



# THE HOLIDAYS HAPPEN HERE

## 48 DAYS 347 EVENTS

### NOV 16 - 21

#### Art Studio Project

Create a "Turkey Drumstick Hat" to wear at your holiday feast. Children and parents are encouraged to drop in and create artwork together! Children's Museum of Phoenix from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$9 and include museum admission. 602-253-0501, [childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

### NOV 17 - JAN 1

#### Phoenix Public Market

Experience the best in Arizona agriculture, cooking and creativity as vendors from across the state offer fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products, roasted coffee, mouth-watering jams and honey, baked goods and prepared foods. Wednesdays 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can find the market at 721 N. Central Ave., on the southeast corner of Central Ave. and McKinley St. Admission and parking are free. 602-493-5231, [phoenixpublicmarket.com](http://phoenixpublicmarket.com).

#### Downtown Ambassador Food Drive

In addition to canned goods and non-perishable items, the Ambassadors are requesting items that will help the displaced and impoverished stay warm on cold winter nights, including blankets, sweaters, coats, comforters, shoes, boots, thick socks, jeans or any cold weather gear and layering clothing you can spare. Either drop your items at Ambassador headquarters (101 N. 1st Ave., #190) or the Ambassadors will gladly collect them at your office. 602-495-1500.

### NOV 17 - 28

#### Straw Bale Trail

The Children's Museum of Phoenix celebrates the arrival of fall with a harvest theme. Children will revel in running through our Straw Bale Trail, through November 28th on the front lawn. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$9 and include museum admission. 602-253-0501, [childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

### NOV 17 - 18

#### Proof is in the Pudding Competition

Come down and listen to some of the Valley's own rock stars as they compete to win the ultimate gig: an opportunity to perform at Alice Cooper's 10th Anniversary Christmas Pudding, sharing a stage with some of the biggest names in rock n' roll! Alice Cooper's town at 6:30 p.m. Free. 602-253-7337, [alicecoopersolidrock.com](http://alicecoopersolidrock.com).

### NOV 19 - DEC 11

#### Ghosts of Phoenix Tour

Catch the holiday spirits! The Ghosts of Phoenix Tour will guide you through the Hotel San Carlos, which is famous for its paranormal activity. The tour offers access to areas not generally open to the public. Fridays and Saturdays evenings at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tours run October through December, with additional dates available. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children (8-12). Tour size limited; reservations required. [GhostsOfPhoenix.com](http://GhostsOfPhoenix.com).

### NOV 20 - DEC 18

#### Music for the Holidays at the Grand Staircase

Enjoy live music for all ages at the Arizona Center Grand Staircase. Kick back and relax to the sounds of local artists while sitting beneath the trees. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free. Events may vary, check [arizonacenter.com](http://arizonacenter.com) for more details.

### NOV 19 - 21

#### Avalanche Ski Sale

The Avalanche Ski and Snowboard Sale and Travel Expo returns to the Phoenix Convention Center. Friday 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. [avalanchesale.com](http://avalanchesale.com).

### NOV 19

#### Four Course Beer Dinner

Enjoy amazing food and beer from the folks who brought you the Deschutes Brewery. Four of Deschutes' best ales are paired with Chef Mark's scrumptious food, all at a price that can't be beat. Coach & Willie's at 7 p.m. \$25 per person; \$45 per couple. 602-254-5272, [coachandwillies.com](http://coachandwillies.com).

### NOV 20

#### 10th Annual Charity Golf Classic and After-Party

This holiday season, reach out and support the American Cancer Society by participating in this annual fundraiser. Tourny starts at 12:30 p.m.; afterwards enjoy a buffet dinner, awards, raffle and silent auction beginning at 6 p.m. Coach & Willie's, 602-254-5272, [coachandwillies.com](http://coachandwillies.com).

