

Holiday Events Expected to Deliver Raleigh Convention + Performing Arts Complex Busiest Weekend Since March 2020

Downtown Raleigh to welcome crowds for a variety of events for all ages, including comedy, poetry, dinosaurs, and the arts

Raleigh, NC – The three premiere entertainment venues in Downtown Raleigh are on track to see their busiest weekend since the beginning of the pandemic. With 19 shows and 8,100 expected visitors to events at the Raleigh Convention Center, the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts, and Red Hat Amphitheater through Sunday, Kerry Painter, Director/General Manager of the Raleigh Convention + Performing Arts Complex is energized by strong signs of a return to normalcy for the events industry in Raleigh.

“We are incredibly excited to see so many people returning downtown,” Painter said. “We’ve worked tirelessly to ensure that our venues are safe and clean, so our patrons feel comfortable coming back and enjoying themselves. And, with the majority of these weekend events being for all ages, we’re happy to be able to offer events for the whole family, plus a few just for the adults.”

Events include animatronic dinosaurs, an evening of poetry, a comedy show, ballet and symphony performances and more.

Events at the Raleigh Convention Center This Weekend

Jurassic Quest (open to the public): 11/19-11/21

<https://www.jurassicquest.com>

See over 100 life size animatronic dinosaurs including Apatosaurus, Spinosaurus, T-Rex and an incredible 50 foot long Megalodon. Jurassic Quest is the world’s largest, most popular dino event on tour with unique and exciting experiences for the whole family. Meet our trainers, baby dinos and see our walking dinosaurs in a live interactive show. You don’t want to miss the dinosaur rides, giant fossil dig, animal art tattoo, inflatables, science stations, crafts, games & more!

Franco Escamilla U.S. Payaso Tour (open to the public): 11/19

[Tickets | Ticketmaster](#)

He's known as "El Diablo" or "El Amo del Sarcasmo" — a comedian whose black humor skewers anything in his path. But Franco Escamilla is much more than just another funny, prickly comedian: He's also a gifted storyteller and an acute observer of Mexican life, mining regional differences (or differences between small towns and big cities) to craft comedy out of his fans' daily experiences. His 2017 tour "Por la anécdota" became a Netflix special, and in 2019 he launched his "Payaso" tour, which would run through 2021.

Inkspired: Free Edition (open to the public): 11/20

Inkspired is a semi-formal/formal all-inclusive poetry, music, and art event featuring the work of s.P. The Writer performed by selected artists. This event is free and open to the public. VIP tickets are available for purchase. A live band with musical guests will perform with host/co-director KrystalDaMuse orchestrating the night.

NC Bridal & Wedding Expo (open to the public): 11/21

[Free Pass \(ncbridalexpos-rc.com\)](https://ncbridalexpos-rc.com)

All brides-to-be dream about "The Big Day," but many don't know where, when and how to start. Attendees of our previous Bridal & Wedding Expos have called our one-of-a-kind event their "pre-wedding shower," the "party before the party," and "the best decision they ever made!" Spectacular bridal fashion shows and live DJ and band demos take place throughout the day. An incredible selection of wedding professionals are on hand along with giveaways and cash prizes throughout the weekend.

Design-2-Part Show: 11/17-11/18

<https://www.d2p.com>

Design-2-Part Shows are America's longest running contract manufacturing trade shows for the sourcing of custom parts, services and design. Regional trade shows covering the USA provide OEMs the opportunity to meet local and national job shops and contract manufacturers face-to-face to find new suppliers, learn new technologies, compare processes, and reduce manufacturing costs. Over 300 processes are featured including CNC machining, stampings, castings, sheet metal fabrication, injection molding,

prototypes, springs, finishing, packaging, CAD/CAM software, assembly and much more.

Digital Summit (formerly Internet Summit)(open to the public): 11/17-11/19

<https://internetsummit.com>

Over the years, Digital Summit has become the go-to resource for those seeking to further their knowledge and skill set in the ever-evolving digital ecosystem. Digital Summit produces over 1,200+ sessions, workshops, and seminars annually covering digital marketing best practices & tactics. These multi-day live conferences, webinars, and virtual events are sponsored by the leading MarTech vendors showcasing solutions for social media, email, advertising, hosting, content management, analytics, branding, design, and more.

