

WEEKEND ROUNDUP

# Seasonal Favorites Take the City's Stages

As expected, there are holiday shows aplenty. But don't overlook some spirited jazz and comedy.

**POP & ROCK**  
**PUSS N BOOTS**

Dec. 15 at Bowery Ballroom, Manhattan

Norah Jones became a star almost overnight following the release of her 2002 debut, "Come Away With Me." That record, on which Jones's singular, soothing rasp luxuriates in soft pop and jazz, swept the Big Four awards at the Grammys and made her an enduring staple of coffee house playlists. It was Jones's subsequent search for a lower-profile musical outlet that led to the formation of Puss N Boots, her alt-country trio with Sasha Dobson and Catherine Popper, in 2008. Functionally a bar band, Puss N Boots gigged around Brooklyn for years before putting out an album, "No Fools, No Fun" — a down-home hodgepodge of covers and originals — in 2014.

This show at Bowery Ballroom on Sunday at 7 p.m. is a revival of the group's annual Christmas Extravaganza, a tradition that was put on hold during the pandemic. Tickets are \$30 on Ticketmaster.

OLIVIA HORN

**COMEDY**  
**JOSH GLANC**

Through Dec. 15 at SoHo Playhouse, Manhattan

Imagine Robin Williams but Australian, with a trim walrus mustache, a preference for formfitting, body-baring outfits and a knack for channeling accents that are not from this world.

That's one way to describe Josh Glanc, an exuberant clown based in London whose current showcase, "Family Man," was nominated for best comedy show at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe. You never quite know when Glanc will burst into song, bare his chest or coax audience members to join him onstage, but the chaos is the point. Before catching "Family Man" this weekend, which is running as part of SoHo Playhouse's Fringe Encore Series, you can get a feel for Glanc's style by watching his special on YouTube, "Vroom Vroom."

Showtimes are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$30 on OvationTix.

SEAN L. MCCARTHY

**KIDS**  
**HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!**

Dec. 15 at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music

December always brings song and dance. But if you've grown tired of "Last Christmas" and "The Nutcracker," you might take the kids to the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music's first Holiday Extravaganza! for a wider sampling of seasonal cheer.

On Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m., this indoor-outdoor event will feature eclectic groups like the conservatory's Community Klezmer Band and David Bertrand's calypso holiday band. Families can join in a singalong version of Handel's "Messiah" and take dance lessons to celebrate the sixth principle of Kwanzaa — kumba, or creativity — from the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation.

Other fare ranges from caroling on the building's front stoop to a performance by the musician Mehrnam Rastegari that honors Yalda Night, the Persian celebration of the winter solstice.

Children can go on an instrument exploration to investigate the sounds of pianos, trombones, trumpets, ukuleles and percussion. Little visitors can also enjoy a sensory-friendly room, make crafts like cotton-ball snowmen and Hanukkah sun catchers, and pose for photos with Santa Claus.

Tickets, which require registration at [bkcm.org](http://bkcm.org), are pay-what-you-wish, with \$20 suggested.

LAUREL GRAEBER



The trio Puss N Boots, with Santa, at its Christmas Extravaganza at Music Hall of Williamsburg in 2019. This year's event is at Bowery Ballroom.



ERIN O'BRIEN

Ravi Coltrane and his quartet perform at Smoke Jazz Club through Sunday.

**JAZZ**  
**RAVI COLTRANE QUARTET**

Through Dec. 15 at Smoke Jazz Club, Manhattan

By hosting live performances and recording essential music for its scene-documenting label, the Upper West Side supper club Smoke — celebrating its 25th anniversary this year — has kept alive the jazz tradition of honoring the past, blazing the future and seizing the present moment. The saxophonist Ravi Coltrane, 59, has made a spirited career out of those same impulses, carrying on a family legacy — his parents, of course, are Alice and John Coltrane, and he often plays their music — while doing it his own way, always searching, pushing ahead and striving for transcendence rather than revivalism.

This week, Coltrane and his quartet are kicking off Smoke's 12th annual Coltrane Festival "Countdown 2025." Running through Jan. 5, the event honors all things John Coltrane with performances from a host of top players, including Vincent Herring, Eric Scott Reed, Louis Hayes, Eddie Henderson and George Cables, a jazz world favorite who is still effervescent at 80.

Ravi Coltrane Quartet performs at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. through Sunday, with additional sets at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Tickets start at \$40.

ALAN SCHERSTUHL

**DANCE**  
**'THE HARD NUT'**

Through Dec. 22 at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, Brooklyn

When it comes to holiday entertainment, there are traditional options, such as New York City Ballet's lavish, enchanting "George Balanchine's The Nutcracker," at Lincoln Center through Jan. 5. And there are fresh, inventive options, like Caleb Teicher's "A Very SW!NG OUT Holiday," which pairs Lindy Hop with big band orchestrations of seasonal songs at the Joyce Theater through Sunday.

Then there are productions that manage to be both, namely the Mark Morris Dance Group's "The Hard Nut," a reimagining of "The Nutcracker" set to Tchaikovsky's beloved and ubiquitous score. Morris's version, first performed in 1991, takes place in the 1970s and features cartoonish party guests, naughty antics, a campy spin on the story's otherworldly journey, and a unisex Waltz of the Snowflakes that turns from silly to thrilling, much like this modern classic.

Performances are at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. For additional showtimes and for tickets, which start at \$45, go to [bam.org](http://bam.org). "The Hard Nut" Family Party follows Sunday's matinee and is open to all ticket holders over the entire run.

BRIAN SCHAEFER



RICHARD TERMEER

Members of the Mark Morris Dance Group in "The Hard Nut." The show is at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House through Dec. 22.