

fringe benefits

by Lynne Polvino

August is a big month for Extreme Theater in NYC, as two hundred of the best emerging theater, dance, and multimedia performance troupes descend on Manhattan's Lower East Side for the much-anticipated fifth annual New York International Fringe Festival. Since its inception, the festival has introduced New York audiences to over 600 shows from around the globe, and many have gone on to become big hits, including the Off-Broadway sensations "The Last Train to Nibroc," "Never Swim Alone," and the Broadway-bound musical "Urinetown" (which you heard about first in the pages of *Shout* last year). Plus, the Theater for the New City does more than break down the "fourth wall" by staging performances at outdoor spaces throughout the city.

The New York International Fringe Festival
 Various locations on the Lower East Side
 212-420-8877 • www.fringenyc.com

Companies from over 16 US cities and 17 countries bring some of the most experimental and controversial contemporary theater in the world to the stages and streets of our city. Among the many Fringe 2001 highlights are a stage version of the classic porn film *Debbie Does Dallas* performed by NYC's own Slow-Eyed Productions and a one-man Swiss adaptation of Jim Carroll's junkie-searching-for-purity novel, *The Basketball Diaries*.

But what may be even more enticing than these more traditionally staged shows, is *Fringe Al Fresco*, the street theater portion of the festival. This year's *Al Fresco* promises everything from full outdoor productions to a motley assortment of jugglers, fire eaters, human statues, stilt walkers, and freaks roving the streets of the Lower East Side throughout the duration of the festival. There's also an exciting new addition to the *Al Fresco* events this year: the revival of the Present Company's Public Works

Program. An activist performance group, The Public Works have planned several events to take place throughout the summer, including a theatrical assault on Wall Street workers, an invasion of MTV's "Total Request Live" involving people wearing bright orange T-shirts reading "I Will Wrestle Carson Daly for 20 Bucks," and sidewalk performances of the final scenes of Disney Musicals during the



the village **VOICE**

Jim Carroll's THE BASKETBALL DIARIES

starring



Pascal Ulli

awarded best promising European actor gives one of his most thrilling performances as Jim Carroll. A wise-ass kid prowling New York City, playing basketball, hustling, stealing, getting high, getting hooked and searching for something pure.

English spoken world premiere

fringe_{nyc}

AUGUST 10th-26th, 2001

all tickets: \$ 12

in New York: 212-420-8877

outside New York: 1-888-FringeNYC

www.FringeNYC.org

www.pascalulli.com

ST. MARKS THEATER

94 St. Marks Place

(Between 1st Ave & Ave A)

SAT 8/18 2:00 pm

SUN 8/19 5:15 pm

MON 8/20 3:30 pm

MON 8/20 10:45 pm

THUR 8/23 9:15 pm

SAT 8/25 7:15 pm

PASCAL ULLI

Junkie in N. Y.

Doppelte Premiere: Am Sonntag, 19. August, ist der Schweizer Pascal Ulli in der ARD-Reihe «Polizeiruf 110» zu sehen. In der Folge «Fliegende Holländer» spielt er den Drogenfahnder Polizeirat Driesbach. Am Tag der Ausstrahlung steht Ulli auf einer New Yorker Bühne – als Junkie im Einpersonenstück «The Basketball Diaries». Er wurde mit dieser Eigeninszenierung ans Theaterfestival Fringe im Big Apple eingeladen. Ein weiterer Traum geht für ihn am 26. September in Erfüllung. Dann findet im Zürcher Theater Stadelhofen die Uraufführung von «Ansichten eines Clowns» statt. Seine Frau Caroline Ulli hat Bölls Roman dramatisiert. Er führt Regie und spielt die Hauptrolle.

