











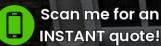


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December Holidays

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Dec 6th Saint Nicholas Day

Dec 10th Human Rights Day

Dec 14th - 22nd Hannukah

Dec 18th Twin Day

Dec 20th National Wreaths Across America Day

Dec 22nd National Twin Day

Dec 25th Christmas

Dec 26th Kwanzaa

Dec 28th National Short Film Day

Dec 31st New Year's Eve – Be Safe!!!



About Our Team:



Joanne Durann has written for The Examiner, Yahoo.com, Axs, Out On The Town Magazine, and is a writing instructor. She has authored multiple books, new articles, and entertainment pieces. She has interviewed the likes of Geoff Tate, Mark Daly, and Rudy Sarzo, among others. After a successful career in education, Joanne's passion for the Florida lifestyle and the Tampa Bay area landed her in Apollo Beach. Joanne has worked in the real estate industry at Keller Williams with the Lovitch Group since her move to Florida from Pennsylvania, and she loved what she did. Joanne has a certification from the University of Michigan in Negotiations, has studied remotely with Harvard University, and is a member of The Working Women of Tampa Bay, WISE Tampa Bay, and the National Association of Professional Women.

Trish is a 32-year Army combat veteran who spent the better part of her last twelve years in uniform, stationed at The Pentagon in Washington, DC. While there, her assignments included organizing major Army infrastructure and entertainment programs, including The Army Birthday Ball, Total Army Analysis, and Organization Days for the Senior Army Leadership and Army Staff Sections. Trish is also a published author with numerous credits, including The Knoxville News Sentinel, Florida Women Magazine, and Lakeside Life



Contact us: 267-980-6427 apollobeachpublishing@gmail.com

Howard Durann - Sales and Marketing



Howard Durann is a dynamic sales and marketing executive at Tampa Bay Sports and Entertainment (TBSE), where he plays a key role in driving fan engagement, sponsorship growth, and strategic brand initiatives.

With over a decade of experience, Howard specializes in blending data-driven strategy with creative execution to maximize impact in the arena and beyond. At TBSE, he has executed integrated marketing campaigns and secured highvalue partnerships.

Howard brings a passion for innovation, a deep understanding of the sports and entertainment landscape, and a commitment to building lasting relationships with corporate partners, the media, and the community. His leadership continues to contribute to TBSE's success.

Phil Stoecker grew up the son of journalists, and youngest of eight children in a small town outside of New York City. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1979, serving as a cryptologist aboard submarines and at overseas duty stations. After his 10-year stint in the Navy, he was hired by the Department of the Navy, where he served as a civilian analyst until he retired 27 years later and moved from the Washington D.C. area to the Tampa Bay area with his wife, Trish, the Managing Editor. Phil indulges his hobbies as an amateur photographer and writer, and strumming one of his seven guitars, one of which is pictured above in Trish's arms. He hopes to make entertaining contributions to this publication.



Star Princess Sets Sail: A Stunning New Destination at Sea

Princess Cruises' newest gem, Star Princess, made a spectacular debut in Ft. Lauderdale this November as the second vessel in the innovative Dome Class. I had the pleasure of sailing both inaugural Caribbean voyages, and it's clear this ship isn't just a mode of travel—it's a destination all its own.

The moment you step aboard, the ship envelops you in calm. Its serene ivory-and-cream palette, accented with soft blue hues, creates a soothing ambiance throughout both public spaces and staterooms. Embarkation was impressively smooth; even without receiving our Medallions beforehand, we were checked in, through security, and onboard in under 15 minutes.

The signature Dome, a striking glass structure on the bow, quickly became one of my favorite spots. By day, it's a relaxing retreat with upscale loungers and cocktails; by night it transforms into a vibrant entertainment venue showcasing talented musicians under the stars.

















Dining onboard was a mix of standouts and misses. The Sanctuary Dining Room was exceptional—so much so that we returned to the same section each evening to enjoy impeccable service and unforgettable dishes. The chateaubriand and prime rib were among the best I've had at sea. Conversely, two of the premium venues we experienced—Umai Teppanyaki and Dario's Butcher Block—fell short of their surcharges. Umai's chef delivered an entertaining show, but the cuisine was average, and Dario's beautifully presented cuts arrived far too rare for my taste.

Entertainment shines across the ship, from the amphitheater-style main auditorium to intimate lounges and the lively atrium. Shopping is decidedly upscale as well, featuring authenticated vintage designer goods, Chanel cosmetics, Effy jewelry, and fine watches.

