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South by South Left: SXSW Honors Chelsea Clinton, Assange, Snowden, Abortionist

By **Kristine Marsh** | March 7, 2014 | 11:17

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One of the more depressing truths of contemporary society is contained in "O'Sullivan's First Law," from British conservative journalist John O'Sullivan: "All organizations that are not actually right-wing will over time become left-wing." For proof, look no further than South by Southwest ("SXSW").

SXSW started as a meetup for tech experts, but attendance has grown 300 percent since since 2009 (as many as **150,000 people** are expected to come to Austin, TX, this year starting March 7), and it has turned into a pop culture party, featuring more celebrity special guests each year. This year, the guest list includes Jimmy Kimmel, Seth Myers, Mindy Kaling, Rosario Dawson, Jason Bateman, Jon Favreau, Nicolas Cage, Andy Samberg, CeeLo Green, Wiz Khalifa, 50 Cent and Bill Nye.



Of course with the addition of more celebrities comes with more radically left politics. This year, documentaries and sessions honor abortion doctors, the environment, and the LGBT community; and speakers include HBO's "Girls" Lena Dunham, Wikileaks' Julian Assange, NSA leaker Edward Snowden and Chelsea Clinton.

Janet Pierson, a SXSW film expert told *Variety* that SXSW filmmakers have an "instinctive sense of what makes sense for us. We like to take chances; we like stuff that's out there sexually, politically incorrect or not glossy, and there's a bias towards naturalism and authenticity." (Right, because there's nothing politically correct about greens and gays.)

But celebrating the "out-there" and left-wing certainly defines this festival, which will feature frequently nude feminist/actor/director Lena Dunham as a keynote speaker along with Wikeleaker Julian Assange, who will be giving his talk through video broadcast, since he is **hiding from criminal charges at the Ecuadorian embassy in London**. Another fugitive, NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden **will chat via teleconference with ACLU's Christopher Soghoian, March 10**. Former "Guardian" journalist Glenn Greenwald, who broke the NSA scandal, will also be talking on a panel Saturday.

Notice a theme? According to the South by Southwest website, this **was purposeful**:

"Surveillance and online privacy look to be one of the biggest topics of conversation at the 2014 SXSW Interactive Festival. The number of sessions on this topic reflect the importance of this issue to the digital creatives who converge in Austin each March. As organizers, SXSW agrees that a

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healthy debate with regards to the limits of surveillance is vital to the future of the online ecosystem."



If there was another theme for this year's festival speakers, it would be "famous feminists who are famous for doing nothing." Along with Lena Dunham, Chelsea Clinton will be honored as a keynote speaker at SXSW Interactive. What key role she has played in the media and technology, is anybody's guess. National Review's Jim Geraghty brought up,

"Last year it was SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, co-creator of PayPal, founder of Tesla motor sports, and the inspiration for Robert Downey's portrayal of Iron Man." But this year it's Chelsea Clinton. "We all had to pretend that Chelsea Clinton deserved to have her first job in journalism be that of a prime-time network correspondent," Geraghty wrote. "Now we all have to pretend she deserves the keynote-address slot at SXSW."

Plenty of left-wing celebrities will be on panels too. Rosario Dawson, George Takei, Melissa Etheridge, Lady Gaga, and Rahm Emanuel are most notably aggressive in their left-wing politics. Dawson is an anti-fracking activist, while Takei, Gaga and Emanuel

have frequently attacked conservatives, Christians, and businesses on gay rights; and Emanuel famously banned Chic-Fil-A from Chicago. Emanuel is not the first Democratic politician at SXSW. New Jersey Democrat Senator and media darling Cory Booker was named "Speaker of the event" last year.

Of course, a lefty festival wouldn't be complete without documentaries bemoaning the state of our environment, transgender issues, and women's rights. This year will feature the world premiere of "Vessel," about Dr. Rebecca Gomperts, a pirate abortionist of sorts. As described by SXSW:

Dr. Rebecca Gomperts sails a ship around the world, providing abortions at sea for women with no legal alternative. Her idea begins as flawed spectacle, faced with governmental, religious, and military blockade. But with each roadblock comes a more refined mission, until Rebecca realizes she can use new technologies to bypass law – and train women to give themselves abortions using WHO-researched protocols with pills. From there we witness her create an underground network of emboldened, informed activists who trust women to handle abortion themselves. "Vessel" is Rebecca's story: one of a woman who hears and answers a calling, and transforms a wildly improbable idea into a global movement.

Another doc, "Above All Else" follows one man's quest to rally his community and environmental activists to block the Keystone XL Pipeline from being built. Another film, "Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story" about a U.S. Navy Seal who became a woman, will also premiere at the festival.

Left-wing activism also makes an appearance on panels like, "Allyship: Becoming a Champion for Inclusion," and "Artists Plus The Affordable Care Act: Get Covered." Though South by Southwest does not promote itself as political, clearly their choice of keynote speakers, documentaries and panels reveal a different story.

