

Best of Our Valley 2011: Arts & Entertainment

Written by Nichole Brophy

From news and radio to the hottest events and venues across the Valley, we present your selections for Art & Entertainment.



Best News Station

3TV

From dawn to dusk, 3TV's award-winning journalism team satiates the Valley's local and national news cravings. Presenting news updates throughout the day and informative broadcasts at convenient hours, 3TV has earned a reputation as Arizona's go-to news source. As a testament to the Valley's appreciation for the news station, it took home 12 Best of Our Valley nods. www.azfamily.com.

Best Weekend Anchor and Most Fashionable News Anchor

Carey Peña, 3TV

Adding class, style and poise to investigative reporting, Emmy Award winner Carey Peña has earned viewer's trust through her eye-opening 3 On Your Side segments.



Best Automobile Auction

Barrett-Jackson

Celebrating 40 successful years as the world's most elite auto auction, voters named the annual Barrett-Jackson event as the best for its bustling atmosphere, high-caliber collectors and first-class automobiles. 480.663.6255, www.barrett-jackson.com.

News Anchor of the Year

Kaley O'Kelley, 3TV - Second-Year Winner

Five-time Emmy Award-winning journalist Kaley O'Kelley is no stranger to viewers around the Valley, especially in the early morning hours. As co-anchor and host of Good Morning! Arizona, O'Kelley adds fun and motivation to viewer's morning routines.

Favorite Local Morning Show

Good Morning! Arizona, 3TV - Second-Year Winner

Everyone dreads an early alarm clock, but Valley residents agree that the morning slump is easier to get over when Good Morning! Arizona is on during their a.m. routines.

Favorite Nightly Newscast

News at 9, 3TV

When looking to catch up on the day's events, our voters chose 3TV's News at 9 as the best broadcast to watch when the sun goes down.

Best Traffic Personality

Gina Maravilla, 3TV

Helping Valley commuters map out their morning routes is all in a day's work for 3TV's resident traffic expert, Gina Maravilla. As a long-time local, Maravilla's rush hour updates are enhanced by her knowledge of Valley roads.

Favorite Local Daytime Show

Your Life A to Z, 3TV

From recipes to yoga to the latest beauty trends, Your Life A to Z with host Lisa Haffner has earned top nods and ratings from locals looking to enhance every aspect of living, from A to Z.

Favorite Weather Personality

Brittney Shipp, 3TV

With a smile as bright as the Arizona sun, meteorologist Brittney Shipp is the friendly face of the Valley's full forecast and a favorite among voters.

Favorite Female TV Personality: Afternoon or Evening News

Beverly Kidd, 3TV

For news junkies looking to round out their day, anchor Beverly Kidd delivers a top-notch, news-packed broadcast each evening on 3TV.

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Favorite Male TV Personality: Morning or Daytime News

Javier Soto, 3TV

Keeping viewers on top of the daily news, Javier Soto has quickly grown to be a favorite personality on 3TV and our voters agree.

Best Local News Web Site

Azfamily.com

As the Web presence of 3TV, Azfamily.com offers the Valley's most-reliable news articles around the clock and at your fingertips. www.azfamily.com.



Best Special Event Venue

Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North - Second-Year Winner

When a luxury respite is the reason for a ticket to town, the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North is the ultimate reservation. Breathtaking views, world-class dining and top-notch golf make the resort the trifecta for relaxation, rejuvenation and revitalization. 480.515.5700, www.fourseasons.com/scottsdale.

Favorite Male TV Personality: Afternoon or Evening News

Steve Irvin, ABC 15

As an anchor for ABC News at 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., Steve Irvin's persona and appeal are the reasons voters tune in to his many daily broadcasts. www.abc15.com.

Favorite Female TV Personality: Morning or Daytime News

Destry Jetton, 12 News

As host of Arizona Midday, Destry Jetton has won over her daytime audience through celebrity interviews and segments on everything from garden gadgets to parenting tips and beyond. www.azcentral.com/12news/arizonamidday.

Best Afternoon or Evening Show

Valley Dish, 12 News

For our voters, whipping up dinner has never seemed like less of a chore thanks to Tram Mai, host of 12 News' Valley Dish. www.azcentral.com/12news/dish.

Favorite Sportscaster

Todd Walsh, FSAZ

Looking for Todd Walsh? Try glancing at the Phoenix Coyotes schedule. As a radio and TV broadcaster of all things Coyotes, Walsh has been covering the team in one form or another for nearly 15 years. His knowledge and expertise of all the Valley's major sports teams made him a sure bet in this category. www.foxsportsarizona.com.

Best Annual Charity Event

Compassion with Fashion, Arizona Humane Society

For 12 years, the Arizona Humane Society has paired pooches with runway models at Compassion with Fashion. The benefit, which also presents dogs up for adoption, is valued by our voters because it helps to raise funds for the nearly 45,000 animals the Arizona Humane Society takes in each year. www.azhumane.org.

