



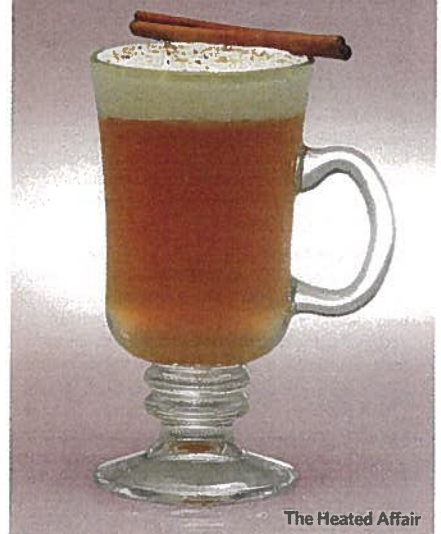
CIRCUS ACT

Cirque du Soleil invites San Francisco audiences to explore the secret world of insects in its newest fantasy show, **OVO**. Known for stunning audiences worldwide with breathtaking acrobatics, the big top production celebrates its 25th year from its beginnings as a group of street performers in Quebec. The group's artistic performances—a departure from a traditional circus—also features imaginative set designs and inventive soundtracks. Meaning “egg” in Portuguese, **OVO** explores life, death and love in the colorful ecosystem of invertebrates. Through Jan. 24. Under the blue and yellow big top tent in AT&T Park, 3rd St. and Terry A. Francois Blvd., 800.450.1480, www.cirquedusoleil.com. Map 1, F8 —Vanessa Lindlaw

Cocktail Corner

SIP OF THE SEASON

Take a sip of the season with festive cocktails that will get your bells jingling this holiday. Mixologists around town are shaking, straining and spritzing their finest seasonal concoctions, so duck in and down some of our favorites. At Harry Denton Starlight's Room, warm up with the **Heated Affair**, where partida anejo tequila meets hot spiced apple cider, topped with heavy cream and freshly grated nutmeg. At XYZ Bar, liven up with the **Pomegranate Sparkler**—a bubbly mix of cava, pomegranate juice, acai spirit and agave nectar. Starlight Room in the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, 450 Powell St., 415.395.8595, www.harrydenton.com. Map 1, D5. XYZ at the W Hotel, 181 3rd St., 415.817.7823, www.xyz-sf.com. Map 1, E6.



The Heated Affair

Theater

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER—Offering classical and contemporary theater productions, the A.C.T. is a large theater located just outside Union Square. **Through Dec. 27:** *Sing A Christmas Carol* with this sparkling, music-infused rendition of the holiday classic. Check your “humbugs” at the door! www.act-sf.org. 415 Geary St., 415.749.2228. Map 1, C6

CLUB FUGAZI/BEACH BLANKET BABYLON—Club Fugazi hosts *Beach Blanket Babylon*, the hilariously campy revue, a local favorite for its hats and wigs, spoofs of current events, and celebrities in ever-evolving numbers. Reservations recommended. 21 and over, except Su. **Through Dec. 31:** *Seasonal Extravaganza*, welcome this holiday season with special performances featuring a chorus line of tap dancing Christmas trees, special parodies of traditional Christmas carols and a gigantic Yuletide hat. www.beachblanketbabylon.com. Club Fugazi, 678 Green St., 415.421.4222. Map 1, C3

CURRAN THEATER—Featuring a cozy lobby and intimate auditorium, Curran feels more like a Broadway theater. Hollywood chose to shoot the New York theater scenes for *All About Eve* here. www.curran-theater.com. **Dec. 9-Jan. 3:** *39 Steps*, a Hitchcock masterpiece mixed with a juicy spy novel, and a dash of Monty Python equals a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre. www.shnsf.com. 445 Geary St., 415.512.7770. Map 1, C6

GOLDEN GATE THEATRE—Enter beneath the sign four stories high that has welcomed theatergoers for over 80 years. **Dec. 22-27:** *Riverdance*, the world-famous Irish music and dance show, taps and jigs its way through the city on its farewell tour. www.shnsf.com. 1 Taylor St., 415.551.2000. Map 1, C7

ODC THEATER—The ODC features local and international dance troupes all year round. Its own experimental dance crew performs from September through December and has been doing so for more than 30 years. www.odcdance.org. 3153 17th St., 415.863.9834. Map 2, I6

ORPHEUM THEATRE—Magnificent carved doors lead to the lobby, revealing a dramatic 12th century Spanish palace. Built in 1926 as a showcase for a theater magnate, the Orpheum has been named a San Francisco historical landmark since its two major renovations, which allowed easy accommodation of large-scale Broadway productions. **Ongoing:** “Wicked,” the untold story of the witches of Oz. www.shnsf.com. 1192 Market St., 415.551.2000. Map 1, C7

TEATRO ZINZANNI—A madcap cast of jugglers, magicians, acrobats, contortionists, and musicians brings to life the cirque arts in an authentic spiegelent on San Francisco's waterfront. Guests dine on a five-course meal and enjoy plenty of up-close-and-personal interaction with the performers, as the center of the action is in the middle of the seating. **Through Jan. 17, 2010:** *Under the Gypsy Moon*. love.zinzanni.org. Pier 29, the Embarcadero at Battery St., 415.438.2668. Map 1, E2

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➔ Film favorites Robin Williams, Sean Penn, Francis Ford Coppola, and George Lucas all call the Bay Area home.