

# December

## Through December

Enjoy “The Lion King,” a visually stunning and technically astounding show. Marvel at the breathtaking spectacle of animals brought to life by a cast of more than 40 actors. Cost: \$130 to \$17.50. Show dates: Through Dec. 28. Location: Murat Theatre, 502 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis. Information: (317) 231-0000 or [www.broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.com)

## Through Sunday, Dec. 28

Come see the Garfield Park Conservatory decked out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettia. Check out the model trains, which are a special exhibit from the employees of The Indiana Rail Road Co. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost: \$5 per family; \$2 adults; \$1 seniors and youth under the age of 17; children 3 and younger free. Location: Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Information or to reserve a spot: (317) 237-7184

## Thursday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 7

A holiday tradition for many families, “The Nutcracker” dazzles and delights children and adults of all ages. Join the Butler Ballet along with the Butler Symphony Orchestra and the Indianapolis Children’s Choir for this delightful holiday experience. Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$28.50 adults; \$23 children, students and seniors for the evening performance; \$21.50 adults; \$17 children, students and seniors for the afternoon performances. Location: Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University, 4602 Sunset Ave., Indianapolis. Information: (317) 940-6444

## Friday, Dec. 5

Bill Gaither and the Homecoming Friends Lovin’ Life Tour stops at Conseco Fieldhouse. Show time: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$21.50 to \$44.50. Address: 125 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. Information: (317) 239-5151 or [www.gaither.com](http://www.gaither.com).

## Saturday, Dec. 6

- Celebrate the 50-year reunion of the holiday lighting in downtown Franklin. Food, fun and games beginning at 3 p.m. Location: Courthouse Lawn, 5 E. Jefferson St., Franklin.

- The Electric Lights Parade will roll through downtown Columbus beginning at 6 p.m. Information: (812) 376-2680

## Saturday, Dec. 6

- Enjoy an evening of espionage, crime, intrigue and murder at the bi-annual Rawhide Ranch Murder Mystery, where you are part of the mystery. Cost: \$250 for the royal package, which includes dinner for two, breakfast for two, horseback ride for two, hayride for two, murder mystery for two and one night’s lodging for two. Location: The Rawhide Ranch, 1292 State Road 135 South, Nashville. Information: (812) 988-0085 or (888) 94-RANCH

- Enjoy an evening of foot-stompin’ fun at The Little Nashville Opry, 704 State Road 46W, Nashville. Ticket information: (812) 988-2235 or [www.littlenashvilleopry.com](http://www.littlenashvilleopry.com). Here is a list of who will be performing:  
8 p.m. Dec. 6: Tanya Tucker, \$31  
8 p.m. Dec. 13: Riders in the Sky, \$23

## Sunday, Dec. 7

The Columbus Philharmonic will have surprises for the children and lots of old-fashioned, traditional music when it brings “Unwrap the Joy” to the stage. Show times: 3 and 7 p.m. Cost: \$11 to \$40. Location: Columbus North High School Erne Auditorium, 1400 25th St., Columbus. Information: (812) 376-2638

## Sunday, Dec. 7

- Celebrate Las Posadas, a Latino holiday commemorating Joseph and Mary’s search for a place to stay in Bethlehem at the Eiteljorg Museum, 500 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. The celebration begins at the History Center, where visitors will participate in a procession that ends at the museum. Cost: Included

with regular admission, which is \$8 adults; \$7 seniors 65 and older; \$5 ages 5 to 17 and full-time students with ID; 4 and younger free. Information: 636-WEST or [www.eiteljorg.org](http://www.eiteljorg.org)

- Enjoy the sounds of the season with the Greater Greenwood Community Band. The performance will be at 5 p.m. at the Greenwood Community High School auditorium, 615 W. Smith Valley Road. Cost: Free. Information: [www.greenwoodband.com](http://www.greenwoodband.com)

## Wednesday, Dec. 10

“Chimes of Christmas” is a holiday celebration that will make the whole family smile. This annual extravaganza is an IU Jacobs School of Music production featuring performing groups from a music school widely recognized as one of the world’s finest. Show time: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$13 to \$19 adults; \$11 to \$14 students and children. Location: 1211 E. Seventh St., Bloomington. Information: (812) 855-1103 or [www.iuauditorium.com](http://www.iuauditorium.com)

## Saturday, Dec. 13

Santa Claus makes his annual visit to the Garfield Park Conservatory for Garfield Park’s Holiday Family Day. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: Free. Location: Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Information or to reserve a spot: (317) 237-7184

