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Photo: The Rockettes - MSG Entertainment

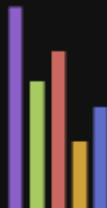
THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR returns to PlayhouseSquare for the most wonderful time of the year. This beloved holiday extravaganza will kick up its heels December 4-28, 2008 as part of the KeyBank Broadway Series.

Starring the world famous Radio City Rockettes, dancing teddy bears, wooden soldiers, live camels, a living nativity, and Santa Claus, it is no wonder that *Time Magazine* says the show "lifts the spirit" and the *Boston Herald* declares it "a rare gem!"

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Education Department at PlayhouseSquare

Vice President of Theatricals:

Gina Vernaci

Director of Arts Education:

Colleen Porter

Director of Ticket Sales & Marketing:

Autumn Kiser

Editors:

Linda Jackson, Cindi Szymanski

Writer:

Robin Pease

Photos:

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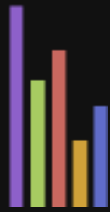
Talking With The Rockettes



Photo: Janet Macoska

The **Rockettes** are the **world's most famous precision dance team**. They always move as "one dancer." Costumes, make-up and hair are completely identical. The dancers even give the illusion of being the same height by having the tallest dancers in the center of the line, and gradually decreasing the height with the shortest women at either end. They are known for their precision **eye-high kick line**.

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BUZZ EXTRA spoke with Radio City Rockettes **Kara Jones of Cincinnati, Ohio** and **Jessica Pack of Spartanburg, South Carolina** when they were in Cleveland for the kick off of the 2008-09 PlayhouseSquare season.

Jessica Pack is in the RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR show in New York City while Kara Jones tours to 18 cities with the show. Ms. Pack has been a Rockette for seven seasons and Ms. Jones is in her second season.

EXTRA: How do you get to be a Rockette?

ROCKETTES: You have to be between five feet, six inches and five feet, ten and a half inches tall, proficient in ballet, tap, and jazz dance and at least 18 years old, but there are no other restrictions.

I grew up watching the Rockettes in the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.**

I auditioned at Radio City Music Hall. I got there in the morning and saw a big line of tall, long-legged women wrapped around the corner. I was number 500 and something. I learned some choreography and the famous "high-kick" routines, made it through the first round of cuts, came back for the second round the next day, then got a phone call over the summer and found out I'm going to be a Rockette. I was SOOO excited. A dream come true.

Dancing is a competitive business. **Everyone has to re-audition every year.** It keeps the best women on the line every year, so you are seeing the most talented people.

EXTRA: How many Rockettes are there in a show?

ROCKETTES: 18.

EXTRA: How many shows do you do in a day?

ROCKETTES: We can do up to four shows a day.

EXTRA: Four shows a day? How many eye-high kicks is that?

ROCKETTES: **The daily kick count is 1200.**

EXTRA: How do you stay fit?

ROCKETTES: Each dancer is different, but it's important to stretch out, get the cardiovascular system up

and running, pilates...

EXTRA: What is the daily life of a Rockette like?

ROCKETTES: During the rehearsals we dance six hours a day, six days a week. That keeps us in pretty good shape. It's nice to be able to eat pretty much what you want, though. We need the proteins and carbs!

During the show, we get up, go to the theater to get hair and makeup, do the warm-ups and there's an athletic trainer if you need something wrapped or taped. Then on with the show. We do one to four shows a day. Sometimes we have 30 minutes between shows or a couple of hours. Sometimes we don't get out until 11:30 PM, depending on the schedule.

EXTRA: What is your favorite thing about being a Rockette?

ROCKETTES: As people are leaving the theater, they are happy, inspired and they haven't had to think about their problems for two hours. It's all Christmas and joy. That is very rewarding. A dream come true.

EXTRA: What about next year?

ROCKETTES: We're both going to audition again next year.

EXTRA: Well, we're so glad you could be in Cleveland for the holidays.

ROCKETTES: It's great to be back in Cleveland.

For more information on the ROCKETTES check out these books:

THE RADIO CITY ROCKETTES: A Dance Through Time
by James Porto

AND SHE DANCED FOR THE KING: Memoirs Of A Rockette
by Trent Vaselaar

RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR:
A Photographic History Of The Rockettes and Christmas Spectacular
by Radio City Entertainment



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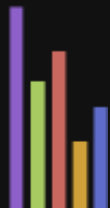


Photo: MSG Entertainment

The RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR show has **12 scenes**, each with a different song and consequently **different costumes**. Here's what you'll see:

- **267** costumes
- **234** pairs of shoes
- **35** Santa costumes
- **7** costume changes per Rockette

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- **2** costumes for the live camels
- More than **100** hats
- Vincente Minnelli (father of Liza, husband of Judy Garland and famous film director of *American in Paris* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*) designed the wooden soldier costumes for the **1933** show. This costume design has been used ever since.
- Wooden Soldier costumes have taken up to **12 hours** to make.
- The Wooden Soldier hats are almost **3 feet tall**.
- In the scene *Santa's Gonna Rock and Roll*, **80 pairs of sparkle tights** are used per year. These tights have been custom made and painted by hand to create the sparkle.
- Rockettes wear **2 and a half inch heels**, regardless of height.
- Each Rockette uses **9 pairs of shoes** in one season
- There have been as many as **3,000 Swarovski crystals** in a costume and it has been said that the Rockettes wear "more sparkles than Elizabeth Taylor's jewelry box."
- There can be up to **13 "dressers"** or backstage crew who help the performers with quick changes and keep track of all costumes.
- Since many costume changes take place in just **80 seconds**, the changes are just as choreographed as the dance numbers onstage.

