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This calendar is prepared with the *greatest* possible attention. However, IRU cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information in this calendar.

EVENTS CALENDAR

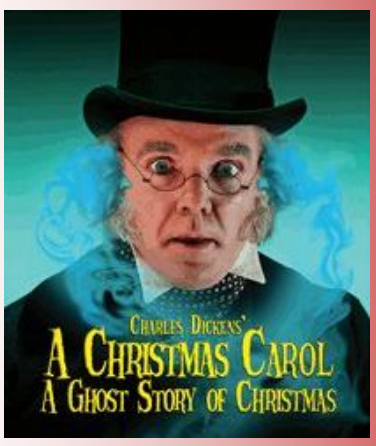
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009
SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

Houston Ballet Presents:
The Nutcracker

WHEN: November 27-December 27, 2009
WHERE: Wortham Theatre Center

Houston Ballet brings Texas its most joyous holiday gift with its beloved production of Ben Stevenson's The Nutcracker. A wonderful ballet for the entire family, The Nutcracker is the perfect way to introduce young children to the power and beauty of classical dance.
The Nutcracker tells the story of a little girl named Clara who is given a magical nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve. She encounters the frightful rat king before embarking on a journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets. Young and old alike will experience the production's many special effects, including the Christmas tree that "grows" to forty feet, 200 pounds of "snow" falling during the snow scene, and the firing of a canon on stage.
Featuring Tchaikovsky's magical score, and glorious scenery and costumes by Tony Award-winning designer Desmond Heeley, Ben Stevenson's breathtaking production of The Nutcracker is, in the words of The Houston Chronicle, "the crown jewel of holiday entertainment."
From the Christmas tree that grows to a towering forty feet in the first act to the cooks who fly magically through the air in the second act, The Nutcracker is sure to enchant audiences of all ages.
The music, the magic, the laughter, the fun. It just wouldn't be the holidays without The Nutcracker. From dancing dolls to flying cooks, there's something to delight every member of the family. Houston Ballet's The Nutcracker. It's a magical dream come true.
Tickets:
$17-$94
Info Phone: 713-227-ARTS (2787)

Alley Theatre Presents:
A Christmas Carol– A Ghost Story of Christmas



WHEN: November 20-December 27, 2009
WHERE: Alley Theater

Houston's seasonal favorite that the Houston Press said, "…..has spectacular London sets … the inimitable Dickens tale -- spiced with the usual fog and an unusual twist on the ghosts past present and future." A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas returns this year with a re-telling of Charles Dickens' classic story that follows Ebenezer Scrooge's journey with the three ghosts that visit him on Christmas Eve. A Christmas Carol instills a powerful message about redemption and the spirit of the holiday season.
By: Charles Dickens
Adapted and Original Production Directed by: Michael Wilson
Directed by: James Black

Info Phone: 713.220.5700
For tickets and more information please visit: www.alleytheatre.org

The 60th Annual H-E-B Holiday Parade

WHEN: Thursday, November 26 at 9:00a.m.
WHERE: Downtown Houston

The Houston's Thanksgiving Day Parade began in 1949, when Santa arrived at Union Station and rode his sleigh to the downtown Foley's. That led to a 44-year tradition – the Foley's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In later years, Bank United and Washington Mutual each claimed the title sponsorship. In 2006, H-E-B was named the new title sponsor of the parade. The Parade also received a new look and logo, and is now referred to as the H-E-B Holiday Parade.
The parade is telecast live locally on KHOU-TV, Channel 11 and is syndicated in many other major markets throughout Texas and beyond.
Parade begins at 9:00am on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 26, 2009 in downtown Houston. Parade is free to the public anywhere along the parade route outside of the TV Zone. A limited number of reserved bleacher seats in the TV Zone are available for purchase. Proceeds from reserved seating ticket sales benefit the Houston Festival Foundation, Inc. education programs reaching more than 1,450 public schools each year and the Houston Chronicle Readers are Leaders literacy program

Tickets: General Admission to the parade is open and free to the public.
EARLY BIRD TICKETS FOR GRANDSTAND SEATING ON SALE NOW
Grandstand Tickets located in the TV Zone where stopped performances take place.
$18 until November 15
$22 after November 15
Turkey Seats
$11 until November 15
$14 after November 15

Route
Catch the parade on its route through downtown Houston. The parade begins on the east side of downtown, traveling 20 blocks starting at Minute Maid Park at Hamilton and Texas.

