

# Your Spring 2018 Guide to Family Fun in the Seattle Area

A seasonal arts guide for local families



BY GEMMA ALEXANDER • PUBLISHED ON: JANUARY 26, 2018



1/6



PHOTO: Start the season with "Swan Lake" at McCaw Hall in Seattle

## Spring into art

Whether you're on a budget or ready to splurge, we've got just the performances and arts to warm your hearts and brighten the long, gray slog between the holidays and summer vacation. Click through for top arts picks for February through June 2018.

Go AuPAIR

Child Care  
(super hero) experts!

Flexible & Affordable Child Care  
You wouldn't expect less from a super hero.  
\*Restrictions apply.

Register Now  
**SAVE \$250\***

SIGN UP



PHOTO: "Figuring History" opens at SAM on Feb. 15

## February

- [Pinocchio](#): Little wooden Pinocchio yearns to be real so that he can read, run and make friends like flesh-and-blood children do. But his new friends, the clever Cat and Fox, have other plans for this eager-to-please talking puppet. Can Pinocchio manage to outwit his devious friends, tell the truth, and learn from his mistakes? *Through March 10. \$15. Ages 3-10. StoryBook Theater, multiple venues*
- [Swan Lake](#): This is the most famous classical ballet for a reason and it's being brought to us courtesy of Pacific Northwest Ballet. Tchaikovsky's gorgeous music, spectacular costume and scenic designs, plus a ballerina performing the dual role of Odette/Odile combine to make this ballet an unforgettable experience for everyone from 4 to 104. (If you miss this one, Ballet Northwest is also presenting "Swan Lake" in May.) *Feb. 2-11. \$30-\$187. Ages 4 and older. McCaw Hall, Seattle*
- [To Kill a Mockingbird](#): Set in the segregated South, this adaptation of Harper Lee's classic novel remains timely and relevant. Although the messages are powerfully valuable, heavy themes make this a story for older kids. *Feb. 9-25. \$25-\$28. Ages 12 and older. Wade James Theatre, Edmonds*
- [Figuring History](#): The "Figuring History: Robert Colescott, Kerry James Marshall, Mickalene Thomas" exhibition brings together three notable American artists from different generations whose work redefines historic painting in a contemporary context. Intense and vibrant colors will grab kids' attention, but understanding the themes and compelling perspectives on Black culture and representation on view will require some help from adults. Contains nudes. *Feb. 15-May 13. \$25, children younger than 12 free. Ages 10 and older. Seattle Art Museum, Seattle*
- [How I Became a Pirate](#): The excellent Village Theatre company brings affordable live theater to Puget Sound-area families by hosting renowned companies' productions of family-friendly plays in its Pied Piper Public Season. Pied Piper productions are based on children's literature and only last one hour. *Feb. 25, noon and 2 p.m. All seats \$15. Ages 5-10. Everett Civic Auditorium, Everett*





PHOTO: Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan presents "Formosa"

## March

- **Into the Woods:** When a baker and his wife learn they've been cursed by the witch next door, they embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell, and swindle, lie and steal from a variety of fairy tale characters to get those objects. Despite the protagonists' questionable ethics, this production is family-friendly and features youth performers ages 12-19. *March 16-31. \$17-\$22. Ages 9 and older. Studio East, Kirkland*
- **Return to the Forbidden Planet:** It's a movie, it's a musical, it's ... inspired by Shakespeare's "The Tempest"? CenterStage upends expectations once again in this all-ages sci-fi rock 'n' roll musical stuffed with classics such as "Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Good Vibrations." Be part of the fun when the cast presents the greatest B movie ever made. *March 16-31. \$12-\$29. Ages 6 and older. CenterStage Theatre, Federal Way*
- **Snow White:** With a short run time, live narration, lower price tickets and an audience full of youngsters, the annual performance of the Pacific Northwest Ballet School (PNB) is a perfect introduction to classical ballet for kids. This is not your average dance recital, though – many of these students have already performed in regular season productions on the PNB stage, and some will go on to dance professionally next year. *March 18 and 24. \$23-\$60. All ages. McCaw Hall, Seattle*
- **Formosa:** Tickets for this production are pricey, but Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan is renowned for transforming ancient traditions into stunning modern dance, and choreographer Lin Hwai-min is widely considered the most important choreographer in Asia. "Formosa" ("beautiful island") describes the landscape and history of Taiwan using gesture, script, song and other elements. *March 22-24. \$52 and up. Ages 5 and older. Meany Center for the Performing Arts, Seattle*
- **Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed (the Rock Experience):** If it was any other theater besides Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT), I'd be circumspect about this world-premiere rock 'n' roll extravaganza theater production about a Mo Willems picture-book character. But this SCT musical is sure to rock audiences of all ages as Wilbur, the mole rat with exceptional style, navigates the pressure to conform through tail-shaking tunes, empowering messages of individuality and classic Mo Willems humor. *March 22-May 13. \$18-\$45. All ages. Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle*





