

ARTS GUIDE

The 2026 Fall Arts Guide: A Thousand Ways to Escape

Art can fuel a revolution, but it's also the fastest ticket out of here—for the length of a play or a lap around a museum, art lets us escape the trials and tribulations of everyday life.



by **WASHINGTON CITY PAPER**
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There must have been something in D.C.'s water in 1976.

Fifty years ago in the District, go-go dropped its first beat, Round House Theatre was born, the Folger Consort started singing, and the Washington Ballet performed its first pirouette. Five decades of art-making in a world that continually undervalues it speaks to the endurance of music, theater, dance—art—and all that it offers.

Art can fuel a revolution, build community, and introduce us to worlds far from our own. But it's also the fastest ticket out of here. For the length of a film, the pages of a book, or however long it takes to wander the halls of a museum, art gives us the means to escape the trials and tribulations of everyday life—especially when everyday life feels increasingly like an *Onion* article or a dystopian novel.

For the 2026 Fall Arts Guide, we wanted to offer readers a moment to breathe, a place to unplug, a space to pause and just be.

“We live in the age of the infinite scroll, where the algorithm feeds us what we already believe, where everything can be refreshed, swiped away, interrupted by the next notification. A book refuses all of that,” *PBS NewsHour*'s **Geoff Bennett** said at the National Book Festival in August. “It asks you to live inside someone else's mind for 300 pages ... and to stay with an idea long enough to understand.”

He was talking about the power of reading that night, but isn't that what *all* art asks? And while the reward might always look different, there is always a reward (that movie you **hated so much you can't stop talking about it** still got you talking about it).

Aside from the 70 events spotlighted below, this year's fall guide features stories on how local comedians and rabble-rousers are laughing in the face of an administration that hates to be laughed at—in which co-writers **Bryce Taylor Rudow** and **Hil Horvath** remind us of comedy's enduring power. **Taylor Ruckle** tells us how a group of artists are taking over the Mall Sept. 26 for the first local punk show at the base of the Washington Monument since **Fugazi** played there in 1995. And **Melissa Lin Sturges** looks into the growing interest in theater education. It turns out, in a world being slowly smothered by AI, theater kids are building community, life skills, and “a sense of self.”

Before you dig in, and I hope you treat this like the dessert it is, a couple of thanks: to our readers who make this happen, to the contributors who fill these “pages,” and most importantly to **Jane Martinache**, **Sam Ostwald**, **Gail O'Hara**, **Lizzy Iseler**, and **Darrow Montgomery**—this guide simply would not exist without you.

With that, we offer you a thousand ways to escape this fall. And at the end, when your cup is full and your eyes are glistening, we hope you walk out of the venue with something like hope. —**Sarah Marloff**

2026 Fall Arts Guide Features:

Cackling at Fascism: How Washington Learned to Laugh Last, *by Bryce Taylor Rudow and Hil Horvath*
D.C. Punk Returns to the National Mall for a Monumental Benefit Concert, *by Taylor Ruckle*
Collaboration, Communication, and Critical Thinking: How Theater Education Goes Beyond the Stage,
by Melissa Lin Sturges

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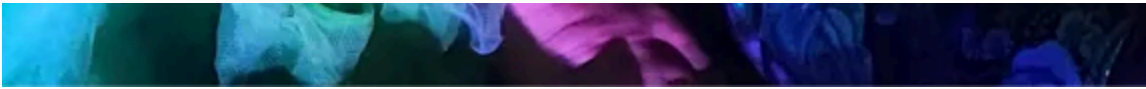
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Sept. 19: The Cruddy Crankerz with TOB and More at Fort Dupont Park

In 2012, Southeast's Lady Moet the Beast and D.C. Ty the Monster began performing together with a band and called themselves the Cruddy Crankerz. Moet previously sang in 1990s go-go group Petworth, and Ty had a background in rapping and producing. [...]

Sept. 21: Mon Rovîa at Fillmore Silver Spring

As a music journalist from Appalachia, witnessing the rise of Affrilachian singer-songwriter Janjay Lowe, better known as Mon Rovîa, has brought so much joy and recognition to a critically underappreciated artistic movement. Lowe's stage name is an homage to the Liberian capital city he was born and raised in during its first civil war before being adopted by an American family. [...]



Sept. 25–27: All Things Go at Merriweather Post Pavilion

All Things Go is back for its 12th year in the DMV, taking over Merriweather Post Pavilion for three days this fall. ATG has exploded in recent years, from its homegrown Union Market roof roots to a multicity (D.C., New

York, and Toronto) internationally recognized festival. Dubbed “lesbopalooza” by returning headliner MUNA, [...]



Sept. 25: Iron Lung at Transmission

Transmission has breathed new life into the former Rock & Roll Hotel space, mostly in the form of hosting top-notch DJs and dance parties. But that doesn’t mean live music can’t still be found inside of those hallowed walls. And sometimes it’ll even be a band who played the old Rock & Roll Hotel, like Seattle’s Iron Lung. [...]

Sept. 26: Cumbia Fest D.C. in Mount Pleasant

Cumbia Fest is back. After its 2025 grassroots debut, the family-friendly event returns to Lamont Plaza with an artisan market, cultural activations, musical performances, and more. Marx Cafe and other Mount Pleasant businesses and musicians have spearheaded the event as an opportunity to celebrate Latin American identity, the genre, and the history of cumbia from Colombia to the Americas. [...]



Sept. 26: Bryce Bowyn's Album Release Show at the Pocket

For a night of all-local, all-queer, all pop music talent, head to a cozy, funky venue near NoMa: the Pocket. There, pop artist Bryce Bowyn will play his new album, *Fever Dream*, from beginning to end, inviting audiences into a world of his own making—one he describes on Instagram as a place “where obsession is romantic,...”



Sept. 26: Ward 1 Mutual Aid Benefit Show featuring Glitterer, Posición Unida, and Somebody's Daughter at the National Sylvan Theater

See Taylor Ruckle's 2026 Fall Arts Guide feature for details.



