Book festival: It's all about ideas

Readers and writers flock together at the state's 12th annual celebration of all things literary.

"Yes, the world of books is now more conveniently changed by Internet merchants and the plastic cases of the e-reader. But the real buzz now is that book lovers have lost their sense of community. As a reminder that readers embody ideas and stories, this year's Utah Humanities Book Festival borrows Salt Lake's famous mushroom question: "What Kind of Idea Are You?"

Now in its 12th year, the festival offers a menu of lectures, author readings, Q&A and as many diverse programs across so many Utah towns and cities that our selection of highlights just skims the surface. But just because we're partial to the festival's Salt Lake City offerings doesn't mean you have to be. By all means, check out all festivals of offering at www.utah-state-book-festival.org/BFestival.html.

If you despair at the pos-sibilities of the fickle nature of your desired readings, we invite you to keep up to two dates in mind:

Local filmmaker Jan An-drews will screen her new documentary film "Joseph Bukovec. In the Fray of Latitudes." Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. in the audito-rium of the University Main Library. A full-length documentary about the life of the Neu-Berger-winning poet and essayist, it melds interviews and spellbinding shots of city skylines with audio of Bukovec in his own words. Last month, An-drews flick was selected for screening at the Venice Film Festival.

In a triumphant return to his beloved home town, Mabord, best-seller, publisher of Philadelphia- based Quick Reads, will be final judge of the festi-vals Mash Up Competition Saturday, Oct. 23, with Salt Lake's festival theme question as springboard. As businesses behind the ever-expanding series of clas-sic titles drenched in schlock horror details, including the 1976 film of the same name, the title of the book, "The Al- bino Rosso or At L I e D ying Game."

As proof that hasn't preserved the concentrated effort of the book, Utah's annual Utah Humani-ties Festival? Only art and litera-ture can nurture the human spirit.