

BEST of D.C.

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FOOD & DRINK **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT** GOODS &
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STAFF PICKS READER POLL

Best Art Gallery With Regular Nude Performances

DC Arts Center

2438 18th St. NW, (202) 462-7833 [WEBSITE](#)

In a city where not wearing a suit and tie can leave you feeling naked, actual nudity is a rare sight. Even in many of D.C.'s art galleries, the nude human form is relegated to statues and paintings. That's not the case at DC Arts Center, a 25-year-old art gallery and performance space in Adams Morgan. DCAC welcomes all manner of performance art in whatever

form it manifests, be it nude or

clothed. Naked Girls Reading is a testament to that commitment: Each month, its performers disrobe on stage at the gallery's black-box theater and read from a wide variety of short stories and books. Unlike the vibe at a burlesque show or a strip club, the point of these performances isn't titillation. "These are people who are not putting on nudity for shock value," says B. Stanley, DCAC's artistic director. "It's an integral part of their creation." Stanley, who founded the gallery in 1989, sees DCAC as a safe space where young performers can bare it all, mentally or physically. "DCAC is a place where people are pushing



Photograph by Matt Dunn

their boundaries artistically,” he says. “And maybe they’re pushing the audience’s boundaries as well.”

—*Tim Regan*

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Best -Intentioned, Best-Programmed Loss

Best Art Gallery With Regular Nude Performances

Best Breath of Fresh Air

Best Buskers

Best Checkers Club

Best Cheerleader for the D.C. Indie-Rock Scene

Best Cinema

Best Comeback

Best D.C. Label You Probably Didn't Think Was A D.C. Label

Best Earth Day Festival

Best Film Festival

Best Folk Troubadour

Best Free Jokes

Best Hip-Hop Producer to Soundtrack Your Walks to the Metro

Best Historical Intervention

Best Jazz Compatriot

Best Least Prolific D.C. Label

Best Mainstream Venue for Seeing Underground Acts

Best Movie Theater Lobby

Best Musical Refuge From the Barren Hellscape of AdMo

Best New Cultural Center

Best New Homegrown Music Genre

Best New Old Jazz Venue

Best One-Two Gallery Punch

Best Over-the-Hill Makeover

Best Overhyped Museum-to-Be

Best Payoff from a Delayed Debut Project

Best Place to Drink Espresso and Sample Dance Vinyl

Best Place to Take an Adult Dance Class and Not Feel Like an Asshole

Best Planned Museum

Best Public-Access Hand-Dance TV Show

Best Random Mid-Week Hip-Hop Party

Best Realism

Best Shy Glizzy Mixtape of the Past Year

Best Synth Weirdo

Best Take One/Leave One Book Collection

Best Up-and-Coming Author

Best Use of a Neighborhood in a Song Title

Best Venue Flouting Religious Significance

Best Way to Jam Out With Your Kid

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