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Spare Times: For Children for Oct. 29-Nov. 4

By LAUREL GRAEBER

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'HALLOWHOA!'

Blog

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When you watch a tour guide in "Hallowhoa!" strap on a backpack with a long hose and a pump attached, you can't help thinking of [Dan Aykroyd](#) and [Bill Murray](#) suiting up in "Ghostbusters." But the

equipment here is not designed to vacuum stray ghouls and blobs of ectoplasm; it's to spray them silly.

"Silly spray" plays a key role in this haunted house, presented by the [Story Pirates](#), a troupe that turns children's own writing into theater. Small authors did not create the plot for this 45-minute adventure, though they do participate in the action as they tour what purports to be the eccentric magnate Josiah Vandershock's deserted invisible-ink factory (otherwise known as the [Downtown Youth Community Center](#) in Lower Manhattan). The spray (it appears to be water) proves more effective than garlic or silver bullets at warding off fearsome creatures; it turns a nascent vampire into a helpless repeater of knock-knock jokes. (Above, Branson Reese as Count Fang.)

But if "Hallowhoa!" doesn't offer sophisticated gags — the ghosts of Laurel and Hardy could easily be the presiding spirits — it does display ingenuity in engaging young visitors. Two rooms have boxes with padlocks, whose combinations the children must discover from hidden clues. Each box's contents lead to a mildly spooky moment, like the sudden transformation of a cheerful fellow into a werewolf. But with the help of silly spray, he's soon pirouetting to recorded music from "Swan Lake."

Mindful that a little kid's boo is a bigger kid's bore, "Hallowhoa!" offers a second version for audiences over 6. The main difference is the inclusion of a "dark maze" — really a pathway. With walls that bump and touch you, a talking bust on a pedestal and a zombie who reaches out from an opening, the maze feels more like typical haunted-house fare. But the Story Pirates wisely allow hesitant children to circumvent that passage and move closer to the end, where two grown-ups in the story get their just desserts: a pie. In the face.

(Shows for 6 and under: Saturday at 1 p.m.; Sunday at 1:30 p.m. For over 6: Saturday, 2 to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday is also a [Halloween](#) Festival benefit for the Story Pirates, with treats, crafts and games. At 120 Warren Street, near Greenwich Street, 347-878-6798, [hallowhoa.com](#); \$40 online; \$25 with the online code "piratefan" and at the door.) **LAUREL GRAEBER**

For Children

'**Angelina Ballerina the Musical**' (Friday through Sunday) That winsome white mouse who does all her scurrying in toeshoes is pirouetting onto the stage in this musical adaptation from Vital

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Theater Company. Based on the books by Katharine Holabird and Helen Craig and the [PBS](#) series “Angelina Ballerina the Next Steps,” the show features Angelina and her fellow students doing modern dance, the Irish jig and hip-hop, as well as ballet. (Through Jan. 2.) Friday at 4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m.; Vital Theater Company, 2162 Broadway, at 76th Street, fourth floor , (212) 579-0528, angelinathemusical.com; \$29.50; \$49.50 for premium tickets (the first three rows).

‘Archaeology Zone: Discovering Treasures From Playgrounds to Palaces’ (Friday, Sunday through Tuesday, and Thursday) Children will step into the shoes of an explorer like Indiana Jones in this permanent exhibition at the [Jewish Museum](#), but the adventures will be purely scholarly. Still, there is plenty of excitement in analyzing artifacts like a jar handle, a clay jug and a bangle and figuring out the purpose behind ancient pieces like a Greek helmet and a bull-shaped vessel. This interactive show also includes a recreated room from the Ottoman period (about 1900), where young archaeologists can dress in costume. Hours: 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays); 1109 Fifth Avenue, at 92nd Street , (212) 423-3200, thejewishmuseum.org; free with admission: \$12; \$10 for 65+; \$7.50 for students; free for under 12 and members.

Ascarium (Saturday and Sunday) No, that’s not a typographical error. The New York Aquarium is calling itself the Ascarium for this celebration, which focuses on ocean spookiness, often neglected in typical [Halloween](#) festivities. Activities will include aquatic-theme magic shows and live music; pumpkin carving in animal shapes; storytelling; and “Haunted Seafari” (also open on Friday), a habitat emphasizing some really big frights for ocean life, like overfishing and pollution. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Surf Avenue and West Eighth Street, Coney Island , (718) 265-3474, [nyaquarium .com](http://nyaquarium.com); free with admission: \$13; \$10 for 65+; \$9 for 3 to 12; free for under 3 and for children 12 and under when wearing costumes and accompanied by an adult (limit of two per family).

