

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2024

NYBG Announces Fall Program Highlights to Complement Its *Wonderland: Curious Nature* Exhibition, Inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass, And What Alice Found There*

Wonderland Nights Return on September 7, 14, 20, and 21, Featuring DJ Dance Parties, Cocktails, and Costumed Characters from the Classic Stories for Adults

Take a Trip into the Wild and Wonderful World of Mushrooms During Magic Mushroom Weekend with Live Music, Tours, Films, and Activities for All, September 14 and 15



Shrumen Lumen, kinetic mushroom sculptures by FoldHaus Art Collective that dazzled audiences at the Burning Man Festival and around the world, are on view at The New York Botanical Garden during *Wonderland: Curious Nature*. (NYBG Photo by Marlon Co)

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has announced fall programming highlights, complementing its Garden-wide exhibition *Wonderland: Curious Nature*, a one-of-a-kind botanical experience inspired by the beloved classics *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass, And What Alice Found There*, on view through Sunday, October 27, 2024. Wonderland Nights, featuring DJ parties, cocktails for purchase, and costumed characters from the stories, return on September 7, 14, 20, and 21, from 7 to 10

p.m., for adults 21 and over. Presented in collaboration with The New York Mycological Society (NYMS), Magic Mushroom Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., explores the fascination with the world of these unique—and mind-altering—organisms, reminiscent of Alice’s own size-shifting adventures and experiences with anthropomorphic creatures. Don’t miss out on these extraordinary events that bring the uncanny side of *Wonderland* to life at NYBG. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our website at <https://www.nybg.org/event/wonderland-curious-nature/>.

Wonderland Nights

Saturdays, September 7, 14, 21, and Friday, September 20, 2024; 7–10 p.m.,

Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Plaza and Lawn

Ages 21+; Special ticket required: \$29 for NYBG Members and \$39 for Non-NYBG Members

<https://www.nybg.org/event/wonderland-curious-nature/wonderland-nights/>

Wonderland Nights return this fall, with a new set of dance parties. Visitors can enjoy cocktails for purchase, a live DJ, and dance the night away with Alice and the Red Queen. Dress up in your own *Wonderland*-inspired looks to capture photos with our performers set amid the exhibition’s glowing—and seemingly growing—*Shrumen Lumen* kinetic mushroom sculptures by FoldHaus Art Collective and other *Wonderland*-themed photo opportunities.

About the Performers

- **DJ Ryan Vandal**

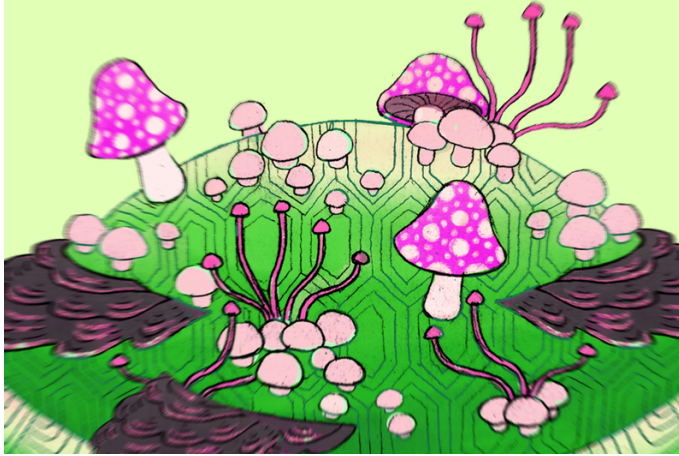
September 7, 14, and 21

Ryan Vandal, has performed more than 1,000 events across major cities including New York, Las Vegas, and Miami. Known for his versatility and dynamic performances, he’s worked with top names such as JAY-Z, Rihanna, and Leonardo DiCaprio. As a music producer, his original tracks have gained significant recognition. Ryan has also been the DJ for notable TV series, including *WeCrashed* on Apple TV+ and *Power Book II: Ghost* on Starz. He continues to captivate audiences with his music and looks forward to releasing new tracks and completing his four-part docuseries.

