COVID-19 Update: October 6, 2020:
The White House Hot Spot

The president continues to ignore all medical guidelines, trying to portray himself as having conquered the coronavirus; nothing is said about the damage done to his associates and staff. Meanwhile, nearly everything about the pandemic is made into a political issue, with little progress being made on actually controlling the virus or helping out the unemployed. And the White House, where COVID-19 rules are apparently ignored, is now the country’s newest coronavirus hot spot.

The Latest:

The president returns to the White House, making a series of theatrical gestures; the West Wing is now a “ghost town,” as staffers stay away: https://tinyurl.com/y4524mkf. Members of the White House press corps are livid about being exposed to the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y5lirhdo. The White House housekeeping staff face new COVID-19 fears: https://tinyurl.com/y3daktja.

Doctors condemn the president’s urging Americans to not worry about the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yxsql57h. Dr. Anthony Fauci warns that the timeline of the president’s infection is not yet in his favor: https://tinyurl.com/y59s7o4r. The widow of Nick Cordero, COVID-19 victim, denounces the president’s comments about not letting the coronavirus dominate: https://tinyurl.com/y2rwxrqm.

One of the president’s medications, Dexamethasone, has side effects that include agitation and aggression: https://tinyurl.com/y257ne3z. Nearly one-third of hospitalized COVID-19 patients experience some form of altered mental function -- ranging from confusion to delirium to unresponsiveness -- according to a new study: https://tinyurl.com/y3daktja.

One big unanswered question: How will the cluster of untested drugs given to the president work together? https://tinyurl.com/y257ne3z.

DC Mayor Muriel Bowser says the White House isn’t providing information about its COVID-19 outbreak, hindering contact tracing efforts: https://tinyurl.com/y447mdyl.

The White House blocks new FDA guidelines for emergency vaccine approval, which would push release of a vaccine past November 3, also known as Election Day: https://tinyurl.com/yylld4zg.

A pandemic relief deal continues to elude Congress: https://tinyurl.com/y35sepdt. The Federal Reserve chairman calls for more stimulus, saying that there is little worry about overdoing it: https://tinyurl.com/yhhfprc7.

Check out three new videos that speak eloquently about the industry’s dilemma in the US and UK: https://tinyurl.com/yxvbux5.

After internal wrangling, the CDC now says that the coronavirus can be spread through airborne transmission: https://tinyurl.com/y6blrzxl.

Following the delays of several major releases and the announcement that Cineworld is closing its venues, cinema stocks across the board take a plunge: https://tinyurl.com/y4np9lg6. Without new releases, independently owned small-town cinemas face a bleak future: https://tinyurl.com/y26yfwa6. The postponements continue; the much-anticipated new film Dune, based on the classic sci-fi novel, has been put off from Christmas to October 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y3nydbun. The Batman now won’t open until 2022, although the latest Matrix film has moved up its opening date to Christmas. Despite industry criticism, Governor Andrew Cuomo isn’t budging on his decision to keep New York’s cinemas closed: http://tinyurl.com/tinyurl.com/y4l9qn3z.

Food for Thought:
What does COVID-19 vaccine efficacy mean? It doesn’t mean a vaccine that is 100% effective: https://tinyurl.com/y3ky-wxb5.

The World Health Organization now believes that 10% of the world’s population has been infected with the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y2sm4j2r.

Why a $4 trillion bailout didn’t revive the US economy. (Hint: Most of it went to businesses that weren’t required to show they needed the money): https://tinyurl.com/yxfonsrj.

Around the Country:

In the District of Columbia:

The U Street Music Hall, a key DC venue, is shuttered, permanently, by the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y5dvtk9t.

In Florida:

Norwegian Cruise Lines cancels all trips until December: https://tinyurl.com/y3yw4lr.

In Illinois:

Boeing slashes its forecast for aircraft demand: https://tinyurl.com/y63l8ea.

In Minnesota:

It’s quarantine for workers at a steakhouse where the president attended a private fundraiser last week: https://tinyurl.com/yxmsljwe.

In Wisconsin:

New COVID-19 cases are surging: https://tinyurl.com/y38knyju.

Around the World:

In Israel:

The country’s second lockdown breeds chaos and protests: https://tinyurl.com/y2p4cmrc.

Feeling runs high against the hard-hit Haredic community, where social distancing rules are largely ignored: https://tinyurl.com/yvhtv4g6.

In Italy:

The country faces new restrictions as new COVID-19 cases rise: https://tinyurl.com/yy4smb33.

In the UK:

The government’s test-and-trace program goes haywire, leaving 16,000 COVID-19 cases unreported: https://tinyurl.com/y6cf37zb.

Education:

New from JBL: “Mixing In-Ear Monitors Volume 2: Advanced Concepts with Ashton Parsons,” October 8 at 2:00pm CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/yyqpawph. “Setting Up Successful Live Podcasts and Broadcasts from Your Home Studio with Sonya Jevette,” October 14 at 1:00pm CT: https://tinyurl.com/y35xf386.

Check out the lineup of live and recorded webinars from Martin Audio: https://tinyurl.com/ybf96ps2.
New from Martin by Harman: “Lighting for Theme Parks: Creating an Experience That Lasts with Hansen Colyer,” October 15 at 11:00am CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/yxq6b34m. “Yanni: A Case Study in Lighting a Show in the Odd Corners of the Earth with Bud Horowitz,” October 20 at 11:00am CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/y466tofk.

Check out ROE Visual’s lineup of webinars at: https://tinyurl.com/yxujm8g9.

A panel of sports executives discuss sports leadership in the pandemic, October 13 at 1pm ET. The webinar is free, but you need to register: https://tinyurl.com/y69m626l.

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: October 5, 2020:**

**Weekend at Walter Reed**

What a weekend. All the nation’s crises converge as the president is hospitalized with COVID-19; his stay at Walter Reed Hospital is punctuated by a series of wildly conflicting reports about the state of his health. Questions abound: How did the most protected person in the US get sick? And where do we go from here?

**The Latest:**

Conflicting official reports about the president’s health spreads confusion over the weekend: https://tinyurl.com/y4fftp4c. Although he is reportedly feeling better, he had to be put on oxygen on Saturday: https://tinyurl.com/y6q3blfm. His physician says he omitted that fact to reflect an “upbeat” attitude: https://tinyurl.com/y4nc3d7a. The steroid used to treat him is reserved for serious cases: https://tinyurl.com/y4fpp92s.

Learning that he had been exposed to COVID-19, the president went ahead with his schedule, including a fundraiser in New Jersey: https://tinyurl.com/y2sxbuna.

The idea of releasing the president from the hospital on Monday, floated over the weekend, appalls doctors: https://tinyurl.com/yyp23zl2. The president’s now-notorious Sunday car ride also shocks medical experts: https://tinyurl.com/y46ucfkh. “Where are the adults?” Secret Service personnel cite the car ride as one example of the unacceptable health risks they face while protecting the president: https://tinyurl.com/y34m7ob.

The hospitalization of the president and its associated crises leave the US in a vulnerable position globally, security experts say: https://tinyurl.com/y6ogoplk.

Despite a presidential itinerary that took in thousands of people over several days, there is little evidence that the White House is attempting any serious contact tracing: https://tinyurl.com/yxa58j9l.


Nick Luna, one of the president’s assistants, tests positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y523xq5v.

Claudia Conway, daughter of Kellyanne, has been diagnosed, too: https://tinyurl.com/yxdzxqfw.
At least 11 positive COVID-19 tests can be linked to the Cleveland presidential debate: https://tinyurl.com/y5emjkuq. Among them are the president’s campaign manager, Bill Stepien: https://tinyurl.com/y3hxorna.

Congress reconsiders requiring COVID-19 tests on Capitol Hill: https://tinyurl.com/y4c3xj7r.

COVID-19 cases have risen in 33 states and Puerto Rico since August: https://tinyurl.com/y4e36cp8.

Fifty percent of Americans interviewed for a new poll say they know someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Twenty percent know someone who has died from it: https://tinyurl.com/y34h4hl6.

A US advisory panel recommends that health workers should be first in line for a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available; low-income minority groups are also a priority: https://tinyurl.com/y3mbkx5b.

Government spending cuts trickle down to small towns, adding to unemployment: https://tinyurl.com/y6bywoty.

Sunday’s NFL game between New England and Kansas City was postponed following multiple COVID-19 diagnoses: https://tinyurl.com/y4lz4fph.

The release of the new James Bond film, No Time to Die, has been postponed again, until April 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y63pzpsv. The next film in the Fast and Furious series, F9, has been put off until Memorial Day weekend 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y5igxolh. As part of the blowback from the No Time to Die postponement, the firm Cineworld temporarily suspends operations in the US and UK; this includes the Regal Cinemas chain: https://tinyurl.com/yxrjgkwm. The action makes sense when one considers how a hotly anticipated film like Tenet failed to attract audiences: https://tinyurl.com/y3yyza8wx. The head of the National Association of Theatre Owners blames the No Time to Die delay on New York Governor Cuomo: https://tinyurl.com/y2vbox9. The AMC Cinemas chain has its debt rating cut: https://tinyurl.com/y5dbyp2.

Actors’ Equity looks at providing a COBRA subsidy to unemployed members: https://tinyurl.com/y53u8h63.

Food for Thought:

We can beat the coronavirus, but we have to fight it on its own terms, something we have yet to try: https://tinyurl.com/y4pq6p3f.

Around the Country:

In California:

The governor delays issuing rules for the reopening of theme parks: https://tinyurl.com/yxwvk768.

In Florida:

Universal Orlando is closing the Volcano Bay water park for the winter: https://tinyurl.com/y5abc37o.

Florida bloggers raise tens of thousands for a food bank serving furloughed Disney workers: https://tinyurl.com/y6nk5o6k.

In Massachusetts:

The numbers of hospitalized patients keep rising: https://tinyurl.com/y3zz6ysu.

In Missouri:

For the 12th day in a row, the state breaks its record for COVID-19 hospitalizations: https://tinyurl.com/y5ecoujw.

In New Mexico:

The state sees a 44% increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations in a week: https://tinyurl.com/y2flmhsv.
In New York:

New York City will shut down schools, restaurants, and nonessential businesses in nine hot spots in Brooklyn and Queens: https://tinyurl.com/yxjbdyp3. The governor warns that the pandemic is not over: https://tinyurl.com/y2fco3np.

The pandemic causes food insecurity to grow in New York City: https://tinyurl.com/y2j9znhg.

Around the World:

In France:

Bars will be closed as Paris is placed on a maximum COVID alert: https://tinyurl.com/yy7bew6y.

In India:

Journalists reporting on the government’s mismanagement of the pandemic are facing prosecution of intimidation by authorities: https://tinyurl.com/y4dmlsrl.

In Iran:

Schools and mosques are closed as COVID-19 infections rise: https://tinyurl.com/y5vvelq8.

In the UK:

The Royal Opera House, strapped for cash and trying to stay afloat, puts a David Hockney portrait up for sale: https://tinyurl.com/y5yfhdyk.

Fasten your seatbelts: A defensive Boris Johnson warns of a “bumpy” winter to come: https://tinyurl.com/y5klqubn.

Mobilization:

More on the #WeMakeEvents Global Action Day: https://tinyurl.com/y35ec23y.

In the UK, industry groups unite to form One Industry One Voice: https://tinyurl.com/y3pz3os3.

For Your Pleasure:

It’s Richard Wagner week at the Metropolitan Opera’s streaming service, including a full Ring Cycle: https://tinyurl.com/y3kzfmdd.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: October 2, 2020:
The White House Quarantine

Today’s title tells all. The pandemic reaches the upper echelon of the government, with consequences that are impossible to predict.

The Latest:

The president and the first lady are infected with COVID-19. They go into quarantine: https://tinyurl.com/y4gb4t35.
Doctors note that the president comes with several comorbidities: [https://tinyurl.com/y4aue8y5](https://tinyurl.com/y4aue8y5). An assessment of the president’s health risks: [https://tinyurl.com/yxbktluq](https://tinyurl.com/yxbktluq). Ignoring CDC rules, the president went on campaigning even after Ronna McDaniel, with whom he had been meeting, tested positive on Wednesday: [https://tinyurl.com/y6fywg9p](https://tinyurl.com/y6fywg9p).

Mike and Karen Pence test negative: [https://tinyurl.com/y6ynoard](https://tinyurl.com/y6ynoard). The Secret Service has been struggling with an outbreak: [https://tinyurl.com/y3twqtyg](https://tinyurl.com/y3twqtyg). Insiders describe the White House COVID-19 testing protocols as lax and scattershot: [https://tinyurl.com/y57iyq5h](https://tinyurl.com/y57iyq5h). The potentially exposed Joe Biden tests negative.

Utah Senator Mike Lee tests positive for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y5c8sx4](https://tinyurl.com/y5c8sx4).

House Democrats pass a stimulus bill that has no chance of being enacted; talks continue between Nancy Pelosi and Steven Mnuchin: [https://tinyurl.com/y3ejd4a9](https://tinyurl.com/y3ejd4a9). Indeed, Pelosi says that the president’s diagnosis changes things, making a bill more likely: [https://tinyurl.com/yywxzyum](https://tinyurl.com/yywxzyum).

Nonfarm payrolls grew by 661,000 workers in September, an underwhelming figure: [https://tinyurl.com/y4r46d2g](https://tinyurl.com/y4r46d2g).

More than 19,000 Amazon workers have been infected with COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y27samjg](https://tinyurl.com/y27samjg).

The CEO of Pfizer states that the company will not succumb to political pressure to produce a vaccine a certain date: [https://tinyurl.com/y2hvls7u](https://tinyurl.com/y2hvls7u).

Members of Actors’ Equity will have to work additional weeks to qualify for healthcare; it’s unclear how this will work if production doesn’t start up until mid-year or later: [https://tinyurl.com/y3m8dyk5](https://tinyurl.com/y3m8dyk5). The trouble is that employer contributions, which make up 88% of the fund, have largely ceased: [https://tinyurl.com/y6976oe6](https://tinyurl.com/y6976oe6).

American and United Airlines are cutting more than 30,000 jobs: [https://tinyurl.com/yxem734m](https://tinyurl.com/yxem734m).

The idea of airport COVID-19 tests is catching on: [https://tinyurl.com/y6bztpfw](https://tinyurl.com/y6bztpfw).

**Food for Thought:**

Some colleges have reopened with very few COVID-19 cases. The secret? Extensive testing: [https://tinyurl.com/y5grz28s](https://tinyurl.com/y5grz28s). The testing system in New York City’s school may not be up to the scale of the test: [https://tinyurl.com/y26kchsj](https://tinyurl.com/y26kchsj).

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

In a sign of growing tensions, Walt Disney Company Executive Chairman Bob Iger resigns from the governor’s COVID-19 economic task force: [https://tinyurl.com/y43wugqp](https://tinyurl.com/y43wugqp).

The state’s larger counties won’t be allowed to reopen until they reduce COVID-19 infections in areas inhabited by the poor, Blacks, Latinos, and Pacific Islanders: [https://tinyurl.com/y24yltvg](https://tinyurl.com/y24yltvg).

How the TV series Grey’s Anatomy plans to return to production: [https://tinyurl.com/y4faq4rz](https://tinyurl.com/y4faq4rz).

**In Florida:**

Crowds at the Disney parks are historically low: [https://tinyurl.com/y2fogby5](https://tinyurl.com/y2fogby5).

Several of the state’s universities cancel spring break: [https://tinyurl.com/y4s9wp24](https://tinyurl.com/y4s9wp24).

Starting November, 1 Carnival Cruise Line will launch cruises from Port Canaveral and Miami: [https://tinyurl.com/y4s9asts](https://tinyurl.com/y4s9asts).

Hospitalizations in Central Florida have hit a plateau: [https://tinyurl.com/y3jwmlu9](https://tinyurl.com/y3jwmlu9).
In Illinois:

Hotel owners warn of closings and mass job cuts: https://tinyurl.com/y5toxwdy.

Halloween will be held, with certain restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/y2m9bfve.

In New York:

The governor rolls out a new app that tells users if they have been within six feet of someone who has been infected with the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y6xw22ff.

A new report identifies New York City’s courthouses as unacceptably risky locations: https://tinyurl.com/y3e439qd.

The Central Park horse carriages are back: https://tinyurl.com/yxohovpf.

In Tennessee:

Pro football’s Titans are benched, at least for now, as new COVID-19 infections are reported: https://tinyurl.com/y6b7bf7f.

In Texas:

Local opera companies band together to survived the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yytw7n2a.

Around the World:

In the UK:

Six months in the life of the locked-down National Theatre: https://tinyurl.com/y2kyq7d3.

Stronger restrictions are placed on Liverpool, where new COVID-19 infections have quadrupled over the last month: https://tinyurl.com/y2coa3h4.

Mobilization:

The #WeMakeEvents Global Day of Action is the biggest, most comprehensive event yet: https://tinyurl.com/yxv9tqho.


Here’s the latest NAMM Call to Action. Please respond: https://tinyurl.com/yyvqcs8u.

Education:

From Barco: “Show and Tell with LED,” October 6 at 2:00pm ET. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/y2mgm3qd.

For Your Entertainment:

San Francisco Opera streams productions of Tosca (October 10 – 11), Verdi’s Attila (October 17 – 18), and The Marriage of Figaro (October 24 – 25): http://www.sfopera.com.

For Your Pleasure:

A brace of Broadway personalities offer a little much-needed uplift in David Friedman’s “Help is on the Way:” https://tinyurl.com/y5av5e6y.

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COVID-19 Update: October 1, 2020:
The Misinformation Game

As the election heats up, the stream of misinformation about COVID-19 continues to come from the one place it shouldn’t. Meanwhile, the government continues to interfere in health policy. And negotiations drag on (and on) regarding a stimulus bill. Sad to say, but matters of life and death have become political footballs.

The Latest:

A Cornell University study, analyzing 38 million articles finds that the single biggest source of misinformation about the pandemic is…the president of the United States: https://tinyurl.com/y7merb5z. Facebook removes campaign ads from the president that suggest admitting refugees would increase the spread of COVID-19 in the US: https://tinyurl.com/yd52lnw8. Dr. Anthony Fauci says that the president, during the presidential debate, misrepresented his early-in-the-pandemic comments about masks: https://tinyurl.com/y5nfwwef.

The CDC had the cruise industry under a no-sail order lasting until February, until the White House stepped in: https://tinyurl.com/y7cpwdno.

For the umpteenth time, Nancy Pelosi and Steven Mnuchin fail to reach an agreement on a stimulus bill, but they insist that all hope is not lost: https://tinyurl.com/yate9exs. Michael Strickland pens a powerful letter that you can use to urge Congress to pass a stimulus bill: https://tinyurl.com/y73quogu. The film industry joins the effort to pass the RESTART Act: https://tinyurl.com/y4hhqr76.

Facing a November 1 deadline to develop their vaccine distribution plans, states insist they need more guidance and money: https://tinyurl.com/y6ws9my6.

New jobless claims reach 837,000 this week, slightly better than expected: https://tinyurl.com/y9s3uaxo.

Without blockbusters, US cinemas cut their operating hours: https://tinyurl.com/y62b9faj.

Food for Thought:

How an Austrian ski resort became a key player in spreading the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yaf8vcvt.

The data shows that the COVID-19 pandemic is the most unequal in modern US history: https://tinyurl.com/y99vtnbo.

Many COVID-19 patients experience a wide range of unusual symptoms that often persist long after the coronavirus has passed: https://tinyurl.com/yany9ps8.

The president and provost of Cornell University tell how they reopened to only a handful of cases of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y8p3rvjn.

Scientists identify a new COVID-19 risk, a genetic cluster that originated in Neanderthals: https://tinyurl.com/yygcjxtr.

Around the Country:

In California:

Disney shifts the blame for its extensive layoffs, saying it’s the state’s fault: https://tinyurl.com/y3cmoslq.


In Florida:

A University of Central Florida plan to randomly test students for COVID-19 causes controversy: https://tinyurl.com/yypyg48.
Nobody, it seems, understands the state’s new relaxed social restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/yy52zgxuy52zgxu.

In Massachusetts:

As social-distancing restrictions ease in the state, Boston will be an exception: https://tinyurl.com/ycxnn4by. Indeed, Boston is now a high-risk zone: https://tinyurl.com/yazaf4a5.

In New York:

New York City reopens for limited indoor dining but, at the moment, there are few takers: https://tinyurl.com/y2yw3yyw.

In Wisconsin:

The state’s hospitals are filling up with new COVID-19 cases, leading to fears of being overwhelmed: https://tinyurl.com/yc8huhc8.

Around the World:

In China:

The country, looking to restart its economy post-pandemic, promotes “revenge travel,” leading to congestion at domestic tourist sites: https://tinyurl.com/y95b6v64.

In Germany:

Prolight + Sound announces dates for an in-person trade show in April: https://tinyurl.com/yarzbja9.

In Spain:

Madrid goes under partial lockdown following a rise in cases: https://tinyurl.com/yyoq2l6o.

Education:

PLASA announces a week of online seminars, October 12 – 16: https://tinyurl.com/ydy6dwat.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: September 30, 2020:

Another Day, Another Bill

Well, they’re trying again. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has floated another stimulus bill and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin promises to take it seriously. We’ll see. The bill doesn’t contain all of the provisions contained in the RESTART Act, which is desperately needed by this industry, but -- as Michael Strickland, our man in Washington, often points out -- negotiations are just beginning. So, if you haven’t written to Congress yet, time’s a-wasting.

The Latest:

Congressional Democrats unveil the revised HEROES Act, which includes provisions from the Save Our Stages Act: https://tinyurl.com/ybxfbelw. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pledges to give a stimulus bill "one more serious try," causing the stock market to respond positively: https://tinyurl.com/ycwewuz. With government payroll support running out,
airline workers brace for mass layoffs: https://tinyurl.com/vy5upl2.

Walt Disney Co, is laying of 28,000 theme park employees in the US, 67% of whom are part-time workers: https://tinyurl.com/yaywzw5f. Actors' Equity cites the layoffs in calling on Senator Mitch McConnell to get a relief bill passed in the Senate: https://tinyurl.com/yxmfn4c2.

The rapid COVID-19 test program proffered by the White House has been plagued by multiple problems, involving poor communication, false results, and bad planning: https://tinyurl.com/y678dg3j. Florida is set to start getting the rapid tests: https://tinyurl.com/yxmbq4x2.

Contradicting the notion that children are immune from the coronavirus, the CDC reports that, between March and mid-September, 277,285 kids tested positive: https://tinyurl.com/y9r6f7q87.


As cases rise again in Europe, citizens push claiming, decrying restrictions and insisting that COVID-19 is a hoax: https://tinyurl.com/yxbcr7b4.

The Titans - Steelers football game is postponed, because of a COVID-19 outbreak on the Titans: https://tinyurl.com/y42n9p63.

Actor Jim Parsons and his husband, producer Todd Spiewak, have both had COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yyngbxy2.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

Economists predict the state’s economy will need two years to recover from the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y59am69.

Playgrounds can reopen in San Diego County: https://tinyurl.com/y42n9p63.

**In Florida:**

The governor has rolled back restrictions, but in Orlando, anyway, many restaurants and stores are maintaining them: https://tinyurl.com/ycnmyn5. Miami-Dade County will continue issuing mask citations, with plans to collect the fines later: https://tinyurl.com/ycnf8x2c.

Miami schools start reopening on Monday: https://tinyurl.com/y5tdpca.

**In Illinois:**

After a third staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the governor self-isolates: https://tinyurl.com/y2oaopa9.

The northwest portion of the state sees a surge in new cases: https://tinyurl.com/y8257hcl.

Parents in DuPage County sue for the return of high school sports: https://tinyurl.com/ydcej4dt.

**In Iowa:**
Breaking with CDC recommendations, state officials will no longer recommend that people go into a 14-day quarantine after having close contact with a person infected with the coronavirus if both people were wearing masks during the encounter: https://tinyurl.com/yc3n393j.

In South Dakota:
The mayor of Sioux Falls says that an increase in COVID-19 cases comes with personal freedoms: https://tinyurl.com/yxguitkm.

In Wisconsin:
Against the advice of his own Coronavirus Task Force, the president schedules large rallies in Green Bay and Lacrosse this weekend: https://tinyurl.com/yydc8l8y.

Around the World:

In Canada:

Several television series shut down production or postpone starting, thanks to delays in COVID-19 test processing in British Columbia: https://tinyurl.com/yaah7vbz.

In India:
As many as 63 million people may have been infected with COVID-19, a new study finds: https://tinyurl.com/y9h86qx6.

In Israel:
The facts of the pandemic raise hundreds of new questions for members of the country’s Orthodox community: https://tinyurl.com/y676jhmr.

In the UK:
Boris Johnson insists that now is not the time to “throw in the sponge” on COVID-19 restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/y2ec-j3q6. Johnson, facing an uprising in his own party, narrowly avoids a law that would have required Parliamentary consent before new social restrictions are imposed: https://tinyurl.com/y4ml3e7.

Education:
DTS introduces Synergy 7, its latest profile moving head created for theatres, TV sets, and live shows. The webinar takes place October 16 at 4:00pm and 10:00pm ET, on the DTS Facebook page: https://tinyurl.com/y9z7qykn.

For Your Entertainment:
Macbeth: A Surround Sound Experiment, will reimagine Shakespeare’s tragedy as a virtual, immersive auditory experience, October 31 – November 1. It is designed to to be listened to by candlelight with headphones. Ticket holders will receive access to the audio performance, special instructions, a cocktail recipe, and more. Information at KnockAtTheGate.com.

