

Press Release

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Holiday Show Premiere: Christmas in Williamsburg

After years of staging Nutcracker performances, The Institute for Dance has set its sights on a Christmas fantasy closer to home. *Christmas in Williamsburg: A Magical Night on Duke of Gloucester* will debut December 9 at the Kimball Theatre. Its creators hope that the musical revue will establish a new Williamsburg holiday tradition.

The show tells the story of a family who rediscovers the magic of Christmas. As the parents and children make their way down Duke of Gloucester street, they encounter a variety of wonders: toys and candies that come to life, waiters in a colonial tavern who flip through the air and tap dance, and a high-kicking chorus line of reindeer. Classical ballet dancers from the Williamsburg Ballet Theater dance company, featuring soloist Kristine Antis, join the cast of eighty local singers, actors and dancers.

"Our idea is to bring a little bit of Radio City Music Hall right here to Williamsburg," says Sharon Davis, production manager and co-creator of the new show. "We want to provide something different for our community at Christmas time, a show that highlights what makes Williamsburg special."

Davis, together with co-creator Kathy Martin-Palmo, studio director at the Institute for Dance, began writing the show nearly a year ago. Martin-Palmo is a New-York trained dancer and choreographer who specializes in show-stopping numbers in tap and jazz. "In addition to the flash and magic of the production, there is a message," she says. "Sometimes we get so busy during the holidays that we forget to slow down and really notice our own children. The family in our show relearns the value of spending time together playing board games, sharing a meal, and appreciating fleeting but beautiful moments."

The new production will be staged on December 9 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Kimball Theatre Box Office or by calling 1-800-HISTORY.