‘Betsy Is Bored, Bored, Bored, Bored, Bored!’ (Saturday and Sunday) Yes, that’s five times bored. But in this new play by Judy Sheehan, for ages 3 to 10, the solution can be troubling too. After her parents urge her to use her imagination on a rainy day, Betsy has fun being a famous Egyptologist and an inventor with a talking cat, among other things. But then her imagination takes on a will of its own and moves in with the family. (Through Nov. 21.) Saturdays at noon and 2 p.m.; Sundays at 2 and 4 p.m.; Looking Glass Theater, 422 West 57th Street, Clinton , (212) 307-9467, lookingglasstheatrenyc.com; \$15; \$12 for 12 and under.

‘Boo at the Zoos’ (Saturday and Sunday) With its bats, vultures, snakes and hissing cockroaches, the [Bronx Zoo](#) always offers creepy fun, but this month it has also provided special Halloween activities. Now the Queens Zoo and Prospect Park Zoo are joining in, with their own versions of “Boo at the Zoo” this weekend. In the Bronx, the schedule includes magic shows, music, animal-theme pumpkin carving, a hay maze and the interactive attraction Haunted Safari Adventure, in which children can learn all about the truly frightening challenges creatures face in the wild. At the Queens Zoo, children can visit the Haunted Habitat, see animal presentations and watch pumas and bears get their own treats in the form of food-stuffed pumpkins. The Prospect Park Zoo, in Brooklyn, will offer chats with zookeepers

about owls and bats; Halloween pumpkins for baboons; a Spooky Barn; and a costume parade. Full schedules and directions: wcs.org. All events are free with zoo admission: in the Bronx, \$16; \$14 for 65+; \$12 for 3 to 12; free for under 3. In Queens and Prospect Park: \$8; \$5 for 65+; \$6 for ages 3 to 12; free for under 3. All children in costume are admitted free at the Bronx and Queens Zoos.

Cirque Le Masque: ‘Carnivale’ (Sunday) It’s not Cirque du Soleil, but it is a European circus, and it promises plenty of agility and aerial finesse. Its latest show, “Carnivale,” combines comedy, acrobatics and music as it follows a young heroine immersing herself in the traditions of Rio de Janeiro. Children attending are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes. At 3 p.m., Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, Brooklyn College, Flatbush and Nostrand Avenues, Flatbush, (718) 951-4500, brooklyncenteronline.org; \$37 and \$27 in advance; \$40 and \$30 at the door; half-price for ages 18 and under.

‘Czech and Slovak Fairy Tales With Strings’ (Saturday) These stories do indeed have strings: they are all performed by the Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theater, which uses antique puppets, lovingly restored. Presented by the puppet master and storyteller Vit Horejs, the traditional Czech tales include “The Stingy Tailor,” “Kacha and the Devil” and “Salt Over Gold,” a kind of Eastern European King Lear. At 3 p.m., Czech Center New York, Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd Street, Manhattan, (646) 422-3399, czechcenter.com; free.

Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebrations (Friday through Sunday) The name may sound scary, but Day of the Dead is a far cry from Halloween night: this cheerful Mexican holiday welcomes the returning souls of loved ones. From Friday through Sunday Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders will hold festivities at St. Mark’s Church, with altar building, live music, dancing and weekend workshops in creating sugar skulls, paper art, poetry and holiday bread. At 131 East 10th Street, East Village. Schedule and details: (212) 587-3070, manoamano.us. On Saturday the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian will hold its own celebration, with craft workshops; storytelling with the Colorado Sisters and Michael Heralda; and dancing by the Mexican troupe Cetiliztli Nauhcampa Quetzalcoatl. From noon to 5 p.m. George Gustav Heye Center, 1 Bowling Green, Lower Manhattan, (212) 514-3700, americanindian.si.edu; all events free.

Family Day: Diwali Lights Up Asia Society! (Saturday) Halloween isn’t the only holiday being celebrated this weekend. Asia Society will honor Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, with a program filled with arts, crafts and traditional performances. Highlights will include an interactive presentation of Reshma Sapre’s children’s book “In the Indian Night Sky” and a production of “Drumming a Dream,” a music-and-dance piece inspired by an Indian folk tale about a girl who dreams of owning a magical speaking drum. Featuring a score by Bruce Adolphe, it will be presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Thresh Productions. From 1 to 4 p.m., 725 Park Avenue, at 70th Street, (212) 288-6400, asiasociety.org; \$12; \$7 for members; \$5 for 65+ and children; free for those with family memberships.

