

East Village Beat: Fly and Her Peops

BY PAULETTE POWELL

I am enchanted. The elfin waif, with her puckish aura, hands me a soynog with a splash of Bailey's Irish Cream. Her mere presence makes me comfortable at the Homestead on East Sixth Street, an East Village legend and art commune. Fly is her name, an artist's artist who works in paint, pen and ink, music, and performance.

I asked Fly when and where she created her first work of art. She smiles warmly and her eyes sparkle. "I was five years old and my parents threw a New Year's Eve party. My father, well known for his homemade brew, would feed it to

They are hanging eye candy, while her raw punk music stings my ears. Her work has a visual voice and a vocal scream serving to document not just her life but also those of her subjects—everyday people, street people, famous people, and fellow artists. Through these images of truth she has captured the essence of passion, anger, sadness, illness, and pain. These very human stories have recently been put into a wonderful collection of life testimonials, *Peops: Portraits & Stories of People*, published by Soft Skull Press.

I feel as though I have found an old friend, and I have. Fly is a familiar image from my early '90s bohemian East Village existence, and we were recently reacquainted at a party our mutual artist pals Kelli Bickman and Lee Harvey threw. They describe Fly as "the heart of the East Village," and looking close you soon understand and agree. Fly has a way of bringing people together and creating an ethereal, healing energy that mystically hangs in the air.

Fly was born and raised a Canadian Navy brat, spending her early days in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was a good student, but different. She never felt she fit in until she became somewhat of a celebrity at 15 by joining, and excelling on, her school's rowing team. "All of a sudden instead of being a misfit, I became a cool kid with an easy pass to hang out with the popular kids." She won a bronze medal on the Canadian lightweight rowing team at 17. "I wasn't large enough to be a heavyweight, although I was strong enough, and that ended my athletic career."

Fly and I are soon joined by her adopted

"punk rock kids," as she lovingly refers to them. They came over for Sunday baking cookies day. They are pretty things and very excited to spend time with their "mum." Fly introduces me to three cartoonists—Ketchup, 18; her best friend and collaborator, Nick, 18; and Sophie, 23—and Michael, 23, who is a writer. Ketchup and Nick show me their recent work *Teen Lobo-tomy: a Zine About The Institutional-ization of Youth*. It is part autobiographical, and will include other kids' works and words about being forcibly institutionalized and having their rights taken away.

"These kids are great, they are good kids, not into drugs or any real problems," says Fly. "It was all about parents trying to control and conform, not wanting to understand and allowing them to be who they are—artists."



'I want you to know Fly saved my life. I was an intern at Soft Skull and she came in one day, and we became friends. I was under a lot of pressure in college, and, finally, I couldn't handle it. It was too expensive, and I found myself homeless. I didn't know what to do. Fly did. She hooked me up with my best friends, and I had a place to stay.'

me [we giggle]. I was so happy, and all of my parents' friends were happy and dancing. I took a spool of red thread and started weaving in and out of the dancing people, tying them together, until they were all tangled close in my red web. They loved it! It was the hit of the party, and now that I think about it, it was my first work of art. I knew what I was then. I never let an allowance go by without taking my 20 cents and purchasing an art pad and pencils. I was lucky to know what I was at such an early age."

I scan her paintings, portraits, and cartoons.

Fly retreats to the kitchen to finish making her healthy honey oatmeal treats. My eyes Please see POWELL page 5

John Fisk, 1946-2004



Greg Fuchs photo

BY GREG FUCHS

John Fisk died quietly in his Lower East Side apartment on December 20, 2004, after a yearlong encounter with bone cancer. Fisk was the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church's broadcast consultant for over 20 years, directing the audio of all events, from readings by quietly powerful poets like Bernadette Mayer to multimedia extravaganzas coordinated by producers like Hal Wilner. Fisk was known for many years during the 1970s and 1980s as the host of *Digressions*, a WBAI 99.5 FM program that aired every Sunday night into Monday morning, where he weaved an

eclectic mix of commentary, music, and poetry.

Through his duties as broadcast consultant Fisk amassed a remarkable collection of contemporary poetry recordings, made distinctive due to the Poetry Project's de facto mission of presenting as many emerging writers as established ones. Along the way, Fisk also recorded Allen Ginsberg's workshops at Brooklyn College.

Last year when Fisk began to experience difficulty walking he was given the cane that steadied the gait of Allen Ginsberg and filmmaker and musicologist Harry Smith before him, a literal transfer of a countercultural baton. Fisk knew everybody—Vincent "the Chin" Gigante, poet Bob Kaufman, Yippie! Party co-founder Abbie Hoffman, and Patti Smith—but he never name-dropped. The connections were revealed anecdotally while swapping life stories. It was precisely Fisk's discretion, generosity, and modesty, peppered by his confidence of intellect, that made him such a desirable companion. Friends surrounded him right up until the moment he passed away.

Fisk was a great mentor because he was open to information. His knowledge was free of prejudice, rooted in continual learning. Fisk especially loved music, philosophy, poetry, and politics. One area of his apartment was stacked floor to ceiling with books, compact discs, and tapes. Aside this wall was situated Fisk's mission control center: television, radio, and the ergonomic Aeron chair where he read, received the news, and digressed.

