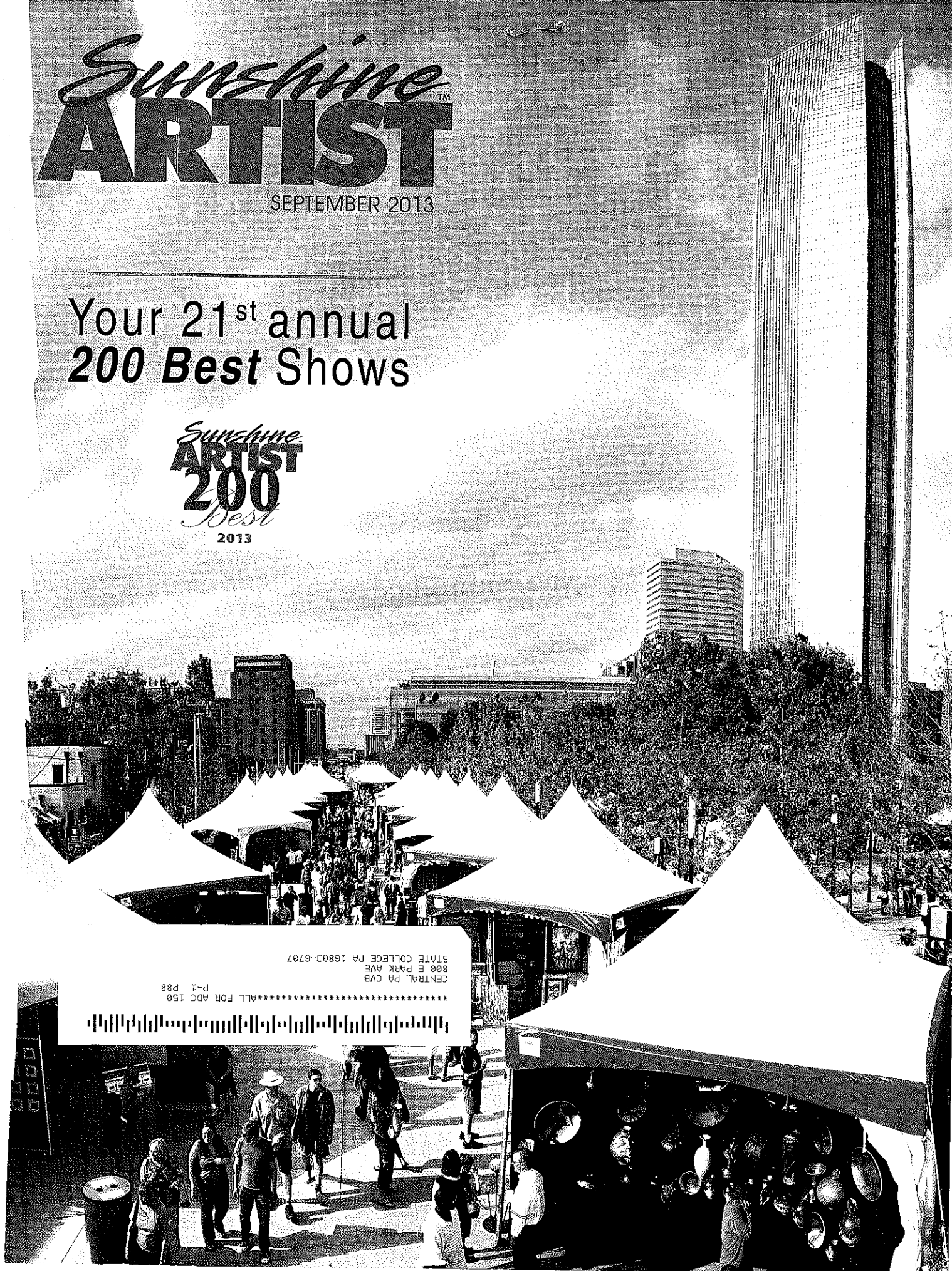


Sunshine ARTIST™

SEPTEMBER 2013

Your 21st annual 200 Best Shows

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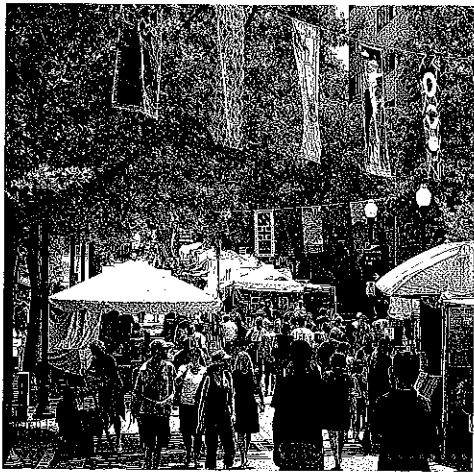


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Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts

State College, Pennsylvania; July.

Produced by Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.



It shouldn't shock you to see the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts sitting atop the *200 Best's* fine art portion. After all, it's been a top-10 show for most of the past decade, and it hasn't ranked any lower than #5 since 2009 (including #2 last year). That being said, the fact that it did it on the strength of its 2012 edition will doubtlessly raise some eyebrows.

See, this four-day event is traditionally timed to coincide with Penn State's annual Alumni Weekend. But last year, an unrelated, well-publicized scandal threatened to dampen the festivities — and derail Director Rick Bryant and his skilled staff's hard work. Happily, that didn't happen, with both voters and SA reporter Donna Wilson still notching mouthwatering totals.

How good

was revenue? Nearly half of Central Penn's voters had sales in excess of \$10,000, and none of them took in less than \$5,000. Which isn't to say that there wasn't some fallout from the aforementioned scandal; as Wilson put it in her review, "...sales might have been down slightly. And I mean *only* slightly." Regardless, it's clear that "down slightly" for Central Penn is still impressive.

Set on Penn State's campus and downtown State College area, this show also offers \$17,000 in potential award money, resulting in a festival that can be quite lucrative. Between estimated annual attendance in the 100,000 range and the reasonable booth fees for an event of this size and stature, it's no wonder why so many SA readers named Central Penn the best in the nation.

