



## Live 'Dead'

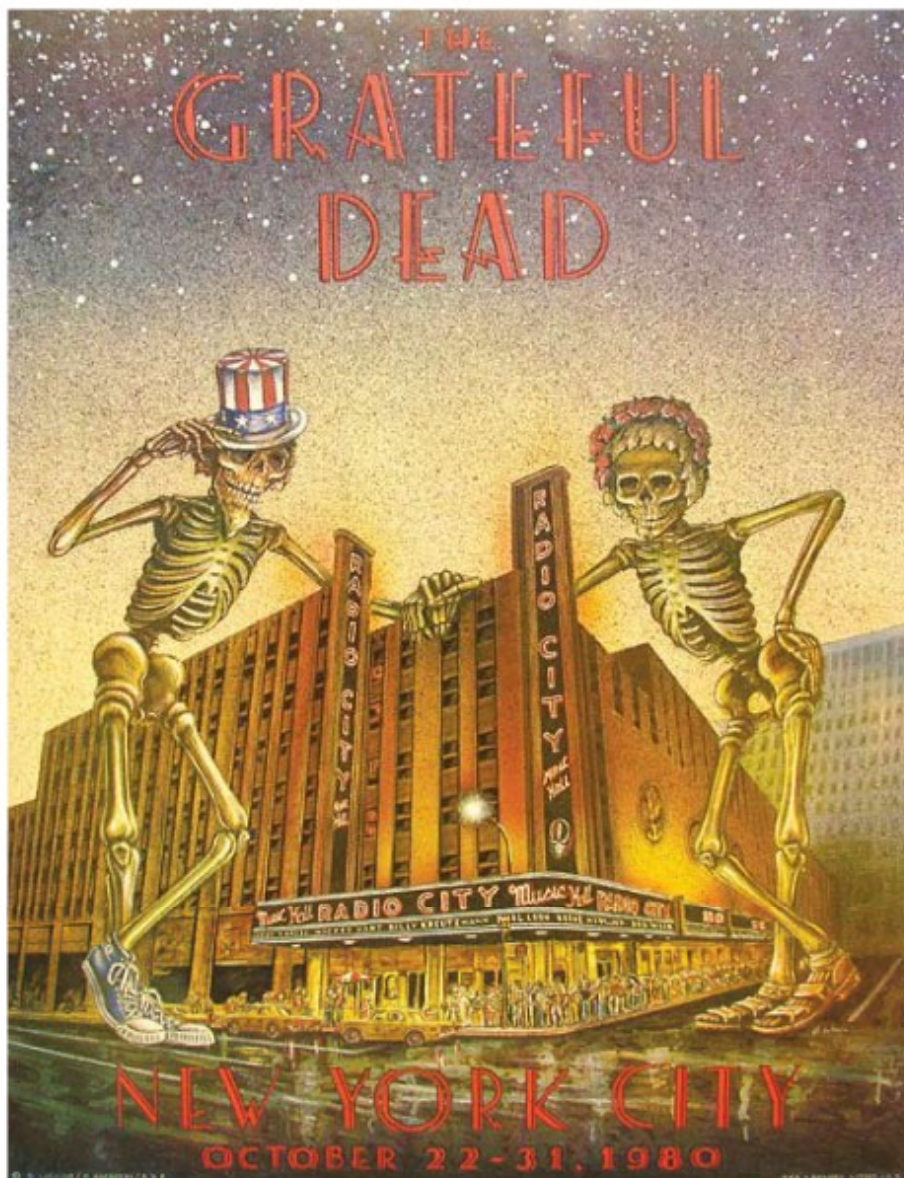
San Francisco, New York City, Seaside Park

With New York's flagship museums offering blockbuster exhibits this summer – it's Picasso's greatest hits from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Kandinsky & Malevich at the Guggenheim, and Charles Burchfield at the Whitney – many culture vultures were surprised at the human waves grooving their way to the New York Historical Society. Behind its staid, beaux arts façade and classical columns on Central Park West, the sounds and artifacts of The Grateful Dead were displayed in an exhibition which just closed on July 4.

Like pilgrims fulfilling religious obligations for untapped spiritual piety in Jerusalem, Rome, or Mecca, multitudes of "Dead Heads" beat their way to "The Grateful Dead: Now Playing at the New-York Historical Society." In a mystical manner similar to viewing sacred relics, inter-generational aficionados clad in everything from tie-dye and Bierkenstocks to Hermes scarves and Prada pumps were spotted in twirling about the galleries.

As "Scarlet Begonias" was wafting through the speakers, the conservative New York landmark, founded in 1804, witnessed how the Dead's energy and musical genius were a cornerstone of rock history. Celebrating how "the sky was yellow and the sun was blue" the exhibit comes from vast Dead memorabilia archives at the University of California Santa Cruz. It transported viewers back onto the Magic Bus, the Summer of Love, Billy Graham's shrines at the Fillmore East and West, and decades of international touring in the exhibition.

Bumping into fellow devotees of this unpredictable tribe which includes Ann Coulter, VP Al Gore, Phil Jackson, Senator



Patrick Leahy, Gov. Patrick Weld, and Bill Walton, attendees felt they were at a family reunion. Among the objects displayed were vintage Fenders and Gibsons, psychedelic artwork posters, tickets, t-shirts, rare LP [remember vinyl?] test pressings from Warner studios, decorated fan mail [including an envelope by "Mike Kosinski of Red

Oak Lane, Fairfield, Connecticut"] and life-size skeleton props dressed up to resemble band members for the "Touch of Grey" video. Although Uncle Gerry's ashes were tossed into the Ganges and San Francisco Bay, his reincarnation seems complete as the band plays on.

For those who missed out – there's a nice chance to "turn on your love light." Featured at this summer internationally known "Gathering of the Vibes Festival" – July 29- August 1, there will be plenty of "dancing in the streets" at Bridgeport's Seaside Park! With appearances by Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Mickey Hart, Donna Godchaux, the New Riders of the Purple Sage and Dark Star Orchestra ["if you close your eyes -- you think it's Cornell '77!"] – the golden road continues.

For information: [gatheringofthevibes.com](http://gatheringofthevibes.com).

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