John Coletti and I recorded Fisk last April telling a brief history of his life. I waited to listen to the tape until the day after he died. I cried. Even in the throes of pain and under the influence of pain relievers, Fisk was articulate and sharp. He shared a significant moment in his adolescence. After touring a prep school with his father, who wanted Fisk to go to Princeton, he decided that he did not want to attend the

school. He explained, "After that, I was up and running. Of course the process of becoming an individual is complicated for everybody but somehow, somewhere in there, I found my self. And thankfully my parents had a theory of child rearing that had nothing to do with telling a kid what to do."

Fisk will be greatly missed. He simply enjoyed listening to and reading poetry. He was an extremely loyal friend. Thankfully, his spirit will continue to inspire future generations through the wealth of material that he left behind.

Chuck Stebelton
Chicago
The Nineties

Between 1929 and 1941
without changes, without an Ars

turned to summer and all
sold to the little peeps as pets

between 1939 and 1951
often hardens, so windows snow

collective desires to collect and share
between 1949 and 1961

twenty eight leap years ago
thirty head of lamb, sheep

between 1929 and 1941
between 1959 and 1971

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PRINTED MATTER

Poe Folk

The Wavering Knife

Brian Evenson
FC2

The spiritual location in Brian Evenson's latest effort, *The Wavering Knife*, vacillates between Berlin and the boonies, the story collection having a roughly equal ratio between "hick" and "kraut" themes. Stories with the former, like "Barcode Jesus" and "Promisekeepers," offer hilarious satires of religious hypocrisy, alpha-male tribal organization, and herdish consumerism (although making fun of fundamentalism and Wal-Mart may arguably be too easy). Locations and symptoms vary, but insanity, somewhat idealized or deformed, is always the method of inquiry.

Constellating an impressive array of tricks around this sun of madness, a tonal aspect orders Evenson's vision, with the hysteria always paradoxically described by the hysterics in a hyper-rational voice. The results range from deadpan to horrific, but the characters' maladies are unnervingly familiar.

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In "The Intricacies of Post-Shooting Etiquette," Evenson extrapolates from the mundane example of destructive codependency and describes the life of two lovers after one has unsuccessfully attempted to kill the other. The victim, paralyzed and blind, is taken home from the hospital by the would-be murderer, who keeps pondering on the proper moment "to end the relationship."

Other stories weigh in less on the side of parody and more on the haunting. In the title story, a critic wants to write the definitive work on a recently deceased philosopher, so he takes employment with the philosopher's widow. The critic's monstrous obsession eventually consumes the widow, the house, and finally—in an odd climax of transcendent transvestism—the critic.

Evenson takes the unreliable narrator to its furthest end in "Virtual." A married couple may or may not have had a miscarriage. The wife may or may not have pretended to raise an invisible child. The husband, unsure which of them is actually (more) insane, flips through an album of non-definitive photos and wavers between the two versions of history, paralyzed equally by nostalgia and uncertainty.

In turns comic, horrific, and moving, and though occasionally burdened by the variety of

its ideas, *The Wavering Knife* is a collection that skillfully questions certainty by using the glamour, revelations, and horrors of madness. —EUGENE LIM

A Sort of Homecoming

Within the Margin

Truong Tran
Apogee Press

Truong Tran recently won the Poetry Center Book Award for his *dust and conscience* (Apogee Press, 2002) and his previous work includes a children's book, *Going Home Coming Home* (Children's Book Press, 2003), whose title shouldn't surprise those familiar with Tran's poetry.

Nostos or "homecoming" seasoned with childhood nostalgia is a recurring theme and in his new book, *Within the Margin*, Tran engages a self-conscious narrator exploring origins and identities (Vietnamese, American, gay, poet, hero, son, brother, mother, father). Language, etymology, family history, and time haunt and thrill the "awkward kid" whose adult voice investigates the intersection of his biographical past and present. "Home" is memory and Tran finds himself there again within his comfort zone:

journey home is only beginning years later in the here now he is a man awkward and

inadequate he finds himself standing at a crosswalk still in a place still strange to the

body he waits for the light what happens next will change his story he chooses to tell...

The image of waiting at a crosswalk for the green traffic light reoccurs throughout *Within the Margin*, as if signaling to "dear reader" the poet's contemplation about law, order, discipline, and moving freely within a structured society. It is while the poet waits for the light to change that the reader is also treated to a momentous childhood flashback such as an innocent infatuation with authority:

history in the i a voice a cop he is directing traffic he holds out his hand he waves it forward

gesturing as he speaks his words i swear i will never forget hold up hon he says with a wink

and a smile i'll get you over i'll get you home because there is always room for such a

word because he loves me because i choose to because life and death and everything in...

Most refreshing is Tran's casual use of the word fuck. No poet at the "dare i say fuck" moment seems to utter fuck, shroud it against a backdrop of pure lyrical elegance, and have it hold poetic merit like Tran attempts. Flashbacks of growing up

around fuck reengage the poet's adult voice:

word fuck sparingly it is like no other word he remembers learning it from a kid in the

Most refreshing is Tran's casual use of the word fuck. No poet at the 'dare i say fuck' moment seems to utter fuck, shroud it against a backdrop of pure lyrical elegance, and have it hold poetic merit like Tran attempts.

neighborhood not fudge or freak but fuckfuckfuck words as weapons concealed in his pockets...