- **DJ Kristaval**

September 20

DJ Kristaval is truly all about the music and is trusted by the most elite event planners, top venues, and celebrity clients to set the soundtrack for their events. She has performed alongside and opened for artists such as Biz Markie, 50 Cent, Ne-Yo, Le Chic, Ciara, France Joli, LL Cool J, and many more. She is nominated as one of the Top 100 Female DJs in the World by *DJane Mag*.



Magic Mushroom Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, 2024; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

<https://www.nybg.org/event/wonderland-curious-nature/wonderland-curious-nature-programs/wonderland-curious-nature-fantastic-fungi/>

In *Wonderland*, Alice eats a menu of magical mushrooms and mysterious potions that launch her headfirst into a fantastical adventure featuring shifts in size, talking flowers, and other surreal characters. Since at least the psychedelic 1960s, we’ve asked ourselves: was it all a dream—or the result of mind-altering plants and fungi? Explore the wild and wonderful world of mushrooms and learn about the near-endless possibilities they offer, from food to fashion, cosmetics to eco-construction, and meditation to mind-altering experiences. With live music, crafts, tours, and myriad mushroom artists, artisans, and food vendors, we’ll conjure the same atmosphere of pure imagination that Jefferson Airplane did when they told us to “Go ask Alice.” After discovering the fascinating world of these unique organisms, we invite visitors to explore *Wonderland: Curious Nature*.

- **Mushroom Display and Identification Table**

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Check out a wide diversity of mushrooms on display, collected by The New York Mycology Society (NYMS) and provided by local cultivators, [Mushroom Queens](#). Learn some basics of mycology and mushroom identification with one of NYMS’s expert identifiers. Everyone with an interest in fungi, regardless of level of knowledge, is welcome.

- **Fungi for You with Hodgins Harvest**

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Learn about the incredible culinary and medicinal properties that fungi can offer from Aaron Hodgins Davis and his team at Hodgins Harvest. Hodgins Harvest is a certified organic mushroom farm in Rockland County, New York, growing lion’s mane, cordyceps, turkey tail, and reishi for use in functional mushroom extracts and powders.

- **Mushroom Drop-In and Draw**

11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

N.Y.C. Nature Drawing Club is a free art club co-founded by Lindsay Robbins and Margot Dorn, two NYMS members and artists. It is a gathering of folks of all ages and abilities, all inspired by the natural world. This will be a guided but open drawing session, focused on a wide array of fungi collected by NYMS or provided by local cultivators. Drawing materials will be provided, but attendees are also welcome to bring their own.

- **Faces of Fungi! Face-Painting with Face Art by Melissa**

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

In the spirit of Magic Mushroom Weekend, Face Art by Melissa offers whimsical face-painting designs. Highlighted by *Time Out New York Kids* as one of the six best party entertainers in N.Y.C., Face Art by Melissa is New York City's premier face painting company. Melissa and her team of amazing artists will transform any visit with mushrooms and *Wonderland* characters.

- **For Mini Mycologists: Introduction to Mushrooms Workshop**

2 p.m.

During Magic Mushroom Weekend, learn from the team at the Everett Children's Adventure Garden and Mi Oh My Farms about the magnificent world of mushrooms and their importance, in a program designed for young children. Based in the Bronx, Mi Oh My Hydroponic Farms is a worker-owned hydroponic farm and educational organization, with a mission to improve food access for the food insecure, while also providing opportunities for Black, Indigenous and people of color communities to build generational wealth using Cooperative Economics and Just Transition principles, a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power.

- **Meet EcoVative**

Select Times

Meet members of the EcoVative team who are pioneering the art and science of growing complete structures with mycelium. Learn more about the mycelium bricks used for the featured work, *Homegrown* by Great Britain-based Portuguese architect Andre Kong in *Wonderland: Curious Nature*.

- **Meet the New York Mycological Society & Merch Table**

11 a.m.– 4 p.m.

For the mushroom curious and urban naturalist, the New York Mycological Society table offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about the activities at NYMS—an entirely volunteer-run club of passionate mycophiles. NYMS is an inclusive community open to anyone with an interest in fungi. Limited-edition, artist-designed NYMS club t-shirts are available.