Off Broadway’s Metropolitan Playhouse presents its next free screened reading: The Clod, a one-act play by Lewis Beach, on October 3 at 8:00pm, EDT. Running time is 30 minutes. Talkback to follow including audience questions via chat with Erin Stoneking, assistant professor of gender and race studies at the University of Alabama. Watch at: www.metropolitanplayhouse.org.

The Catherine Russell Trio performs live from Dizzy’s Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center on October 1 at 10:30pm ET. Information and tickets at https://tinyurl.com/y4slg8o3.
For Your Pleasure:

The cast of Broadway’s Jagged Little Pill, catching the national mood, offers, “All I Really Want,” the democracy remix: https://tinyurl.com/ybez8x9c.

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**COVID-19 Update: September 29, 2020:**

**One Million Mark**

Today’s title points to the latest and grimmest milestone of the pandemic, one made even harder to accept by plentiful evidence of a bungled national response, which has done nothing but erode the faith of the public in crucial institutions. Seven months in, we lack a plan. A simple plan, a complex plan, any kind of plan.

**The Latest:**

There are now one million people dead worldwide from COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y2ud5rl6.

The endless political wrangling over the CDC has damaged its credibility when we need it most: https://tinyurl.com/y32sjilc. In the latest example, government officials make the CDC play down the risks of sending kids back to school: https://tinyurl.com/y4zfhm3p. According to a new poll, barely two in 10 Americans would take a first-generation vaccine if the president said it was safe: https://tinyurl.com/y6oca3wh.

The pandemic is driving a rise in opioid-related deaths in 40 states: https://tinyurl.com/y5wqeuzq.

The World Health Organization rolls out a plan to distribute rapid COVID-19 tests to poorer countries: https://tinyurl.com/y2of26up.

Actors’ Equity supports a new Senate bill that would provide 100% COBRA health insurance subsidies to workers who have lost coverage during the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yylcj2kt.

Actors’ Equity also condemns the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, noting that the Senate can’t bring itself to pass a relief bill, but it sure can rush to approve a conservative judge: https://tinyurl.com/yynhlo4e. Speaking of which, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi makes a new offer: https://tinyurl.com/y2g2ugzk.


Now entering testing is a nasal spray that could halt the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y4vowaob.

**Food for Thought:**

Here’s some hard factual reporting that makes clear the president’s notion of a vaccine by Election Day is little more than a pipe dream: https://tinyurl.com/yxgntws8. Indeed, health experiments estimate that 85 – 90% of the US population is still vulnerable to infection: https://tinyurl.com/y4am52sy.

Could the pandemic turn Broadway and road houses into acquisition targets? https://tinyurl.com/y3m9sxoz.

A new study suggests the worst COVID-19 cases happen to patients with genetic defects of compromised immune systems: https://tinyurl.com/y5lstjr7.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**
The governor sees signs of a new surge in infections in the state: https://tinyurl.com/yxb3yl22.

In Florida:

Officials in the Florida Keys don’t understand the governor’s order easing restrictions on bars and restaurants: https://tinyurl.com/yyau78rl. A similar confusion prevails in Miami: https://tinyurl.com/yyz9ypnr. Even as restrictions are eased, officials in Orange County are tracking super-spreader events: https://tinyurl.com/y3w5c4uz.

There won’t be any Broadway tours in Orlando until at least April: https://tinyurl.com/y2of26up.

Carnival tests its new cruise ship, currently scheduled to set sail on February 6: https://tinyurl.com/yy7jcb2k.

In Illinois:

Chicago’s mayor eases restrictions on restaurants, bars, and fitness class sizes: https://tinyurl.com/yysk3gh9.

In Massachusetts:

After a successful summer, new COVID-19 infections are rising in the state: https://tinyurl.com/y53e5b7r.

In New York:


As Saturday Night Live returns to Studio 8H, new audience safety protocols are put in place: https://tinyurl.com/y34x98.

In Wisconsin:

The Milwaukee Rep reaches an agreement with Actors’ Equity to start up live performances in December: https://tinyurl.com/32la9ha.

Around the World:

In Canada:

Ontario faces a second wave of infections: https://tinyurl.com/y3yv8rfj.

The Shaw Festival cancels the rest of its 2020 season: https://tinyurl.com/y35pk3vh.

In Greece:

An attempt at getting cruising going again is halted when 12 crew members test positive: https://tinyurl.com/y6l7vyoe.

In Italy:

The fashion house Moschino stages the ultimate socially distanced show for Fashion Week, using puppets: https://tinyurl.com/y5k2ec5e.

In the Netherlands:

Restrictions are tightened as new COVID-19 infections are on the rise: https://tinyurl.com/y58nvt7y.

In the UK:

Even Boris Johnson can’t explain the country’s new social restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/yxemrhug.
The reopening of The Mousetrap in the West End is postponed: [https://tinyurl.com/y2y26jy9](https://tinyurl.com/y2y26jy9).

Theatre artistic directors weigh in on a terrible year: [https://tinyurl.com/y6o962qv](https://tinyurl.com/y6o962qv).

**Mobilization:**

#WeMakeEvents goes global with a new day of action on September 30: [https://tinyurl.com/y54t5kjm](https://tinyurl.com/y54t5kjm).

**Education:**

From Martin by Harman: “Ideas and Inspiration an Exploration of Creativity with lighting designer Abigail Rosen Holmes,” October 13 at 1:00pm, CT; register at [https://tinyurl.com/yxuclfdd](https://tinyurl.com/yxuclfdd).

**For Your Entertainment:**

Encore BSO Recitals, presented by Boston Symphony Orchestra, releases at noon Thursday, October 1 -- and is available through Saturday, October 31, features works by Mozart, Schubert, and Daniel Bernard Roumain: [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org).

It’s Mozart Week at the Metropolitan Opera streaming service: [https://tinyurl.com/y23ra9ps](https://tinyurl.com/y23ra9ps).

**For Your Pleasure:**

Musician’s from the Royal Opera House offer Vivaldi’s “Concerto for Two Violins:” [https://tinyurl.com/y64ng9s8](https://tinyurl.com/y64ng9s8).

###

**COVID-19 Update: September 28, 2020:**

The Long March

To put it mildly, the nation’s attention was otherwise engaged this weekend, given the nomination to the Supreme Court of Amy Coney Barrett and the revelations about the president’s tax returns. Less noticed were new developments that suggest the pandemic is far from a resolution.

**The Latest:**

The US reports 55,054 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, the highest one-day total in six weeks: [https://tinyurl.com/y3r9j4aw](https://tinyurl.com/y3r9j4aw). Infections are rising in 21 states: [https://tinyurl.com/y2lhdmsy](https://tinyurl.com/y2lhdmsy).

European leaders call for international cooperation to combat the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/yyhchamp](https://tinyurl.com/yyhchamp).

“Everything he says is false:” The head of the CDC is overheard condemning Dr. Scott Atlas, the neuroradiologist, with no experience in epidemiology, who is the president’s new favorite adviser on the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/yyj88ccc](https://tinyurl.com/yyj88ccc).

Coronavirus hot spots turn up all over the Midwest: [https://tinyurl.com/y56dlzlk](https://tinyurl.com/y56dlzlk).

A new study finds fault with many N95 masks: [https://tinyurl.com/y4mmlvco](https://tinyurl.com/y4mmlvco).

Army and Air Force officials report that the pandemic is causing extra stress, causing a 20% rise in suicides among service members: [https://tinyurl.com/yxczgckg](https://tinyurl.com/yxczgckg).

**Food for Thought:**

Can private companies make getting the COVID-19 vaccine a condition of employment? [https://tinyurl.com/y6pjbkz5](https://tinyurl.com/y6pjbkz5).

How to distinguish the symptoms of the common cold, COVID-19, and the flu: [https://tinyurl.com/y49pr232](https://tinyurl.com/y49pr232).
As we approach one million deaths globally, a look back: [https://tinyurl.com/yykhbdxa](https://tinyurl.com/yykhbdxa).

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The state passes the 800,000 mark in new infections, the highest such number in the US: [https://tinyurl.com/y4pljeab](https://tinyurl.com/y4pljeab).

The state can also expect an 89% rise in new hospitalizations, officials say: [https://tinyurl.com/y3d3xvca](https://tinyurl.com/y3d3xvca).

Cal State Long Beach goes on lockdown: [https://tinyurl.com/y4nw477n](https://tinyurl.com/y4nw477n).

The return of Pac-12 football hinges on a rapid COVID-19 test developed by the San Diego-based firm Quidel: [https://tinyurl.com/y27253to](https://tinyurl.com/y27253to).

San Diego businesses, like restaurants, bars, and gyms, wonder how long they can hang on: [https://tinyurl.com/yy8yge3t](https://tinyurl.com/yy8yge3t).

**In Florida:**

The state has now recorded more than 700,000 COVID-19 infections: [https://tinyurl.com/yyvrfnx7](https://tinyurl.com/yyvrfnx7).

Here are the details on the state’s reopening plan: [https://tinyurl.com/y58w6wg5](https://tinyurl.com/y58w6wg5).

The state’s education commissioner tells Miami-Dade County to open its schools two weeks early: [https://tinyurl.com/y2d2dtzr](https://tinyurl.com/y2d2dtzr).

A party at the Social Club of Palm Coast leads to two COVID-19 deaths and 50 infections: [https://tinyurl.com/y2rfvndp](https://tinyurl.com/y2rfvndp).

Having permanently laying off 1,900 workers a couple of weeks ago, SeaWorld is, apparently hiring: [https://tinyurl.com/y37vgy68](https://tinyurl.com/y37vgy68).

After 32 years, the Grand Floridian Society Orchestra at Disney World plays its last on October 3: [https://tinyurl.com/yy45phe6](https://tinyurl.com/yy45phe6).

Miami’s shuttered hotels make plans for the future: [https://tinyurl.com/y22zx5pk](https://tinyurl.com/y22zx5pk).

College students, fed up with social distancing, say they just want to get COVID-19 and get it over with: [https://tinyurl.com/y2b37fv3](https://tinyurl.com/y2b37fv3).

**In Illinois:**

A wave of parents’ rallies in the Chicago suburbs demands that children be sent back to school: [https://tinyurl.com/y2whprmb](https://tinyurl.com/y2whprmb).

**In Massachusetts:**

Two administrators of a veterans home, where 76 died at the beginning of the pandemic, are facing criminal charges: [https://tinyurl.com/y4jn8yrm](https://tinyurl.com/y4jn8yrm).

**In New York:**

New York City will extend its outdoor dining program indefinitely: [https://tinyurl.com/y4dc2jk2/](https://tinyurl.com/y4dc2jk2/).

The city threatens Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods with lockdowns, as they are the only areas in the city where the coronavirus is resurgent: [https://tinyurl.com/y56qwojo](https://tinyurl.com/y56qwojo).

Health officials warn that infections are up in eight neighborhoods: [https://tinyurl.com/y4en9z7t](https://tinyurl.com/y4en9z7t).
In Virginia:
Governor Ralph Northam and his wife, Pamela, test positive for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y2stg6vo](https://tinyurl.com/y2stg6vo).

Around the World:

In China:
The government is rushing to distribute still-unproven vaccines. Is that really a good idea? [https://tinyurl.com/y4ujb3x5](https://tinyurl.com/y4ujb3x5).

In Colombia:
The country passes 800,000 new infections, with 25,000 dead: [https://tinyurl.com/y4kvznbt](https://tinyurl.com/y4kvznbt).

In France:
A second wave of COVID-19 infections comes faster than expected: [https://tinyurl.com/yxm32shx](https://tinyurl.com/yxm32shx).

In Germany:
Pandemic or not, Berlin’s Deutsche Opera premieres a new Ring Cycle: [https://tinyurl.com/yyx4qsdx](https://tinyurl.com/yyx4qsdx).

In the UK:
Two-thirds of the Welsh populace goes under lockdown: [https://tinyurl.com/y2hfaffu](https://tinyurl.com/y2hfaffu).

Another day, another demonstration against social distancing rules in Trafalgar Square: [https://tinyurl.com/y2ttej74](https://tinyurl.com/y2ttej74).

Education:
disguise now has a lineup of podcasts that tell you just everything you need to know about its products and the creation of video content: [https://tinyurl.com/y5soy6fp](https://tinyurl.com/y5soy6fp).

For Your Entertainment:

Bite-Sized Broadway: A Mini-Musical Podcast will premiere on October 5, with new episodes presented on the first and third Monday of each month. Each 50-minute episode will feature a 10-to-20-minute mini-musical and an interview for the show’s creators. Cast members will include Telly Leung, Constantine Maroulis, Max Crumm, Ann Harada, Karen Mason, and Thom Sesma. For more information: [https://tinyurl.com/y3ndpg4k](https://tinyurl.com/y3ndpg4k).

Check out New York City Ballet’s fall lineup of digital offerings: [https://tinyurl.com/yxcgvajg](https://tinyurl.com/yxcgvajg).

For Your Pleasure:

In honor of Charlie Parker’s centennial, members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra offer “Parker’s Mood:” [https://tinyurl.com/y3sn5t5b](https://tinyurl.com/y3sn5t5b).

###

**COVID-19 Update: September 25, 2020:**

When Life Gives You Lemons

Having past the point of seven million COVID-19 infections, and despite stirrings of another pass at a pandemic relief bill, the US remains mired in confusion and inaction. At the same time, something is happening. People and organizations -- especially those related to the arts -- are pulling together and looking for ways to move forward -- or, at the very least, deal
with it. And, at the moment, some of the data related to the virus isn’t as bad as it was. Is this a prelude to another wave? Time will tell. But as the stories listed below indicate, where there’s a will, there’s a way.

The Latest:

“One day, it’s like a miracle; it will disappear:” The US has now recorded seven million COVID-19 infections: https://tinyurl.com/ydydw4ol9.

Representative Nancy Pelosi moves to restart negotiations for a pandemic relief bill: https://tinyurl.com/yym94awq.

A Business Roundtable survey reveals that most executives want more government relief to shore up the economy: https://tinyurl.com/yxse2z30h.

The CDC’s flip-flops about virus transmission is sowing confusion in hospitals about the right type of PPE to use: https://tinyurl.com/y22uv4x3.

The usually even-keeled Dr. Anthony Fauci loses his temper with Senator Rand Paul, in Congressional testimony: https://tinyurl.com/y2pccm9m.

New unemployment claims come in at a slightly higher-than-expected 870,000 this week: https://tinyurl.com/y5fcqtmr.

Interestingly, the pandemic is not raging through schools as previously feared: https://tinyurl.com/y3kubu73. Indeed, child deaths remain strikingly low: https://tinyurl.com/y4r6kbfk. People in their 20s now account for the majority of new infections: https://tinyurl.com/y5xp3ez7. The coronavirus keeps mutating; the good news is that it isn’t getting deadlier: https://tinyurl.com/y2ysmkmw.

The reopening of the country’s colleges and universities may be undone by partying students: https://tinyurl.com/y3u8e3y. Florida’s governor calls for a “bill of rights” to protect college students from partying in the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y2wp953s.

Representatives of NIVA and NITO foresee a “roaring Twenties” when the concert industry returns post-pandemic, but they warn that many won’t last that long: https://tinyurl.com/y3p4uc7n.

Elton John reschedules his Farewell Yellow Brick Road US Tour dates for 2022: https://tinyurl.com/y2bsnc8k.

Food for Thought:

“I cry before work;” burnout rises among essential workers: https://tinyurl.com/ygrceuy.

One lost weekend: A stunning photo essay detailing what New York has lost during this time: https://tinyurl.com/y3oeds-mw.

Around the Country:

In California:

Disney postpones by several months the release dates for Black Widow, Death on the Nile, and West Side Story: https://tinyurl.com/y486ymzd.

The producers of The Masked Singer discuss production in a pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y4t8m54x.

San Diego Opera plans a drive-in production of La bohème: https://tinyurl.com/y5oa4boq.

In Florida:

The governor removes capacity restrictions on restaurants, bars, and retail stores: https://tinyurl.com/y34hoceu.
The state’s COVID-19 positivity rate drops below 5%: https://tinyurl.com/y4zvrnan.

Miami New Drama plans to stage theatre in seven vacant storefronts: https://tinyurl.com/yyuvqeld.

In Miami, you can attend a drive-in Yom Kippur service: https://tinyurl.com/yyr4yusd.

The state’s arts season starts up, with many adjustments: https://tinyurl.com/y539yg6x.

In Illinois:

Restaurants float new strategies to convince patrons that dining is safe: https://tinyurl.com/y5w8jyx.

United Airlines pilots a rapid COVID-19 testing program for customers: https://tinyurl.com/y4jebx9f. Lufthansa is trying the same thing: https://tinyurl.com/y3smgze3.

In Maryland:

The Novavax vaccine enters Phase III trials: https://tinyurl.com/y2pkl5m9.

In Massachusetts:

Starting next week, restaurants can serve tables of up to ten, and also serve food at bars: https://tinyurl.com/y3d2u2vn.

Brigham and Women’s Hospital races to contain a new cluster of COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y3cuwpv3.

In Missouri:

Governor Mike Parsons, who declined to enforce mask-wearing, has COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yyggh64c.

In New York:

The Metropolitan Opera will not reopen until September 2021: https://tinyurl.com/yynn77bh.

The New Year’s Eve Ball Drop will be virtual and crowds will be banned in Times Square: https://tinyurl.com/y29sjrvk.

The New Victory Theatre, which targets young audiences, will remain closed through the spring of 2021: https://tinyurl.com/yvdyx82w.

New legislation in city council could expand outdoor spaces for rehearsals and performances around town: https://tinyurl.com/y433caeq.

Nine out of ten of the city’s bars and restaurants couldn’t pay their rent in August: https://tinyurl.com/y5qd4cwc.

Governor Andrew Cuomo says that state will review any vaccine approved by the federal government: https://tinyurl.com/yxzvxv4k.

In North Carolina:

The state reopens for film and television production: https://tinyurl.com/y6742r6k.

In Texas:

South by Southwest announces a digital festival for 2021, with a live component: https://tinyurl.com/y4jgxd8c.

Around the World:

In Brazil:
Rio’s annual Carnival parade gets postponed for the first time ever: https://tinyurl.com/y2n8b2l5.

Manaus may be the first city to achieve herd immunity; If it were a country, it would have the second-highest mortality rate in the world, at 100.7 deaths per 100,000 population: https://tinyurl.com/y6xtsorm.

Sao Paulo aims to start distribution China’s Sinovac vaccine (as yet unproven) in December: https://tinyurl.com/y5xb-smeo.

In Finland:

Helsinki’s airport uses sniffer dogs to detect the coronavirus, with a high degree of accuracy: https://tinyurl.com/yxh3kuv3.

In Israel:

The country tightens its lockdown, throwing a wrench into the High Holy Days: https://tinyurl.com/y6zovnek.

In Jamaica:

The US Southern Command sends a field hospital to help the country dealing with its surging COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y5w22osb.

In the UK:

Producer Sonia Friedman denounces the government’s new employment scheme as “a huge insult” to the theatre industry: https://tinyurl.com/y4ck2smq.


The Play That Goes Wrong will reopen in the West End in November: https://tinyurl.com/y2yc7kr3.

Mobilization:

The Artists Relief Fund, which provides grants to those affected by the pandemic, has raised nearly $20 million since starting up in April: https://tinyurl.com/y2cj5vnc.

For Your Entertainment:

Encore BSO Recitals stream features BSO violists Mary Ferrillo, Steven Laraia, Daniel Getz, percussionist Kyle Brightwell, and guest pianist Brett Hodgdon in a program of 20th-century works, including American composer Ulysses Kay’s Sonatine for Viola and Piano -- composed in 1939 and performed, and recorded for this first time this past summer -- and music by Rebecca Clarke, Paul Hindemith, and Luciano Berio, available for viewing at www.bso.org beginning Thursday, September 24 at noon through October 24; the Encore BSO Recitals series is offered as a nine-concert series for a donation of $25.

On Wednesday, October 7 at 7:30pm EDT, Carnegie Hall presents its first-ever Virtual Opening Night Gala Celebration, inviting music lovers worldwide to mark the Hall’s 130th anniversary season. This free online program will feature Jon Batiste, Joyce DiDonato, Gustavo Dudamel, Michael Feinstein, Renée Fleming, Rhiannon Giddens and Our Native Daughters, Angélique Kidjo, Lang Lang, Wynton Marsalis, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, James Taylor, Michael Tilson Thomas, and more. The celebration, directed by Emmy Award-winner Habib Azar, will include highlights of legendary performances from throughout the Hall’s history as well as newly recorded musical selections. Viewers everywhere will be able watch this complimentary streamed presentation on www.carnegiehall.org as well as on Carnegie Hall’s YouTube channel and Facebook page.

A Time to Sing: An Evening with Renée Fleming and Vanessa Williams, livestreams on September 26 at 8:00pm ET. Your payment of $15 gives you access through the rest of 2020. Details at https://tinyurl.com/y3x9jta2.
Metropolitan Playhouse presents its next free “screened” reading: A Woman’s Honor, a one-act play by Susan Glaspell, live streamed, with talkback to follow, on September 25 at 8:00pm EST. Running time is 30 minutes. The talkback includes audience questions via chat with J. Ellen Gainor, professor of performing and media arts at Cornell University: www.metropolitanplayhouse.org.

For Your Pleasure:

The Go-Go’s, appearing on The Today Show, prove that they’ve still got the beat: https://tinyurl.com/y4bq45ca.

###

**COVID-19 Update: September 22, 2020:**

**Take My Vaccine, Please**

US health officials have woken up to the realization that the president’s attempts at selling a faster-than-fast vaccine to the American public have backfired, making anti-vaxxers out of people who normally hate that term. As you can read below, the problem is being attacked on several fronts with the CDC and the president more or less working at cross-purposes. Meanwhile, all signs indicate that the US is ripe for a second wave of infections.

**The Latest:**

Sadly, the US is poised for a surge in new COVID-19 cases this autumn: https://tinyurl.com/y3mtgyc1. More than 20 states are seeing upticks in new infections: https://tinyurl.com/y44nldhm.

The White House tells states to have vaccine distribution plan ready for mid-October, alarming scientists who fear a rush to release an unproven product: https://tinyurl.com/yqyzvy9. Worried about plunging public trust in a vaccine, the vice-president urges governors to help restore confidence: https://tinyurl.com/y3d4kfl5d4kfl3. In an effort to win back public trust, the Centers for Disease Control plans to lay out tough new guidelines that will mostly likely delay the release of a COVID-19 vaccine until after Election Day: https://tinyurl.com/yyr98dfv.

Because there is no federal effort to track COVID-19 cases in US schools, the New York Times takes on the task: https://tinyurl.com/y336vuxv.

If you’re worried about the flu vaccine, it may be your best hope of staying healthy in the winter months: https://tinyurl.com/y52d4j5o.

The pandemic continues to ravage Latino communities, laying bare deep inequities in American society: https://tinyurl.com/y6qlba3r.

**Food for Thought:**

Six reasons why COVID-19 death rates are improving: https://tinyurl.com/y49m6t9p.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

Saying that 80,000 jobs are at stake, Disney asks the state government for permission to reopen its parks: https://tinyurl.com/y57any3n.

**In Florida:**


**In Indiana:**
Notre Dame football is off until the players come out of quarantine: https://tinyurl.com/yxjafpcn.

**In Massachusetts:**

Testing begins on a COVID-19 vaccine development by Johnson & Johnson, the first to require only one shot: https://tinyurl.com/y2jlrrbt.

A theatre in Worcester is set to present the first Equity-approved indoor theatre production in the state since the pandemic began: https://tinyurl.com/yyfgddwe.

**In New York:**

The rumors of New York City’s demise have been greatly exaggerated: https://tinyurl.com/y4nnl44p.

New infections are rising in the city’s Hasidic neighborhoods: https://tinyurl.com/y24uh4vg.

**In Rhode Island:**

The outbreak at Providence College grows, upsetting the surrounding neighborhood: https://tinyurl.com/y5xmya6s.

**In Tennessee:**

Tony Tenpenny, a former member of Nashville’s city council, spent the summer barraging social media, insisting that the pandemic was a made-up socialist plot; on Monday, he died from COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y2cvylhk.

**In Wisconsin:**

The state declares a public health emergency following a surge of new cases in people between ages 18 – 24: https://tinyurl.com/yydfsobc.

The state’s performance in COVID-19 eradication gets it up on Chicago’s quarantine list; https://tinyurl.com/y2xm7s2b.

**Around the World:**

**In China:**

The government is now engaging in what you might call vaccine diplomacy: https://tinyurl.com/y3c6lapr.

**In Mexico:**

The pandemic shuts down the country’s popular wrestling industry: https://tinyurl.com/y5pg9fu4.

**In the UK:**

Boris Johnson exempts live theatre from the 10:00pm curfew imposed on restaurants, bars, and other meeting places: https://tinyurl.com/yxrqc9dh.

Why the musical Six is reopening in the West End this fall: https://tinyurl.com/y52748jr.

One-third of the country’s professional musicians may quite their professions: https://tinyurl.com/y2z2rave.

**Company News:**

MDG shares an interesting study on the question of if fog and haze machines might help or hinder the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y4ne4f6.
Losses:

Tommy DeVito, one of the original Four Seasons: https://tinyurl.com/yyf2b2lk.


Education:

Registration is open for the virtual Event Safety Summit: https://tinyurl.com/y67lktwl.

