

FREE SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

Boardwalk celebrates 85 years of Giant Dipper

Boardwalk

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SANTA CRUZ — It always starts with an adrenaline-rush on the Giant Dipper.

The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk experience is not complete until you get a high-five slap after plunging 70 feet down the first wooden drop only to fly through the red and white hills that make up the historical landmark.

This year, the world-famous seaside amusement park will be celebrating the roller coaster's 85th birth-

day with a fireworks show on June 13, the Boardwalk announced Friday.

Since 1924, the Giant Dipper has given more than 55 million riders a memorable summer thrill, said Boardwalk spokesman Kris Reyes during Friday's unveiling of the summer's schedule.

Continuing another longstanding tradition at the Boardwalk, free entertainment on the beach will also kick off in June. Also, the Boardwalk welcomes Cirque Magnifique on the Beach Bandstand from July 12 through Aug. 20.

The troupe of French Canadian acrobats will hit the beach stage with spinning German wheels, bicycle stunts, trampoline tricks, clowns and gravity-defying acrobatic feats. Cirque Magnifique will perform two free shows a day every Sunday through Thursday — at noon and 3 p.m. on weekdays, and noon and 6 p.m. on Sundays.

"This is going to be a really exciting summer at the Boardwalk," Reyes said. "We're offering so much entertainment for free at a time when people need it

the most."

Friday night bands on the beach will begin on June 19 with The Fixx. The concerts will continue to rock the Santa Cruz shore with bands such as The Knack, Loverboy, the Greg Kihn Band and others.

On May 16, a special season preview will feature performances by Cirque Magnifique, a concert by The Tubes, and skydivers landing on Main Beach.

For information about upcoming events call 426-7433 or visit beachboardwalk.com.

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