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Forward Festival: All the Buzz

By Lavanya Ramanathan
Friday, March 20, 2009; 12:00 AM

The act of moving on, pushing forward, has a special significance these days. We do it because brighter days *must be* around that corner.

It's a principle on which the *Forward Festival* of electronic music and digital culture was founded. It's "the way that we try to live our lives . . . trying to be forward-thinking," says David Fogel, who hosts the Loda and X parties and who added this festival to his portfolio last year.

So today his smallish fest, which continues through Sunday, offers lessons from the cutting edge of digital music: Learn to make bigger, badder fliers; to use digital painting technology to add a little color to the live show; even to incorporate an iPhone into live sets. (Fogel swears to us that he has seen a DJ banging out beats on the thing, using it to trigger his MIDI: "It's becoming the Swiss army knife of the new millennium," he tells us. Maybe, but we haven't managed to get ours to send picture texts.)

Workshops today are from 2 to 6 p.m. \$5. Space 88, 8211 Mayor Lane, Silver Spring.

Oh, yes, the parties -- they continue tonight at Gallery in Silver Spring with a (literally) buzzy set by video-game-sounding, dinosaur-suit-wearing *Mochipet*. California's *Jeremy Ellis* also holds court, and the lounge's alley reopens for the season with the revival of Baltimore's ambient *Cloudwatch* party with that 1990s event's original *DJ LoveGrove*. The key is in the mix. (\$10 before midnight; \$15 after. 9 p.m.-3 a.m.) Tomorrow, the music moves to the District, where two parties feature regulars *Aligning Minds*, along with international stars Dan Berkson and James What, at *BeBar*. And how will *Forward*, which was inspired by Montreal's *Mutek* festival, close? With a daytime party Sunday, of course, at *Space 88*, featuring DJs, barbecue, live graffiti and, what else? DJs.



(By Kathy Willens -- Associated Press)

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The District

For Families "Azur and Asmar: The Princes' Quest"

French director Michel Ocelot's animated epic is colorful, lush and acclaimed abroad for its handling of contemporary subject matter. In this 3-D age, it is strikingly two-dimensional. The story follows fair-skinned, blue-eyed noble Azur and his strong boyhood bond with his nurse's dark-skinned son, Asmar. When they are separated, a shared childhood link -- the Djinn Fairy -- brings them

back together as adults. The 90-minute movie screens at the National Gallery of Art this month. *Free. Ages 6 and older (there are battle scenes). Tomorrow and March 28 at 10:30 a.m., Sunday and March 29 at 11:30 a.m. East Building Auditorium, Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-842-6799 or visit <http://www.nga.gov/programs/family>.*

The District

Nightlife Two Times the Bhangra

All right, all you "Slumdog Millionaire" fans: If you love the dance scene that closed the film, you should check out the Indian-inspired moves folks are breaking out tonight at DJ Rekha's semi-regular party at the Black Cat. \$15. 9 p.m. 1811 14th St. NW. <http://www.blackcatdc.com> or 202-397-7328. If you like the party, but not the price, the city's new, free U.S. Department of Bhangra party returns to Bossa Lounge on March 26 with DJ Beta-G. For details on that event, visit <http://www.bossaproject.com>.

Maryland

For Families "Dracula"

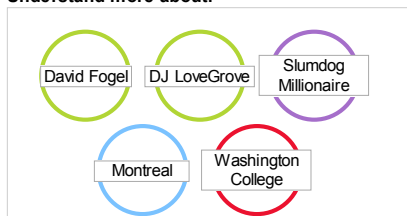
Round House Theatre's annual Sarah Metzger Memorial Play (which pays tribute to a one-time intern at the theater) gives high-schoolers access to a professional stage, along with the mentors and resources to put on their own play. This year, they're staging "Dracula," through Sunday. \$15; seniors, students and subscribers, \$12. Round House Theatre, 8641 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. 240-644-1100 or visit <http://www.roundhousetheatre.org>.

The District

John Waters on Cy Twombly

The American Pictures Distinguished Lecture Series -- organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and Washington College -- brings together great minds and great art. Tomorrow afternoon, filmmaker Waters ("Hairspray," "Cry-Baby") will discuss Twombly's 38-page scribble known as "Letter of Resignation," which the artist completed in Rome in the late 1960s and which is often interpreted as confessional. *Tickets for the event are free (distributed at 3:30 p.m. in the museums' G Street lobby). 4:30 p.m. McEvoy Auditorium, Eighth and F streets NW. 202-633-1000.*

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