Sept. 27: Armand Hammer at Union Stage

Armand Hammer is a rap twosome, composed of New York City's Billy Woods and Elucid, who, in addition to their solo careers, have been vocalizing together since their 2013 debut, *Race Music*. Named after the late oil tycoon (and likely punning on the baking soda company), [...]



Sept. 28: Rocketship at Pearl Street Warehouse

Originally from Sacramento, California, and inspired by Felt, Portland, Oregon's Rocketship are playing in D.C. this fall for the first time in three decades. The humble indie-pop band are celebrating the 30th anniversary of their classic debut album, *A Certain Smile, A Certain Sadness* (recently reissued on onetime DMV label Slumberland), [...]



Sept. 30: Chinese Football at Pearl Street Warehouse

If you're feeling nostalgic for '90s indie rock, head to the Wharf for a concert by Wuhan-founded four-piece band Chinese Football. In fact, Chinese Football are nostalgic for 1990s indie rock too. Frontperson Xu Bo chose the band name as an homage to the '90s Illinois emo band American Football, [...]



Oct. 1: Squirrel Flower at Union Stage

Squirrel Flower's *Say a Prayer to the Gods of Getting Going* was released less than a month ago and it's already competing with Phoebe for my favorite album of the year. Come to think of it, *Lost Weekend* has only been out one week longer: August has been good to fans of weird sad girl singer-songwriters armed with guitars. [...]



Oct. 3: Power to the People Festival at Merriweather Post Pavilion

As the great Patti Smith once sang, “people have the power” and we need to harness the shit out of it in the coming month. Tom Morello (Rage Against the Machine) has curated an all-ages festival designed to encourage voter registration, empower the people, and celebrate a music community full of activists. [...]



Oct. 6: Kelsey Lu at Union Stage

Musician Kelsey Lu has been busy. Earlier this year they released their second album, *So Help Me God*, a beautifully textured and melodically rich breakup album featuring Kamasi Washington's saxophone stylings, Jack Antonoff's production, a Sampha collaboration, and a Kim Gordon songwriting credit (see what I mean by textured?). [...]



Oct. 8: Kinda Evil's Psychic Parlor: A Tarot-Themed Party at Pie Shop

'Tis the season of the witch, as they say, and what better way to celebrate than with an otherworldly party put on by Kinda Evil, the local band known for their dark soul rock? Joining Kinda Evil on the lineup are Shame Shame and Knifing Around. But this is more than a concert. [...]



Oct. 12: Show Me the Body at Black Cat

Hardcore is having a bit of a moment right now. Major pop artists are ripping off classic hardcore merch designs and Baltimore heroes Turnstile are headlining major music festivals. The genre isn't just tough guy headbanging (though there is a lot of that). To see the breadth of what hardcore has to offer, [...]



Oct. 13: Open Mike Eagle With Kenny Segal at Songbyrd

Chicago-raised rapper Open Mike Eagle put out his first solo album, *Unapologetic Art Rap*, in 2010, on which he employed dense punch line phrasing with a touch of goofy humor. The album's opener, "Art Rap Party," punned on the phrase "Ain't no party like a P-Funk party, 'cause a P-Funk party don't stop" with the line "Ain't no party like an art rap party cuz an art rap's party's so smart." He also sampled an unreleased Pavement song. [...]

Oct. 13: Kelela at Fillmore Silver Spring

The DMV's own Kelela is making her homecoming to a sold-out Fillmore on Oct. 13 at the peak of her *new avatar* album cycle. She's been an R&B darling for years, especially since 2023's *Raven* but *new avatar* has catapulted her to another stratosphere of songwriting and stardom. [...]



Oct. 21: L7 at Howard Theatre

To put it simply, feminist punk rockers L7 are legends. Over four decades, they've done a lot of heavy lifting when it comes to advancing women in punk rock scenes and have done their best to hold onto their original ethos. The band's releases from the '80s and '90s soundtracked my childhood, especially 1992's *Bricks Are Heavy*. [...]



Oct. 23: Helado Negro and Reyna Tropical Present Helado Tropical at Black Cat

In 2024 a friend of Fabi Reyna, who performs as Reyna Tropical, and Roberto Carlos Lange, aka Helado Negro, invited the two to meet up in a recording studio. The two musicians hit it off and the result of a three-day session (and some follow-up work) is *Helado Tropical*. [...]



Oct. 23: Be Your Own Pet at DC9

In the wave of indie sleaze bands from the mid-aughts, Nashville's Be Your Own Pet stood out among their contemporaries. The band were young, their members barely out of high school before they started getting big, and their aggressive, spastic sound came with a dose of spiky wit. Vocalist Jemima Pearl snarled her lyrics like she had something to prove, [...]



Oct. 29: Vince Staples at Fillmore Silver Spring

Southern California rapper Vince Staples is not afraid to take sudden musical left turns. After a series of mixtapes and a debut album that used hip-hop beats, Staples' second album, 2017's *Big Fish Theory*, had him vocalizing over house and Detroit techno beats. Now, after a series of ruminative hip-hop albums looking back on his life and growing up in Long Beach, [...]



Oct. 30: Ian Sweet at DC9 and Boy Harsher at Howard Theatre

The night before Halloween, two shows of vastly different sounds are vying for my time and attention. Jilian Medford performing as Ian Sweet, who several years ago opened for Nation of Language's first 9:30 Club show, is back in D.C. for her own headlining tour. *Shiverstruck*, [...]



Oct. 30: Heavens to Betsy at the Black Cat

Raging hormones, teen angst, and feminist punk: Heavens to Betsy had it all. Corin Tucker (Sleater-Kinney, among others) and Tracy Sawyer (the Husbands, among others) formed the band as teens before recording some scorching songs and playing events like 1994's Yo-Yo a Go-Go fest in Olympia, [...]