Pangolin hosts a webinar, “Beyond Timeline” on October 3, at 2:00pm ET. Creative director Lyra Letourneau will cover a number of technical elements about timeline programming in Beyond software, in addition to taking a deeper look into the art form of beam shows, and what it takes to make a truly great show. Cost is $95. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y63yuqdp.

For Your Pleasure:

Betty Buckley offers some inspiration with this cool-jazz arrangement of a familiar Christian hymn, accompanied by visuals to make you think: https://tinyurl.com/y4pbgv3e.

###

COVID-19 Update: September 22, 2020:
Sixty-Seven 9/11s

The US now has 200,000 dead from COVID-19, which is odd, since the president thinks the nation's infection rate is miniscule. (See the story below for the meaning of today's grim title.) Meanwhile, Dr. Fauci exposes the president’s vaccine assurances as baseless, the Pentagon spends its PPE money on dress uniforms, the CDC can’t make up its mind about how the coronavirus is transmitted, and the NIH discovers a mole in its ranks. If Attorney General Barr really cared about sedition, the NIH case would be a good place to start.

The Latest:

As predicted, the US passes the 200,000 mark in COVID-19 deaths: https://tinyurl.com/y4ulbtkl. Putting that in context, it is equivalent to a 9/11, every day, for 67 days: https://tinyurl.com/y5lsem59.

Dwelling in his own reality, as usual, the president asserts that the US infection rate is “among the lowest in the world,” adding that the virus has “virtually” no effect on young people: https://tinyurl.com/yxhlobbk.

Dr. Anthony Fauci deflates the president’s claims that a vaccine is imminent, noting that no one has seen data from any trial: https://tinyurl.com/y445coup.

Your government at work: A National Institutes of Health public affairs official departs his job after it is discovered that he regularly and pseudonymously attacks his employer and Dr. Fauci on the website RedState: https://tinyurl.com/y2zalfnf.

Your government at work, Part II: The shortage of N95 masks continues, putting medical workers at risk: https://tinyurl.com/yygo3n3o. This may because a $1 billion fund given to the Pentagon to build up the nation’s store of personal protection equipment has mostly been spent on jet engine parts, body armor, and dress uniforms: https://tinyurl.com/y2ydbuye.

Having withdrawn its guidance that the coronavirus is transmitted through the air, the CDC says it was all a mistake: https://tinyurl.com/yy6j5qfw.

The CDC also says that as many as 11,000 may have been exposed to COVID-19 on airplanes: https://tinyurl.com/y5m4u2oh. Assessing the risk of flying isn’t an exact science: https://tinyurl.com/y5lu6mkw.

Meanwhile:
In news that will surprise no one, government and business debt soared during the second quarter, when lockdown began: https://tinyurl.com/y473r99d.

The NFL levies $1 million in fines against three teams that played without masks: https://tinyurl.com/y4lqgkyg.

**Food for Thought:**

Does wearing glasses protect you from the coronavirus? Well, it’s a theory: https://tinyurl.com/yy6seuoy.

Nicholas Edwards, who played Jesus in that much-discussed socially distanced production of Godspell, reflects on the experience: https://tinyurl.com/yxt672hb.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

A done deal: Hollywood unions and major studios agree on COVID-19 protocols, paving the way for restart of production: https://tinyurl.com/yy7x6a5b.

**In Florida:**

The state posts the lowest number of daily COVID-19 infections since June: https://tinyurl.com/y5o7s28u. Infections plateau in Orange County, achieving what officials say is a manageable level: https://tinyurl.com/y242mbjc.

Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Lines submit their new health and safety protocols to the CDC: https://tinyurl.com/yxfkbtm6.

The state’s college towns are playing a big part in the rising instances of COVID-19 among young people: https://tinyurl.com/yxwwbhjg.

The III Points music festival in Miami announces its return, April 30 – May 1: https://tinyurl.com/yxv6ulqm.

**In Illinois:**

The state sets a new record for most people tested in one day: https://tinyurl.com/y5bs69a3.

**In Massachusetts:**

A Sudbury high school delays reopening upon discovery of a social gathering for more than 50 students: https://tinyurl.com/yxsfkcm7.

**In Nebraska:**

Omaha’s Orpheum Theatre will return to presenting Broadway national tours in May: https://tinyurl.com/y58a8ffb.

**In New York:**

The governor extends the state’s ban on commercial evictions: https://tinyurl.com/yynpn9tg.

**In Tennessee:**

A TV station reports that officials suppressed the number of COVID-19 cases linked to bars and restaurants because it is so low. The story is debunked. Fox and Friends apologizes. Tucker Carlson fans the flames: https://tinyurl.com/y3ykt3uz.

**In Texas:**
The death of a 28-year-old doctor illustrates the sacrifices made by so many healthcare workers: https://tinyurl.com/y2eukznt.

Around the World:

In Japan:

A supercomputer’s calculations say that face shields are ineffective in containing the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y6pzyno7.

In the UK:

In a blow to attempts at restarting the entertainment industry, Boris Johnson announces new restrictions, warning that they could last six months: https://tinyurl.com/y4yps4ll. More details about the restrictions here: https://tinyurl.com/yxhlobbk.

Mobilization:

#WeMakeEvents supports actions around the globe: https://tinyurl.com/y5o3t7bp.

Education:

New webinars from JBL: “More Than Just Monitor Mixing! with Eddie Caipo,” September 23 at 1:00pm CT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/y7pmx4d. “Deconstructing Brandi Carlile’s FOH Mix with Sean Quackenbush,” September 29 at 2:00pm CT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/yy9mx25y.

Top TV executives talk about production in pandemic in the latest episode of Variety’s “Rebooting the Industry” series. It is free to attend, but you need to register. Get more information at: https://tinyurl.com/y2qa368h.

For Your Entertainment:

Baruch Performing Arts Center and Opera Omaha present the virtual, directed-for-video premiere of dwb (driving while black) from October 23, 2020 at 9:00am ET through October 29, 2020 at 9:00pm ET. Tickets are pay-what-you-can and can be purchased via the BPAC portal at https://tinyurl.com/y5rsp7c. There will also be a post-screening live talk, with details to come. A previously recorded excerpt of dwb (driving while black) can be viewed at https://youtu.be/F9oKCQzV-VPM.

A concert starring cabaret favorite Karen Mason will stream on October 15 – 17: https://tinyurl.com/y6szz5q3.

Miranda: A Steam Punk VR Experience, a fully immersive VR opera featuring live motion-capture performance, will debut this week. Produced by LUMA Festival, Tri-Cities Opera, Enhance VR, and Opera Omaha, Miranda reimagines world-class theatre for the digital age and amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Performances are September 24, 25, and 26, at 6:30pm, 7:45pm, and 9pm: https://tinyurl.com/y6579t5b.

For Your Pleasure:

Judy Kuhn, accompanied by Seth Rudetsky, presents “Someone Else’s Story,” which she introduced in the Broadway production of Chess: https://tinyurl.com/y5tpyjm3.

COVID-19 Update: September 21, 2020:
Two Hundred Thousand and Counting

By the time you read this, we may have passed the milestone of 200,000 Americans dead from COVID-19; if not, it will happen soon enough. Meanwhile, the president has no regrets, his health experts are executing verbal tap dances for fear of offending him, and the CDC remains embroiled in wrangles between scientists and bureaucrats. And, while the
nation mourns Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a looming battle of her replacement threatens to steal focus at a time when a relief bill has yet to be passed.

The Latest:

The president once said that if his administration kept the COVID-19 death toll between 100,000 and 200,000, it would have done “a very good job.” Well, here we are: https://tinyurl.com/y3njmmwe. “What will happen nobody knows;” at least 73 countries are seeing surges in COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y4pw3g4k. For those who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus, there is no escape: https://tinyurl.com/y3f5b2dn.

When defending the president, his health experts choose their words carefully: https://tinyurl.com/y6ydvj2w.

Following revelations that it was posted by the HHS against advice, the CDC has withdrawn the recommendation that the asymptomatic don’t need to test for COVID-19. To be clear, they need to do so most of all: https://tinyurl.com/yxjao3lr. The CDC also admits, quietly and without fanfare, that COVID-19 is mostly transmitted through the air, via aerosols and droplets: https://tinyurl.com/y46p2w3x. Then it takes it back: https://tinyurl.com/y6j6jgfw.

“Her aim is to embarrass the president;” inside the HHS effort to rewrite science at the CDC, to please the president: https://tinyurl.com/y4e5u5kg.

Among other challenges of distributing a vaccine, most of the leading candidates must be kept in temperatures of -80° C: https://tinyurl.com/y39m76j6.

What happened to November? The president now says, offering no evidence, that Americans will have a vaccine by April: https://tinyurl.com/y6jyay7. China and Russia are prepping to roll out their vaccines, before Phase III trials are completed: https://tinyurl.com/y42jegzy. The Russian vaccine has been approved but has yet to be distributed to large numbers of people: https://tinyurl.com/y6zmfpu. The search steps up for Black and Latino coronavirus vaccine candidates: https://tinyurl.com/yxwzf7xx.

Meanwhile:

Industrial bleach is still being sold as a phony COVID-19 miracle cure on Amazon: https://tinyurl.com/y2klwmpe. But Pine-Sol has been approved by the EPA for killing the coronavirus on frequently used surfaces: https://tinyurl.com/y2wrzu3ax.

American teens step up during the pandemic -- distributing masks, teaching classes, and getting groceries to the elderly under lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/y473p89g.

College newspapers are on the front lines, reporting outbreaks and holding school administrators accountable: https://tinyurl.com/y3m6znez.

A new study finds that children who die from COVID-19 have the same medical problems -- including asthma and obesity -- as adults; deaths are more common among Black and Latino kids, too: https://tinyurl.com/y6yjilm. The pandemic is driving up adult obesity rates -- which is especially bad, since obesity can worsen a case of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y57bxkm7.

Experts say a “tsunami” of hotel closures is coming: https://tinyurl.com/y6pvp7jn.

Interestingly, countries across the southern hemisphere are seeing fewer cases of the flu: https://tinyurl.com/yxdmp9kf.

If Tenet can’t lure audiences of cinemas, what will? https://tinyurl.com/yxzj7vhc.

Entertainment reporter Giuliana Rancic and actress Vivica A. Fox test positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y5sk49as.

Food for Thought:

What will the future of theatre look like? Several artistic directors have thoughts about that: https://tinyurl.com/y8sfdta. The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego has a concrete plan: https://tinyurl.com/y5eqrggm.
How Rhode Island schools reopened for in-person learning and Massachusetts schools did not: https://tinyurl.com/y6qm2qz4. Inadequate ventilation is proving to be major hurdle in reopening the state’s schools: https://tinyurl.com/yxnxtkgg.

Around the Country:

In California:

Officials race to increase testing at San Diego State University, where COVID-19 cases continue to rise: https://tinyurl.com/y4q8r2ra.

Faced with 100 cancelations, San Diego asks the governor for guidelines allowing conventions to return to the state: https://tinyurl.com/y4pxn9ud.

In Connecticut:

Representative Jahana Hayes tests positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y3dgzsyp.

In Florida:

The pandemic takes a toll on mental health in the central portion of the state: https://tinyurl.com/y686usk6.

In a reversal, Orange County schools will be permitted to have cheerleaders, marching band, and other performers at football games: https://tinyurl.com/y2vddply. West Orange High School is the second Orange County school to close following a COVID-19 outbreak: https://tinyurl.com/yxbaaxer.

An anti-mask flash mob runs riot through a Ft. Lauderdale Target store: https://tinyurl.com/y2qj3y6f.

Florida State football coach Mike Norvell tests positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y4h2fsgm.

Miami-Dade County has received in $30 million in CARES Act money; it has distributed a little over $400,000: https://tinyurl.com/y556dlbb.

Attendance at Universal theme parks hovers around 25%: https://tinyurl.com/yy2d28ht.

In Illinois:

Social-distancing restrictions are eased in counties near Chicago: https://tinyurl.com/y3hg9j35.

In Missouri:

Another mass motorcycle rally is held, this time in Lake of the Ozarks: https://tinyurl.com/y6ez6mqc.

In New York:

Senator Charles Schumer and the Broadway League team up to support the Save Our Stages Act, which -- to be clear -- does not provide the small business assistance and enhanced unemployment benefits proposed in the RESTART Act: https://tinyurl.com/y22enr22.

New York City’s film and television industry starts to wake up: https://tinyurl.com/yyslzsli.

In Rhode Island:

Providence College faces an outbreak of 120 COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y4hzudy.

In South Dakota:
A healthcare not-for-profit sponsors a Chris Young concert, indoors, for an audience of 5,000, and no masks required: [https://tinyurl.com/yyyr5a9j](https://tinyurl.com/yyyr5a9j).

**Around the World:**

**In France:**

Public gatherings of more than ten have been banned in Nice: [https://tinyurl.com/y6eorhd3](https://tinyurl.com/y6eorhd3).

**In India:**

The country passes the 54-million mark of new infections: [https://tinyurl.com/y4jz49e4](https://tinyurl.com/y4jz49e4).

**In Iran:**

The country records the highest number of daily cases since June: [https://tinyurl.com/y63x5x2o](https://tinyurl.com/y63x5x2o).

**In Jordan:**

People in gatherings of more than 20 will face fines and imprisonment: [https://tinyurl.com/yyaellhk](https://tinyurl.com/yyaellhk).

**In Spain:**

A performance of A Masked Ball at Madrid’s Teatro Real is halted by audience members protesting the lack of social distancing: [https://tinyurl.com/y3m5gb96](https://tinyurl.com/y3m5gb96).

**In the UK:**

The country could face 50,000 COVID-19 cases a day if it stays on the current track, top government scientists warn: [https://tinyurl.com/y4baebca](https://tinyurl.com/y4baebca).

Hundreds of anti-vaxxers and coronavirus skeptics stage a protest in London’s Trafalgar Square: [https://tinyurl.com/y5st-jm6r](https://tinyurl.com/y5st-jm6r).

The country struggles to avoid a second lockdown: [https://tinyurl.com/y6orsyc6](https://tinyurl.com/y6orsyc6).

Universities hire “COVID marshals” to break up student parties that break social distancing rules: [https://tinyurl.com/y3p9f-gaq](https://tinyurl.com/y3p9f-gaq).

**In Uruguay:**

The country sees an influx of Argentinians fleeing the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y43bbyll](https://tinyurl.com/y43bbyll).

**For Your Entertainment:**

It’s Puccini Week at the Metropolitan Opera streaming service: [https://tinyurl.com/y3s7l346](https://tinyurl.com/y3s7l346).

**For Your Pleasure:**

Nat King Cole offers one of his signature hits, “Nature Boy:” [https://tinyurl.com/nvv6h3v](https://tinyurl.com/nvv6h3v).

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**COVID-19 Update: September 18, 2020:**

*Under Pressure*

If it wasn’t clear before, it is now obvious that the White House is engaged in a power struggle with the scientific establishment, as the president tries to produce a COVID-19 vaccine before the election, when not trying to wish the pandemic away altogether. The effort is unfolding on several fronts: The Department of Health and Human Services posted advice on the Centers for Disease Control website, saying that asymptomatic persons don’t need COVID-19 tests; in fact, they need tests most of all. The US Post Office was ready to send masks, still the only way of blocking the coronavirus, to everyone in the country -- until the White House nixed it. An effort that could have saved tens of thousands of lives was abandoned, reportedly out of fear of causing a panic. And the president, displaying his unique approach to empathy (and math) says that the US’ COVID infection rate is really very good, if you eliminate the blue states. Let that one sink in.

The Latest:

A new guidance, posted on the CDC website, saying that the asymptomatic don’t need COVID-19 tests, was in fact placed there by HHS staff over serious objections: https://tinyurl.com/y5xfa4br.

The US Post Office had a plan in April to send out 650 million reusable masks -- five to every residential address in the country -- until the White House, allegedly worried about causing a panic, vetoed it: https://tinyurl.com/y397eykz.

The president says the COVID-19 infection rate in the US isn’t that bad, “if you take the blue states out:” https://tinyurl.com/yyyvu92x.

Moderna and Pfizer go transparent, revealing their vaccine road maps: https://tinyurl.com/yxrsb9gd.

When will you be able get the coronavirus vaccine? Probably not this year: https://tinyurl.com/y3g5tvf5.

Many states are planning to independently analyze the data before distributing a vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y3e7f1xc. Dr. Anthony Fauci insists that when it comes to approving vaccines, the CDC will not buckle under political pressure: https://tinyurl.com/y5er9f2x.

Even as vaccine trials move at “warp speed,” recruitment of Black candidates lags: https://tinyurl.com/yxrr9e4w.

The opera singer Anna Netrebko, who has been giving recitals and recently appeared in Don Carlo at the Bolshoi, has been hospitalized with COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y3njgdf.

Around the Country:

In California:

The Paradigm Talent Agency permanently lays off nearly one-third of its staff: https://tinyurl.com/y6dgte2o.

A new law will make it easier for essential workers who contract COVID-19 to be covered under the state’s worker’s compensation program: https://tinyurl.com/yxkzf3c4.

In Florida:

Walt Disney World will reopen one of its water parks in March: https://tinyurl.com/y66gmces.

Disney’s Swan and Dolphin resorts lay off 1,000 employees: https://tinyurl.com/y5hzmugs.

In New York:

A PPE boutique opens in New York City’s Herald Square: https://tinyurl.com/y6c6rs9g.

In Rhode Island:

Providence’s Trinity Rep will not reopen until September 2021. It’s annual production of A Christmas Carol will stream for free, however: https://tinyurl.com/y5pzrsdk.
Around the World:

In Iran:
The country goes on lockdown as new COVID-19 cases surge: https://tinyurl.com/y5ubm6s2.

In the UK:
Tougher restrictions are implemented to control the coronavirus in Northwest England and Yorkshire: https://tinyurl.com/y6m9s2s9.

The National Theatre will present a panto -- Dick Whittington and His Cat -- in an Olivier Theatre reconfigured for social distancing: https://tinyurl.com/y2c48ypk.

No fireworks in London on New Year’s Eve this year: https://tinyurl.com/yyyy4vo38.

Education:
Variety hosts “Legit! The Road Back to Broadway,” a series of conversations with prominent playwrights and producers on September 24 at 12:00pm ET. It is free to attend, but you must register at: https://tinyurl.com/y2xq7l88.

For Your Entertainment:
Pianist Mackenzie Melemed presents a program that includes works by Beethoven and Liszt on September 20 at 4:00pm ET. For more information, go to: https://tinyurl.com/y55kxfm5.

Heidi Schreck’s singular and stirring What the Constitution Means to Me, a hit off and on Broadway, will be available on Amazon Prime, starting October 16: https://tinyurl.com/y34896es.

For Your Pleasure:
A buoyant company (look for Donna McKechnie), perform "Love Don’t Answer to No One," from the in-development musical Victory Train: https://tinyurl.com/y4gv6ok3.

COVID-19 Update: September 17, 2020:
Mixed Messages

The conflict between science and wishful thinking is particularly intense at the moment. The president dismisses the CDC director’s assertion -- based on the evidence -- that a vaccine isn’t imminent in the next few weeks. The president tells the members of his own party to increase funding for a pandemic relief bill -- and they ignore him. And the attorney general insists that being confined to one’s home, for health reasons, is worse than living in chains and being subject to rape and other forms of violent physical abuse. Everyone has a right to his or her opinion, but it’s little wonder that the American public is thoroughly confused.

Directly contradicting the administration’s emphasis on a vaccine, the director of Centers for Disease Control says that a vaccine is some time off and masks may be more effective in protecting against COVID-19. The president says, “I think he made a mistake when he said that:” https://tinyurl.com/y4kxr8tg.

A new study of blood donated to the Red Cross indicates that the US is far from attaining herd immunity: https://tinyurl.com/y3tzmskg.

In a twist nobody saw coming, the president calls on the GOP to substantially increase its offer for pandemic stimulus relief bill: https://tinyurl.com/yxz33295. At the moment, the GOP is ignoring him: https://tinyurl.com/yy5vpm8c.
In a remark sure to get a chilly reception from historians (to say nothing of the Black community), the US attorney general says that the “national lockdown” (which doesn’t exist) is the biggest abrogation of civil liberties since slavery: https://tinyurl.com/y33lbksz.

Michael Caputo, the beleaguered Health and Human Services official takes a leave of absence following his Facebook rant about the CDC: https://tinyurl.com/yxgojzwr.

Weekly unemployment claims hit 860,000, minutely better than the previous week: https://tinyurl.com/y4j5nvca.

Actor Neil Patrick Harris, his husband David Burtka, and their twin children have all gone through COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y4bpkvdx.

Food for Thought:

People who most effectively fight COVID-19 have unified immune systems, which may be why older patients are more prone to serious infection: https://tinyurl.com/y3y35alt.

The UN Population Fund warns that the pandemic is setting off an unwanted domino effect in terms of healthcare and nutrition in many countries: https://tinyurl.com/yxgtycrj.

Vaccine or not, normal life is a long way off: https://tinyurl.com/y6fuq8kv.

Around the Country:

In California:

The pandemic complicates wildfire relief efforts: https://tinyurl.com/yysdkb2t.

The major studios and unions are close to an omnibus agreement to restart film and television production: https://tinyurl.com/yxtl6afn.

In Florida:

Universal Orlando puts 5,400 workers on extended furlough: https://tinyurl.com/y2w2my3a.

But no popcorn or soda in the seats: Cinemas reopen in Miami-Dade: https://tinyurl.com/y6gc9vty.

In Idaho:

A Coeur D’Alene pastor, who refused to require masks at his church’s services, is in the ICU: https://tinyurl.com/y4xdf3s9.

In Illinois:

Some Chicago-area schools are experimenting with online learning -- in the schools: https://tinyurl.com/y39tkblb.

In Indiana:

Eli Lilly & Co. may have an antibody drug that keeps people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 cases out of the hospital: https://tinyurl.com/y6f82ols.

In Massachusetts:

Moderna’s CEO says the company will know in November if its vaccine is effective and safe: https://tinyurl.com/y3c6vn9k.

In Missouri:
The president of the University of Missouri backtracks after blocking students who tweeted about the school’s lack of COVID-19 precautions: [https://tinyurl.com/y2va5t2p](https://tinyurl.com/y2va5t2p).

**In New York:**

How SUNY Oneonta ended up with 10% of the student body infected with COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y6fs634a](https://tinyurl.com/y6fs634a).

Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York launches a COVID-relief fund for small theatre companies: [https://tinyurl.com/y6p88yyp](https://tinyurl.com/y6p88yyp).

New York City public schools postpone in-person reopening for a week: [https://tinyurl.com/y5pk5gvy](https://tinyurl.com/y5pk5gvy).

New York City opens its own COVID-19 testing lab: [https://tinyurl.com/yxny7tko](https://tinyurl.com/yxny7tko).

**In Ohio:**

Cleveland’s I-X Exposition Center closes, killed off by the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/yyokwj62](https://tinyurl.com/yyokwj62).

**In Pennsylvania:**

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh discover a biomolecule that may be able to neutralize the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/y4evladb](https://tinyurl.com/y4evladb).

**Around the World:**

**In the Czech Republic:**

The country records its highest daily numbers of COVID-19 infections: [https://tinyurl.com/y55cjvs4](https://tinyurl.com/y55cjvs4).

**In France:**

COVID-19-caused ICU cases rise for the 20th day in a row, reaching a three-month high: [https://tinyurl.com/yxsz5a47](https://tinyurl.com/yxsz5a47).

**In Germany:**

The government sees a vaccine being widely disseminated in the middle of 2021: [https://tinyurl.com/y4rjsp8p](https://tinyurl.com/y4rjsp8p).

**In Hong Kong:**

Social distance restrictions are relaxed as no new COVID-19 transmissions are found: [https://tinyurl.com/y63c3m7j](https://tinyurl.com/y63c3m7j).

**In India:**

The country is rapidly becoming overwhelmed by the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y584uwaf](https://tinyurl.com/y584uwaf).

**In Russia:**

The government is selling 100 million doses of its unproven Sputnik vaccine to pandemic-ravaged India: [https://tinyurl.com/yyj3bucs](https://tinyurl.com/yyj3bucs).

**In the UK:**

The National Institutes of Health launches an investigation into the patient who suffered spinal cord damage while enrolled in the AstraZeneca vaccine trial: [https://tinyurl.com/yxobt2qs](https://tinyurl.com/yxobt2qs).

**For Your Entertainment:**
The Boston Symphony Orchestra presents Encore BSO Recitals, an online concert series featuring small ensembles. Performances will be released each Thursday at noon, September 17 - November 12. The series as a multiple-stream package, accessible through www.bso.org, is available for a minimum donation of $25; all subscribers to the 2019-20 BSO Symphony Hall season and Tanglewood 2020 Online Festival will be able to enjoy the online content free of charge. The concerts include works by Bach, Berio, Mozart, Ravel, Beethoven, Schumann, Copland, and others. They will be available for viewing for up to 30 days, with the entire season coming to a close on November 19.

On September 29 at 2:00pm, Food For Thought Productions will present a comedy-themed trio of performances. Tony Roberts will read from his autobiography, Do You Know Me? Next up are two one-acts Commercial Break by Peter Stone and Come On by Susan Charlotte. The cast includes Rex Reed, Jodie Markel, and Stephen Schnetzer: Antony Marsellis directs. Q&A will include a discussion with the cast on the many facets of comedy, led by Susan Charlotte. The performance will be available live via Zoom. A socially distanced live performance will be held as well. For information, write info@foodforthoughtproductions.com.

