

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

GOOD NEWS EDITION!

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A SECOND FOR SELF CARE

During these difficult and uncertain times, we're finding ourselves with a lot of time with ourselves - more time to worry, more time to think, more time to be scared. And during all of this, there may be a lot of pressure to rediscover yourself, write a soliloquy, ace all your classes, or learn how to crochet table doilies. But the most important thing is putting yourself and your mental and physical health first! Take breaks from work whenever you need. If you need time to be sad, take time to curl up, put on your saddest classical music, and cry. If you need to tap out and take a day to not talk to anyone, or if you don't have the capacity to respond to a whole bunch of emails right now, that's fine! Do whatever you need - the people around you love you, care about you, and will understand. And if you happen to learn how to crochet doilies cause you want to, lovely! Take the time to do what you want and what you need! Limit your time on social media, reach out to friends and bake banana bread together over facetime, and take a (safe!) walk outside. Also, if you open your windows, you'll notice flowers blooming and trees growing leaves - a beautiful reminder that things will change, I promise.

FREE THEATRE!

GO TO THEIR WEBSITES + CHECK OUT:

- Royal Opera House**
- Met Opera** - Nightly streams available for 24 hours!
- Ailey All Access** - Alvin Ailey Full length ballets + conversations with dancers - next week is *Lazarus*!
- Opernhaus Zurich**
- Marquee TV** - Free Trial
- Fleetwood Jourdain Theatre's Web Series STAY CREATIVE** feat. Bria's Spot on Ira Aldridge + **A Masterclass by Regina Taylor** (April 17 - 7pm)
- Pittsburgh Public PPT Playtime!**
- ALL Arts**
- The Shows Must Go On!** - a YouTube channel which will show full length performances over each weekend. They go up Fridays at 2:00pm EST, and are up for 48 hours. This weekend is *Jesus Christ Superstar* directed by Laurence Connor.

GOOD NEWS!

There will be a virtual graduation ceremony April 26th at 10am! More details to come from the department.

STAY UPDATED!



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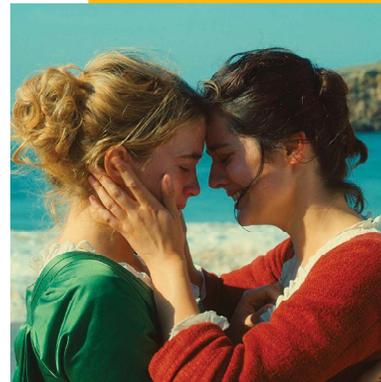
Swan Lake - Alexander Ekman - Norwegian National Ballet

The Stage - a shallow pool of water. Two swans, in inflatables, one black, one white, slowly walk towards each other, their reflections bouncing off the surface of the water. They finally reach each other, eyes locked intensely. Suddenly, there's a plop stage left. Then stage right. Rubber ducks falling from the sky - strangely, neither black nor white. Then, the corps de ballet enters. Floral swimwear runs across the stage. Beach balls fly through the sky, while a man poses as a fountain in the center, shooting water out into a champagne glass that another man drinks (theatre magic). Everyone cheers. Stage goes black. Confused? Yes. I don't remember this in Swan Lake. Intrigued? Yes, even more. Please watch. My rating? Out of five stars? Four rubber ducks.



Portrait of a Lady on Fire - dir. Céline Sciamma (2019) - Hulu

If you didn't get a chance to watch this French film while it was playing at The Manor in Squirrel Hill, now's your chance--it was added to Hulu this past weekend! Set on an isolated isle off the coast of Brittany in 18th-Century France, the film tells the story of a painter, Marianne, and a young aristocrat, Héloïse, who fall in love when Marianne is commissioned to paint Héloïse's portrait. The cinematography is stunning, the love story is heartbreaking--there's a reason this movie won Best Screenplay for writer/director Céline Sciamma at the Cannes Film Festival.



Superstore (NBC) - Hulu

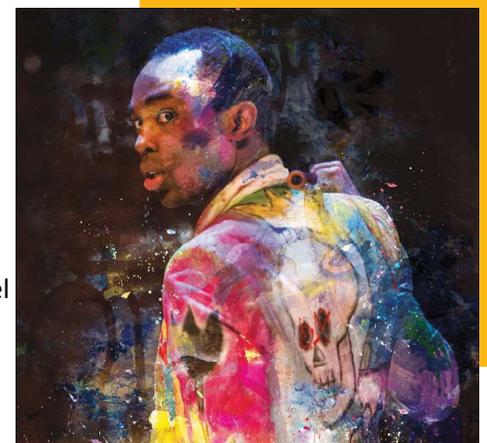
If you've already binged your way through The Office, Parks and Rec, and Brooklyn Nine-Nine, but you want more workplace comedy, then watch Superstore, a show about workers in (you guessed it) a Walmart-style superstore in St. Louis, Missouri. I was genuinely surprised at how funny this show is and I've already blown through 2 seasons in 2 days during quarantine. Yes, you will spend the entirety of season 1 wondering if the actor playing Glenn actually sounds like that in real life, but you will also be having a ball of fun watching the workers at Cloud 9 form friendships, relationships, and deal with every annoying and oddball customer you could possibly imagine. It's hilarious, and a wonderful distraction from the world right now.