Nov. 1: Eva Ayllon and Daniela Darcourt at the Howard Theatre

When Maria Ayllon was 3 years old and growing up in Lima, Peru, her maternal grandmother, Eva, taught her to sing. Ayllon, who began entering singing competitions at school and on TV and radio, took on the name Eva as she began her musical career to honor her grandmother. After a period singing as a teenager in a number of Afro Peruvian groups, [...]



Nov. 4: Ashley Monroe With Charlie Worsham at the Birchmere

Tennessee-born country singer Ashley Monroe opens her new album, *Dear Nashville*, with “I Hate Nashville.” The song is about her relationship with the city she moved to when she was 15 to make it in the music business. Singing with more of a melancholy tone than an angry one, Monroe croons, [...]

Nov. 8: William Basinski at Bertha

It has become a tried-and-true cliché that a certain type of millennial gentleman walks around with a copy of David Foster Wallace’s massive tome *Infinite Jest* in their *New Yorker* tote and that all parties had better run in the other direction. As a signifier, they represent the quintessential erudite hipster doofus who fancies themselves more sophisticated than the rest of the Amtrak quiet car. [...]



Nov. 11: Freak Slug at the Atlantis

How can you resist a quirky young woman whose IG bio simply says, “Kissin slugs since childhood”? (My Jack Russell terrier, Mrs. Howell, kisses slugs in her way too; I call them her mouth friends.) Mancunian singer-songwriter Xenya Genovese took her far from garden-variety moniker in 2015, [...]



Nov. 11–15: The Unofficial Post-Punk Fest at Black Cat, Union Stage, and Atlantis

After the summer music festival circuit comes to a close, fall ushers an active time for bands packing in tours before the annual holiday lull. If you’re a big music fan, you’re used to the routine—getting tickets to numerous concerts between September and November. And this November—for fans of post-punk in particular—that confluence of solid gigs amounts to what I’m deeming an ostensible mini-festival, [...]



Nov. 12–15: Red Brick Weekend at Rhizome and Songbyrd

One of D.C.'s best DIY bookers is celebrating five years and everyone is invited to the party. From Nov. 12 through 15, Red Brick Presents hosts Red Brick Weekend. Over the course of four days, catch local favorites and up-and-coming touring acts at Songbyrd, Rhizome, and Don Patti Memorial Gym at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (the home of the celebrated Mosh Madness). [...]



Nov. 20: mary in the junkyard at DC9

Every year there are a few international acts playing at clubs like DC9, Songbyrd, Comet Ping Pong, and other intimate venues that help renew faith in live music. While there are great local shows throughout D.C. every night of the week, it's getting rarer and rarer to see up-and-coming acts that need passports to tour at club level in this town. [...]

Nov. 21: DC Punk Rock Flea Market at St. Stephen

A few years ago, the Friends of the Mount Pleasant Library gave out a “punk rock bingo card” to attendees of the DC Punk Rock Flea Market. While it can be easy to target any group through its broad cultural signifiers, the card included a shockingly accurate list of what you’ll encounter within the throngs of people who will flood Columbia Heights’ St. [...]



Nov. 21: Dark Star Orchestra at the Anthem

As has been well documented, it's been a difficult summer for Deadheads, especially if you don't take much comfort from that, uh, other band. With the tremendous loss of Bob Weir in January, the prospect of a Dead & Co. tour doesn't seem likely anytime soon—if ever. And so, fans take solace in the familiar wherever they can get it and that's where Dark Star Orchestra come in. [...]

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Books



Sept. 17: Yu-Mei Balasingamchow Discusses *Names Have Been Changed* at East City Bookshop

Writer Yu-Mei Balasingamchow's debut novel, *Names Have Been Changed*, follows a podcaster from Singapore as she's chased across London, Tokyo, Colorado, and beyond for a crime she never intended to commit. "Ophir" (though that's not her real name) cycles through fake identities and forged passports, [...]



Sept. 23: Taylor Tomlinson Discusses *Actually, Nevermind* at Sixth & I

Though books penned by celebrities are always a gamble, comedian Taylor Tomlinson's ability to write is indisputable. Her new book, *Actually, Nevermind*, is a collection of predictably hilarious original essays on everything from the universality of love and relationships to the nichier experience of being an eldest daughter to the nichiest: being the only woman in late-night television for a year. [...]



Sept. 24: Miriam Zoila Pérez and Verónica Bayetti Flores Discuss *Muévelo: The Enduring Legacy of Latin Music Across Borders* at People's Book

When Miriam Zoila Pérez and Verónica Bayetti Flores, hosts of the *Radio Menea* podcast, started writing *Muévelo: The Enduring Legacy of Latin Music Across Borders*, they wanted to explore the evolution of Latin music—and to center the joy within. The book, which came out on Aug. [...]



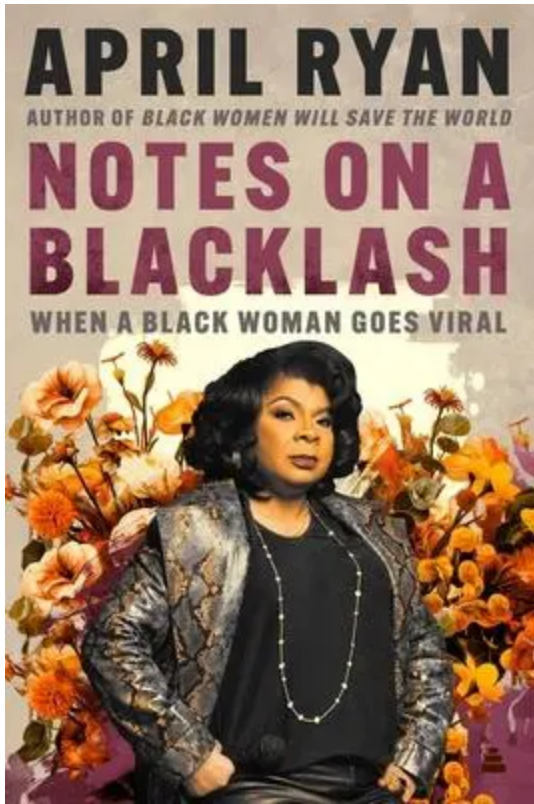
Sept. 30: Karyn Parsons Discusses *Blue Beach* at Sankofa

Known for playing Hilary Banks in *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, Karyn Parsons has since founded Sweet Blackberry, an award-winning series of children's animated films and books sharing stories of unsung Black heroes in history. But her latest book, *Blue Beach*, is a historical mystery novel and her first foray into the young adult genre. [...]

