

San Antonio Express-News

16 sweet reasons to welcome 2016

From fine art to comedy, opera to ‘The X-Files,’ here are the cultural events you won’t want to miss in the coming year

By Jim Kiest, Deborah Martin [and Hector Saldana](#)

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Photo: Damian Dovarganes /Associated Press

Los Lobos augment a night with folkloric dancing at the Majestic Theatre

From fine art to comedy, opera to ‘The X-Files,’ here are the cultural events San Antonians won’t want to miss in the new year

Madonna

Though she may have long since relinquished the top of the pop charts to the likes of [Taylor Swift](#) and Adele, Madonna can still fill a dance floor — check out the ultra-contemporary “Illuminati” on her 2015 album “Rebel Heart” — and stage a spectacular concert. According to the [Hollywood Reporter](#), a two-hour September concert at Madison Square Garden left even her most dedicated fans “surprised and fulfilled.”

Jan. 10, AT&T Center

“The X-Files”

Yes, there are space aliens in this six-part miniseries, going all the way back to Roswell. Above and beyond that, though, “The X-Files” was a show about conspiracy, and who could deny that the country at large has become much more conspiracy-minded in the years since the show left the air, fueled by the explosion of Internet news sites and social media. That’s the world [David Duchovny](#), as [Fox Mulder](#) (above), and [Gillian Anderson](#) as [Dana Scully](#), return to at the invitation of an [Alex Jones](#)-like talk show host who has something, and someone, to show them.

Debuts Jan. 24 on Fox.

[Lucinda Williams](#)

Virtuoso songwriter Williams hits the road, the source of inspiration for some of her best songs, on her new album, “The [Ghosts of Highway 20](#),” which takes its name from the highway that runs through Shreveport, Grambling and Monroe, Louisiana. Players include [Greg Leisz](#) and Bill Frisell.

Album released Feb. 5

More albums to watch for: [David Bowie](#), “Blackstar,” Jan. 8; [Elton John](#), “Wonderful Crazy Night,” Feb. 5; [Bonnie Raitt](#), “Dig in Deep,” Feb. 26

“The Abduction

From the Seraglio”

Opera Piccola boldly goes where it has never gone before with a “Star Trek”-themed take on Mozart’s opera. [Josh Shaw](#), who is directing the production, has updated the composer’s tale about a couple of guys endeavoring to rescue their gal pals from a harem as a “Trek” episode. That’s original “Star Trek,” by the way; the show was designed to mark the sci-fi series’ 50th anniversary.

Feb. 6-7, [Charline McCombs Empire Theatre](#).

More opera to watch for: Opera San Antonio's "Il Trovatore," March 31-April 2, [Tobin Center for the Performing Arts](#)

"Deadpool"

This superhero flick is set within the Marvel Universe — some X-Men make appearances — but not a territory we're familiar with. Played by [Ryan Reynolds](#), Deadpool is a fast-talking, practically unkillable mercenary who is self-aware but not altogether stable. Expect the — gasp! — R-rated movie to be darker, funnier and way more violent than the average costumed hero romp.

Opens Feb. 12

More comic-book movies to watch for: "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," March 25; "Captain America: Civil War," May 6; "Doctor Strange," Nov. 4

[Los Lobos](#) and Ballet Folklorico Mexicano

Presented by ARTS San Antonio, "Fiesta Mexico Americana!" combines the East Los Angeles rock 'n' roll of the legendary Los Lobos and dazzling traditional dances of the costumed Ballet Folklorico Mexicano in a multimedia production that highlights the achievements and contributions of Mexican Americans in the U.S. Los Lobos arrive with their latest album, "Gates of Gold." Don't be surprised to see [Max Baca](#) and [Josh Baca](#) of Los TexManiacs sitting in on the Chicano rock.

Feb. 12, [Majestic Theatre](#)

" Fargo " season two

In one of many tense moments in season one of the FX series, former state cop [Lou Solverson](#) ([Keith Carradine](#)) told of a case he'd worked in which so many people were killed, "if you stacked (the bodies) high, could've climbed to the second floor." Season two zips back in time to '79 to explore that case, in which a car accident following a shootout in a Waffle Hut leads to all-out war between two organized-crime factions. It's a satisfyingly twisty tale, with lots of bloodshed and crackling dialogue.