Directions
West on Texas to Fannin, turning sourth to Dallas, east on Dallas for four blocks turning norht on La Branch proceeding east on Rusk and ending at Crawford

For maps, tickets and more information, please visit www.hebparade.com

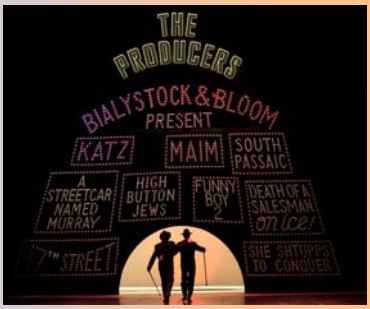
HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR

THEATER & ARTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

PLAYHOUSE 1960 PRESENTS: *THE PRODUCERS*

WHEN: November 27-December 20, 2009
WHERE: Playhouse 1960
6814 Gant Rd. Houston, TX 77066



Playhouse 1960 Mainstage presents The Producers, is a comedy-musical adapted by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan from Brooks' 1968 film of the same name, with lyrics by Brooks and music by Brooks and Glen Kelly. Bialystock and Bloom! Those names should strike terror and hysteria in anyone familiar with Mel Brooks' classic cult comedy film. Now as a big Broadway musical, The Producers once again sets the standard for modern, outrageous, in-your-face humor. It is a truly "boffo" hit, winning a record twelve Tony® Awards and wowing capacity crowds night after night.
The plot is simple: a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history thereby bilking their backers (all "little old ladies") out of millions of dollars. Only one thing goes awry: the show is a smash hit!
The antics of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom as they maneuver their way fecklessly through finding a show (the gloriously offensive "Springtime For Hitler"), hiring a director, raising the money and finally going to prison for their misdeeds is a lesson in broad comic construction. At the core of the insanely funny adventure is a poignant emotional journey of two very different men who become friends.
The Producers skewers Broadway traditions and takes no prisoners as it proudly proclaims itself an "equal opportunity offender!"
The show runs November 27 - December 20 every Friday and Saturday evening at 8 pm. Sundays at 3pm. (December 13 & 20).
Tickets:
$13 for seniors (55 and over)and students
$15 for adults
Info Phone: 281-58-STAGE

PLAYHOUSE1960
RAISING THE CURTAIN SINCE 1973

TEXAS REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS: *MIRACKE ON 34TH STREET*

WHEN:November 18-December 20, 2009
WHERE: Northwood Plaza
14243 Stuebner Airline, Houston, TX 77069

Texas Repertory Theatre presents Miracle on 34th Street by Valentine Davies. Adapted for the stage by Craig A. Miller. Running November 18 through December 20. The classic Christmas story leaps from page to stage in a new adaptation by Craig A. Miller, II, Artistic Director of The Texas Repertory Theatre Co.! A true holiday delight for the entire family, Miracle on 34th Street is a heart-warming look at what Christmas truly means, with Kris Kringle as the personification of good will and holiday spirit.
As Macy's holiday Santa, he enchants children and shoppers so completely that he is deemed dangerous by fellow employees who question his competency and plot to ruin him. A small girl's belief in Santa and the magic of the holiday is at stake in a climactic & profound courtroom decision.
This hilarious, tender and charming show for the entire family is a can't-miss Christmas classic!
party)

Info Phone: 281-583-7573
Tickets: $25, Seniors 10% discount, Students 50% discount.
For more information please visit: www.texreptheatre.org

THE TEXAS Repertory THEATRE CO.

HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR
CLASSICAL MUSIC & THEATER
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

Houston Symphony Presents: Rachmaninoff's First Symphony

WHEN: November 13-November 15, 2009
WHERE: Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana Houston, TX 77002

The Houston Symphony presents Rachmaninoff's First Symphony, featuring pianist Jeffrey Kahane.
Renowned as a pianist and conductor, Kahane is recognized by audiences around the world for his mastery of diverse repertoire from Bach to Gershwin. He has established a reputation as a truly versatile artist equally sought after as soloist, conductor, and chamber musician. This year, Kahane plays solo recitals and chamber music in Aspen, Chicago and New York. He also enters his twelfth season as Music Director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, celebrating its 40th Anniversary this season, and continues his successful tenure as Music Director of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Under his leadership, both ensembles received 2007 ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming.
Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943) wrote his Symphony No. 1 in D minor, Op. 13 at Ivanovka, an estate near Tambov, Russia, between January and October 1895. Despite its poor initial reception the symphony is currently seen as a dynamic representation of the Russian symphonic tradition, with British composer Robert Simpson calling it "a powerful work in its own right, stemming from Borodin and Tchaikovsky, but convinced, individual, finely constructed, and achieving a genuinely tragic and heroic expression that stands far above the pathos of his later music."
Scheduled Program:
Rachmaninoff: The Rock; Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 22; Rachmaninoff: Symphony No. 1
Conductor: Hans Graf
Tickets: $29-$116
Info Phone: (713) 224-7575