#### Holiday Blood Drive

Donate blood in November and receive a voucher for one Phoenix Symphony ticket. Call or visit the United Blood Services website to make an appointment. You may donate at the Urban Grocery and Wine Bar on Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. [unitedbloodservicesaz.org](http://unitedbloodservicesaz.org).

### NOV 21

#### Discover India Festival

Fill your holiday with the sights and sounds of India during this celebration of Indian art, history and culture. Heritage Science Park, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. 602-262-5071, [iaphx.org](http://iaphx.org).



## **Pumpkin Circle**

Learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin. Storytelling will feature "Pumpkin Circle" by George Levenson; children will also have the opportunity to plant a pumpkin seed. Children's Museum of Phoenix from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$9 and include museum admission. 602-253-0501, [childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

## **Winter Fairy Tales**

Enjoy a collaborative program of dance performance featuring students from three studios: Arizona School of Classical Ballet, The School of Ballet Arizona and Dance Theater West, which is the studio for Center Dance Ensemble. Herberger Theater Center from 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20. 602-252-8497, [herbergertheater.org](http://herbergertheater.org).

## **NOV 23 & DEC 14**

### **Orpheum Theatre Docent-Guided Holiday Tour**

A Friends of the Orpheum Theatre docent will guide you on a one-hour grand tour, including backstage access and a theatre history. Tours start at 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. Free. 602-262-6225, [friendsoftheorpheumtheatre.org](http://friendsoftheorpheumtheatre.org)

## **NOV 23 - 30**

### **Art Studio Project**

Make a "scarecrow collage" with real straw; create paper chain decorations. Children and parents are encouraged to drop in and create artwork together! Children's Museum of Phoenix from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$9 and include museum admission. 602-253-0501, [childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

## **NOV 25 - 28**

### **2011-Model Arizona International Auto Show**

Find the perfect holiday gift! Hundreds of new cars, trucks, sport/utility vehicles and crossovers will pack the Phoenix Convention Center. Thursday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 - \$9. Coupon and tickets at [motortrendautoshow.com](http://motortrendautoshow.com).

## **NOV 25**

### **Revolving Thanksgiving Feast**

Carved-to-order applewood-smoked rosemary turkey and cherry jalapeño glazed ham, cranberry bar, seascape, salads of the season, and all of Chef Jimmy's delectable desserts. Compass Arizona Grill in the Downtown Phoenix Hyatt, from noon to 8 p.m. \$59 for adults, \$25 for children 5-12 years of age. 602-440-3166.

### **Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner**

This annual holiday dinner is free and open to the public. The Wyndham Phoenix Hotel, 50 East Adams St., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. [www1.usw.salvationarmy.org](http://www1.usw.salvationarmy.org).

## **NOV 26 - 28**

### **Ballet and Friends Presents: The Nutcracker**

This season marks Ballet and Friends' 28th year of supporting the Nutcracker production, and our fourth season under the artistic direction of Slawomir Wozniak, world-renowned dancer/choreographer. Herberger Theater Center. Date and times vary. Tickets \$25. 602-254-7399, [herbergertheater.org](http://herbergertheater.org).

## **NOV 26**

### **Fall Leaf Bursts**

Create beautiful, realistic-looking fall leaves to celebrate the season. Children's Museum of Phoenix from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$9 and include museum admission. 602-253-0501, [childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

## **NOV 27 - JAN 2**

### **Ice Skating in the Park**

Join us during the month of December as we enjoy a winter blast-off with CityScape Ice Skating Rink. More information to be announced. [cityscapephoenix.com](http://cityscapephoenix.com).

## **NOV 27**

### **CityScape Tree Lighting**

Holiday entertainment, ice skating, tree lighting, food, shopping and more. CityScape at 6:30 p.m. Free. [cityscapephoenix.com](http://cityscapephoenix.com).

