGELS, AND THE INSIDE STORY OF ROCK’S DARKEST DAY.
By Joel Selvin; Dey Street (368 pages, \$27.99)

BY KEITH CAMPBELL
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS (TNS)

If you go to a Rolling Stones concert these days, the last thing you’ll probably worry about is whether you’re going to make it out alive. You will get gouged by the beer vendor, but there’s little if any danger.

For those who flocked to a desolate speedway in Northern California on Dec. 6, 1969, there was plenty of danger — and for those near the stage, horror — to go around. Any rock fan schooled in the ‘60s knows what happened: A contingent of Hells Angels serving as security for the festival administered beatings to fans and musicians alike and stabbed to death an 18-year-old man just yards from Mick Jagger as he finished



singing “Under My Thumb.”

The tragedy has been chronicled in several books and most memorably in the 1970 documentary “Gimme Shelter.” But Joel Selvin’s “Altamont: The Rolling Stones, The Hells Angels and the Inside Story of Rock’s Darkest Day” provides rich new details about the origins of the show and the quest by Jagger and the Stones to stage the free concert.

The book chronicles the motivations, naivete and chemicals that led to what has been popularly seen as

the nadir of the Woodstock generation. In fact, Selvin makes the case that Woodstock, staged just 3½ months before Altamont, laid the groundwork for the disaster.

The Stones had been out of the American limelight and had missed the free festival in upstate New York. Meanwhile, the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane had ascended and were playing free festivals in their hometown of San Francisco, which, Selvin argues, had become the center of the rock universe in late 1969.

Selvin’s account begins with the Dead’s manager Rock Scully traveling to London to share his drug-addled vision with Keith Richards for the Stones to play a free show in Golden Gate Park. The Stones had just played a similar show in London’s Hyde Park, one in which they had used the tame British chapter of the Hells Angels for show security without a hitch.

The author does a good job taking readers through the Stones’ first U.S. tour in three years and the recording of “Let It Bleed”

during that concert run. At the same time, he outlines how Jerry Garcia relished the idea of the Grateful Dead headlining a festival with the Jefferson Airplane, only to have the Stones appear unannounced at the end.

Selvin makes the case that Garcia saw such an event as marrying Haight-Ashbury to the London rock scene, a trans-Atlantic communal experience. (Upon arriving at Altamont for their gig, the Dead would take in the mayhem and elect to leave.)

Nearly 50 years removed, it’s hard to comprehend the chaos that ensued in the preparation and staging of the show. Throughout the Stones’ tour, Jagger teased the public with talk of a free concert. Even after the show was announced, two potential sites fell through. With just 36 hours to go, the concert — with an expected crowd of 100,000 — was moved to Altamont.

Staging and sound towers were erected overnight as a crowd began gathering and setting fires for warmth. The stage was

lashed together with twine and stood only 4 feet tall, compared with the 15-foot version at Woodstock that had served as a barricade against the mass of humanity. Instead, Selvin writes, a piece of string separated the crowd from the musicians.

Selvin, who has covered pop music since 1970 for the San Francisco Chronicle and written extensively about the ‘60s music scene, conducted more than 100 interviews with musicians, Hells Angels members, police, stagehands and medical staff. That said, the book at times feels thinly sourced, as the author surrenders attribution in service of the narrative.

That narrative accelerates in the second section of the book, as Selvin details the ominous vibe that builds throughout the concert. The omnipresence of alcohol and psychedelics among the 300,000 attendees, the lack of bathrooms and medical facilities, and the Hells Angels, paid in \$500 worth of beer, made for a hellish mix. By the time the Jefferson Airplane’s Marty Balin was

knocked unconscious by a Hells Angel during the band’s set, it’s clear that for those who were near the stage, and for those on it, it was essentially a hostage scene.

The last third of the book focuses on the aftermath, including the police investigation of the murder of Meredith Hunter and three other deaths: a drowning and two auto-related fatalities. In addition, Selvin describes the reporting that went into a comprehensive account weeks after the killing from a new publication, Rolling Stone. While it’s clear that no one truly was in charge, Selvin ultimately lays much of the blame for the tragedy on the Stones, citing the band’s greed, hubris and naivete.

