

# SPARK

spark plug newsletter

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## Events: Monthly Guide

Why stay at home and watch more reality TV when you can be supporting local arts? Our monthly Arts Org Guide can help you do just that! With a different theme in mind each and every month, we highlight a few Bay Area art orgs, giving you the perfect excuse to get off that couch.

### Arts Org Guide: December 2004

Escape the mass commercialism of the holiday shopping spree to refresh your spirits with laughter and song. We've found some unique Bay Area alternatives to the traditional holiday performances that will bring you holiday cheer.

San Francisco

#### Bay Area Theatresports presents 'Tis The Season

[improv.org](http://improv.org)

Although it may appear to be impromptu, the Bay Area Theatresports (BATS) performers go through rigorous training before they are unleashed onto the studio audience. In a departure from the normal skit format, BATS is putting together a holiday musical improvisational skit.

**Where:** Fort Mason, San Francisco

**When:** December 10

**Phone:** (415) 474-6776

#### The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents "Kinsey Sicks: Oy Vey in a Manger 2"

[nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org)

If the holiday cheer cliché is weighing you down, you'll enjoy the stamping out of the said holiday cheer by an award-winning group of witty a cappella singers with over-the-top sensibilities of dressing in drag. The New Conservative Theatre supports and encourages youth performances; however, this performance is unsuitable for anyone under the age of 18.

**Where:** 25 Van Ness Ave., Lower Lobby, San Francisco

**When:** Through December 31

**Phone:** (415) 861-8972

#### Santa Anarchy

[santarchy.com](http://santarchy.com)

Staying consistent with its name, this not a centrally organized event. The concept was created by the Cacophonous Society in the prankster spirit of creating harmless mayhem by people dressed in Santa suits. Organize your own group or join others ([UrbanDiversion.com](http://UrbanDiversion.com)) in San Francisco) in some naughty fun. This is not suitable for children.

**Where:** San Francisco Bay Area

**When:** December 11

#### The 12th Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy

[koshercomedy.com](http://koshercomedy.com)

Ever considering going to a Chinese restaurant on Christmas to watch a Jewish Comedy? This once-a-year tradition is back to help you laugh your way through the holidays no matter what your religion. On other times of the year, Kosher Comedy organizes theater ranging from girl group comedy to presidential politics.

**Where:** New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave., San Francisco

**When:** December 23-26

**Phone:** (415) 522-3737

#### Theater Project Artaud presents "Talking with Angels"

[talkingwithangels.com](http://talkingwithangels.com)

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## Spark Tips

- \* There are thousands of arts organizations in Northern California. These Web sites offer links to organizations near you.

#### Artist Resource

(local, state, national and international organizations)

[artistresource.org](http://artistresource.org)

#### ARTshare

(San Mateo County)

[artshare.org](http://artshare.org)

#### Artsopolis

(Silicon Valley)

[artsopolis.com](http://artsopolis.com)

#### Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County

[ccscc.org](http://ccscc.org)

#### Marin Arts Council

[marinarts.org](http://marinarts.org)

#### San Francisco Arts Online

[sfarts.org](http://sfarts.org)

If you have a monthly Art Organization theme you would like to suggest to **Spark**, email us at [spark@kqed.org](mailto:spark@kqed.org).

The holocaust doesn't seem like a topic for the holidays. In this drama, however, spirituality is explored within the context of the story of four people who rely on spirituality as they struggle to escape being caught in the chaos of the holocaust. A diverse set of small-scale productions can be enjoyed at this alternative theater throughout the year.

**Where:** Theater Project Artaud, 450 Florida St., San Francisco

**When:** Through December 5

**Phone:** (415) 392-4400

**Lorraine Hansberry Theatre presents Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity"**

[lorrainehansberrytheatre.com](http://lorrainehansberrytheatre.com)

In this sub-cultural re-interpretations of the Christian Nativity scenes, gospel artists combine dance and music to create an inspiring and soulful spiritual experience. This downtown theater showcases works by leading African American playwrights and artists and boasts that there are no bad seats in the house because of a stage that juts out into the audience.