Mercury Baroque Presents: Generation Purcell

WHEN: November 20, 2009
WHERE: Wortham Center– Cullen Theater, 501 Texas Avenue Houston, TX 77002

This special concert celebrates the 350th birthday of Henry Purcell, featuring an intimate selection of his music and the music of some of his closest contemporaries, including Locke, Croft, and Blow. Generation Purcell also marks the third collaboration between Mercury Baroque, one of the nations leading period instrument orchestras, and Canada's famed vocal ensemble Les Voix Baroques.
There will be a pre-concert lecture at 7:15 in the Wortham's Green Room with Dr. Yvonne Kendall.
Henry Purcell is often regarded as England's greatest composer and this performance contextualizes the genius of his music by pairing it with music by some of his contemporaries. It features sacred and secular music by John Blow, William Croft, and Matthew Locke.
According to David Gordon Duke of the Vancuver Sun, "…even the music by relatively unsung masters was powerfully evocative". Les Voix Baroques' performance of this music has been hailed by the Vancouver Sun as "…collegial, collaborative music-making of the highest level."
Tickets: $20-$47
Info Phone: 832.251.0706 or please visit: www.mercurybaroque.org

Rice University Presents: Threepenny Opera by Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill

WHEN: November 13-November 20, 2009
WHERE: Rice University– Hamman Hall
Rice Blvd, Entrance 20 & 21 Houston, TX 77005

The Rice University - Department of Visual and Dramatic Art presents Threepenny Opera by Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill
Come one and all for a musical of murder, mayhem, and matrimony! Public debt is ballooning, banks are going bust, a depression is right around the corner, and Mack the Knife is leaving a trail of broken hearts and cut throats in his wake. In this masterful musical satire, love, sex, murder, and theft all become tactics for survival in a society spinning out of control. The play challenges conventional notions of property as well as theater. It asks the question, "Who is the bigger criminal: he who robs a bank or he who founds one?"
This production is being generously underwritten by the Rice University President's Faculty Initiative Fund, the Dean of the School of Humanities, the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts Jerome J. Segal Endowment and the Kurt Weill Foundation.
Tickets: General Admission: $10 Rice Alumni, Faculty & Staff, Senior Citizens: $8 Students with ID: $5
Info Phone: 713-348-PLAY (7529)

HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR

VISUAL ARTS & MUSEUMS

MARCH & APRIL 2009

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON PRESENTS:

Your Bright Future: 12 Contemporary Artists from Korea

WHEN: November 22, 2009-February 14, 2010
WHERE: 1001 Bissonnet Street Houston, Tx 77005

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston presents Your Bright Future: 12 Contemporary Artists from Korea, at the Caroline Wiess Law Building. Organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Your Bright Future: 12 Contemporary Artists from Korea features a generation of artists who have emerged since the mid-1980s—some well-known and others on the brink of such recognition—all of whom work on the cutting-edge of international art trends and within a distinctly Korean context: Bahc Yiso, Choi Jeong-Hwa, Gimhongsok, Jeon Joonho, Kim Beom, Kimsooja, Koo Jeong-A, Minouk Lim, Jooyeon Park, Do Ho Suh, Haegue Yang and the collaborative, Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries.

Your Bright Future (a deliberately ambiguous title taken from a sculpture by Bahc Yiso) will represent each artist through a large-scale installation or substantial body of work, including site-specific installations, video art, computer animation, and sculpture.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), is the second and final venue for the first major museum exhibition in the continental United States in almost two decades to focus on contemporary art from South Korea. Organized by the MFAH and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Your Bright Future: 12 Contemporary Artists from Korea features a generation of artists who have emerged since the mid-1980s—some well-known and others on the brink of such recognition—all of whom work on the cutting-edge of international art trends and within a distinctly Korean context: Bahc Yiso, Choi Jeong-Hwa, Gimhongsok, Jeon Joonho, Kim Beom, Kimsooja, Koo Jeong-A, Minouk Lim, Jooyeon Park, Do Ho Suh, Haegue Yang and the collaborative, Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries. Your Bright Future will represent each artist through a large-scale installation or substantial body of work, including site-specific installations, video art, computer animation, and sculpture.