Our Sanctuary-class stateroom was equally impressive, offering abundant storage, a spacious bathroom with a real shower door (goodbye, clingy curtains!), and the most comfortable Princess bed I've experienced. Our steward was wonderfully attentive, and I appreciated seeing the new fleetwide uniforms debut onboard.

Disembarkation was as smooth as embarkation, aided by facial recognition at customs.

Though luggage retrieval took about 20 minutes, we were still on the road by 8:00 a.m. Overall, Star Princess is beautifully designed, thoughtfully staffed, and rich with dining and entertainment venues—a ship that elevates the journey into the destination.



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December 5 8:00 pm Chelcie Lynn

December 6 7:00 pm National Lampoon's Animal House

December 11 8:00 pm Peter White Christmas

December 12 8:00 pm Shaun Cassidy

December 13 8:00 pm Bruce Hornsby

December 19 8:00 pm Pete Correale

December 20 8:00 pm Rockapella Christmas

December 21 8:00 pm Celtic Angels Christmas

December 31 8:00 pm Donna the Buffalo

January 14 8:00 pm Leo Kottke

January 16 8:00 pm Jesse Cook

Deck the Palms: Your Ultimate Guide to a Magical Christmas in Tampa Bay

Forget the snow—in Tampa Bay, the holiday season shines bright under the warm Florida sun! While we may skip the white Christmas, we more than make up for it with millions of dazzling lights, festive boat parades, and unique celebrations that blend tropical charm with classic Christmas cheer.

Ready to trade your cozy sweater for something lighter? Here is your guide to the must-do activities that make celebrating Christmas in the Tampa area an unforgettable, sun-kissed affair.

The Dazzling Light Shows: A Sea of Sparkle

No holiday season is complete without a spectacular light display, and Tampa Bay delivers on a grand scale:

- Winter Village at Curtis Hixon Park: Downtown Tampa transforms into a
 European-style winter wonderland along the beautiful Hillsborough Riverwalk.
 The centerpiece? The return of the outdoor ice-skating rink! Stroll through the
 festive market, warm up by a fire pit, and take in the stunning city backdrop—it's
 the quintessential Tampa holiday photo-op.
- Busch Gardens Christmas Town: This is the region's premier holiday event, where the thrill rides take a backseat to millions of twinkling lights. Enjoy festive shows, special holiday-themed food, and perhaps a ride on the Holly Jolly™ Express train for a dazzling, moving tour of the park's seasonal décor.
- ZooTampa's Christmas in the Wild: Experience wildlife mingling with winter wonder! ZooTampa hosts an incredible display featuring themed light zones, dazzling decorations, and the unique chance to see some animals active after dusk. It's a wildly festive way to celebrate!

A Truly Florida Christmas: Water & Waves When you live on the water, you celebrate on the water!

- The Tampa Riverwalk Holiday Spectacular & Boat Parade: The Riverwalk itself becomes a ribbon of light, featuring floating decorations and a towering LED Christmas tree. The main event is the Holiday Lighted Boat Parade, where festive, fully-decorated vessels cruise down the Hillsborough River. Grab a spot along the Riverwalk or at Sparkman Wharf to cheer on the captains!
- **Pirate Water Taxi River of Lights:** For an up-close view, skip the land and hop on a water taxi! These tours take you right under the illuminated bridges and offer a one-of-a-kind perspective of the city's glittering waterfront displays.
- **# Heritage, History, and Holiday Cheer** For a taste of tradition with a local twist, check out these classic Tampa Bay experiences:
- Victorian Christmas Stroll at the Henry B. Plant Museum: Step back to 1891!
 This historic museum deckstheir halls with authentic greenery, antique ornaments, and period decorations. It's a charming, quiet immersion into a more traditional Christmas setting, complete with complimentary cider.
- Holiday Classics at the Tampa Theatre: Catch a timeless film like It's a Wonderful
 Life or White Christmas on the majestic, opulent screen of the historic Tampa
 Theatre. It's a nostalgic, wonderfully atmospheric way to spend an evening, often
 with special pre-show activities!
- **Chasing a Frosty Fix (Without Leaving the State)** If you absolutely *need* that snowy feeling, Tampa Bay has you covered:
- Snowcat Ridge (Nearby): While technically outside Tampa, this destination offers the closest thing to a true winter experience. Enjoy snow tubing, ice skating, building snowmen, and cozying up by fire pits for s'mores—all things you can't find downtown!
- From million-light drives to midnight cruises on the river, Tampa Bay shines brightly throughout December. Pack your sunblock, grab your loved ones, and get ready to celebrate a warm, wonderful, and uniquely Floridian Christmas!