Metropolitan Playhouse presents its next free screened reading: Eugenically Speaking, a one-act play by Edward Goodman, live streamed at no charge, with talkback to follow, on September 19 at 8:00pm EST. Running time is 30 minutes, talkback to follow including audience questions via chat. Watch at www.metropolitanplayhouse.org.

Maryland’s Olney Theatre Center is streaming a production of Stephen Karam’s Tony and Drama Desk Award-winner The Humans now through October 4. Go to olneytheatre.org/the-humans/video.

A virtual reading of Megan Loughran’s play The Silverfish will stream September 23 – 27 at 7:00pm as part of a festival at New York’s Urban Stages. The cast includes Nikki M. James, George Salazar, Benny Elledge, and Kate Weatherhead: UrbanStages.org. Donations cheerfully accepted.

For Your Pleasure:

Broadway’s Lena Hall gives a pop spin to Rodgers and Hart’s “My Funny Valentine”: https://tinyurl.com/yynx5bt3.

COVID-19 Update: September 15, 2020: The Compromise Bill

Just when appears that Congress is incapable of passing a stimulus bill, a compromise plan emerges. Does it have a chance? Stay tuned. Meanwhile, the strange case of Michael Caputo, whose job description appears to be based on interfering in the work of the CDC, takes an even more bizarre turn when he declares himself a victim of degraded mental health. New evidence emerges of the president's double-dealing ways regarding COVID-19, even as he resumes indoor rallies where nobody wears a mask. And, in news that will reverberate throughout this industry, the trade show calendar gets another shakeup as ISE postpones to June.

The Latest:

Fifty centrist Senators will propose a compromise stimulus bill. Is it DOA? Will Congress really let this issue die? https://tinyurl.com/yy3mnj6u.

In a bizarre twist even for these times, Michael Caputo, the government official behind the effort to rewrite CDC reports to please the White House, unleashes a rant on Facebook in which he decries his degraded mental health, raises baseless accusations of career scientists engaging in “sedition,” and musing about "shadows on the ceiling in my apartment, there alone, shadows are so long." https://tinyurl.com/y6lxobjn. Scientists note why Caputo’s efforts are terrible for the fight against COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y2yhuwf7.

The president defends his mask-free indoor rallies, saying "I'm on a stage and it's very far away." He says nothing about the audiences jammed into the room with him: https://tinyurl.com/yyhrsmmj. In a newly released tape of an interview with Bob Woodward, the president says that the coronavirus “is a killer” that "rips you apart," adding, "If you're the wrong person, you don't stand a chance." This was three days after he told supporters at a rally that the coronavirus "will soon be in
More states are reopening bars and restaurants, despite the fact that "states that have reopened bars experienced a doubling in the rate of coronavirus cases three weeks after the opening of doors, on average." [https://tinyurl.com/y4rjvupx](https://tinyurl.com/y4rjvupx).

More from the Midwest, where cases are spiking worrisomely; keep an eye on the Dakotas, Iowa, and Missouri: [https://tinyurl.com/yqyqv3lp7](https://tinyurl.com/yqyqv3lp7).

The pandemic causes the nation’s Medicaid rolls to swell: [https://tinyurl.com/yy7822d7](https://tinyurl.com/yy7822d7).

The World Health Organization sees a rise in COVID-19 deaths in Europe come October and November: [https://tinyurl.com/y6anp8hf](https://tinyurl.com/y6anp8hf).

AstraZeneca, blessed with record profits and flooded with government grant money, raises its prices -- three times this year: [https://tinyurl.com/yhyz1xe](https://tinyurl.com/yhyz1xe).

Six European countries are working on a cross-border COVID-19 tracking app: [https://tinyurl.com/y4g73qtj](https://tinyurl.com/y4g73qtj).

**Food for Thought:**

If you have COVID-19, should you take the vaccine? Maybe: [https://tinyurl.com/y6jivtn9](https://tinyurl.com/y6jivtn9).

Steps to take to save America’s arts and culture economy: [https://tinyurl.com/y6jgqonkz](https://tinyurl.com/y6jgqonkz).

**Trade Show Update:**

ISE, scheduled for February 2 – 5 in Barcelona, moves to June: [https://www.iseurope.org/](https://www.iseurope.org/).

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

COVID-19 tests will be mandated in Los Angeles public schools: [https://tinyurl.com/yxrlasd5](https://tinyurl.com/yxrlasd5).

**In Florida:**

The pandemic devastates Miami’s arts sector: [https://tinyurl.com/y5fnmdsu](https://tinyurl.com/y5fnmdsu).

Since reopening, the Orange County School District has seen COVID-19 on 30% of its campuses: [https://tinyurl.com/y49d8ez6](https://tinyurl.com/y49d8ez6).

The AdventHealth system endorses rapid-response antigen testing as a way of identifying if asymptomatic workers have been exposed to COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y6x2w59z](https://tinyurl.com/y6x2w59z).

 Floridians unemployed in August may be eligible for an additional week of $300 enhanced unemployment: [https://tinyurl.com/yymvh2n8](https://tinyurl.com/yymvh2n8).

The bars are open again in the Florida Keys: [https://tinyurl.com/y66g7ubs](https://tinyurl.com/y66g7ubs).

**In Illinois:**

Downtown Chicago, emptied out by the coronavirus, faces an uncertain future: [https://tinyurl.com/y4go66yf](https://tinyurl.com/y4go66yf). The City of Chicago Winter Dining Challenge aims to find ways to keep restaurants open yet socially distanced: [https://tinyurl.com/y526c5hp](https://tinyurl.com/y526c5hp).

Chicago aims to rev up its sagging contact tracing program: [https://tinyurl.com/yxe5x3xz](https://tinyurl.com/yxe5x3xz).
Senator Dick Durbin says that two Illinois universities didn’t get the COVID-19 testing materials they ordered, because the federal government reallocated them elsewhere: https://tinyurl.com/y2px9mew.

In New York:

Macy’s plans a drastically different edition of its Thanksgiving Day Parade: https://tinyurl.com/y4quo8jp.

In a statement that goes over like a lead balloon, Mayor Bill de Blasio tries to minimize the health risks of going back to school, saying, “We have to remember that for the very small percentage of people who test positive for the coronavirus, it is a very temporary reality.” https://tinyurl.com/yyza9ftm.

In North Carolina:

The North Carolina Symphony plans a new kind of season, pitching to subscribers a flex package of online concerts in the fall and in-person performances in the spring: https://tinyurl.com/y6jtkkx9.

New COVID-19 cases are declining in the state, while the overall positivity rate remains at 5%: https://tinyurl.com/y49worqe.

In Vermont:

Northern Stage is the first LORT theatre to get union approval for live programming: https://tinyurl.com/y4eblxmx.

In Wisconsin:

In an effort to curb the coronavirus, University of Wisconsin -- Madison eliminates spring break: https://tinyurl.com/y24aps-jg.

Around the World:

In Canada:

Toronto faces calls for a shutdown of strip club shutdown following two COVID-19 outbreaks: https://tinyurl.com/y3exrvv2.

The country reports no new death COVID-19 deaths since March: https://tinyurl.com/y4p8xmtq.

In the UK:

The Oxford-based Recovery trial, which put steroids on the table as an effective COVID-19 treatment, tries out a new combination antibody approach: https://tinyurl.com/y3roz2bj.

How the coronavirus is accelerating calls for Scottish independence: https://tinyurl.com/y2f3g8sx.

Education:


From Martin by Harman: “Using Lighting Design to Tell a Story with Jenny Bass,” October 1 at 1:00pm CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/y5ay25rm.

For Your Entertainment:

SC7NARIO, a new short film featuring a brace of top Broadway dancers, will screen for free on the website Broadway HD: https://tinyurl.com/y3srflzgn.

For Your Pleasure:
Carrie Hope Fletcher previews “Far Too Late,” from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s upcoming musical Cinderella, accompanied by the composer: https://tinyurl.com/yy5d45mm.

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**COVID-19 Update: September 14, 2020:**

**The Rewrite**

The president continues to insist that the pandemic is rapidly fading away, even if he has to make the CDC rewrite its reports to suit him. At the same time, a mountain of evidence indicates that this is not so. But in the battle between denial and science, there can only be one winner.

**The Latest:**

Staffers at the CDC are being pressured by White House appointees to rewrite and postpone reports about COVID-19 because they undermine the president’s everything-is-awesome approach: https://tinyurl.com/y4ehv7p6. Michael Caputo, the official behind the effort, claims he is battling the “deep state”: https://tinyurl.com/y3nzbx98. The editor of one of the world’s top scientific journals pens an editorial accusing the president of brazenly lying to the American people about the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y4jg3otv.

Expanding on the comment he made about theatres reopening, Dr. Anthony Fauci says that America will not return to a semblance of normality until mid-to-late 2021, largely because it will take months to widely disseminate a vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y66f7zvl. Pouring cold water on the president’s insistence that the pandemic is virtually over, he warns Americans to steel themselves for a challenging fall and winter: https://tinyurl.com/y3y339ps. Indeed, new cases are rising in 11 states: https://tinyurl.com/y68av2hu.


Health experts call on pharmaceutical companies to be more transparent about their vaccine programs: https://tinyurl.com/y4bcsdhj.

The $300-a-week unemployment benefit mandated by the president runs out, with nothing to take its place: https://tinyurl.com/y46lemmf. If there’s going to be a stimulus bill this year, it has to happen now: https://tinyurl.com/yyl5sv99.

Joseph Biden lays out a robust plan for a nationwide effort to contain the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yxbtqyra.

The AstraZenca vaccine trial resumes: https://tinyurl.com/y4lgsadc.


A new study confirms fears that kids can pick up the coronavirus in daycare and spread it at home: https://tinyurl.com/yy99g2cn.

The pandemic is preventing Americans from getting vaccines, other tests, and preventative care: https://tinyurl.com/y6tgspq6.

Questions are raised about the use of temperature checks outside restaurants and other public places: https://tinyurl.com/y6tr9mlm.

Teachers’ unions around the world oppose reopening schools: https://tinyurl.com/y2s8dcfg.

Statistics show that people without chronic conditions die from COVID-19, too: https://tinyurl.com/y3cgjjpa.
Around the Country:

In California:

Blockbuster bingo continues; Warner Bros. postpones the release of Wonder Woman 1984 to Christmas Day: https://tinyurl.com/y69nr5ek. The film Candyman, scheduled for release right before Halloween, is put off until 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y5xh5olw.

In Florida:

On-campus students at the University of Miami will be required to take a COVID-19 test every two weeks: https://tinyurl.com/yy75te79.

Football rules: The Orange County school district will use up to $2 million of its federal CARES Act money to test high school football players, coaches, and athletic directors. English teachers need not apply: https://tinyurl.com/y45uxl48.

The state posts its lowest daily numbers since June: https://tinyurl.com/y57ef3j9.

In Maryland:

Even as the state eases its rules, many entertainment venues are slow to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/y5gfyzls.

In Massachusetts:

Boston College races to contain its COVID-19 outbreak: https://tinyurl.com/y6gdjkdh.

The pandemic devastates the Boston restaurant industry: https://tinyurl.com/y6924b53.

In Michigan:

“There’s no COVID:” So says one of thousands of maskless attendees at a rally for the president: https://tinyurl.com/y2tkoad6.

In New York:

Teachers in Jackson Heights, Queens -- alleging that the city’s test-and-trace program isn’t working -- refuse to enter their school building: https://tinyurl.com/y5oey4tr.

They may have a point; a Bronx school closes after two staffers test positive for COVID-19, and they’re not the only ones: https://tinyurl.com/y3ykzzln.

Quarantine enforcement comes to New York City’s Port Authority Bus Terminal: https://tinyurl.com/y2uwe1v6.

The state passes new milestones: 102,900 tests in a single day, and only two deaths: https://tinyurl.com/y2asrser.

The remarkable return, from death’s door, of a New York City cop: https://tinyurl.com/yy1vij3y.


In North Dakota:

The state is whipsawed by fluctuating oil prices and a surge in COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y6rubl8y.

Both Dakotas now lead the country in new COVID-19 infections; they’re still arguing about masks: https://tinyurl.com/yy-wijs32.

In Ohio:
Students at Miami University, diagnosed with COVID-19, throw a party; this at a school where 1,0000 out of 20,000 have already tested positive: https://tinyurl.com/yx8o7c2j.

In Texas:

When it comes to official reporting on the pandemic, confusion reigns: https://tinyurl.com/y4f5dt6w.

In West Virginia:

A theatre sells cardboard cutouts of audience members to fill up its socially distanced performances: https://tinyurl.com/y6fuum4.

Around the World:

In Canada:

Toronto’s music venues begin reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y657vw8f.

In the Czech Republic:

The set of the Netflix film Transatlantic 473 shuts down when an extra tests positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y5b4i83k.

In France:

The number of COVID-19-related hospitalizations is rising: https://tinyurl.com/y5r692bc.

In Hong Kong:

Cathay Pacific is laid low by the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yxaewqvn.

In Hungary:

As the coronavirus spikes across Eastern Europe, prime minister Viktor Orban drafts a “war plan:” https://tinyurl.com/yyeol444.

In India:

The country records 96,000 COVID-19 cases in a single day; the government orders additional testing: https://tinyurl.com/y4e25e6r.

In Israel:

The country heads into a second lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/yyvmx9jm.

In Italy:

Silvio Berlusconi emerges from the hospital, urges his fellow Italians to wear masks and observe social distancing protocols: https://tinyurl.com/y6nb39yj.

In Peru:

The country now has the most severe COVID-19 outbreak in the world, according to most metrics: https://tinyurl.com/y3cgancs.

In the UK:
Boris Johnson’s Operation Moonshot would involve testing each British citizen once a week; too bad, by the government’s own admission, the technology for this doesn’t exist: https://tinyurl.com/yxd5ukv5. The current testing program can’t meet the rising demand: https://tinyurl.com/y279wyz3.

The country’s R number for COVID-19 transmissions rises for the first time since March: https://tinyurl.com/y58az4bg.

A theatrical photographer, age 27, describes his long, slow road back from COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y53cm8nv.

If you want to produce theatre, take it outdoors: https://tinyurl.com/y26mg6wk.

The producer of the musical Six and a few other shows announces plans to reopen in the West End in November: http://tinyurl.com/yxh47u95xh47u95. The Nimax Theatre chain will reopen in October, also with socially distanced snows: https://tinyurl.com/y4ymtzej.

For Your Entertainment:

Romantics Anonymous, a new musical will stream from the Bristol Old Vic, in the UK, September 26 at 4:00pm; Emma Rice directs: https://tinyurl.com/yysmxy6.

It’s Bel Canto Week at the Metropolitan Opera’s streaming service: https://tinyurl.com/y2g7vedl.

For Your Pleasure:

Tony Award winners Robert Lindsay and Maryann Plunkett lead the company of Me and My Girl in “The Lambeth Walk:” https://tinyurl.com/y3la464o.

COVID-19 Update: September 11, 2020:

Then and Now

A day to remember, to never forget. Today’s crisis casts a shadow on remembrances of tragedy two decades ago, as the government’s response to the pandemic continues to be one of denial and inaction. Twenty years ago, we faced a terrible crisis as a united nation; today we seem to agree on nothing. Do we not have in us to pull together and find a way forward?

The Latest:

The president believes he has defeated COVID-19; his medical experts tell a different story: https://tinyurl.com/y29cymus.

Dr. Anthony Fauci predicts that theatres won’t reopen until a year after vaccine is distributed: https://tinyurl.com/yx8qd5lv.

The director of the NIH is “puzzled and rather disheartened” by people who won’t wear masks: https://tinyurl.com/yxa7h-wfm.

College campuses are driving the biggest outbreaks in the US: https://tinyurl.com/y4x3ybqr.

As predicted, the GOP “skinny” pandemic relief bill dies in the Senate, rejected by Democrats who say it is too small to do any good. As of now, there may be no further attempt before the November election: https://tinyurl.com/yxoq3wd6.

Meanwhile:

COVID-19 is also unleashing a pandemic of food insecurity: https://tinyurl.com/y4an9ztn.

Nine million people haven’t collected their stimulus payments; the government is trying to do something about that: https://
The rest of the entertainment industry may be suffering but recorded music revenues are up: https://tinyurl.com/y5tf43pn.

The Pulitzer Prize board will consider canceled and streaming productions for its 2021 prize: https://tinyurl.com/y5pxjozd.

A new UK/Ireland tour of Beauty and the Beast announces a start date of May 2021: https://tinyurl.com/yxgxxqjb.

**Food for Thought:**

As colleges reopen, new research highlights how young adults can suffer severe results from COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y5qq3228.

A day spent on a film set shows how movies are made now: https://tinyurl.com/yxtoopao.

Congress fiddles while the country’s arts sector burns: https://tinyurl.com/yy96afgf.

Why it is vital that more people of color be recruited for vaccine trials: https://tinyurl.com/y3njnbaf.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

Seventy-eight researchers and doctors from Stanford Medical Center sharply criticize Scott Atlas, the neuroradiologist who was recently added to the White House coronavirus task force. Atlas is a strong advocate for the president’s non-scientific solutions: https://tinyurl.com/y65s2t9p.

The state’s division of OSHA levies a tough fine on a frozen food manufacturer for not protecting employees from the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y3yozi43.

The outbreak continues at San Diego State University; the spring semester will go online: https://tinyurl.com/y5q6h8rf.

A San Diego high school closes after two students test positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y2bv24ac.

**In Florida:**

The state’s top economist warns that the tourist industry will take years to recover: https://tinyurl.com/y3qdzo8c.

The state will allow bars to open at 50% capacity, but they will remain closed in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties; Broward County has yet to decide: https://tinyurl.com/y2gkmltg.

**In Illinois:**

The state’s COVID-19 positivity rate is dropping, but hospitalizations are up: https://tinyurl.com/yyyy8pwz.

The state announces a new program to connect people unemployed by the pandemic with jobs and training: https://tinyurl.com/y53go7ju.

How the Chicago Bears plan to travel during this pandemic season: https://tinyurl.com/y6amyjxe.

**In Massachusetts:**


**In New York:**

More than 150 businesses leaders warn Mayor Bill De Blasio that New York City is at risk, thanks to unemployment, and
homelessness, and deteriorating quality of life: https://tinyurl.com/yysk65ok.


Persons caught riding the New York subway without a mask will be subject to a $50 fine: https://tinyurl.com/y6cawvf.

In Oregon:

People fleeing devastating wildfires are being housed in a prison already identified as a COVID-19 hotspot: https://tinyurl.com/y5nd4cey.

In Pennsylvania:

Members of the House of Representatives signal their support for the Save Our Stages Act: https://tinyurl.com/y4eg7qfm.

In Texas:

The Dallas Symphony returns, performing for an audience of 75 in an auditorium that seats 1,800: https://tinyurl.com/y3zmru4w.

Three new clusters are identified near the University of Texas at Austin: https://tinyurl.com/yxfoto2bn.

The state’s positivity rate is falling: https://tinyurl.com/y2x646rr.

Around the World:

In Austria:

As the daily number of new infections reaches levels not seen since March, the country tightens its rules: https://tinyurl.com/yymkftb6.

In Germany:

The country’s schools have been open for a month, with no major COVID-19 outbreaks: https://tinyurl.com/y2fs2lx4.

In the UK:

COVID-19 cases in England are doubling every eight days: https://tinyurl.com/y46qehcp. The UK’s reproduction number rises above one: https://tinyurl.com/y58az4bg.

For Your Entertainment:

New York City Ballet announces its fall online programming: https://tinyurl.com/y4ujpeko.

For Your Pleasure:

For this day of remembrance, Bette Midler offers “The Wind Beneath My Wings” at the 9/11 memorial at Yankee Stadium: https://tinyurl.com/y34ldm9w.

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**COVID-19 Update: September 10, 2020:**

*I Always Wanted to Play It Down*

The American West is on fire. Congress can’t agree on relief for unemployed Americans. And the number of deaths from COVID-19 continues to march upward. But today the nation’s attention is riveted on unimpeachable evidence that, for
months, the president lied to the American people about the dangers of the pandemic. Trying to justify his actions -- which have contributed to the deaths of 200,000 Americans -- he now says he was trying to avoid a panic. Anyone finding this morally defensible is invited to write us with an explanation.

The Latest:

In a bombshell revelation, the president admitted, on tape, to reporter Bob Woodward that he purposely minimized the effects of COVID-19, even as it ravaged the US: https://tinyurl.com/yynpzztu.

In March, Trump told Woodward, on tape, “Just today and yesterday, some startling facts came out. It’s not just old, older. Young people too, plenty of young people.” Yet new emails reveal that a staffer from the Department of Health and Human Services, continues trying to prevent Dr. Anthony Fauci from discussing the risk of COVID-19 poses to children: https://tinyurl.com/y3pbpd5u.

The worldwide death toll from COVID-19 passes the 900,000 mark; the US counts for 20% of that figure: https://tinyurl.com/y572o63.

Weekly unemployment claims hit 885,000, which is worse than expected: https://tinyurl.com/yxzstfmx.

Meanwhile:

A safety review of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trial begins: https://tinyurl.com/y5k8bqn. The company’s chief executive still thinks a vaccine can be delivered by late 2020 or early 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y5ev3pq8.

As the school year begins, COVID-19 claims the lives of teachers in three states: https://tinyurl.com/yy2smo3w.

Continuing the realignment of film awards season, the National Board of Review Awards have been postponed from November to January: https://tinyurl.com/y5ycl8kd.

In a sign of challenges to come for the entire entertainment industry, the producers of a new Ben Affleck film are suing insurers for refusing to extend their policy thanks to the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y32a9gnh.

A firsthand report from the Venice Film Festival: https://tinyurl.com/y26kxlzd.

Around the Country:

In California:

The COVID-19 case count continues to rise at San Diego State University: https://tinyurl.com/yxc8vyry.

In Connecticut:

Goodspeed Musicals plans to reopen next June: https://tinyurl.com/y6am98st.

The state's positivity rate rises above 1%: https://tinyurl.com/y3kdvaf.

In Florida:

The Miami-Dade school board gets an earful from parents about the system’s shambolic first week of online classes: https://tinyurl.com/y5ue9sm4.

Miami-Dade loosens some of this COVID-19 restrictions, among them extending the nightly curfew: https://tinyurl.com/y2ap7oeu.

In Georgia:

The University of Georgia reports more than 1,400 COVID-19 infections in five days: https://tinyurl.com/yy7sprqu.
In a sign of the times, Home Depot cancels Black Friday: [https://tinyurl.com/y32g2u8j](https://tinyurl.com/y32g2u8j).

In Illinois:

United Airlines, bracing itself for economic rough air, nevertheless adds long-haul routes from Chicago to India and Hawaii: [https://tinyurl.com/yxdrqe2](https://tinyurl.com/yxdrqe2).

In New York:

Indoor dining -- at 25% capacity -- can return to New York City at the end of this month: [https://tinyurl.com/y239rw6y](https://tinyurl.com/y239rw6y). But there's no date for reopening theatres: [https://tinyurl.com/y3o8bmue](https://tinyurl.com/y3o8bmue).

Two workers at Brooklyn public schools test positive for COVID-19 one day after returning for a planning session: [https://tinyurl.com/y6lutoxq](https://tinyurl.com/y6lutoxq). Teachers are up in arms about a school for children with special needs that is obviously unfit to reopen: [https://tinyurl.com/y3al2hm5](https://tinyurl.com/y3al2hm5).

Senator Charles Schumer continues to push the Save Our Stages Act: [https://tinyurl.com/yxdbsdq](https://tinyurl.com/yxdbsdq).

In Texas:

Houston’s Theatre Under the Stars looks to reopen in May: [https://tinyurl.com/y4ooqn92](https://tinyurl.com/y4ooqn92).

The state’s teachers union launches a website to track COVID-19 cases and deaths: [https://tinyurl.com/y5wrcy5u](https://tinyurl.com/y5wrcy5u).

Around the World:

In Australia:

Elvis, the Baz Luhrmann film that shut down after Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson developed COVID-19, goes back into production: [https://tinyurl.com/y6tyzomc](https://tinyurl.com/y6tyzomc).

In Israel:

The country’s coronavirus czar locks horns with the ultra-Orthodox community and loses: [https://tinyurl.com/y288otx9](https://tinyurl.com/y288otx9).

The government eyes a lockdown following a spike in new COVID-19 case: [https://tinyurl.com/yxlufy67](https://tinyurl.com/yxlufy67).

In Italy:

How summer jet-setters turned Sardinia into a virus hot spot, snaring -- among others -- Silvio Berlusconi: [https://tinyurl.com/yy6xyrpk](https://tinyurl.com/yy6xyrpk).

In hard-hit Bergamo, COVID-19 survivors deal with long-term aftereffects: [https://tinyurl.com/yxjhajfx](https://tinyurl.com/yxjhajfx).

The government approves a new saliva-based COVID-19 test that gives results in three minutes: [https://tinyurl.com/y5c37ex7](https://tinyurl.com/y5c37ex7).

In Portugal:

The country records its highest daily number of new COVID-19 infections since April: [https://tinyurl.com/y246fhfl](https://tinyurl.com/y246fhfl).

In Turks and Caicos:

The islands struggle with a new outbreak of the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/y5gynfwk](https://tinyurl.com/y5gynfwk).

In the UK:
The country’s health secretary, in a reversal, says that the asymptomatic should not be tested for COVID-19; confusion follows: https://tinyurl.com/y3tye3uw.

Boris Johnson, desperate to avoid another national lockdown, pins his hope on a “moonshot” that would allow for 10 million tests per day. (Yes, this contradicts the post directly above.) One problem: The technology doesn’t fully exist: https://tinyurl.com/y3qvaswo.