Oct. 4: Liwanag Filipino Lit Fest at Loyalty Bookstore and Petworth Library

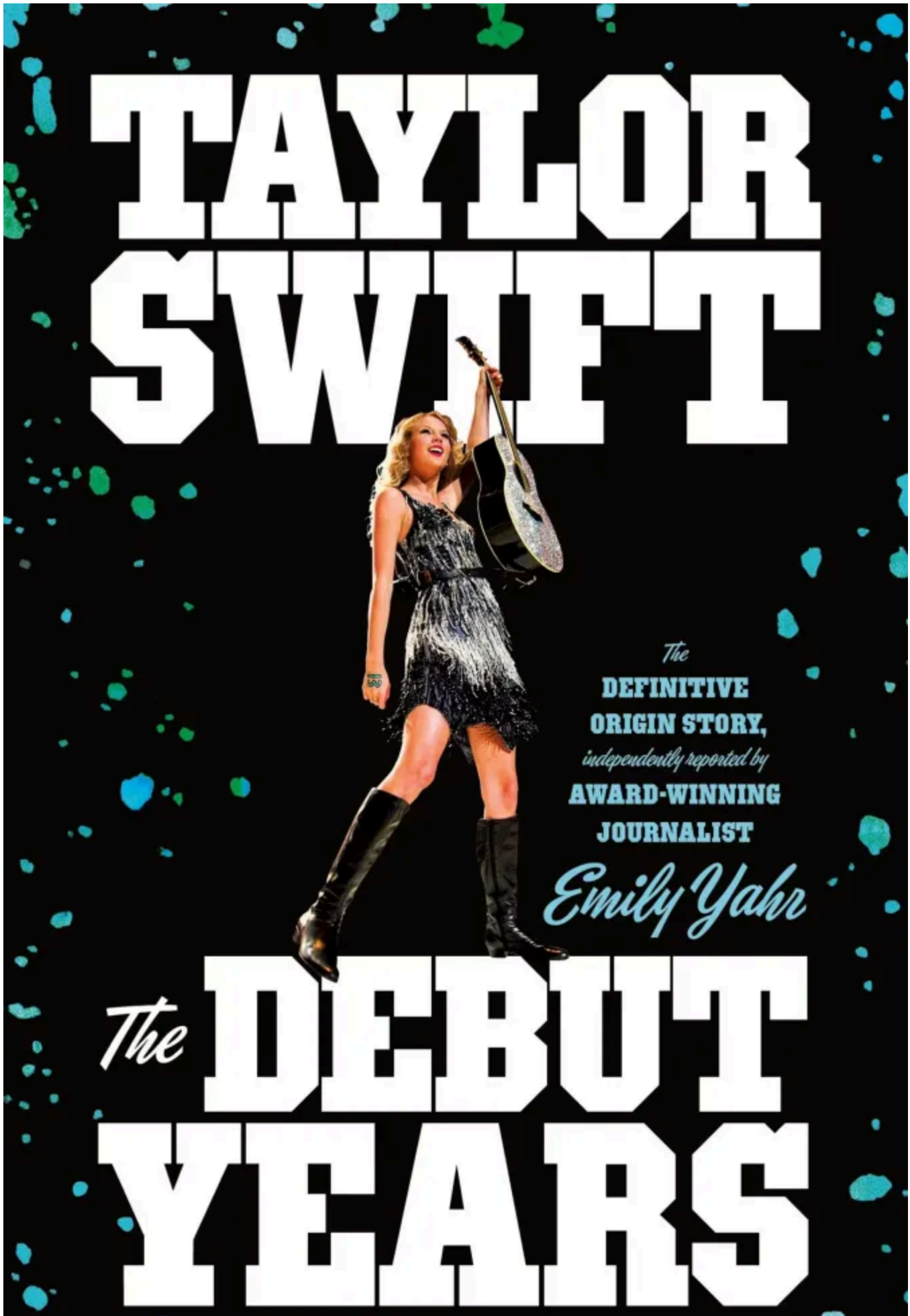
Filipino Americans in the DMV may be jealous of the deep cultural networking enjoyed by our cousins on the West Coast. But thanks to a festival that originated in Long Beach, California's Bel Canto Books, D.C. welcomes

the second iteration of Liwanag Filipino Lit Fest, which celebrates Filipino writers across multiple genres and disciplines. Featured authors include Georgetown University professor Erwin R. [...]



Oct. 6 and 20: April Ryan *Notes On a Blacklash: When a Black Woman Goes Viral* at MLK Library and Politics and Prose

Going viral can be a good or bad, depending on why it's occurring. For White House correspondent April Ryan, her viral moment came in November 2018, during a press briefing with convicted felon and President Donald Trump, who called her "rude" and told her to "sit down" when she asked him a question about midterm voter suppression. [...]





Oct. 10: Emily Yahr Discusses *Taylor Swift: The Debut Years* at Politics and Prose

After the 2023–24 groundbreaking (and box office busting) Eras tour, and its subsequent concert film (now the highest grossing concert film ever), it's hard to imagine a time when Taylor Swift was not part of the public's collective consciousness. But, in the early naughties, Swift was a teenager set on becoming a country music star—her family moved from West Reading, [...]



Oct. 20: O.B. Hardison Reading: Cornelius Eady at Folger Shakespeare Library

Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet Cornelius Eady made headlines earlier this year with his moving reading of “Proof” at New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani’s inauguration. His poem speaks to the resiliency of New Yorkers but some sentiments also apply to the current strength of Washingtonians resisting fascist rule. He writes, “City of Insistence,/ City of Resistance,/ You have to imagine:/ An Army that wins without/ Firing a bullet,/ A joy that wears down/ The rock of *no*.” That’s what the past two years in D.C. [...]



