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Dark and light.

December brings the darkest days of the year, and we respond with lights. Whether it's a menorah, a kinara or a Christmas tree, we make light to push back the dark. And then there's Krampus. Some of us kindle our inner fire and howl at the moon, embracing the dark.

We can't think of a better metaphor for this year. It's been pretty dark. We've watched friends lose their livelihoods and theaters go dark for good. Then, just when it all seemed hopeless, a little light from the Zoom screen flickered and

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the arts again.

As we prepare to roll into an uncertain 2022, we wanted to take a moment and point to the light. One of those bright spots is Camp Christmas. Conceived as an over-the-top celebration of all that is Santa, Camp opened in 2019, just before the pandemic. Locked down, Camp went virtual and it struggled through the holidays with the rest of us. This year, Camp returns, bigger than ever, with lights and delights that brings new meaning and cheer to the immersive selfie palace.

And yes, Casa Bonita was purchased by some Hollywood billionaires. And Meow Wolf pulled into Convergence Station to rave reviews. Meanwhile, we hear backroom talk about bringing back shows that were scrapped by Covid and new companies investing in exciting new Mile High ventures.

So, yeah. There's the threat of more Covid. There's political unrest and cultural ennui. What a great time to be in the arts. The world needs us more than ever.

Happy Holidays and have a great New Year!

-- The Immersive Denver Cabal: David, Christine, Brea and (from afar) Jenny!

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## In this issue

End your year right: Thinking about immersive, planning for immersive and immersing in immersive.

- Visit Camp Christmas
- Check out the Cave of Yuletide Villains
- Makes plans for attending Next Stage
- Attend the Control Group Super FUN(draiser)
- Or grab one of the remaining tix to our Immersive Denver fundraiser!

Read on brave soul.

LIVE PRODUCTIONS

## Camp Christmas

PRESENTED BY HANZON STUDIOS AND DCPA OFF-CENTER



**An over-the-top, outdoor extravaganza  
as big as the season it celebrates!**

OK, you have *read* about Camp Christmas. You've watched the Instagram videos. Maybe you even attended in the past. But have you really experienced Camp Christmas in its new sprawling, glittering location?

Enjoy a family-friendly evening of seasonal cheer and eye-watering light displays. Also, for a small extra fee, your kid can spend some safe, quality time with racially and ethnically diverse Santas, including special options for ASL and Spanish speaking Mr. Claus available.

We've been and it really is a winter wonderland.

**Where:** Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park 801 South Yarrow Street, Lakewood, CO

**When:** Through Jan 2

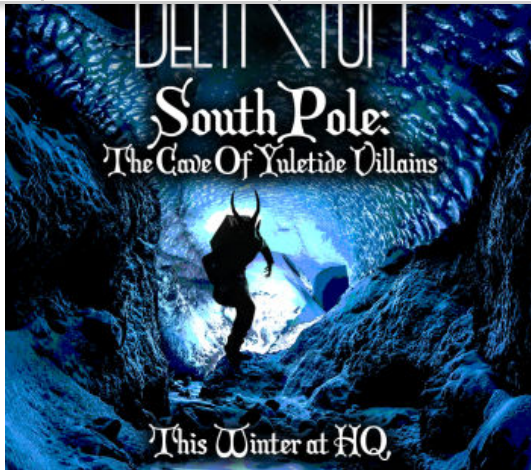
**Pricing:** \$15-30

For more information and tickets: <https://www.denvercenter.org/tickets-events/camp-christmas/>

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## South Pole: The Cave Of Yuletide Villains

PRESENTED BY DELIRIUM

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production of the Devil's Instrument, here's another chance to grab a table, gobble some snacks and throw back a few drinks while sinking into another world located below the HQ bar and performance space.

This time, your evening's entertainment revolves around Krampus, Scrooge, Frau Perchta and other holiday naughties. Will the Heat Miser show up? How about those crooks from Home Alone? Or maybe your drunk Uncle Earl will make an appearance. If it's bad, it could happen! This cocktail/cabaret experience provides an alternative to the usual jingling bells and holiday cheer. Humbug.

**Where:** HQ at 60 South Broadway, Denver

**When:** Through Dec. 26th

**Pricing:** \$50 for a table for two.

Show runs approximately 75 minutes. Food and drink available for purchase.