Dracula - Netflix

If the current times are getting you down, and you want to travel back to the good ol' days of 19th century Romania, this may be the show for you. Stephen Moffat presents a three-part miniseries that is so tonally incoherent that it is four and a half hours of complete enthrallment. Are you watching a gory horror show, a vampire-based comedy, or a dark and suspenseful thriller? Yes. With more plot twists than can be reasonably endured, and the obligatory Mark Gatiss cameo, this so-bad-it's brilliant show will leave you thirsting for more.

Hamlet - Royal Shakespeare Company
 Basquiat inspired suits!
 Basquiat inspired suits!
 (They say Banksy, I see Basquiat!)
 Basquiat Inspired Suits! In a pastel haze!



DRAMA REVIEWS FROM YOUR BOARD CONT.

It's Alive - Brad and Claire Make Sourdough Donuts (Parts I-III) - Bon Appetit

If you would ever like to see two (lovely) grown adults cry over sourdough starter not proofing, now is your chance! A three part series, a ride from start to start to finish, you will laugh, you will cry, your stomach will grumble (spoiler, they do end up successfully making donuts). I rate five out of five slotted spoons.



Alice in Wonderland - Royal Shakespeare Opera

Worth watching alone for the tap dancing mad hatter - a lil paradiddle action if you know what I'm saying. Also what a beautiful score! Forget about front row seats, put me orchestra pit next to the harpist.

FREE USITT RESUME+PORTFOLIO REVIEWS

USITT is offering free portfolio and resume reviews every **Friday between 2 and 4 from April 10 to May 4!**

Please take advantage of this nice opportunity to get new feedback on your work!

Reviews are via zoom, sign up for a 30 minute slot here based on your field:

<https://www.usitt.org/education-training/online-portfolio-reviews>

Don't be shy! You don't need to have a perfect portfolio or resume to get feedback!

usitt

USITT FREE VIRTUAL WEBINARS!

-Monday, April 13: Digital Media Workflow: Best Practices in Presentation and Paperwork

A discussion of a designer's process for presenting design ideas, designing and documenting the system, and all of the paperwork required to go from concept to design + how the workflow can change between different types of projects.

-Tuesday, April 14: Fire Safety and Your Drapes, Are You Prepared?

-Tuesday, April 14: MagicQ MQ70 Compact console and the New Color Picker Engine

-Wednesday, April 15: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Harvey: The Alley Theatre's Prop Salvage and Recovery Saga

In late August 2017, Hurricane Harvey dropped 50+ inches of rain in the Houston metro area. This led to exhaustive flooding all over the city, including inundating the Alley Theatre's Neuhaus Stage and Props storage areas with more than 19 feet of water. This session will review the damage caused to the Alley Theatre properties inventory and the subsequent salvage and recovery operations. Karin Rabe Vance, Alley Theatre Prop Master, will take us through the efforts they undertook to salvage any recoverable props while also taking a full inventory of the unrecoverable items. She'll include some best practices and tips for determining priority items, cleaning processes and products, and how to determine insurance values for treasured props both shop built and purchased.

-Thursday, April 16: Current Practices and Research in Sound

A series of presentations investigating the artistry, craft, and technology of sound, including sounds from a Dream Place: Selective Listening and Implications for Sound Design by Abra Clawson, Transforming the Creative Practices of Composers and Sound Designers with VirDAW, the Virtual Reality Digital Audio Workstation by Vincent Olivieri and Tess Tanenbaum, and The Inclusion of Bone-Conduction Headphones in Theatre and Sound Design by Kelly Murphey.

-Thursday, April 16: Cuelist: Reinventing Collaboration for Theater and Live Events

Use this link to register and get the zoom link!

<https://www.usitt.org/education-training/usitt-webinars>

(CHECK OUT @centerforcreativity FOR PODCASTS, DIGITAL WORKSHOPS, VIRTUAL OPEN MIC + MORE!)

A LOVELY LETTER FROM ANNMARIE

Dear USITT Chapter,

First, I want to congratulate all of the seniors. I know this is not how any of us envisioned the end of your senior year. My instinct is to say that I am sorry, however that feels woefully inadequate. But I am sorry. I wish for you that after we, as a country, are through to the other side you will take all you learned at Pitt and go out to find your pathway. Your way to creating, collaborating, and contributing as you work toward the success you have the passion to pursue. Please know how very proud I am of each of you. I have seen over the past four years your commitment, your compassion, and your success. I see what each of you have to offer this world and I very much look forward to watching that potential unfold.