**Where:** Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. (at Mason), San Francisco

**When:** Through December 19

**Phone:** (415) 474-8800

**San Francisco City Chorus presents "Sing-Along Messiah"**

[sfcitychorus.org](http://sfcitychorus.org)

Whether you are an accomplished vocalist or just a wannabe, here's an opportunity to exercise your lungs in public with accompaniment by Larry Marietta's chamber orchestra. Bring your own scores or pick them up at the door and be prepared to sing choruses and solos.

**Where:** Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 201 Eucalyptus Dr. (at 19th Ave.), San Francisco

**When:** December 5 at 4pm

**Phone:** (415) 765-SONG

East Bay

**Delta City Improvisation presents "The Wicked Winter Witch"**

[deltacityimprov.com](http://deltacityimprov.com)

The audience participates in this semi-improvisational theater where the Winter Fairy tries to prevent Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah. This family friendly play combines improvisation, scripted theater, and musical theater. In addition to individuals, Delta City Improvisation also works with corporations and schools.

**Where:** Cue Productions Live! Theatre, 1835 Colfax St., Concord

**When:** Through December 23

**Phone:** (925) 687-4220

**Cinnabar Theater presents "An O. Henry Christmas"**

[cinnabartheater.org](http://cinnabartheater.org)

Using clowning and other storytelling technique, a stranger retells several O Henry stories to a group of homeless people huddled under a bridge in New York city on Christmas Eve. Designed for children, this is a unique introduction to O. Henry and to the spirit of the holidays. In addition to classics, this theater also specializes in giving voice to experimental, contemporary, and ethnic stories.

**Where:** 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma

**When:** December 10-19

**Phone:** (707) 763-8920

North Bay

**Lunatique Fantastique presents "The Wrapping Paper Caper"**

[lunfan.com](http://lunfan.com)

Wrapping paper and other ordinary objects become sweet, sad, naive, and lustful beings as award-winning artist Liebe Wetzel puts a new twist on the art of puppetry. A Bogart-inspired detective trails Styrofoam packing peanuts to find his enemy PeanutMan in a story for both kids and kids at heart.

**Where:** The Bay Area Discovery Museum, 557 McReynolds Rd, Sausalito (also at The Marsh Theatre, 1062 Valencia Street, San Francisco from December 11 through January 2)

**When:** December 4-5

**Phone:** (415) 339-3900

South Bay/Penninsula

**Aztl?án Academy presents "Nuestra Navidad (A Family**

**Christmas)"**[aztlanacademy.org](http://aztlanacademy.org)

Immerse yourself in a traditional Mexican Christmas with the colorful costumes, music, dance and the breaking of pinatas in this annual north of the border celebration.

**Where:** Montgomery Theater, 291 S. Market Street, San Jose

**When:** December 20-21

**Phone:** (408) 984-0342

**San Jose Repertory Theatre presents "Sugar Plum Fairy"**[sjrep.com](http://sjrep.com)

The yearly tradition of The Nutcracker is not all that it seems. In this behind-the-scene coming of age story, award-winning novelist, NPR commentator and performer Sandra Tsing, tells the story of a 12-year-old girl whose dreams of dancing in The Nutcracker are crushed when she is pushed to the back of the chorus. The San Jose Repertory presents a combination of classic and cotemporary works and accepts submission by local artist.

**Where:** 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose

**When:** Through January 2, 2005

**Phone:** (408) 367-7255

**TheatreWorks present "Striking 12"**[theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org)

A light bulb with the power to cure the blues might be the only hope for a guy who is lonely on New Year's Eve. In this remake of Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Match Girl, the band Groovelily combines musical comedy with pop-rock tunes.

**Where:** Lucie Stern Community Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto

**When:** Through January 2, 2005

**Phone:** (650) 463-4949

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