



» THEATER

## THE NEON MAN AND ME

Slashtipher "Slash" Coleman wrote a one-man play in October for someone he hadn't yet met. The beneficiary of this creative surge is a 10-month-old. The play's inspiration is the child's father and Coleman's best friend, Mark Jamison, a neon-glass blower from Roanoke who died in 2004 while hanging a neon sign — before his girlfriend even discovered she was pregnant. Coleman will read selections from *The Neon Man and Me* at C3 on Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.

The play chronicles the friendship between the two men, which spanned 20 years. Coleman is quick to point out that though the piece does deal with Jamison's death, it's primarily about their friendship, so it isn't totally melancholy. "I didn't want it to be very dark like it was pages ripped from my journal," he says. The complete play premieres in October in Roanoke, one block from Jamison's neon shop, and in November at Comedy-Sportz Improv Theater here in Richmond. He has also authored a book of poetry, *Is My Chakra Pretty?*, and several short stories. When he's not writing or performing, Coleman's creative juices are put to use at his family's upholstery/restoration business. Profits from *Neon Man* benefit Jamison's son, Mark Jamison Thomas Jr. Suggested donation of \$10. 1801 E. Cary St. 474-3639 or [www.slashtipher.com](http://www.slashtipher.com). —SKM

editors' pick

# Richmond

2005 EDITION  
THE CITY MAGAZINE

## BEST & WORST

BEST NEW RESTAURANT • BEST INTERSECTION • BEST LOCATION FOR THE DRIVING  
BEST APPROPRIATE FOR... • BEST... • BEST... • BEST...



game parties at Penny Lane Pub, 421 E. 11th St. 8/10-10, 11-12, 15-18, 19-21 30-31 **Richmond Braves**  
Aug. 9-10 vs. Durham Bulls at 7 p.m.; Aug. 11-12 vs. Charlotte Knights at 7 p.m.; Aug. 15-18 vs. Buffalo Bisons at 7 p.m.; Aug. 19-20 vs. Toledo Mud Hens at 7 p.m.; and Aug. 21 at 2 p.m.; Aug. 30-31 vs. Charlotte Knights at 7 p.m. The Diamond, 3001 N. Boulevard. 359-4444 or [www.braves.com](http://www.braves.com).

8/13 **CaribFest at the Mercado**  
A celebration of Latin culture and more, in collaboration with the Caribbean American Association. 2 to 8 p.m. Farmers' Market. 646-0310 or [www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com](http://www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com).

8/13-15 **Summer Boat and RV Super Sale**  
Drool over all types of watercraft and RVs. Free. The Showplace, 3000 Mechanicsville Turnpike. 425-6556.

8/13 **X-Festival**  
Skateboarding, a climbing wall and a DJ. 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 14 rain date. Free. Laurel Skate Park, 10301 Hungary Spring Road. 501-5134.

8/14 **Carytown Watermelon Festival**  
Sidewalk sales, music and lots of cold watermelon. Free. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Carytown. 353-1525.

8/18 **Third Thursdays**  
This month's theme is Spanish Serenades. Enjoy music by the Gypsy Roots, a tarot card reading, and tapas and sangria. Jumpin's replacement during museum construction. \$10. Ages 21 and older. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Boulevard. 340-1405.

8/19-20 **Down-Home Family Reunion**  
For 15 years, this festival has celebrated African-American folk life by featuring blues music, African dance and music, a crafts market, and delicious down-home healthy food. Free. Abner Clay Park, Jackson Ward. 644-3900 or [www.efsinc.org](http://www.efsinc.org).

8/19 **Fridays on the Patio**  
Local music, light food, wine and tours. 5:30 to 9 p.m. James River Cellars, 11008 Washington Highway. 550-7516.

8/20-21 **18 Hours on the Farm, Scouts Honor**  
A mountain biking event for professional and amateurs alike. These trails at Boy Scout Camp T. Brady Saunders have never before been ridden. Free for spectators. 798-7046 or [www.cobblestonebikes.com](http://www.cobblestonebikes.com).

8/26-9/3 **Chesterfield County Fair**  
The fair features puppet shows, musical perfor-