



**WARNING: PROCEED WITH CAUTION –  
EXTREME FUN AWAITS!**

**Symphony Space Announces the 2017-18 Season  
of ‘[Just Kidding](#)’, Featuring Saturday Performances  
Designed with Kids, Families and Maximum Fun in Mind**

The acclaimed Upper West Side institution provides a boredom-busting venue for eclectic, all-ages live experiences, most Saturdays from October to March

New York, NY, Fall 2017 – Editorial note: we kindly ask that you read no further if you hate having fun, enjoy monotony and boredom, want to avoid amazing things, or have allergies to press releases printed with ink. However, if you answered no to most (if not all) of those questions, then Symphony Space will let you in on a little secret: they’re about to launch the ***most dangerously fun Just Kidding*** season in their storied history!

Featuring a wide-ranging mix of live performance for its family-favorite series, the 2017-18 season launched on Saturday, October 7 with two sketch comedy performances by **Story Pirates**. Filled with exciting, interactive live performances – from swashbuckling pirate puppetry to Grammy nominated family music stars – the **Just Kidding** season runs most Saturdays through March 2018. Tickets to Just Kidding performances are available now at <http://www.symphonyspace.org/justkidding>

Upcoming Fall 2017 **Just Kidding** performances:

- October 14 at 11 am – The Moonlights (Rachel Loshak and Dean Jones)
- October 21 at 2 pm – NDI Celebration Team: “Harlem Nights”
- October 28 at 11 am – Joanie Leeds and the Nightlights with special guest Joelle from JoJo and the Pinecones
- November 4 at 11 am – Future Hits
- November 11 at 11 am and 2 pm – Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers: “Everybody Loves Pirates”
- November 18 at 11 am – Elizabeth Mitchell and You Are My Flower (with special guest Sonia de los Santos)
- December 9 at 11 am and 2 pm – National Marionette Theatre: “Pinocchio”
- December 16 at 11 am – Billy Kelly in concert

Each weekend since the series began, **Just Kidding** has attracted families from near and far for one of the most exciting, high-value performing arts options available anywhere. *Time Out New York Kids* calls **Just Kidding** “the best concert series for kids” with “a jam-packed bill of family programming.” *New York Family* recommends the “excellent programming for children,” and Mommy Nearest calls these performances “amazing.” In reviewing a recent performance in the Peter Jay Sharp Theatre at Symphony Space, the New York City Dads Group noted, “As a parent, it’s a big relief to know that whatever show we’re going to see there, whether planned or at the last minute, is going to be of high quality and capable of producing long lasting happy memories.”

Since its founding in the late 1970s, Symphony Space has gained international acclaim for presenting an eclectic mix of live performance from various artistic disciplines, including music, theatre, comedy, dance and film. Just Kidding’s family performance program also offers a similar range of unique and fun-filled options, drawing the very best performers from around the nation.

“Our lawyers have advised us that this year’s season is too much fun, and being presented at great risk to the public welfare,” says Darren Critz, Director of Performing Arts Programs. “Actually, we’ve designed this season for maximum family fun. There’s very little danger involved – unless you fall over laughing. From incredibly talented musicians and comics to some of the most acclaimed puppetry in the country, we couldn’t be more pleased with the coming season. And, don’t forget: dangerous fun awaits you this fall and into 2018!”

### **Birthdays at Symphony Space**

Just Kidding birthday packages are designed to make party planning easy, engaging, and enriching for everyone involved. As *New York Family* notes, this is a performing arts themed experience where “pint-sized Broadway stars are sure to love the festivities, including a show, birthday treats, music, and more.” Kids interact directly with Just Kidding artists, while enjoying tasty snacks, a cake, free music, and a few pairs of extra hands to help parents wrangle the kids. Families may choose between the arts-themed, Just Kidding Theatre Package or the no fuss, no frills, Just Kidding Easy Package. Rates for 15 or more party-goers start at \$420 (prices exclude taxes and gratuities). Visit <http://www.symphonyspace.org/group-sales-birthday-parties> or by call (212) 864-1414, ext. 289 for more information.

**A note to editors:** Most performers and Symphony Space presenters are available for interviews. More detailed information about each group and photos are available upon request.

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## About Symphony Space

New York's "cultural town square," Symphony Space traces its beginnings to a free marathon concert, Wall to Wall Bach, held in 1978 and organized by co-founders Isaiah Sheffer and Allan Miller. The music marathon then drew thousands of visitors and has since become one of the organization's signature events. Today, Symphony Space presents more than 600 events each season, including music, dance, theater, film, and literary readings. Some of its best known programs include Selected Shorts, a reading of short stories by stars of stage and screen, and one of the most popular series on public radio; National Theatre Live, broadcasting the best of British theatre to cinemas around the world; and Just Kidding, one of the most talked about family entertainment series around town. Uptown Showdown has been called "New York's best comedy series" by New York magazine. The 38th season, running from September 2016 through June 2017, will focus on four thematic projects: Project Americana, The Source Project, Project Broadway, and Fuse Project. For more information and advance tickets, visit [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org).