Holiday Traditions

*A Christmas Carol* celebrates its 35th anniversary this year at the **Goodman Theatre**, where it will continue to delight Chicago audiences as it always has. A portrayal of the discovery of life and love, this classic Charles Dickens’ story brings the “Bah! Humbug!” to Chicago. Nov. 17–Dec. 29. $25–$82. 170 N. Dearborn. 312.443.3800.

Kick up your holiday celebrations with one of Chicagoland’s most popular family events. Complete with magical toys, dancing snowflakes and exotic sweets, **Robert Joffrey’s The Nutcracker** features unforgettable characters along with the Chicago Sinfonietta’s musical accompaniment of Tchaikovsky’s classic score. **Auditorium Theatre.** Dec. 7–27. $31–$132. 50 E. Congress, 800.982.2787.

Travel back to a 1940s radio broadcast of Frank Capra’s holiday classic *It’s a

**Adults Only—Shamefully Funny**

For those looking for an alternative to the holiday classics, head to the Second City or UP Comedy Club for the Nutcracking Holiday Revue, featuring Second City’s trademark improvisation with a sprig of holiday mischief. Nov. 22–Dec. 30. $25. 1616 N. Wells, 312.337.3992 OR 230 W. North, 3rd Floor, 312.662.4562. See secondcity.com for schedule.

What if Justin Bieber had never been born? *It’s a Bieberful Life* at the ComedySportz Theatre asks this burning question every Fri. through Dec. 29. The tween pop sensation has been having a bad time, with declining sales and lots of scandals. Luckily, he is visited by an angel (who may or may not look like Robert Pattinson). $10. 929 W. Belmont, 773.549.8080.

Whether naughty or nice, *The Santaland Diaries* at Theater Wit should be on everybody’s holiday list! Don’t miss David Sedaris’ funny, unconventional story of his life as a struggling young writer who reluctantly takes a job as an elf at Macy’s while trying to maintain his dignity. Nov. 23–Dec. 30. $24. 1229 W. Belmont, 773.975.8150.

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