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throw a word like “sublime” around lightly, and reading her review of Slow Burn Theatre’s production of “The Secret Garden” — “a true holiday gem” — is likely to make you want to scoop up the family and rush to the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts** to catch it. You can see it through Dec. 31, with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday (with an additional matinee 1 p.m. Dec. 27). Tickets cost \$47-\$60. Visit BrowardCenter.org.

Pajama party

Friday night’s free 6:30 p.m. screening of “Polar Express” at **Boca Raton’s Mizer Park Amphitheater** is a pajamas-optional party (beginning at 5 p.m.) with train rides, kids’ activities and pizza, popcorn, hot chocolate and other concessions available for purchase. Chairs can be rented for \$5 (cash only). Visit MyBoca.us.

Ball’s in your court

Not everyone will be wearing ugly sweaters this weekend, when low-cut, leggy and sheer will be the uniform of the day at the **Matzo Ball**, the 31st annual series of Christmas Eve parties for Jewish singles (and their admirers) at three of the warmer hot spots in South Florida. In **Delray**

Beach, the Matzo Ball takes place 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at **Il Bacio**, with tickets \$30, \$40 for priority entry, and various table packages also available. The party in **Fort Lauderdale** is at **Vibe Las Olas** (\$30/\$40), and on **Miami Beach** the 9 p.m. gathering is at **Story** (\$50/\$75, and \$100 for VIP). In case they were being too subtle, Matzo Ball organizers are offering a discount rate on rooms at the **Fontainebleau** resort starting at \$249. To buy tickets and get more information, visit MatzoBall.org.

Weekend laughs

Honestly, I had not thought of comedian **Louie Anderson** in a good, long while, until I saw him in drag with Zach Galifianakis in the FX rodeo-clown comedy series “Baskets.” Amazing. Anderson, who won an Emmy for the role (his third), returns to the standup stage 7:30 tonight at the **Lauderhill Performing Arts Center**, with special guest **Wil Shriner**. Visit LPACFL.com.

Funky Christmas

Funky Buddha Brewery in Oakland Park and **the Laser Wolf** in Fort Lauderdale’s **Progresso** neighborhood join forces for the **Funky X-Mas Party** at the Wolf 7 p.m. Saturday, with **DJ Ex-Laxx** spinning vinyl funk and real elves bearing gifts. Visit LaserWolf.bar.

Punky Christmas

Las Rosas in **Miami** on Saturday night will host the **Miami Punk Rock High X-Mas Party**, also a birthday celebration for influential music promoter **Richard Shelter**. Headliners the **Holy Ghosts** (Shelter, Charlie Pickett, Rob Elba, Leo Casino, Blake Eden, Dan Ceritelli and Jordan Kohn) will be abetted by **Mike Vullo, Oscar Herrera, John Camacho** and **DJ Skidmark** (Facebook.com/LasRosas-Miami).

Sweater weather

The **Funky Buddha Brewery** will throw its **Ugly Sweater Party** 7:30-10:30 tonight with a DJ, photo booth and a contest (sign up before 9 p.m.) to see if your sweater can win you a crowler of beer a month for a year (Facebook.com/FunkyBuddhaBrewery) ... The first 25 ugly sweaters at **Due South Brewing** in **Boynton Beach** will earn their wearer a free beer during the party 6-9 p.m. Friday, with the person wearing the ugliest winning a bottle of Bourbon Barrel Aged Mariana Trench Imperial Stout (Facebook.com/DueSouthBrewing) ... The **Ugly AF Sweater Party** at **Tarpon Bend** in Fort Lauderdale’s **Himmarshee District** 5-11 p.m. Saturday will include live music, two-for-one drinks and a sweater contest (Facebook.com/TarponBendLauderdale).

Weekend beers

26 Degree Brewing in **Pompano Beach** is calling its noon-11 p.m. Saturday gathering **The Hangover Before Christmas**, and will ensure them with the release of their **Cherry Cordial Stout** (Facebook.com/26brewing) ... **Invasive Species Brewing** in downtown **Fort Lauderdale** will have a bottle release beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday for an IPA called **Pillow Talk** and a honey-brewed double IPA called **Buzz** (Facebook.com/InvasiveSpecies-Brewing) ... **Khoffner Brewery** in downtown **Fort Lauderdale** will celebrate its second anniversary 4 p.m.-midnight Dec. 29 with live music, food trucks and the release of **Sour Cherry Red IPA**, aged in Chardonnay wine barrels (Facebook.com/Khoffner.us).

Other beer news

The city of Fort Lauderdale has finished its repairs to the **Southwest 11th Avenue Swing Bridge**, which stood between those on the north side of the New River and favorite watering holes at the **Riverside Market** (Facebook.com/RiversideMarket) and **Craft Beer Cartel** (Facebook.com/CraftBeerCartel). Not that they weren’t taking the long way, but ...

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Holiday Events

Santa is Here!
 November 24 – December 24
 Photo Packages Available

Face Painting for the Kids
 December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 & 24
 12 – 4:00 pm
 Near Santa’s Storybook

Arts & Crafts for the Kids
 Sunday, December 24 • 12 – 3:00 pm
 Festive Cookie Decorating & Snow Globes

Holiday Money Machine
 Saturday, December 9 • 1 – 4:00 pm
 Near Carter’s/OshKosh

Sing Talent Show Production
 Saturday, December 23 • 1 – 1:30 pm
 Meet & Greet with the characters before and after the show
 12:30 – 1:00 pm & 1:30 – 2:00 pm
 Near Carter’s/OshKosh

Holiday Slime Projects for the Kids
 Saturday, December 16 • 12 – 3:00 pm
 Near Santa’s Storybook

Holiday Balloon Art
 December 16 & December 23 • 1:00 – 4:00 pm
 Near Santa’s Storybook

Holiday Gift Wrapping
 November 24 – December 24
 Located near Target’s inside entrance
 All proceeds to benefit Cardinal Gibbons Drama Boosters Club

Toys 4 Tots
 Bring a smile to a child’s face by donating an unused toy during the holiday season. Please place your toys inside the Toys 4 Tots bins located near Santa’s Storybook and Target’s Mall Entrance.
Events are subject to change and may be cancelled or postponed without notice.
www.mycoralridgemall.com

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