

The Weekender

Burlesque shows, dirty bingo and naked cycling. Our roundup of the city's lesser-known events gets a little hotter this weekend **By Stacy Lee Kong**



From left: Jace Lasek of the Besnard Lakes, yummy strawberries and a tattooed vixen
Image credit: Jeremy Farmer/Tamara Dunn/Adam Hammer

1. WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE (FREE!)

There's no less flattering way to ride a bike, but Toronto's eco-friendly, body-loving riders take it all off for this worldwide event. Body paint and bike decorating is encouraged; pants, not so much. *June 14; meet at noon, ride starts at 1 p.m. Coronation Park, Lake Shore Blvd. W. (at Fort York Blvd.),*

www.worldnakedbikeride.org.

2. NORTHERN INK XPOSURE

It's not quite Miami Ink, but this tattoo convention promises plenty of opportunities to ogle, including a live-art installation, fashion show and celebrity tattoo artists. *June 13 2 p.m.–midnight, June 14 noon–midnight, June 15 noon–7 p.m. \$25, passes \$50–\$75. Hilton*

Toronto, 145 Richmond St. W. (at University Ave.), www.tattoos.com/nix.

3. BRAN VAN 3000 (FREE!)

The Montreal collective may be best known for 1998's summertime classic "Drinking in L.A." (and for good reason: just try getting that ridiculous chorus out of your head), but their new stuff is almost as addictive. *June 14, 9 p.m. Yonge-Dundas Square, www.nxne.com.*

4. STRAWBERRIES AND ASPARAGUS (FREE!)

Cedarvale Park hosts a one-day community event that celebrates all things green (and red—June is peak strawberry season). A family-friendly event, there are snacks, "solar ice cream" (it's made from a solar-powered machine), live music and a marketplace for green businesses and organizations. *June 14 (rain day June 15), 11 a.m. Cedarvale Park, 433 Arlington Ave. (at Vaughan Rd.), www.cedarvalepark.com.*

5. SHIRLEY'S DIRTY BINGO

This X-rated version of Grandma's favourite game is all about filthy jokes, sex toys and Shirley, the foul-tempered drag queen host known for heckling the crowd. *June 14, 10 p.m. PWYC; suggested donation \$2. Queen Star Restaurant, 1116 Queen St. W. (at Lisgar St.), shirleysdirtybingo.com.*

6. DAY OF DELIGHT

Clay & Paper Theatre pays tribute to love, courtship and desire with a series of performances perfect for short attention spans: a new act begins every 15 minutes. Look out for satirical theatre pieces featuring stilt walkers, local ensemble Random Acts of Dance and the *Community Chorus for Love*, sung by festival-goers. *June 14, 2 p.m. PWYC; suggested donation \$10. Dufferin Grove Park, Dufferin St. (at Bloor St. W.), www.clayandpapertheatre.org.*

7. MOSH BEN ARI

Taking global music (and the white-guy-with-dreadlocks look) to new heights, Israeli roots-reggae multi-instrumentalist Mosh Ben Ari makes his North American debut at the Mod Club. *June 15, 8 p.m. \$25–\$65. The Mod Club Theatre, 722 College St. (at Crawford St.), 416-588-4663, www.ticketweb.ca.*

8. STRIP SEARCH

Would-be burlesque stars literally show us what they're made of in between performances by established acts. Don't miss the performance by two members of Boylesque TO, the city's first all-male troupe. *June 15, 8 p.m. \$10. Goodhandy's, 120 Church St. (at Richmond St. E.).*

OTHER EVENTS TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEKEND:

- **Luminato**, which wraps up on June 15
- **Swervedriver, the Besnard Lakes and Uncut** at NXNE on June 13
- Scarborough duo **The Carps** at the Mod Club on June 14
- Canada's premier jazz fusion group of the '90s, **Metalwood**, on June 13

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