Info Phone: 713-639-7300
Or visit: www.mfah.org

HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTS:

Prime Years

WHEN: November 13, 2009-January 10, 2010
WHERE: 1441 West Alabama Houston, Tx 77006

The Houston Center for Photography presents the exhibition Prime Years, November 13, 2009 - January 10, 2010.
Prime Years explores the many aspects of aging through images made via 13 different artist´s perspectives. From the editorial to the personal, the work in Prime Years depicts centenarians, artists, relatives, and other individuals enjoying, enduring, and living their lives beyond the age of 60. One would like to think that aging is not a necessary feature of human life but alas, it seems to be. Artists are particularly keen at exploring human life and the ones whose works make up the Prime Years exhibit are a case in point. To a certain extent, their works reflect the values of their cultures, but mostly they project their own idiosyncrasies. It never was the point of this exhibit to give a comprehensive visual account of aging, but rather to show precisely those idiosyncrasies.
"Originally, we wanted to have an upbeat view of aging and the title of the exhibit reflects that desire. It was not a capricious wish. Today, more and more people live longer healthy lives. We did not, however, seek out works that reflected this fact alone. Our focus was always aging and the merit of the works. We did find some works that show more negative aspects of aging like senility, infirmity, illness, and isolation; but by and large, the exhibit followed its original design".
Fernando Castro R., Curator

Artists include:
Cynthia Morgan Batmanis (Houston, TX)
Miloushka Bokma (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Edmund Clark (London, UK)
Victoria Diaz-Azcoaga (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Norma Holt (New York, NY)
Eileen Kennedy (Philadelphia, PA)
Margot Quan Knight (Seattle, WA)
Blake Ogden (Cambridge, MA)
Jane Paradise (San Francisco, CA)

Admission is free and open to the public.
Info Phone: 713-529-4755

HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR

CINEMA EVENTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

Houston Cinema Arts Society Presents: *2009 Cinema Arts Festival Houston*

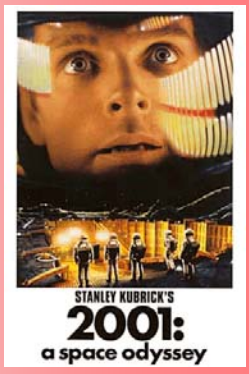
WHEN: November 11-November 15, 2009
WHERE: Various locations around Houston

Houston Cinema Arts Society presents the 2009 Cinema Arts Festival Houston, a stellar lineup of actors, directors, and other artists participating in the jam-packed event scheduled from November 11-15, 2009. Guests presenting new and classic films include actors Tommy Lee Jones and Tilda Swinton, Texas filmmaker and director Richard Linklater and Mexican screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga. The arts-oriented festival will also host photographer Susan Meiselas, rock band Dengue Fever, and members of The Yes Men and Ant Farm media collective, among many other notable presenters.
The only U.S. festival devoted to films by and about artists of all stripes, the 2009 Cinema Arts Festival Houston runs November 11-15 at various cultural locales throughout Houston's Downtown and Museum District areas. It is more than just a film festival; it is a vibrant multimedia arts event breaking out of the confines of the movie theater through live music and film performances, outdoor projections, interactive video installations and more.
The Festival program involves collaboration among many of Houston's extraordinary film and arts institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Menil Collection; the Houston Ballet; FotoFest; Aurora Picture Show; and many others. Many of their representatives serve on the board and task force of the Houston Cinema Arts Society, the nonprofit organization responsible for devising the Festival's unique identity.
"How appropriate for a city with so many first-class arts institutions to host a festival devoted to films by and about visual, performing and literary artists," said Houston Mayor Bill White. "I am especially pleased to see that director Tommy Lee Jones and screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga will be here to explore the elements that combined to produce a masterwork from our own state, The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada. Emerging filmmakers will, I expect, be inspired and future Texas-filmed classics may grow out of this inspiration."
In November 2008, Houston Cinema Arts Society presented a preview festival with just five programs honoring artists Lynn Hershman Leeson and Alex Rivera. This year's Festival has expanded to include nearly forty programs including special series, performances, installations and discussion panels that focus on various multi-faceted topics surrounding cinema and the arts.
Tickets:
Although several Festival programs and components are free, including H BOX at the Alabama Theatre, Kid Pan Alley at Miller Outdoor Theatre, The Red Shoes at Discovery Green and many of the educational panels and sessions, buying Festival Passes, Badges and/or tickets is the most cost-effective way to explore all that the Festival has to offer.

