

NASHVILLE'S

# Holiday ENTERTAINMENT!



LIGHT UP NASHVILLE | NEW YEAR'S BASH | NASHVILLE BALLET PRESENTS NUTCRACKER  
DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS | GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS THEATRE | CHEEKWOOD HOLIDAY LIGHTS  
A CHRISTMAS STORY AT TN REPERTORY THEATRE | GAYLORD OPRYLAND ICE SHOW



As the holiday season approaches once again, the Nashville area is reminded just how rich it is, not only in a sense of community, but in the spirit of giving, receiving, and showing others exactly how to put the merriment in the merriest time of year. If you're short on holiday ideas this season, don't stress. You're in the right region to get an eye, ear and heart full of the festive spirit from a variety of avenues.

## LIGHTS...

Nothing ushers in the season of giving like a little light excitement, and the Nashville area is overflowing with ways to ogle the festive flourish of local businesses and residents.

The Cheekwood Art & Gardens Holiday Lights show runs November 25, 2016–January 1, 2017 giving attendees a sight for sore eyes with lights extending from the mansion out into the expansive gardens. Setting the grounds aglow with awe-inspiring views and endless points of light, over one million lights will be lit, and guests will also find treats like S'Mores Pits, real reindeer milling about, holiday carolers and more.

Middle Tennessee's largest drive-through light and music show chalks up its sixth year in a row with this season's co-sponsor, The Big 98 WSIX. Gargantuan light displays along with hundreds of thousands of LEDs are timed to classic Christmas tunes coming through drivers' own car stereos during The Dancing Lights of Christmas display, providing rain-or-shine entertainment every day from 5pm to 10pm from November 4, 2016–January 1, 2017, with extended weekend and holiday hours. For creating family memories in an affordable way, this is one light and music show that can't be missed.

While folks are gazing mesmerized at the heady holiday displays of Cheekwood and The Dancing Lights of Christmas, it might be easy to miss the rest of Nashville if it weren't for the likes of companies such as Light Up Nashville. As a family-owned, local operation, Light Up Nashville comes through with custom lighting solutions and design for businesses little to big, homeowners' associations and commercial properties, plus temporary events, parties, and of course, holiday lighting. As you travel around or

through the area this holiday season, take note of the overall ambience the lights provide—and give a nod to Light Up Nashville for their beautiful Christmas lighting fanaticism.

## CAMERA...

No holiday season would be half as entertaining without the classics that have stood the test of time, whether on stage or on the television screen. Backed by the beautiful sounds of the Nashville Symphony, the Nashville Ballet's presentation of Nutcracker keeps tradition alive by interspersing the city's lively history with one of the most cherished tales in the American treasure chest. With music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and concept, story treatment and choreography by Paul Vasterling, viewers will once again be enthralled with the timeless tale that is Nutcracker. Fourteen performances will be shared at TPAC's Jackson Hall from Saturday, December 3rd through Friday, December 23rd; see <http://www.nashvilleballet.com/nashville-s-nutcracker-2016/> for show times.

Even a grumbling old Grinch can find the good in Christmas, can't he? Theatergoers are invited to examine their own sense of the season's meaning in Dr. Seuss' *How The Grinch Stole Christmas: The Musical*, a show rife with rave reviews including *The New York Times*' "100 times better than any bedside story!" and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*'s declaration that Grinch is "the new Christmas tradition." Argue with that, Mr. Grinch. See it from within the majesty that is the Grand Ole Opry, November 18–December 25, 2016.

After eight consecutive years performing *A Christmas Story*, the Tennessee Repertory Theatre thinks you should just come see it November 26–December 21 at the Johnson Theater. Just in case you're fuzzy on what the show's about, there's rumored to be a leg lamp, a frozen light pole, a whole lot of laughs and likely a sense of déjà vu for a few of you.

## CHRISTMAS!

Celebrating the season just wouldn't be the same without a certain famous reindeer flaunting his fiery red nose around town. Get to the Gaylord Opryland's "A Country Christmas" ICE!® show running November

11, 2016–January 1, 2017, where incredible hand-carved sculptures etched from over two million pounds of ice play a pivotal role in depicting an age-old story. It's a chilly nine-degree walk-through attraction, so dress warmly to observe the breathtaking sculpture work of 40 artisans from Harbin, China, including four two-story ice slides and the full Nativity scene in sparkling ice.

#DickensFranklin is definitely on track to get its share of supportive Tweets this year, with its December 10-11th dates marking the 32nd year the annual street festival brings the classic backdrop of Franklin to life—1800s life, that is. Locals are invited to dress in Victorian garb along with the over 200 musicians, dancers and performers filling Franklin's streets to help recreate Dickens' time, complete with real snowfall plus authentic Victorian street foods including sugar plums and roasted chestnuts for sale. A petting zoo, carriage rides and Christmas carolers will all be on hand to ensure no attendee escapes without at least a little Christmas cheer.

The 63rd annual Piedmont Natural Gas Nashville Christmas Parade "The Musical Mile" being held Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 9:00am–11:30am promises the continuation of a great tradition dating back to 1927, when it first became a staple of Middle Tennessee holiday lovers. Featuring Grand Marshal and Grammy award winner Kelly Clarkson this year, the parade draws hundreds of thousands and features floats, marching bands, celebrities and numerous entertainers.

After the main-stage holidays have come to pass, folks find themselves in need of an inspiring way to ring in the New Year. Nashville's 2016 New Year's Bash will mark its 8th, and general consensus seems to be that this shindig gets bigger and better every year. From the top names in music to a midnight fireworks show featuring 150 feet of LEDs lighting up a 15-foot-tall music note, #NASHVILLENYE will be the place to be to kick off your new year in true Southern style. So no matter whether you're in the area visiting family and friends, drawn in by the promise of music or just the twinkle of thousands of tiny, carefully placed lights, you're in the right region for celebrating the season. Nashville wouldn't have it any other way.