

Debut of "Top Stops"

2002 TOP STOPS

Listed by gross ticket sales reported to Venues Today, Nov. 15, 2001-Nov. 15, 2002

VENUES TODAY INTRODUCES "TOP STOPS," THE VENUE GROSSES CHART, DESTINED TO BE A REGULAR FEATURE

In our premiere effort, *Venues Today* tracked more than 6,000 events, representing nearly 8,500 separate shows, 1,200 of which sold out in 2002. That activity represented grosses topping \$1.2 billion from a cumulative attendance of 43 million.

And it's not nearly complete.

After months of seeking reports from venues and promoters, we had to go with what we had. We expect controversy and welcome your input, and most of all, we ask your cooperation.

Top Stops will track activity at buildings from concerts to special sports events to family shows and food events. If it's ticketed, other than sports league games, it qualifies. Each month, we will rank buildings based on the prior month's activities (Nov. 15-Dec. 15, 2002, in the January 2003 issue). Beginning in January, we will also list top box office reports in our weekly e-mail.

We did not presume to rank buildings this year. There will be no awards until 2003, at which point, working together, we can make this a true barometer of the industry. Even in its embryonic state, Top Stops is of value as a representation of business in 2002.

The highlights of the year fortunately included new blood along with the tried and true tours. Several arena managers mentioned Tony Hawk's Boom Boom Huckjam Arena Tour as a pleasant surprise, fresh and appealing. The biggest tour and the one people are still talking about was Paul McCartney. The biggest surprise of the year was American Idol, which did well even off the beaten path. First Union Complex, Philadelphia, topped the chart in part thanks to the \$12 million combined gross for Billy Joel and Elton John.

Please fax reports to (714) 378-0040 or e-mail to Linda@venuestoday.com. The deadline for the weekly is every Monday and the monthly is the 20th.

Venue, Location	Seats	Total Gross	Total Attendance	Shows
15,001 or More Seats				
First Union Complex, Philadelphia	37,750*	\$52,013,367	1,322,010	149
FleetCenter, Boston	19,600	\$45,130,392	1,060,345	54
Staples Center, Los Angeles	20,000	\$37,887,095	802,008	51
Air Canada Centre, Toronto, Ont.	19,800	\$31,501,823	552,192	55
Continental Airlines Arena, East Rutherford, N.J.	21,000	\$29,066,336	712,070	72
Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale, N.Y.	18,100	\$26,210,155	508,040	66
Palace of Auburn Hills (Mich.)	20,654	\$25,694,097	941,688	104
<i>*Includes the First Union Center, 21,000, and the First Union Spectrum, 16,750</i>				
10,001-15,000 seats				
MGM Grand Garden, Las Vegas	15,000	\$40,083,913	366,483	43
Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Mich.	12,500	\$13,982,530	350,654	67
San Diego Sports Arena	15,000	\$10,602,780	335,076	54
Worcester's Centrum Center, Worcester, Mass.	15,000	\$8,878,121	331,941	56
Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, Pa.	15,000	\$6,483,661	176,614	32
Sovereign Bank Arena, Trenton, N.J.	10,500	\$6,112,139	308,074	80
The Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline, Ill.	12,000	\$5,722,524	170,069	33
5,001-10,000 Seats				
Radio City Music Hall, New York	5,901	\$69,485,829	1,571,397	281
Auditorio Nacional, Mexico City, Mexico	9,906	\$14,338,248	353,693	44
Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Denver	8,732	\$8,370,321	232,000	42
World Arena, Colorado Springs, Colo.	9,700	\$4,566,843	150,563	34
Kiefer UNO Lakefront Arena, New Orleans	10,000	\$3,369,064	140,002	26
John Labatt Centre, London, Ont.	10,000	\$2,334,249	52,089	9
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	10,000	\$2,300,114	96,402	18