On Blu-ray and DVD Feb. 23

"Ghostbusters"

Who you gonna call for summertime yucks? From "Bridesmaids" to "Spy," no director has made better comedies in recent years than [Paul Feig](#). Here, he revives the beloved, be-slimed [Bill Murray-Dan Aykroyd](#) franchise with "Bridesmaids" stars [Kristen Wiig](#) and [Melissa McCarthy](#).

Opens July 15

“Kinky Boots”

The much-acclaimed, Tony-winning musical pays its first visit to San Antonio. The show is based on the 2005 movie about a bootmaker whose struggling business gets a boost after he connects with a drag queen in need of sturdy stilettos. The show’s score, written by [Cyndi Lauper](#), includes “Sex Is In the Heel,” “What a Woman Wants” and “The Soul of a Man.”

Jan. 26-31, Majestic Theatre

More theater to watch for: “Bullets Over Broadway,” March 6, Tobin Center for the Performing Arts; “Saturday Night Fever,” March 28, Tobin Center; “Motown: The Musical,” May 3-8, Majestic Theatre.

“Pee-wee’s Big Holiday”

Fans of Pee-wee Herman’s ‘80s Saturday morning TV show and movies such as “Pee-wee’s Big Adventure” would be forgiven for thinking that his life was one long play date. Apparently, however, the bow-tied rascal has never taken a break. That changes in this movie, which follows the 2010 stage revival of [Paul Reubens](#)’ popular character, after he meets a mysterious stranger.

Premieres in March on Netflix.

“Rodin: The Human Experience”

This big spring exhibit is devoted to the French artist who is considered the first modern sculptor features more than 30 bronzes from the Iris & [B. Gerald Cantor Collections](#). Highlights include works based on Rodin’s “The Gates of Hell,” sculptures of Balzac and Hugo, and a work that is both a portrayal of God and a self-portrait. Hmmm.

March 5-May 29, [San Antonio Museum of Art](#)

Steven Wright

One of the all-time great comics, a king of surrealistic deadpan humor and a true comedy anti-hero, Wright is making his first San Antonio appearance this year. The Grammy- and Emmy-nominated performer won an Academy Award in 1989 for the short film “The Appointments of Dennis Jennings.” Lately, his contributions to “Louie” with [Louis C.K.](#) have received critical acclaim.

April 1, Tobin Center for the Performing Arts

More comedy to watch for: [Brian Regan](#), Jan. 9, Majestic Theatre; [Janeane Garofalo](#), Jan. 10, Tobin Center for the Performing Arts; [Jerry Seinfeld](#), Feb. 5, Majestic Theatre; and Lewis Black, March 31, Majestic Theatre

Future

Atlanta rapper's words tell hard tales of the drug trade and all the sex, if not love or happiness, money can buy. His music creates mindscapes — sometimes cosmic, sometimes claustrophobic — with beats that disturb the songs rather than moving them forward. Together they made “DS2” one of the strangest, strongest albums of 2015.

May 10, Aztec Theater

John Fogerty

The band adds an arena rock punch to the familiar swamp-rock boogie. Otherwise, John Fogerty in concert is everything a Creedence fan would want, a parade of classic hits such as “Fortunate Son,” “Bad Moon Rising” and “Who’ll Stop the Rain,” plus solo sure shots like “Centerfield.” Fogerty, a very vital 70-year-old, looks like he’s having a blast to at last be playing these songs again.

May 12, Majestic Theatre

Demi Lovato

There were some bumps in the road along the way, but Lovato has completed the journey from the Disney Channel to pop stardom. She had a steamy hit with “Cool for the Summer” and delivered a confident, grown-up performance on “Saturday Night Live” in October. Lovato is on the road with fellow former child star Nick Jonas.

Sept. 10, AT&T Center

“Maya: Hidden World Revealed”

The touring show will mark the debut of the Mays Family Center for Special Events and Exhibitions, the newest facility to open on the evolving [Witte Museum](#) campus. The massive exhibit explores all aspects of Mayan civilization with hands-on activities, immersive environments and all kinds of artifacts.

May 14-Sept. 5, Witte Museum

Staff writers Jim Kiest, Deborah Martin and Hector Saldaña contributed to this report.