## **NOV 29**

### **Holiday Blood Drive**

Donate blood in November and receive a voucher for one Phoenix Symphony ticket. Call or visit the United Blood Services website to make an appointment. Donate at the Wells Fargo building on Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. [unitedbloodservicesaz.org](http://unitedbloodservicesaz.org).

## **DEC 1 - DEC 20**

### **Justin Bieber Signed Guitar Auction**

We've got Bieber Fever! Justin Bieber recently performed a private concert at the Hard Rock Café Phoenix and signed a guitar to be auctioned off for WHY and Hard Rock's Imagine There's No Hunger campaign. Stop by the Rock Shop at the Hard Rock Café for your chance to bid. 602-261-ROCK.

## **DEC 1 - 2**

### **Proof is in the Pudding Finals**

Come down and listen to some of the Valley's own rock stars as they compete to win the ultimate gig: an opportunity to perform at Alice Cooper's 10th Anniversary Christmas Pudding, sharing a stage with some of the biggest names in rock n' roll! Hard Rock Café at 6:30 p.m. Suggested donation. 602-261-ROCK, [alicecoopersolidrock.com](http://alicecoopersolidrock.com).

## **DEC 3**

### **Festive Friday at Renaissance**

Join the Downtown Phoenix Partnership in celebrating the holidays! Let us be your holiday hosts! Join us outside the Renaissance building on Adams St. between First Ave. and Central for special lunchtime activities. Warm your holiday spirit with delicious drinks and tasty treats. Renaissance courtyard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 602-495-1500, [DowntownPhoenix.com](http://DowntownPhoenix.com).

### **Holiday Open House**

Bring your family and friends to celebrate the season with an evening of music, food, and tours of the historic Rosson House. You'll have a chance to see The Rosson House dressed in its holiday extravagance and enjoy the holiday lighting in Historic Heritage Square, a national registry historic property. You won't want to miss this romantic evening. Rosson House from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 602-262-5070, [rossonhousemuseum.org](http://rossonhousemuseum.org).

## DEC 3 - 23

### Valley Youth Theatre Presents A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail

A holiday tradition, delighting Valley families for 14 seasons. Join Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore and their friends in the Hundred Acre Wood for a celebration of friendship, caring and sharing. Valley Youth Theatre. Dates and times vary. Tickets are \$20. 602-253-8188, ext. 2, vyt.com.

## DEC 3 - 4

### Renaissance Square Holiday Market

Renaissance will be hosting a holiday market just in time for the holidays. Find local handcrafted gifts, entertainment, and much more. Renaissance Square at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## DEC 3 - 5

### Phoenix Opera Presents: The Magic Flute

The Magic Flute dates to 1791, composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to a German libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder. The work is in the popular form of a Singspiel, incorporating both singing and spoken dialogue. Orpheum Theater. Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$42.50 - \$104.60. 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

### The Phoenix Symphony: Home for the Holidays

Valley favorite Bob Moody is donning his Santa hat, filling up his sleigh and flying into Symphony Hall for a concert of holiday treats. The Phoenix Symphony brings you this toe-tapping, bell-ringing night of holiday tunes to get you in the spirit. Symphony Hall. Times vary. Season packages starting at \$80; tickets are \$18-\$83. 602-495-1999, phoenixsymphony.org.

## DEC 4

### Common Wall Media Christmas Party

The hottest bands in Phoenix are coming to the Hard Rock Café! This Christmas party will feature music from What Laura Says, Snake! Snake! Snakes!, Gospel Claws and Dead Wildlife. Hard Rock Café at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5. 602-261-ROCK, ticketweb.com.

## Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

Join Santa for cookies, cocoa and storytelling. Learn to make wrapping paper, decorate cookies and have your photo taken. Heritage & Science Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call for more information: 602-262-5070.

### Phoenix Family Adventure Package

The Phoenix Family Adventure Package includes four tickets to Yo Gabba Gabba! Live! at Comerica Theater at 5 p.m. on December 4th, 2010, four tickets to the Children's Museum of Phoenix, an overnight stay at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown with upgraded guest room accommodations on the night of the performance and more. Rates start at \$299 per night. Learn more at [www.sheratonphoenixdowntown.com](http://www.sheratonphoenixdowntown.com).