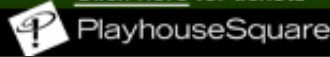
Other Fun Facts

- Mimi Swenson wore hundreds of costumes in the 20 years she spent as a Rockette. She lives in the Cleveland area today.
- Russell Markert's (founder of the Rockettes) tap shoes were bronzed when he retired.
- Bob Mackie (designer for Cher, Barbra Streisand and Tina Turner) has designed a Rockette costume.

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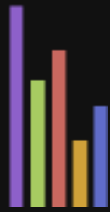
Want to find out even more about the show? Come get "buzzed" with host Joe Garry at these **RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** Broadway Buzz Pre-Show Talks:

- Wednesday, December 5, at 7 PM
- Thursday, December 6, at 1 & 7 PM
- Friday December 7, at 12 & 6 PM
- Sunday, December 9, at 7 PM
- Monday, December 10, at 7 PM
- Tuesday, December 11, at 7 PM
- Wednesday, December 12, at 7 PM
- Thursday, December 13, at 1 & 7 PM
- Friday, December 14, at 12 & 6 PM
- Sunday, December 16, at 7 PM
- Monday, December 17, at 7 PM
- Tuesday, December 18, at 7 PM



Pre-Show Talks are held in the Idea Center at PlayhouseSquare. The Idea Center is located just two doors west of the Allen Theatre at 1375 Euclid Avenue. You can enter the Idea Center quickly from the PlayhouseSquare parking garage by taking the elevator or stairs to Level 1. Exit through the red doors and cross at the crosswalk which will lead you directly into the rear entrance of the building. You also

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may enter the Idea Center from Euclid Avenue.

Listen to the RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Buzz Bite, a preview of the Pre-Show Talk!

Catch our Post-Show Chats with the Cast following Thursday evening performances (Dec. 11th and 18th).

There is no charge for admission to Broadway Buzz Pre-Show Talks or Post-Show Chats.

Rockette Master Class

\$25 per dancer

Thursday, December 11, 2008 or Thursday, December 18, 2008

5 – 6:30 PM

Idea Center at PlayhouseSquare

These master classes offer a unique opportunity to study with a Rockette and participate in a question and answer session. You'll learn choreography from the Rockette repertoire including the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Participants must be professional dancers or advanced students who aspire to a career in dance and have at least five years of training. Ages 14-25 only. Due to limited space you may participate in only one of the two classes.

To register for the Rockette Master Class please call 216-348-7909.

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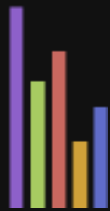
Photo: The Rockettes - MSG Entertainment

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The RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR has been seen by more than 65 million people for 75

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years in 31 cities across the nation.

Synopsis

If you "Need A Little Christmas," if you are "Looking For The Man With The Bag," if you want a peek into "Santa's Workshop," or have "Christmas Dreams," look no further. THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR features singing, dancing, the amazing **precision kick lines of the Rockettes**, and a cast and crew of **100 people plus live animals**.

There is no better way to celebrate the "Twelve Days Of Christmas" than with the "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," a teddy bear's version of "The Nutcracker" and a dazzling "Sleigh Ride." The *New York Times* proclaims this show is "*Super Spectacular... spreads warmth, joy and good will.*"

Secret of the Precision Eye-High Kicks

Though it looks like the Rockettes are holding each other's waists while doing the famous kickline, they **never touch each other on the back**. They keep half an inch of space between their palms and their neighbor's backs, thus maintaining their own balance.

Did You Know...

The RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR'S sproducer, MSG Entertainment, offers two dance education programs for aspiring dancers?

Ever **dream of becoming a Rockette?**

The **Rockette Experience** is a three-hour workshop taught by a Rockette, giving dancers the chance to learn actual choreography from the repertoire, including the famous eye-high kicks, and participate in a mock audition. Followed by a Stage Door Tour, Q&A and photo session, this experience offers a sneak peek into the life of the most famous precision dance company in the world.

For more information, call: 212-631-4354.

The **Rockette Summer Intensive** is a one-week, six hour a day program led by a Rockette director/choreographer. Participants learn jazz, tap, formations and of course, the famous kicks.

For more information,
email: rockettesummerintensive@thegarden.com or call: 212-631-4330.

26 students from these dance education programs have become Rockettes.



