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Wonderland: Curious Nature* Complemented by Vibrant Offering of Public Programming and Culinary Delights Inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass, And What Alice Found There

The All-New, Garden-Wide Exhibition Runs May 18 through October 27, 2024



We Players, some of the roaming performers on weekends during *Wonderland* (Photo by Mark Kitaoka)



Tea Party Parties on Thursday afternoons (Photo by Steve Legato)

Bronx, NY—A vibrant offering of public programming and culinary delights complements the magnificent flower show and contemporary art installations on view in *Wonderland: Curious Nature* at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). Inspired by the beloved classic *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and its sequel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*, the multi-seasonal exhibition runs from May 18 through October 27, 2024. Visitors of all ages can choose their own adventures from engaging daytime programs and exciting night experiences to fantastical tea parties and character encounters.

Programming for Children and for Adults

Opening Weekend Garden Party Celebration

Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, 2024; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Daffodil Hill and Clay Picnic Pavilions

Dine like royalty as a special guest at the Queen's Tea. Race the White Rabbit, become tongue-tied with the Tweedles, or sit for a springtime chat with Alice herself. Partake of Wonderland-inspired tea and crumpets available for purchase, give croquette or other lawn games a go, and create a hat before joining in a variety of tea sampling demonstrations as the Mad Hatter makes merry on grounds.

- **Character Encounters**

Presented by the award-winning theater company We Players, experience wild and whimsical Wonderland characters at NYBG. We Players has spent more than 20 years staging dynamic, engaging, and thought-provoking performances in iconic civic landscapes. Led by Founding Artistic Director Ava Roy, We Players explores both classic tales and brand-new narratives. The troupe connects people with place through kinesthetic experience that invites audiences to engage fully and awaken to the spectacular world around us.

- **How Do You Like Your Hat? Crafting Activities**

Stop by to create your fanciest, most curious hat or crown with friends from Materials for the Arts to help. Materials for the Arts is New York City's creative reuse center supporting the arts. A program of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs with support from the Department of Education and Friends of Materials for the Arts, the organization connects and inspires local students, teachers, artists, and nonprofits to imagine a more creative and sustainable future.

- **It's Tea Time**

Nibble and sip an array of teatime favorites available for purchase to round out the tea party on Daffodil Hill.

- **Take Some More Tea**

Specialty plant-based chef Brandy Cochrane brings Plant Candy's inspired tea blends to NYBG. Enjoy a sample and hear more about the origins of tea. Refreshments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Plant Candy provides fun, accessible, and delicious plant-based recipes that motivate people to incorporate more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains into their daily diets.

A Great Big Game

Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays; 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Daffodil Hill and the Clay Family Picnic Pavilions

Enjoy an assortment of games—big and small—from Jenga, Connect 4, and Cornhole to chess, croquet, and hopscotch! Games are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Character Encounters

Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays; 12–3 p.m.

Roaming performers across the Botanical Garden grounds

Seek out the characters of Wonderland—the Queen of Hearts, a living Playing Card, and the White Rabbit—who’ve made NYBG’s 250-acre landscape their home.

- **The Queen of Hearts and a Playing Card**

May 25, 26 and 27, and June 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 29, and 30

American Circus Theatre presents the legendary Queen of Hearts in search of her playing card. Where will she demand her next garden improvements? We recommend searching for her in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden. American Circus Theatre is a New York City-based circus theater company traveling worldwide and brought to life by Richard and Ashlee, trained ballet dancers and Cirque du Soleil alumni.

- **The White Rabbit and the Cheshire Cat**

July 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, and 28

The City University of New York’s Lehman Stages theater company enlivens *Wonderland’s* beloved furry friends with their signature theatrical antics—and a bit of Bronx flair. Lehman Stages is a professional arts component of Lehman College, which creates original performances and events for the Bronx, using their own home-grown community of performing artists.

- **The Mad Hatter**

August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, and 31; September 1 and 2

Multi-hyphenate fiddler, dancer, and singer Ian Moore interprets *Wonderland’s* favorite milliner friend. Can you spot his beloved haberdashery as he dashes across Garden grounds?

Wonderland Nights

Saturdays, June 1, 8, and 15, 2024; 7–10 p.m.

Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and Botanical Garden grounds; Ages 21+;

Special ticket required: \$29 for NYBG Members and \$39 for Non-NYBG Members

Enter *Wonderland: Curious Nature* at dusk—a madly beautiful world—and experience the exhibition in a new light, with a full cast of characters on the scene and specialty themed

cocktails that make for the perfect evening out. In a spectacular show of rhythm and delight, N.Y.C.-based group Thistle Dance invites you to let loose during the Mad Hatter's dance party.