Within the Margin delivers an epic voice enriched by life experience rendered through memoir and lyric. Tran's margins resonate that which is written on the page, but also that which Tran does not/might never write. The poem moves like a continuous streamer with unpunctuated single lines slicing through the page. Occasionally the poem's streamer line breaks up especially at moments when the poet does his lyrical best to impart resolution:

i would do it again

surrendering all notions

of love and of language

its layers of meaning

its rhythms its rhymes

surrendering family

both the joy and the burden

it's just not worth it

most willingly

i surrender the word fuck

within the margin

Tran's *Within the Margin* encompasses a multifaceted poetic narrative we all would like to tell so craftily. This is a living poem we all have tucked away inside of ourselves—a poem whose poet blossoms at the psyche's crossroad of past and present. They collide exquisitely for Tran at the "green light" within his margin. —NICHOLAS LEASKOU

Tom Nattell Lives

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Knockout Show on Boxing Day Kimya Dawson Throws 'Off the Sauce Party'

BY JONATHAN BERGER

It's December 26 and Kimya's back in town. For the last few months Kimya Dawson has been on the road a lot, playing tons of gigs in support of her new K Records release, the critically acclaimed *Hidden Vagenda*. It's her fourth solo album, sixth if you count the pair she did with the Moldy Peaches back when she was one of the leaders of that pack. Wherever she may be, Kimya always returns to New York for her annual Off the Sauce Party, a celebration of her sobriety.

Six years ago she had an epiphany. Well, six years ago she fell into a coma. She came out of it on Boxing Day and now celebrates with a show each year. In her online diary she explains, 'once a year i fall back into the deepest hole i have ever been in and remember what it was like ... once a year i fall back into that darkest place so i never ever forget how lucky i am to be alive.'

It only takes a brief listen to Kimya's "The Beer" to realize that she's been involved with some serious drugs: "And the beer I had for breakfast? Silver bullet in the brain/ and the beer I had for lunch was a bottle of Night Train/ and the beer I had for dinner was my crazy neighbor's pills/ we had to sit down on skateboards just to make it down the hill."

She's over that now. Six years ago she had an epiphany. Well, six years ago she fell into a coma. She came out of it on Boxing Day and now celebrates with a show each year. In her online diary she explains, "once a year i fall back into the deepest hole i have ever been in and remember what it was like ... once a year i fall back into that darkest place so i never ever forget how lucky i am to be alive."

The show is always at the Sidewalk Cafe in the East Village, where Kimya began performing. Tonight's show features some of the biggest names currently associated with AntiFolk, but it starts off light. Brian Piltin, who gave Kimya her first guitar, is playing his first show of 2004.

He's nervous. He plays solo, sitting with an acoustic guitar he bought earlier in the week, and says, "This is my first time playing

in over a year. So if my leg is shaking," he laughs, "you know why." He does all right, playing songs from his old band, the Piltones. His voice cracks a little bit, but he shines on "Tramp Star," a great song about early love with a crazy girl.

Jack Beats Bruno is the next act on the bill, which features former members of the Moldy Peaches. Jack Dishel and Strictly Beats, two-thirds of the combo, were also in the departed Stipplicon, but none of that bears on what they perform tonight. Theirs is a hip-hop show, the second for this trio of white boys.

Their flow is strong, and they have a fine stage presence, although equipment difficulties keep them from sounding great. Kimya's right up front, and she stays there for the bulk of the night.

Hamell on Trial takes the stage. He's the oldest musician on tonight, having performed his incendiary, political, maniacal ravings on acoustic guitar for over 10 years, and leading bands for another 15. Although he's an older guy, he's probably the fieriest act of the evening. He does some of his "hits"—you know, songs you never heard, but wish you had—and there's also a lot of new material.

"This is from my new techno album," he explains, going into a rhythm-heavy track that he performs solo on his '37 Gibson. "Civil Disobedience" refers to what he wishes he'd done during the Republican National Convention, instead of playing shows in Middle America. "Values" is a track about political conversations Hamell has had with his three-year-old son.

At the end of his set, Hamell says, "Thanks a lot. I'm playing Fez Saturdays in January, and I'm here because I love Kimya." "Kimya!" someone yells from the audience.

Hamell nods Kimya's way. "I guess you've got a fan."

More than one, the place is packed. The tables have been taken out, and Sidewalk's traditional coffee house vibe has transformed into something completely different. The night belongs to Kimya. It's her party, and she'll sing if she wants to. And she does.

Despite difficulties in her first couple of songs—"You wouldn't believe this is my 129th show of the year," she explains—the audience remains hushed and reverent. Kimya's style is painfully intimate and soft, and the audience stays with her through her voyage of internal discovery.