Events at the Duke Energy Center for Performing Arts

The Nutcracker - Presented By the Carolina Youth Ballet (open to the public): 11/19

[Tickets | Ticketmaster](#)

Carolina Youth Ballet is excited to present their 27th annual Nutcracker Ballet, with amazing dancers and beautiful costumes and sets. Let them bring the magic of the holidays to you with this lively and spirited show. Carolina Youth Ballet is a 501-c-3 organization developed to foster the arts in children and pre-professional dancers and the community.

Carolina Ballet - Unique Departures (open to the public): 11/20-11/21

[Tickets | Ticketmaster](#)

Join the Carolina Ballet for innovative variations from their classical ballet repertoire through new ballets from Founding Artistic Director Robert Weiss, Principal Guest Choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett, and Carolina Ballet's Jenny Palmer. Guest Choreographer Mariana Oliveira will stage their company premiere of her critically acclaimed Pagliacci. Originally created for Milwaukee Ballet, Pagliacci follows a clown's tragic descent, exposing the human frailty beneath the artist's mask.

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6 (open to the public): 11/19 - 11/20

[Events | North Carolina Symphony \(ncsymphony.org\)](#)

The North Carolina Symphony, under the direction of conductor Carlos Miguel will perform Schumann's Symphony No. 4 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 "Pathétique" in Meymandi Concert Hall.

Philharmonic Association Fall Concert (open to the public): 11/21

<https://philharmonic-association.org/events/>

This annual concert will feature performances by Triangle Youth Orchestra, Triangle Youth Symphony, and the Triangle Youth Philharmonic in Meymandi Concert Hall. The organization seeks to provide both beginning ensemble training in supportive non-competitive environments, as well as top-level groups that inspire serious young musicians selected through a rigorous audition process.

A brand-new guaranteed crowd favorite will bring in additional crowds with THE RINK presented by UNC Health at Red Hat Amphitheater. An outdoor natural ice skating rink will open Nov. 20 and only costs \$11, which includes skate rental (\$6 for non-skaters). Wintry snacks, drinks (including hot cocoa, beer, wine and spiked hot beverages) will be available for purchase.

<https://www.redhatamphitheater.com/the-rink>

In addition to THE RINK presented by UNC Health and other list of events below, guests are invited to enjoy two free events perfect for getting into the holiday spirit. The annual tree lighting at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts (DECPA) takes place tonight, and look for the Complex's float and balloon in tomorrow's 77th Annual ABC11 Raleigh Christmas Parade.

<https://downtownraleigh.org/dra-programs/tree-lighting>

About the Raleigh Convention Center

The LEED Silver-certified Raleigh Convention Center is a bustling hub for the culture, commerce, and technologies that make the Triangle one of the most admired and sought-after regions in the United States. Its modern 500,000-square-foot facility includes a stunning granite lobby with dramatic windows and downtown views, an elegant 32,000-square-foot ballroom, and a massive 150,000-square-foot exhibit hall, all with outstanding tech amenities and

award-winning culinary delights. The center has welcomed over 4.5 million visitors since its opening in September 2008. www.raleighconvention.com

About Red Hat Amphitheater

Red Hat Amphitheater is a GBAC STAR™ accredited 5,990-seat open-air amphitheater in the heart of Downtown Raleigh. Owned and operated by the City of Raleigh, the award-winning venue offers an immersive entertainment experience with stunning views of the Raleigh skyline. Built in 2010, the amphitheater has hosted 312 shows, more than a million guests, and has appeared on Pollstar's Top 100 Amphitheaters international list.

About Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts

Set amongst the backdrop of our Capitol, the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts has stood as a historic and cultural focal point in Downtown Raleigh since 1932. It has played host to Broadway classics, rock legends and major political figures while maintaining an emphasis on education of the arts and artists housed within the Raleigh community. With four separate event spaces available, the breadth and depth of events past, present and future has made this Raleigh's Premier Arts Venue. www.dukeenergycenterraleigh.com