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28 SCHEDULE

















































The Pirate Ship Sails: A History of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are more than just a football team; they are a story of extreme highs, painful lows, and a persistent, colorful presence in the NFL. From their inauspicious debut to their current status as a Super Bowl-era powerhouse, the Bucs have built one of the league's most unique legacies.

The Buccaneers joined the NFL as an expansion team in **1976**, alongside the Seattle Seahawks. Their entry was famously, and brutally, difficult. Clad in their original "Creamsicle" uniforms, the inaugural team, led by Hall of Fame coach John McKay, suffered an unprecedented **26-game losing streak**—the longest in modern NFL history.

McKay, known for his wry humor, often deflected the mounting pressure with memorable quotes. When asked about the team's execution, he famously replied, "I'm in favor of it." The streak finally ended in Week 13 of the 1977 season with a 17-0 victory over the New Orleans Saints, sparking a moment of pure, unadulterated euphoria among the fans.

The tide began to turn quickly. By **1979**, just their fourth season, the Buccaneers—powered by the incredible talent of quarterback **Doug Williams** and the fierce defense anchored by Pro Bowlers like **Lee Roy Selmon**—shocked the league. They won the AFC Central division and hosted the NFC Championship game, narrowly losing to the Los Angeles Rams. It remains one of the fastest turnarounds in professional sports history.

However, subsequent seasons saw a period of decline and front-office instability, culminating in the team entering one of the most extended sustained periods of futility in league history.

Following the departure of Williams and the eventual retirement of Selmon, the Bucs plunged into a nearly 15-year stretch known as the "Dark Ages." During this era, they endured **14 consecutive losing seasons**, often competing for the first overall draft pick rather than the playoffs. This period was characterized by revolving coaches, constant uniform changes (including a brief, ill-fated pewter look), and a deeply frustrated but remarkably loyal fanbase.

The Glazer family's purchase of the team in 1995 stabilized ownership, leading to the construction of Raymond James Stadium and a much-needed rebrand. Under Head Coaches Tony Dungy and then Jon Gruden, the Buccaneers forged one of the most dominant defenses the league had ever seen. The "Tampa 2" scheme, perfected by Dungy and Defensive Coordinator Monte Kiffin, featured legendary players like Derrick Brooks, Warren Sapp, John Lynch, and Ronde Barber.

The pinnacle arrived in 2002. After a dramatic trade to acquire head coach Jon Gruden from the Raiders, the Bucs' ferocious defense propelled them through the playoffs. In an ironic twist of fate, they faced Gruden's former team, the Oakland Raiders, in Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego. The Buccaneers' defense put on a masterpiece performance, intercepting Raiders QB Rich Gannon five times, securing a dominant 48-21 victory, and the franchise's first Lombardi Trophy.

Following a post-Super Bowl decline, the team entered another lengthy playoff drought. The next championship window opened dramatically in 2020 with the stunning arrival of quarterback Tom Brady. Brady, along with star tight end Rob Gronkowski, instantly transformed the franchise. The team embraced an "all-in" mentality, building a powerhouse offense to complement the growing defense. In Super Bowl LV, played *in their home stadium* at Raymond James—a first in NFL history—the Buccaneers dominated the Kansas City Chiefs, securing their second Super Bowl title, 31-9.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers stand as a testament to perseverance. They are the only team to have started their history with 26 consecutive losses and eventually ascend to the championship pinnacle multiple times. The team's iconic emblems—the **Pirate Ship at Raymond James Stadium**, the menacing skull-and-crossbones flag, and the fiery spirit of their defense—cement their status as one of the NFL's most fascinating and enduring franchises.

And although this year we are running with a ton of injuries, the spirit, tenacity, and grit of this team and our incredibly loyal fans make them always a team worth reckoning with.



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Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

- Thursday, December 11 | 8:00PM
- Hard Rock Event Center
- Due to a leg injury, the show originally scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2025 has been canceled.

21+ EVENT



Deal or No Deal Live!

- Sunday, December 14 | 8:00PM
- Hard Rock Event Center

21+ EVENT



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Venue General Info: (800) 745-3000



Method Man & Redman

- Thursday, December 18 | 8:00PM
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Jon Pardi: Christmas Show

- S Friday, December 19 | 8:00PM
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Dec 4 7:00 pm Will Burkart

Dec 5 - 7 Times Vary Pauly Shore

Dec 10 7:00 pm Jesus Abelardo: Baba

Dec 11 7:00 pm Cactus Tate

Dec 12 – 14 Times Vary Arnez J.

