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## **STREET LIGHTS INFRINGEMENT FESTIVAL TAKES BRIGHT IDEAS TO ALLENTOWN SITES**

**By MIYOKO OHTAKE**

Jul 22, 2005

**A**s they've grown and become successful, the festivals that are swimming against the mainstream and all things commercial have quickly become their own worst enemies.

These are the fringe festivals. Or, more accurately, were the fringe festivals.

In 2003, a Montreal group presented the first infringement festival as a breakaway from the Montreal Fringe Festival. Intrigued by their ideas, alternative artist Kurt Schneiderman planned his own infringement festival. "Buffalo doesn't have a fringe festival to be a breakaway from, but we thought it'd be just fine to get right to the interesting and experimental stuff," he says.

Beginning Wednesday and running for 11 days, the Buffalo Infringement Festival will feature films, live plays and music, interpretive dance and Arzu Ozkal Telham giving out cups of ice and walking around in a fence costume.

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Performing a piece called "Hydration" with Julie Perini, Telham will walk the streets of Allentown with a cooler of ice and address-labeled cups. "I will give out the cups to people, so if they want to fill it for free I will ask them to go to that address," says Telham. Once at the destined location, the person will have to put the cup on a machine that will take it to the second floor and return it filled with a liquid beverage.

Later, Telham will roam the area wearing a fence costume. For "Self De/fence," she will talk to people about the high walls around buildings that separate public and private spaces.

Another thought-provoking event is Michele Costa's "Petites Choses." " 'Petites Choses' means 'small things.' It incorporates small music, small puppets -- they're 11 inches tall but very detailed -- and small stories about small things that make life grand," says Costa. One such short story shows the simplicity of a man taking a bath and enjoying the warm water.

For live theater, Scott Andrew Kurchak will perform an original one-man play, "My Life As an Ape." "It's about this person's life in transformation from ape to human," he says. Set in 1925 during the Tennessee v. John Scopes "Monkey" trial, the play reacts to the Darwinism and creationism thoughts on evolution.

Schneiderman, the event organizer, will present "Mother Dis-Courage," a twisted take-off of Bertolt Brecht's 1941 play "Mother Courage." In his self-proclaimed "zany vaudeville-esque anti-war farce," Schneiderman pits pop icon Britney Spears against Bertolt Brecht in a battle for the hearts of an American soldier in Iraq and his mother.

"We spoof not only the people who support the war but also the people who are against the war," says Schneiderman.

With buzz words such as "independent," "eclectic," "Bohemian" and "art for art's sake," the Buffalo Infringement Festival should prove to be anything but commercial. "It's fun to see something thought-provoking or abysmally bad," Kurchak says of the festival. "It's the purest form of alternative art."

The festival begins at 8 p.m. Wednesday with a kick-off party at Nietzsche's, 248 Allen St., and continues daily through Aug. 7. "Hydration" and "Self De/fence" will be performed on the streets of Allentown on Aug. 6 and 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. respectively.

"Petites Choses" will be performed at 10 p.m. next Friday, 7:30 p.m. July 30 and 31, 9 p.m. Aug. 4 and 7:30 p.m. Aug. 6 at Rust Belt Books, 202 Allen St.

"My Life As an Ape" will be performed at 8:30 p.m. Aug. 3, 7 p.m. Aug. 4, 8 p.m. Aug. 5, 1 p.m. Aug. 6 and 5:30 p.m. Aug. 7 at Squeaky Wheel Media Arts Center, 175 Elmwood Ave.

"Mother Dis-Courage" will be performed at 9 p.m. July 28, 4 p.m. July 30, 9 p.m. Aug. 3, 10 p.m. Aug. 5, and 4 p.m. Aug. 7 at Rust Belt Books.

For more information, visit **[www.infringebuffalo.org](http://www.infringebuffalo.org)**.

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