Oct. 28: Emily St. John Mandel Discusses *Exit Party* at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Last year, while I was in a reading slump, a friend recommended Emily St. John Mandel's 2014 novel, *Station Eleven*. He promised me that no matter how difficult reading had been lately, St. John Mandel's prose would shake me out of it. I was skeptical, if no other writer had succeeded what guaranteed that she would? [...]

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Performance



Sept. 25 and 26: Dance Theatre of Harlem's *Firebird* at the National Theatre

Racial and political boundary-breaking ballet company Dance Theatre of Harlem is touring *Firebird* with a stop in D.C. You might recognize composer Igor Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*: moody, dramatic, bombastic, energetic, tender, changeable. *Firebird*, based on the story of an old Russian folktale about love's triumph over evil, [...]



Sept. 30: Brian Henson's *Puppet Up!* at Lincoln Theatre

When Brian Henson would train puppeteers for his father, the Muppets' creator Jim Henson, he would coach 20 people in the hopes of getting one or two that could ad-lib. "That was hugely important to my dad," Brian tells *City Paper*. "But he didn't think you could teach people to ad lib. [...]"



Oct. 8: Bertha: Grateful Drag at the 9:30 Club

I'll admit: When I first heard about BERTHA: Grateful Drag, a Grateful Dead cover band made up of drag queens, I thought it was a joke. Sure, Grateful Dead fans are known for their free-spirited lifestyle, but beyond that, there's little overlap on a Venn diagram of Dead fans and drag performers. [...]



Opens Oct. 10: *THE M.A.K.A.do: Make America Kingly Again!* at Arena Stage

Not quite an opera company, and not quite musical theater, IN Series occupies an unusual niche in D.C.'s cultural ecosystem, blending the two art forms into intimate productions that rethink what opera can be and who it is for. Under artistic director Timothy Nelson, IN Series productions regularly mix opera with straight theater, [...]

Oct. 24: Atsuko Okatsuka at Warner Theatre

Comedian Atsuko Okatsuka is known for her zany comedy style and her pristine bowl cut hairdo. She's bringing both signature traits to three shows at Warner Theatre. The first two shows of her "Big Bowl Tour" have already sold out but tickets remain for Oct. 24's late show. Like many comedians, Okatsuka uses humor to tell stories from her absurd life. [...]



Opens Nov. 14: Washington National Opera's *Nixon in China* at DAR Constitution Hall

Would you believe the most exciting presidential tarmac event of the year (no offense to the catering truck) promises to be a fluttering aria considering the value of journalism sung by ... Richard Nixon? "Who are our

enemies?” he warbles in composer John Adams and librettist Alice Goodman’s 1987 masterwork *Nixon in China*, [...]



Dec. 16–23: Manassas Ballet Theatre Presents *The Nutcracker* at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

One of the great challenges of staging a classic is to keep it fresh while keeping it recognizable. For the holiday stalwarts staged season after season, such as *A Christmas Carol* and *The Nutcracker*, this is especially true. To that end, Manassas Ballet Theatre has commissioned a new choreography for its 2026 production of *The Nutcracker*, [...]

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Film



Oct. 11: *The Thing* at Alamo Drafthouse

Halloween may be the most influential work of John Carpenter's career and *They Live* may be the most quoted, but *The Thing* is the thing that stays with you long after Michael Myers has killed his last victim and Roddy Piper has kicked his last ass. [...]

Oct. 15–18: Middleburg Film Festival at the Salamander Resort

Awards season seems to get longer with each passing year. Starting with the Venice and Telluride Film Festivals around Labor Day and onward through the Academy Awards, the following spring, pundits, actors, and critics endlessly look over campaigns and narratives to see which films, actors, and directors will receive the top prizes from their peers. [...]



Oct. 17: *Salesman* at the National Gallery of Art

Following a group of door-to-door bible salesmen may not be your idea of a fun Saturday, but in the hands of Albert and David Maysles, directors of the iconic 1975 documentary *Grey Gardens*, the landmark 1969 documentary *Salesman* is a fascinating American drama. Shot in high contrast black and white that echoes the look of film noir, [...]



Oct. 24: Halloween Unofficial Double Feature: *Evil Dead* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at AFI Silver

The programmers at AFI Silver know that spooky season means it's time for various horror sickos to crawl out of hiding to revisit their favorite scary movies. There is great horror programming in the days leading up to Halloween, including more family-friendly screenings like *Beetlejuice*, but the most brilliant flourish of programming is an official double feature on the Oct. [...]



Nov. 18: *Late Autumn* at the National Museum of Asian Art

The films of director Yasujiro Ozu have earned a reputation for their director's contemplative, gentle, and quintessentially Japanese tone. But a deep dive into his early silent films reveal a slew of American influences including slapstick and film noir. While his postwar films generally transcend his Hollywood ancestors, the Western world was never far behind, [...]

Nov. 22: Jim Henson's *Labyrinth* in Concert at Lincoln Theatre

Can we all agree *Labyrinth* is not a good movie? It's a very fun, very camp movie that's well worth multiple viewings, but it's not good in the traditional sense. The story is too far-fetched to be compelling, the Muppets aren't familiar enough to be beloved, and the performances are disjointed, if not well-intentioned. [...]