Dec 18 7:00 pm Sloan – A – Claus

Dec 19 – 20 Times Vary Benji Brown

Dec 21 6:00 pm Miss Renee

Dec 26 – 27 Times Vary J.J. Williamson

Dec 31 7:00 pm NYE with Paul Snyder & Mr Bishop



The Ethereal Echo: "Ghosts of Christmas Eve" Haunts and Delights

Every December, a singular sound echoes across American arenas: a blend of symphonic grandeur, hard-rocking intensity, and a truly timeless holiday spirit. This is the sound of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra (TSO), and at the heart of their spectacular annual tour is the story that started it all: "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve."

While TSO has several beloved Christmas narratives, "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve" holds a special place, as it was the band's first major foray into television and remains a cornerstone of their live show. It's more than just a concert; it's a dramatic, visually stunning, and musically transcendent journey that defines the very essence of the TSO experience.

Unlike the full-length rock opera albums like "Christmas Eve and Other Stories," the original 1999 TV special and the subsequent live production of "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve" are a more focused, yet equally powerful, narrative.

The story centers on a young, disillusioned runaway who seeks shelter in an abandoned theatre on Christmas Eve. In this forgotten space, she is visited by three ghosts—one representing her past, one her present, and one her future. These spectral guides don't speak, but instead, they communicate through the theatre's resident spirits and their music. The songs—classic TSO staples—become the dialogue, painting a picture of hope, reflection, and ultimately, the discovery that the magic of Christmas is not about commercialism, but about human connection.

The "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve" production introduced some of TSO's most enduring and recognizable tracks to a mass audience. It's where the power ballad meets the power chord, and where a choir director's dream meets a metal guitarist's riff.

Key musical highlights of this production include:

O Holy Night/Christmas Eve is the undisputed crown jewel. The juxtaposition of the serene *a cappella* rendition of "O Holy Night" with the earth-shattering rock version of "Sarajevo" is a signature TSO move that never fails to electrify the crowd.

Then they transform, Hark! The Heralds Angels Sing, a hymn, is transformed into a full-blown orchestral anthem, showcasing TSO's masterful arrangement skills.

A beautiful, delicate counterpoint to the heavier tracks, Christmas Canon blends Pachelbel's *Canon in D* with a gentle choir to create a moment of genuine tenderness.

Finally, First Snow, an instrumental piece that perfectly captures the quiet awe of a winter night, is often accompanied in the live show by a visual spectacle of falling "snow."

To truly appreciate "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve," you must witness it live. This is where the band elevates their rock opera into a multimedia phenomenon. Fire bursts from the stage, lasers slice through the smoke-filled air, and moving lights turn the arena ceiling into a kaleidoscope of colors. It's a sensory overload designed to match the music's intensity.

One of the most iconic moments sees a stagehand—often an instrumentalist or vocalist—lifted high above the audience, giving fans in the back of the venue an upclose view.

At its core, it's about the musicians. TSO employs multiple touring companies, each featuring a rotating cast of world-class guitarists, violinists, vocalists, and a whole string section. Their passion and technical skill are the actual engine driving the spectacle. In a world saturated with holiday music, TSO founder Paul O'Neill's vision—to create music that was both serious and fun, spiritual and secular—has cemented "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve" as a modern holiday classic.

It's a two-and-a-half-hour reminder that Christmas is a time for hope, and that a story of a lost girl in an abandoned theatre, told through soaring electric guitar solos and booming orchestrations, can touch the soul as profoundly as any traditional carol. The ghosts and the music truly live on.



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December 7 Stevie Nicks

December 12 Brandy & Monica

December 14 Trans – Siberian Orchestra

December 19 mgk lost americana tour Julia Wolf

December 27 WWE Live Holiday Tour

January 2 – 4 Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus

January 8 Barry Manilow The Last Tampa Concert

January 23 – 24 PBR Tampa

January 30 Bert Kreischer

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2025-26 SEASON SCHEDULE

SUN	MON	1 2025) WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	7:00PM	3	7:00PM	5	7:00PM
7	7:30PM	9 7:00PM	10	11 7:00PM	12	13 3:30PM
ð	15 7:00PM	16	17	18 [XIIXES] 7:00PM	19	20 7:00PM
21	7:00PM	23	24	25	26	27 7:00PM
28 5:00PM	29	30	31 4:00PM			









Al voice tool quietly takes notes so providers can focus on you!

At some VA medical centers, Veterans may notice something new during their appointments: Providers are spending more time talking to the patient and less time typing on the computer. That's because VA's Digital Health Office (DHO) introduced a new artificial intelligence(AI) technology called Ambient AI Scribe. With the Veterans permission, ambient AI scribe works quietly in the background, giving VA health care providers more time to focus on what matters most: Connecting with Veterans.