More information:

<https://whatisdelirium.com/>

## DICKENS: A FAMILY HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

PRESENTED BY FOUR MILE HISTORIC PARK

The most fun your family will have during the holidays: An action packed, choose your own adventure Dickens experience. Transport yourself to the 1800s with carolers, a

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market, and of course delicious food and drink.

**Where:** Four Mile Historic Park

715 South Forest Street

Denver, CO 80246

**When:** Sat, December 11, 2021 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Pricing:** \$50 ages 12+, \$25 ages 3-11, Under 3 Free

Tickets and more

info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dickens-a-family-holiday-event-tickets-175071843597>

## KRAMPUS: THE FINAL CHAPTER

PRESENTED BY THIRTEENTH FLOOR HAUNTED HOUSE



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...demonic turn in this Christmas-themed, immersive haunted house.

Keep your eyes peeled and find all of your favorite holiday traditions, but this time full of holiday fear!

**Where:** 13th Floor Haunted House, 3400 E. 52nd Ave., Denver, CO 80216

**When:** Dec 17th 7:00p-10:00p; Dec 18th 5:30pm-10:30pm

**Pricing:** Tickets start at \$24.99.

For more information and tickets: <https://www.13thfloorhauntedhouse.com/>



## Holidaze Drinking

When did Christmas become such a drunk holiday? Or maybe it always has been and we just didn't have Instagram to document all the sloppiness.

Whatever the reason, Denver is overrun with Holiday Pop Up Bars. And [Westword has done us all the favor of rounding them up](#)

Cheers!

Learning and Networking

## THE NEXT STAGE

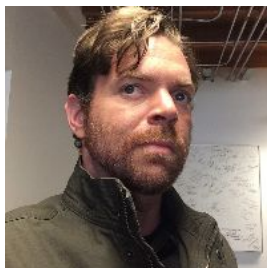
PRESENTED BY THE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE INSTITUTE



### ***A note from Immersive Denver***

*When we started Immersive Denver, we decided to focus on three things: community building, education, and advocacy. With those things in mind, we want to encourage every Mile High Immersive producer, performer, creator and dreamer to consider finding the funds to attend the Next Stage event next month. If you are not familiar with the Next Stage, this is the latest incarnation of what was originally known as the Immersive Design Summit, then the HERE Fest. Whatever the name, this is the THE community event for immersive art and entertainment.*

*To give you a behind-the-scenes glimpse, we cornered [No Procecenium](#), [Everything Immersive](#) and [Next Stage](#) impresario Noah Nelson to get the inside scoop:*



### **Immersive Denver: In a nutshell, what is Next Stage and why should immersive creatives care?**

**Noah Nelson:** Look, there's a LOT of tech & entertainment conferences and expos. IAAPA and AWE just cycled through for themed entertainment and XR, respectively, but when it comes to the immersive & experiential arts as their own thing... well this is OUR SPACE. This is where we bring the digital and the physical together and start introducing these creative minds to each other. So that means that yeah, Disney Imagineering and Meow Wolf are going to be there and

scrappy teams making XR work in their living rooms and escape room owners who have redefined what those can mean will be right alongside with them. We're talking as a community all day through the session and at night we go play together in various shows and events on campus and around town.

**ID: As an emerging industry, we see a lot of value in getting immersive arts and entertainment folks together just to meet and share ideas. What kind of platform is Next Stage for getting cross connected in these wildly divergent immersive industries?**

**NN:** While we still have a lot of talks and panels-- because even though I'm not a huge fan of the format I've learned how valuable they are for helping people figure out who they want to connect with--the part that gets me going is our Town Hall and the Salons. That's where we remix the panel format into being a conversation with the community. The "high table" of panelists talk for a bit to show you where they're coming from and then it's all small group conversations. There are four salons on specific topics -- Business, Accessibility, Impact, and Live Performance in XR -- and then the big Town Hall that everyone is invited to where we will tackle how we define and measure success as an industry

So much of this comes down to the scale of it all: we've got just shy of 100 of the most dynamic leaders and artists in the immersive fields, 100 folks coming on scholarship and partial scholarship, and then just 200 GA badges up for grabs. While this is the largest we've planned out, we really value the intimacy of what we're doing and so much of that comes down to making sure there's a good balance in the room from across the different fields.