Education:


For your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: September 9, 2020:

School in Session

Operation Warp Speed hits a speed bump -- but don’t panic yet. Progress on a relief bill continues to go nowhere -- but you knew that. Today’s news is all about our beleaguered school system, which is struggling to get started in a pandemic with no real leadership from the federal government. As you can imagine, it’s a bumpy ride.

The Latest:

The AstraZeneca trial is put on pause after one participant has an adverse reaction: https://tinyurl.com/y2fcqggp. Dr. Anthony Fauci calls the development unfortunate, but not uncommon: https://tinyurl.com/y6e6ulv4. Here’s what the pause really means: https://tinyurl.com/yym97duu.

In Congress, the GOP pushes a reduced relief bill that is certain to be DOA: https://tinyurl.com/y4zrhjed.

Medical Updates:

The much-touted COVID-19 antibody test has yet to arrive: https://tinyurl.com/y3nkmqpp.

Dr. Fauci, that voice in the wilderness of the Trump administration, admits to being frustrated by the absence of masks at the president’s rallies: https://tinyurl.com/y3gpcod9.

Doctors continue to probe the link between COVID-19 and obesity: https://tinyurl.com/y5ucz447.

Two new studies suggest that saliva samples are just as effective in detecting the coronavirus as those invasive swabs: https://tinyurl.com/yyaf2aoz. A theory emerges that masks may also act as a kind of crude coronavirus vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/yxcntvng.

New “hospital-at-home” programs aim to ease strain on the healthcare system: https://tinyurl.com/y6ntg9o5.

How to deal with mask-associated dry eye, which is a real thing: https://tinyurl.com/yy9tw2qd.

The State of Our Schools:

The school year begins with website crashes and cyberattacks: https://tinyurl.com/yyfob5ae.

Colleges struggle to handle students who test positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y2wq2nsv. But experts says that
shaming and zero-tolerance policies are making the campus situation worse: https://tinyurl.com/y6j5yi6o.

The online learning rules promulgated by one charter school chain are so tough that parents are revoltng: https://tinyurl.com/y3r26zf9.


Olympia High School, in Orange County, Florida, shutters after more than 150 students and staff are exposed to COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y696fn2j. More than 800 students and staff in Central Florida are under quarantine: https://tinyurl.com/y46zzwhh.

New York City schoolteachers return for the first time since March, and they’re doing it very gingerly: https://tinyurl.com/y23if5xq. Ten city schools with airflow issues are shut down for repairs: https://tinyurl.com/y4f8jga8.


Students, faculty, and staff at University of California San Diego oppose the school’s reopening plan: https://tinyurl.com/y49wjajj.

The number of positive cases at San Diego State University hits 400: https://tinyurl.com/yy79lzm2.

In Spain, resistance rises among parents not eager to send their kids back to school: https://tinyurl.com/y42t93fz.


Meanwhile:

There are, apparently, dozens of ways to rip off the Paycheck Protection Program: https://tinyurl.com/yx94m9lf.

Around the Country:

In California:

An alternate version of the Burning Man Festival, held on a San Francisco beach, comes under fire for violating social distancing rules: https://tinyurl.com/y2eoolvly.

In Florida:


In New York:

The governor accuses the president of “actively trying to kill New York City;” https://tinyurl.com/y3fuakao.

New York City’s jazz clubs face a pandemic-induced extinction event: https://tinyurl.com/y5voerbw.


In South Dakota:

But hey, they got to ride their choppers: A new study indicates that the Sturgis motorcycle rally led to 260,000 infections and public health costs of $12.2: https://tinyurl.com/y5hteqxl.

The main roadhouse in Sioux Falls cancels its upcoming season: https://tinyurl.com/yyngnub8.
Around the World:

In Italy:

Silvio Berlusconi’s COVID-19 illness is apparently quite severe: https://tinyurl.com/y3vxmkem.

In the Netherlands:

The country experiences its biggest spike in COVID-19 cases since April: https://tinyurl.com/y6srnsbl.

In the Philippines:

Approximately 300,000 migrant seafarers are left to languish at sea: https://tinyurl.com/yxk565zq.

In the UK:

The government bans social gatherings of more than six people. Exceptions include schools, workplaces, and COVID-secure weddings -- but not theatres or concert venues: https://tinyurl.com/y6gn7qcm.

Education:

“Tips for Mixing In-Ear Monitors on a Soundcraft Vi Console with Ashton Parsons,” September 17 at 2:00pm CT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/yx9op62e.

For Your Entertainment:

Obie Award winner Metropolitan Playhouse offers a free reading of Cocaine, a one-act play by Pendleton King via live stream video, with talkback to follow, on September 12 at 8:00pm EST. Running time is 30 minutes. A talkback follows with Jeffery Kennedy, including audience questions via chat. Watch at www.metropolitanplayhouse.org.

An updated list of livestreamed jazz concerts: https://tinyurl.com/y575uzzt.

John Lloyd Young’s Broadway will stream live from The Space in Las Vegas on Saturday, October 3 at 6:00pm ET. The pay-per-view concert is $30 and the concert with virtual after-party is $100 beginning at 7:45pm ET. The concert will be available to watch and re-watch for 48 hours after the live event. For tickets and additional information, go to www.thespacelv.com.

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: September 8, 2020:**

**The Way We Live Now**

Although the media’s attention was focused on the controversy surrounding the president’s reported remarks about the military, he continues to be obsessed with delivering a vaccine ASAP. Whether this is realistic is another matter. Meanwhile, with no end in sight, the pandemic is taking its toll in multiple ways, putting the country under terrible strain as an election approaches.

**The Latest:**

The president has reportedly become obsessed with delivering a COVID-19 vaccine by November 1, whether that goal is realistic or not: https://tinyurl.com/y6lnuzlp. He may read with interest the news that Australia is arranging to get the first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine -- when it becomes available in January: https://tinyurl.com/y44x5dpt. Meanwhile, nine
leading biopharma corporations sign a “historic pledge,” promising to honor the scientific integrity of the coronavirus vaccine development process: https://tinyurl.com/y6bzyzws.

COVID-19 death rates are rising dramatically among Blacks and Latinos: https://tinyurl.com/y46qkl2y.

In a sign of the times, 52% of young adult Americans are living with their parents, the highest figure since the Depression: https://tinyurl.com/y6r3dill. And the pandemic-induced child care crisis is driving women out of the workforce: https://tinyurl.com/y3bzdeps.

Surveys conducted by the US Census Bureau indicate rising pandemic-induced anxiety and depression among Americans: https://tinyurl.com/yxfx7vvs. Another survey finds a rising number of Americans view the pandemic as an economic crisis: https://tinyurl.com/y2bqlna.

With Congressional negotiations for pandemic aid going nowhere, many states plan significant budget cuts: https://tinyurl.com/yyt4puc. This process is forcing some terrible choices: https://tinyurl.com/yxdkangu.

**Meanwhile:**

Many businesses that received PPP money haven’t hired back furloughed employees: https://tinyurl.com/y349vkuf.

The UN warns that the pandemic is upping the risk of famine in Africa and elsewhere: https://tinyurl.com/y6lm6o6r.

Colleges learn to track new COVID-19 cases by analyzing wastewater: https://tinyurl.com/yxcsfnu4.

In case you were wondering, Joe Biden has tested for COVID-19 and continues to do so, regularly: https://tinyurl.com/y4eod979.

**Food for Thought:**

One man’s story highlights the perilous intersection of COVID-19 and obesity: https://tinyurl.com/y4cuyejx.

“It’s probably the worst-case scenario you could have.” What Robert Pattinson’s COVID-19 diagnosis on the set of The Batman means for future TV and film production: https://tinyurl.com/y57p57cj.

An infectious disease doctor on the efficacy of masks: https://tinyurl.com/y6x2c3l4.

COVID-19 “long-haulers” suffering long-term physical and psychological effects: https://tinyurl.com/y3ke3k7d.

The struggle to operate theme parks in the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y6swjlhl.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

LA’s Center Theatre Group lays off half of its staff: https://tinyurl.com/y56zc6q7.

The teacher’s union for the LA Unified School District opposes reopening for in-person classes: https://tinyurl.com/y5jm9uha.

Another 120 COVID-19 cases are identified at San Diego State University: https://tinyurl.com/y3463b2j. Students there are now confined to dorms: https://tinyurl.com/y2cu46m4.

A San Diego company gets a federal contract for a COVID-19 test that can detect the presence of the coronavirus in thousands of samples at once: https://tinyurl.com/yybawfqh.

**In Florida:**
The state experiences its lowest daily number of cases since June: [https://tinyurl.com/y38nnnq5](https://tinyurl.com/y38nnnq5).

The state says it is preparing to distribute five million doses of vaccine by late October. Realistic? [https://tinyurl.com/y63p8m3d](https://tinyurl.com/y63p8m3d).

The pandemic-hit Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino lays off 1,500: [https://tinyurl.com/y4wkvzjk](https://tinyurl.com/y4wkvzjk).

SeaWorld Orlando will permanently lay off some of its thousands of furloughed employees: [https://tinyurl.com/yyyyodujp](https://tinyurl.com/yyyyodujp).

The state is privatizing its COVID-19 testing sites: [https://tinyurl.com/yyyyomil8](https://tinyurl.com/yyyyomil8).

The governor tells the state’s counties to submit details of their COVID-19 regulations. Why? [https://tinyurl.com/yyyyxq888t](https://tinyurl.com/yyyyxq888t).

The state passes 12,000 in COVID-19 deaths: [https://tinyurl.com/y5h4wbkn](https://tinyurl.com/y5h4wbkn).

Infections in Central Florida top 100,000: [https://tinyurl.com/y5zxs9g4](https://tinyurl.com/y5zxs9g4).

**In Illinois:**

“We’re not the mask police.” The owner of two Chicago businesses closes for a mental health day after a week of dealing with confrontational customers: [https://tinyurl.com/y545yo63](https://tinyurl.com/y545yo63).

Spirit Airlines announces a contactless bag-dropoff system at O’Hare Airport: [https://tinyurl.com/y5pqy3z2](https://tinyurl.com/y5pqy3z2).

**In Michigan:**

The state joins California, New York, and Washington in refusing to distribute a vaccine that has been inadequately vetted: [https://tinyurl.com/yxcdephy](https://tinyurl.com/yxcdephy).

**In New York:**

The struggle to bring back Broadway, a foundational part of New York City’s economic: [https://tinyurl.com/y4tn9pj3](https://tinyurl.com/y4tn9pj3).

Cornell University sees a rise in COVID-19 cases: [https://tinyurl.com/y38dolte](https://tinyurl.com/y38dolte).

**In Pennsylvania:**

University of Pittsburgh now requires masks everywhere on campus: [https://tinyurl.com/y2ad33e3](https://tinyurl.com/y2ad33e3).

**In Virginia:**

The pandemic reaches into the state’s rural southwest: [https://tinyurl.com/yxk5ghk2](https://tinyurl.com/yxk5ghk2).

**Around the World:**

**In Afghanistan:**

The country rushes to reopen, often without masks: [https://tinyurl.com/yxdwbnt4](https://tinyurl.com/yxdwbnt4).

**In Australia:**

Melbourne’s lockdown is extended through September: [https://tinyurl.com/y3zk987f](https://tinyurl.com/y3zk987f).

**In Brazil:**

The government has handed out so much cash to its pandemic-plagued citizens that poverty is at a low point: [https://tinyurl.com/y6mragyu](https://tinyurl.com/y6mragyu).
Despite warnings, Brazilians go to their beaches in droves: https://tinyurl.com/yxdwwbm2.

In France:
The country records the highest daily number of COVID-19 cases since March: https://tinyurl.com/y5l7sfoc.

In India:
The country’s coronavirus caseload passes four million: https://tinyurl.com/y2wm8uku. It also posts 90,000 cases on Monday, overtaking Brazil and making it second only to the US in total infections: https://tinyurl.com/y2crkr7h. The pandemic leaves the countryside in misery: https://tinyurl.com/y5h729x8.

In Ireland:
New COVID-19 cases are rising in both the north and south: https://tinyurl.com/y4wv65f5.

In Italy:
Silvio Berlusconi is hospitalized with COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yyuuudkk.

In Japan:
The country’s games minister doubles down, saying that next year’s Olympics must be held “at any cost:” https://tinyurl.com/y4hfhz63.

In Mexico:
The pandemic drives the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression: https://tinyurl.com/y5uloq8u.
The country also leads the world in the most COVID-19-related deaths among healthcare workers: https://tinyurl.com/y5ugjt67.

In Spain:
“Here we go again;” the country faces a second wave of infections: https://tinyurl.com/y5ghsfmy.

In the UK:
Following a surge in new infections, health experts express fear that the country has lost control of the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y3dnxof2.

Andrew Lloyd Webber makes a urgent call for the government to set a date for the full reopening of theatres: https://tinyurl.com/y3k2y4tI.

Losses:

For Your Entertainment:
It’s French opera week at the Metropolitan Opera streaming service: https://tinyurl.com/y5hwen2j.

For Your Pleasure:
The Broadway community pays a fond farewell to the late Nick Cordero: https://tinyurl.com/y5b6anl4.

###
COVID-19 Update: September 4, 2020:
The Labor Day Challenge

As the nation's attention is focused on another inexplicable death (this one in Rochester), the president's illegal advice about voting twice, and reports of his crudely dismissive comments about fallen soldiers, new revelations emerge about the ravages of the pandemic and signs of hope. But as we head into the third major holiday weekend since lockdown began, fears rise for another spike in COVID-19 cases.

The Latest:

Dr. Anthony Fauci says that, heading into the Labor Day weekend, the number of COVID-19 cases in the US remains “unacceptably high.” [https://tinyurl.com/yxlgsjq2](https://tinyurl.com/yxlgsjq2). He also warns the seven states currently experiencing upticks in COVID-19 cases to be especially vigilant over the holiday weekend. He’s talking about North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois: [https://tinyurl.com/y3aytu34](https://tinyurl.com/y3aytu34). Epidemiologists warn about another spike in cases this weekend, like those that occurred after Memorial Day and Independence Day: [https://tinyurl.com/y2nzvj7c](https://tinyurl.com/y2nzvj7c). Health experts advise Californians to go slow this weekend: [https://tinyurl.com/y3lnsalu](https://tinyurl.com/y3lnsalu).

The co-chief of Operation Warp Speed casts cold water on the prospect of a vaccine being ready by Election Day: [https://tinyurl.com/y6qpa77v](https://tinyurl.com/y6qpa77v). Dr. Fauci asserts that science, not politics will drive the release of any COVID-19 vaccines: [https://tinyurl.com/y5yfmu6](https://tinyurl.com/y5yfmu6). And officials in California, New York, and Washington vow not to distribute any vaccine that hasn’t been sufficiently vetted: [https://tinyurl.com/yuu989kue](https://tinyurl.com/yuu989kue). Despite the White House’s avid pursuit of a vaccine, health experts say the US is not prepared to roll one out quickly and expeditiously: [https://tinyurl.com/y5yfmu9b](https://tinyurl.com/y5yfmu9b).

The party’s over for college students as schools crack down on COVID-19 rules flouters: [https://tinyurl.com/y6mz8gbv](https://tinyurl.com/y6mz8gbv). Dr. Fauci says that testing and quarantine spaces are the keys to keeping colleges and universities open: [https://tinyurl.com/y57ug697](https://tinyurl.com/y57ug697). The pandemic is driving students away from Latin American universities: [https://tinyurl.com/y6r6wds](https://tinyurl.com/y6r6wds).

Steven Mnuchin and Nancy Pelosi agree on a stopgap spending bill to keep the government open; left out is any COVID-19 relief: [https://tinyurl.com/y38mw7hn](https://tinyurl.com/y38mw7hn).

And, hunger spreads across the country: [https://tinyurl.com/y5qq4brn](https://tinyurl.com/y5qq4brn).

Meanwhile:

Major hospitals struggle with the issue of plasma treatment: [https://tinyurl.com/y58ebd5o](https://tinyurl.com/y58ebd5o).

A University of Chicago study links low levels of Vitamin D with increased COVID-19 risk: [https://tinyurl.com/y4ksgs97](https://tinyurl.com/y4ksgs97).

Older Americans struggle with pandemic-caused isolation: [https://tinyurl.com/y5b08pu9](https://tinyurl.com/y5b08pu9).

Amtrak, hit hard by the pandemic, will furlough 2,000 workers: [https://tinyurl.com/yywt26hp](https://tinyurl.com/yywt26hp).

A new series starring Javier Bardem is the latest of several to be felled by the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y2s7m8nm](https://tinyurl.com/y2s7m8nm).

The US created 1.37 million jobs in August, with unemployment at 8.4%: [https://tinyurl.com/y4t5dnbr](https://tinyurl.com/y4t5dnbr).

A new model predicts 410,000 deaths in the US by January 1 if mask use wanes: [https://tinyurl.com/yxghqs5a](https://tinyurl.com/yxghqs5a).

Thirty Midwestern arts groups get COVID-19 relief grants: [https://tinyurl.com/y6a6z5gj](https://tinyurl.com/y6a6z5gj).

Food for Thought:

Don’t forget your flu shot: [https://tinyurl.com/yxh58e22](https://tinyurl.com/yxh58e22).

Around the Country:
In California:

An AstraZeneca drug trial looks for more at-risk candidates: https://tinyurl.com/yxbd7d4w.

San Diego’s live theatres form an alliance to weather the current crises: https://tinyurl.com/yxe7aaat.

Two theatres in Contra Costa County, strapped for cash, lay off their artistic directors: https://tinyurl.com/yxwyf8ss.

In Florida:

Unsurprising, but a big blow to Orlando’s economy: The IAAPA Expo 2020 has been canceled: https://tinyurl.com/yyxfzx77.

The governor expresses impatience with social distancing rules: https://tinyurl.com/y63fgrap. Florida’s pandemic totals are 640,211 cases and 11,750 deaths: https://tinyurl.com/y2j598kh.

Citing privacy rules, the state tells local health officials not to release data about new COVID-19 cases in public schools: https://tinyurl.com/y2frcly2.

The coronavirus is quietly ravaging South Florida’s Haitian-American communities: https://tinyurl.com/y5pu6svj.

Ignoring the NIH, some South Florida doctors are treating COVID-19 with an anti-parasitic drug: https://tinyurl.com/y65hcmd5.

In Georgia:

The number of new COVID-19 cases skyrockets on campus at University of Georgia: https://tinyurl.com/y6szw9jx.

In Indiana:

Indiana University looks to enroll candidates in the AstraZeneca vaccine trial: https://tinyurl.com/y4hr47ba.

The coronavirus is tearing through the university’s fraternity and sorority houses: https://tinyurl.com/yxvlxia8y9.

In Michigan:

The auto industry will need two years to recover from the pandemic, experts say: https://tinyurl.com/y6m8ocbt.

In Nebraska:

Tyson Foods announces plans to open on-site medical centers at its meat plants: https://tinyurl.com/y3hxblcg.

In New York:

Trump to New York: Drop Dead; FEMA pulls funding for disinfecting New York City’ schools and subways: https://tinyurl.com/y4g8qh63.

New York City’s school reopening plan hinges on testing 10,000 students and teachers for COVID-19 each month: https://tinyurl.com/y2litr4s.

Without rent relief, 60% of New York City’s independent theatres may close for good: https://tinyurl.com/y5x2oxhx.

Casinos and malls in the state can open at 50% of capacity next week: https://tinyurl.com/y2cymujq.

In South Dakota:
As if that motorcycle rally didn’t cause enough trouble, the state fair is moving ahead, as the governor dismisses an “elite class of so-called experts:” https://tinyurl.com/y4m529cq.

In Texas:
American Airlines cuts 80,000 flights in its October schedule: https://tinyurl.com/yy4r2tnq.

Around the World:

In Japan:
The organizers of the Tokyo Olympics say the games can go on, with or without a vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/yyym6xa8.

In Russia:
The Sputnik vaccine looks encouraging, according to the medical journal The Lancet: https://tinyurl.com/y5po5l9n.

In South Korea:
The country struggles with a second wave of infections: https://tinyurl.com/y6butl96.

In the UK:
Shooting on the new film The Batman is halted when star Robert Pattinson tests positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y63glxyy.

For Your Entertainment:

COVID-19 Update: September 3, 2020:
Rush to Judgement

The government moves into high gear, preparing to distribute a vaccine in time, even though none have yet been found to work. Optimism or something else? If the rush to judge one of the vaccines a winner makes you nervous, consider how nobody in DC feels any urgency about passing a relief bill to help Americans put food on the table today. It’s not surprising that a majority of Americans believe the government has bollrixed its response to the pandemic.

The Latest:
The CDC sends an “urgent” request to the nation’s governors, telling them to be prepared to distribute a vaccine by November 1. Funny timing, no? https://tinyurl.com/y36uglh9. A debate erupts over the FDA’s rush to get a vaccine into circulation by Election Day: https://tinyurl.com/y2svhlxd. Dr. Anthony Fauci says a vaccine could go into production before trials are completed if the results are overwhelmingly positive: https://tinyurl.com/yxjb3t4e. Gerald Ford rushed out a vaccine; it was a fiasco: https://tinyurl.com/yydzzo35. A new poll reveals a majority of Americans think the government’s response to the pandemic is making it worse: https://tinyurl.com/y2smw7p.

What we know about the CDC’s vaccine plans: https://tinyurl.com/y5jy73mn.

Trials begin for the GlaxoSmithKline/Sanofi vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y5ux296s.


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PLASA Media, Inc., 2585 Broadway, Box 106, New York, NY 10025 • 212-244-1505
www.lightingandsoundamerica.com • LSA@plasa.org
Meanwhile:

To snitch or not to snitch? The pandemic poses a dilemma for college students: https://tinyurl.com/y5cs8tl9.

Botched deals and bad personal relationships -- Peter Navarro, tasked with government purchase of medical supplies, comes under scrutiny: https://tinyurl.com/yxz8h6l8a.

Citing federal public health laws, the Trump Administration announces a four-month moratorium on evictions: https://tinyurl.com/y3sqrc2e.

August was the deadliest month for California and Idaho in the pandemic; Iowa is fast-becoming the new COVID-19 hot spot: https://tinyurl.com/y28az4oe. More hotspots emerge in the Midwest: https://tinyurl.com/yypaz73g.

Two top media investors warn that the theatrical movie business faces years of pain: https://tinyurl.com/y6l3oouv.

Two types of steroids prove effective in treating severe COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y3jd4yv9.

US jobless claims drop of 881,000: https://tinyurl.com/y2mduw94.


Food for Thought:


A fascinating and plausible new theory suggests why some who contract COVID-19 experience such devastating symptoms and aftereffects: https://tinyurl.com/y4dwlvbx.

Around the Country:

In California:

UC San Diego looks to enroll volunteers in a trial for the AstraZeneca vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y6zepjak.

San Diego State University puts campus classes on hold following a COVID-19 outbreak: https://tinyurl.com/y63dv38q.

San Francisco drag queens mobilize to deliver meals to those isolated by the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y3j24wd7.

Many Los Angeles dance studios shutter for good: https://tinyurl.com/y4534png.

San Diego Symphony cancels dates at least through January: https://tinyurl.com/yzz8qtc.

The talent agency UTA furloughs more employees but also reinstates full salaries: https://tinyurl.com/yyhakhqv.

In Florida:

Kids today: A 16-year-old is arresting for hacking the Miami-Dade online learning system, throwing its pandemic education plans into chaos: https://tinyurl.com/y4nyj5xs.

COVID-19 complications are rising among the state’s children, most of them Black and Hispanic: https://tinyurl.com/yxfywaf7.

This year’s edition of Art Basel Miami Beach is canceled: https://tinyurl.com/y6yky6b3.

A drive-in food bank in Orlando caters to furloughed Disney employees; the car line often extends for two miles: https://tinyurl.com/y5vsq6e2.
Visit Florida, trying to scare up some tourist dollars, launches a campaign to promote in-state vacations: [https://tinyurl.com/yxm5zzls](https://tinyurl.com/yxm5zzls).

The state is rated by Oxfam as one of the worst for workers in the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y65duh54](https://tinyurl.com/y65duh54).

In Illinois:

Dr. Deborah Birx sounds the alarm about counties where the COVID-19 positivity rate ranges between 5 – 10%: [https://tinyurl.com/y3f7uqal](https://tinyurl.com/y3f7uqal).

United Airlines will cut 16,000 jobs: [https://tinyurl.com/y2t9baro](https://tinyurl.com/y2t9baro).

The state gets approval for $300 weekly unemployment benefit from FEMA: [https://tinyurl.com/y2vp5tso](https://tinyurl.com/y2vp5tso).

University of Illinois racks up more than 800 new COVID-19 infections since August 24: [https://tinyurl.com/y2kdkhfp](https://tinyurl.com/y2kdkhfp).

In New York:

The Costume Industry Coalition announces an emergency fund for pattern makers, cutters, milliners, stitchers, tailors, and other workers: [https://tinyurl.com/y2zuz7fm](https://tinyurl.com/y2zuz7fm).

In Texas:

The death from COVID-19 of an assistant director raises new fears about working on sets: [https://tinyurl.com/y3j24wd7](https://tinyurl.com/y3j24wd7).

Around the World:

In Australia:

The pandemic triggers the country’s first recession in decades: [https://tinyurl.com/y3u5zmjf](https://tinyurl.com/y3u5zmjf).

In Italy:

The Venice Film Festival opens, the first such event since the pandemic began: [https://tinyurl.com/y5l5nwh9](https://tinyurl.com/y5l5nwh9).

