Edinburgh's Christmas opens this weekend

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Edinburgh's Christmas begins this weekend with a huge array of festive activities for all the family.

Friday the 18th of November sees the ever popular St Andrew Square Ice Rink open once more to revellers, upon which 61,000 people enjoyed a spot of ice-skating last year. Event sponsors Standard Life have also donated 10,000 tickets to give school children based in the city of Edinburgh to attend.

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St Andrew Square Ice Rink

Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, Edinburgh's Christmas, said: "The temperature has dropped and with Christmas decorations appearing in shops and houses across Edinburgh, it's time to light up the city and celebrate this special time of year."

A major new production of the hit West End and Broadway musical also opens on Friday as part of Edinburgh's Christmas. Five Guys Named Moe features the hits of jazz hero Louis Jordan. The revamp of the Olivier award winning show, which tells the tale of newly single Nomax and his journey to happiness, will be held at the all new Festival Square Theatre.

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Other attractions on show this year include the Christmas fairground at The Mound Precinct and East Princes Street Gardens. This will include The Star Flyer, The Big Wheel, Santa Land and The European Christmas Market.

A special event will be held on Sunday 20 November 2016 at the west end of George Street. Light Night brings together choirs from across Scotland to perform in front of an expected 20,000 people as the Christmas tree on the Mound and the rest of the lights are turned on by Forth One DJ Arlene Stuart and Edinburgh's Olympic gold and silver medal winner Callum Skinner.