Danielle St. Laurent photo

Her playing has gotten better. Tonight she performs mainly peppier numbers and more complex music. There are several mouthfuls of lyrics in every song. They are clever, funny, and very sad, and they're all performed in her low monotone, which completely captures everyone's attention. She wins every crowd over with a shy demeanor that is simply charming, if a little precious. She speaks a little about why she is celebrating; how she escaped a coma no one was sure she would survive. On her website she goes into greater detail: "and so i remember how far i have come and how unbelievably hard it was to get better. and so i don't ever forget how alone i felt in my misery and how now i am surrounded by beautiful amazing friends who make me feel okay."

At the end of her set, Kimya invites Jeff Lewis and his brother Jack onstage, and they run through some songs that Jeff and Kimya co-wrote. Then the star of the show steps down to watch her old Rough Trade label-mate play a show of his own. Jeff closes the night with his band. His set is amazing, though he is clearly fussy, complaining to his band regularly, and even suggests that he doubts he'll be invited back next year.

Of course he'll be invited back. Of course there'll be a show next year and the year after that. This gig is a tradition. Kimya will be at the Sidewalk Cafe celebrating her sobriety and a renewed lease on life. A great way to spend the day after Christmas.

for more info visit:

<http://www.kimyadawson.com/>

<http://thejeffreylewissentite.com/>

<http://www.hamellontrial.com/>

<http://www.stipplicon.com>

<http://www.hipanonymous.com/thepiltones/>

The Feverfew are the Best Medicine

BY ERICA KAUFMAN

The Feverfew

Apparitions

EyeBall Records

Feverfew is an herb used by many to help relieve and ward off migraines. It is known to be an "aromatic plant" with a "lingering, soothing odor." I've always been loyal to Advil, "advanced medicine for pain." Since The Feverfew's *Apparitions* appeared last November on EyeBall Records, I've switched allegiance.

This Feverfew is singer-songwriter Bethany Spiers, who has been in a variety of bands since she was 16, among them Sleep Station. Jonathon Linaberry, on guitar, vocals, and melodica, joins Bethany. The two have a huge stylistic range. I've heard them cover artists from Bruce Springsteen to Prince (as heavy metal), to a cover of Kathleen Hanna's cover of Ben Lee's "I Wish I Was Him." The Feverfew evoke Mazzy Star or Cat Power with their eerie, seductive female vocals. Their sound stays with me, as do their lyrics.

Their website says, "*Apparitions* deals with



the ghosts, in their various incarnations, that lurk in notebooks, letters and dreams. It is at once, a personal testament to impending disaster, an

elegy for those lost, and a celebration of near-escape." The album *Apparitions* satisfies all definitions of the term, as a reference to the supernatural, and also as "a sudden or unusual sight."

This album is The Feverfew's first full-length release and is full of sudden and unusual sounds, musically and lyrically. It is a combination of acoustic glory, storytelling (akin to Bob Dylan or Mississippi John Hurt), and a shock of experimental poetics. One of my favorite tracks on the album is "Last Call." It begins with the line, "we have a small apartment above an off-track betting club." This scenario is unusual, and lines like "a tired ghost in hospital perfume" and "I'm just another circus. I live above a furnace" make the song resonate with magical realism. "A Song, A Story" begins with a similarly curious phrase, "they come in the morning with their brilliant parades." And then there is "The Gift," full of gems like, "I put my quarter in your heart." This is the same kind of language that makes me enjoy reading

The Linaberry-Spiers team fills the album with synchronous guitar sounds and perfectly matched harmonies.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

But what makes this album special is that these songs are not simply reliant on lyrical prowess. The Linaberry-Spiers team fills the album with synchronous guitar sounds and perfectly matched harmonies. The guitar intro in "Descending" runs longer than the lyrics of the song. The tone of the song builds and defines before one even hears what the song is "about." It is this mixture of provocative lyrics and a soothing mesh of guitar, melodica, and piano that makes this album worth listening to—repeatedly.

for more info visit www.thefeverfew.com

BC21 Update: The building housing Casa Del Sol caught fire in early December. Five hours after police evicted residents, the South Bronx community space lost most of its habitable space to flames. The Casa's activists blame ACORN, which won its case to occupy the space days before. visit www.thejeffreylewissentite.com/Casa.htm

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Tomorrow's Friend, Double Deuce**

Johan Nobell

Stockholm, Sweden



About the Artist

Swedish artist **Johan Nobell** graduated from Valand, Gothenburg in 1994. He participated in the New York International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) in 2001, and has recently exhibited his work in Denmark and Sweden as well as Pierogi Gallery in Williamsburg, New York. He currently lives in Stockholm.

POWELL

from page 1
meet Michael's. He's very quiet and sitting in the corner. He finally stirs and approaches me. "Paulette," he says softly, "I want you to know Fly saved my life. I was an intern at Soft Skull and she came in one day, and we became friends. I was under a lot of pressure in college, and, finally, I couldn't handle it. It was too expensive, and I found myself homeless. I didn't know what to do. Fly did. She hooked me up with my best friends, and I had a place to stay."