Long-running politician/scandal magnet Silvio Berlusconi tests positive for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y2g56mk9](https://tinyurl.com/y2g56mk9).

In Spain:

New COVID-19 infections are spreading faster than in the US: [https://tinyurl.com/yyg8hkyh](https://tinyurl.com/yyg8hkyh).

In the UK:

Boris Johnson refuses to meet with families bereaved by COVID-19, claiming that they are litigating against the government; the families deny the claim: [https://tinyurl.com/y5b4km5d](https://tinyurl.com/y5b4km5d).

The race is on to find 200 passengers on a flight from Crete last week; eight have already tested positive for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y4mqag5t](https://tinyurl.com/y4mqag5t).

A must-have for parents with small children, sales of Lego products soar in the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y3l7jv3s](https://tinyurl.com/y3l7jv3s).

Losses:

Baseball legend Tom Seaver, 75: [https://tinyurl.com/y5wbtrpf](https://tinyurl.com/y5wbtrpf).

Education:
“How Lighting Can Help Fight COVID-19,” Thursday, September 10 at 4:30pm EDT. As the race toward a COVID-19 vaccine continues, how do we reduce transmission in the meantime? Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) -- the process of using directed UV light energy to inactivate bacteria, mold spores, fungi, and viruses -- may have an important role to play in reducing transmission in shared spaces.

Join the panel of experts as they discuss the research, tools, and opportunities of harnessing UV light to effectively mitigate virus exposure in the built environment. Detailed speaker information to follow. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yy2g-byvz.

For Your Entertainment:

On September 17 at 7:00pm ET, playwright Paula Vogel presents a reading of Bulrusher, by Eisa Davis, with André Holland, Kara Young, and Edmund Donovan, among others. Go to: https://tinyurl.com/yg7pjsd.

September 16 – 19, Michael Sheen, David Threlfall, and Indira Varma will star in an online production of Brian Friel’s Faith Healer for London’s Old Vic Theatre. The production will stream live for five performances from the Old Vic stage, with the empty auditorium as a backdrop. Matthew Warchus will direct. For tickets: https://tinyurl.com/y2r4x3a2.

On September 13 at 8:00pm, actor/pianist Hershey Felder presents George Gershwin Alone, the story of America’s great composer, who with the groundbreaking Rhapsody in Blue, made a “Lady out of Jazz.” The show incorporates the composer’s best-known songs from “The Man I Love” and “Someone to Watch Over Me,” through the hits of An American In Paris and Porgy and Bess, to a complete performance of Rhapsody in Blue. The show was seen on Broadway some years ago. Tickets are $55 per household. For tickets: https://tinyurl.com/y5tmfyrd.

For Your Pleasure:


###

**COVID-19 Update: September 2, 2020:**

**The 6% Delusion**

Yesterday’s Red Alert RESTART sent a charge of hope and enthusiasms through the industry. Both are needed, as today’s headlines reveal a national government swamped in fake cures and conspiracy theories, while hopes for relief seem to be heading in the wrong direction.

The Latest:

The president retweets, and then deletes, a tweet from a QAnon follower asserting that only 6% of reported COVID-19 deaths were actually caused by the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y3jn9wwq. Dr. Anthony Fauci makes short work of this nonsensical claim: https://tinyurl.com/y5k4rh6. Which probably explains why the president is so dismissive of Fauci: https://tinyurl.com/y2kgy72x. It also explains the rise of Scott Atlas, who is not an epidemiologist but espouses theories the president likes: https://tinyurl.com/yyaxbcht. Meanwhile, the CDC is deluged with calls about bizarre QAnon theories: https://tinyurl.com/y3cvdn2s.

Senator Joni Ernst joins the controversy, alleging -- without evidence -- that doctors are falsely attributing deaths to COVID-19 for financial reasons: https://tinyurl.com/y55op6js.

Puncturing another balloon, the NIH, contradicts the president, citing the lack of data to suggest that plasma works as a COVID-19 treatment: https://tinyurl.com/yxgo5v4w.

In another display of America-first attitude, the US will not join COVAX, a global effort that “aims to speed vaccine development, secure doses for all countries, and distribute them to the most high-risk segment of each population:” https://tinyurl.com/yy6etnw7.
And remember the stimulus bill? When we last left it, the GOP was offering roughly $1 trillion, much less than the Dem-ocrat figure. Now the GOP is cutting back, possibly by half: https://tinyurl.com/y6b3srqj.

Meanwhile:

Unsurprisingly, a panel of government medical advisors wants the first available doses of any vaccine to go to first re-sponders and healthcare workers: https://tinyurl.com/y5d6hr2a.

The surge in COVID-19 cases across the Sun Belt eases, although maybe not for long: https://tinyurl.com/yyqtj28r.

AstraZeneca says its vaccine trial is in its final stage: https://tinyurl.com/y4bqkqpw.

Food for Thought:

Why it’s important not to overpromise when it comes to vaccines: https://tinyurl.com/y3l5yvzy.

Investment in the arts could be a key to post-pandemic economic recovery: https://tinyurl.com/yyv87k49.

How the pandemic infinitely complicates the production of Broadway national tours: https://tinyurl.com/yxosy3h7.

The pandemic plays havoc with theatre companies’ scheduling plans: https://tinyurl.com/y4m5b8n7.

Around the Country:

In Alabama:

The number of Auburn University students testing positive for the coronavirus doubles in a week; the school says this is to be expected: https://tinyurl.com/y5ywfrt5.

More than 1,000 students at University of Alabama’s Tuscaloosa campus have tested positive: https://tinyurl.com/y3w6l-cw6.

In California:

Nancy Pelosi visits a hair salon for a (not allowed) indoor visitor, and gets her head handed to her: https://tinyurl.com/y56ol8mq.

In the District of Columbia:

The pandemic fuels a real estate boom: https://tinyurl.com/y4f538zr.

In Florida:

Nearly 450 students and staffers are in quarantine following positive COVID-19 tests in Central Florida schools: https://tinyurl.com/y4x4xfst.

For the third day, the Miami virtual learning system is beset by cyberattacks: https://tinyurl.com/y6p4kwk5.

The state cuts ties with Quest Diagnostics following a “data dump” that artificially drives up the positivity rate: https://ti-nyurl.com/y2db7o4j.

Nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the state reopen for visitors: https://tinyurl.com/yvvyvdn.

In Illinois:

The state government warns that the president’s much-touted $300-a-week unemployment benefit will last only three...
weeks and will leave thousands of workers in the cold: https://tinyurl.com/y63nj4z7.

In Maryland:

The state to enter Phase Three of its reopening plan, bringing back most businesses: https://tinyurl.com/y2rqhyhm.

In New Jersey:

The state’s cinemas scramble to open in time for Christopher Nolan’s Tenet: https://tinyurl.com/yyscyd3m.

In New York:

The city’s cabarets, determined not to lose another season, roll out various Plan Bs: https://tinyurl.com/y5qqvhpe.

In Minnesota:

Residents of the state are recruited for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trial: https://tinyurl.com/y68b8rrp.

Around the World:

In Hungary:

In response to rising COVID-19 cases across Europe, Hungary closes its borders to most foreigners: https://tinyurl.com/y475d45a.

Entertainment:

The Wooster Group is now streaming its haunting production The B-SIDE: “Negro Folklore from Texas State Prisons," A Record Album Interpretation, based on a 1965 LP of work songs, blues, spirituals, preaching, and toasts from inmates in Texas’ then-segregated agricultural prison farms. Donations cheerfully accepted. Go to: https://tinyurl.com/y2c3tylc.

Here’s a guide to upcoming jazz concerts: https://tinyurl.com/y3sxqbxc.

Michael Friedman’s musical Paris Commune is now available for streaming: https://tinyurl.com/yxdmwmrs.

Mexican stage star Mauricio Martinez will stream a previously recorded cabaret concert on September 16 at 7:00pm ET: https://tinyurl.com/yy7ae6rf.

Emma Thompson, Robert Lindsay, Emilia Clarke, and Sanjeev Bhaska will star in a reading of Noël Coward’s Private Lives, September 13 at 7:00pm ET: https://tinyurl.com/yyadxl2.

For Your Pleasure:

Check out composer Anthony Barfield’s invigorating new work, Invictus, scored for brass instruments and performed (in socially distant fashion) on Lincoln Center Plaza: https://tinyurl.com/y2euz9fo.

COVID-19 Update: September 1, 2020:

Herd Immunity

Today’s the Day:

Here’s how to watch all the events of the industry’s Red Alert: https://tinyurl.com/y28gal6h.

But before you watch, write to Congress:
NAMM urges the industry to get behind the RESTART Act: https://tinyurl.com/yxgx4mgc.

While the above is going on, the concept of herd immunity is the new darling of the Trump Administration.

**The Latest:**

Scott Atlas -- a neuroradiologist, not an epidemiologist -- the president's latest pandemic advisor, pushes (and, in some cases, has already implemented) policies that strive for herd immunity: https://tinyurl.com/y65jvyks. According to the Mayo Clinic, 200,000,000 will have to be infected with COVID-19 before herd immunity is achieved -- a number that would surely result in millions of deaths: https://tinyurl.com/yca5fyun. One big supporter of the herd immunity idea is the governor of Florida: https://tinyurl.com/y62god9w. More on why health experts think herd immunity is a terrible idea: https://tinyurl.com/y6ygok94. Herd immunity explained, and why the US has far to go in achieving it: https://tinyurl.com/y28fnmfr.

Inside the conspiracy theories that are stoking fear of a COVID-19 vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y64tk4po.

You won't be surprised to hear that Zoom's profits have quadrupled since last year: https://tinyurl.com/y5svgef3.

The Department of Health and Human Services is bidding out a $250 million contract for a PR campaign to "defeat despair and inspire hope" in the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yyt58y5v.

On a more practical note, European Commission signs onto the COVAX plan to purchase and distribute a vaccine when it becomes available: https://tinyurl.com/y3jwxow2.

On a less practical note, some scientists are cooking up their own home-brewed vaccines and are trying them on themselves: https://tinyurl.com/y2qaj83c.

**Meanwhile:**

As infections spread across college campuses, health experts are telling schools to keep ailing students on campus: https://tinyurl.com/yxszjvlr.

As restaurants reopen, they struggle to hire enough staffers: https://tinyurl.com/yypbcgfx.

**Food for Thought:**

The US needs to up its game in COVID-19 research: https://tinyurl.com/y28uw2hl.

A doctor explains why the US has failed to contain the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y5y38b6e.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The state legislature sends a package of relief measures to the governor for his signature: https://tinyurl.com/yoyo6y268.

Businesses in some areas begin to move back indoors: https://tinyurl.com/yynn4y3q.

Kindergarten attendance plunges in Los Angeles: https://tinyurl.com/yy3b4epm.

Mark Mothersbaugh, of Devo, recounts his struggle with COVID-19, which included delusions: https://tinyurl.com/y54qnhy4.

**In Florida:**

Miami-Dade's online learning system continues to be plagued by glitches and crashes: https://tinyurl.com/y23pp96a.
In addition to praising the herd-immunity concept, as noted above, the governor pushes the White House’s current position of testing only the symptomatic for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y2otkap2](https://tinyurl.com/y2otkap2).

With Orange County’s tax revenue decimated by the pandemic, work on the convention center grinds to a halt: [https://tinyurl.com/yxinsj2](https://tinyurl.com/yxinsj2).

The governor extends the moratorium on evictions until October 1: [https://tinyurl.com/yy3se83n](https://tinyurl.com/yy3se83n).

UCF will open its football season with a game allowing 25%-of-capacity attendance: [https://tinyurl.com/y3gr6nwr](https://tinyurl.com/y3gr6nwr).

SeaWorld Orlando plans cut-down versions of its Halloween and Christmas events: [https://tinyurl.com/yyl283dw](https://tinyurl.com/yyl283dw).

In Illinois:

Chicago restaurant owners push back against $10,000 fines for breaking social distancing rules: [https://tinyurl.com/yy7qkzgo](https://tinyurl.com/yy7qkzgo).


In Louisiana:

A LSU football star, widely expected to be a top-five NFL, declines to play this season: [https://tinyurl.com/yyp3y9ub](https://tinyurl.com/yyp3y9ub).

In Massachusetts:

Boston’s famed Faneuil Hall struggles to survive the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y232ehjn](https://tinyurl.com/y232ehjn).

Boston University restricts information about infected students, keeping faculty in the dark: [https://tinyurl.com/y5fsg5et](https://tinyurl.com/y5fsg5et).

In Michigan:

Detroit turns Belle Isle Park into a memorial for COVID-19 victims: [https://tinyurl.com/y2m63y68](https://tinyurl.com/y2m63y68).

In New York:

New York City postpones in-person schooling from September 10 to September 21: [https://tinyurl.com/y5fnbobn](https://tinyurl.com/y5fnbobn).

The US Open begins, without fans: [https://tinyurl.com/y6las2kp](https://tinyurl.com/y6las2kp).

In South Carolina:

The University of South Carolina suspends students and Greek Life organizations for ignoring COVID-19 safety rules: [https://tinyurl.com/yxz9mjrh](https://tinyurl.com/yxz9mjrh).

In Washington State:

With Canadians not visiting, the town of Point Roberts is withering away: [https://tinyurl.com/y6jnbgde](https://tinyurl.com/y6jnbgde).

Around the World:

In Australia:

The former prime minister advocates eliminating lockdown rules, and if elderly people get sick, “letting nature take its course:” [https://tinyurl.com/yxalu9fr](https://tinyurl.com/yxalu9fr).

In China:
Life has largely returned to normal: https://tinyurl.com/y5yxq56f.

In Germany:
Protestors spit at the health minister, calling him a “gay pig”: https://tinyurl.com/y4c7jfqt.

In Hong Kong:
The government rolls out a mass COVID-19 testing program; its citizens decline to take part: https://tinyurl.com/y2w6lazf.

In India:
The country’s pandemic-hit economy shrinks by 24%: https://tinyurl.com/y4pdzaes.

In Ireland:
Tighter social restrictions drive down the country’s infection rate: https://tinyurl.com/y25wupg2.

In Mexico:
A private health insurer will offer free COVID-19 tests in Tijuana: https://tinyurl.com/y3brgnez.

In Poland:
Flights from 44 countries are banned: https://tinyurl.com/y34mfvd.

In Russia:
The country surpasses one million COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y2vexmml.

In South Korea:
The country’s zero-tolerance approach involves arresting those who break social distancing rules: https://tinyurl.com/yy-q7zcpx.

Education:
New webinars from Martin by Harman: “Lighting for Houses of Worship: Touring, Multi-Location, and Large Campus with Jarrad Donovan,” September 8, at 9:00pm CT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/y2nctryv. "Drawing a Useful Lighting Plot with Michael Sharon,” September 24, at 11:00am CT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/y4zet3qz.

For Your Pleasure:
Brenda Braxton offers “Don Juan,” her signature number from Smokey Joe’s Café: https://tinyurl.com/y6f8w595.

COVID-19 Update: August 31, 2020:
Six Million and Counting

As the nation’s attention is focused on events in Kenosha and Portland, a flurry of developments, both good and bad, continue. The good news: progress is being made on medical front. The bad news: The country passes a grim new milestone and the vaccine process is becoming increasingly politicized. Meanwhile, the live events industry organizes for the Red Alert Restart Day, which takes place tomorrow.

The Latest:
The United States passes 6,000,000 cases of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y4twecto.

Public health officials are alarmed by the FDA head suggesting that he might release a COVID-19 vaccine before Phase III trials are completed: https://tinyurl.com/yxaddwsg. In response, he promises the process will be transparent: https://tinyurl.com/yxttx7mp.

The government’s virus-hunting program, which was dropped last year just before COVID-19 broke out, is being quietly brought back, under a different name: https://tinyurl.com/y3hrmqvz.

A new study from the American Academy of Pediatrics reports that new COVID-19 cases (including hospitalizations and deaths) are rising faster among children and adolescents than the general public: https://tinyurl.com/y5jc2zj5.

Other evidence suggests that pre-schoolers are resistant to the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y2nrgycv.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine trials continue apace: https://tinyurl.com/y6jxpcjv.

Scientists see evidence of strong COVID-19 immune response even in those with mild cases: https://tinyurl.com/y2l5qcqk.

In a new development, a theory emerges that boosting interferons could help fight COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yxszdro2.

Meanwhile:

New COVID-19 cases are surging in Europe, although with fewer deaths: https://tinyurl.com/y3trunww.

The pandemic tears through Latin America’s evangelical communities: https://tinyurl.com/yyg3efxv.

Overwhelmed by medical bills, some families of COVID victims are forced to crowdfund the funerals: https://tinyurl.com/yyypz5bj.

College towns around the country, alarmed by partying students, are imposing restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/y5fr7j9u.

A peer-reviewed study suggests that Vitamin B can be used to mitigate the worst effects of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yys686cj.

Investigators begin to unearth the extent of PPP fraud: https://tinyurl.com/y4r4gldg.

In spite of everything, hotels continue to open nationwide: https://tinyurl.com/yye8tmas.

Around the Country:

In California:

The governor offers a new four-tier plan for reopening communities: https://tinyurl.com/y5phe2d4. He also sets strict guidelines for reopening cinemas: https://tinyurl.com/yy54wwas.

FEMA approves the state’s application for three weeks of enhanced unemployment benefits of $300 a week: https://tinyurl.com/yy98plhv.

The Foster Farms poultry plant in Merced County closes following an outbreak of eight COVID-19 deaths: https://tinyurl.com/y3yohxw3.

The Hollywood Bowl is repurposed as a drive-in food bank: https://tinyurl.com/yyyyryn2.

San Diego State University students ignore distancing rules, leading to new COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y4sgb2yz.

Cancelations at San Diego Convention Center lead to $1.2 billion in losses: https://tinyurl.com/y4el6v7t.
The Monterey Bay Aquarium struggles to survive without tourists: [https://tinyurl.com/yykn593j](https://tinyurl.com/yykn593j).

The one-two punch of fires and the pandemic devastate the state’s wine country: [https://tinyurl.com/y6cyb3xf](https://tinyurl.com/y6cyb3xf).

A University of California San Diego study finds a surge in pandemic-related panic attacks: [https://tinyurl.com/y5ybze9m](https://tinyurl.com/y5ybze9m).

**In Florida:**

The state posts the lowest daily rise in new cases in months: [https://tinyurl.com/y6fvjzwn](https://tinyurl.com/y6fvjzwn).

Hundreds of infections are found at schools around the state: [https://tinyurl.com/yywhx2sx](https://tinyurl.com/yywhx2sx).

The Central Florida economy is stuck in idle: [https://tinyurl.com/yxpchzl](https://tinyurl.com/yxpchzl).

Universal Orlando hotels are letting go 840 employees: [https://tinyurl.com/yy6rugfh](https://tinyurl.com/yy6rugfh).

EDC Orlando is canceled for this year: [https://tinyurl.com/y4okygmp](https://tinyurl.com/y4okygmp).

Osceola County schools close for two weeks over coronavirus concerns: [https://tinyurl.com/y3lznm5k](https://tinyurl.com/y3lznm5k).

The Miami-Dade school year gets off to a rocky start when the online learning system crashes: [https://tinyurl.com/y2ag-bqmp](https://tinyurl.com/y2ag-bqmp).

The governor, trying to get the economy started, insists that flying is safe: [https://tinyurl.com/y67m8sav](https://tinyurl.com/y67m8sav).

Casinos reopen in Miami-Dade County: [https://tinyurl.com/yy9hc72x](https://tinyurl.com/yy9hc72x).

**In Illinois:**

No freshman or sophomores at Northwestern University this fall, and fraternity and sorority houses will remain closed: [https://tinyurl.com/y2h4xmt6](https://tinyurl.com/y2h4xmt6).

Chicago-area Catholic schools are delaying the opening of in-person classes: [https://tinyurl.com/y5ajmk4](https://tinyurl.com/y5ajmk4).

Conductor Riccardo Muti, “a prisoner” in Italy, plots the future of the pandemic-assailed Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [https://tinyurl.com/y66nckve](https://tinyurl.com/y66nckve).

**In Indiana:**

Classes will start up again at University of Notre Dame: [https://tinyurl.com/y5trsfrd](https://tinyurl.com/y5trsfrd).

**In Louisiana:**

COVID-19 devastates New Orleans’ Black community: [https://tinyurl.com/y3n97q84](https://tinyurl.com/y3n97q84).

**In Massachusetts:**

An off-campus party at Worcester’s Holy Cross College yields 21 COVID-19 cases: [https://tinyurl.com/yyvs7zut](https://tinyurl.com/yyvs7zut).

**In Nevada:**

MGM Resorts lays of 18,000: [https://tinyurl.com/y33dp98j](https://tinyurl.com/y33dp98j).

**In New Jersey:**

The state is set to allow indoor dining, at 25% capacity: [https://tinyurl.com/yxjymg3](https://tinyurl.com/yxjymg3).
In New York:

The state’s infection rate hits a new low: https://tinyurl.com/y5b4kcws.

In New York City, rapid COVID-19 tests are available -- if you can afford one: https://tinyurl.com/y6z659jh.

New York City is making virtual inspections of reopening gyms: https://tinyurl.com/y2ofcrfh.

The classical music agency Columbia Artists Management is a victim of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y5yc2o22.

The pandemic threatens the city’s plan to reduce carbon emissions: https://tinyurl.com/yytkqtpe.

Despite all the predictions of doom, many New York City businesses are prepared to hang on for the duration: https://tinyurl.com/y5mrpy4s.

In North Carolina:


Around the World:

In Cuba:

Curfew is imposed as authorities to try to tamp down a surge in new COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y435hgcn.

In France:

The government is set to permit events with audiences of up to 5,000: https://tinyurl.com/y2n5nwha.

But a new surge in cases threatens the country’s back-to-school plan: https://tinyurl.com/y2s9yan7.

In Germany:

Police halt an 18,000-strong anti-mask demonstration because marchers weren’t following social distancing rules: https://tinyurl.com/yyprn5r4. The government condemns the demonstration, which involved members of the far right trying to storm the Reichstag: https://tinyurl.com/y2yrrtyp.

In Greece:

Two hundred passengers are told to self-quarantine following a flight filled with “selfish covidiots and an inept crew:” https://tinyurl.com/y3rfca52.

In India:

The country has the largest number of daily cases in the world: https://tinyurl.com/y3jjjw3h.

In Mexico:

Cabo San Lucas tries to lure back tourists: https://tinyurl.com/y2ssw1mb.

In the UK:

Police break up illegal gatherings around the country: https://tinyurl.com/yyypjhz.

Mobilization:
Billboard reports on the Red Alert Restart day, scheduled for tomorrow: [https://tinyurl.com/y4qb577k](https://tinyurl.com/y4qb577k).

**For Your Entertainment:**

Barrington Stage Company (BSC) will present a virtual reading of Eleanor, a new play about Eleanor Roosevelt, by Mark St. Germain (Off-Broadway and BSC’s Freud’s Last Session) and starring Tony Award winner Harriet Harris. It will be filmed at the Boyd-Quinson Mainstage on September 2 without an audience and will be available to stream on September 4 and 5 at 7:30pm ET. Tickets ($15) can be ordered from OvationTix and a link will then be sent to the ticket holder within 24 hours of the scheduled performance: [https://tinyurl.com/y4olc9fr](https://tinyurl.com/y4olc9fr).

Here’s this week’s lineup of streams from the Metropolitan Opera: [https://tinyurl.com/y3ddwqeb](https://tinyurl.com/y3ddwqeb).

**For Your Pleasure:**

Lilli Cooper offers “Come to Your Senses,” from the musical Tick…Tick…Boom!: [https://tinyurl.com/y5vzps5x](https://tinyurl.com/y5vzps5x).

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**COVID-19 Update: August 28, 2020:**

“Everybody is Going to Catch this Thing Eventually”

The quote above is from a senior White House official, commenting on the lack of social distancing measures at the White House during the president’s acceptance speech. It also serves as a mission statement for the government’s COVID-19 policy. Meanwhile, talks drag on regarding another stimulus bill, and the push for a new vaccine continues at all costs, one of which may be credibility. A possible bright spot is FDA approval of a new rapid test: Could it help us all get back to normal?

**The Latest:**

In what we can only hope won’t turn out to be a super-spreader event, 1,500 supporters of the president appear on the White House lawn, with few masks in evidence: [https://tinyurl.com/y6q98tnb](https://tinyurl.com/y6q98tnb). A White House official offers a startlingly callous rationale: [https://tinyurl.com/y5j4ew33](https://tinyurl.com/y5j4ew33).

Stimulus? What stimulus? Talks between the parties for a new relief bill have restarted, but don’t expect action soon: [https://tinyurl.com/y6mrx4f6](https://tinyurl.com/y6mrx4f6).

The president’s drive for a vaccine, and his previous support for non-cures like hydroxychloroquine, is breeding distrust, even among those who generally believe in vaccines: [https://tinyurl.com/yxngbjvc](https://tinyurl.com/yxngbjvc).

Is the new rapid-response coronavirus test, just approved by the FDA, a game-changer? [https://tinyurl.com/y354faud](https://tinyurl.com/y354faud). Abbott Laboratories is hiring 2,000 temporary workers to make the tests: [https://tinyurl.com/yy53fx3l](https://tinyurl.com/yy53fx3l).

**Meanwhile:**

LG touts a new face mask with a built-in air purifier: [https://tinyurl.com/yyvzkqvh](https://tinyurl.com/yyvzkqvh).

