

Touchstone Theatre's Christmas City Follies

The Bethlehem Gadfly Arts, the, Touchstone Theater November 22, 2020

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Christmas City Follies

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21st Edition of Christmas City Follies Goes Online

Touchstone Theatre's quirky holiday classic comes to YouTube

BETHLEHEM, PA – Touchstone Theatre announces *Christmas City Follies XXI*, the theatre's annual holiday-themed variety show, to be presented online for 2020. *Follies* will premiere on YouTube on December 20, 2020 at 7pm with a watch party and then be available to view through January 2, 2021.

A favorite of Lehigh Valley residents past and present, many locals and tourists alike have come to count *Christmas City Follies* as part of their holiday tradition, coming out to Touchstone's cozy black box theatre for an evening of original sketches, characters, songs, and more. The show traditionally ranges from the sublime to the ridiculous, with subject matter that has included family stories, dancing hippos, snow camels, holiday yoga, and kazoo-playing Christmas trees.

In the midst of an unusual year and an unusual season, Touchstone has elected to forego an in-person performance in favor of shooting this year's *Follies* as a movie; the company will continue to create and perform material for its eclectic cast of characters, filmed as scenes on Touchstone's property and around Bethlehem, using the Christmas City as its backdrop. The show will feature returning Touchstone favorites like the Old Guy, Little Red, the Better Not Shout Network, and the Shopping Cart Ballet, as well as a host of new music, personalities, sketches, and stories.

"Santa brought us all the gift of reinvention this year with our 21st edition of *Follies*," says artistic director Jp Jordan. "It's exhilarating to be able to take on this work from a completely new perspective."

The Touchstone company will also be performing an in-person "mini Follies" at outdoor holiday events across Bethlehem between Saturday, November 28th and Sunday, December 6th, featuring clownish characters delivering classic Christmas carols to shoppers. Locations include the Historic Bethlehem Museum and Sites new Christmas in the Quarter, the Sun Inn Courtyard's Wintergarten, and the South Side Arts District's New St. Christmas Tree.

Christmas City Follies is sponsored by Peoples Security Bank and Trust; the show receives additional support from the County of Northampton. Touchstone's season is supported locally by season sponsor RCN. WDIY

provides media sponsorship, and Working Dog Press provides print sponsorship.

Christmas City Follies XXI premieres with a watch party on December 20, 2020 at 7pm and will remain available online through January 2, 2021. Tickets are: \$12 for individuals and \$35 for households.

Touchstone typically also offers a Pay-What-You-Will at the door ticket and instead will be offering a reduced \$5 ticket for those who would benefit from a discounted admission. This year, tickets are a link that audience members will use to view the show online. Tickets go on sale November 20th and may be purchased at 610.867.1689 or online at www.touchstone.org

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