

NOSING AROUND DOWNTOWN Providence celebrates the arts *The 10th annual Convergence festival begins this evening with various performances and a benefit bash.

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***** CORRECTION / CLARIFICATION JUNE 13, 1997 ***** An article in yesterday's Journal-Bulletin gave an incorrect date for the Woonasquatucket River Greenway Festival. The festival will be held tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Olneyville Square in Providence. Free activities will include canoe and pony rides, face painting, moonbounce, soccer shoot out and Zoomobile. For more information, call the Providence Plan at 455-8880. ***** END OF CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION *****

Summer arts life in the capital city returns in earnest tonight with the opening of the annual Convergence International Art Festival, a vibrant 10-day affair featuring art, dance, music, film and more.

As a backdrop for events, downtown Providence has been dressed up with a large-scale exhibition of contemporary sculpture. Around many of the city's public spaces - from Roger Williams Park to Waterplace Park - the work of local artists is on display, and will remain so until Sept. 30.

Much of the sculpture has been concentrated along the walkway bordering the Providence River; other sites include the Trinity Repertory Company's theater, Market Square, the Fleet Center and One Citizens Plaza.

Against this creative backdrop, the festival gets under way today with a number of events at a variety of places.

At 5 p.m., the WBRU Summer Concert series begins with Waterplace Park performances by Morphine, Combustible Edison and the Amazing Royal Crowns.

At 7 p.m., Convergence X, named for the 10th year the festival has been in existence, officially begins with a benefit bash at the Cranston Street Armory, at the intersection of Dexter and Cranston Streets.

The party includes food and dancing, with music from the nine-piece Latin band Mango Blues. Tickets cost \$35. The party runs until midnight.

Also at 7 p.m., the Pan-Twilight Circus, featuring jugglers and trapeze artists, will perform at India Point Park.

At 8 p.m., Harold Pinter's play *The Birthday Party* takes the stage at the Alias Stage, 31 Elbow St. Call 831-2919 for more information. Simultaneously, the Fifth Annual Women's Playwriting Festival continues at Perishable Theater, 95 Empire St. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for students and seniors. Call 331-2695.

Tomorrow the festival continues with the annual summer tours of historic houses, sponsored by the Providence Preservation Society. The tours run tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday, with afternoon and evening tours available. Tickets are \$24. For more information, call 831-7440.

The festival gathers momentum throughout its run, featuring everything from troupes of ethnic dancing to a celebrity canoe & kayak challenge.

Saturday evening features an outdoor highlight: the Providence and Woonasquatucket Rivers will be ablaze with artist Barnaby Evans' "Water Fire" exhibit. Fires will burn from evening twilight to midnight.

So numerous are the events that the Providence Parks Department has set up a Convergence X hotline, 751-1177.

Other helpful numbers include:

For dance events, which run from June 18-22, 351-4242.

For Woonasquatucket River Greenway Festival, set for Sunday (SEE CORRECTION ABOVE) at Olneyville Square, 455-8880.

CAPTION: NICOLE ROSE, left, and Larona Paschal, both 8 and students at the newly named Vartan Gregorian

Elementary School at Fox Point, got their clown noses during workshops given yesterday by the Pan-Twilight Circus. The circus will perform tonight and tomorrow at India Point Park.

Journal-Bulletin / JOHN FREIDAH

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