# Cleveland Museum of Natural History Celebrates the Winter Season with Solstice After Hours and Live *War of the Worlds* Radio Performance

*From a festive evening of solstice science on December 18 to a thrilling theatrical performance on January 7, the Museum invites visitors to enjoy two unique after-hours experiences*

**CLEVELAND, OH—November 24, 2026**—The Cleveland Museum of Natural History invites visitors to celebrate the winter season with two special after-hours events that bring science, discovery, and entertainment together. Solstice After Hours, taking place Friday, December 18, from 6 to 9pm, offers an evening of winter-inspired activities for guests of all ages. Then, on Thursday, January 7, from 7 to 8pm, the Museum will welcome Radio on the Lake Theatre for a live performance of the science fiction classic *War of the Worlds*.

## Solstice After Hours | Friday, December 18, 2026, 6–9pm

Whether gathering with family, enjoying a night out with friends, or planning a unique date night, visitors can explore the Museum's galleries while participating in a festive mix of science, discovery, and entertainment. Highlights include a silent disco, astronomy demonstrations, gallery talks, hands-on science adventures, diorama making, animal hibernation activities, origami, a beer garden, and more!

Solstice After Hours features pay-what-you-wish admission, with tickets ranging from $5 to $25 per person. A limited number of walk-up tickets will be available beginning at 6pm on the evening of the event.

For event details and tickets, visit the Museum's website.

## Radio on the Lake Theatre: *War of the Worlds* | Thursday, January 7, 2027, 7pm

The Museum will kick off the new year with an evening of science fiction and theatrical storytelling as Radio on the Lake Theatre presents a live performance of *War of the Worlds* in the Nathan and Fannye Shafran Planetarium.

Adapted from H. G. Wells's groundbreaking 1898 novel, this iconic tale of a Martian invasion captivated audiences in 1938 with a legendary radio broadcast by Orson Welles. The Museum's presentation brings the excitement of the classic story to life with some of Northeast Ohio's finest voice actors and a live Foley artist, who creates sound effects in real time to immerse audiences in the action. Leading the cast is award-winning, longtime Cleveland broadcaster Leon Bibb, who will take on the roles originally performed by Orson Welles as both the narrator and Professor Richard Pearson.

Presented by Radio on the Lake Theatre, Northeast Ohio's only professional theater company dedicated exclusively to the audio arts, the performance offers a unique opportunity to experience the theatrical magic behind one of science fiction's most celebrated stories.

Tickets are $30 for nonmembers, $25 for Museum members, and $20 for Leadership Circle members.

For additional information and tickets, visit the event page.

## Cleveland Museum of Natural History Holiday Hours

The Museum also reminds visitors of its adjusted hours during the upcoming holiday season:

- **Thanksgiving (November 26):** Closed
- **Christmas Eve (December 24):** Museum closes at 4pm
- **Christmas Day (December 25):** Closed
- **New Year's Eve (December 31):** Museum closes at 4pm
- **New Year's Day (January 1):** Closed

Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10am to 5pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays. For more information about Museum programs, exhibitions, and visiting hours, visit **www.cmnh.org**.

**About the Cleveland Museum of Natural History**

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History illuminates the world around us and inspires visitors to engage with the natural forces that shape their lives. Since its founding in 1920, the Museum has pioneered scientific research to advance knowledge across diverse fields of study and used its outstanding collections, which encompass millions of artifacts and specimens, to deepen the public's understanding of the dynamic connections between humans and nature. Through its Natural Areas Program, the Museum stewards more than 12,500 acres of protected ecosystems across northern Ohio. A community gathering place, educational center, and research institution, the Museum is a vital resource that serves Cleveland and the nation. For more information, visit CMNH.org.

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