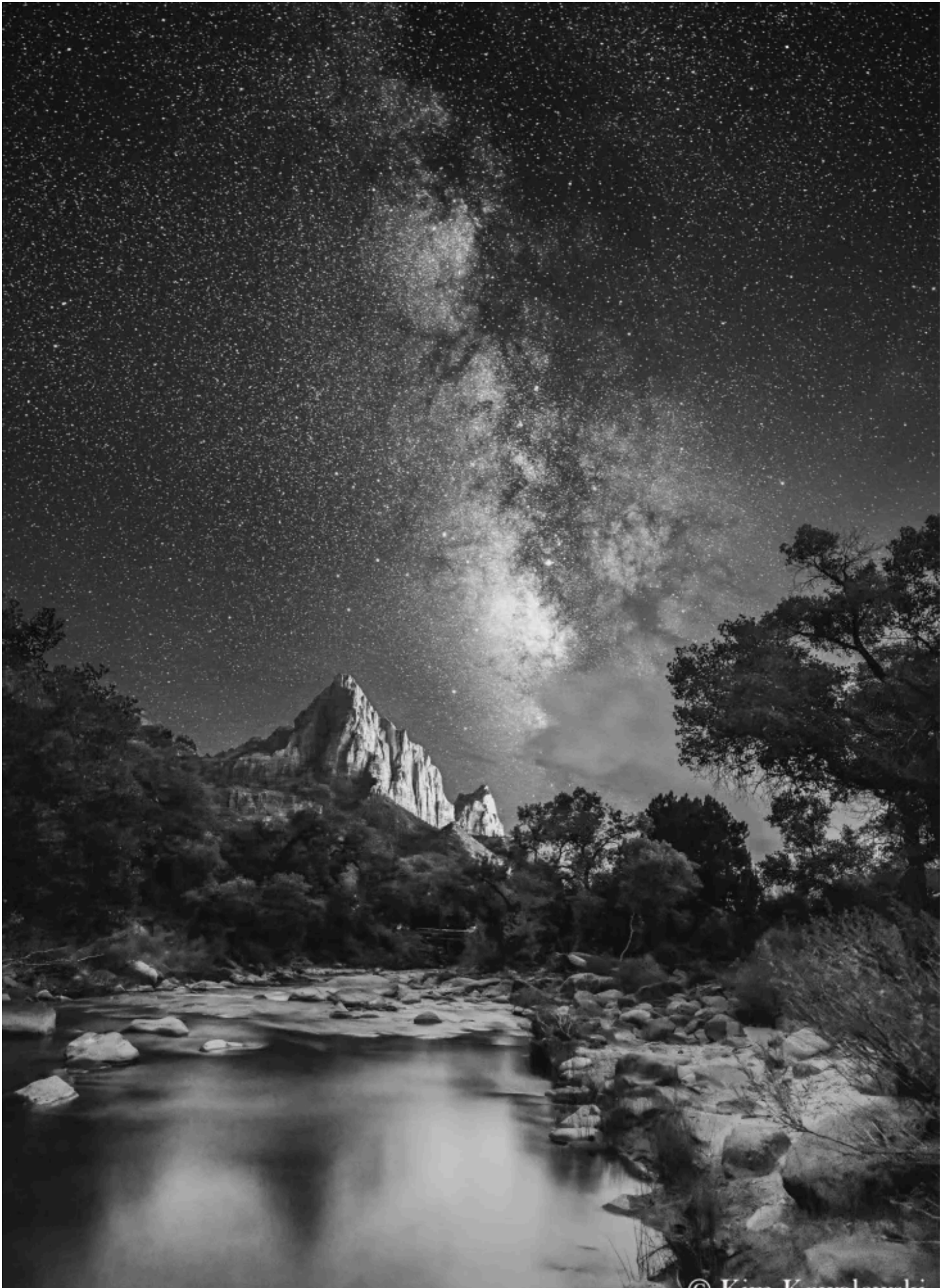
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Museums and Galleries



Now Open: *Timeless 2026* at Photoworks

In our age of endless AI slop, it's heartening to see new art created that is not only human in origin but also boldly, audaciously archaic in technique. *Timeless 2026* features dozens of works by 11 artists using such centuries-out-of-date photographic techniques as cyanotypes, platinum/palladium printing, salted paper prints, and tintypes (although the 2026 edition of this more-or-less annual exhibit eschews some of the even more obscure techniques that were included in past years, [...]).



Now Open: *Landscapes in Black & White* at Strathmore Mansion

The Maryland Photography Alliance was founded in 2017 as a network of 24 affiliated photo clubs across the state. In the group's fourth annual black-and-white photography exhibition at the Strathmore Mansion, the focus is on natural landscapes. The more than 40 images on display, drawn from 1,021 submissions, includes some doozies. Kim Kowalewski's photograph of Zion National Park brings together glass-like water, [...]



Opens Sept. 18: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: *Look Alive* and E. Brady Robinson *Studio Hours / After Hours* at Georgetown University Art Galleries

If Rafael Lozano-Hemmer invites you to one of his exhibitions and asks you to give a little of yourself, take him literally. The Canadian Mexican artist's electronic installations are typically driven by his audience—in the form of donated fingerprints, heartbeats, or portraits. In *Look Alive*, Lozano-Hemmer creates a new site-specific iteration of his ongoing “Pulse” series at Georgetown University Art Galleries. [...]



Opens Sept. 18: *Routed West: Twentieth-Century African American Quilts in California* at National Museum of Women in the Arts

For the first time on the East Coast, you can see *Routed West: Twentieth-Century African American Quilts in California*, an exhibition of nearly 80 quilted objects created by Black women spanning 120 years of individual life and collective history: quilts created by a daughter-mother-grandmother-great-grandmother lineage, by women who improvised with denim pant legs and tobacco pouches, [...]



Opens Sept. 26: *From the Louvre: Masterpieces of Islamic Art* at the National Museum of Asian Art

For the first time, 26 rare Islamic artworks from the Musée du Louvre in Paris will be on display on the National Mall. *From the Louvre: Masterpieces of Islamic Art* includes technically exquisite pieces like the 10th- to 11th-century bronze statue “The Lion of Monzón” from Islamic Spain and the “Baptistry of Saint Louis,” a Syrian Egyptian Mamluk basin intricately inlaid with silver and gold. [...]



Opens Oct. 24: Avery, Gottlieb & Rothko: *By the Sea* at the Phillips Collection

Seascape paintings might have a bad association with the twee sentimentality of beach hotel decor, but the Phillips Collection is prepared to bring your understanding into the modern(ist) era. Avery, Gottlieb & Rothko: *By the Sea* unites the work of three artist friends who spent summers together at Massachusetts' Cape Ann and Gloucester: Milton Avery. [...]