## Wednesday, Dec. 10 to Sunday, Dec. 14

Disney on Ice celebrates 100 years of magic at Conseco Fieldhouse. Show times: Vary. Tickets: \$12 to \$65. Address: 125 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. Information: 917-2727 or [www.consecofieldhouse.com](http://www.consecofieldhouse.com)

## Saturday, Dec. 13, and Sunday, Dec. 14

Mallow Run Winery, 6964 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville, will host a holiday open house at the winery. This is a great time to pick out the special wines for your holiday occasions. Hours: Noon to 6 p.m. daily. Information: (317) 422-1556 or [www.mallowrun.com](http://www.mallowrun.com)

#### Sunday, Dec. 14

Discover the magic of Jim Brinkman's piano artistry during his holiday concert, which has been compared to a gather of friends and family that resonates with the true spirit of Christmas. Showtime: 7 p.m. Tickets: Not determined at press time. Location: Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University, 4602 Sunset Ave., Indianapolis. Information: (317) 940-6444

#### Friday, Dec. 19

Enjoy Wine Dinner with the Pontiff, hosted by Dr. Allen Dale "Ole" Olson (aka the Pontiff of Palate) at Story Inn. There will be five or six courses matched to a wine of the Pontiff's selection. Casual dress. Seating is limited to 30 people. Call for reservations. Time: 7 p.m. Cost: \$65 per person, plus gratuity. Location: State Road 135S in Story. Phone: (800) 881-1183

#### Friday, Dec. 19

Enjoy the holiday train and poinsettia show during an evening reception with holiday treats. Take time from the hustle and bustle to relax with a cup of tea and enjoy the warmth and beauty of the festively decorated tropical conservatory. Plan to pre-register for this event. Hours: 6 to 8 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person; \$15 per family. Location: Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. Information or to reserve a spot: (317) 237-7184

#### Saturday, Dec. 20

Big Ten contender Purdue will take on Davidson in the first game of the John Wooden Tradition at Conseco Fieldhouse. Wooden Tradition newcomer Southern Illinois will take on Saint Mary's in the second game. Cost: \$10 to \$125, which includes both games of the doubleheader. Game times: 3:30 and 6 p.m. Address: 125 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. Information: 917-2727 or [www.consecofieldhouse.com](http://www.consecofieldhouse.com)

#### Saturday, Dec. 20

•The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra performs Handel's "Messiah" for the first time in more than 20 years at Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University. Showtime: 8 p.m. Tickets:

\$54, \$44, \$29 and \$19 adults; \$27, \$22, \$15 and \$10 children 12 and younger. Location: Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University, 4602 Sunset Ave., Indianapolis. Information: (317) 940-6444

•Get your walking shoes on and dress warmly for the PowerBar 5K's of Christmas Run and Walk at the NCAA Hall of Champions. Time: 9 a.m. Cost: \$20 in advance. Information: (317) 407-8489

#### Sunday, Dec. 21

Come enjoy a Victorian candlelight Christmas dinner at the Story Inn. The tables will be draped in pure white linen, there will be live traditional holiday piano music and all of the servers will be in full Victorian costume. Traditional holiday cooking, teas, brandies and desserts will be served. Call for reservations. Location: State Road 135S in Story. Phone: (800) 881-1183

#### Monday, Dec. 22

Hear rockin' sounds of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra during a special performance at 7:30 p.m. at Conseco Fieldhouse. Cost: \$36 to \$46. Address: 125 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. Information: 917-2727 or [www.consecofieldhouse.com](http://www.consecofieldhouse.com)

#### Through Sunday, Dec. 28

Enjoy the timeless holiday classic "Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol" at Indiana Repertory Theatre, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future take the stage to tell the story of redemption through Sunday, Dec. 28. Cost: \$29 to \$59. Show times vary. Information: 635-5252 or [www.irtlive.com](http://www.irtlive.com)

#### Friday, Dec. 26, to Wednesday, Dec. 31

See the latest makes and models at the 2008 Indianapolis Auto Show at the Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis. More than 450 vehicles representing 39 different makes from domestic and import auto manufacturers will be featured. Information: [www.indyautoshow.com](http://www.indyautoshow.com)

#### New Year's Eve

•Ring in the New Year with Family New Year's Eve, a family-friendly, alcohol-free celebration, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Indiana State Museum, 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. All ages will enjoy live music as well as games, crafts, magicians and clowns. A balloon drop with ring in the New Year at 8 p.m. Reservations required. Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Information or reservations: 232-1637 or [www.indianastatemuseum.org](http://www.indianastatemuseum.org)