Mushroom Workshops

Mushrooms play a pivotal role in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. They make Alice grow taller when she eats one side of the giant fungus and shrink when she eats the other side, fueling the whimsical and nonsensical nature of the story. Workshops offer curious visitors of all ages the chance to discover facts about these earthy bonbons and tiny woodland umbrellas.

- **Mushroom Tincture/Oxymel Workshop**

Sunday, May 26; 2 p.m.

Bring the family to learn about the medicinal benefits of mushrooms and craft your own mushroom tincture to take home with experts from Mi Oh My Hydroponic Farm. *Available while supplies last.*

- **Introduction to Mushrooms Workshop**

Saturday & Sunday, September 15 & 16; 2 p.m.

During NYBG's Fantastic Fungi Weekend, learn about the magnificent world of mushrooms and the ways they're important to us.

Wonderland: Wonder Thyme

Everett Children's Adventure Garden Pop-Up

Kids can always find something fantastic to explore at NYBG. Pique their interest in plants at the new pop-up, where the Garden's Teen Explainers are eager to engage their curiosity and sense of adventure with crafts and hands-on activities like potting up plant seedlings.

- *Self-Guided Family Fun, Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

Everett Children's Adventure Garden Pop-Up

At the Everett Children's Adventure Garden Pop-Up designed especially for kids and their grown-ups, explore a caterpillar topiary buzzing with pollinators, visit Humpty-Dumpty on his wall of mycelium-based bricks, and join us for make-believe tea parties, Caucus Races, and other fun interactive exhibits.

- *Guided Family Fun, Weekdays; 1:30–3 p.m., Weekends & holidays; 11 a.m.–3 p.m.*

Everett Children's Adventure Garden Pop-Up

Create an insect inspired by the fantastical creatures of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Mix a fragrant herbal tea blend using familiar and flavorful plants like thyme, chamomile, peppermint, hibiscus, catnip, and butterfly pea flower. Pot up your own thyme plant to grow at home, and use to make your own teas and other

culinary delights. Play our Caucus Race matching game to learn about planting and harvest times in the garden. Visit the Discovery Cart to learn all about mushrooms and why they're important to all of us. Craft a mycelium egg sculpture to take home.

Storytime

June 22; 2 p.m.

Everett Children's Adventure Garden Pop-Up

Gather around for story time when author Jennifer Adams and illustrator Alison Oliver stop by the Botanical Garden for a reading of their children's book, *Alice in Wonderland: A Babylit Colors Primer*.

The Edible Academy

Tuesdays–Saturdays; 1:30–5:30 p.m.

Sundays and federal holidays; 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Programs at the Edible Academy reinforce important connections among plants, science, nutrition, and the benefits of a healthful lifestyle. The three-acre campus hosts year-round programming in a LEED Gold-certified classroom building featuring green technology, a teaching greenhouse, a demonstration kitchen and technology lab, and organic vegetable gardens. While you're exploring the Edible Academy, cultivate the crops in the vegetable garden during the Dig! Plant! Grow! program.

- **Edible Academy Fresh from the Garden Tastings**
Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 2 and 4 p.m.
Get hands-on with healthy cooking using new recipes featuring plants grown in the Edible Academy. NYBG staff create these family-friendly recipes using seasonal vegetables, fruits, and herbs, and kids and adults alike can learn how garden-to-table cooking is not only nutritious, but fun, too.
- **Dig! Plant! Grow! Salad Days**
Through June 14, 2024
Visitors explore salad crops to learn about the parts of a plant, and are invited to plant their own rainbow salad seed mix to take home.
- **Dig! Plant! Grow! Foodways**
June 18–July 14, 2024
Visitors explore the Edible Academy's wide range of food crops to learn more about culture, history and growing practices from around the world. Visitors are invited to make their own take-home tea sachet inspired by our Bronx neighbors.

- **Dig! Plant! Grow! Scent-sational Herbs**
July 16–August 11, 2024
 Learn how herbs—delicious edible leaves—are used in all parts of our daily lives, then pot up an herb plant to take home.
- **Dig! Plant! Grow! Pollinator Pals**
August 13–September 15, 2024
 Discover garden pollinators with a focus on NYBG’s very own honeybees, and support pollinator pathways by making a wildflower mix to take home.
- **Dig! Plant! Grow! The Three Sisters**
September 17–October 11, 2024
 Uncover facts about corn, squash and beans—the Three Sisters—and the “fourth sister,” sunflowers, in our own garden and in Native American traditions. Visitors will take home their own “Three Sisters” inspired seed craft.
- **Dig! Plant! Grow! Goodnight, Garden**
October 15–November 3, 2024
 Be part of the Edible Academy’s preparation for the winter season ahead, and learn seed-saving traditions that prepare for next year’s growing season by making a seed packet.