This made me think that maybe Fly should change her name to Firefly, because she brings light into the lives of so many.

for more info visit:

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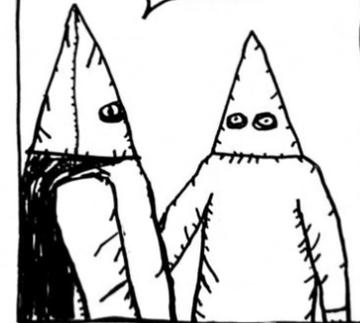
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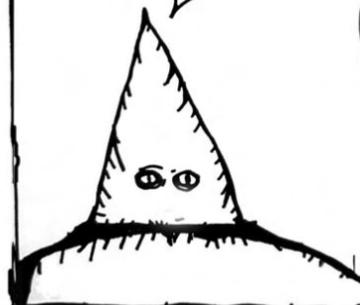


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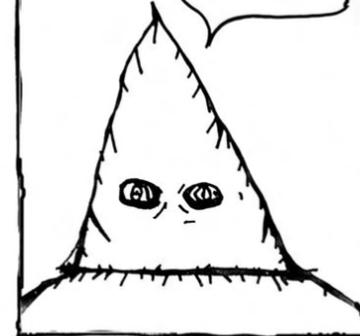


**Official statement
from Lee Harvey:**

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That ain't
no damn
apology.



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Amick Boone

San Francisco

oakland 8:03 am

i'm aghast
my tendrils at once
gone malleable

must've been gnawed
by too many
resistance attempts

and now my poise
so thoroughly gouged

but it is a rain that
comes precipitously

and i am good to
imagine myself
awash in it

through the roar
one cannot discern
the steady leak
of the wasteful kitchen
faucet

but it doesn't last

and i'm soon going around
closing all the open windows
lest the wooden windowsills
like i, should soften

Noah Eli Gordon and

Sara Veglahn

Northampton, Mass.

from Did You-Did You-Did You

You want the clock to do something so salutatory
how can I put this driving for days is like driving for days
passive backwash or trickledown confidence
panic may only be historical with cloud cover
it's hard enough to call it everything in its creatureless way
weeks pass in separate syllables driving through every back-story
like the alarms map out an ulterior motive
I keep forgetting that's me
how to handle houseguests
how things pass through
a burn mark in a broken-hearted depravity
they'll look at your tongue your eyes
& if she can fix an engine so be it
a better way to save face might be to forget entirely
I gave up the domestic plunder to build my own mannequin
standard weather calls for more provocative side-trips
redemptive cloud redemptive lake redemptive avalanche
I've had better meals
we'll cast shadows if we stand over here
nothing as bright as the afternoon sun to stall a crash-landing

About the Poets

Amick Boone is the author of *Notes from Outside Sources* (Sea.Lamb.Press., 2004). **Noah Eli Gordon** edits the Braincase Chapbook series. **Catherine Meng** is the founder of the Scribe Scholarship Program, which works to pair underprivileged children with inebriated poets in need. **Chuck Stebolton's** (cover) book *Circulation Flowers* is forthcoming from Tougher Disguises. **Sara Veglahn** is the poetry editor at *Art New England*.

Catherine Meng

Berkeley, Calif.

Toward Acacia

Shortly after my thoughts go short
as if I'm dead-ending in water
I wear 2 inch heels in the garden.
The acacia tree remains the same bleary umbrella
I love the name of
only in conflict with the name read.
My jeans are too tight.
This too shall pass. The prophecies stop my pen.
There were others
that came to me blue & foretold their own deaths
but they lifted long ago like ash
from the cage.
I return to the spines of my books & love each
title imprinted on fabric
trying to be the loudest gold in one vertical line.
As summer remains in the camera
smiles tack to our winter faces
& below the frame we stomp our feet.
I was visited by many & most had little to say.
But one told me he lived among redwoods
& was woken each morning by frogs.

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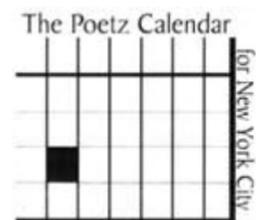
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another or die.'**

W.H. Auden

from 'September 1, 1939'

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NEW YORK CITY POETRY CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2005

IF NO BOROUGH IS LISTED, EVENT IS IN MANHATTAN.

BK=Brooklyn, BX=The Bronx, QN=Queens,
SI=Staten Island. BPC=Bowery Poetry Club

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Sun. 3pm Two featured poets + open mic, alternately hosted by Anthony Scapantio & Bridget Murnaghan, Back Fence, \$3 cover + \$3 min. • Our Unorganized Reading, open mic hosted by Bob Hart, Mindy Levokove, J.D. Rage, Eugene Ring, Bruce Weber, no lists/no bs/ no time limit, ABC NO RIO, \$2 4pm Butch Morris, BPC, \$12 6pm Three featured poets, hosted by Angelo Verga, The Cornelia Street Café, \$6 cover gets you 1 free drink • Phoenix Reading Series, featured poet TBA + open mic, Flannery's Bar, \$5 + purchase 7:45pm Open Mic hosted by Faceboy, Collective Unconscious, \$3