‘Folktales of Asia and Africa’ (Saturday and Sunday) This production features some unusual stars: a flour sifter; egg beaters wrapped in napkins; steak knives; a barbecue baster; and salt and

pepper shakers. Examples of found-object puppetry, they will play characters in a series of stories from Myanmar, Japan and Zimbabwe. Adapted and performed by Jane Catherine Shaw, the tales are part of the La MaMa Puppet Series IV — Built to Perform. (Through Nov. 7.) At noon, La MaMa E.T.C., 74A East Fourth Street, East Village, (212) 475-7710, lamama.org; \$10; \$5 for children under 12.

‘Halloween Hoorah’ (Friday through Sunday) The Great Pumpkin isn’t just something Charlie Brown dreamed about; the New York Botanical Garden is now showing three pumpkins, each over 1,500 pounds, in its Leon Levy Visitor Center as part of “Halloween Hoorah.” (This weekend Scott Cully, who holds the Guinness world record for carving the largest pumpkin, will try to outdo himself by tackling the garden’s 1,810.5-pound example.) At the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, the celebration also includes seed sorting and experiments; “Creepy, Crawly Critter Exploration”; apple cider demonstrations (Saturday and Sunday afternoons only); a pumpkin playhouse; and craft activities. Everyone is also invited to be in a costume parade on Saturday and Sunday at noon and 2 p.m. Friday, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; New York Botanical Garden, Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W), at Fordham Road, Bedford Park, the Bronx, (718) 817-8700, nybg.org; weekdays, \$10; \$9 for 62+ and students; \$4 for children 2 to 12; free for members and under 2. Weekends, \$15, \$13 and \$8.

Halloween Bash/Open House (Saturday) Before going out with your goodie bag, learn a few tricks on the guitar or the drums. This open house at the School of Rock New York City will demonstrate the available programs at this unusual institution, which trains young people in playing rock music. Students enrolled will be jamming in the rehearsal rooms. At 5 p.m., 630 Ninth Avenue, at 45th Street, Suite 602, Manhattan, (917) 438-9141, schoolofrock.com/newyork/main_school.php; free.

‘Halloween Boo-Ya!’ (Saturday) At this benefit, listening to music will help create music. The pop and jazz performers Jeremy Plays Guitar, a.k.a. Jeremy Zmuda, and Oran Etkin will offer tunes to raise money for Kids Need a Melody, a nonprofit organization providing music classes, instruments and books to children in the shelter system. The festivities will also include a costume parade, a dance party and a photo booth. From noon to 3 p.m., Lincoln Park Tavern, 49 Lincoln Road, near Ocean Avenue, Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, Brooklyn, (718) 282-7097, jeremyplaysguitar.com; \$5; free for under 1.

Halloween Celebrations in Central Park (Saturday) The Grinch once tried to steal Christmas; now, apparently, someone is trying to get rid of Halloween. In “Halloween at Belvedere: A Monster Musical Adventure,” a boy works to save the holiday with help from friendly monsters. The 45-minute show, to be presented outdoors in Belvedere Castle Courtyard (weather permitting), midpark at 79th Street, will be performed hourly from noon through 3 p.m. Information: (212) 772-0210. North Meadow Recreation Center, midpark at 97th Street, will host “Spooktacular Sports” from 2 to 4 p.m., for ages 3 and older. Expect soccer “ghoul” kicking and “freak throw” contests. Information: (212) 348-4867. Finally, the Bandshell area, midpark at 72nd Street, will host the park’s Pumpkin Festival from noon to 5 p.m. In addition to a pumpkin patch, the event will offer puppets, hay rides, musical performances and the Circus Berzerkus Haunted House. centralparknyc.org, nycgovparks.org/events; all events free.

Halloween High Jinks on the High Line (Sunday) If any one person could symbolize Halloween in New York, it would probably be Ralph Lee, the puppet master and designer extraordinaire. He'll take his creativity to new heights in this program on the High Line, the elevated West Side railway that is now a park. Mr. Lee and students from nearby schools will welcome all to an afternoon of making spooky headdresses and dancing to live music. From 1 to 4 p.m., Chelsea Market Passage, 16th Street and 10th Avenue, thehighline.org; free.

