

Hit the City

BY HUNTER L. GORINSON

Beware the Fury of F.I.S.T.!

There's a line in "Enter the Dragon" where some chump challenges Bruce Lee by saying, "The art of fighting without fighting? Show me some of it." Consider that challenge met this month at F.I.S.T. – the Washington Improv Theater's (WIT) fourth annual Fighting Improv Smackdown Tournament.

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night this month at the Source Theatre, F.I.S.T. will be colliding WIT-trained performers and comedy newcomers together for an unprompted, unscripted and unscrupulous single-elimination tournament where only the crowd-pleasers survive. At the end of each anything-goes 12-minute session, the fate of each competing three-man team is judged by the harshest of critics – a paying crowd. Suffice it to say, choking does not exist in this dojo.

"[F.I.S.T.] is exciting for several reasons," said WIT's Topher Bellavia, himself a member of F.I.S.T.'s very first champion ensemble in 2006. "There's everything from a puppet show to people doing a series of characters. ... It combines things that aren't usually combined – art and competition. There are 129 improvisers playing, and it's an opportunity for a lot of people to get up on stage and test their skills in front of large audience."

Over the course of six weeks, the 44 teams vying for the F.I.S.T. title will be whittled off the bracket, resulting in a final head-to-head match-up on April 10. Show times vary by day. Tickets are \$10.

1835 14th St. NW
www.washingtonimprovtheater.com

Barefisted improv (to the death!) all month long at the Source Theatre. Poster: Henry Linser & Asa Boy



DC's unseen and unsung photographers get their shot at DCist Exposed 2010. Photo: Brian W. Knight



DCist's Flickr Photos Get A Real World Showing

Ubiquitous DC blog DCist traffics in quite a bit of fine local photography over the course of 365 days – most of which is then shunted into the depths of the internet as the site rolls on (and on, and on ...). For the fourth year running, however, Washington's most bookmarked of websites is rescuing the best of those images, and adding some new ones to boot, for their 2010 DCist Exposed Photography Show at Shaw's Long View Gallery now through March 21.

The 46 photographs on display – a mix of works by regular DCist contributors and strictly amateur shutterbugs – were selected from more than 1,110

entries submitted via Flickr and handpicked by Long View impresario Drew Porterfield and DCist's own panel of editors. A wide breadth of subject matter – from vibrant action shots of soapbox derbies to stark landscapes of Arlington Cemetery – and deliberately low price-points of \$80 to \$300 make DCist Exposed one of the city's most trafficked art events each year, taking in some 1,000 visitors in 2009 alone.

On top of offering a chance to play patron of the arts, DCist arts editor Heather Goss adds, "We're ... hoping to have some local vendors there with goodies, we'll have some great local DJs for music, and a few other surprises (hopefully!)." Long View will be holding regular hours from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

1234 Ninth St. NW
www.longviewgallerydc.com



Bread for the City artfully raises its dues this March 18. Poster: Bread For the City

Artful Charity with Bread for the City

As one of Washington's foremost charities, Shaw-headquartered nonprofit Bread for the City (BFC) is on the streets daily, providing food, clothing and a number of social services to than more 10,000 area residents each month. Once a year, however, they take off a night to bring together their influential corps of donors and sponsors, and they bang the drum – or is it a gavel? – at their annual "Art with a Heart" gala.

Now celebrating its landmark 20th anniversary, this year's fundraiser again features live and silent auctions teeming with jetsetter indulgences, top-shelf tickets and high-priced art (natch)

– all in the name of continuing Bread for the City's benevolent mission. Already announced items on the auction block include weeklong stays abroad in Florence and London, spa packages here in town, and passes for two to a taping of ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption" with Tony Kornheiser and Michael Wilbon. According to Art with a Heart co-chair Nathan LaBorie, BFC is hoping to raise at least \$300,000 during the course of the evening.

Co-chaired by journalists Steve and Cokie Roberts, Art with a Heart 2010 will be held on March 18 at the Capitol Hilton from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$200 and include a seated dinner. Business attire is required (so bring business cards).

1001 16th St. NW
www.breadforthecity.org. ★



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