VA Research: New findings on lung cancer, Alzheimer's Disease and Maternity

VA's Office of Research and Development recently published three News Briefs highlighting research findings on a lung cancer treatment, Alzheimer's disease and maternity care.

VA lung cancer outcomes are consistently better:

The findings suggest that the VA's integrated system establishes a consistent standard of care across locations. The researchers further believe that VA's relationship with academic medical centers may also help maintain high-quality lung cancer care.

Gene variants linked to Alzheimer's in African Americans

Boston VA researchers and their colleagues identified almost 500 gene variants potentially related to Alzheimer's disease, with one gene, ADAMTS2, being 1.5 times more likely to be present in patients with Alzheimer's disease.

Veterans say doula program enhances maternity care.

A doula is a trained professional who provides physical, emotional, and advocacy support before, during, and after childbirth. The Veterans reported that having a doula helped erase previous negative birth experiences and that the doulas served as an important advocate.

New scam: VA Benefits overpayment

Clever scammers are targeting Veterans, surviving spouses and family members who receive VA benefits. They pretend to be official VA representatives and use official communication channels to demand repayment for alleged benefits overpayments. Fraudulent letters, emails and texts often include fake VA letterheads and logos, making it difficult to distinguish genuine VA communications from scams.

VA Offers Construction Loans for Veterans to Build Their Dream Homes

Just like a traditional VA home loan, where the Veteran purchases a pre-existing or newly built property, there may be no down payment, no private mortgage insurance requirement, and, depending on your VA disability rating, you may be exempt from the VA funding fee. A construction loan differs from a traditional mortgage and requires stricter qualifications and more documentation.







Savor St. Pete

SAVOR St. Pete returned to Vanoy Park November 1–2, 2025, bringing two days of sunshine, sea breezes, and spectacular flavors to downtown St. Petersburg. With more than 50 partners and sponsors—including presenting sponsor Publix—the event celebrated the region's vibrant culinary scene while supporting Glam-a-thon and Moffitt Cancer Center. Guests strolled along the waterfront sampling dishes from local restaurants, watching live culinary demonstrations, and cheering on competitors during the always-entertaining Battle of the Chefs. This year's picture-perfect weather made the experience even better, drawing crowds eager to sip, savor, and enjoy one of the city's most anticipated food festivals.

Festivalgoers were treated to two signature tasting tents: one dedicated to wines, spirits, and creative beverages, and another spotlighting an impressive selection of food sponsors and restaurants. Set against the sparkling backdrop of Tampa Bay, Vanoy Park proved to be the ideal location for an event that blends gourmet cuisine with local culture and community. And for those who love local trivia, SAVOR's literature revealed a fun fact—milk processed in Florida can be identified by the five-digit code near the carton's spout, beginning with state code 12. Next year's festival returns November 7–8, 2026. For details, visit <u>savortheburg.com</u>.



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Dec 7	7:00 pm	Three Dog Night / Peter Noone
Dec 11	7:30 am	Trisha Yearwood
Dec 12	8:00 pm	Sarah Brightman
Dec 13	7:00 pm	Michael W Smith
Dec 14	8:00 pm	Allman Betts Family Revival
Dec 18	7:30 pm	Wheel of Fortune Live Holiday Show
Dec 19	7:00 pm	Cirque Musica: Holiday Wonderland
Dec 21	Time Varies	Holiday Pops
Dec 22-23	Time Varies	Dolly Parton's Smoky Mt Christmas Carol
Dec 28	7:00 pm	Terry Fator
Dec 30	7:30 pm	Straight No Chaser

Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert

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Holiday Brass

Sat, Dec 6, 7:30 pm, Church of the Ascension
Sun, Dec 7, 2 pm, USF St. Pete Student Center Ballroom



Messiah

Fri, Dec 5, 8 pm, Straz Center Sat, Dec 6, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater



Frozen in Concert

Sat, Dec 13, 2 pm, Mahaffey Theater – *Matinee*

Holiday Pops

Fri, Dec 19, 8 pm, Straz Center, Ferguson Sat, Dec 20, 2 & 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater *Matinee*Sun, Dec 21, 2 & 7:30 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall *Matinee*



RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM





December 19

December 31



From Wally to Raymond: The Tampa Bay Rays Mascot

The Tampa Bay Rays, while a relatively young franchise compared to their baseball brethren, have developed a distinct identity in Major League Baseball. Central to that identity is their beloved, if slightly unconventional, mascot: Raymond. His journey from the team's inception to becoming a fixture at Tropicana Field is a charming slice of Rays history.