As high-profile releases finally come out, film fans weigh whether to risk a cinema visit: [https://tinyurl.com/y4axuzzx](https://tinyurl.com/y4axuzzx).

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

A poultry-processing plant in Merced County is shut down following a COVID-19 outbreak: [https://tinyurl.com/y42czulp](https://tinyurl.com/y42czulp).

At University of Southern California, the coronavirus is spreading through small gatherings: [https://tinyurl.com/y3bxrgvo](https://tinyurl.com/y3bxrgvo).
A San Diego gym that defied the law and stayed open has shuttered: https://tinyurl.com/yyt447pa.

In Florida:
The state passes the 615,000 mark in new COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y4s2jwk7.
University of Miami racks up hundreds of disciplinary cases, mostly from students breaking COVID-19 rules: https://tinyurl.com/y6dwnnye.

In Illinois:
United Airlines is looking to furlough more employees: https://tinyurl.com/y4ps3z7r.

In Massachusetts:
A new study confirms that the pandemic disproportionately affects the Black and Latino communities: https://tinyurl.com/y4jp3hip.
In an apparent violation of federal laws, Moderna, one of the leaders in the vaccine race, has failed to disclose government support in the development of 126 patents: https://tinyurl.com/y4p3jac7.
That much talked about production of Godspell in the Berkshires extends its run: https://tinyurl.com/y3gj7n93.

In New York:
The city’s restaurant owners demand the return of indoor dining: https://tinyurl.com/yxrf5kxd.

In Texas:
Arts groups in Dallas report losses of $68 million: https://tinyurl.com/y4dwe2zt.
The state continues to struggle with contact tracing: https://tinyurl.com/y333oh3r.

Around the World:

In Ireland:
The country’s pubs will remain closed as new COVID-19 cases rise: https://tinyurl.com/y3wfarn2.

In Nicaragua:
The country reported a suspiciously low number of COVID-19 cases; the Anonymous hacked the country's database: https://tinyurl.com/yyw9bk7x.

In the UK:
New COVID-19 cases rise to their highest levels since mid-June: https://tinyurl.com/yxvlg5gn.
Royal Shakespeare Company’s Stratford home will remain closed until 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y2mpfcme.

For Your Pleasure:
Amber Riley pays tribute to her friend, the late, great Naya Rivera: https://tinyurl.com/y46gb4rc.
COVID-19 Update: August 27, 2020:
Back-to-School Blues

As the country confronts a series of new developments, including a hurricane, urban unrest, a sports boycott, and the Republican National Convention, the pandemic gets put on the media's back burner. But arguments are flying over the CDC's inexplicable decision to stop testing those without COVID-19 systems. And as many of the stories below indicate, the business of reopening the world’s schools is fraught with difficulty and peril. As for the economy -- don’t ask.

The Latest:

Controversy swirls around the CDC recommendation to stop testing the asymptomatic for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y54cn6yt. Health authorities insist the decision was not subject White House pressure: https://tinyurl.com/y56cmz2f. Governor Andrew Cuomo has no intention of following the guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/y4qpxqyu.

Another million Americans apply for jobless benefits: https://tinyurl.com/y3zpwnkn.

Meanwhile:

Corona goes to college: Keeping track of infections in institutions of higher learning nationwide: https://tinyurl.com/yyt8nmr2.

The CDC issues new guidance for keeping retail workers safe. Lesson #1: Don’t argue with maskless shoppers: https://tinyurl.com/y5wjmuag.

Food for Thought:

How Oxford went from planning to offer its vaccine to any interested pharmaceutical company to cutting a deal with AstraZeneca: https://tinyurl.com/y6bp998c.

As it happens, men -- particularly those over 60 -- producer a weaker immune response to the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y4tq6goh.

Around the World:

In Arizona:

The Navajo Nation has been ravaged by COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y3zyuw9j.

In California:

The state senate cancels a session when a lawmaker tests positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y6oqymwy.

Workers on commercial shoots officially complain to IATSE about the lack of safety precautions on sets: https://tinyurl.com/yyg2exd2.

University of California San Diego has had 250 COVID-19 cases since April: https://tinyurl.com/y5vb4dt.

In Florida:

At least 175 students and staffers from Seminole County public schools are in quarantine: https://tinyurl.com/y459wfye.

The state’s COVID-19 death toll passes 11,000: https://tinyurl.com/y6mxuw7f.

The state’s nursing homes will allow visitors without requiring COVID-19 tests: https://tinyurl.com/y2rgdswq.
The governor applies for the $300-a-week unemployment benefited in the president’s recent executive order for the state: https://tinyurl.com/y3w4j3jx.

An Orlando man is arresting for striking a security guard at Disney World over mask wearing: https://tinyurl.com/y3qn358.

In Illinois:
The state experiences the highest number of COVID-19 deaths since early July: https://tinyurl.com/y3u3nvrr.

Like Florida, the state is applying for the $300-a-week unemployment benefit from the president’s executive order: https://tinyurl.com/y3ywhnr9.

In Massachusetts:
A COVID-19 cluster in the state is traced to a bachelorette party in Rhode Island: https://tinyurl.com/y6zy5hyw.

In Nevada:
The Mirage hotel casino reopens today: https://tinyurl.com/y2ncww.

In New York:
The American Guild of Musical Artists and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society issue a playbook for a safe return to work: https://tinyurl.com/y2r8vmmw.

New York City’s Metropolitan Transit Authority, devastated by the pandemic, will be forced to make drastic cuts without federal aid: https://tinyurl.com/y6owl5ea.

In Texas:
Houston’s creative arts sector has lost tens of thousands of jobs, nearly $2 billion in sales: https://tinyurl.com/yxgxde23.

Around the World:

In Canada:
The Shaw Festival season has devolved down to one production -- A Christmas Carol: https://tinyurl.com/y45bhh2o.

In France:
It’s back to wearing face masks outdoors in Paris: https://tinyurl.com/y3nb42jz.

In Gaza:
Largely spared the coronavirus, Gazans chafe under tough new travel restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/y295beat.

In Germany:
Even in a country where the coronavirus is under control, reopening schools is “a roller-coaster.” https://tinyurl.com/y4qg-mys.

In Haiti:
The school system is in turmoil, as students and teachers stage protests: https://tinyurl.com/y5c85369.

In Russia:
Advanced trials are announced for the country’s vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/yxgmz86a.

In the UK:

New government guidance allows performers to stand closer together onstage: https://tinyurl.com/y2dt2tzj.

A quartet of concerts featuring West End stars will raise money for Backup, the technical theatre charity: https://tinyurl.com/y2pp3pbl.

The Theatre Artists Funds, started by director Sam Mendes, has raised 3.5 million pounds so far: https://tinyurl.com/y4at8c6b.

Education:

Starting September 2 and every Wednesday for at least the following eight weeks, rigging maven Bill Sapsis will be offering seminars on subjects like fall arrest harnesses, working at height rescue, and the fly rail. Each seminar is 90 minutes long. Each seminar will be devoted to a single topic. Seminars are limited to 30 attendees (“so, we have time to discuss stuff”). You can earn 1.5 ETCP re-certification credits for each session. The seminars are free. Registration is required www.sapsis-rigging.com/remoteseminars.html for all the details and to register. Registration for the September 2 session is now open. Registration for each following seminar will open on the Friday before the seminar.

For Your Entertainment:

Tonight at 7:00pm EDT, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will make its broadcast debut in Artistic Director Robert Battle’s stirring No Longer Silent, which will be available online through September 3. It is set to the percussive Ogelaya by Erwin Schulhoff, who died in a concentration camp in 1942. Ahead of the Thursday broadcast, Ailey will be sharing behind-the-scenes footage of the creation of No Longer Silent where Robert Battle further discusses composer Erwin Schulhoff’s life and how it helped inspire the choreography for the ballet: https://tinyurl.com/y7hxvdxp.

For Your Pleasure:

The Broadway and national tour casts of Newsies reunite for “Seize the Day:” https://tinyurl.com/y564wkxd.

COVID-19 Update: August 26, 2020:

It Ain’t Over

A new government response to the pandemic emerges: Pretend it is over, that the disease is well in hand, and the prosperity is just around the corner. It’s a gamble to be sure, but it appears to be where the president is laying all his chips.

The Latest:

In a revealing moment, the president’s top economic adviser, speaking at the Republican National Convention, refers to the pandemic as a thing of the past: https://tinyurl.com/yymzswzp.

The White House trade adviser clings to his belief in the efficacy of survivor plasma treatment: https://tinyurl.com/y6jb-fubk6jbfbuk. The FDA’s approval of plasma treatment may undermine a study that would determine its real effectiveness: https://tinyurl.com/yxfvrbfl7.

Causing consternation among health experts, the CDC now says that people without COVID-19 symptoms don’t need to be tested, even if they have been recently exposed; no word about the large number of asymptomatic carriers: https://tinyurl.com/y6jitsym7.

Meanwhile:

Doctors ramp up to test for the flu this autumn, to distinguish flu cases from those of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y6lvup-
A new study shows that obesity increases one’s risk of COVID-19 infection by nearly 50%, with vaccines possibly less effective in such cases: [https://tinyurl.com/y4focnek](https://tinyurl.com/y4focnek).

US islands in both the Caribbean and Pacific emerge as the new coronavirus hot spots: [https://tinyurl.com/y52wvysd](https://tinyurl.com/y52wvysd).

The NFL, getting ready for a new season, faces the dilemma of a large number of false positives from player testing: [https://tinyurl.com/y35xtzts](https://tinyurl.com/y35xtzts).

The US Chamber of Commerce turns to Congress for protection against liability from workers and clients who contract COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y692ee5u](https://tinyurl.com/y692ee5u).

**News You Can Use:** For the duration of the pandemic, KFC suspends the “finger-lickin’ good” slogan: [https://tinyurl.com/yvy39k3a2y](https://tinyurl.com/yvy39k3a2y).

**Around the country:**

**In California:**

A drive-in parking lot production of The Waste Land has been nixed because of a surge in COVID-19 cases in the area: [https://tinyurl.com/yylytvr2](https://tinyurl.com/yylytvr2).

**In Connecticut:**

Top theatres issue a call for government relief: [https://tinyurl.com/y6ahmnp9](https://tinyurl.com/y6ahmnp9).

**In Florida:**

The University of Miami puts a dorm in quarantine after 156 COVID-19 cases are diagnosed: [https://tinyurl.com/y2j6spq6](https://tinyurl.com/y2j6spq6).

Florida Gulf Coast University suspends two fraternities for hosting large parties that violate social distancing restrictions: [https://tinyurl.com/yxhl2p3c](https://tinyurl.com/yxhl2p3c).

Indoor dining returns to Miami-Dade on August 31: [https://tinyurl.com/y55tozcj](https://tinyurl.com/y55tozcj).

**In Illinois:**

The mayor of Chicago cracks down on Airbnb party houses: [https://tinyurl.com/yxzzws97](https://tinyurl.com/yxzzws97).

Chicago Shakespeare makes modest plans for its new season: [https://tinyurl.com/y29c96km](https://tinyurl.com/y29c96km).

**In New York:**

The transportation workers union calls for $100 fines for passengers who don’t wear masks: [https://tinyurl.com/yyoulotf](https://tinyurl.com/yyoulotf).

Jujamcyn Theatres sues its insurer over its COVID-19 coverage: [https://tinyurl.com/y6czwtwf](https://tinyurl.com/y6czwtwf).

Actors’ Equity okays three indoor theatre productions: [https://tinyurl.com/y3282cba](https://tinyurl.com/y3282cba).

A memorial for actor Nick Cordero will be held online on September 6 at 7:00pm ET: [https://tinyurl.com/y3malpal](https://tinyurl.com/y3malpal).

Your questions about the online Tony Awards answered, more or less: [https://tinyurl.com/yyq3x495](https://tinyurl.com/yyq3x495).

**In Texas:**
American Airlines will cut 19,000 jobs when federal aid expires in October: https://tinyurl.com/y2swxefl.

In Utah:

Resident assistants at the University of Utah threaten to strike over the school’s handling of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y3th9s9h.

Around the World:

In Brazil:

The president’s son tests positive for COVID-19, the fourth member of the family to do so: https://tinyurl.com/y6c7c8kf.

In China:

Prolight + Sound Guangzhou takes place, successfully: https://tinyurl.com/yy7luosy.

In Germany:

Passengers on all Lufthansa-owned airlines will be required to wear a mask, or carry a negative COVID-19 test results and a doctor’s note: https://tinyurl.com/y3393yl8.

In Iran:

The surge in cases continues, with 21,000 dead: https://tinyurl.com/yywwf77j.

In Japan:

A new study suggests that masks made of non-woven material are most effective in fending off the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y4hrs3z9.

For Your Entertainment:

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra presents Lush Life: Celebrating Billy Strayhorn: https://tinyurl.com/y4o5ztfh.

For Your Pleasure:

The great Lillias White offering her unique take on “Don’t Rain on My Parade:” https://tinyurl.com/yxzq36de.

COVID-19 Update: August 25, 2020:
Warp Speed or Out of Control

The White House’s pedal-to-the-metal approach to delivering a COVID-19 vaccine looks increasingly risky. Meanwhile, the coronavirus spreads into the Midwest and Americans everywhere, without a new stimulus bill, are feeling the pinch. Be sure to check out Michael Strickland’s appear at CNBC Squawk Box; at last, this industry’s story is beginning to reach a broader audience.

The Latest:

Experts say the president, secretary of health, and FDA commissioner have all seriously misrepresented the efficacy of survivor plasma as a COVID-19 treatment: https://tinyurl.com/y2mivc8z. The rush to authorize plasma treatment undermines scientific efforts to understand its benefits: https://tinyurl.com/yxeyem4p. The FDA head apologizes for overstating the benefits of plasma treatment: https://tinyurl.com/y3o49vqg.
AstraZeneca denies that the White House is pressuring it to fast-track its vaccine: [https://tinyurl.com/yyp56uuf](https://tinyurl.com/yyp56uuf). Dr. Anthony Fauci says that rushing a vaccine could lead to disaster: [https://tinyurl.com/y2n9rbpf](https://tinyurl.com/y2n9rbpf). And, Democrats are looking at the chief advisor to Operation Warp Speed and his ties to the pharmaceutical industry: [https://tinyurl.com/y4cflawz](https://tinyurl.com/y4cflawz).

New COVID-19 cases are dropping nationally, but not in the heartland: [https://tinyurl.com/y6th76hu](https://tinyurl.com/y6th76hu).

Without stimulus, poverty is spreading nationwide: [https://tinyurl.com/y4gx2kmg](https://tinyurl.com/y4gx2kmg). And, eviction is a looming possibility for millions: [https://tinyurl.com/y3rr66wb](https://tinyurl.com/y3rr66wb).

**Meanwhile:**

Health officials across the country are moving toward stronger enforcement of mask mandates: [https://tinyurl.com/y655ucwm](https://tinyurl.com/y655ucwm).

Singer Van Morrison, denouncing the "pseudoscience" of social distancing, demands a return to concerts with full-capacity audiences. His fans are not onboard: [https://tinyurl.com/y4gqhpdp](https://tinyurl.com/y4gqhpdp).

In potentially game-changing news, Michael T. Strickland, of Bandit Lites, takes the story of the industry's plight national, appearing on CNBC Squawk Box: [https://tinyurl.com/y5d2cyb](https://tinyurl.com/y5d2cyb).

**Food for Thought:**

Why a vaccine that stops COVID-19 may not be enough: [https://tinyurl.com/y5r5qyqm](https://tinyurl.com/y5r5qyqm).

Why COVID-19 cases are decreasing. (Hint: It has something to do with masks): [https://tinyurl.com/yxwnpevij](https://tinyurl.com/yxwnpevij).

Everything you need to know about testing for travel: [https://tinyurl.com/yxbf39mk](https://tinyurl.com/yxbf39mk).

**Around the Country:**

**In Alabama:**

The University of Alabama now has more than 500 confirmed cases of COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y3cto7bq](https://tinyurl.com/y3cto7bq).

**In California:**

The ambitious Emmy Awards ceremony plans to consist of 140 live feeds coming into the Staples Center: [https://tinyurl.com/y6c89chg](https://tinyurl.com/y6c89chg).

**In Florida:**

A judge strikes down the state’s school reopening order: [https://tinyurl.com/yxrmob6m](https://tinyurl.com/yxrmob6m).

The Miami Dolphins will allow up to 12,000 socially distanced fans in its September 20 game against Buffalo: [https://tinyurl.com/y5cyby4e](https://tinyurl.com/y5cyby4e).

SeaWorld Orlando and the Aquatica water park will return to seven-days-a-week schedules: [https://tinyurl.com/y4zdqwdg](https://tinyurl.com/y4zdqwdg).

**In Maryland:**

The Baltimore Ravens will do without fans, at least for the first part of the season: [https://tinyurl.com/yxq8yhsy](https://tinyurl.com/yxq8yhsy).

**In Massachusetts:**

An international conference of Biogen leaders in Boston probably led to the spread of 20,000 COVID-19 cases in four counties: [https://tinyurl.com/y4hzw46v](https://tinyurl.com/y4hzw46v).
In New York:

Optional COVID-19 tests are coming to New York City’s airports: [https://tinyurl.com/yx9dc6jl](https://tinyurl.com/yx9dc6jl).

Which shows are eligible at this year’s Tony Awards? [https://tinyurl.com/y662lgr2](https://tinyurl.com/y662lgr2).

In Ohio:

A conservative wing of the state House of Representatives tries to impeach the governor for sticking to social distancing rules: [https://tinyurl.com/y4sp5sq](https://tinyurl.com/y4sp5sq).

In South Dakota:

Health officials track the spread of the coronavirus from the Sturgis motorcycle rally: [https://tinyurl.com/y6men77y](https://tinyurl.com/y6men77y).

In Texas:

The EPA has given emergency approval for a cleanser that kills the coronavirus on surfaces for up to ten days, and the state is letting companies, including American Airlines, use it: [https://tinyurl.com/y5bw5f2a](https://tinyurl.com/y5bw5f2a).

Around the World:

In Brazil:

In the Amazon, a sharp drop in new COVID-19 cases raises new questions about herd immunity: [https://tinyurl.com/yxn-58mwm](https://tinyurl.com/yxn-58mwm).

In Canada:

The live events industry mobilizes to save itself: [https://tinyurl.com/y33j9wrj](https://tinyurl.com/y33j9wrj).

In Jamaica:

Legendary runner Usain Bolt tests positive for the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/y52fu5rs](https://tinyurl.com/y52fu5rs).

A surge in cases causes the prime minister to suspend his re-election campaign: [https://tinyurl.com/y6n9dhvd](https://tinyurl.com/y6n9dhvd).

Education:

New webinars from JBL: “Speaker Cable and Power Cable Basics: Connections, Cable & Repair with Fedj (Jeff) Sylvanus,” September 10, at 12:00pm CT; register at [https://tinyurl.com/y5fq6nzi](https://tinyurl.com/y5fq6nzi). “FOH Engineers Using VTX at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville w/ Les Banks, Kevin McGinty, and Mark Thomas,” September 15 at 1:00pm, CT; register at [https://tinyurl.com/y39sus2c](https://tinyurl.com/y39sus2c). “System Engineer Skills for the Mix Engineer Part 2 with Cookie Hoff and Pooch Van Druten,” September 16 at 1:00pm CT; register at [rb.gy/yupgap](rb.gy/yupgap).

New webinars from Martin by Harman: “Touring Large Scale Productions: Challenges, Preparations, and Solutions with Dr. Dinesh Yadav,” August 26, at 11:00am CT; register at [https://tinyurl.com/y6hbf58z](https://tinyurl.com/y6hbf58z). “Assembling Your Dream Team: Lighting Collaboration on Broadway with Bradley King and Nick Solyom,” August 27, at 11:00am; register at [https://tinyurl.com/y54qps6z](https://tinyurl.com/y54qps6z). “Wearing Multiple Hats in the Lighting Industry with Tony Caporale,” September 1, at 11:00am CT; register at [https://tinyurl.com/yxk6ldf5](https://tinyurl.com/yxk6ldf5).

For Your Entertainment:

This Friday, Héctor Armienta, founder and artistic director of Opera Cultura; Shadi Ghaieri, stage director and 2019 Director-Designer Prize winner; and Susan Marineau, trustee of The Santa Fe Opera, and OPERA America come together for conversation, a game of “Guess that Opera,” and a special performance. It happens at 4:30pm ET, at [youtube.com/operaamerica](https://www.youtube.com/operaamerica).
It’s Verdi Week at the Metropolitan Opera: [https://tinyurl.com/y6xeyahw](https://tinyurl.com/y6xeyahw).

**For Your Pleasure:**

Mauricio Martínez and Ana Villafañe offer “Here We Are/Don’t Wanna Lose You,” in tribute to Gloria Estefan: [https://tinyurl.com/y3defyao](https://tinyurl.com/y3defyao).

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**COVID-19 Update: August 24, 2020:**
**The FDA Under Fire**

Looking for a political win after a bad week and in advance of the GOP convention, the president mixes in with the FDA, forcing the approval of a new treatment that gets mixed reviews at best; at least it isn’t hydroxychloroquine. Meanwhile, his executive orders are providing little relief to stranded workers. The economy continues to struggle, no matter what the stock market does. Testing problems persist. And the country looks for a way to get back to normal.

**The Latest:**

On August 20, the FDA put on hold the use of COVID-19 survivor plasma as a treatment for the disease, citing weak data. Then the following happened: The president baselessly, and with his usual precision, accuses “the deep state, or whoever” at the of slow-walking progress on vaccines: [https://wapo.st/32dAkpM](https://wapo.st/32dAkpM). A White House trade adviser blew up at the FDA, calling them members of the deep state and telling them to get on “Trump time:” [https://tinyurl.com/y3fd2fh9](https://tinyurl.com/y3fd2fh9). So, the FDA approves the use of survivor plasma: [https://tinyurl.com/y6lzs5oa](https://tinyurl.com/y6lzs5oa).

Just to be clear, an expert calls the treatment mentioned above “weakly beneficial:” [https://tinyurl.com/y45aacta](https://tinyurl.com/y45aacta).

**Meanwhile:**

The president’s executive orders, designed to provide unemployment relief, aren’t panning out: [https://wapo.st/34jtnWW](https://wapo.st/34jtnWW).

Leading indicators suggest that the economic recovery is on pause: [https://nyti.ms/2QtNwS9](https://nyti.ms/2QtNwS9).

Some school systems are sitting on information about COVID-19 infections: [https://nyti.ms/3hm4PAe](https://nyti.ms/3hm4PAe).

The much-talked-about pooled testing program isn’t working out in the US: [https://nyti.ms/2YrgMq1](https://nyti.ms/2YrgMq1). But an Israeli team has come up with a sophisticated new approach, using an algorithm, that offers new promise: [https://nyti.ms/2EnNHLZ](https://nyti.ms/2EnNHLZ).


Infections related to the Sturgis, South Dakota motorcycle rally have spread to three states: [https://nbcnews.to/3l6YdYV](https://nbcnews.to/3l6YdYV).


**Food for Thought:**


An investigation shows how many governors were pressed by business leaders to prematurely reopen their states: [https://tinyurl.com/yyz7mbnu](https://tinyurl.com/yyz7mbnu).

**Around the Country:**

In Florida:
The Friday tally of new cases reaches 4,684: Miami-Dade County tops 150,000: https://hrld.us/31kifr1. Still, the positivity rate is on the downward slope: https://bit.ly/3glDhts. The Monday tallies are rather lower: https://tinyurl.com/yx8mzrx5. At the same time, more young people and minorities are dying: https://bit.ly/32bxtNW.

Four University of Miami students test positive for the coronavirus; 51 more are quarantined: https://hrld.us/2QfZezt.

The state’s hospitals have collectively lost $4 billion during the pandemic: https://bit.ly/32f5hKm.

As the leisure and hospitality industries struggle, the Orlando area posts the worst jobless numbers in the state: https://bit.ly/31jY1xl.


A new group forms to throw a lifeline to Orlando’s beleaguered entertainment workers: https://tinyurl.com/y3x5ejmh.

In Illinois:

Medical experts fear the state is facing “a perfect storm” unless it gets its COVID-19 numbers down: https://tinyurl.com/y6ckefjq.


As 175,000 people in the state have lost their jobs, they now face a new concern of loss of their health insurance: https://bit.ly/31k6MaI.

In Maine:

One person is dead and more than 50 are infected after attending a wedding: https://tinyurl.com/y3vf3qc.

In Minnesota:

The president of University of Minnesota proposes delaying classes for two weeks and putting the first two weeks of the semester online: http://strib.mn/2Yqu3px.

In Nevada:

Check out the video of a WE/EC (entertainment community) demonstration in Vegas last week: https://tinyurl.com/y47f3xd6.

In New York:

The state’s COVID-19 positivity rate continues to drop: https://bit.ly/3gl3A2T.

The long-delayed Tony Awards will take place online sometime this fall: https://nyti.ms/2ElNY1P.

The Public Theatre makes small cash payments to struggling theatre workers: https://tinyurl.com/y6n8tr7c.

In Rhode Island:

How the state successfully reopened child-care programs during the pandemic: https://wapo.st/3hyuOER.

In South Dakota:

At 1,376, the number of new cases in the state reaches a new high: https://bit.ly/2En1Itc.

Around the World:
In Australia:

As Victoria struggles to reduce the number of infections, the chief health officer warns that masks may be mandated until there is “no community transmission whatsoever”: [https://bit.ly/3l6F8pz](https://bit.ly/3l6F8pz).

