

# *The* GREAT INDOORS

COME IN FROM THE COLD

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**O**utside the window, the sun shines onto glittering snow, while a whooshing sound causes the white powder to poof into the air.

The picturesque vision and bright sun are misleading, but once you are outside and feel the gusts of whipping winter wind scraping at your cheeks, you remember today's sub-zero temperatures.

Instead of succumbing to dreams of re-entering the house to cuddle by the fireplace with hot cocoa, you scurry to the car, blasting the heat. You know you will survive the frigid air with your fluffy coat, soft scarf, and warm hat and mittens. But what's really comforting is the realization that everything you are doing today is indoors. The Mid-Hudson Valley is full of fun and unique indoor activities, many of which are great for the kids, too!

For example, there is the **Mid-Hudson Children's Museum** in Poughkeepsie, which has hands-on exhibits that include a black and white cow merry-go-round, a spinning ball on a looping, spiraling, miniature roller coaster track, and a bubble machine! Let the kids have fun trying to climb the sideways rockwall and then learn about regional history, science, technology, and medicine.

If you prefer astronomy, check out the John R. Kirk Planetarium at **SUNY New Paltz**. Images of the night's sky project onto a domed ceiling during interactive shows where you can ask your own questions and see the images that interest you. The prices and show times vary—usually they are during the day and more frequent when school is in session—so call in advance.

If it is too cold outside, but you do not mind a chill, then get up and glide around the McCann Ice Arena at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie. The arena offers fun, affordable free-skate sessions almost every afternoon and has skates available for rent—just in case. And as if slipping, sliding, falling, and laughing were not entertaining enough, the McCann hosts DJ skate nights on Fridays.

If art is more your thing, the Hudson Valley is definitely not lacking. The Dia:Beacon not only holds a permanent collection of major artworks from the 1960s onward as well as long-term galleries for individual artists, but it also happens to be in a nearly 300,000-square-foot 1929 Nabisco box printing facility—now considered to be an example of early industrial architecture. The more than 34,000-square-feet of skylights provide a phenomenal overhead natu-

ral light-source for art viewing, a rare element in many art museums. Dia:Beacon has three ongoing exhibitions currently: a drawing series by Sol LeWitt, a series of shaped paintings by Imi Knoebel, and a look at vintage Niagara Falls post cards compiled by Zoe Leonard.

If you prefer more local creations, check out the **Samuel Dorsky Museum** on the **SUNY New Paltz** campus, where an exhibit titled, *Binary Visions: 19th-Century Woven Coverlets from the Collection of Historic Huguenot Street*, will be on view from October to March. This show features 30 wool and cotton coverlets from the textile collection of New Paltz's **Historic Huguenot Street**. These articles were spun on water-powered looms during the first half of the 1900s here in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

After a long day of art, ice-skating, and more, what better way to finish out the day than relaxing at a play or musical, or even a film in one of the Valley's independent art house cinemas?

One option, the **Mohonk Mountain Stage Company**, formed in 1994 to perform works of strong literary merit, is staging the Hudson Valley premiere of "The Laramie Project, 10 years Later...An Epilogue" at **Unison Art and Learning Center** in New Paltz on November 5 and 6. The play tracks the return to Wyoming of members of the Tectonic Theater Project to explore how the town had changed in the 10 years since Matthew Shepard's murder.

For those who prefer film, Upstate Films presents noteworthy non-mainstream options for theatergoers as well as special events with directors, historical films and more. Since opening its doors in May 1972 Upstate Films has been showing everything from independent, to foreign, documentary, animation, experimental, silent, and artistic films; currently it shows more than 700 films each year in its Rhinebeck and

Woodstock locations. This fall, both locations of Upstate will screen films as part of the Woodstock Film Festival, September 29 through October 3. See page 15 for details.

In a similar vein, the Rosendale Theatre, recently under new ownership, shows independent films of similar genres as well as local projects. Additionally, the theatre offers special event screenings including discussion sessions with local and independent writers, producers, directors, and actors. (The John Lennon biopic *Nowhere Man* screens on September 24, followed by a performance by The Quarrymen, Lennon's first band.)

With the Valley's plethora of indoor fun, in which you have now taken part, the frozen outdoors seem less unbearable. So, after your choice of shows, you drive back; and upon your entrance into the house you remove the bulky winter clothing, head to the kitchen, and fix your hot cocoa—not because you succumbed to the winter weather, but because you braved it. ■

## RESOURCES IN THIS ARTICLE

### **Dia:Beacon**

[www.diabeacon.org](http://www.diabeacon.org)

### **Mid-Hudson Children's Museum**

[www.mhcm.org](http://www.mhcm.org)

### **Mohonk Mountain Stage Company**

[www.mmstageco.com](http://www.mmstageco.com)

### **Rosendale Theatre**

[www.rosendaletheatre.org](http://www.rosendaletheatre.org)

### **Samuel Dorsky Museum**

[www.newpaltz.edu/museum](http://www.newpaltz.edu/museum)

### **Unison Art and Learning Center**

[www.unisonarts.org](http://www.unisonarts.org)

### **Upstate Films**

[www.upstatefilms.com](http://www.upstatefilms.com)

*For more info on places to explore indoors, visit [www.newpaltzchamber.org](http://www.newpaltzchamber.org).*