'John Tartaglia's Imagenocean' (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday) John Tartaglia, who starred in the original cast of "Avenue Q," conceived this musical production, which uses black light and fluorescent creatures from the Puppet Kitchen to tell the story of three fish on an underwater adventure. William Wade wrote the music and lyrics. In substance, the show is more reminiscent of "Barney and Friends" than of "[Sesame Street](http://www.sesamestreet.org)," but children under 8 shouldn't mind. Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Sunday at noon and 3 p.m.; Wednesday at 11 a.m.; New World Stages, 340 West 50th Street, Clinton, (212) 239-6200, telecharge.com, imagenoceanthemusical.com; Saturday and Sunday, \$55 to \$75; Wednesday, \$39 to \$75. A limit of two rush tickets, at \$26.50 each, may be available at the box office only on the day of the performance.

'Little Red Riding Hood' (Saturday and Sunday) The Wolf isn't such a bad guy in this production of the story, presented for ages 3 and older by Galli's Fairytale Theater. The audience helps both him and Little Red in their adventures in the forest, which this weekend have a Halloween slant. Each show is followed by an optional workshop in which participating children can dress up in costume and put on a simple performance. Saturday and Sunday they will portray their favorite scary characters from fairy tales. At 3 p.m.; workshop at 4; National Comedy Theater, 347 West 36th Street, Manhattan, (212) 810-6485, gallitheaterny.com; \$15; \$10 for ages 2 through 17. Halloween package of ticket and postshow workshop, \$20.

'Monster Mash' (Saturday) In this case, it's a museum smash. The Brooklyn Children's Museum offers a D.J. dance party, a costume parade, "Creepy Crawly Creatures" (this museum has its own live-animal collection), a Mad Scientist's Laboratory and a Haunted Reading Room. "Bats in the Belfry," a special presentation by Dr. June Kasminoff, will explain how important bats are, and not just on Halloween. From 6 to 9 p.m., 145 Brooklyn Avenue, at St. Mark's Avenue, Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400, brooklynkids.org; \$10; \$5 for members.

'Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe' (Friday through Sunday) What kind of a mind created a poem like "The Raven"? Edgar Allan Poe was a talented and tortured soul, and this musical for ages 11 and older, from the Catalyst Theater in Canada, explores the origins of his inimitable genius. (Through Nov. 7.) Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m.; New Victory Theater, 209 West 42nd Street, Manhattan, (646) 223-3010, newvictory.org; \$14 to \$38; \$9 to \$25 for members.

Not Too Scary Halloween Party (Saturday) Expect lots of dancing à la Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video on the East Meadow outside the Staten Island Children's Museum. Its annual celebration will also include games, like Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin and a skull toss; crafts, including making skeleton puppets and pumpkin decorating;

and a haunted exhibit. From noon to 4 p.m., 1000 Richmond Terrace, Livingston , (718) 273-2060, stateniskids.org; free.

‘Pinkalicious, the Musical’ (Saturday and Sunday) It’s time to think pink again. This show for ages 4 to 12, from Vital Theater Company, is having yet another revival, so if you missed it, you can catch it now. Elizabeth and Victoria Kann have adapted their children’s book, in which the pink-obsessed title character finds out that sometimes being in the pink can be too much of a good thing. (John Gregor wrote the score and some of the lyrics.) Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.; Cherry Lane Theater, 38 Commerce Street, West Village , (212) 579-0528, pinkaliciousthemusical.com; \$29.50; \$25 for groups of 10 or more; \$49.50 for premium tickets.

‘Rapunzel’ (Saturday and Sunday) Manhattan Children’s Theater has revived this version by Kristin Walter, who has given the classic fairy tale new twists, and not just those in Rapunzel’s hair. In this musical adaptation, with a pop score by Michael Walter (the writers are siblings), the prince is not Rapunzel’s love but her twin, from whom she is separated not long after birth. And the witch has posed as the girl’s overprotective mother. (Through Nov. 7.) At noon and 2 p.m., Manhattan Children’s Theater, 52 White Street, near Church Street, TriBeCa , (212) 352-3101, theatermania.com; \$20.

‘Screamin’ Green Halloween’ (Saturday) Forget about goblins and ghosts. Want to know what’s really scary? Global warming and rising levels of pollution. This afternoon celebration at the World Financial Center Winter Garden will help combat those dangers with environmentally friendly Halloween alternatives, like making masks out of recycled materials; swapping costumes from last year; and playing games that include bowling with “ghost pins” made out of repurposed soda bottles. The day will end with a costume parade to Poets House for snacks and a reading of spooky verse. From noon to 4 p.m., 220 Vesey Street, Lower Manhattan , (212) 945-0505, artsworldfinancialcenter.com; free.

