

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 29, 2015

New *Holiday Train Show*[®] at NYBG Is Bigger Than Ever!

Special Programs Enhance Winter Wonderland Experience for All Ages
With Holiday Activities and Performances



Children can enjoy Thomas & Friends™ sing-along mini-performances. © 2016 Gullane (Thomas) Limited

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden's enchanting *Holiday Train Show*[®] returns this year with a major 3,000-square-foot expansion for this beloved New York City seasonal tradition. G-scale locomotives hum along nearly a half-mile of track around replicas of New York landmarks, artistically crafted of natural materials such as bark, twigs, stems, fruits, seeds, and pine cones by designer Paul Busse's team at Applied Imagination. Grand Central Terminal, Radio City Music Hall, the historic Hudson River Valley houses, Brooklyn Bridge, and Rockefeller Center are among the favorites in the Botanical Garden's collection of more than 150 *Holiday Train Show* replicas. Opening on Saturday, November 21, 2015, the show runs through Monday, January 18, 2016.

In addition to the enhanced exhibition experience, the Garden grounds transform into a winter wonderland with programming for all ages to enjoy:

- During **Evergreen Express** in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, children embark on a journey through a variety of hands-on activity stations to explore cones, needles, and other amazing evergreen plant parts and craft a miniature balsam fir sachet. Families can also walk the trails of the Adventure Garden on a scavenger hunt in search of beautiful evergreen trees and shrubs. Each weekend brings even more fun with Holiday Train Parades and Ralph Lee's Artist Station, where children can build their own train puppets. The Everett Children's Adventure Garden is open all day for

exploration. Guided Activities: Weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Holiday Week (December 26–January 1), 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

- Attend the **Holiday Tree Lighting** of a stunning conifer display by special guests, and join in an old-fashioned sing-along with the Westchester Chordsmen featuring carols from many traditions. Sunday, November 22, 4–5:15 p.m.
- Hear **former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins** at a special reading of his work and train-themed poems—including beloved winter selections to celebrate the season—on Saturday, December 12 at 2 p.m. Space is limited; reserve your tickets in advance to guarantee seating. Get your tickets [here](#) and select the special *All-Garden Pass* titled Poetry for Every Season Reading: *Holiday Train Show*.
- Stroll through the Leon Levy Visitor Center and along Perennial Garden Way to read train-inspired poems by Billy Collins in the **Poetry for Every Season: Holiday Poetry Walk**. Poetry will be displayed in the landscape and accompanied by a free cell phone audio tour. Co-presented with the Poetry Society of America.
- The **Winter Harmonies Concert Series** on December 13 & 20 presents Bach's Brandenburg Concertos #4 and #5, Vivaldi's "Winter," and other holiday classics performed by Le Train Bleu with music director Ransom Wilson. Concerts begin at 4 p.m. and last approximately 75 minutes. New this year is a family concert each day at 2 p.m., lasting 45 minutes. Visit nybg.org for additional information.
- Celebrate the holidays with **Holiday A Cappella**, a mix of traditional and contemporary seasonal music performed by a cappella musicians. Saturdays and Sundays, November 21–January 18; 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.
- Watch holiday classics during **Holiday Film Screenings** on Fridays–Sundays, November 21–December 20; daily, December 21–31.
- Join daily explorations of the Garden's landmarks and find the beauty in the winter landscape during the **Holiday Landmark Tour** and **Winter Wonderland Tree Tour**.
- In January every toddler's favorite train comes to the Garden in **All Aboard with Thomas & Friends™**. Join Thomas and Driver Sam on a fun-filled, sing-along, mini-performance adventure by helping them decorate the station in time for the big Sodor surprise party before the guest of honor arrives! Parents: Make sure to have a professional photo taken with Thomas to capture the special day! Select dates, January 2–24. Visit nybg.org for the full performance schedule. Admission to the Thomas & Friends performance is included with the purchase of select *Holiday Train Show* tickets; specific timed tickets must be reserved.

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Visit the Garden's Web site, nybg.org, to check dates and times for all of the holiday offerings and to purchase advance timed tickets.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway.

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS:

During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 21, 2015–January 18, 2016, The New York Botanical Garden is open Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Saturdays, November 21–January 16; Friday, November 27 (day after Thanksgiving); and December 26–January 1. The Garden is closed all day on November 26 (Thanksgiving) and December 25 (Christmas); it closes at 3 p.m. on December 11 and 24 (Christmas Eve).

PRICING:

All-Garden Pass tickets start at \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 2–12) and differ during certain peak times and weekends. Members and children under 2 are free.

Advance timed tickets are strongly recommended and are available at nybg.org. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours at 718.817.8687. For more information, please visit our Web site at nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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Images and b-roll available.