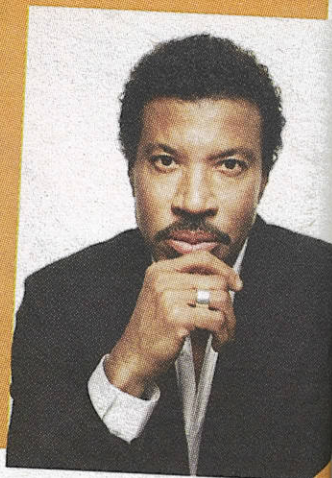


FALL

# LIGHTS UP ON FALL

The season's exciting lineup of live performance transports audiences

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With summer vacation a distant memory and the holidays far from sight, the daily doldrums of life may seem endless. Luckily, with the release of local performing arts centers' new seasons, escape can happen in 90 minutes or less. With world-class performances of theater, dance and music, you'll be left wondering just where you want to go next. The following are just a few of the countless selections offered this autumn.

With 10 companies in residence, and a calendar chock-full of touring productions, something is always happening in any one of the three performance spaces at **The Tobin Center for the Performing Arts**. Regardless of the season, some events still include a "splash zone," especially when longtime comedian Gallagher is involved. Gallagher's *Joke's On You Tour* (October 4) features his famous food-smashing sledge-o-matic, so you better bring a poncho or prepare to leave dirty. For more laughs, the "Southern-fried version of Dame Edna" loads oodles of plastic goodies onstage for *Dixie's Tupperware Party* (October 8-11). Combining drag with an unbeatable sales pitch, the show includes free giveaways and audience participation; and yes, you can really purchase the Tupperware. Later, Italy's Teatro del Drago returns to San Antonio with a magic puppet-filled retelling of *Pinocchio* (November 11-22) as part of AtticRep's International Festival of Performance of San Antonio. Established in 1820, the puppet troupe represents five generations of the Monticelli family's commitment to the art of puppetry.

And if you fancy yourself an audiophile, both Lionel Richie (October 22) and Liza Minnelli (November 28) are included among the impressive roster of concerts offered this season. 100 Auditorium Circle, [tobincenter.org](http://tobincenter.org).

Since 1992, **ARTS San Antonio** has cast an impressive net in its quest to bring the world's finest entertainment to venues around the city. *The National Acrobats and Circus of China* (October 6, Majestic Theatre) tumbles into town with their acrobatic spectacle first performed for the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. For even more movement based work, Ballet Hispanico performs the sensual *CARMEN. Maquia* (October 22, Lila Cockrell Theatre), based on Georges Bizet's iconic opera about a passionate gypsy.

The kids will go wild for Imago Theater's *ZooZoo* (November 8, Aztec Theatre). The production features polar bears, anteaters, penguins and more in an immersive theatrical experience merging mime, dance, music and special effects.

Between **The Majestic Theatre** and the **Charline McCombs Empire Theatre**, there's plenty of material for countless date nights. Audiences can settle into a demon's point of view in the stage adaptation of C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* (October 10). Set in an office in hell, one of Satan's senior tempters teaches his nephew how to make damnation enticing. An alternative to the novelist's satiric view of hell is *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Live On Stage* (October 22), combining rock and rodents for an experience straight