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we'll move with it. We're going to put more resources to it."

Shinn had earlier announced a plan for court-ordered Stay Away Orders, aimed mainly at busted out-of-towners. With the station doing some requested paperwork for the D.A.'s office, judges would have specific options to ban convicted dealers from certain intersections, from within 1,000 feet from a school, and so on.

Another speaker, Rebecca Dorman, made a simple plea that more citations be issued on the street to utilize the Tenderloin Community Courts system. She announced an Aug. 5 Take Back the Streets celebration at 5:30 p.m. at Boeddeker Park,

PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER



Mary Millman lightened the mood.

as part of a national Night Out movement for residents to claim their streets. Simultaneous celebrations will take place in the Richmond District and South of Market.

Dorman heads a Public Safety Working Group program for South of Market and the Tenderloin. In a survey of the Tenderloin group, the 250 respondents identified drug dealing as their No. 1 concern. The June meeting's priority exercise identified the 100 block of Jones and the 300 block of Ellis as the worst zones.

The evening's lightest moment was when Mary Millman announced that during two days of the most recent U.N. Plaza farmers' market activity "there was not one crack pipe or dope dealer. In four years, that's a first. And we wouldn't have gotten there without you," she said nodding to the commander. "Maybe there was a little marijuana," she added, bringing a laugh from the whole room.



Acting Police Chief Alex Fagan, left, pledged help for the neighborhood. "The thing I'm bearing," he says, "is that more needs to be done. So we're going to work on that..."

If there was a bottom line, Commissioner Friday tried to add it. "It all boils down to money," he said. "You people who live here don't want to hear that. I wish there was more we could do, but we hear you." It seemed to take the wind out of Fagan's pledge.

The audience quickly filed out into the fading light of an overcast evening feeling good about airing the gripes but unsure about the future.

Will dealing diminish? Will there be a turf war? Will someone go off? And for sure, no one took Collins up on his dare. ■

2 new TL venues for the Fringe

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of potential," says Joshua Raoul Brody, the opera company's artistic director, in an e-mail. "There are some limitations to the space that may keep it from being a competitive theater (we're still working on the acoustics, and it doesn't have all the techni-



Sara Kraft, a Best of Fringe winner last year, is back with "Countless."

cal appointments it could have), but I think it's much more sophisticated than your average church basement community center."

The Tenderloin Opera Company, which never charges admission to its events, plans to use St. Boniface for its continuing "Evening of Song" series for songwriters as well as for a forthcoming community-scripted work tentatively titled "The Interview Project."

Theatre St. Boniface will become a BYOV Fringe Fest venue when Broken Buddha Productions stages "Mother: A Modern Buddhist Fairy Tale" there. Director Christopher Morrison describes the story, based on an ancient parable, as, "A mother

goes to see a Zen monk to ask why she has lost her only child. He tells her to go out into the world and find one person whom death has not touched." Along with scriptwriter Alex Goldstein, the four-person cast reinterprets the story in modern language, with new characters. Even more remarkable is the way they move. Morrison, who studied theater at Boston University, says he works by gathering performers from different movement disciplines, such as a ballet dancer, a gymnast, a circus clown and a martial artist. Together, these very different performers develop the story.

Morrison and Goldstein come up with a concept to start with, but Morrison says the communal spirit is important to the process. "Collaboration is going to lead to a greater sense of ownership in the cast," he says. Besides, "it's their bodies, so we're choreographing around their bodies."

RX GALLERY

The RX Gallery opened recently at 132 Eddy St. as a space for visual art, lectures, performance and hanging out in general. Affiliated with the experimental art collective Blasthaus, RX hosts weekly art and technology salons featuring lectures, films, and discussions of cutting-edge ideas in multimedia art.

That kind of focus makes it a good venue for "Countless," a Fringe Fest show by Sara Kraft, who mixes experimental music, theater, electronic projection and other media. Kraft, whose "Woods for the Trees" was selected for last year's Best of the Fringe, says that for this year's show she'll be collaborating with Gregory Cowley, who uses computers and projectors to make visual art, and cellist/composer Zoe Keating, known for her work with Rasputina and Tarentel. "Countless" features music and imagery repeating in loops, Kraft says, to examine "the way that we live in a pattern and it repeats itself, sometimes almost exactly, and we don't realize it."

Or at least that's what she thinks it will be about. At the time of this writing, she was just getting ready to meet with Cowley and Keating for a few weeks of whirlwind rehearsals in which they'd put the whole show together. But she wasn't worried about it when she signed up with the Fringe Fest to stage the show, even though she didn't have a show in place. "It's not the

first time I've made a leap of faith," she says. "I think any time you do creative work you make a leap of faith."

Some might say the same thing about attending Fringe Fest shows. But that's part of what makes it an exciting time for the neighborhood. "Fringe Fest is really a great infusion into the neighborhood," Kraft says. "You can walk to all the shows and then go to the neighborhood bar afterward." Elred of EXIT Theatre, agrees: "Fringe Fest is a wonderful time to be out on the street and see the artists and be a part of that vitality." ■

Fringe Festival at a glance

SF. Fringe Festival floats fabulously into its 12th year: 12 days of Fringeing, 34 shows at the four EXITheatreplex venues, all within walking distance of one another, plus 20 Bring Your Own Venue (BYOV) performances at nine locations, two in the Tenderloin, a handful in the Mission, one South of Market.

Wonderfully, the cost remains at \$8 or less per show, and the \$55 Frequent Fringer pass, good for 10 shows, brings the cost down even more. None of the EXITheatreplex venues take reservations — get your tix 30 minutes before a performance — but some of the BYOVs do. For a pass, call TIX Bay Area, 931-1033.

Monday through Friday shows start at 7 p.m. and end around 11 p.m. or midnight; weekend shows start late morning or early afternoon and go into the night. The most detailed Fringe info is on the Web: www.sffringe.org, or call 673-3847 for a schedule and other Fringe details.

SCHEDULE IN THE TL:

Theatre St. Boniface, 133 Golden Gate

Broken Buddha Productions' "Mother: A Modern Buddhist Fairy Tale"
September 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 8 p.m.
September 7 and 14 at 7 p.m.

RX Gallery, 132 Eddy

Sara Kraft, cellist/composer Zoe Keating and new media/visual artist Gregory Cowley in "Countless"
September 5, 7, 8, 12 and 14 at 8:30 p.m.
September 6 and 13 at 10 p.m.