Several different types of ticketing options are available:
Tickets are now on sale on the Festival Web site, www.cinemartsociety.org Tickets and Festival merchandise also can be purchased at the Festival's official headquarters, located at the historic Alabama Theatre, 2922 South Shepherd, Houston, TX 77098, beginning October 21. Dates/Times/Locations Vary.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Presents: *Cosmic Celluloid: 2001: A Space Odyssey*

WHEN: November 27-November 29, 2009
WHERE: Museum of Fine Arts, Brown Auditorium 1001 Bissonnet Street Houston, TX 77006



2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) is a landmark, science fiction classic - and probably the best science-fiction film of all time about exploration of the unknown. It was released, coincidentally, at the height of the space race between the USSR and the US. It appeared at the same time as NASA's exploratory Apollo Project with manned Earth orbiting missions - a prelude to orbiting and landing on the Moon with Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969. And it prophetically showed the enduring influence that computers would have in our daily lives.
Director Stanley Kubrick's work is a profound, visionary and astounding film (a mysterious Rorschach film-blot) and a tremendous visual experience. This epic film contained more spectacular imagery (about what space looked like) and special effects than verbal dialogue. Viewers are left to experience the non-verbal, mystical vastness of the film, and to subjectively reach into their own subconscious and into the film's pure imagery to speculate about its meaning. Many consider the masterpiece bewildering, boring, slow-moving or annoying, but are still inspired by its story of how man is dwarfed by technology and space.The first spoken word is almost a half hour into the film, and there's less than 40 minutes of dialogue in the entire film. Much of the film is in dead silence (accurately depicting the absence of sound in space), or with the sound of human breathing within a spacesuit. Kubrick's sci-fi experiment intended to present its story almost purely with visual imagery and auditory signals with very little communicative human dialogue (similar to what was attempted in the surreal, fragmented, non-narrative imagery of the Qatsi trilogy - from 1983-2002, from Godfrey Reggio). All scenes in the film have either dialogue or music (or silence), but never both together.
The box office opens at 5:30 p.m. for weekend evening screenings and at least 30 minutes before show time for most other films.
Info Phone: 713-639-7300

HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR

FUN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

The Ice at Discovery Green - *Holiday Skating on the* Lake

WHEN: November 26, 2009-January 18, 2010
WHERE: Labranch at Lamar Houston, TX 77010

Discovery Green, the downtown Houston park, presents several exciting new and returning programs this holiday season, enhancing the park's natural features and proving Discovery Green is an attraction not to be missed.
The Ice at Discovery Green was a smash hit with Houstonians last year with more than 100,000 visitors enjoying the experience of outdoor ice skating. The Ice at Discovery Green presented by the Houston Chronicle returns Thursday, November 26, following the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. With evening, weekend and holiday hours and weekly evening programs, it is sure to be a popular holiday activity for Houston families and visitors to the city. The rink will be open daily through Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2010. Admission is just $10, including skate rental.

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center Presents: Arboretum At Night: Wine & Cheese Owl Prowl

WHEN: November 20, 2009
WHERE: 4501 Woodway Drive Houston, TX 77024

The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center presents Arboretum At Night: Wine & Cheese Owl Prowl: November 20, 2009 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Venture out on the trails with an Arboretum naturalist for a night hike to listen and look for owls, flying squirrels, and other animals in the night forest. After our trek in the woods, we'll relax with a selection of wines and cheeses. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather - the event will be held rain or shine.

Tickets:
Pre-registration is REQUIRED.
Members: $22 per person; Non-members: $32 per person

Info Phone: 713.681.8433

Experience the Wonders of Peru - *Houston Peruvian Festival*

WHEN: November 13-November 15, 2009
WHERE: M2 Gallery, 339 West 19th Street Houston, TX 77008

The Consulate General of Peru in Houston, United Nations Inte Fibre 2009, Andean Royalty The Ultimate in Fashion, and the Peruvian Association of Houston present Experience the Wonders of Peru . Featuring Arts, Music, Beverages, Natural Fibers, Customs, People, Culture, Shopping, Silent Auction, and much much more. Plus, SUNDAY Nov. 15th: Vice Mayor Pro Tem Sue Lovell, will present a proclamation at 2PM.