When the Tampa Bay Devil Rays began play in 1998, their initial branding focused heavily on the marine life theme, specifically the iridescent, majestic manta ray. Early in the planning, the team's original mascot was a giant, anthropomorphic starfish named Wally the Rays' Star.

Wally was intended to be a family-friendly symbol of the Gulf Coast. However, his tenure was short-lived. Wally the Starfish struggled to connect with the fanbase, and the team recognized that, while a starfish is marine life, it didn't quite capture the energy or essence needed to rally a crowd in a major league ballpark. Wally quickly faded from the scene.

Following the brief experiment with Wally, the Rays unveiled their permanent mascot in the summer of 1998: Raymond. Raymond is officially described as a "Seadog", a playful, slightly mysterious blue creature with fuzzy fur, large eyes, a wagging tail, and a perpetually cheerful disposition.

Raymond's appearance is distinctly *non-literal*. He is not a devil ray, nor is he a dog or a fish; he is a unique, abstract cartoon character. This creative ambiguity allowed the team to move beyond strict marine biology and create a character focused purely on fun and entertainment.

His name, Raymond, is a direct nod to **Raymond James Stadium**, where the neighboring Tampa Bay Buccaneers play, and perhaps also a playful twist on the word "Ray" itself. The official story is that Raymond was found playing on the beaches of Tampa Bay and adopted by the team. He even has a fictional birthday: November 18, 1998.

Raymond truly came into his own after the team rebranded in **2008**, dropping the "Devil" from their name and switching their primary colors from a mix of dark greens and blues to a more modern navy blue and light blue scheme.

He often wears a tropical shirt, board shorts, and sunglasses, playing up the Florida beach culture. His signature high-energy dance routines, usually involving balancing acts or crowd surfing, are a staple of the in-game entertainment at Tropicana Field. Raymond frequently participates in lighthearted pranks on visiting players and is a constant presence at community events throughout the Tampa Bay area.

Raymond's success lies in his approachability and his role as a consistent, friendly face for the franchise. Unlike mascots tied to fierce animal imagery, Raymond's goofy, fuzzy design makes him universally appealing to children and adults alike.



He is not just a character but an integral part of the team's personality, representing the fun, quirky, and slightly underestimated nature of the Tampa Bay Rays. From the discarded starfish Wally to the enduring Seadog Raymond, the Rays' mascot history is a perfect parallel to the team's own journey: a rocky, strange start leading to a beloved, successful, and unique place in the baseball world.



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8	9	10	11	Beats Antiques 06:00PM	Silverstein: 25 Years of Noise w/ Thursday & Split Chain	Raekwon & Mobb Deep: 30th Anniversary Tour 07:00PM
15	16	17	18	19	The Heavy Pets 08:00PM	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Algorhythm Presents Existence 08:00PM	1	Rise of Decades	3	4



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Fri - Dec 12th 8:30pm Sat - Dec 13th 8:30pm

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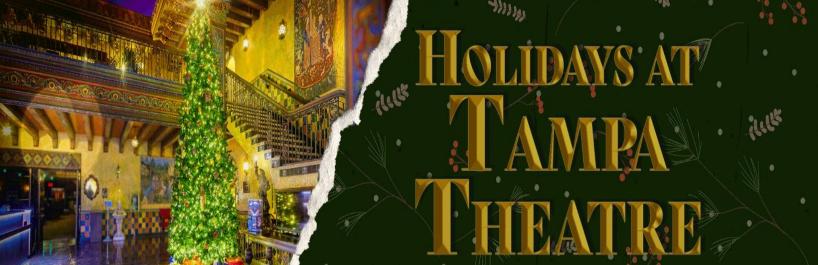
ADLINER





Fri - Dec 26th 8:30pm Sat - Dec 27th 8:30pm











When you visit Tampa Theatre, you're not just coming for a movie – you're coming for an experience. One of the brightest and most beloved of those experiences is the tradition of sharing favorite holiday films on the big screen with family and friends, and singing along to Christmas carols with the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ before select shows.

- MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (1947) at 3pm Sunday, Nov. 30
- Sing-Along WHITE CHRISTMAS (1954) at 3pm Sunday, Dec. 7
- ELF (2003) at 3pm Sunday, Dec. 14
- IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946) seven shows, Dec. 19-23
- · LOVE ACTUALLY (2003) at 3pm Sunday, Dec. 28

The Holiday Classics series is presented by Bank of America. Additional support is provided by Bolin Philanthropic Trust and Bolin Law Group. Promotional support provided by WEDU PBS and AXIOS Tampa Bay.