Plenty of accounts have been written about the concert, and the moment of Hunter’s death was captured on film for the world to see. But Altamont serves as a valuable document, cutting through the hallucinogenic haze of the times to provide greater understanding of an American tragedy.

Things to Do

BANGOR — Celebration of Maine author Lynn Plourde’s new middle-grade novel, “Maxi’s Secrets,” 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, The Briar Patch, 27 Central St. Plourde will read and sign books. Prizes. Plourde’s newest picture book “Bella’s Fall Coat” also available. Portion of day’s sales to benefit Bangor Humane Society. 941-0255.

BANGOR — “Cutting Edge Quilts: The Work of Sally K. Field, with Elizabeth Busch and Ellie Panceo,” on display 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily through Sept. 30, Boyd Place Gallery, 21 Boyd St.

BANGOR — Downtown Bangor Partnership’s 11th annual Cool Sounds Summer Concert Series and Fresh Air Market presented by Emera Maine and Beal College, featuring Jon King, 5-8 p.m. Thursday, West Market Square and along Merchants Plaza. Free.

BANGOR — St. John’s Organ Society’s 24th Summer Recital Series finale: Organist Kevin Birch with Scott Burditt, horn, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, St. John’s Roman Catholic Church, 207 York St. Music of J.S. Bach, Franz Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Free, but donations appreciated.

BANGOR — Robinson Ballet registration day, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, 107 Union St. 990-3140.

BAR HARBOR — Eighth annual Summer Organ Series, 12:15-1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, St. Saviour’s Episcopal Parish, 41 Mount Desert Street. Julia Morris-Myers, Aug. 26. Admission by donation. Reception to meet the artists. 288-4215 or stsaviours.me.

BLUE HILL — Dance Show: Animal Invasion featuring middle and high school students, 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, Bay School, 17 Bay School Drive. Free, but donations of \$10 accepted. Refreshments.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dances, 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave.: New Society, Aug. 26. Marilyn, 827-5751.

BUCKSPORT — Fifth annual gala concert featuring concert pianist Daniel Epstein and Friends, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, Bucksport Performing Arts Center, 100 Miles Lane. \$20.

BUCKSPORT — Steak or barbecue chicken dinner, 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, Bucksport United Methodist Church, 71 Franklin St. Reservation-only event offers choice of steak or chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, homemade rolls, beverages and cake. \$10, \$5 children 12. Reservations, church office, 469-3622.

CLIFTON — Community Fair, 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, Clifton United Baptist Church. Free chicken barbecue, dunking booth, quilt show, food contests, magic exhibition, music and fireworks show at the end of the day. Darling’s Ice Cream for a Cause truck, 5-7:30 p.m. Donations accepted to benefit two local school bus drivers who are ill. 843-5441.

EASTPORT — Eastport Moonlight Movies, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St. 214-0040 or lolly@sweetiesdowneast.com.

ELLSWORTH — Roast beef supper, 5-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, First Congregational Church of Ellsworth, corner of State and Church streets. Roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, string beans, Caesar salad, rolls, tea, coffee or lemonade, and homemade pies. \$9, \$25 family, free to children under 5. Lois, 669-2028.

GRAND ISLE — Annual memorial event and luminary candle fundraiser honoring past and present cancer survivors, 3 p.m.-midnight Sunday, Aug. 28, 126 Doucette Road. Refreshments and picnic lunch. Roger Corbin, 316-3477; Michael Corbin, 728-3129; or mizpahinc@yahoo.com.

GREENVILLE — Greenville Masonic Association annual bean-hole bean supper, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, Masonic Temple, 281 Pritham Ave. Casey’s bean-hole beans, hot dogs, coleslaw, biscuits and desserts. All you can eat, \$10; quart of beans to take home, \$6. Takeout meals available.

MACHIAS — Machias Bay Chamber of Commerce offers free outdoor movies, sunset every other Saturday, box car next to Station 1898, across from Helen’s Restaurant. “Zootopia,” Aug. 27. 255-4402.

MANCHESTER — Designing Women Fine

Art and Crafts 10th annual Manchester Show, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, Longfellow Greenhouses, 81 Puddledock Road. Light lunch, snacks. \$2 at the door to benefit Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center in Winthrop.