Spooktacular Halloween Celebration (Sunday) This is a real “night at the museum” — or at least an afternoon. The [American Museum of Natural History](http://AmericanMuseumofNaturalHistory) will open its halls to young trick-or-treaters for Halloween crafts; live performances (including the Big Nazo puppet troupe and David Grover and the Big Bear Band); costumed characters like Curious George and Clifford the Big Red Dog; and, of course, goodies. From 2 to 5 p.m., Central Park West and 79th Street , (212) 769-5200, amnh.org; \$10; \$9 for members. Special Monster Meal packages, which include admission, are \$19 and \$18.

‘Tigers the Exhibition: Tracking a Legend’ (Friday through Thursday) The most common way of getting inside a tiger isn’t much fun — just ask the deer in Asia. But now children in New York can inhabit a Bengal tiger through means that are risk-free and entertaining. That experience lies in “Tigers the Exhibition: Tracking a Legend,” a multimedia show at the South Street Seaport built around the work of the filmmaker and photographer Carol Amore. The interactive displays include a look through night-vision goggles to imitate a tiger’s acute vision; “Talk Like a Tiger,” an exercise in imitating recorded tiger sounds; scans of tiger anatomy; and a digital climbing wall for young jungle explorers. (Through Jan. 15.) Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; last entry is an hour before closing. Third-floor atrium, Pier 17, Fulton and South Streets, Lower Manhattan , (800) 745-3000, tigersnyc.com; ticketmaster.com; \$11.50

to \$17; family packages (two adults and two children) are \$46, and \$48 on weekends.

‘Tricks and Treats’ (Saturday) A carousel is an even more entertaining way to travel than a witch’s broom. The one in Bryant Park will welcome trick-or-treaters ages 3 to 8 with a festival that includes crafts, pumpkin painting, magic, storybook readings by the mascot Flaubert the Frog and, of course, rides. From noon to 2 p.m., Avenue of the Americas at 40th Street, 40th Street side, (212) 768-4242, bryantpark.org; admission is free; carousel rides are \$2, or \$15 for a discount card for 10 rides.

‘Tut or Treat!’ (Saturday and Sunday) What better way to spend Halloween weekend than in the company of a mummy? The exhibition “[Tutankhamun](#) and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs,” which displays more than 130 ancient Egyptian artifacts and a reproduction of Tut’s mummy, will welcome the first 100 guests in costume each day with a Tut memento. All children will also receive a free Tut tattoo and have the opportunity to watch three old movies, free with an exhibition ticket: “The Mummy,” “The Mummy’s Hand” and “Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy.” Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Discovery Times Square Exposition, 226 West 44th Street, Manhattan, (888) 988-8692, kingtutnyc.com; \$29.50; \$26.50 for 65+; \$19.50 for ages 4 through 12; free for under 4. Online only, a family pack for two adults and two children is \$83.50, and golden tickets (with special benefits) are \$38.25. V.I.P. passes are \$75.

‘The Wizard of Oz 4-D Experience’ (Saturday through Friday) The Yellow Brick Road now begins in Times Square, where Madame Tussauds New York is presenting this new attraction. The road, which starts with a wax figure of [Judy Garland](#) as Dorothy, leads into the Poppy Fields and a huge re-creation of the Emerald City. It culminates with a 3-D film incorporating converted footage from the original “Wizard of Oz,” along with effects like powerful winds to mimic the Kansas tornado. (Daily through November.) From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Madame Tussauds New York, 234 West 42nd Street, Manhattan, (800) 246-8872, nycwax.com; included in all-access passes to the museum: \$35.50; \$32.50 for ages 60+; \$28 for 4 through 12; free for under 4.

‘The Wizard of Oz’ (Friday through Sunday, and Tuesday through Thursday) The latest tornado to hit New York poses no danger, as the Children’s Museum of Manhattan celebrates “The Wizard of Oz” with this new interactive exhibition. In addition to recreating scenes from the 1939 movie, the show teaches about science (including how a tornado forms and experiments with light) and offers challenges like capturing the witch’s broom from the winged monkeys. (Through Jan. 9.) From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 7 p.m. on Saturdays); Tisch Building, 212 West 83rd Street, (212) 721-1223, cmom.org; free with museum admission: \$10; \$7 for 65+; free for under 1 and members.

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