What to Expect:
-Educational videos about Peru and its culture.
-Exhibition of gama arte, Peruvian art.
-Bid on our silent auction items.
-Folkloric dancing by our Houston-based Peruvian Dance Group, Raices del Peru.
-Shop for beutiful Alpaca and Pima cotton garments and jewelry.
-Learn where/when/how to travel to Peru.
-Taste authentic Peruvian Food, coffee and sweets.
-Food tickets will be available at the door.
-Sunday is Family Day -
-Children under 12 get in FREE and goodie bags will be awarded to the first 100 children who attend.
-LIVE Alpaca animals on Sunday for the kids to see and pet.
-We will have games and demonstrations.
-Story reading session with Peruvian story books
-Spanish Class for adults and children
-Proceeds for this event will go to Sunshine Camps (Austin, TX) and to charity programs endorsed by the American Embassy in Lima, Peru.

Tickets: Admission is only a $10 cash donation which will benefit Sunshine Camps and Charity Programs endorsed by the USEA-Lima. Children under 12 get in FREE.

Parking: Valet parking will be available as well as bike vendors that can take you to the location.

Info Phone: Toll Free (877) 263-3260

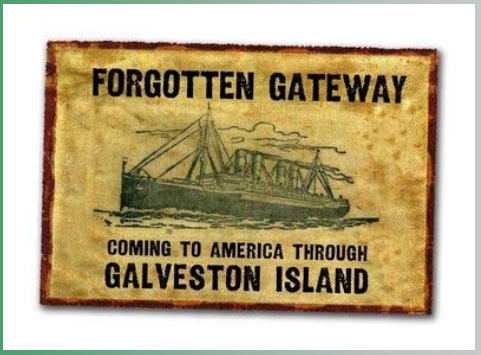
HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR

GALVESTON'S MOODY GARDENS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

Moody Gardens Presents: Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America through Galveston Island

WHEN: November 21, 2009-September 11, 2010
WHERE: One Hope Boulevard Galveston, TX 77554



The traveling exhibit Forgotten Gateway chronicles the Port of Galveston's largely forgotten history as a major gateway to American immigration from 1845 to 1924. Forgotten Gateway builds on a growing scholarly and public interest in the history of migration patterns to America and Galveston's place as one of the nation's top immigrant ports in that history.

This exhibit is the first of its kind to explore Galveston's legacy as a port of entry on a national scale. It will bring to light the little-known yet rich era of Galveston's history and just how important it was to the growth of Texas and the American Midwest.

Long before Ellis Island processed its first immigrant, Galveston was a port of entry for hundreds of thousands of immigrants. While the New York counterpart made it a natural port for Europeans, Galveston attracted a diverse group of people from Europe, Mexico, South and Central America and even Asia. In addition, before the Civil War, it was a major port for forced migration – the sale and transport of slaves from Africa and other points in the United States to Texas.

The exhibit highlights enduring humanities themes in the history of immigration including: the dangers of the journey; making a life in a new land; navigating bureaucracy; confronting discrimination; and becoming "American." These trials and tribulations are illuminated through personal stories, dynamic visitor interactive kiosks, engaging media pieces, and more than 200 original artifacts and documents. The exhibit originated from a comment a 10th-grader made on a heritage trip to Ellis Island. "Why do we need to go to New York," asked the student. "My grandparents came through Galveston."

Moody Gardens is open 365 days a year, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Moody Gardens Presents: Festival of Lights 2009

WHEN: November 20, 2009-January 2, 2010
WHERE: One Hope Boulevard Galveston, TX 77554

Festive sights and sounds will once again fill the air at Moody Gardens during the Festival of Lights 2009 Nov. 14 through Jan. 2. As one of the largest holiday celebrations on the Gulf Coast, the annual event receives over 85,000 visitors, many of whom have made the festival their own holiday tradition.

Santa Claus will kick off the festivities on Nov. 14 by parachuting in to switch on a mile-long trail of more than one million lights. The festival will be celebrated on Thursdays through Saturdays between Nov. 20 and Dec. 12 and daily starting Dec. 17 through Jan. 2, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In addition to over 100 sound-enhanced animated light displays and nightly live entertainment, visitors can strap on a pair of skates and glide across the ice at the area's only Outdoor Ice Skating Rink. Indoors, visitors can take pictures with Santa or enjoy a variety of holiday-themed films at the IMAX® 3D Theater, Ridefilm Theater and 4D Special FX® Theater. In the spirit of tradition, Polar Express 4D will return with interactive special effects like snow, wind and the smell of hot chocolate to engage all the viewers' senses.

