



News Release

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Winter Fest Returns
to State Museum

Columbia, S. C. – It’s the “most wonderful time of the year” as the South Carolina State Museum’s holiday tradition, Winter Fest, kicks off Monday, Dec. 19. This celebration of the winter season runs for two weeks until Sunday, Jan. 1 (with time out for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) and will feature many highlights and crowd pleasers.

Santa Claus, the “right jolly old elf” himself, will be dropping by from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Dec. 21, 22 and 23 to listen to children’s Christmas wishes and spread holiday cheer.

The delightful family film “The Muppets Christmas Carol” will delight young and old alike on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m., with a big screen showing in the museum’s auditorium. The Museum and a Movie series will daily feature other short holiday films and documentaries in conjunction with the State Museum’s blockbuster exhibit *BODY WORLDS Vital*. Check the museum’s Web site for most up-to-date titles and times.

The Columbia Marionette Theatre returns on Dec. 23 for “Santa’s Christmas Party,” a magical program guaranteed to enchant youngsters of all ages.

On Dec. 21 at 11:30 a.m., authors Susan Millar Williams and Stephen G. Hoffius will lecture on and sign copies of their book “Upheaval in Charleston: Earthquake and Murder on the Eve of Jim Crow,” a gripping account of the great Charleston earthquake of 1886 and the turbulent social events surrounding it. Columbia children’s author Mary Lee will sign copies of her new book, “When Grandma’s False Teeth Fly,” on Dec. 22 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lee, also the author of “My Air Force Mom,” will be on hand for a second signing on Dec. 29.

For those with ecological interests, “Earth Days in Winter” on Dec. 21 and 22 will feature recycled and nature crafts.

Want to learn how to take better photographs? The second week of Winter Fest will feature a photography seminar on sports and action photography on Dec. 27 at 1:30 p.m. with Canon Master Photographer Manuel Gaetan.

Children may participate in the State Museum’s Indoor Olympics from Dec. 28 – Jan 1. “The event will feature a number of enjoyable competitive activities that focus on a healthy lifestyle,” said Wszola.

“And those who prefer a more relaxed activity may drop by the Education Hallway on the first floor Dec. 27 – Jan. 1 for board games.”

Adding still more to the variety, guests can learn about the winter sky as the Museum presents seasonal Star Labs during Winter Fest. These 30- minute portable planetarium shows (\$3 per person) focus on seasons, constellations and moon phases.

Unless otherwise noted, events are free with membership or admission. Winter Fest continues through Sunday, Jan. 1. For more information and a full schedule of events, call (803) 898-4952 or visit www.southcarolinastatemuseum.org.

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CUTLINE FOR WINTER FEST

Crafts for children will join movies, puppet shows, a photography seminar, portable planetarium shows and other great events – including visits by the “right jolly old elf” himself - during the annual Winter Fest, two weeks of family fun at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, beginning Dec. 19.

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo by Celeste Wszola/courtesy S.C. State Museum

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