Best Annual Gala

Mardi Gras Gala, Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona

Big-name performers, Cajun cuisine and a traditional Fat Tuesday celebration are all reasons why the Epilepsy Foundation's Mardi Gras Gala is a favorite among voters. 602.406.3581, www.epilepsyfoundation.org.



Best Wedding Venue

Sassi - Second-Year Winner

Boasting sensational architecture brimming with romantic nuances, it's no wonder Sassi was selected as the best place to celebrate the joining of two lives. 480.502.9095, www.sassi.biz.

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Best Pro Sports Team

Phoenix Mercury

While the Suns get a lot of national attention, their female counterparts, the Phoenix Mercury, are quickly turning up the heat and our voters are taking notice. www.wnba.com/mercury.



Best Local Band

The Walkens

From Green Day to Rascal Flatts to the Temptations, voters selected The Walkens (Tod Miller, Mike Detto, Al Abbassi and Jeff Owens) as the top local talent due to the band's expansive musical repertoire. 602.625.4695, www.thewalkens.com.

Best Art Gallery

Think Art

The vast selection of diverse art and the spectacular 5,000-sq.-ft. showroom are among the many reasons Think Art beat out others in this category. 480.998.9790, www.thinkfineart.com.

Best Annual Valley Event

Scottsdale Culinary Festival

Each spring, Valley foodies rejoice in a plethora of culinary creations from the area's top chefs and restaurants. From picnics to wine dinners to formal sit-downs, voters enjoy the variety of events and presentations each year at the Scottsdale Culinary Festival. 480.945.7193, www.scottsdaleculinaryfestival.org.

Best Arizona Cheerleaders or Dance Team

The Phoenix Suns Dancers

Valley voters love to support the Phoenix Suns and its entities, like the Phoenix Suns Dancers. Adding spunk, rhythm and spirit courtside, the Phoenix Suns Dancers get the crowd going until the last dunk. www.nba.com/suns/dance.

Best Sporting Event

Waste Management Phoenix Open

Known as the "Greatest Show on Grass," the Waste Management Phoenix Open has gained a reputation as the rowdiest PGA Tour event. Drawing more than half a million fans throughout tournament week, the famed 16th hole is the tourney's ultimate place to see and be seen. www.wastemanagementphoenixopen.com.

Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ and Best Talk Show: Morning Drive

Elvis Duran & The Morning Show, 97.5 KMVA

The rush hour grind can put a damper on any day. Luckily, Elvis Duran & The Morning Show blasts an epic lineup of side-splitting segments that make our voters want to stay in their rides longer. www.elvisduran.com.

Best Country Radio Station

102.5 KNIX

From Ben and Matt in the morning to 20 in a Row, 102.5 KNIX is the frequency of choice for die-hard country fans. www.knixcountry.com.

Best Jazz Radio Station

91.5 KJZZ

As an NPR affiliate, KJZZ isn't all talk. The favorite among jazz enthusiasts also pumps a wide repertoire of acoustic jazz and blues through Phoenix's airwaves.

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www.kjzz.org.

Best Local Radio Talk Show or DJ: Afternoon Drive

Big Shoe Stu Evans, 108 KMLE

After rejoining KMLE Country in 2010, Big Shoe Stu Evans is the reason country fans don't touch the dial during drive time. www.kmle108.radio.com.

Best Local Radio DJ: Daytime

Sugabear, 101.5 KZON

Even though he recently left Phoenix for a new gig in Sacramento, our voters (who are still broken-hearted) loved Sugabear's on-air personality, style and antics.

www.1015jamz.radio.com.

Best Radio Station and Best Today's Hits Radio Station

96.9 KMXB

Scooping up two nods for Best Radio Station and Best Today's Hits Station, Mix 96.9's slogan says it all—playing the best from “the 80's, 90's and today.” www.mix969.com.

Best Talk Radio Station

92.3 KTAR

When getting from A to B, Valley voters tune into 92.3 KTAR for all their news and talk radio fixations. www.ktar.com.

Best Rock Radio Station

98 KUPD

Tagged as Arizona's Real Rock Station, 98 KUPD delivers a clean stream of rock tunes throughout the day. From Mötley Crüe to Megadeth, voters love the station for keeping their heads banging. www.98kupd.com.

Favorite Local Making a National Splash

Rhythm and Wine Bistro on VH1's “Life As I Know It”

Local resident Bret Michaels drew attention to the Valley on his “Cribs” appearance. Recently, the rock star's fiancée, Kristi Gibson, drew attention to local hot spot, Rhythm and Wine Bistro. In a 2010 episode of VH1's “Life As I Know It,” Gibson dined at the bistro with a friend, solidifying the Scottsdale restaurant's place among the stars. 480.478.6999, www.rhythmandwine.com.

Favorite Local Blog or Web Site

EricEatsOut.com

One visit to EricEatsOut.com and the site becomes a bookmarked favorite. Eric takes his loyal foodie following through culinary reviews of the hottest tables in town. www.eric eats out .com.

—N.B.