OLD TOWN — Community supper, 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, St. James’ Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Center streets. Free and open to all.

PASSADUMKEAG — Cribbage tournament and bean bag (corn hole) tournament, 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, Passadumkeag Community Building. Bean bag tournament outside in the basketball court area, weather permitting. Entry fees: \$3 cribbage; \$2 bean bag tournaments. Passadumkeag Historical Society’s bean-hole bean supper and auction, 4:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit historical society.

PORTLAND — “Branching Out” photography exhibit, through Saturday, Aug. 27, UMVA Gallery at CTN5, 516 Congress St. Gallery hours noon-5 p.m. Mondays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 2-5 p.m. Fridays; or by appointment.

PORTLAND — Guided tour of Portland’s oldest burial ground, 11 a.m.-noon Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays, through Oct. 16. Tours led by trained volunteers. Tickets, \$10, \$5 students and seniors, free to children under 12. Tickets available at the gate, 224 Congress St., at time of tour, or in advance, spiritsalive.org or eventbrite.com.

SOUTHWEST HARBOR — Pianist Christina Spurling and sopranos Ketti Muschler and Michele Kruske performing art songs inspired by the sea, featuring works by Faure, Britten, Kurt Weill and Andre Previn, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, St. John Church, 315 Main St. Admission by suggested donation of \$10. Benefits Westside Food Pantry. 244-8061 or sco-vino@prexar.com.

STONINGTON — “Mr. Burns,” 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 25-27; Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 29-31; Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 1-3; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, Stonington Opera House. \$20 to \$50. Suitable for ages 13 and up. operahousearts.org or 367-2788.

SURRY — Surry Arts at the Barn’s first barn

sale, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, 8 Cross Road. Household goods, building materials, musical instruments, old barn utensils and more. In case of rain, sale will be held indoors. 667-1308 or surryartsatthebarn.com.

SURRY — Classical piano and flute music, 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, Surry Arts at the Barn, 8 Cross Road. Debbie Riley, piano, and Alan Wittenberg, flute and piano, performing Mozart, Schubert, Debussy, Haydn, Beethoven and others. Solo and duo performances. \$10. Refreshments. 667-1308 or surryartsatthebarn.com.

THOMASTON — Knox Museum benefit chicken and ribs barbecue

with music by Steelin’ Thunder steel drum band, 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, stage in front of Montpelier. Advance tickets \$15, \$12 Knox Museum members, free to children under 12, available at knoxmuseum.org or gift shop at Montpelier during regular business hours. Tickets \$18, \$15 museum members, free to children under 12 at the door day of event. Includes food. Drinks available by donation. Benefit this past Memorial Day weekend’s exhibition of The Moving Wall. 354-8062 or info@knoxmuseum.org.

UNITY — Mile Twelve, original and traditional bluegrass band, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, Unity College Center for the Performing Arts, 42

Depot St. \$15 at the door or uccpa.unity.edu.

WINTER HARBOR — Art show by Carol Michaud, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily through Sept. 15, Schoodic Arts for All, Hammond Hall. Opening reception, 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28.

WISCASSET — Take a culinary history journey with historian Cathy Messmer, 9-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, Castle Tucker. Registration required. Space limited. \$10 members Historic New England, \$15 others, includes tour of the house. 882-7169 or historicnewengland.org/events-programs.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

