



New Orleans Christmas Treats and Secret Places to Eat

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Aaron Neville is featured at the House of Blues on December 6th, and beginning December 1st, at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre for the Performing Arts is the musical *The Color Purple*. Adapted from the Alice Walker novel, this Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner is among the top five most re-read books in America. It was made into a movie by Steven Spielberg in 1985 featuring Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey, but no one believed it could be turned into a musical for Broadway. But what Scott Sanders, the producer of this hit, knew, and what kept him going through the eight years it took to secure permissions, backing and a creative team, was that music is the way to express emotions that transcended words; and that the message, the heartbeat of the story, sang. It is in New Orleans for eight performances.

Another show you won't want to miss is a salute to Irving Berlin's White Christmas Musical at Le Petit Theatre. Beginning December 3rd it will run for ten performances until December 20th.

And of course, there is always the food. I have found it helpful often to ask a local what is their favorite restaurant, and learned of a place off the beaten path, that many travel guides may not know about, where I am truly delighted with this inside knowledge and excellent culinary delights (the locals always know best).

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