



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Great Dickens Christmas Fair Returns to the Cow Palace transformed into “Drive Thru Dickens’ London”

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, October 15, 2021 ~ Despite the necessity to cancel its customary incarnation of Victorian London within the Cow Palace Exhibition Halls, **Red Barn Productions** has found a way to bring **The Great Dickens Christmas Fair** into your car, into your home, and under your tree this holiday season! For three weekends, beginning **Saturday, December 4 through Sunday, December 19**, fans of this beloved holiday tradition will have three ways to experience the Fair’s well-known Dickensian delights in 2021.



New this year, **Drive Thru Dickens’ London** will offer a taste of The Great Dickens Christmas Fair from the comfort of your car. Designed as a safe way to enjoy many of the Fair’s famous foods and shop for select handcrafted gifts, the event will feature multiple tableaux from Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* along with two stages of continuous live music, dance, and comedy.

“While we weren’t able to produce our traditional Dickens Christmas Fair inside the Cow Palace this year, we decided to serve up Dickensian fun around the exterior of our beloved venue. It’s a whimsically ‘inside out’ experience with some fun surprises,” says Fair co-producer **Kevin Patterson**.

For \$25.00 per vehicle, a car full of friends and family will encounter Dickensian street scenes as they travel around the exterior of the Cow Palace Exhibition Halls, where an enticing selection of hearty English foods, ales, and ciders, as well as nonalcoholic beverages, will be available for purchase at an outdoor version of the Fair’s Grand Concourse. Entertainments will include Fair favorites such as Paddy West’s singing sailors, the lovable London Chimney Sweeps, Victorian Bobbies (aka Peelers), and many more on hand to entertain and delight. Tickets go on sale November 1 at www.dickensfair.com.

Drive Thru Dickens’ London will also feature a selection of handmade goods perfect for holiday gift-giving. Children’s painting sets of clay figures and ornaments, Fairy House building kits, hand-dipped candles, fine soaps, hand-blown glass ornaments, traditional rum cakes, celebrated English Christmas Pudding, and more, can be purchased and delivered along with attendees’ food orders.

Fair producers will also be reprising **Dickens Fair At Home**, the popular online presentation first launched in 2020 of Yuletide videos, traditional recipes, and craft activities as well as readings from Mr. Dickens and Father Christmas. New **Dickens Fair at Home** features will be posted each weekend beginning Saturday, December 4. For details, visit dickensfair.com/dickens-fair-at-home.

Last but not least, the dickensfair.com website will also feature a **Shop Online portal** to many of the Fair’s craftspeople. “Our marvelous artists have lost the majority of their shows once again this year, but many have continued to create their fantastic works of art and make them available online,” says Fair co-producer and vendor manager Leslie Patterson. “When you shop online and buy directly from the artists, you help them survive until live shows return.”

Fair producers are excited to present this new interpretation of a Bay Area tradition and provide an opportunity for caterers, craftspeople, and performers to

generate income. However, next year, a return of the in-person Great Dickens Christmas Fair is planned for Saturdays, Sundays, and the Friday after Thanksgiving from November 19 through December 18, 2022.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT: A decidedly different Dickens Christmas Fair event this season, **Drive Thru Dickens' London** is a taste of The Great Dickens Christmas Fair experienced from the comfort of your car. Enjoy street scenes and enchanting tableaux from '*A Christmas Carol*', lively music, an enticing selection of hearty English foods, and handcrafted holiday gifts available for purchase as you drive through an outdoor version of the Fair's Grand Concourse!

WHEN: Three weekends, Saturdays & Sundays, December 4 - December 19, 2021
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (last vehicle entry at 5 PM)

WHERE: The Cow Palace Lower Exhibition Halls
2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City, CA

PRICES: Advance purchase only (tickets available online only beginning Nov. 1)
Entry is \$25.00 per vehicle (includes all vehicle occupants)
Food, beverages, and handcrafted gifts available for purchase at the event

FOR MORE INFORMATION: visit www.dickensfair.com.

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