•Head south and enjoy the Eighth Annual New Year's Eve Gala at Salt Creek Golf Retreat featuring Chooch and the Enchanters. Cost: Several packages available. Information and reservations: (812) 988-7888

•Ring in the New Year with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and special guests the Manhattan Rhythm Kings at Hilbert Circle Theatre. Show time: 9 p.m. Cost: \$35 to \$150. Information: (317) 639-4300 or [www.indianapolissymphony.org](http://www.indianapolissymphony.org)

•Join the Buck Creek Players to kick off the holiday season with “A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley,” an ingenious and theatrically dazzling new adaptation of this great holiday classic. Show times: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Cost: \$14 adults; \$12 students and seniors 62 and older. Seating is on first come, first served basis. Show dates: Dec. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21. Location: 11150 Southeastern Ave., Indianapolis. Information: (317) 862-2270

•Have breakfast with Santa during Santa’s Holiday Breakfast in the L.S. Ayres Tea Room at the Indiana State Museum. After the holiday buffet, families are invited to visit Santa in his holiday home. Santa’s Holiday Breakfast including the breakfast buffet, gift bags for children and museum admission. Address: 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. Space is limited and reservations are required. Dates and times: 7:30 to 9 a.m. Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Information: (317) 232-1637 for prices and reservations.

•Ann Hampton Callaway joins the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the holiday season during the Duke Energy Yuletide Celebration. Enjoy time-honored classics, family favorites and heartwarming carols as well as show-stopping song and dance numbers during this holiday show. And, don’t forget, no holiday show would be complete without a visit from Santa. Make the Yuletide Celebration part of your holiday tradition. Shows run Dec. 5 to 23. Show times vary. Address: Hilbert Circle Theatre, 45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis. Information: 639-4300 or [www.indianapolissymphony.org](http://www.indianapolissymphony.org)

•Take a stroll through a lighted holiday wonderland at the Indianapolis Zoo during Kroger Christmas at the Zoo through the end of December. The zoo and the Hilbert Conservatory at the White River Gardens

open at noon during the month with the holiday lights and activities taking place from 5 to 9 p.m. Stroll through the grounds at the zoo to see hundreds of holiday lights and displays, a holiday dolphin show, carolers and don’t forget to stop by to see Santa. Model train fans both young and old will want to stop by the White River Gardens to get a bird’s eye view of the running model trains. Christmas at the Zoo and Holiday Trainland are free for zoo members and included in admission for non-members. Address: 1200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. Information: 630-2001 or [www.indianapoliszoo.com](http://www.indianapoliszoo.com)

•“The Polar Express: An IMAX 3D Experience,” starring Tom Hanks, has quickly become a must-see film event during the holiday season. The movie is based on the classic Caldecott award-winning children’s book “The Polar Express.” The movie tells the story of a doubting young boy who takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole and embarks on a journey of self-discovery that shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe. Address: 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. Information: 232-4629 or [www.imax.com/indy](http://www.imax.com/indy)

•“Bah Humbug Y’all” takes the classic Charles Dickens’ tale of “A Christmas Carol” and puts a Brown County twist on it. Take the flavor of Brown County, country music and traditional Christmas songs and it all adds up to a Christmas celebration that will warm your heart and help you discover the true meaning of Christmas through song and dance. Showtime: 2 p.m. Dec. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 20. Tickets: \$16 adults; \$14 seniors 60 and older; \$10 children 11 to 17; \$5 children younger than 10. Location: 227 S. Van Buren St., Nashville. Information: (812) 988-2101

•Santa wants to hear what you want for Christmas at the Indiana State Museum in

Indianapolis. Celebration Crossing features a train ride, holiday decorations including a restored L.S. Ayres store window. Address: 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Cost: \$7 adults; \$6.50 seniors; \$4 children. Information: (317) 232-1637 or [www.in.gov/ism](http://www.in.gov/ism)

•Meet Mozart and Ludmilla, the ritzy rodents who live in the studio piano, as they host a charming 45-minute Christmas variety show featuring marionettes, music and more during Peewinkle’s Christmas Puppet Show at the Indiana State Museum. Show dates and times: 10:30 a.m., 1, 3 and 5 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 13, 20 and 27; 1, 3 and 5 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 14, 21 and 28; 9:30 and 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Dec. 16, 17 and 18; 11 a.m., 1 and 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Dec. 23, 29 and 30. Cost: \$10 per person or \$8 for museum members; children ages 2 and younger free. Information: (317) 232-1637 or [www.in.gov/ism](http://www.in.gov/ism)