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Curator



POP CULTURE

Wrestling As Performance Art

High-flying action lands in the East Bay at Hoodslam.

By Chris Barylick

On a February Friday night at the Oakland Metro Operahouse, there's a jungle rhythm being pounded out on a wrestling mat. Within the warehouse, more than 1,000 wrestling fans have shown up for Hoodslam's "Drag Me to Hell" night, an evening in which wrestlers

and their fans dress in drag. As the lights dim, ringside audience members reach in and pound out the opening to the *Terminator* theme song as the Hoodslam band, in drag, emerges and begins playing.

From behind the curtains, A.J. Kirsch, 29, attired as Marilyn Monbro, charges forth in a dress just like that worn by Marilyn Monroe in *The*



Photos by Pat Mazzera

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