



Based on concert and event grosses  
Nov. 15 - Dec. 15, 2003,  
as reported to *Venues Today*.

# Hot Tickets Turns 1 Year Old

## GENESIS OF AN INDUSTRY STANDARD


BY NATASHA EMMONS

A key selling point for *Venues Today* has become the Hot Tickets database, which turns 1-year-old this month. Allison Peters spends all week gathering information from various sources to bring readers the best possible picture of the touring scene each week.

The first one was the hardest, Allison said. "It was hard to get all the venues to submit reports when they didn't know what it would look like, so we had to put together a format that would appeal to all of them," she said. "Now everyone sends in their reports because they don't want to miss getting in the Top Stops. They rush to get them in the day before." The most frustrating part is getting a report a day late, she said.

The first-ever No. 1 Hot Ticket was, fittingly, The Rolling Stones. The indefatigable rockers, supported by Sheryl Crow, grossed \$2,408,890 at the Tacoma (Wash.) Dome Nov. 6, 2002. The Stones also took second place in that first list, grossing \$2,050,813 at the San Diego Sports Arena Nov. 14. Both shows were promoted by Clear Channel Entertainment.

Dave Petschulat of Gull Prairie, Franklin, Tenn., provided the technical expertise needed for the database. "We've had to add different features. We're constantly reworking things because of controversies," Allison said. "There's always somebody who isn't happy about how it's formatted, divided up or where their venue is. We're always reworking and seeing what satisfies the most people and what seems the fairest."

Allison said she hopes by the second anniversary this time next year, the reports will be even more inclusive, with more small promoter and performing arts center participation. "So we can show every venue matters, not just the Staples Centers or Wachovia Centers, but really track what's going on inclusively in the market, showing every little show." 

Venue, Location No. of Seats Total Gross Total Attendance Shows

### 15,001 or More Seats

1. Madison Square Garden, New York	20,697	\$8,014,778	84,310	5
2. MCI Center, Washington, D.C.	20,000	\$5,115,619	68,838	7
3. Staples Center, Los Angeles	20,000	\$4,824,905	45,224	3
4. Wachovia Center Complex, Philadelphia	37,750	\$3,720,954	55,773	3
5. Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim (Calif.)	19,400	\$3,532,879	34,126	4

### 10,001-15,000 Seats

1. Jacksonville (Fla.) Arena	10,276	\$1,351,734	16,012	2
2. The Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline, Ill.	12,000	\$1,178,865	17,984	2
3. Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, N.H.	11,000	\$1,031,020	8,376	1
4. Sovereign Bank Arena, Trenton, N.J.	10,500	\$826,532	35,847	11
5. Patriot Center, Fairfax, Va.	10,404	\$816,333	25,470	12

### 5,001-10,000 Seats

1. Cumberland Co. Civic Center, Portland, Maine	8,795	\$736,655	9,997	2
2. Erie (Pa.) Civic Center Complex	10,000	\$529,409	13,560	6
3. NextStage at Grand Prairie, Texas	6,350	\$458,087	11,734	3
4. Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, Ind.	10,000	\$440,838	10,424	2
5. Budweiser Events Center, Loveland, Colo.	6,500	\$437,727	9,896	2

### 5,000 or Fewer Seats

1. Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Conn.	4,800	\$1,948,281	33,298	10
2. Temple Hoyne Buell Theatre, Denver	2,830	\$1,779,707	37,401	17
3. Westbury (N.Y.) Music Fair	2,742	\$1,581,247	30,033	14
4. Fox Theatre, Atlanta	4,600	\$1,390,526	36,732	20
5. Warner Theatre, Washington, D.C.	1,980	\$1,320,597	35,244	31