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versions of this event the major feedback was everyone wanting more time, so we're making space for that and the Mini-Festival side of things.

**ID Finally, here's your chance to address the usual reasons people can't go--too far, too much money, too much time, I already know this stuff, I can't get off work!**

**NN:** Well: if you think it's all about just absorbing people talking about things you already know about I'm not sure how I can convince you otherwise. Other than to say: that's not really the point. I've been to a LOT of conferences, expos, conventions, etc. over the years and I often end up disappointed. The most interesting stuff is what happens between the sessions, the hallway conversations and the after hours talks. While we haven't perfected the formula yet, year-over-year we get better at creating space to connect and putting these constellations of people together who draw the best out of each other.

We really aim to create an event where you are going to meet your next team/boss/mentor/padawan/creative soulmate. We can't guarantee that, but anyone here will see it is not for a lack of trying.

As for the price: if I was an eccentric millionaire I'd give these tickets away for free. Unfortunately I'm just a working stiff and we're balancing the third of badges we give away with the two thirds we sell and aiming to break even and hopefully pay the staff. Every dollar goes to making the thing possible and as good as we can make it, then set ourselves up to do it again and do it better.

**ID: The schedule is JAMMED with content this year. Pick three things every attendee can't miss.**

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folks to do one track instead of another... here's what I'll do instead: Make sure to plan on being there for the whole thing. That means from the first to the last. When we drop the schedule in mid-December it will be clear that we are opening and closing each day with great sessions. Above all else, plan on taking an active role in Town Hall. It is the centerpiece of the whole weekend for a reason.

**Where:** The Pasadena Playhouse Pasadena, CA

**When:** Jan 7-9, 2021

**Pricing:** \$700 for a 3-day event badge

Find out more: <https://www.immersiveexperience.org/>

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## COMMUNITY NEWS



Control Group wants to see you at their **Super-FUN(draiser)**

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documentary "Immateriality" along with give aways and wonderful social space.

The event also coincides with [Colorado Gives Day](#). So, it's a perfect time to support the arts while enjoying the arts.

**Where:** Local 46, 4586 Tennyson St, Denver

**When:** 4-9pm, Tuesday, Dec. 7th

For more information <https://www.facebook.com/events/883907022318534>

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## Be safe out there

With Covid rates up and worries about new strains of the virus, Denver County has issued new face-covering ordinances. Find out more about the rules and stay up to date on best practices around Covid safety here:

<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/COVID-19-Information/Frequently-Asked-Questions#section-2>

Looking for some legal background on your rights and responsibilities around employee safety with regards to Covid? FlorinRoebig has put together some legal advice: <https://florinroebig.com/workplace-discrimination-covid-19/>

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**JOIN US AT CAMP!**

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Immersive Denver is a volunteer organization that depends on the good will of the community to continue its work programming immersive educational and networking events and promoting the form in the Mile High City.

This year, thanks to the generosity of Hanzon Studios and Off-Center, we are offering a small group of folks an exclusive back-stage tour of Camp Christmas. Led by Old Man Christmas himself, Lonnie Hanzon will give us a producer's-eye view of what an event like Camp takes.

Your donation to Immersive Denver puts you on the list for this one-of-a-kind event and helps us defray expenses we incur running this group--such as web fees, printing and event costs.

Interested in joining us?

The tour runs 4-5:30pm, Thursday, Dec 9th.

There are only a few spots remaining!

[Sign up now!](#)

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### Camp Christmas Casa Bonita BNB

We can dream, can't we? A extravaganza that blends the maximalist aesthetics of Camp with the campy qualities of Casa Bonita in a camping experience par excellence. Show up with your sleeping bag and stake out your spot a under the permanent nighttime skies of our favorite Mexican cafeteria. Stop by the bar and enjoy a spiked Chocolate Bandito before singing Mariachi songs around the camp fire. Visit Santa in the mine. And don't miss the LED-lit divers plummeting into a glowing pool of wonder. Enjoy the history of Christmas while you wait in line for your food. Pun trees! Pink Bart's Cave! Free wifi and coffee!

We want it all. And we wont settle for less.

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