### Downtown Dine Around

Dining enthusiasts will spend the afternoon visiting several Downtown eateries in search of a wide variety of delectable (and discounted!) morsels. Dine Around attendees will enjoy sample-sized portions of appetizers, salads, pastas, entrees and desserts. Downtown Phoenix from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices are \$2 - \$3 at each location. 602-744-6412, [downtownphoenix.com/dinearound](http://downtownphoenix.com/dinearound).

## DEC 4 - 5

### Tamale Festival

In addition to the culinary feast, participants can stroll through the cultural marketplace, where they will find Latin art and crafts and a wide array of entertainment. Downtown Phoenix between 1st and 4th Ave. on Washington and 3rd Ave. between Jefferson and Adams. Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## DEC 4 - 19

### Center Dance Ensemble Presents Frances Smith Cohen's Snow Queen

This magical retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen classic set to music by Sergei Prokofiev has become a holiday favorite for the entire family. Herberger Theater Center. Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$21.50; seniors \$17.50 and students \$9.50. 602-252-8497, [herbergertheater.org](http://herbergertheater.org)

## DEC 4 - 24

### Actors Theatre Company Presents A Christmas Carol

After nineteen glorious years, Actors Theatre will be retiring its annual production of A Christmas Carol. This season will be your last chance to see it! Dickens' classic story of redemption and hope is ingeniously reimagined in this spectacular musical. Herberger Theater. Dates and times vary. Season tickets start at \$75. Tickets are \$28-\$70. 602-252-8497, [actorstheatrephx.org](http://actorstheatrephx.org).

## DEC 6 & DEC 13

### Enjoy "Kid-Free" Shopping in the Museum Gift Shop

Although the Children's Museum is closed on Mondays, the Museum Gift Shop will be open for kid-free shopping. Tons of fun, educational holiday gift ideas for every budget! Children's Museum of Phoenix from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 602-253-0501, [childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

## DEC 7 - 16

### Lunch Time Theater Featuring A Dreamers Holiday

'Tis the night before Christmas, and the weavers-of-dreams celebrate while you sleep. In this seasonal cabaret, follow the weavers as they soar through a dreamscape of song. Herberger Theater. Tuesday-Thursday at 12:10 p.m. Tickets are \$6, optional lunch is \$5.50-\$6.50. 602-254-7399, x104, [herbergertheater.org](http://herbergertheater.org).

## DEC 7 - 15

### Preschool Science: Snowflakes, Crystals and Ice

See how crystals grow, learn why each snowflake is unique, make an icy creation. For children 3 to 5, each accompanied by an adult. Arizona Science Center. Dates vary per age group. 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. \$15 per class/members, \$20 per class/non-members. Preregistration is required. 602-716-2028, [azscience.org](http://azscience.org).

## DEC 7

### KTAR's 25th Annual Christmas Carol

A fantastic all-star cast retells this classic tale in old-time radio drama fashion. Arrive at the theatre early (doors open at 6 p.m.) to enjoy Dickens-themed Christmas carolers as they ready the crowd for the event and spread a little Christmas cheer. Orpheum Theatre at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$11.83. 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

## DEC 8

### After 5 Holiday Mixer: 'Tis the Season

Join the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Phoenix Partnership, and the City of Phoenix Mayor's Office as we kick-start the holiday season with an evening celebration at Phoenix Public Market Urban Grocery and Wine Bar at 5 p.m. Free. 602-495-2194, phoenixchamber.com.

