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7 Things to Do With Your Kids in NYC This Weekend

By **LAUREL GRAEBER** APRIL 19, 2018



One of the watercolors by Jeff Scher that are used in the animation sequences of “The Number on Great-Grandpa’s Arm,” showing at the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Credit The Polish National Field Archive/HBO

Our guide to cultural events in New York City for children and teenagers happening this weekend and in the week ahead.

EARTHFEST at the American Museum of Natural History (April 22, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.). Held in honor of Earth Day, this sunrise-to-sunset festival celebrates a planet that research indicates is increasingly under siege. The [schedule](#), which comprises installations, tours, screenings, workshops, performances and even yoga, offers programs to help the youngest attendees

understand conservation and climate change. Starting at 9:30 a.m., Lloyd H. Miller of the [Deedle Deedle Dees](#), a band whose children's songs incorporate science and history, will play three hourly concerts. At 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., the environmentally conscious musicians of [Bash the Trash](#) will host a workshop on making instruments from recycled materials, followed by a parade. Little visitors can also watch "[Wall-E](#)," Pixar's animated science-fiction film about a trash-collecting robot, at 11 a.m., and take part in avian-centered activities, including [indoor bird-watching](#), in Take Wing! The EarthFest Bird Zone, starting at 10 a.m. And the innovative dance troupe Pilobolus has invited everyone to join "[The Umbrella Project](#)," an audience-participation piece about group dynamics, at 4:45 p.m. (Some events require an R.S.V.P.)

212-769-5200, amnh.org/earthfest

HOPALONG ANDREW at the Jewish Museum (April 22, 11:30 a.m.). New York is not exactly a home where the buffalo roam, but Andrew Vladeck, a.k.a. [Hopalong Andrew](#), can make it seem so. A former [Urban Park Ranger](#) turned children's balladeer, Mr. Vladeck adapts country-and-western songs and musical classics, lending them a city slant. In [this Earth Day concert](#) for ages 2 through 7, which he'll give with his full band, he plans to perform feats like lassoing a taxi onstage and playing [the "William Tell" Overture](#) on harmonica while flatfoot dancing and twirling a rope.

212-423-3337, thejewishmuseum.org/programs

'HOW I BECAME A PIRATE' at the Leon M. Goldstein Performing Arts Center, Kingsborough Community College (April 21, 2 p.m.). There's a lot to be said for a compelling title. But [this Brooklyn musical](#) is not an adaptation of a confessional memoir by Captain Hook; instead, it relates the adventures of Jeremy Jacobs, a small child who's building a sand castle on the beach and minding his own business when a pirate crew sails by and takes him aboard. Written by [Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman](#) and based on the best-selling picture book of the same title by [Melinda Long](#), this Dallas Children's Theater production has numbers like "Pirates Dot Arrgh" and "Green Teeth." It also shows why a buccaneer's life may ultimately prove unappealing, and not just because of poor dental hygiene.

718-368-5596, www.onstageatkingsborough.org

KAZOOM FEST at Harlem School of the Arts (April 20, 7 p.m.; April 21, 3 p.m.). The interactive digital stories published by [KaZoom Kids Books](#) have heroes and heroines unlike those in most children's works: They're black and Latino. Now the Harlem School of the Arts is bringing three of these tales to the stage in a theater festival starring its students and some of their parents. The productions are adaptations of "Taking the E Train" and "Everybody Loves Cake," stories about a Latino family by [Lapacazo Sandoval](#), and "Alyssa Marissa and Her Magical Hair," by [Angela Williams](#), which follows an African-American second grader as she learns to love her unruly curls. Both authors will discuss their fiction before the shows.

212-926-4100, hsanyc.org

NEXT GENERATION NOW at the PEN World Voices Festival in Manhattan and the Bronx (April 21 at various times). For centuries, young people have been agents of change, and [PEN America](#), the literary organization promoting freedom of expression, is actively encouraging them. This year, its PEN World Voices Festival, whose theme is "Resist and

Reimagine,” is featuring [Next Generation Now](#), a new series of more than a dozen programs aimed at aspiring writers and political advocates from preschool through high school. [Little Activists: A Workshop and a Mini-March](#), at 3:30 p.m. at Town Stages, invites children in the second and third grades and younger to meet Leila Sales, author of [“The Little Book of Little Activists,”](#) and some of the children she has written about. [Family Affair: Color Me Abstract](#), from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, offers art-making and writing workshops for ages 4 through 12 led by the authors [Tony Medina](#) and [Liza Jessie Peterson](#). These events are free with R.S.V.P.; some of the others require tickets. A full schedule is on the website.

646-981-0689, worldvoices.pen.org

‘THE NUMBER ON GREAT-GRANDPA’S ARM’ at the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust (through April 29). How do you explain the Holocaust to children? The short film [“The Number on Great-Grandpa’s Arm”](#) offers a simple answer: Let a child do it. Presented by HBO and the museum, the documentary captures the tender relationship between Elliott Saiontz, 10, and his 90-year-old great-grandfather, Jack Feldman, a survivor of Auschwitz. Elliott provides much of the narration in the 19-minute movie, which juxtaposes archival photographs and film clips with Mr. Feldman’s soft-spoken recollections and the hand-painted animation of [Jeff Scher](#), which, though haunting, is less grim than historical footage. Produced and directed by [Amy Schatz](#), the film is at the heart of [this museum installation](#). Visitors can see the documentary on a continuous loop alongside hundreds of its images, including 24 of Mr. Scher’s original watercolors. Although Mr. Feldman suffered greatly — first sent to a labor camp at 14, he never saw his parents again — he seems happy to be alive, surrounded by the love of the generations that the Nazis tried so hard to erase.

646-437-4202, mjhnyc.org

THE PUPPET MASTER: THE COMPLETE JIRI TRNKA at the Walter Reade Theater (April 20-25 at various times). “Puppet” is a word that can conjure pure silliness and slapstick, but the work of the Czech filmmaker [Jiri Trnka](#) (pronounced YIR-zhee TURN-kah), a pioneer in puppet animation, is sophisticated, elegant, intricately beautiful and occasionally dark. [This touring series](#) from the Film Society of Lincoln Center, which has billed it as the first complete [United States retrospective](#) of the career of Trnka (1912-69), has fairy-tale films that children in elementary school may enjoy, as well as political allegories that teenagers can appreciate. Some of the family-friendly titles are “The Emperor’s Nightingale” (1948), a dialogue-free version of a Hans Christian Andersen story; “Bayaya” (1950), a medieval adventure with English subtitles; and “Tales and Collaborations,” a program of shorts whose subjects include circuses and toys. And don’t miss [“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”](#) (1959), a 72-minute Shakespeare adaptation narrated by the actor Richard Burton.

212-875-5601, filmlinc.org