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7 Infringement Fest shows to check out

By **Colin Dabkowski**

Jul 10, 2014

On Tuesday night in Babeville's Asbury Hall, artists of various stripes gathered to present two-minute snippets of their forthcoming performances during the 11th annual Buffalo **Infringement Festival**. The event, equal parts press conference and pre-Infringement party, is usually a pretty accurate predictor of which festival acts are the most promising, poignant or downright bizarre. This year's preview was no different.

Forthwith, based on Tuesday's samplers, I list seven of the many, many Infringement acts I'm looking forward to this year. The full schedule will be released closer to the festival at **infringebuffalo.org**.

1. "The Regina Monologues"

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Vanessa Webb will perform "The Regina Monologues" as part of the Buffalo Infringement Festival.

An irreverent theater piece modeled on Eve Ensler's famous "Vagina Monologues," this performance from Vanessa Webb promises to combine regal decorum, British history and tongue-in-cheek feminist critique.

2. Vintage Vaudeville Cabaret

One of the highlights of last year's festival, this evening of cabaret and performances features the likes of Buffalo drag queen Jayme Coxx and dancer Leslie Feinberg.

3. Lesionread

What precisely is Lesionread's deal? No one quite knows. Suffice it to say, last year's appearance from the body-suited performer (or perhaps collective?) at the Infringement preview event left onlookers scratching their heads. This year, according to the preview, Lesionread's contribution to the festival will include a so called "red boy" (pictured) who audiences can control through the use of a walkie-talkie.

4. "Hecuba Again"

This theater season has been unusually preoccupied with the Trojan War. Earlier this year, we saw Road Less Traveled's production of "An Iliad," followed shortly by Ujima Theatre and Buffalo Public Theater's co-production of "The Trojan Women." Now, local playwright Frank Canino is mounting his own adaptation of Euripedes famous play "Hecuba," called "Hecuba Again" and starring an all-female cast of Buffalo theater veterans. This show has the potential to be one of the highlights of the fest.

5. Cat McCarthy's various burlesque exploits

Burlesque performer Cat McCarthy of Buffalo's Burlesque Collective, has been a highly visible (and often highly naked) part of Infringement for several years now. She'll perform her characteristically bawdy routines along with performances from her fellow burlesque dancers throughout the festival. She will also perform with Buffalo burlesque troupe The Stripteasers in a production they're calling "The Big Lesbowski."

6. Apocalyptica, a dance performance

Just because of the costume.

7. Steve Myers

In his exceedingly unorthodox performance, artist and musician Steve Myers and others will play a collection of so-called "painstruments," canvases that double as electric instruments. Audience members will also be invited to participate. Above you can see him playing one of his creations.