Mon. 7:00pm louderMondays, always an open mic and feature, sometimes a slam, hosted by Fish Vargas, Bar 13, \$5/\$4 student ID (two for one drinks all night) • Saturn Series, featured poet + open mic, Nightingale, two drink minimum+\$3 donation 7:30pm Bingo Gazingo, BPC, \$2 • Poetry & acoustic music open mic, The Village Ma, Free 8pm The Solution, open mic for poets musicians singers, The Flat Lounge, Free 10pm The O'Debra Twins "Show & Tell," BPC, \$3

Tues. 5:30pm Open Book: Reading Circle on Edna St. Vincent Millay sonnet sequence, BPC, free 8pm Express Yourself Tuesdays: open reading celebrating creativity for poets, MCs, singers, comedians, musicians, Brown Chocolate Café, BK, free before 9pm one drink minimum, \$12 after includes one drink • Featured poet and open mic, The Muddy Cup, SI • Untie the Tongue: Featured poet and open mic, Grand Central Bar, BK, free 10pm Stefan Zeniuk's Open Ear, BPC, \$8 11:59pm Nite Cap with Shap! till 4am, BPC

Wed. 7pm Word In, Open mic for poets, singers, storytellers, etc. hosted by Jushi, 5C Culture Center, \$5 7:30pm Collective: Unconscious Reverend Jen's Anti-Slam open mic performance, artists, writers, comedians, sketch-comics, actors, and musicians, (six minute time limit) Collective Unconscious, \$3 8pm Java in Wood, open reading hosted by George Diaz, Java in Wood, BK, free 8:30pm What's the Word Wednesdays: open reading for poets, singers, musicians, comedians, Sugar Shack, \$5 9pm Nuyorican Slam, third Wednesday only is HipHop open mic, all other Wednesdays an open slam, The Nuyorican Poet's Café, \$5 11:59pm Afterparty: Midnights with Moonshine! Closed Mic 1 drink min (drink specials till dawn), BPC, No Cover

Thurs. 7pm open mic, Brown Chocolate Café, \$7 7:14pm Poetry Slam & Open Mic! Produced by NYC-Urbana, the most successful poetry slam in the city! BPC, \$6 8pm Ebonics, featured poet, slam, showcase, and open mic, Music on Myrtle, BK, \$2 • Kay's Café, Hosted by Ebony Washington, Kay's Café, BX, \$5

Fri. 6pm Buck Wild's Wild West Show!! BPC, free • Pink Pony West, featured poet and open mic, hosted by Jackie Sheeler, The Cornelia Street Café, \$6 gets you a free drink (see ad, p.7) 6:30pm The Taylor Mead Show, BPC \$5 7pm Rick Shapiro, BPC, \$7/5 7:30pm Ozzie's Poetry Night, an open reading for poetry and prose, Ozzie's coffee and tea, BK, free 10pm Nuyorican Poets Cafe: Spotlight poets and Slam, followed by a midnight open mic, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, \$5

Sat. 4pm Phoenix Readings; Brooklyn-featured poets TBA + open. Shakespeare's Sister, BK, \$5 6:45pm

Circus by the Sea, BPC, \$20 9pm Open, Neo Soul, spoken word showcase, 4 poets, MC, singers and comedians, Café Imani, BK, free

DAILY EVENTS

Tues. 1 7pm Shaba Sher, BPC, \$8 7:30pm Park Slope Poetry Project, featured poet + open reading, St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church, BK, \$5 8pm Battle Hill Reading Series: Joyelle McSweeney and Johannes Goransson, KILL, BK, \$5

Wed. 2 6:30pm Emily XYZ presents: Unusual Drink on Me, BPC, \$6 • Admit One, open mic for poets and performers, Flying Saucer Café, BK, fee 7pm First Wednesdays- New Location! Featured reader and open mic hosted by the Bronx Writers Center, Downtown Bronx Bar and Café, BX, free 8pm Shawn Randall's Symphonics, BPC, \$7 • Cate Marvin and Akilah Oliver, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students +seniors/\$5 members 10pm Celena Glenn Birthday Spectacular! w/ My TVs, Tarantula, Coco Rosie + more, BPC

Thurs. 3 8:30am BRC Breakfast Meeting, BPC 12pm Circus Una rigging, BPC 5pm Gary Whitehead & Peter Marcus, BPC, free 9pm Jake's Def Poetry, open mic hosted by "La Bruja" from Def Poetry Jam, Jake's Saloon, free 10pm Center Coast: A Music Showcase w/ Open Mic featuring Cockroach Bernstein, Jay May, Matt Singer, BPC, \$6

Fri. 4 2pm Circus Una tech, BPC 5pm Boulder in the House, BPC, free 7:30 pm Raquel Z. Rivera, Josefina Baez, Tomas Urayuan Noel, Yaya (music), Boricua College Reading Room, BK, free • Cheryl B., Frank Damico, Norman Douglas, Anthony Hanley, Erin Hopkins, hosted by New York Writers Coalition, The Prince George Tea Room, \$6 10pm Gary Lucas Time: Gods + Monsters, BPC, \$12 10:30pm The Rage of Aquarius, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students + seniors/\$5 members