### Warren Miller's Wintervention

The biggest action sports film on the planet is coming to kick off your winter sports season for the 60th year! Narrated by skiing icon Jonny Moseley and presented in striking high-definition, Warren Miller's Dynasty showcases fresh cinematography that will get you craving vertical lines, deep powder, and epic adventure! Orpheum Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23.70. 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

## DEC 9 - 20

### iTheatre Collaborative Presence: That's What Christmas Means

It's an all-new holiday cabaret! Join us at iTC's nightclub at The Kax inside the Herberger Theater for Jeff Kennedy and friends, featuring an array of both new and beloved. Come down for a cocktail or two, have a seat at a nightclub table and experience this funny, sometimes edgy and always heartwarming celebration of the holidays. Herberger Theater Center. Dates and times vary. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$20 at the door. 602-252-8497, herbergertheater.org.

## DEC 10

### Festive Friday at Arizona Center

Celebrate the holidays with the Downtown Phoenix Partnership! Visit the Arizona Center for special lunchtime activities; warm your spirit with delicious drinks and tasty treats. Arizona Center courtyard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 602-495-1500, DowntownPhoenix.com.

### Candlelight Messiah

Conductor Michael Christie leads the Phoenix Symphony Chorus and the Baroque Ensemble in a performance of Handel's "Messiah," played in a candlelit setting meant to evoke the spirit of the work's first European performance in 1742. The show includes a performance of Arcangelo Corelli's "Christmas Concerto." St. Mary's Basilica at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$31. phoenixsymphony.org.

### Tinker Toys, Thinker Toys and Almost a Sleep-over

Build a boat, design a rocket, create a raft or construct a fort. There will be time for exploring, a snack, and the planetarium show "Cosmic Coasters." Arizona Science Center from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Children 6 to 12, each accompanied by an adult. Members are \$20 and nonmembers are \$25. Preregistration is required. 602-716-2028, azscience.org.

### Charity Concert and Benefit BBQ

The Intercultural Communication Class at Gateway Community College is hosting a charity concert and benefit BBQ dinner at Cooperstown for International Human Rights Day! Retro-fifties rock sensations Come Back Buddy entertain during a silent auction, raffles, and swing dance competition. Alice Cooper's town at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Ticketriver.com/event/720.

## DEC 10 - 26

### Ballet Arizona Presents Ib Andersen's The Nutcracker

Experience the magic and beauty of this beloved holiday classic through the eyes of Clara, who wakes in the land of the Sugar Plum Fairy and is entertained by dances which include Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea and the Waltz of the Flowers. Original choreography by Ib Andersen. Symphony Hall. Dates and times vary. Tickets are \$21.60 - \$131.45 and season packages start at \$69. 602-381-0184, balletaz.com.

## DEC 11 - 12

### 18th Annual Phoenix Feline Fanciers Cat Show

It's feline a lot like Christmas! More than 300 fancy felines will compete for awards including Best in Show, Best Household Pet and Best Feline Agility. Vendors will offer a supermarket of unique cat supplies, jewelry, clothing and food. Raffle and great prizes. Phoenix Convention Center south building. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$3 - \$7. For information, call 480-893-7695 or visit phxfeline.com. Only cats entering the show will be permitted into hall.

### DanceMotion Presents: 12 Dancing Princesses Ballet

This beautiful new ballet will lift your spirit, make you laugh, and have you dancing in your seat. Orpheum Theater on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 - \$12. 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

### Phoenix Holiday Tequila Fest

Taste tequila and sample food from Valley Mexican restaurants. Try tequila varieties like añejos, reposados and blancos, plus liqueurs, cremes, infusions and flavored tequilas from major labels as well as boutiques. US Airways Center, Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets \$45. phoenixtequilafest.com.

## DEC 11

### 19th Annual Christmas Mariachi Festival

The spectacular Annual Christmas Mariachi Festival returns, featuring the greatest mariachis in the world in a magical production filled with the pageantry of the holiday season. US Airways Center at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$52 - \$87. 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

### Rosson House Step Back in Time Tours

The 1895 Rosson House, dressed in its holiday finery, will present its special Step Back in Time tours, providing a glimpse of how life was lived during 1895. Heritage Square from 11 a.m. to 3p.m. Ticket event. 602-262-5070.