Fantastic Fungi Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, 2024; 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Will you grow larger, or smaller? The wild and wonderful fungi of *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* are illuminated during a weekend celebrating all things fungi, with mushroom-themed activities and music. Discover the fascinating world of mushrooms through the eyes of scientists, and learn how these unique organisms help make life on Earth possible. Step into *Homegrown*, our mycelium house—made of bricks using actual fungus!—and explore *Wonderland: Curious Nature*.

- **Fungi Disco with Tarun Nayar of Modern Biology**
 With over 100 million views of his TikTok videos, Modern Biology has brought plant music to the masses. Originally educated as a biologist, veteran musician Tarun Nayar, who performed at Art Basel, MOCA (L.A.) and the Vancouver Art Gallery, brings his passion for nature and sound together in an ambient project that is immediate, uplifting, and deeply contextual.

Dining Options During the Exhibition

Throughout the Botanical Garden, opportunities for themed refreshment abound. Whether looking for a hearty meal, a sweet “unbirthday” treat, a savory nibble, or an inventive handcrafted cocktail, all can find something delightfully mad to spark their curiosity and whet their appetites.

- **Pine Tree Café**

Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Known for its grab-and-go pastries and coffees, Pine Tree Café serves Alice’s “Drink Me” Lavender Lattes, hot or iced; Queen’s Lemonade inspired by the Queen of Hearts; and themed pastries, including Illustrated Wonderland Sugar Cookies and Mad Hatter Chocolate Brownies. Visitors can also fuel their madness with beverages, sandwiches, salads, and wraps.

- **Hudson Garden Grill**

Tuesdays through Fridays, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and Holiday Mondays, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Wonderland Nights: Dining Room until 8 p.m., Patio Tent 7–10 p.m.

Reservations required at <https://www.opentable.com/udson-garden-grill-at-the-new-york-botanical-garden>

NYBG’s full-service, sit-down restaurant features an exhibition-themed menu and custom cocktails and mocktails. With a whimsical individual tea service and delectable, three-course prix-fixe options, including Vichyssoise, Heirloom Tomato & Watermelon Heart Salad, Roasted Freebird Chicken Breast, and Cauliflower Steak, the Hudson Garden Grill is an enchanting extension of the *Wonderland* experience. Finish the meal with a tier stand of sweets, featuring themed “Eat Me” Sugar Cookies, Classic Petite Fours, and house-made Scones with Clotted Cream. Evening seatings are available during Wonderland Nights, alongside an Alice-inspired dessert extravaganza.

- **The Rose Court at the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden**

Tuesdays through Sundays, and Holiday Mondays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Stone Cottage

The Rose Court, a Queen of Hearts-inspired pop-up at the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, with thousands of roses and lush natural beauty, is a jewel box destination nestled in the shade of the Garden’s historic Stone Cottage. Visitors can indulge in the Queen’s berry lemonade, an array of cookies, sweets, and frozen treats such as ice cream sandwiches, complemented by refreshing cold beverages, including an enticing red spiced hibiscus iced tea.

- **The Looking Glass**

Tuesdays through Sundays, and Holiday Mondays, 12–6 p.m.

Wonderland Nights: Open until 10 p.m.

Step through the pages of *Wonderland* into a world of boxwood and vintage looking-glasses at the Looking Glass, a weekend and evening pop-up in the Visitor Center patio, offering delightful Tea-To-Go service, a curated selection of wines, beers, and rosé, cookies, decorated sweets, and kid-friendly fare perfect for *al fresco* dining.

- **The Unbirthday Truck and Ice Cream Cart**

Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 12–6 p.m.

Charm and a bit of cheekiness await at The Unbirthday Truck and Ice Cream Cart. With tea sandwiches and Tea-To-Go service, sweet and savory afternoon and seasonal frozen treats, and *Wonderland* Snack Mix, every day feels like a golden birthday.

- **Tea Party Parties**

Thursdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Guests can check in from 4 to 4:30 p.m., and doors open and seating begins at 4:15 p.m.

\$80 per adult plus tax, cocktails, and gratuity; \$45 per child plus tax, mocktails, and gratuity.

Reservations required at https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=162823&restref=162823&experienceId=290168&utm_source=external&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=shared

For those looking for a Mad Hatter’s experience, the Hudson Garden Grill also hosts an enchanting Tea Party Party, by reservation-only on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., offering visitors the opportunity to bring *Wonderland* to life with individual pots of tea, delectable hors d’oeuvres, tea sandwiches, and an array of sweets. The Tea Party Party elevates guests’ experiences with a Mad Hatter cocktail flight, savory treats including Mini Meat Pies, Stuffed Vine-Ripe Cherry Tomatoes, and kid-friendly dishes like Bunny-Shaped Sandwiches for the littlest wonderers. Guests are invited to don their finest *Wonderland*-inspired attire and costumes for an extra sense of adventure.

For more information about *Wonderland: Curious Nature* and its complementary programming offerings and dining options, visit our website at

<https://www.nybg.org/event/wonderland-curious-nature/>.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

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