Sat. 5 11am Intercollegiate Slam \$4 2pm Langston Hughes: Song Cycle by Tom Marion and Harry Mann, BPC 3pm Matt Schwartz, Joshua Weitz, Jerry Williams, The Ear Inn, free 4pm Segue, Joan Retallack and Anne Tardos, BPC, \$5 6pm Ziryab Arab-American Writers, Rashidah Ismaili, Issa Mas, John Acevedo & Tarik Benbrahim on Oud, The Cornelia Street Café, \$8 cover gets you a free drink 10pm Bowery Bums presents: Tsunami Relief Fund benefit w/ Jason Trachtenburg, Art Sale Auction, Missy Galore's Video Stylings + much more, BPC, \$8

Sun. 6 12pm Hayes Greenfield's Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz, BPC 1pm featured poets + open reading, The Moroccan Star, BK, \$3 + \$3 min. at restaurant 2pm Oblivio: Michael Barrish and ..., BPC, \$5 3pm Poet to Poet/Queens, featured poet TBA + open, Munch Café and Grill, QN, \$3 cover + \$3 min. 7:00 pm Zinc Talk/Reading Series, Carol Mirakove and Jenn McCreary, Zinc Bar 7:30pm ShabAhang w/Amir Vahab (Sacred and Traditional Persian Music), BPC, \$12 9:30pm First Sundays Open Stage w/ Johnny-O, BPC, \$5

Mon. 7 8pm Manhattan Monologue Slam! BPC,\$6 • Open Reading, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students + seniors/\$5 members

Tues. 8 6:30pm Naked...For Now, BPC, \$6 + 1 drink 7pm Poetry Gallery- Open Mic, Novel Idea Bookstore, BK, free, refreshments

Wed. 9 7:30pm Poet to Poet/ Queens- featured poet TBA + open mic, Barnes and Noble Bay Terrace, QN, contribution 8pm Kathleen Fraser and Michael Heller, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students + seniors/\$5 members • Chris Berry, BPC, \$10 10pm Surf

Burly Q, BPC

Thurs. 10 6pm Boog City Presents d.a. levy lives: celebrating the renegade press, featuring Firewheel Editions/Sentence magazine, Brian Clements, Elisabeth Frost, Janet Kaplan, Christine Boyka Kluge, Ben Miller, Daniel Nester, with music by Bob Kerr, ACA Galleries, free 8pm Lipservice, featured poets + open mic, I'O's Bar and Lounge, BK, \$5 10pm Song Poems! BPC, \$8

Fri. 11 7pm Thomas Sayers Ellis, Studio Museum of Harlem, free 8pm Uncle Jimmy Dirty Basement, BPC 10pm Fall Workshop Reading, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students + seniors/\$5 members 11:59pm Notherground Music, BPC, \$7/ladies free

Sat. 12 2pm Langston Hughes: Song Cycle by Tom Marion and Harry Mann, BPC • Nomad's Choir: open reading, 18 poets, 1 musician, 1 feature & disco dancing, 149-155 Christopher St. \$3 3pm Marilyn A. Johnson, Becky Okrent, and TBA, The Ear Inn, free 4pm Segue, David Buuck and Renee Gladman, BPC, \$5 6pm Bluestocking's Politics and Poetry, open mic for political poetry, youth especially welcome, Bluestockings, free • Italian-American writers, featured poets and 5-min open mic, sponsored by Italian American Writers Association, The Cornelia Street Café, \$6 cover gets you a free drink 7:30pm Nights in Budapest Open Reading, Food 4 Thought Café, BK 10pm Tryst! The 1st Annual anti-Valentines Bash- a community project, BPC, \$8

Sun. 13 10am Gabrielle David: Phat Lit Shoot, BPC 11am Edward Mendelsohn on W.H. Auden, 92nd Street Y, Kaufman Concert Hall, \$16 1pm Poet to Poet, featured poet TBA+open mic, Starbucks, BK 2pm Readings on the Bowery, BPC, \$8 (inc \$2 off at café/bar) • Queens Library Open, featured poet + open reading w/music, Central Library Auditorium, QN, free 4pm Iams and Trochees, George Held & Open mic for formalist poets, The Greenwich Village Bistro, \$8 minimum 7:00 pm Zinc Talk/Reading Series, John Colburn and Jeffrey Jullich, Zinc Bar 8pm Oliver Lake, the anagram ensemble, and the creative arts orchestra, BPC 10pm Respect the Mic, BPC \$7/5 + 1 drink

Mon. 14 7:30am e.e. cummings valentine party, BPC 5:45pm Poetry Game Show w/D. Rothschild, Esq. BPC, free 6:30pm Patricia Spears Jones, Lorna Blake, Cheryl Boyce Taylor, Patricia Smith and Sheree Renee Thomas, Makor, \$8 8pm Bowery Poetry Club Presents First Annual Wife of Bath Erotic Poetry Festival, BPC, \$6 • Valentine's Day Spectacle, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students+seniors/\$5 members 9pm Chaos Club, Open Mic, Chaos Club, QN, free