## DEC 13

### Spirit of the Season Holiday Music Concert

A holiday music concert with Jeffrey Hatrick and Nicole Pesce, hosted by Center Dance Ensemble. Described by many as the highlight of the holiday season, this joyful event is guaranteed to touch every soul. From jazz to classical, Jeffrey and Nicole's musical spirit will warm your hearts. Herberger Theater Center at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50-\$37.50. 602-252-8497, herbergertheater.org.

## DEC 14

### After 5 Holiday Mixer at Hard Rock Café

Kick off a joyous holiday season as the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce presents an extra-special holiday edition of its After 5 Mixer! To show its appreciation to members and guests, Hard Rock Café will serve as host. 5 p.m. Free. 602-495-2194, phoenixchamber.com.

## DEC 17

### Festive Friday at CityScape

Join the Downtown Phoenix Partnership in celebrating the holidays! Visit CityScape for special lunchtime activities; warm your holiday spirit with delicious drinks and tasty treats. CityScape courtyard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 602-495-1500, DowntownPhoenix.com.

### Holiday Happy Hour at Coach & Willie's

Enjoy live music on the patio, \$3 domestic bottles, well drinks and house wine. Coach & Willie's from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 602-254-5272, coachandwillies.com.

### Phoenix Boys Choir Present Festival of Carols

The choir presents a holiday celebration filled with new songs, traditional hymns and seasonal favorites. The choir performs Samuel Barber's "Twelfth Night" along with Austrian composer Joseph Eybler's "Omnes de Saba Venient." The concert features a new bell melody arranged by Georg Stangelberger, the choir's artistic director, and an enactment of "Twas The Night Before Christmas." St. Mary's Basilica at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$27. phoenixboyschoir.com.

## DEC 18

### Alice Cooper's Christmas Pudding

Join Alice for an evening of comedy and music benefiting the Solid Rock Foundation and Arizona Youth. Featuring performances by Alice Cooper, Dee Snyder, Warrant, Lita Ford and many more. Comerica Theater at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$65. 877-598-6671, livenation.com.

## DEC 19

### Snow Day at the Children's Museum of Phoenix

It's a winter wonderland at the Children's Museum of Phoenix, with hands-on activities for the holidays and a snow day! Ten tons of snow will fall on the front lawn for frolic and play. Watch for a special visit from Frosty the Snowman! Tickets are \$9 and include museum admission. 602-253-0501, childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.

## DEC 22

### 2010 Great Russian Nutcracker Tour

Enjoy the exquisite dancing, gorgeous costumes and fanciful storytelling of the Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker. This year's performance is distinguished by the introduction of a new character, the Christmas Dove. Comerica Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 - \$85. 877-598-6671, livenation.com.

## DEC 22 - 23

### Ballet Academy of Arizona Nutcracker

The Ballet Academy of Arizona announces its third annual Nutcracker Ballet, a full-length children's production of the magical and much-loved classic. Orpheum Theatre on Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Thursday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$13.60-\$37.50. 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

## DEC 25

### Christmas Buffet

Carved-to-order house-cured pork baron and salt-crusted prime rib, smoked turkey, cornmeal dusted grouper, shrimp and crab claws, salads of the season, creamy manchego fondue, and a multitude of desserts including a crème brûlée station and chocolate fondue. Compass Arizona Grill in the Downtown Phoenix Hyatt, noon to 8 p.m. \$59 for adults, \$25 for children 5-12. 602-440-3166.

### The Salvation Army Christmas Dinner

Each year, The Salvation Army spreads holiday spirit to those less privileged in our community through our Christmas dinner. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Meal served at 11:30 a.m. Free and open to the public. Phoenix Convention Center South Hall.