Admission to the Festival of Lights is $5.95, and tickets to additional attractions including the Aquarium Pyramid®, holiday IMAX® 3D film, holiday Ridefilm, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink and Colonel Paddlewheel Boat, can be purchased for $5 each with a Festival of Lights ticket.

Tickets:
Admission to the Festival of Lights is $5.95, and tickets to additional attractions including the Aquarium Pyramid®, holiday IMAX® 3D film, holiday Ridefilm, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink and Colonel Paddlewheel Boat, can be purchased for $5 each with a Festival of Lights ticket.

The festival will be celebrated on Thursdays through Saturdays between Nov. 20 and Dec. 12 and daily starting Dec. 17 through Jan. 2, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information on either of these events, please call the Info Phone at (800) 582-4673 or visit www.moodygardens.org

HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR

JUST FOR KIDS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

The Children‘s Museum of Houston Presents: Seasons of Sharing

WHEN: November 14, 2009-January 10, 2010
WHERE: Children‘s Museum of Houston, 1500 Binz Houston, TX 77004

Discover an interactive world of cultural and religious celebrations from around the world at Children's Museum of Houston's Seasons of Sharing exhibit.
Learn about seven holidays from around the world, all celebrated right here in the Bayou City! With more than 90 languages spoken throughout the Houston area, our city’s cultural diversity has found a home within this exhibit.
Ramadan, Diwali, Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the Lunar New Year will all be represented in Houston’s only multicultural holiday exhibit for children. These seven celebrations will come together in Seasons of Sharing, where a block-long neighborhood of houses light the way through the holiday season. Families will delight in seeing dipa lamps, menorahs, luminarias, kinaras, Christmas lights, and the crescent moon dazzle the neighborhood.
“Through this exhibit, we can share the gifts that each culture contributes to our community,” said Bunmi Gaidi, arts educator at the Children’s Museum of Houston. “It provides a place for families to explore the meaning of their own cultural traditions and of those practiced by other people.” Kids will wander through the most diverse neighborhood in town. Each house will represent one of the holidays observed annually in households around the world. They’ll be able to step inside each home, get cozy and experience firsthand customs and traditions different from their own. “In doing so, we hope to make children more aware of the rich diversity that exists within our multicultural community,” said Gaidi. “But regardless of how different those practices are, they’ll come to understand these all share the same principles of unity and of giving without receiving.” A different cultural holiday will be spotlighted each week in which kids will learn about the culture through hands-on activities and games. Experience Diwali with Indian dance, authentic costumes and music during our Spotlight Performance. Check out how we’ve adopted Norway’s holiday traditions and made it our own to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. Or, celebrate the miracle of light by creating your own flameless Menorah or making a dreidel for you to take home and play with. Learn how the moon relates to Muslim culture by making your own fanoos lantern during Ramadan. You may also take delight in the holiday by making poinsettias, colorful piñatas and watching festive performances during our Las Posadas WonderWeek. Plus, don’t miss out on a popular Kwanzaa tradition by making a string of African flags to decorate your home!

Tickets: Included with general Museum admission.
General Museum admission: $7 per person $6 for seniors 65+
Children under one and Museum Members receive free admission.
Info Phone: 713-522-1138

Disney On Ice presents 100 Years of Magic

WHEN: November 11-November 15, 2009
WHERE: Reliant Park, 2510 Westridge, Houston TX 77054

Join the celebration as 65 of Disney's unforgettable characters from 18 beloved stories come to life in Disney On Ice celebrates 100 Years of Magic! You'll be captivated by the one and only Mickey Mouse, the irresistible Minnie Mouse, Goofy, Donald Duck, Jiminy Cricket, Pinocchio and many Disney Princesses.
Be thrilled by exciting moments from The Lion King; Mulan; and Disney/Pixar’s Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, and Toy Story films; in a skating spectacular filled with magical Disney moments you'll remember forever as Disney On Ice celebrates 100 Years of Magic!
Tickets: $16-$85
KIDS AGES 2YRS AND OVER MUST HAVE A TICKET!!!

