

7 Things to Do With Your Kids in NYC This Weekend

[nytimes.com/2018/03/15/arts/events-for-children-in-nyc-this-week.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/15/arts/events-for-children-in-nyc-this-week.html)

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A scene from “Pishto Goes Away,” showing the title character (left) happily on his way home. The short film, as well as three others, will be screening as part of MoMA’s Family Films series on Saturday at noon. School-Studio SHAR

Our guide to cultural events in New York City for children and teenagers happening this weekend and in the week ahead.

‘**BLACK BEAUTY**’ at the New Victory Theater (through March 25). Don’t expect this theater to trot out the same old horse tale. Any production created by [Andy Manley](#), [Andy Cannon](#) and [Shona Reppe](#), some of the most inventive minds in [Scottish theater for children](#), is bound to be unusual. The United States premiere of [this show](#) features Mr. Manley and Mr. Cannon as down-on-their-luck brothers who play the front and back ends of a pantomime horse. When they discover their old copy of Anna Sewell’s classic novel, “[Black Beauty](#),” in their horse-trailer home, they use physical theater, toys, masks, puppetry and all manner of surprises to stage excerpts from the plot and amuse themselves — and the audience.

646-223-3010, newvictory.org

BRAIN DAY at the New York Hall of Science (March 16, 2-4:30 p.m.). Something important for all our brains to process: This is [Brain Awareness Week](#). But even though that officially ends

on Sunday, the [Greater New York City Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience](#) is presenting events all month. Recommended for children 4 and older, [this investigation](#) at the Corona, Queens, museum will host scientists explaining brain anatomy and function, including how this organ lets us perceive our environment and control our muscles. The program, which will also examine similarities in human and animal cognition, will offer exhibits, activities and even some brains that aren't inside the skulls of its participants.

718-699-0005, nysci.org

The Listings

It's a big city and there's lots to do. See picks chosen by Times editors and critics for [theater](#), [pop & rock music](#), [classical music](#), [comedy](#), [dance](#), [movies](#), [art](#) and [events for children](#).

'DINO-LIGHT' at Symphony Space (March 17, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.). A scientist recreates a dinosaur — that's been done before. But the prehistoric hero of [this production](#) is far friendlier than those in [Jurassic Park](#). He and his fellows are also made of something far different from preserved DNA: electric wire. Presented by [Lightwire Theater](#), this work, part of Symphony Space's Just Kidding series, features these giant, luminescent creatures roaming a totally dark stage. They may be a bit scary for theatergoers under 5, but older children should enjoy both the adventure and the related activities: For a half-hour before each show, audience members can make dinosaur crafts; after, they can discuss the puppetry with the cast.

212-864-5400, symphonyspace.org

FAMILY FILMS: TRANSFORMATIONS at the Celeste Bartos Theater, Museum of Modern Art (March 17, noon-1 p.m.). Death and taxes aren't the world's only certainties; change is just as inevitable, and these animated shorts celebrate it. Consisting of three American projects and one dialogue-free Russian work, they focus mostly on inner transformations. In Gene Deitch's "[The Three Robbers](#)," the thieves discover that stealing a child's heart is more fulfilling than grabbing gold. The title character of "[Pishto Goes Away](#)," by Sonya Kendel, leaves his home in disgust, only to return in joy. The heroine of Tyler J. Kupferer's "[The Girl and the Fox](#)" comes to see a marauding animal in a new light, while "[The Mantis Parable](#)," by Josh Staub, teaches a gentle lesson in compassion. Part of a free monthly series, [the films](#) will be followed by discussions and recommendations for museum activities. Together, they make up a program that young visitors may find transformative, too.

212-708-9805, moma.org/families

FAMILY PLAY DAY at Brooklyn Historical Society, Dumbo (March 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.). The Brooklyn Historical Society has more than a new exhibition to celebrate; it has a whole new site, too. Children can visit both on this occasion, which heralds the opening of "[Waterfront](#)," a show whose title also describes its location. Inside [Empire Stores](#), a converted 19th-century warehouse complex in Brooklyn Bridge Park, this new museum branch and its inaugural display explore the borough's shoreline history. Among its many activities, "Waterfront" invites children to build a city from magnets; dress up like the female Brooklyn Navy Yard welders from World War II; touch and smell goods from the mercantile trade; and, using technology, make brief films in which they insert themselves into historical scenes. Registration is recommended.

929-258-3699, brooklynhistory.org/dumbo

‘MATZAPALOOZA! REIMAGINING PASSOVER’ at the Museum at Eldridge Street (March 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.). Seder, the name of the traditional Passover meal, means “order,” but sometimes a little disorder can be just as satisfying. Presented by [the museum](#) and the [Workmen’s Circle](#), a progressive Jewish organization, [this annual event](#) adds contemporary flourishes to the ancient Passover holiday. Children can make crafts, like a cup for Elijah and a tambourine for Miriam — both biblical invitees to many [modern Seders](#) — and will even meet Moses himself, portrayed by an actor. The day will include a scavenger hunt, holiday foods and social justice projects devoted to Passover’s theme: freedom.

212-219-0302, circle.org

‘SHENANIGANS: IRISH CELEBRATION!’ at the Actors Temple Theater (March 17, 3:30 p.m.; March 18, 10:30 a.m.). Many New Yorkers are all too familiar with St. Patrick’s Day shenanigans. The deeds being honored at this theater, however, involve neither rowdy crowds nor alcohol. Written by [Brian Barrentine](#), the creator of Funikijam World Music, an organization presenting world-music classes and programs for children, “[Shenanigans](#)” offers Irish songs and stories for theatergoers 10 and younger. [The tunes](#) helpfully explain not only the meaning of the show’s title but also elements of Irish folklore like leprechauns, banshees and rainbows. Mr. Barrentine stars, along with his Agents of Jam and guest performers from the [Aherne Sheehan School of Irish Dance](#).

347-913-5267, funikijam.com