Feminism Homosexuality Liberals & Democrats Pro-choicers Chelsea Clinton Edward Snowden Julian Assange Lena Dunham Rahm Emanuel Texas Celebrities Kristine Marsh's blog

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algonquinmatt • 2 days ago

"If there was another theme for this year's festival speakers, it would be "famous feminists who are famous for doing nothing"

lol.. bingo.

The irony is that they all believe someone like Chelsea Clinton has accomplished so much at such a young age, when the reality is that if it weren't for her last name, she'd probably a waitress at Denny's. Actually, i rspect waitresses at Denny's more than i rspect the silver spooning Clinton girl.

12 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



LittleRoot_48 → algonquinmatt • a day ago

Well, her mother wouldn't be anything either had she not hung on to the coattails of one William Jefferson Blythe Clinton in spite of the fact that he is a whore-dog.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



cristo52 • 2 days ago

Chelsea Clinton? What, for putting her shoes on the right feet?

9 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Feemster • 2 days ago

It amazes me how this current generation so readily accepts their own brainwashing. You would think that at least one of these lemmings would stand up and say..."hey guys, aren't we heading for a cliff??" Someone one once said..."never underestimate the inherent self destructive power of large numbers of stupid people." This won't end well for America.

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Edmund • a day ago

this is one of those gatherings of "enlightened" libtards, where the whole collective bunch of them (98% +) will be very WASPy, and yet they'll be wailing and bemoaning all those terrwable, waaaaaacist, weeeepublicans and conservatives and TEA Party-ers

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Stratosaurus@ • 2 days ago

South by Southwest was once a pretty good music meetup. Bands came from all over the world to play as many venues as they could, meet with indie music company reps, and maybe sell a few CDs. Now there is a week-long film fest followed by a week-long music fest. One does not enter Austin without good reason when the loonies are there. As the author describes, it has become a libturd love-fest which spotlights things which have no relationship to music at all. Yet the PTB here bust their humps to drag the libturd in for worship.

Sane people stay away in droves.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



lazypadawan → Stratosaurus@ • a day ago

It's like anything else: once it gets too big and the corporations and the media start to get involved, it's all over.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



delroymonjo → Stratosaurus@ • a day ago

Was wondering the same thing. What happened to the music?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



FurryGuy → delroymonjo • 6 hours ago

Same thing that happened to MTV, the agenda is what matters. Music was just to drag in the politically uncommitted until they could be sufficiently brain-washed.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



That Ought to Show Putin Who's Boss!



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Stratosaurus@ → delroymonjo • a day ago

The music's still there, but it's become almost secondary to the political BS. You can still buy a wristband and visit any of the clubs with bands, but it's not something that appeals to the sane. I prefer to stay out of Austin as much as possible, though I do need to go to doctors' appointments on occasion. If I can't find something locally, I order online rather than go into Austin. For a city that purports itself to be a high-tech city, there is exactly ONE retailer (other than Radio Shack) for electronics parts. If I need amp parts, I go to Mouser or Mercury Magnetics for transformers, but for books, DVDs, or even buckwheat pancake flour, it's any of a dozen online stores.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



philpan4 • 2 days ago

leftapalooza..wow
what a freakshow

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



whiteinterloper • 2 days ago

Well, it IS Austin.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



FLVAGirl • 9 hours ago

Dr. Rebecca Gomperts sails a ship around the world, providing abortions at sea for women with no legal alternative.

Well that's it, now I've heard everything. I wonder how much money this doctor makes on her Abortion Cruises?

Repulsive.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



sanfordandsons • a day ago

Why do you suppose was Apple's desire to put a plant for their new MacPro desktop in Austin? Because it is the only liberal town in Texas, and a big one at that.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



The Galt • a day ago

So why is Newsbusters, which repeatedly claims to be against liberal bias and the promotion of big government, up in arms about an event (in part) acknowledging and honoring Edward Snowden?

Oh wait, I know why... it's because Newsbusters is made up of a bunch of hypocritical statist bootlickers.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



UpNorth2 → The Galt • 5 hours ago

Well, most would probably join in appreciation for Snowden, if it could be proven that the only info he stole and gave to Putin, and probably the Chicomps too, was the NSA info collection. I'm more down with the idea that he downloaded *everything he could* and ran off with it, giving it away to both of those entities. So, Snowden can GDIAF as far as I'm concerned.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



FurryGuy → The Galt • 6 hours ago

Your Libertarian cranky act is not really going to win you any friends around here. Or are you really this much as an arse in real life?

So people don't believe exactly as you do, tough noogies.