PHOTO: See the work of José Guadalupe Posada at BAM starting April 19

## April

- **Twelfth Night:** As part of the Seattle Celebrates Shakespeare Festival, nearly 40 of Seattle's best arts organizations are joining in a months-long festival of Shakespeare and Shakespeare-themed performances this spring. Stone Soup's Youth Conservatory is participating with an adaption of "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare's hilarious comedy of disguises and mismatched love triangles. Got an 8- to 14-year-old budding thespian in the house? *Auditions are Feb. 5. April 5-7. \$7.50. Ages 8 and older. Stone Soup Theatre, Seattle*
- **The Brink: Demian DinéYazhí:** Too often, Native American stories are told through the eyes of White people. This exhibition, funded by the Brink Award, displays the work of Demian DinéYazhí, a young Diné (formerly referred to as Navajo) artist who works across disciplines and formats to give a contemporary voice to the Native American experience. *April 14-Sept. 9. \$10, kids and students free. Ages 5 and older. Henry Art Gallery, Seattle*
- **José Guadalupe Posada and the Mexican Penny Press:** José Guadalupe Posada was one of Mexico's most influential printmakers and illustrators. Best known for his lively calaveras (skeletons), Posada produced materials that ranged from illustrations for children's games to images for sensationalistic news publications. Posada's prints shaped generations of Mexican artists, among them the muralists Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco. *April 19-Aug. 5. Family admission \$30+, free on First Fridays. All ages (unless your kid is afraid of skeletons). Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue*
- **The Wolves:** As soccer parents well know, watching kids develop as individuals while learning to work together as a team is more interesting than the actual game. Sarah DeLappe's ensemble play about a suburban girls' soccer team thrilled critics with its deft handling of the quirky flow of conversation among adolescent teammates whose personalities are still developing but definitely do not conform to teen-movie stereotypes. *April 20-May 13. \$15-\$110 (tickets go on sale in February). Teens (or mature tweens with an interest in soccer and/or theater). ACT - A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle*
- **Tetris:** Inspired by the game Tetris, the extremely physical Arch8 dance quartet, based in the Netherlands, explores how we connect with one another in this piece. The group advertises "Tetris" for "the kids who can't sit still, for the ones who like to climb the walls, and for those who can imagine further than they can see!" *April 21, 11 a.m. \$10. All ages. Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds*





PHOTO: Auntie Lena shares her African stories at multiple venues in May

## May

- [Auntie Lena's African Stories](#): With animal-character bunraku puppets, actress-singer-storyteller Val Thomas-Matson tells three stories of friendship and trickery from Africa: "Jackal's Favorite Game," "The Monkey's Heart" and "Why Frog and Snake Never Play Together." May 5-27. \$10. All ages. **Multiple venues**
- [Charlotte's Web](#): It's almost impossible to go wrong with E.B. White's beloved classic, "Charlotte's Web," in which a clever spider and a collection of barnyard friends save the life of a special pig. Both movies based on the book are delightful, and this live production from SecondStory's Young Audiences series is likely to please as well. May 12-June 2. \$12. Ages 5 and older (all-ages shows Sundays). **SecondStory Repertory, Redmond**
- [Seattle International Film Festival](#): With more than 400 films from 80 countries over 25 days, SIFF is the largest film festival in the United States. It's almost too much to take in, but special themed collections make choosing easier. Its Films4Families series screens family-friendly matinees on weekends. The movies for 2018 won't be announced until much closer to the festival date, but you can count on an international selection of animated and live-action shorts and feature-length films that are not your standard Disney fare. Other series with special appeal for families with older kids include FutureWave for teens and Face the Music. May 17-June 10. \$12 single tickets. All ages. **Multiple venues, Seattle**
- [You're a Good Man Charlie Brown](#): This bonus postseason celebration of the all-musical company's 40th year introduces Charles Schulz's beloved "Peanuts" gang to a new generation in Clark Gesner's classic musical. May 25-June 17. \$20-\$40. All ages. **Seattle Musical Theatre at Magnuson Park, Seattle**





PHOTO: SAM presents "Double Exposure" starting June 14

## June

- [The Last Starfighter](#): The play is based on the 1980s sci-fi teen-boy wish-fulfillment movie about Alex, who finds himself recruited as an ace starfighter pilot with the fate of the galaxy in his hands after he beats his favorite intergalactic video game. *June 14-July 1. \$24-\$30. Ages 9 and older. **SecondStory Repertory, Redmond***
- [Double Exposure: Edward S. Curtis, Marianne Nicolson, Tracy Rector, Will Wilson](#): Whether you realize it or not, photographer Edward S. Curtis probably had a hand in shaping your ideas about Native Americans. His haunting portraits preserved images of a way of life on the brink of extinction, leaving an indelible mark on the American consciousness. Now, 150 years after his birth, this major exhibition of more than 180 works by Curtis also recognizes the criticisms of his work (photographs were often staged to promote stereotypes) and presents a counterpoint through works by indigenous artists Marianne Nicolson, Tracy Rector and Will Wilson. *June 14-Sept. 9. \$19.95, children younger than 12 free. All ages. **Seattle Art Museum, Seattle***