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CULTURE/CHARACTERS/COMMENTARY

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winter

ARTS

PREVIEW

MOST ANTICIPATED
EVENTS FOR
winter 2017-18





the *Most*
ANTICIPATED
LIST *winter*
2017-18
by ANDREW TRAVERS



This ski season in Aspen, it's looking about as adventurous on stage, on film and on the page as it is on the hill.

From an extraordinary new collaboration at Aspen Santa Fe Ballet to a next-level caliber lineup at the Aspen Laugh Fest to a new literary prize from Aspen Words, arts and culture presenters are breaking new ground this winter.

There's a fresh and experimental theater piece at the Wheeler and six new exhibitions in the Aspen Art Museum on the way,

along with the resurrection of the Bird's Nest Gallery pop-up downtown and returning local pop music favorites like Jane's Addiction and Umphrey's McGee at Belly Up (along with first-time Aspen performances from greats like LCD Soundsystem and Passion Pit).

So break out your calendars and start planning your season. Here is the 2017-18 winter most anticipated list:

MOST ANTICIPATED: COMEDY

TIFFANY HADDISH
@ THE ASPEN LAUGH FESTIVAL, WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
FEB. 24

The Wheeler upped its game for the 2018 Laugh Fest, landing some of the biggest and hottest comics working today for its five-day festival. No headliner is more exciting, however, than Haddish. The breakout comedy star of 2017 stole the show in the blockbuster "Girl's Trip" this summer and may get an Oscar nomination for her performance. She made history as the first African-American woman to host "Saturday Night Live" and now she's closing out the Laugh Fest.

AND DON'T FORGET:

Heather McDonald, Wheeler Opera House (Dec. 17) ... Nick Swardson, Belly Up (Jan. 5-6) ... Matt Iseman, Wheeler Opera House (Jan. 12) ... The Second City, Aspen Laugh Festival (Feb. 21) ... Paula Poundstone, Aspen Laugh Festival (Feb. 22) ... Colin Jost and Jeff Ross, Aspen Laugh Festival (Feb. 23) ... Mike Birbiglia, Aspen Laugh Festival (Feb. 24) ... Iliza Shlesinger, Wheeler Opera House (March 16).

MOST ANTICIPATED: DANCE

'CARNAVAL,' AN EVENING WITH JOYCE YANG
PRESENTED BY ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET
@ ASPEN DISTRICT THEATRE
MARCH 24

There's no question this is the most anticipated cultural event of the season in Aspen. A major coup for Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, this groundbreaking collaboration pairs two world-renowned artists — and Aspen audience favorites — with the dancers of Aspen Santa Fe for a world premiere performance. Yang, a pianist, is a Van Cliburn competition winner, Aspen Music Festival regular and frequent summertime headliner in the Benedict Music Tent. Elo, a choreographer, has made some of the most celebrated works in the Aspen Santa Fe repertoire. Together over the past year, the duo has been crafting a new ballet inspired by Robert Schumann's "Carnaval." To boot, Yang will be performing live onstage at the premiere and on the ensuing tour.

AND DON'T FORGET:

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's "The Nutcracker," Aspen District Theatre (Dec. 9 & 10) ... Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's "Silent Ghost," "Huma Rojo," "Dream Play," Aspen District Theatre (Jan. 20) ... The Peking Acrobats, Wheeler Opera House (Feb. 8) ... Che Malambo, Wheeler Opera House (Feb. 11) ... Ailey II, Aspen District Theatre (Feb. 16).