You ever consider that maybe giving away secrets to our enemies might have been not in the best interests of even you stick-up-the-read-end Libertarians?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



LittleBee 49 → The Galt • a day ago

Geoffrey Dickens
Mark Finkelstein
Dan Gainor
Scott Whitlock

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- **FurryGuy**
There's more mis-spellings than just that. Rutger's Faculty? I like Condie. She's more moderate than I'd like,



LittleRoot_40 → The Galt • a day ago

Well, it isn't as if he is the only one being honored.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



The Galt → LittleRoot_48 • a day ago

Note that I said "in part."

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JacksonPearson → The Galt • a day ago

You also said:

"Oh wait, I know why... it's because Newsbusters is made up of a bunch of hypocritical statist bootlickers."

Of which tells everyone here, you're a pathetic troll.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



matthewdean → The Galt • a day ago

Note that the site is NewsBusters - not Newsbusters. And as no one holds a gun to your head and forces you to read NewsBusters, what do you care?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



theguidinglight • 7 hours ago

ghoul director (doesn't deserve the dr. label) gompert's ship will be docked on lake austin from now until 2 days after event...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



theguidinglight • 7 hours ago

another example of everything the left touches it contaminates with unknown deadly viruses....it can't just be about music now can it...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



scoggin • 12 hours ago

Did they mean Chelsea Hubbell?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



g55rumpy • a day ago

i have scars older than she is

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



amoreira81 • a day ago

SXSW - one of the "whitest" festivals around...and by "white", I don't mean racially white, but first-world problem white. Sisters to SXSW are Burning Man and Electric Zoo. As such, color me unsurprised.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Greg Halvorson • a day ago

How many people will leave this event not knowing that they obtained VD while attending?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Warren Rice • a day ago

Bun ch of metrosexuals and whateversexuals in one place babbling,bloody marvelous.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Guest • a day ago

Can a drone be diverted and re-tasked?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Stratosaurus® → Guest • a day ago

Won't happen, sir. SXSW has to many odildobots in attendance for Odildo the Mad to allow a drone withing three counties of that gathering. If there were an armed drone strike, the current congresspiggie, the always-lovely but terminally-deranged Loud Dogschit might not be sent to infest his place at the trough in the congress-sty.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



chancid • 2 days ago

but she sure is a lot more circumspect than certain other people I could mention....

Juan Williams Calls Out 'Disgraceful Double Standard' In Rutgers' Faculty Opposition to Condi Rice As Comment Speaker · 3 minutes ago

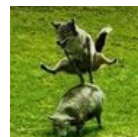


FurryGuy

Whoever is bankrolling this return to print is gonna end losing a lot of money.

Sounds like the GM stockholders before the bailout.

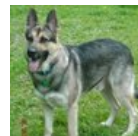
Newsweek 'Back From the Dead,' Causing Furor Over Bitcoin Founder's Identity · 8 minutes ago



kazzer66

Maybe the Rutgers faculty members are afraid that having a speaker of Ms. Rice's grace and intellect, will make them look like the dowdy irrational neanderthals, that they undoubtedly are. She...

Juan Williams Calls Out 'Disgraceful Double Standard' In Rutgers' Faculty Opposition to Condi Rice As Comment Speaker · 8 minutes ago



General_Company

I know lots of folks trying to join that "gang"

Chuck Todd Uses Low CPAC Panel Attendance to Claim GOP Doesn't Care About Minorities · 17 minutes ago



amoreira81

The GOP has never really tried to reach urban minorities where they live...even if it means ceding states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio. Generally, minorities often do not see Republican candidates...

Chuck Todd Uses Low CPAC Panel Attendance to Claim GOP Doesn't Care About Minorities · 35 minutes ago



Trudy Kurz Fessenden

Here's a thought. If you can't afford birth control, DON'T HAVE SEX!

NARAL President: 'Anti-Abortion Is Anti-American' · 36 minutes ago



cbenoistd • 2 days ago
Lou Reed's dead, dude!
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

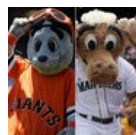


cbenoistd → cbenoistd • a day ago
If you're going to remove his name from the original story, take out my comment too, because it makes me look like a ghoul.
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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Conservative Wanderer

They need to rename it "Newsweek."

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Mike_76

It continues. You and I have talked about this before; Liberals are losing it. They don't even try to make points anymore. They just fling discredited propaganda like a monkey throwing it's poo,...

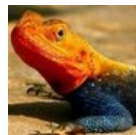
Chuck Todd Uses Low CPAC Panel Attendance to Claim GOP Doesn't Care About Minorities · 48 minutes ago



Lancers3

Re: "What does that say about Griffin's instincts?" -----
----- It is no surprise that anyone from Hollyweird or the far left will always chose someone like Farrow whose feckless style (in their...

Rush Limbaugh on Ronan Farrow: 'He's Never Done Anything...He's Never Gotten Good at Anything' · 48 minutes ago



Blonde Gator

Lawrence Wilkerson, former aide to Colin Powell.

HA HA HA HA HA.

FAIL, yet again.

I'm over fact checking your sorry story.

All the rest of your "cites" are blatantly biased.

You may go now.

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