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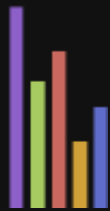


Photo: The Rockettes - MSG Entertainment

Seventy-five years ago the "dancing daughters" of Russell Markert made history by performing at the opening night of Radio City Music Hall in New York City. They have been kicking up their heels ever since. But the **history of the Rockettes actually begins in England.**

- **1885** - Englishman John Tiller revolutionized chorus dancing by introducing a straight line of girls with uniform height and weight dancing in precision, forming straight lines and geometric shapes.

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Tiller discovered that if the girls linked their arms around each other's waists, it enabled them to work together to improve the precision. Tiller brought his precision dancers to Paris' Folies Bergère to perform the "Pony Kick," the precursor of eye-high kicks.

- **1900** - The Tiller Girls came to America, where they were recruited for the Ziegfeld Follies.
- **1922** - Russell Markert recalled, "I had seen the John Tiller girls in the Ziegfeld Follies. If I ever got a chance to get a group of American girls who would be taller and have longer legs and could do really complicated tap routines and eye-high kicks ...they'd knock your socks off!"
- **1925** - Markert trained a group of 16 girls to make their show biz debut in St Louis in as the "Missouri Rockets." Their popularity brought them to the attention of showman S.L. (Roxy) Rothafel. He brought them to New York City to perform at his theater the "ROXY" and called them the "Roxyettes."
- **1929** - Roxy Rothafel hooked up with John D. Rockefeller and his new building project in Manhattan. Rockefeller had a commercial partner called Radio Corporation of America (RCA). RCA owned the popular NBC radio programs and RKO movie studios that provided entertainment during the hard times of the Great Depression. These three partners called their new project "Radio City" and its goal was to provide entertainment at prices people could afford.
- **1932** - On December 27, at the opening of Radio City Music Hall, the "Roxyettes" shared the stage with the Flying Wallendas, Ray Bolger and Martha Graham.
- **1933** - Radio City Music Hall had a Christmas Spectacular stage show featuring the newly named Rockettes and a movie. The Rockettes did their precision dance moves choreographed by Russell Markert and the holiday tradition of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular was born. The show included the Parade of the Wooden Soldiers and the Living Nativity that are still performed today!
- **1971** - Russell Markert continued working with the Rockettes until he retired in 1971.
- **1979** - In the early days, Radio City offered a stage show featuring the Rockettes AND a movie. This tradition lasted until 1979 when only the Christmas Spectacular and a Spring Spectacular featuring an Easter Pageant were shown.
- **1994** - RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR goes on the road bringing the New York holiday tradition to cities across America.
- **2001** - The RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR makes its debut in Cleveland, breaking box office records playing to audiences of over 146,000 in 52 performances.

For more information on Radio City and the Rockettes go to: www.radiocity.com

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Photos: The Rockettes - MSG Entertainment

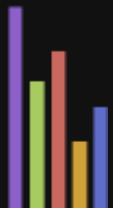
How could Joseph and Mary journey to Bethlehem without Sarah, the Donkey? How could there be a stable without sheep? How could the Wise Men travel without camels?

To complete the RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR'S Living Nativity, two camels, one

donkey and several sheep take the stage. These animals come from **Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm** in central **Kansas**. Hedrick's has been providing animals for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular since 1994.

A lifelong rancher, Joe Hedrick had the opportunity to work with exotic animals in rodeo specialty acts. Joe and Sondra Hedrick had a love of these exotic animals and began breeding them on their farm in Nickerson, Kansas as a hobby. As their hobby grew, the Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm was born.

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"More than 800 animals from giraffes to chickens call it home," says Sondra Hedrick, "including some 300 goats, 30 camels and 20 zebras."

Ostriches, Doves, Kangaroos, Pygmy Goats, Llamas, Cavies, Zebus, Reindeer, Oryx, Yaks, Nilgai, Muntjacs, Spurred Tortoises, Hedgehogs, Highlanders, Elands, Emus, Alpacas, Bison, Bongos, Jacob 4 Horns and Miniature Donkeys are some of the exotic animals that joined the Hedrick animal family. There are even a few domestic animals like cattle and ponies.

In 1992, the farm opened to the public offering pig, ostrich, goat and camel races, as well as hayrides. As popularity grew, Hedrick's Promotions Inc. was formed to give people more opportunity to interact with these amazing animals, as well as provide animals for exhibits at state fairs, petting zoos, and educational opportunities at schools, birthday parties, corporate retreats, and campouts. People who visit have the chance to touch and feed animals that they have never heard of before.

Two years later, Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm began providing animals not only for the RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, but for Christmas and Easter shows at churches throughout the country. With over 40 years of experience in show business, the animals are trained for indoor and outdoor stage work and tour "coast to coast and border to border."

Licensed by the U.S.D.A, Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm is overseen by a full-time trained staff with 24-hour veterinary service, who provide the best of care whether the animals are on the farm or on tour. Every single animal is provided with a proper living quarters, excellent nutrition and human companionship.

The farm is always looking for people who love animals as much as Joe and Sondra Hedrick, hiring a few seasonal and full-time year round employees to travel with the animals throughout the United States.

For more information on **Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm** go to: www.hedricks.com



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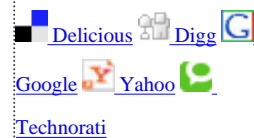
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