Tues. 15 6pm Poet Barry Walhenstein and Piano man John Hicks, The Cornelia Street Café, \$10 gets you a free drink • Poetry and Prose from the Writer's Room, Hosted by Mariana Carreno/Jill Dearborn, The Cornelia Street Café, \$6 gets you a free drink 7pm Serhiy Zhadan reading in Ukrainian w/translations by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps, BPC, free 8pm Daniel Bernard Roumain, BPC, \$6 • Battle Hill Reading series, Macgregor Card and Eugene Ostashevsky, KILL, BK, \$5

Wed. 16 6:30pm The Million Poems Show w/Brendan Lorber and members of The Hungry March Band, and your host, Jordan Davis, BPC, free 7pm SynonymUS, collaborative poetry, music, movement & image, open mic & featured performances, the Nuyorican Poets Café, \$7 8pm Stampfel +Kruth, BPC, \$7 • Bruce Andrews & David Meltzer, The Poetry Project, St. Marks Church, \$8/\$7 students +seniors/\$5 members

Thurs. 17 7:30pm PSA 6 @66: Linh

Dinh, Mark McMorris, Tracie Morris, D.A. Powell, Joe Wenderoth, & Elizabeth Willis, Tishman Auditorium, The New School, \$8/\$5 PSA Members and Students 10pm Mental Notes: a love supreme, BPC, \$7

Fri. 18 8pm Uncle Jimmy Dirty Basement, BPC 9:30pm Café Imani Slam, \$50 prize to slam winners, Café Imani, BK, \$10 11:59pm Paradigm Spillover, BPC, \$6

Sat. 19 1pm Charles Cantalupo: Against All Odds, African Languages & Literature Conference Documentary Asmara, Eritrea 2000, BPC,\$5 2pm Papa Susso: Oral Epics of West Africa (Sunjata and others): With guest Dr. Thomas Hale, Penn State, BPC, \$5 3pm Elena Karina Byrne, Richard Sime, and TBA, The Ear Inn, free 4pm Segue, John Keene and Julie Patton, BPC, \$5 7:30pm (re)collection: featured readers) an open mic, The Asian American Writers Workshop, \$5 • The Last Word, Poetry, Theater, Music, Hosted by Bruce Weber, Sideshow Gallery, BK, \$5 10pm CEC Arts Link presents an Evening of contemporary Russian literature with Dmitriy Bykov, Olga Slavnikova, and Ilya Kochergyn, BPC, free

Sun. 20 2pm World of Poetry Bilingual Poetry Series: Joshua Beckman (from the Slovenian) & Kristin Prevallet (from the French), BPC, \$6 7pm NYU Writers Reading, BPC, \$6 • Zinc Talk/Reading Series, Erica Kaufman and Adam DeGraff, Zinc Bar 9pm Stefan Zeniuk's Open Ear: Multi Mediorchestra, BPC, \$8

Mon. 21 5pm George Pereny the Electric Poet Gathering, BPC, \$6 7pm International Mother Language Day, BPC 8pm Gail Scott and Jesse Seldess, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students+seniors/\$5 members

Tues. 22 7pm John Kawie: Brainfreeze, BPC 8pm Nick's ArtStars Compilation CD(with performances by dozens of incredible artists), BPC

Wed. 23 8pm Wet Ink Musics presents Charles Gayle & Wet Ink Ensemble, BPC, \$10 • Ted Greenwald & Lyn Hejinian, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students+seniors/\$5 members

Thurs. 24 5pm Aunt Lettuce, I Want to Peek Under Your Skirt Book Party: Erotic poems by Charles Simic, erotic drawings by Howie Michels, BPC, free 7pm *Belladonna, Lyn Hejinian and Anne Waldman, Zinc Bar, \$7-\$10 suggested donation 10pm Stefan Zeniuk's Open Ear:PAK cd release party + Elliot Sharp ensemble, BPC, \$8

Fri. 25 8pm Master guitarist Gary Lucas and master luttist Jozef Van Wissem: "The Universe of Absence," BPC, \$15 10pm 3rd Party's Fourth Friday, BPC, \$8/6 (this show goes late) 10:30pm Funk Cantabile, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students+seniors/\$5 members

Sat. 26 12pm Dr. Seuss: Bob Holman is The Cat in the Hat, BPC, \$5 for ages 3-103 (all others free) 2pm Papa Susso: Oral Epochs of West Africa (Sunjata and others) today w/Balla and Tappa Demba, BPC, \$5 3pm Dan Machlin, and two TBAs, The Ear Inn, free 4pm Segue, Zhang Er and Mendi Lewis Obadike, BPC, \$5 10:59pm Bintou's Global Mic, BPC

Sun. 27 2pm Wales celebrates St. David's day in NYC w/The Jones Show, BPC 7:00 pm Zinc Talk/Reading Series, Joel Kuszi and Ethan Fugate, Zinc Bar 8pm Balakalva: East European Reading, BPC, \$6

Mon. 28 5pm Reda Manzur, BPC 7:30pm Little Miss Big Mouth, BPC, \$6 8pm Lucie Brock-Broido & Richard Howard, 92nd Street Y, Kaufman Concert Hall, \$16 • Christian Hawkey & Bruna Mori, The Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church, \$8/\$7 students + seniors/ \$5 members

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