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Never a dull moment

By Staff Jul 21, 2006

> It's impossible to list all the events included in the 11-day Buffalo Infringement Festival. For a complete and constantly updated list, visit the Web site at www.infringebuffalo.org. Organizers warn that the schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted on the Web site, and some changes will be announced on the festival's hotline (408-0488).

A listing of events will also be posted daily in the front window of Rust Belt Books, 202 Allen St., for people without Internet access or anyone looking to fill a few open hours.

Some of the more interesting or unusual events:

"Human Trials": The artists behind this virtual-reality experience call it "simultaneously a public/private and embodied/disembodied performance." A user is led on "an absurd quest" through a virtual-reality world, while audience members "watch multiple viewpoints of the virtual world." Human Trials will be conducted five times between Aug. 3 and 6 in Hallwalls, 341 Delaware Ave.

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"Car Stories": A Montreal group will perform this innovative street-theater event every half-hour during various hours from next Friday to July 30. "[It's] guerrillastyle theater in which people are taken on tours by tour guides through the streets of Buffalo and basically anything can happen," says organizer Kurt Schneiderman. "You get accosted by people who are part of the show, acting out different characters; you get in and out of different cars along the way, and there are different vignettes happening in those cars."

"The Sky Could Fall": Montreal fire-dancers S.Vestas will put on five 20-minute shows in Days Park between Aug. 2 and 6. Each day's performance will begin at 9 p.m. except the final one, which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"Allentown Telecommunications System," in which Julie Perini and Tom Leonhardt will stretch a tin-can phone between two apartments on Elmwood between Allen and North streets. "Look for the bright pink wire in the air above traffic," says the festival guide.

Artist Brian Clark will perform "The Wandering Observer" from 3 to 6 p.m. Aug. 6 on the streets of Allentown. Clark writes, "Unbeknownst to the public, surveillance tags will be surreptitiously given out and accepted by unsuspecting individuals, exposing them to identification."

"The Body Beautiful," an artistic body painting and "non-textile-clothed" amateur talent contest open to all, will be held at 7 p.m. July 29 in the New Phoenix Theater on the Park, 95 Johnson Park. Clothed tryouts for those with singing, dancing or acting talent will be one week ahead. On the day of the show, body-painters will collaborate with the performers to devise artistic paint designs that may include feathers and other natural elements, but no textile clothing. "This is a cultural event," says organizer Curt Bishop. "The whole idea behind this is to generate a feeling of body acceptance." Signup details can be found at the Infringement Festival's Web site.

-- Anne Neville