Opens Nov. 21: *Adorned in Gold: Japanese Lacquer from the Jacqueline Avant Collection* at the National Museum of Asian Art

Cranes fly, serene, overhead. A dragon coils in the midst of clouds. Flowering plum and cherry trees bend in the wind. All of these are designs lovingly sprinkled in gold onto household items, soon to be on display at the National Museum of Asian Art. *Adorned in Gold: Japanese Lacquer from the Jacqueline Avant Collection* highlights the Japanese art of maki-e, [...]

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Theater

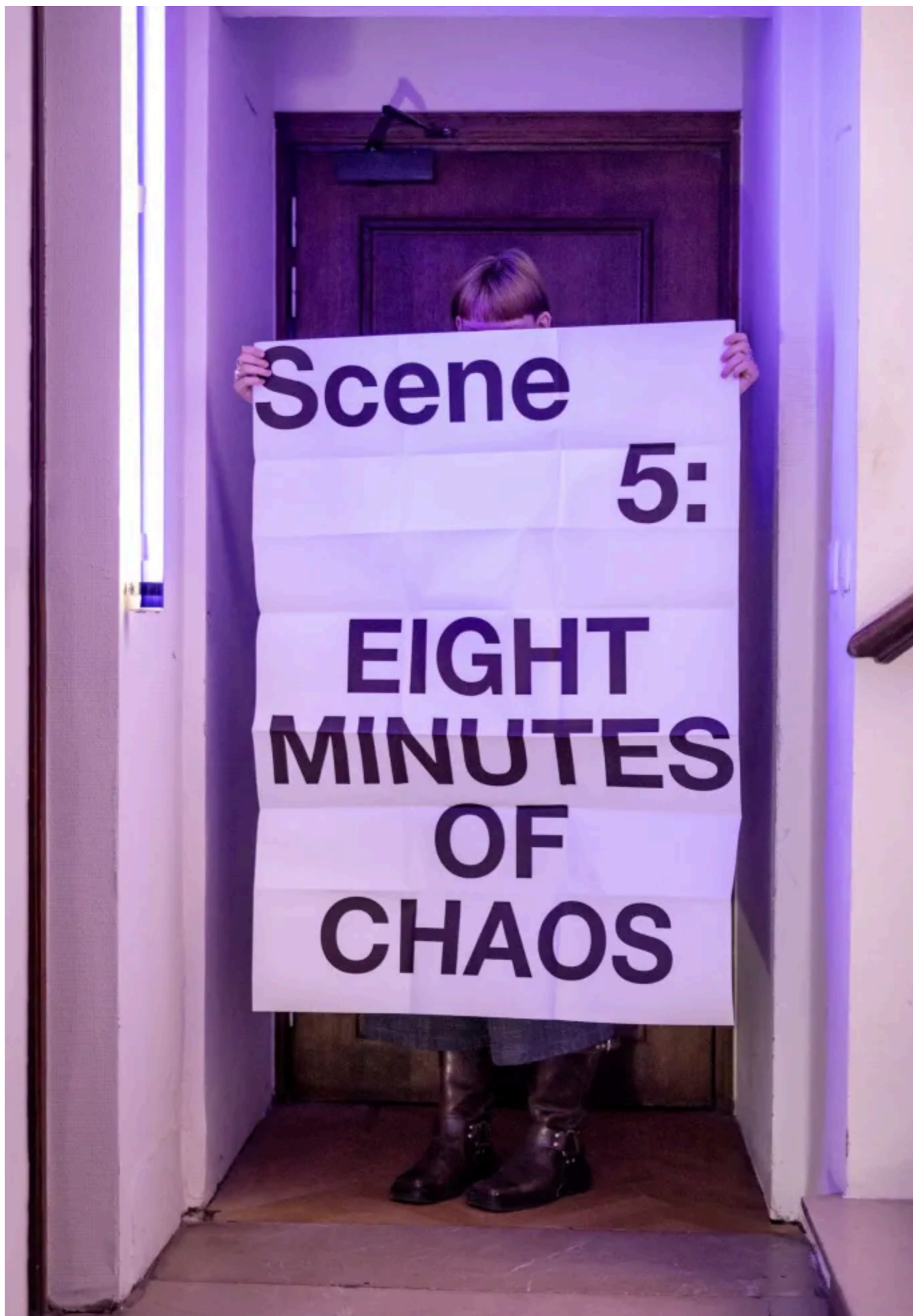
Opens Sept. 23: *Wish You Were Here* at Studio Theatre

***Wish You Were Here* opens on Salme (Layan Elwazani) as she prepares for her wedding in 1978 Karaj on the eve of the imminent Iranian Revolution. Sanaz Toossi's play then follows Salme and her four best friends through 10 scenes across the next decade of their lives as everything they know to be true changes. [...]**



Opens Oct. 7: Synetic Theater's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at Olney Theatre Center

Pumpkin lovers, rejoice: Synetic Theater is reviving its wordless rendition of the Washington Irving classic *Sleepy Hollow*, just in time for Halloween. Reaching into the past is nothing new for Arlington-based Synetic, which has dozens of exemplary physical theater staples in its repertoire, all created under founding artistic director Paata Tsikurishvili's unique method. [...]





Opens Oct. 14: *Handle with Care* at Studio Theatre

Billed as “theater in a box,” *Handle with Care* is just that. Audience members take the place of performers, unpack a single box, and create the performance using the instructions inside. For an introvert like me, this kind of interactive theater sounds terrifying, but Ontoerend Goed, the Belgian theater collective that originated the project, [...]