- **Phoenix Botanicals by Irina**

Select Times

The NYMS-member and artisanal perfumer Irina Adam of Phoenix Botanicals will offer mushroom-based perfumes for sale. Adam creates custom-blended perfumes, including three featuring the earthy, woody, mysterious base of mushrooms: Lavender Noir, Lilac Rain, and Witch's Feast. Adam started her mushroom journey while working as a Research Assistant in NYBG Science. Phoenix Botanicals unites Adam's fine arts degree and botany minor with her passion for myths and stories. She views her perfumes as time-based storytelling embodied through the transformation of the plant and fungal essences.

- **Lenticular Mushroom Photographs**

Explore the beauty of mushrooms through photographer Blacki Miglioizzi's lens.

- **Mushroom Jams by La Morada Yucayeques**

Sample and purchase delicious mushroom jams by Sara Ruiz, owner of La Morada Yucayeques. Sarah Ruiz is an indigenous Puerto Rican future farmstead, teacher, and cook who incorporates mushrooms into her preserves and desserts.

- **Mini Foray with the New York Mycological Society***

English Language Tours: 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.

Spanish Language Tours: 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Join a NYMS member and myco-expert on a guided walk on NYBG's grounds to identify different fungi within the landscape. Participants receive a NYMS hand lens to take home. Everyone with an interest in fungi, regardless of level of knowledge, is welcome. This event is family-friendly and recommended for children over the age of 12. Tour size is limited to 25 people. The meeting location and information will be provided via email, with registration confirmation.

**Comfortable shoes are recommended; Photos and close-up observation with hand lenses are encouraged, but please no foraging.*

- **Music**

Fungi Disco with Tarun Nayar of Modern Biology

12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

With over 100 million views of his TikTok videos, Modern Biology has brought plant music to the masses. Originally educated as a biologist, veteran musician Tarun Nayar, who performed at Art Basel, MOCA (L.A.) and the Vancouver Art Gallery, brings his passion for nature and sound together in an ambient project that is immediate, uplifting, and deeply contextual.

Additional live music performances will be announced in the coming weeks.

- **A Great Big Game**

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Visitors may enjoy an assortment of games—big and small—from Jenga, Connect 4, and Cornhole to chess, croquet, and hopscotch. Games are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Fungi Films**

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

A diverse selection of short films, featuring the star of the show, fungi, will be on rotation throughout the day.

- **Food**

During Magic Mushroom Weekend, a variety of food options are available for purchase—from mushroom teas by Immorel, a Brooklyn-based sparkling mushroom tea company to tea and crumpets from the *Wonderland*-themed UnBirthday Truck. The Pine Tree Café and Hudson Garden Grill are also options during your visit.

About the New York Mycological Society

The New York Mycological Society (NYMS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the awareness, knowledge, appreciation, and protection of fungi. NYMS believes that passionate, knowledgeable amateurs are important contributors to science and fungal conservation. NYMS is an entirely volunteer-run club and is open to anyone with an interest in fungi — no prior knowledge is required to join one of our walks, identification sessions, or lectures. Founded in 1962 by the avant-garde composer John Cage and a small group of other mycophiles, learning and the enjoyment of

About The New York Botanical Garden

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden is the most comprehensive botanical garden in the world and an integral part of the cultural fabric of New York City, anchored in the Bronx. Visitors come to the Garden to connect with nature for joy, beauty, and respite, and for renowned plant-based exhibitions, music and dance, and poetry and lectures. Innovative children’s education programs promote environmental sustainability and nutrition awareness, graduate programs educate the next generation of botanists, while engaging classes inspire adults to remain lifelong learners. The 250-acre verdant landscape—which includes a 50-acre, old-growth forest—and the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory support living collections of more than one million plants. Unparalleled resources are also held in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, the world’s most important botanical and horticultural library with 11 million archival items spanning ten centuries, and William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest in the Western Hemisphere with 7.8 million plant and fungal specimens. Committed to protecting the planet’s biodiversity and natural resources, Garden scientists work on-site in cutting-edge molecular labs and in areas worldwide where biodiversity is most at risk.

For more information about *Wonderland: Curious Nature* and its complementary programming offerings and dining options, visit our website at <https://www.nybg.org/event/wonderland-curious-nature/>.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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