## DEC 25 & 31

### Respect: A Musical Journey of Women

Girls – and guys – just wanna have fun. This international hit musical is a funny, exuberant look at the lives of women as told through fifty hit songs of the last century. This must-see show will leave you dancing in the aisles. Herberger Theater Center. Dates and times vary. Tickets are \$45.50-\$55.50. 602-252-8497, herbergertheater.org.

## DEC 27 - JAN 1

### Science of Snow Week

Experience the science of snow each day this week with special activities and demonstrations including how to make snowflakes, snow crystal formation, and fire and ice exploration. Plus, get hands-on with the real stuff: we will have a snow play date! Arizona Science Center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free with general admission. 602-716-2028, azscience.org.

## DEC 29 - 31

### Winter Camp:

#### Three Days in a Test Tube

Winter science campers will explore the phenomena of physics, chemistry and geographic features that create weather in Arizona and the world. Investigate the science behind Arizona weather patterns and explore the science concepts that create weather conditions. Arizona Science Center Wednesday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members are \$120 and nonmembers are \$135. Preregistration is required. 602-716-2028, azscience.org.

## DEC 31

### New Year's Eve Party at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix

Ring in the New Year at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix! Party to "The Groove Merchants," a 10-piece horn band performing favorite hits of yesterday and today. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, reception and cocktails, dancing, a balloon drop and champagne toast. Downtown Phoenix Hyatt from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Room with New Year's Eve Party Package for \$279 single/double occupancy, plus great deals available on additional. Contact us for prices on Party-Only Tickets. 602-440-3166.

### New Years Eve Dinner in the Compass Arizona Grill

Enjoy a toast of champagne and a savory four-course dinner created by Chef de Cuisine Jason Hoven as you look forward to ringing in the New Year. Compass Arizona Grill in the Downtown Phoenix Hyatt, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$89 for adults, \$45 for children 5-12 years of age. 602-440-3166.

### The Phoenix Symphony: New Years Eve

It's an all-out musical countdown as The Phoenix Symphony performs favorite masterpieces for this end of the year celebration! Every section of the orchestra will be rollicking with good cheer as they toast the end of 2010 and ring in 2011. Symphony Hall at 7 p.m. Season packages starting at \$80; tickets are \$27-\$83. 602-495-1999, phoenixsymphony.org.

### Phoenix Suns vs. Detroit Pistons

New Years Eve game! US Airways Center at 7 p.m. For tickets, call 602-379-SUNS (7867) or visit phoenixsuns.com.

### New Year's Eve Party

Ring in the New Year with The Waters! This dynamic duo has been playing together since 2001 and promise to rock the house. Seamus McCaffrey's Irish Pub & Restaurant at 9 p.m. \$5 cover charge includes party favors, champagne toast. Get a discounted room at Hotel San Carlos by phone, using the code "NX". 602-253-6081, seamusmccaffreys.com.

### CityScape New Year's Celebration

Holiday entertainment, live music, ice skating, food and more. CityScape at 6:30 p.m. Don't drink and drive! Get a discounted room at Hotel San Carlos by phone, using the code "NX". cityscapephoenix.com.

## DEC 31 - JAN 1

### Arizona Theatre Company Presents Woody Guthrie's American Song

"Bound for Glory," "Nine Hundred Miles," "This Land Is Your Land." We all know them and we've all sung them – songs about the open road, fighting for one's rights, and the beauty of nature. Now meet the man who brought them all to life. As he looked for work and his next meal, Woody sang the stories of a nation determined to survive the Great Depression. Pull up a chair – discover and celebrate the great American who gave our country a voice. Herberger Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$69. 602-256-6995, aztheatreco.org.

## JAN 1

### 1/1/11 New Years Day Celebration

Come ring in the New Year at Arizona Science Center. Enjoy the last day of Science of Snow week with a special winter wonderland. Arizona Science Center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free with general admission. 602-716-2028, azscience.org.