For the rest of us, we will return. We will return stronger as we are fortunate to have a community we can count on and a community that knows the reward of hard work. I was recently asked, "Do you think it will be the same?". The truth is no, I think it will be hard at first and we will need to find new ways to continue forward. I have a new perspective, as this experience has taught me to see more: see more love, see more arts, see more in my fellow artists. This has given me a newfound appreciation to also be more: be more open, be more collaborative, be more connected. I know how privileged I am to work alongside all of you and this experience has brought clarity to that knowledge. I have always been grateful to be a part of our department, and I appreciate the spirit. Or, as Gianni and I like to call it - the scrappiness. I hope to use this newfound strength to be a part of our new normal with positivity and light! I do not think it will be the same, but I do think that working together we will have the opportunity to make our missions better. We have a great season of storytelling coming next year. Our season will allow us to expand our minds, our art, our hearts. I hope that you will all return ready to work together to put back together a department that will not only stand up to brush ourselves off and create, but also to lead as artists across the country find the strength to be a part of rebuilding what was paused. We will continue to show the best of humanity even in dark times.

I know it is hard to see right now, but I am here for you. I stand ready to work with you and I know together we will find success and pride in how we continue to tell our stories.

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves and those you love.
Annmarie

PHOTOS TO REMIND YOU THAT MORE GOOD TIMES WILL COME!



merrily masks!

Button! Likes to eat grass!



Rave! 8 weeks old!



SONG RECCOMENDATIONS!

TO DANCE WITH YOUR HOUSEPLANTS TO:

Light a Roman Candle with Me- fun.
Build Me Up Buttercup- The Foundations
Coffee-beabadoobee
Die Young- Sylvan Esso
Talking in Your Sleep- The Romantics

TO BAKE BREAD TO:

Bass Song - Eryn Allen Kane
Black Coffee - Sarah Vaughn
And All That Jazz - Chicago
Take Care of Business - Nina Simone
What Baking Can Do - Waitress (because, I mean, come on!)
Like a Fool - Mama K & The Shades
Miss Celie's Pants - The Color Purple

WHEN YOU'RE FEELING A LIL OVERWHELMED AND NEED TO BREATHE:

Easy - Anna Wise
Answer Me - The Band's Visit
Last Breath - Rayvn Lenae
Piano Song - Milky Chance
Good News - Mac Miller
Building a Ladder - Hiatus Kaiyote
Live Well - Palace
Borderline - Tame Impala
Cherry - Harry Styles

SPICY SEASON AHEAD!

LABS:

The Proposal / A Number-
Opens Sept. 24th, 2020 - dir. Nick DePinto / Tyler Lentz
These Shining Lives -
Opens Nov. 12th, 2020 - dir. Jenna Teplitzky
Collective Rage; A Play in Five Betties -
Opens Feb. 11th, 2021 - dir. Julia Kreutzer
La Cautiva / Carrie & Francine -
Opens April 15th, 2021 - dir. Maria Hurtado / Becca Hobart

MAINSTAGE:

Miss You Like Hell -
Opens Oct. 9th, 2020 - dir. Bria Walker
Head Over Heels -
Opens Nov. 6th, 2020 - dir. Tomé Cousin
The Visit -
Opens Feb. 19th, 2021 - dir. Cindy Croot
Chemical Imbalance -
Opens Mar. 26th, 2021 - dir. KJ Gilmer
Spring Awakening -
Opens April 9th, 2021 - dir. Ricardo Vila-Roger

2 TRUTHS AND A LIE. USITT BOARD

Sophia:

-I currently live next to a bar
-The house I grew up in was one block away from a casino
-I went to high school next door to a strip club

Derek:

-I was in my first musical when I was 10 years old.
-I won an award for acting at a theatre festival.
-In middle school, I played Toto in The Wizard of Oz (jr).

Melina:

-I once ate dinner at Debra Jo Rupp's house
-I met Emeril Lagasse at a cookbook signing when I was 2 years old
-I saw George Lopez getting into a taxi in Times Square

Kami:

-I've never had a Dorito of any flavor
-I auditioned for Flounder in my middle school Little Mermaid musical
-I baked cheddar cheese cupcakes for my middle school band teacher (middle school am I right)

Josee:

-Played softball and ultimate frisbee growing up!
-Came to Pitt to be a math major!
-Wanted to be in the FBI

POPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL 2020!

Performance Collaborative is looking for a team for Daylily, a one-act play that'll be produced at Pitt in Fall 2020. Listed below are the roles that we're looking to fill. If you're interested or want more info, email upcollaborative@gmail.com

Director
Stage Manager
Asst. Stage Manager
Set Designer
Props Master
Sound Designer
Lighting Designer
Master Electrician

SENDING TONS OF HUGS!

STAY SAFE FRIENDS.