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ІРМА ВІТОВСКА
В РОЛІ ІРМИ
ВІТОВСЬКОЇ

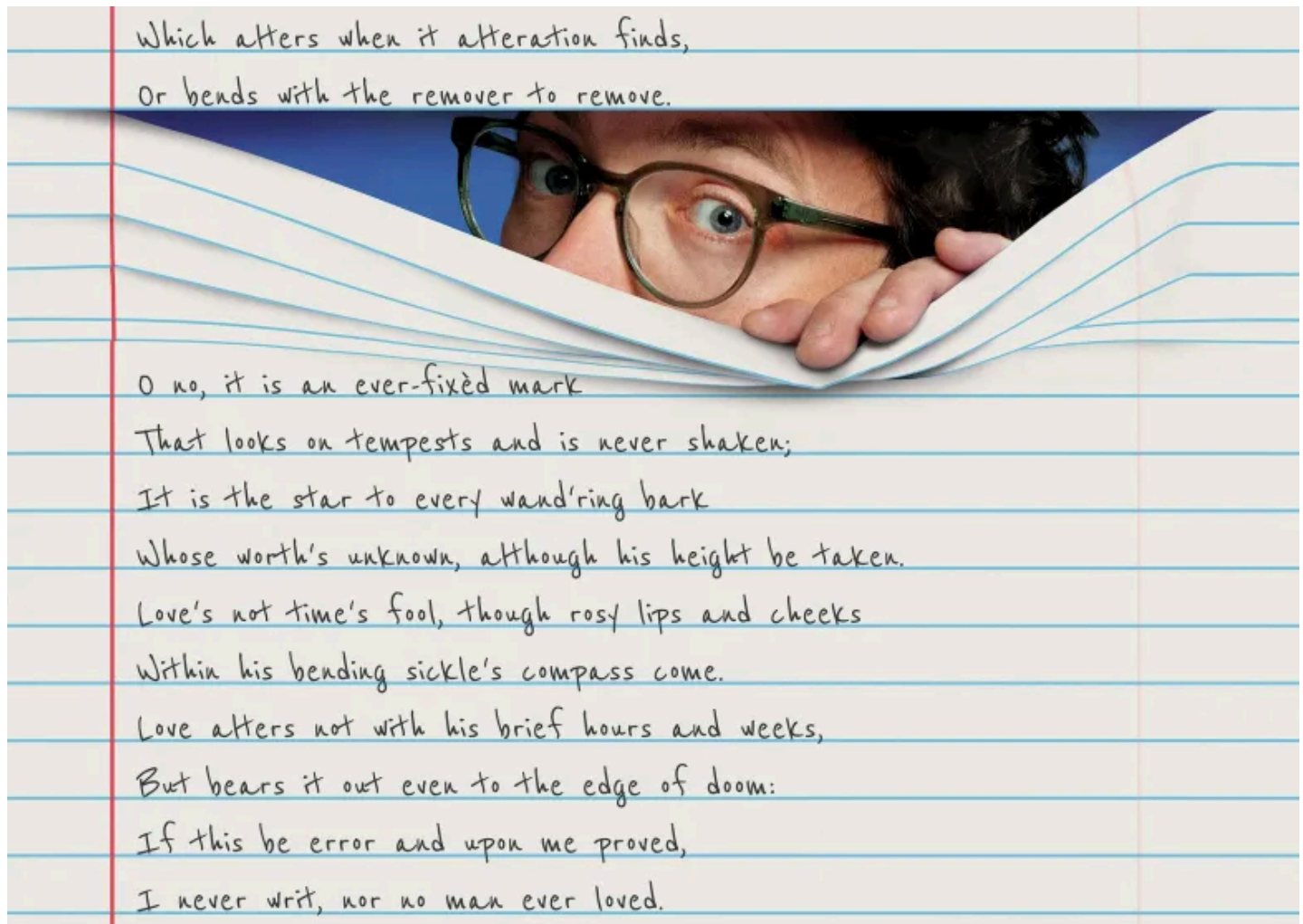
Oct 16 Dallas
Oct 17 Philadelphia
Oct 18 Washington DC.
Oct 23 Chicago
Oct 24 New York

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партнер
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Tickets www.moloko.us

Oct. 18: Irma Vitovska's *Kyivska Perepichka* at Atlas Performing Arts Center

Judging by how little food Russian soldiers packed, Vladimir Putin sent his forces into Ukraine expecting it would take only days to conquer Kyiv. At the time of writing, it is Day 1,658 of Russia's full-scale invasion. Within weeks, there were reports of Russian soldiers ransacking Ukrainian homes, looking for food, only to be greeted by a sign that invited them to "Guess where the poison is." The invaders also allegedly fell for a grandmotherly Ukrainian's offer of poisoned pastries. [...]



Opens Oct. 20: *All the World's a Stage* at Signature Theatre

Composer Adam Gwon wrote probably the most sneakily devastating show tune in musical theater history with *Ordinary Days*' "I'll Be Here," so you can understand why news of his new work, *All the World's a Stage*—which has a regional premiere at Signature Theatre this fall—has me sweating. [...]



Nov. 4 and 5: Alex Edelman: What Are You Going to Do at Strathmore Music Center

“A Jewish guy walks into a meeting of White Nationalists in Queens” could be a setup for the funniest joke or scariest story you’ve ever heard. But in his acclaimed stand-up show *Just For Us*, which played Woolly.

Mammoth in 2022 ahead of a 2023 Broadway transfer and 2024 HBO special, comedian and star of NBC's *The Paper* Alex Edelman asked, [...]



CULT OF LOVE

Opens Nov. 18: *Cult of Love* at Round House Theatre

The holiday season is awash with holly jolly standards (witness the many theaters that deck their halls with *Christmas Carol* year after year), but Round House Theatre is committed to swimming against the tinsel tide. With a production of Leslye Headland's *Cult of Love*, the company is drawing from the endless well of family dysfunction plays, [...]

Dec. 11–13: Nueva Era: New Play Festival at GALA Hispanic Theatre

When GALA Hispanic Theatre opened the submission window for the first-ever Nueva Era New Play Festival, it had no idea how resonant it would be. Within a day, the theater had more than two dozen submissions; by the time the window closed, it had 161, including four musicals. Artistic director Gustavo Ott, [...]

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