

SPONSORED CONTENT



It's winter season in the Palm Beaches and with it comes a full schedule of cultural events! Here to help you with three ideas for the coming week is the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, the official support agency for arts and culture here in Florida's Cultural Capital. For more to enjoy and experience, explore the Council's online events calendar at palmbeachculture.com/events. Visit each organization's website for COVID-19 safety protocols and guidelines.



Explore the work of local artists during Art Walk at The Peach in West Palm Beach this Saturday. PROVIDED BY KAJ STUDIO

FREE

Art walk in West Palm Beach

If you're in the mood to walk around and celebrate the work of local artists this weekend, then head to The Peach in West Palm Beach for their March Art Walk event. The event includes six open studios to explore, live music to hear, fun arts activities for the kids to enjoy, and delicious BBQ from Troy's to eat while you're there. Don't miss it! **March Art Walk:** 3 to 10 p.m. Saturday. The Peach, 3950 Georgia Ave., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-532-0900 or www.thepeachwpb.com.



Enjoy "Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru" one last time this weekend at the Boca Raton Museum of Art. KRAUSE & JOHANSEN

SPURGE

Explore 'Machu Picchu' before it's gone

This is the last weekend to see the Boca Raton Museum of Art's world premiere exhibition, "Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru." This stunning, immersive show takes you back in time to the Incan city of Machu Picchu. Complete with more than 190 artifacts from the royal tombs of Andean lords, this exhibition is a must-see for all ancient culture and history buffs! **"Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru":** On display through Sunday. Timed tickets for this special exhibition are \$29.95 for adults and \$19.95 for children ages 3-12. Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Info: 561-392-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org.

DEAL

Festival of the Arts Boca returns to Mizner Park

Festival of the Arts Boca returns for its 16th year starting this weekend! The festival is turning up the heat this year and bringing some incredible talent to Mizner Park. This first weekend, you can see performances by Terence Blanchard featuring The E-Collective and Turtle Island Quartet on Friday night, Larisa Martínez and friends, and "A Night at the Ballet" featuring dancers from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and more. The festival continues through next weekend, so go out and enjoy!

2022 Festival of the Arts Boca: Events start at 7:30 tonight and continue through March 13. Tickets range from \$15 to \$150. Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Info: 561-757-4762 or www.festivalboca.org.



Enjoy the return of Festival of the Arts Boca this weekend and next at Mizner Park Amphitheater. The festival kicks off with a performance by Terence Blanchard (pictured). CEDRIC ANGELES

Poirot

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stinate husband, Lord Edgware (C. V. France). Edgware soon agrees, then turns up dead; Poirot, intrigued, investigates the murder.

Trevor's Poirot feels indebted to other charming, debonair sleuths of the era, in particular those played by William Powell in films like "The Thin Man" and "The Kennel Murder Case."

1974: Albert Finney

Among other virtues, Finney's portrayal in Sidney Lumet's "Murder on the Orient Express" (available to stream on Paramount+) is a major feat of makeup and prosthetics: a full-face getup encompassing wrinkles, jowls and false nose, designed to make the trim, 38-year-old Finney look the part of the world-weary Poirot in portly middle age. Lumet's adaptation of one of Christie's most celebrated books is a New Hollywood love letter to the Golden Age, with Finney leading an ensemble that includes such luminaries as Ingrid Bergman and Lauren Bacall. A rail-bound chamber drama structured around long, loquacious interrogation scenes, it's an acting showcase of the classical variety. (Incidentally, this is the only Poirot performance to be nominated for an Oscar.)

Finney's Poirot is curt and flinty, his clipped accent gruff and gravel-throated. While he embodies many of the qualities characteristic of Christie's original — cunning, headstrong, fastidious about his appearance — he is more serious and vehement, and scrutinizes the evidence grimly, with great intensity, like a predator carefully circling his prey.

1978-88: Peter Ustinov

English actor Ustinov appeared as Poirot a half-dozen times, beginning with the magnificent "Death on the Nile" in 1978 (streaming on the Criterion Channel). This Poirot is playful, boyish, even a bit whimsical; Ustinov imbues him with a light, teasing air, finding a latent amusement in even the most diabolical matters. Fans who prefer Ustinov in the role tend to respond to his immense warmth: He has a grandfatherly manner that makes him instantly likable, which also cleverly belies his brilliance and perspicacity. Ustinov took to the part so naturally that he continued to play Poirot on



David Suchet as Hercule Poirot. COURTESY OF A+E NETWORKS

screen for 10 more years. "Death on the Nile" was followed in 1982 by "Evil Under the Sun," co-starring James Mason and based on the novel of the same name, and then several made-for-television films, including "Dead Man's Folly" and "Murder in Three Acts."

1989-2013: David Suchet

"You're Poirot?" a woman asks, aghast, in the opening minutes of the pilot episode of "Agatha Christie's Poirot," the ITV series about the detective. "You're not a bit how I thought you'd be." Suchet, the star, shrugs: C'est moi. Ironically, for most viewers, Suchet is not just like Poirot, he's synonymous with him. The actor played him on television for nearly 25 years, appearing in 70 episodes, ultimately covering Christie's entire Poirot corpus, concluding with "Curtain: Poirot's Last Case" in 2013.

Suchet's rendition was extremely faithful to Christie's account. He is prim, charming and ultrafastidious; he is vain but considerate, sharp but deferential, faultless about manners and etiquette but, when it is time to issue a verdict, thoroughly ruthless. As time went on, however, Suchet's performance deepened and expanded, giving Poirot new layers of psychological complexity. The show's later seasons grew darker in tone, and Suchet, drawing on his decades-long relationship with the character, seized upon the gravity of that histo-



Kenneth Branagh as Poirot in 2022's "Death on the Nile."

COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

ry to captivating — and deeply moving — effect.

2017-present: Kenneth Branagh

Christie herself famously disparaged Albert Finney's mustache as too insubstantial for the great Poirot. To Branagh's grand, sweeping crescent she would presumably not have the same objection. This ostentatious facial hair seems appropriate for a pair of movies — 2017's "Murder on the Orient Express" and the newly released "Death on the Nile" — that are extremely lavish in every facet, from wardrobe to makeup and production design. Branagh directed these films with an eye toward scale,

and his flamboyant take on the character is well suited to the postcard-perfect, computer-graphics-enhanced vistas against which he's set.

Branagh's take on Poirot is certainly more theatrical than many others. He plays the detective as winking and jocular, with a somewhat foolish aspect, while at the same time giving him a bit of action-flick bravado, empowering him to engage in fisticuffs, shootouts and even the occasional chase.

He's not entirely true to the character as written, which some Christie fans have found off-putting. But it's abundantly clear that Branagh adores this character, and he has endeavored, in his own way, to make Poirot his own.