



# Get Hooked and Fly...

[www.suspendc.com](http://www.suspendc.com)

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## Ancient Tribal Rituals meet Modern Body Piercing at SuspendC

Event: SuspendC  
When: September 30, 2007; 3-9pm  
Where: The Crucible  
1816 Half Street SW  
Washington, DC



September 30, 2007— The second biannual SuspendC, held September 30, 2007 at The Crucible in Washington, DC, provides a place for modern body piercing enthusiasts to explore ancient tribal spirituality.

Piercings, provided by the Sacred Mark Sanctuary of Frederick, MD, and the Mind Over Matter Suspension Crew of Washington, DC, will be available for participants who wish to emulate tribal shamans and warriors, using a painful ordeal to achieve an altered state of consciousness or spiritual experience. Participants are pierced in the chest, back, or arms with large stainless steel hooks, which are then attached by rope to a rigging or other pierced participants.

“Ritual ordeal is one of the most powerful tools humans have in learning to face their fears and place their trust in the Universe, God, Spirit,” says Whitney Matlock, who heads Kindlers of the Sacred Rhythm, a Fairfax, VA, group that uses ordeal as a spiritual practice. Matlock and the Kindlers are organizing the SuspendC event. “Once you have intentionally overcome a frightening or painful situation—such as being pierced and suspended—the rest of your life seems easy and peaceful by contrast.”

Like worshipers at the festivals of Thaipusam and Chidi Mari celebrated by Savite Hindus, or participants the Sun Dance and O-Kee-Pa rituals performed by Native Americans, the modern primitives at SuspendC may experience something other-worldly during their ordeal.

“People have described ‘trancing out,’ seeing colors or lights, leaving their body, and other shamanic experiences,” says Abraham Street, body piercer and President of Sacred Mark Sanctuary. “It changes a person, makes them feel confident and free and gives a new appreciation for life.”



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SuspendDC was launched in spring 2007 by Kindlers of the Sacred Rhythm with resounding success: fifty local body piercing enthusiasts and five body piercers were present at the event. With a swell of interest and recognition, organizers expect SuspendDC to be much larger this fall with seven body piercers and up to 100 body modification enthusiasts and spiritual seekers.

Participants must be 18 years old and sign a liability waiver. To register, or to learn more, visit [www.suspendc.com](http://www.suspendc.com).

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**Kindlers of the Sacred Rhythm** is a spiritual group following the path of Ordeal, exploring the energy of extremes through ritual and trance. Combining ritual intention with intense physical stimulation to create altered states of awareness, Kindlers connects with Spirit through the ecstasy created by overcoming ordeal.

[www.sacredrhythms.org](http://www.sacredrhythms.org)



**Sacred Mark Sanctuary (SMS)** combines ancient, modern, and tribal spiritual practices to promote and explore the interconnection of body and spirit. SMS assists individuals and communities along their spiritual journey through offerings such as workshops, group ordeal and ecstatic ritual facilitation, individual ritual body modification, reiki, energy healing, and the arts.

[www.sacredmarks.com](http://www.sacredmarks.com)



**The Mind Over Matter Suspension Crew (M.O.M.)** operates in the metropolitan D.C. area, hosting suspension socials and facilitating private suspensions, pulls, and other body play/ ritual activities since 2001. In 2003, M.O.M. began suspension/sideshow performances. For more information, contact Sean Philips at [lextalonis@gmail.com](mailto:lextalonis@gmail.com).