

As seen in the Vermont Standard – Oct. 21, 2021

Halloween Cues Up the Holiday Season

Halloween fast approaches! I so miss the years of carving pumpkins and dressing up our kids up in ridiculous costumes. Especially when I attempted creativity, like the year my daughter was a burning marshmallow on a stick. I don't think her 9-year-old self-understood the ball of black cotton on her head. As I reflect on the years of carving pumpkins, and now seeing them all over town, I recently pondered the origin of pumpkin carving. This eventually does loop back to Pentangle!

Here's the fun fact about pumpkins.

The Irish, before emigrating used carved out turnips with demon faces to frighten spirits away. After settling in America, the immigrants found turnips to be scarce, and started using pumpkins instead.

Why all this musing about Halloween? Perhaps because the last bird is almost out of the nest, and it will be a while before I'll be carving pumpkins with grandchildren.

More importantly, Halloween has become the entry event to the holiday season. A holiday season in Woodstock is just not complete without Wassail Weekend. While Pentangle is unable to hold our 20th Annual Holiday House tour for the second year in a row, we do have lots of programs on tap.

On Friday, December 10th at 7:30 we are proud to present *Irish Christmas in America*. Produced by Sligo fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada, the hugely show features top Irish music, song and dance in an engaging performance rich in humor and boundless energy.

Take a memorable glimpse into the enchanting spirit of Christmas, as the finest traditional artists from Ireland, bring you on a fun-filled start to the holiday season.

E-tickets are on sale now! Please go to: <https://pentanglearts.org/event/irish-christmas/>

On Saturday, December 11, at 7:30 pm we present the Whiffenpoofs.

Established at Yale University in 1909, it is the oldest such group in the United States. The line-up changes each year, and former members include Cole Porter. Since their founding in 1909, the Whiffenpoofs have performed in all corners of the globe. They bring a diverse repertoire of vocal jazz, folk, pop, and Broadway hits to more than two hundred audiences each year.

E-tickets are now on sale at <https://pentanglearts.org/>

[event/whiffenpoofs/#content](https://pentanglearts.org/event/whiffenpoofs/#content)

Please go to our web site www.pentanglearts.org for updates on safety protocols while in the theatre.

We close out the weekend with our beloved Messiah Sing, December 12 at 4:00 pm at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church.

Up until November 12th when NCCT's production of *Mamma Mia!* opens we will screen feature films and continue partnering with Sustainable Woodstock with virtual screenings of films as part of the Climate Change and Sustainability Film Series. Next up in that series is **The River and the Wall** streaming online October 25-29, 2021

The film follows five friends on an immersive adventure through the unknown wilds of the Texas borderlands as they travel 1200 miles from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico on horses, mountain bikes, and canoes.

Conservation filmmaker Ben Masters realizes the urgency of documenting the last remaining wilderness in Texas as the threat of new border wall construction looms ahead. The teams sets out to document the borderlands and explore the potential impacts of a wall on the natural environment, but as the wilderness gives way to the more populated and heavily trafficked Lower Rio Grande Valley, they come face-to-face with the human side of the immigration debate and enter uncharted emotional waters.

While it is a free screening, please register at: www.riverandthewall.eventbrite.com. To learn more about the Sustainable Woodstock Climate Change and Sustainability Film series visit, sustainablewoodstock.org.

On the Big Screen:

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings is a superhero film based on Marvel Comics featuring the character Shang-Chi. Shang-Chi (Simu Liu) confronts the past he thought he left behind when he's drawn into the web of the mysterious Ten Rings organization.

Show times

Friday, October 22 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 23 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 24 at 7:30 pm

To purchase tickets in advance please go to <https://pentanglearts.org/movies/#content>

Masks are required in the theatre when not enjoying concessions.