

where Hot Dates 12.13

WHAT'S SIZZLING IN SECONDS FLAT



Holiday gift
hanging on the tree
of a kind show

DEC. 5-8

Gifts You'd Like to Get

When an ordinary gift just won't do, hit the **One of a Kind Show** at the Merchandise Mart and wrap up your holiday shopping with stand-out presents handcrafted by more than 600 juried artists from across the U.S. and Canada. Unique items come in all price points and categories including ceramics, clothing, glass, toys, paintings, sculpture, gourmet foodstuffs and jewelry like fairytale-inspired pieces by Niki Fisk (shown above). In between browsing, catch a fashion show or a best-of-Potbelly's musician; attend one of the many 20-minute artist talks; or create some DIY items in the Toyota Retreat, which also sends you home with a silk screen tote bag made to order by an on-site silk screen printer. At the Egy Artist Pavilion, 29 new artists give the juried pros a run for their money.

Th and F 11 am-6 pm, Sa 10 am-7 pm, Su 10 am-5 pm. Tickets \$12; children 12 and under free. A portion of ticket sales benefit the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital. 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza. www.oneofakindshowchicago.com

DEC. 6-28
JOFFREY BALLET'S NUTCRACKER This timeless classic for all ages features the company's original cast and includes a special post-show meet-and-greet with the cast. Tickets \$11-\$27. Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. 800.882.2887. www.joffrey.org

DEC. 9
JINGLE BALL Robin Thicke, Ciara, Brown, Enrique Iglesias and Ariana Grande are among the heavy hitters on the 2013 edition of the annual concert (inexpensive). Tickets start at \$32.05. United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., www.ticketsfrom.com/tgs/jingleball2013

DEC. 19-22
REDWOOD WINTER PAGEANT Set its new original show, Redwood Theater Company's *Home for the Holidays*, at the Redwood City Center for the Arts Performing Arts and Sculpture Park. San Andreas Fault. Tickets \$25; children \$15; students with ID \$10.50; 3 and under free. 2129 S. Jefferson St. www.redwoodco.org

THROUGH DEC. 15
DEAR BROTHER A whimsical musical version of the *Wii Forest Fantasy*, Buddy (voiced by an elf) and his friends discover his true origins in New York City, where he leaves Christmas village to become a member of the New York City Symphony Orchestra. For just that, and a few surprises, too. Tickets \$35-\$125. www.cicso.org

DEC. 19-23
C50 Welcome Yule Ho Holiday season is complete without cards and singing along to the classics. The Chicago Children's Choir and the Chicago Children's Choir Holiday Orchestra will just that, and a few surprises, too. Tickets \$35-\$125. www.cicso.org

THROUGH JAN. 5
ZOOLIGHTS One of Chicago's favorite warm-weather destinations becomes a winter wonderland for the annual ZooLights. Lighted displays, live trees, a ice skating rink, reenactments for phrasal and gift-wrapping, Santa Claus through Dec. 13, Singing Noel daily through Dec. 23, Singing Noel daily through March 2, free (leaving 5:30 p.m. daily); \$10-\$12. www.zoozoo.org

THROUGH JAN. 5
SNOW MUCH FUN Kids can play all day in the snow at the Chicago Children's Museum—plus—newly expanded snow areas, snowball fights, snow angels, snow cones, snow sculptures and games. Free with regular admission. www.chicagocildrensmuseum.org

Where Is Ed? (OJO DE CHAO) (because you'll need to fuel up for so much shopping and this Southern Brazilian charmer whooverally obliges. 607 N. LaSalle Blvd., 312.337.8039)

DRAGONFLY CAFE (CANTINA) (the healthy, organic, and delicious menu includes treats like the DRAGONFLY'S YOGURT with 4 flakes Dragonfruit yogurt, strawberries, mint leaves, simple syrup, lime juice and soda. 153 N. Kinzie St., 312.245.2000)

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