Thursday prime time

		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	
BROADCAST	2	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	NFL Preseason Football Atlanta Falcons at Miami Dolphins. (N) (L) (ESP HDTV)			(ESP HDTV)		News	
	4	CBS	The Special Needs Hotel	Firsthand		The National (N)		CBC	Coronation	Coronation	
	5	CBS	Big Bang	Broke Girl	Big Bang	Life in	Big Brother (N) (TV-14)		(9:59) Code Black (TV-14)	News	
	52	CW	Family Guy	Family Guy	DC's Legends		Beauty and the Beast (TV-14)		News	Seinfeld (TV-14)	Cougar
	6	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	NFL Preseason Football Atlanta Falcons at Miami Dolphins. (N) (L) (ESP HDTV)						News
	7	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (TV-14)	BattleBots (N) (HD) (TV-14)		The \$100,000 Pyramid (TV-14)		Match Game (HD) (TV-14)		News
	WAGM	FOX	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Rosewood (HD) (TV-14)		Bones (HDTV PA) (TV-14)		News	Big Bang	Big Bang
	8	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (TV-14)	BattleBots (N) (HD) (TV-14)		The \$100,000 Pyramid (TV-14)		Match Game (HD) (TV-14)		News
	MPBN	PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)		Magic Moments: The Best of 50s Pop (TV-14)				ADD and Loving It? (TV-14)		
	9	IND	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Bosch (N) (TV-14)		News-Lisa	CTV News	Daily Show
KIDS	13	CBS	Ent. Tonight	The Insider	Big Bang	Life in	Big Brother (N) (TV-14)		(9:59) Code Black (TV-14)		News
	22	FOX	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Rosewood (HD) (TV-14)		Bones (HDTV PA) (TV-14)		FOX 22 News at 10 (N)		Mentalist
	33	IND	M*A*S*H (TV-14)	M*A*S*H (TV-14)	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Happy Days	Gilligan Isle	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	38	IND	Big Bang	Big Bang	The Mentalist (HD) (TV-14)		The Mentalist (HD) (TV-14)		WBZ News (N) (HD)		Seinfeld (TV-14)
	NICK		Henry	Thunder	*** The Parent Trap (1998, Comedy) Lindsay Lohan, Dennis Quaid. (PG)					Friends (TV-14)	
	DISN		Camp Rock 2		Bunk'd (N) (TV-14)	Bizaardvark	K.C. Under.	Girl Meets	Stuck	Bizaardvark	Bunk'd (TV-14)
	FREE		(6:00) *** Cast Away (2000)	Tom Hanks. (PG-13)		Pretty Little Liars (TV-14)			Cheer Squad (N) (TV-14)		700 Club
	HIST		Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Mountain Men (TV-14)		Mountain Men (N) (TV-14)		(:03) Ice Road Truckers (TV-14)		Milwaukee
	DISC		Naked and Afraid Pop-Up	Naked and Afraid Pop-Up	Naked and Afraid Pop-Up		Naked and Afraid Pop-Up		Naked and Afraid Pop-Up		Afraid
	LEARN	TLC		My 600-Lb. Life (TV-14)	My 600-Lb. Life (TV-14)	My 600-Lb. Life (TV-14)		My 600-Lb. Life (TV-14)		My 600-Lb. Life (TV-14)	
A&E			The First 48 (TV-14)		60 Days In (TV-14)	60 Days In (TV-14)	60 Days In (N) (TV-14)		Behind Bars: Rookie Year		The First 48
ANPL			Rugged Justice (TV-14)		Rugged Justice (TV-14)		(:01) Rugged Justice (TV-14)		(:02) Rugged Justice (N) (TV-14)		Rugged
CSNE			SportsNite	Early	Quick	On, Water	Summer Dew Tour		Sports	SportsNet	Sports
ESPN			Baseball	2016 Little League World Series				Undeclared Conversation: Athletes			SportCtr
ESPN2			SportCtr	CFL Football	BC Lions at Ottawa Redblacks. (N) (L)				2016		Arm Wrestle
NBCSP			NASCAR Racing		NASCAR Racing	Mecum	Mecum		Nitro Circus Crazy Train (TV-14)		Journey to
NESN			Equestrian		MLB Baseball	Boston Red Sox at Tampa Bay Rays.			Sports	Bruins	Sports
CNBC			Cleveland Hustles (TV-14)		Shark Tank (TV-14)		Shark Tank (TV-14)		American Greed (N) (TV-14)		Greed
CNN			Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (TV-14)		Anderson Cooper 360 (TV-14)		CNN Tonight		Tonight
NEWS	FNC		Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N) (L)		Hannity (N) (L)		O'Reilly
	MSNBC		Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show		The Last Word		Last Word
