



## **All Things Fringe**

(news item for VH1.com "Music News")

New York City -- Even for a "fringey" city like NYC, the kick-off parade for the New York International Fringe Festival was something to behold. Giant body puppets, life-size balloon chickens, clowns, women in red body paint and men in iridescent tutu's swarmed the East Village's Tompkins Square Park, the meeting place for parade participants.

As the parade wound through Manhattan's Lower East Side, parade members handed fliers to everyone: Senior Citizens, bus drivers, and even an armored car driver, who opened his protective door to receive the Fringers' offerings.

An annual event held in multiple Lower Manhattan performance venues, the Fringe Festival consists of multitudes of *avant garde* dance, music, performance art and theatre performances. Free seminars on performance techniques, playwriting and producing are also offered. The Fringe Festival was created in order to promote emerging artists and their work and offers audiences a peek into the potential "next big thing" in music, dance, theatre and performance.

Festival dates are August 18-30. Every performer or company offers multiple performances at odd hours. For more information and for dates and times, go to [www.fringenyc.org](http://www.fringenyc.org).

So, celebrate your inner Fringe. There's a bit in all of us.