BIG PICTURE continues the holiday theme in December, and as the proverbial snow drifts metaphorically down around us, we find our thoughts turning to the past year and the future:

- THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (1992) at 7pm Wednesday, Dec. 10
- · SCROOGED (1988) at 7pm Wednesday, Dec. 17

MORE INFO

If the "nice list" nostalgia of the Holiday Classics isn't your cup of cocoa, our late-night Friday **REWIND** offerings might be just the thing to frost your cookies:

- DIE HARD (1988) at 10:15pm Friday, Dec. 12
- GREMLINS (1984) at 10:15pm Friday, Dec. 19
- THE GREEN KNIGHT (2021) at 10:15pm Friday, Dec. 26

MORE INFO



Busch Gardens Christmas Town 2025

The holidays shine brighter than ever at <u>Busch Gardens® Tampa Bay's Christmas Town™</u>, filling the season with holiday cheer and festive fun. Beginning November 14 through January 5, the park transforms into a dazzling winter wonderland featuring millions of twinkling lights and two spectacular new additions — the **ALL-NEW** *Holiday Skies Spectacular*, featuring hundreds of drones synchronized to classic holiday music, and the **ALL-NEW Serengeti Light Show**, an immersive, multi-sensory light and music display across the park's iconic Serengeti Plain. The iconic Skyride will sparkle once again with festive lights, offering guests breathtaking nighttime views of Busch Gardens adorned with its best holiday decor. Guests can also enjoy rides on fanfavorite attractions and coasters, including the recently returned Kumba, Phoenix Rising, and more. Beloved holiday experiences like Santa's North Pole Experience, the Holly Jolly Express, and dazzling shows such as Christmas on Ice will fill the air with festive magic for all ages.

Seasonal treats from holiday-flavored hot chocolates to freshly baked cookies exclusive to Christmas Town will add extra sweetness to the celebration. This year, guests can delight in all-new holiday-inspired menu items, explore the gingerbread cookie decorating station, and sip on a selection of new Christmas Town craft cocktails available throughout the park. With unique holiday shopping, countless exceptional holiday photo opportunities, and endless ways to create lasting memories, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay's Christmas Town is the perfect holiday tradition for family and friends.

"There's nothing quite like the joy and wonder that fill the park during Christmas Town," said Brian Bacica, Park President of Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. "From festive shows to sparkling decorations around every corner, we can't wait for guests to make cherished holiday memories with us."

Visitors of all ages can enjoy fan-favorite holiday entertainment. Returning entertainment includes:

ALL-NEW Serengeti Light Show - A luminous, choreographed display that turns the Serengeti
into a living canvas of color and sound, celebrating the beauty of the season. The show features
tens of thousands of Christmas lights choreographed to the tune of our own exclusive iteration
of "Carol of the Bells"

- ALL-NEW Holiday Skies Spectacular: Watch the night sky come alive with a breathtaking drone show, perfectly synchronized to a soundtrack of classic holiday tunes in an aweinspiring finale unlike anything else in Florida
- Christmas on Ice Returning by popular demand, this exhilarating seasonal spectacle at the Moroccan Palace Theater features breathtaking ice-skating performances. Experience the joy of the holiday season as talented skaters dazzle with routines set to beloved Christmas classics and contemporary favorites.
- Mrs. Claus' Storytime Perfect for little ones and families alike, this enchanting story time will delight audiences with Mrs. Claus' warm presence and charming storytelling style. Children will be captivated as she weaves magical tales that inspire wonder and celebrate the true spirit of the holidays.
- Busch Gardens Holiday Magic This captivating performance features amazing illusions, impressive choreography, and festive music for a memorable holiday experience in the Stanleyville Theater.
- *Three Kings Journey* Be immersed in the inspiring musical tale of the Three Wise Men as they embark on their journey to Bethlehem.
 - **Holly Jolly Express** All aboard the jolliest train in town! Guests will be whisked away on a festive journey around the park, where they can sing along to their favorite holiday tunes. Join the celebration and spread Christmas cheer while riding the Holly Jolly Express!
- **Elmo's Christmas Wish** Join Cookie Monster, Rosita, Grover, and Zoe as they help Elmo find his Christmas wish! Families are sure to be singing and dancing along as they watch this fun holiday show.
- Christmas Town Character Appearances Don't miss your chance to capture unforgettable moments with special seasonal characters scattered throughout the park! Pose for photos with enchanting princesses and many more festive friends who are eager to celebrate the season.
- New Year's Eve Fireworks- Ring in the new year with music, fireworks, and thrill rides. Join Busch Gardens on December 31 for unforgettable fun during the day and fireworks at night.

