

night

A man with light-colored hair and a beard is looking upwards with a focused expression. He is surrounded by glowing neon signs in various colors, including green, yellow, and blue. The signs form abstract shapes like circles and zig-zags. The background is dark, making the neon lights stand out prominently.

A NOBLE GAS FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

The thing about neon is that it's so darn easy to get excited: It's the 14-year-old girl of the periodic table in the rarefied atmosphere of her brother's older friends. Just the smallest current gets it bouncing around the vacuum tube, glowing with elemental delight. It's also easy to get Slashtipher T. Coleman excited. Just the smallest idea gets him bouncing around a stage, glowing with 22 characters in the hour-long production of his one-man show, "The Neon Man and Me," a tribute to his friend Mark Jamison, a neon artist who was killed while hanging one of his signs. Coleman's show has circulated throughout Virginia and now kicks off the opening of "Night Lights," work in neon by Doug Solyanm, Matthew Childrey and James Leighty, at Bainbridge Art Center. Coleman performs two shows, March 10-11 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds go to Jamison's family and community organizations. The neon art is on display through March. 230-4544.

— Brandon Reynolds