	AMC		(6:00) ** The Mummy Returns (2001) (PG-13)			** John Carter (2012) (ESP) Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins. (PG-13)					
	BRV		Housewives/OC		Housewives/OC		Fipping Out (N) (TV-14)		Housewives/NJ		Happens
	CMT		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Cowboys Cheerleaders		I Love Kellie		Cowboys Cheerleaders
	COM		Futurama (TV-14)	Tosh.0 (TV-14)	Tosh.0 (TV-14)	** Step Brothers (2008, Comedy) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly. (R)					Daily Show
	E!		E! News (N) (TV-14)		The Kardashians		The Kardashians		WAGS (TV-14)		E! News (TV-14)
	FOOD		Chopped (TV-14)		Chopped (Part 1 of 5) (TV-14)		Chopped (TV-14)		Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
	FX		(5:00) ** Man of Steel		* Grown Ups 2 (2013) Adam Sandler. (PG-13)				Sex &	Sex &	Sex &
	GAC		Lakefront	Lakefront	Lakefront	Lakefront	Lakefront		Lakefront	Lakefront	Lakefront
VARIETY	HALL		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle (TV-14)	Golden Girls
	HGTV		Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop		Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Desert Flip
	LIFE		Grey's Anatomy (TV-14)		Grey's Anatomy (TV-14)		Grey's Anatomy (TV-14)		(:02) Grey's Anatomy (TV-14)		Grey's Anat.
	MTV		Wild 'n Out	Nick Cannon: Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Joking Off	Kingin' Tyga
	OXY		Top Model	** How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003)		Kate Hudson. (PG-13)			(:10) How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days		
	SPIKE		(6:00) ** RoboCop (2014) Joel Kinnaman. (PG-13)		Lip Sync		Lip Sync		Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync
	SYFY		(6:00) ** The Lone Ranger (2013) Johnny Depp.			** The Mechanic (2011, Action) Jason Statham. (R)					Tremors
	TBN		Drive	Potters	Trinity	Joel Osteen	Prince	Hillsong TV	Praise the Lord		
	TBS		Seinfeld (TV-14)	Seinfeld (TV-14)	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Big Bang	Big Bang	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Conan (N) (TV-14)
	TCM		(6:15) Scene of the Crime		*** Battleground (1949, War) Van Johnson. (NR)				(:15) *** Miracle in the Rain (1956)		
PREMIUM	TMC		(6:30) * Bratz (2007) (PG)		(:15) ** What If (2013) Daniel Radcliffe. (PG-13)				*** Spring Breakers (2012) (R)		
	TNT		Castle (TV-14)		** Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) Nicholas Hoult. (PG-13)				Hellboy-Army		
	TRAVEL		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at
	TRU		Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Jokes	Jokes
	TVL		Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King
	USA		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Queen of the South (N) (TV-14)		Law-SVU
	VH1		Love & Hip Hop		RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race (N) (TV-14)		(:31) *** Selena (1997) Jennifer Lopez. (PG)				
	WGN-A		Cops (TV-14)	Cops (TV-14)	Cops (TV-14)	Cops (TV-14)	Cops (TV-14)		Cops (TV-14)	Cops (TV-14)	Cops (TV-14)
	HBO		(5:45) ** The 33 (2015) (ESP) Antonio Banderas.		REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel (Sports) (TV-14)		Vice Principals (TV-14)		** Seventh Son (2014, Fantasy) (ESP) Ben Barnes. (PG-13)		(:15) The Night Of (TV-14)
SHOW	MAX		(6:15) * End of Days (1999, Horror) (ESP) Arnold Schwarzenegger. (R)		(:20) ** Evan Almighty (2007, Comedy) (ESP) Steve Carell. (PG)			** Lady in the Water (2006, Fantasy) (ESP) Paul Giamatti. (PG-13)		Gigolos (ESP) <	
	STARZ		Ray Donovan (ESP) (TV-14)		*** The Gift (2015) Jason Bateman. An old acquaintance causes trouble for a man and his wife. (R)				Roadies The band's first corporate gig. (ESP) (TV-14)		Gigolos (ESP) <
STZENC		(6:05) *** Superbad (2007) (ESP) Jonah Hill.		** Tomorrow Never Dies (1997, Action) (ESP) Pierce Brosnan, Jonathan Pryce. (PG-13)				(:05) ** A View to a Kill (1985, Action) (ESP) Roger Moore. (PG)			