Guests can also enjoy **Santa's North Pole Experience**, where they can meet Santa, explore his workshop, and share their holiday wishes. Plus, guests can visit **Rudolph's Winter Wonderland**, in a NEW location, featuring festive decorations, interactive displays, merch, and opportunities for photos with beloved characters from the classic holiday tale.

Christmas Town runs **select dates** from Nov. 14 through Jan. 5. To learn more about all the festive experiences Busch Gardens Tampa Bay has to offer, guests can visit <u>ChristmasTown.com</u>. While Christmas Town is included with park admission, guests can unwrap even more holiday value with flexible membership options and limited-time savings.

For up-to-date information with times and pricing go to https://buschgardens.com/tampa/



Tampa Boat Parade



Tampa's largest lighted boat parade will happen on the Saturday before Christmas along the Hillsborough River in Downtown Tampa!

Date: Saturday, December 20, 2025

Time: 6:15 PM

Registration includes:

Admission for 2 to the Captain's Party Swag Bags with an assortment of giveaways Chance to win best-decorated boat trophy - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Eligible for various raffle prizes

REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT THE EARLY-BIRD RATE OF \$85. Price will increase closer to the event date!

CONTACT INFO

info@thetampariverwalk.com 8132211539



Dec 3

Dec 4-6

Dec 6

Dec 7

Dec 10

Dec 11 - 13

Dec 13

Dec 14

Dec 14

Dec 16 - 17

Dec 18

Dec 19-20

Dec 20

Dec 21

Dec 26 - 28

Dec 31 - Jan 3

Jan 4

Jan 7

"Dr Dirty" John Valby

Rocky Dale David

Crystal Marie Denha

Nerdork

Tom Shillue

Nimesh Patel

Yakov Smirnoff

Chingo Bling

Comic's Night Out

Jim Breuer

Rock Hard Revue

Michael Longfellow

Tanael Joachim

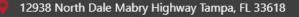
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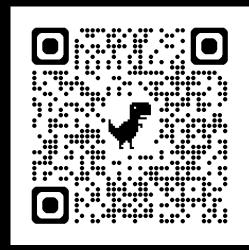
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The Tampa Bay Rowdies announced today the acquisition of midfielder Marco Micaletto via transfer from Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, pending league and federation approval. Per club policy, the terms of the transfer agreement were undisclosed.

"I'm incredibly excited for the opportunity to join the Rowdies," said Micaletto. "I'm very grateful to Coach Casciato and [Head of Soccer Operations] Nico Castillo for their trust in bringing me to Tampa Bay. I'll do my best to repay that trust by doing whatever I can to help this team achieve its goals, and that is to win championships. I'm really excited for those Saturday nights under the lights at Al Lang Stadium and getting the opportunity to play in front of Ralph's Mob and Skyway Casuals, along with the rest of the Rowdies supporters."

Micaletto notched seven goals and three assists in 30 appearances across all competitions for Colorado Springs during his lone season with the Western Conference side last year. In 2024, the 29-year-old midfielder bagged one goal and six assists as part of a New Mexico United squad that finished as the top team in the Western Conference regular season standings.

Born in Rome, Italy, Micaletto grew up in England before moving to the United States in 2015 to play college soccer at Young Harris College, where he was teammates with longtime Rowdies midfielder Lewis Hilton. After competing in USL League Two for South Georgia Tormenta FC during the summer of 2018, he began his professional career with Tormenta the following year as the club joined USL League One for its inaugural 2019 season.

After recording 22 goals and 8 assists over three seasons for Tormenta FC in League One, Micaletto was acquired by Columbus Crew 2 and was named captain before the team's inaugural season in MLS NEXT Pro. Crew 2 reached the MLS NEXT Pro Cup Final in its first two seasons, with Micaletto earning 2022 MLS NEXT Pro Cup Final MVP honors after defeating St. Louis FC 2 to lift the trophy.

"Marco is an experienced player with a history of winning," said Rowdies Head Coach Dominic Casciato. "In New Mexico, he was part of a team finished top of the Western Conference standings in the regular season. With Columbus 2, he was able to win the MLS Next Pro title. His history of winning is really important. I think he's established himself as one of the top midfielders in the league and comes to Tampa Bay hungry to grow that reputation further. We're excited to have him and looking forward to seeing what he can bring to the group."

Micaletto marks the first new addition to the Rowdies roster ahead of the 2026 USL Championship season. Additional player announcements will be made in the coming weeks.











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