Info Phone: 713-629-3700
Or Please visit: http://disney.go.com/disneyonice

HOUSTON EVENTS CALENDAR

HOLIDAY SHOPPING -NUTCRACKER MARKET

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

Houston Ballet Hosts: 2009 Nutcracker Market

WHEN: November 12-November 15, 2009
WHERE: Reliant Center, One Reliant Park Houston, TX 77054

The Houston Ballet will be hosting its annual Nutcracker Market, November 12 through November 15. The Theme for 2009: Puttin on the Dog!
In 1981, visions of sugar plums inspired long-time Houston Ballet supporter Preston Frazier to approach the board members of Houston Ballet with a new way to raise needed funds for the Houston Ballet Foundation, its academy and scholarship programs. His dream of a holiday market in the tradition of European or Latin American street markets has grown steadily and spectacularly from humble beginnings in a church-bazaar setting to a four-day shopping extravaganza at Reliant Center.
Over 65,000 attendees with a strong passion to shop visited more than 300 national and international merchants, offering unique items for the entire family, including home décor, gourmet food, apparel, accessories, toys, garden items, and much more … just in time for holiday shopping!
From the moment former First Lady, Barbara Bush cut the ribbon at the opening of the Nutcracker Market, and with a lot of imagination and a few setbacks along the way, the Houston Ballet's Nutcracker Market has become an annual tradition that kicks off the holiday season in Houston. “Texas.
It’s a whole other country,” goes the slogan. We might say, “The Nutcracker Market. It’s a whole other world!”
Since 1981, the Nutcracker Market has contributed over $26 million to Houston Ballet Foundation to support its academy and scholarship programs, which nurture and develop young, promising dancers who have and will become the backbone of Houston Ballet. Currently more than 50% of the dancers in the company have received at least part of their training at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy.

Special Events: include a Preview Party, Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show and Luncheon, Macy‘s Fashion Show and Holiday Brunch, and Priority Shopping. Ticket prices vary for these Special Events.

General Ticket Info:
Advanced tickets maybe purchased at Houston-area Randall's for $10.00 beginning October 26, 2009. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for $11.00.Half-price admission is avaliable daily 3 hours prior to closing. Tickets are good for one day. Children under 6 are free.

TXU ENERGY PRESENTS: THE 24TH ANNUAL UPTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTING

WHEN: Thanksgiving evening, November 26, 2009
WHERE: Uptown Houston- On Post Oak Boulevard, between San Felipe and Westheimer.

Celebrate the Most Wonderful Time of The Year!
On Thanksgiving evening, thousands of Houstonians and out-of-town guests will gather along Post Oak Boulevard for the Uptown Holiday Lighting Presented by TXU Energy, an event now in its 24th year. This fun-filled family event, benefiting Sheltering Arms Senior Services and Be An Angel, will ring-in the holidays with more than a half-million twinkling lights; festive music; holiday characters including clowns, larger than life Santa's reindeer; a special appearance from Santa and a fireworks extravaganza. But it does not end there. The holiday ambiance created by 80 brilliantly-lit holiday trees standing guard over Post Oak Boulevard as well as numerous decorations and lighting throughout the area will continue into the holiday season.
Holiday music and concessions will begin at 4 p.m.
Santa lights the Boulevard and fireworks extravaganza at 7 p.m.
Event is FREE and open to the public

Event Highlights Include:
Holiday Music and Concessions - Families can arrive early to enjoy the sounds of their favorite holiday tunes. They also can savor the flavors of the holidays as funnel cakes, cotton candy, kettle corn and holiday beverages are just a few of the scrumptious treats that will be sold at area concession stands.
Santa Lights the Boulevard - With the help of the audience, Santa and his reindeer will light up more than a half-million twinkling lights on 80 Christmas trees along the boulevard and building rooftops to herald the arrival of the holiday season.
Dazzling Fireworks Extravaganza - A dazzling holiday fireworks extravaganza will explode in sync with holiday music, setting the stage for a spectacular holiday season.

Benefiting Sheltering Arms Senior Services and Be An Angel
For more information, please call 713-621-2504

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Please enjoy this Special Holiday Edition of our Houston Events Calendar. We have put it together especially for you, in hopes that you might enjoy many of these exciting events with your family and friends.
The holiday season reminds us that togetherness is what is most important, and what better way to spend quality time with your loved ones than partaking in fun and family-oriented events around Houston? So take some time out from your busy holiday schedule and take in a ballet or a symphony, or enjoy some of our wonderful museums. Why not spend some time outdoors in the cooler weather? There are plenty of wintertime events going on around town!

Also, why not consider giving someone you know the gift of a new language? Ask about our Holiday Gift Certificates for language courses at the Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Levels!

We here at IRU wish you the best this Holiday Season and we look forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Warmest Wishes,

Elke Krause & The IRU Team

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