In France:

An outbreak hits a naturist holiday resort: [https://tinyurl.com/yywl9q2l](https://tinyurl.com/yywl9q2l).

In Germany:

A team of epidemiologists say full audiences should be permitted at classical concerts and opera performances, because the audiences are more disciplined: [https://bit.ly/3gmMIZJ](https://bit.ly/3gmMIZJ).

Meanwhile, scientists go ahead with a trio of rock concerts to assess the risk of the coronavirus spreading among audiences: [https://tinyurl.com/yylf6smj](https://tinyurl.com/yylf6smj).

In Hong Kong:

A 33-year-old man is the first to be diagnosed with a second infection of COVID-19, from a different strain: [https://tinyurl.com/y24xopz7](https://tinyurl.com/y24xopz7).

In Italy:

The country sees the highest spike in cases since the end of lockdown: [https://bit.ly/2YqRfEi](https://bit.ly/2YqRfEi). The surge is being driven by returning vacationers: [https://tinyurl.com/y3bo9ubo](https://tinyurl.com/y3bo9ubo).

In Japan:


In Kenya:

Health workers, caught in impossible circumstances, walk off the job: [https://nyti.ms/32folYX](https://nyti.ms/32folYX).

In Peru:

The police crack down on a disco violating lockdown rules, causing a deadly stampede: [https://tinyurl.com/y6fgcgon](https://tinyurl.com/y6fgcgon).

In Russia:

The government expected plaudits for rolling out a vaccine so quickly; instead it has gotten skepticism and criticism: [https://tinyurl.com/y4x6qotn](https://tinyurl.com/y4x6qotn).

In South Korea:


In the UK:

To encourage dining out, the government splits the check with customers are participating restaurants: https://wapo.st/3l6DZyh.

Scotland sees the highest spike new cases in three months: [https://bit.ly/2CTmUGU](https://bit.ly/2CTmUGU).


**For Your Pleasure:**

Janet Dacal performs the haunting “Omar Sharif” from The Band’s Visit: [https://tinyurl.com/yxl9bs65](https://tinyurl.com/yxl9bs65).

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**COVID-19 Update: August 21, 2020:**

**Figures in the Carpet**

As summer winds down, Congress is stalled, the nation’s attention is focused on political conventions, the live events industry gears up for action. But on this Friday, we find a series of developments that may be clues to the future.

**The Latest:**

The vacation season plunges Europe back into a coronavirus crisis: [https://wapo.st/2Qb0fcb](https://wapo.st/2Qb0fcb).

When a vaccine arrives, distribution may be hampered unless the US can come up with more syringes: [https://bit.ly/3him-FnJ](https://bit.ly/3him-FnJ).

In what may be the only silver lining to the pandemic, the world’s ecological footprint shrinks nearly 10% in a year: [https://bit.ly/3j57m2m](https://bit.ly/3j57m2m).

College and university faculties face the new semester with considerable nervousness: [https://tinyurl.com/y5b4f7sa](https://tinyurl.com/y5b4f7sa).

Despite what you’ve read, neck gaiters might not be that bad after all: [https://tinyurl.com/y6d9tp9l](https://tinyurl.com/y6d9tp9l).

**Food for Thought:**


**Around the Country:**

**In California:**


Airbnb pans house parties globally: [https://tinyurl.com/y5vf2yus](https://tinyurl.com/y5vf2yus).

SeaWorld San Diego teases the possibility of reopening: [https://tinyurl.com/y4by72h6](https://tinyurl.com/y4by72h6).

**In Florida:**

Hundreds of Orlando Airport restaurant workers are let go permanently; the same thing is happening at airports around the state: [https://bit.ly/3qiLcb5](https://bit.ly/3qiLcb5).

Thanks to the pandemic, the Florida Gators are down $50 million; alumni support is sought: [https://bit.ly/3kZDoyi](https://bit.ly/3kZDoyi).

A series between the Miami Marlins and the Mets is postponed when two members of the New York team test positive for the coronavirus: [https://hrld.us/31iBW24](https://hrld.us/31iBW24).

The United Way of Miami-Dade’s Pandemic Assistance Program runs low in record time: [https://hrld.us/2QkazOR](https://hrld.us/2QkazOR).
Attendance is up at Universal Orlando theme parks; at Disney World, not so much: https://bit.ly/31fcDOG.

With schools reopening and (socially distanced) crowds allowed at soccer games, can Central Florida keep its infection rate down? https://bit.ly/32gg0Uz.

In Illinois:

The teacher’s dilemma: A Catholic instructor is fired for refusing to return to the classroom: https://bit.ly/2CMtpeu.

In Louisiana:


In Nebraska:

Cases in the state are linked to the motorcycle rally held recently in Sturgis, South Dakota: https://nbcnews.to/2YmMI5K.

In New York:

As people flee New York City, moving companies have more business than they can handle: https://nyti.ms/3hia6cb.

Around the World:

In France:

A theatre company tackles a classic drama, with masked actors: https://tinyurl.com/y4uw9rrf.

The country experiences its biggest daily spike in infections in months: https://tinyurl.com/y5lvupxx.

In Mexico:

The state of the country’s entertainment industry looks a lot like ours: https://tinyurl.com/y6em8yvu.

The country will get 2,000 doses of the Russian Sputnik vaccine, as part of a Phase Three test: https://tinyurl.com/y65l76ap.

In Spain:

Inside the country’s second wave: https://tinyurl.com/y35tpatb.

In the UK:

A new study suggests that singing is no riskier in terms of coronavirus spread than speaking at the same level -- but loudness counts: https://tinyurl.com/y4m7bync.

The government warns of a new coronavirus spread, with Birmingham put on alert: https://tinyurl.com/y3t2fqfm.

For Your Entertainment:

Richard Nelson will present a final Apple Family Zoom play, starting September 10: https://tinyurl.com/y48gmlfq.

Tomorrow at 12:00pm ET, Canto Vocal Programs is offering the last concert of its Summer Concert Series, feature singers from all over the world, including participants from the organization’s online programs as well as guest Canto alumni. Tickets are $20. https://bit.ly/32cyZzF.

Tonight at 8:00pm, CT, Opera Omaha, in collaboration 90.7 KVNO, is offering its annual outdoor concert, Opera Outdoors, as a live audio broadcast: https://bit.ly/3aKWCD1.

On Sunday at 7:00pm, Skylight Music Theatre is offering “From Skylight with Love: A Concert for Unity,” a virtual concert to open the Milwaukee Black Theatre Festival. The video will be available through September 12: [https://tinyurl.com/yyzfpqxr](https://tinyurl.com/yyzfpqxr).

Sunday at 7:00pm ET, Vocal Artists Management Services is offering a virtual online recital featuring mezzo-soprano Eunjoo Lee-Huls: [https://tinyurl.com/yyaf9skt](https://tinyurl.com/yyaf9skt).

**For Your Entertainment:**

Joanne Shea offers “Blame It on the Summer Night,” from the musical Rags: [https://tinyurl.com/y3pyzyhf](https://tinyurl.com/y3pyzyhf).

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**COVID-19 Update: August 20, 2020:**

**Red Alert**

It’s getting tougher out there. People, deprived of enhanced unemployment, are having to choose between food and paying the rent. We hear that negotiations continue in Congress, but a solution is, at best, weeks away. We’ve urged you to write to Congress, and you have responded in impressive numbers. Now more action may be necessary, as the #WeMakeEvents movement lands on our shore, with plans for a Red Alert.

**The Latest:**

The #WeMakeEvents movement comes to the US, with ambitious plans to highlight the industry’s plight and push for passing of the RESTART Act: [https://bit.ly/3j05GH1](https://bit.ly/3j05GH1).


A new study suggests that children play a big role in spreading the coronavirus: [https://wapo.st/2Yitu17](https://wapo.st/2Yitu17).

The FDA’s emergency authorization of blood plasma, taken from COVID-19 survivors, as a treatment is put on hold: [https://nyti.ms/3haYjMy](https://nyti.ms/3haYjMy).

Dr. Anthony Fauci has surgery to remove polyp from a vocal cord: [https://cbsn.ws/3aGolQ1](https://cbsn.ws/3aGolQ1).

More cruise ships are avoiding US waters -- and CDC scrutiny: [https://hrld.us/2Yh7qUo](https://hrld.us/2Yh7qUo).

How theatre designers are staying busy during the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y2z44tk3](https://tinyurl.com/y2z44tk3).

**Food for Thought:**

Assessing your own personal risk tolerance in a changing COVID-19 situation: [https://nyti.ms/3gg7wli](https://nyti.ms/3gg7wli).

How the pandemic has altered the way consumer use gig companies; among other things, it’s bad news for Uber and Lyft: [https://bit.ly/34hbtE8](https://bit.ly/34hbtE8).


**Around the Country:**

In Alabama:
The state’s public colleges and university’s reopen with a custom-design testing-and-tech plan: https://nyti.ms/32gAdtM.

In California:

The mayor of Los Angeles, shuts off utility service to a Hollywood Hills home that has hosted large parties: https://cnn.it/2FIBHFp.

In Florida:

The state passes the 10,000-death mark: https://bit.ly/2QbKp0M.

Nearly 600 Miami-Dade Public Schools employees have tested positive for the coronavirus since March: https://hrld.us/3j36KKKx.

South Florida hospitals once again return to elective surgeries, easing some of the financial strain of the pandemic: https://hrld.us/2YkmnoL.

In Illinois:

In a sign of the times, the professional services firm Sikich will allow employees to work at home permanently: https://bit.ly/3iZU5YF.


In Louisiana:

The state’s top election official wants to require a positive COVID-19 test for a voter to obtain an absentee ballot: https://bit.ly/3j1Eeci.

In New York:

The teacher’s union threatens to strike if the city doesn’t meet certain safety standards: https://bit.ly/2EaADtv.

In a new blow to the industry, the state rules that bars can’t sell tickets for music events: https://bit.ly/3292JNH.

NBC plans an October special to revitalize the Broadway industry: https://pge.sx/3hiMNyE.

In South Dakota:

In news that will surprise no one, fears rise for a super spreader event following the motorcycle rally at Sturgis: https://cnn.it/34jhkZt.

Around the World:

In Croatia:

Parts of the country are added to Germany’s quarantine list: https://bit.ly/3hsTvT7.

In Greece:

The country cracks down on the Mykonos party scene: https://yhoo.it/31jhqPf.

In Iran:


In New Zealand:
The military is deployed to guard the country’s quarantine hotels: https://bit.ly/34p2JvA.

Politicians aren’t amused by President Trump’s comments about a “big surge,” which amounts to nine new cases: https://bit.ly/3j4m2Pf.

In Portugal:

The country is added to the UK’s safe travel list: https://bit.ly/34dlfXY.

In Russia:

The Mariinsky Ballet makes a triumphant return to the stage -- until 30 company members contract COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y4d5g83v.

The country barrels ahead with its Sputnik V vaccine, testing it on 40,000; data on its effectiveness is not available: https://cnb.cx/2Q8A71J.

In the UK:

The number of permanent furloughs at the Cameron Mackintosh organization rises to 850: https://tinyurl.com/y5rztz78.

In Venezuela:

In the country’s draconian approach the pandemic, those infected with COVID-19 are branded “bioterrorists:” https://nyti.ms/3l32BYH.

For Your Entertainment:


New dates are set for the streaming of Three Kings, starring Andrew Scott: https://bit.ly/2Qac16z.

For Your Pleasure:


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COVID-19 Update: August 19, 2020:

The Senate isn’t back in session, but the GOP moves to restart negotiations on a stimulus bill; the plan on offer isn’t likely to excite the Democrats, but stay tuned, as anything can happen. Meanwhile, leading Democrat Chuck Schumer provides vital support to the Save Out Stages Act. In a week marked by (socially distanced) convention hoopla and scandals surrounding the United States Postal Service and Russian interference in the country’s election, can progress be made on relief for workers and small businesses?

The Latest:

The GOP floats a reduced a scaled-back stimulus bill: https://nyti.ms/3haMTIQ.

Senate Chuck Schumer cosponsors the Save Our Stages Act: https://tinyurl.com/yxhw98vf.

The mask/anti-mask controversy heats up, with demands rising for legal penalties for those who ignore the rules: https://wapo.st/3iYZ8Zx.
Meanwhile:

Notre Dame University and Michigan State take classes online, trying to tame rising infections: [https://nyti.ms/3h7zIlu](https://nyti.ms/3h7zIlu).

Greek life is driving the surge in infections on campuses: [https://nyti.ms/34guqqK](https://nyti.ms/34guqqK).

Food for Thought:

Why does the stock market continue to seemingly defy reality? [https://nyti.ms/3gccW0T](https://nyti.ms/3gccW0T).

In an interesting and hopeful twist, the pandemic has largely spared the homeless: [https://bit.ly/3gfEO46](https://bit.ly/3gfEO46).

The pandemic cues creative thinking about the design of airplane cabins: [https://wapo.st/329h5NU](https://wapo.st/329h5NU).

Around the Country:

In Florida:

New cases hover around 4,000, for a total of 584,000: [https://hrld.us/2EaEBiV](https://hrld.us/2EaEBiV).

The state’s economy is expected to contract by 6% with a strong bounceback in 2021, COVID-19 permitting: [https://hrld.us/2Q8Eqde](https://hrld.us/2Q8Eqde).

The Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade is canceled for 2020: [https://hrld.us/321gq1a](https://hrld.us/321gq1a).

In Illinois:


The Goodman Theatre announces its new season, with no dates attached: [rb.gy/a189od](rb.gy/a189od).

In Minnesota:

As many businesses struggle in the pandemic, Target enjoys a blowout quarter: [https://cnb.cx/2CKlw9u](https://cnb.cx/2CKlw9u).

In New York:

Apartments empty out in New York City: [https://nyti.ms/2Yflf7](https://nyti.ms/2Yflf7).

Around the World:

In Brazil:

New infections top 3.4 million: [https://reut.rs/2YdKnd6](https://reut.rs/2YdKnd6).

In Israel:


In Slovenia:

The #WeMakeEvents movement reaches the country: [https://bit.ly/2Q8ncfW](https://bit.ly/2Q8ncfW).

Spain:

In the UK:

Depression in British adults may have doubled during the pandemic: https://cnn.it/329qPHZ.

Education:

Join City Theatrical August 20, at 11aEDT for a 30-minute training webinar on the company’s newest technology, RadioScan Spectrum Analyzer, a 900MHz and 2.4GHz spectrum analyzer that allows lighting and IT professionals to easily visualize radio energy that is otherwise invisible. In it you’ll learn how RadioScan can help you improve your wireless DMX setup by creating broadcast plans that optimize the available spectrum, and how it works with Multiverse wireless DMX devices. Register at https://bit.ly/3aG4CFx.

For Your Entertainment:

Pianist Shai Wosner will be featured on three virtual programs of this summer’s Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. First, on August 26 at 7:00pm ET, he joins cellist Paul Watkins of the Emerson String Quartet; violist Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu, who has collaborated with artists from Midori to Yuja Wang; and violinist Tessa Lark, an Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient and Naumburg Competition winner. They perform works by Mozart, Beethoven, and Britten. On August 28 at 7:00pm ET, Wosner performs Brahms’s Two Songs for voice, viola, and piano, Op. 91, with world-renowned, Richard Tucker Award-winning soprano Christine Goerke and founding member of the Brentano String Quartet, violist Misha Amory. The program on August 30 at 1:00pm ET features Mr. Wosner with Christine Goerke and Paul Watkins in music by Massenet and more. The performances were pre-recorded at the Kaufman Music Center’s Merkin Concert Hall in New York. Go to https://bit.ly/3f9Jo7U.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: August 18, 2020:
#WeMakeEvents

As the pandemic is largely obscured by the Democratic convention, the most interesting event is the appearance on those shores of #WeMakeEvents, the initiative started in the UK by PLASA and other industry organizations. Plans are afoot for a massive effort to demonstrate the industry’s perilous state by lighting 1,500 buildings in red. (See link below.) The plan is well-timed: According to a new survey, American consumers don’t support bailouts for cinemas and concert venues unless their survival is at stake.

The Latest:

The details of the president’s executive order enhanced unemployment plan are, well, vague: https://wapo.st/2Q3857B.

To a startling degree, consumers don’t support bailouts for cinemas and concert venues, unless they feel it is a matter of life or death: https://tinyurl.com/y6m9q4jq.

COVID-19 cases are up in US nursing homes: https://bit.ly/2E79Q1d.

People of color are underrepresented in vaccine trials, a worrying trend: https://bit.ly/3kTk8m1.

Food for Thought:

A review of Covidwise, America’s first coronavirus-exposure app: https://wapo.st/322tfbA.


**Around the Country:**

**In California:**


**In Florida:**


Miami City Ballet cancels its season, replacing it with digital and outdoor performances: [https://hrld.us/31cfkk9](https://hrld.us/31cfkk9).

**In Massachusetts:**


**In New Jersey:**


**In North Carolina:**

University of North Carolina -- Chapel Hill switches to distance learning following a coronavirus outbreak: [https://wapo.st/2Q284k6](https://wapo.st/2Q284k6).

**In Texas:**


**Around the World:**

**In Cuba:**


**In Italy:**

The country tightens restrictions as infections rise again: [https://wapo.st/3aAT4mK](https://wapo.st/3aAT4mK).

**Mobilization:**

#WeMakeEvents announces a plan to light 1,500 buildings in red on August 27: [https://bit.ly/2FBCU1e](https://bit.ly/2FBCU1e).

In the weeks to come, it will be vital that your national legislators hear from you. NITO (National Independent Talent Organization) has a tool available to directly communicate with your representatives: [https://nitolive.org/resources/take-action/](https://nitolive.org/resources/take-action/).
Robe helps to light South Africa red: https://bit.ly/2CH5htQ.

Education:

The Elation Innovation Hour returns with a look at the Fuze FR Wash: https://bit.ly/2Yc3rIG.

Sennheiser’s live Crew Calls series continues with four members from Ed Sheeran’s live touring crew: On September 8 at 2:00pm ET, hosts Andy Egerton and Tim Moore will welcome Chris Marsh (production manager, FOH sound), Mark Friend (tour manager), Matt Jones (lighting director), and Dave White (guitar/chewie tech). Be sure to sign up early for this exceptional live round table with the world class touring crew behind Ed Sheeran’s world record-breaking Divide Tour: https://bit.ly/2CGMnmQ.

Entertainment:

Here’s this week’s lineup of streams from Metropolitan Opera: https://bit.ly/34auAzH.

Next up from Tanglewood Online: August 18 at 8:00pm: The Best of Tanglewood on Parade, a free video stream of highlights from past Tanglewood on Parade concerts featuring the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, and Tanglewood Music Center orchestras, as well as the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and Boston Symphony Children’s Choir, in selections led by conductors Andris Nelsons, Keith Lockhart, John Williams, James Burton, and Seiji Ozawa, hosted by James Taylor. August 23 at 2:30pm: “BSO Encore Performances” (August 2019) of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with conductor Giancarlo Guerrero, soprano Nicole Cabell, mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges, tenor Nicholas Phan, bass Morris Robinson, and Tanglewood Festival Chorus, hosted by Jamie Bernstein. Learn more at: https://www.bso.org/.

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: August 17, 2020:**

Return to DC

Speaker Nancy Pelosi reconvenes the House of Representatives to deal with the US Postal Service mess. Anyone for bringing back the Senate to deal with unemployment relief? Alas, no. But, as you can read below, plenty is going on -- much of it the fruit of inaction or denial.

The Latest:

Some in Congress don’t want to extend relief to states, but not doing so may only prolong what promises to be a long and agonizing recovery: https://nyti.ms/2PY4RSR. Consider the case of Florida, now facing a $5.4 billion deficit: https://hrld.us/2DYRwr1.

And remember those executive orders? As the Southeast girds for hurricane season, the president proposes taking billions of dollars from FEMA to fund his version of enhanced unemployment benefits: https://hrld.us/2CtFWD.

A Fox News poll indicates that a majority of Americans want more government relief, including enhanced unemployment benefits https://fxn.ws/3h1hfgO.

For live music venues, Congress adjourning with a deal is “a kick in the gut:” https://bit.ly/2Ea2M3m.

The new doctor on the White House task force totally agrees with the president’s policies. Of course, he’s a specialist in neuroradiology, with no expertise in public health or infectious diseases, but whatever: https://bit.ly/3133fxf.

The president's latest unproven coronavirus cure is oleander plant extract; it is embraced by Ben Carson and the CEO of

A “twindemic”? Doctor want everyone to get their flu shots: https://nyti.ms/31UgNKU.

The evidence points to a lasting COVID-19 immunity in survivors, even those with mild symptoms: https://nyti.ms/3aus3BF.

Meanwhile:

The CDC asks four states and one city to draft plans for distribution of the vaccine when limited doses become available: https://bit.ly/2DWRQX5.

The CDC also reports that infections among children are rising steadily: https://bit.ly/31nCv1.

Clinical trials of some COVID-19 drugs are taking longer than expected: https://nyti.ms/3kY1866.


A surge of new infections disrupts Europe’s summer vacation season: https://bit.ly/3kY51rI.


The NCAA calls off its fall championships, with the fate of football TBD: https://bit.ly/2Y1Svh2.

Cinema box offices are slowly coming back to life: https://bit.ly/34bKxWj.

Colleges are asking students to sign COVID-19 liability waivers before arriving on campus: https://bit.ly/34bMjqr.

Food for Thought:


Masks weren’t popular during the 1918 pandemic; then authorities took strong action: https://bit.ly/3iKL8IR.


Around the Country:

In Arizona:

A public school district is forced to cancel in-person classes with 100 teachers and staff members call in sick: https://bit.ly/3kRpq1y.

The number of new infections appears to be on the downward slope: https://bit.ly/2DOpHBN.

In California:

The state logs 11,000 deaths, although hospitalizations are declining: https://bayareane.ws/30ZAwtt.

Many workers are worried about workplace safety and many of them are afraid to speak out: https://bit.ly/33Zeg4N.

More than 11,000 sign a petition against changes in the SAG/AFRTA healthcare plan: https://bit.ly/3h2iuvX.


In Florida:
On Sunday, the state reports the lowest infection numbers since June: [https://hrld.us/3kVej7y](https://hrld.us/3kVej7y).

What is slowing the rate of infection in Miami-Dade county? [https://hrld.us/3iGGIMQ](https://hrld.us/3iGGIMQ). Then again, overwhelmed medical examiners are facing an enormous backlog of suspected COVID-19 deaths: [https://hrld.us/33ZdnJv](https://hrld.us/33ZdnJv).

Despite what certain politicians insist, COVID-19 is killing more young adults in the state, and race is a factor: [https://nyti.ms/2FvXmAJ](https://nyti.ms/2FvXmAJ).


IAAPA is the only industry trade show not to cancel this year but, as several major exhibitors pull out, a major decision looms: [https://bit.ly/3iK0ii8](https://bit.ly/3iK0ii8).

**In Georgia:**

The White House Task Force warns that the coronavirus is spreading throughout the state: [https://yhoo.it/2Y7aVga](https://yhoo.it/2Y7aVga).

**In Illinois:**


**In Nevada:**


**In New Jersey:**


**In New York:**

Police bust raves in a section of Brooklyn where new cases are spiking: [https://7ny.tv/2Q0RIs4](https://7ny.tv/2Q0RIs4).


**In Texas:**


**Around the World:**

**In Brazil:**


Yet nearly half of Brazilians says the president is not to blame: [https://reut.rs/3g3JPwL](https://reut.rs/3g3JPwL).

Ironically, the country’s widespread contagion makes is an ideal laboratory for testing vaccines: [https://nyti.ms/2E0aY6K](https://nyti.ms/2E0aY6K).

**In Canada:**
As many as 550 people were exposed to the coronavirus at a Toronto strip club: https://bit.ly/2DQ25wF.


In France:

The country reports more than 3,000 new infections for the second day in a row: https://bit.ly/3g08uSF.


In Japan:

The country shrinks at the fastest rate on record: https://bbc.in/3h4sDIT.

In New Zealand:

Lockdown in Auckland is extended as seven new COVID-19 cases are diagnosed: https://bit.ly/3kJG6rP.

The country postpones its election by a month: https://bit.ly/2E3DBzZ.

In South Korea:

A new COVID-19 outbreak is linked to a church: https://nyti.ms/34dU9A5.

In the UK:

As cases rise in France, British vacationers are told to return home immediately or face a 14-day quarantine: https://wapo.st/31XGGcz.

The country’s staycation nightmare is marked by overcrowding, piles of trash, and more: https://cnn.it/3g1zjpw.


Education:

Shocks + Stressors: A conversation about COVID, social justice, and climate, will be hosted by Arup on August 20, at 2:00pm ET: COVID-19 has shocked our systems, revealing deep underlying stressors related to racism and inequality. This facilitated discussion explores what experts in the built environment are learning about our systems and what we can do to better prepare for future shocks and stressors. Moderated by Arup’s Los Angeles resilience leader Heather Rosenberg, panelists include Danielle Antonellis, of Kindling; Melissa Burton, of Arup; Richard France, of Estolano Advisors; Laurie Schoeman, of Enterprise Community; and Kate White, of Arup. Register at https://bit.ly/3kHBK4p.

Opportunities:

La MaMa DesignFest is a juried competition to celebrate and support emerging theatre designers in this time of pandemic. The goal of the festival is to encourage emerging designers from around the world to create no matter where, when, or how, and to provide a platform to showcase designers’ work. This festival will cover the following categories: lighting, scenic, sound, projection, costume, and multidisciplinary design. The winning participants from each design category will receive award recognition for their work, which will be presented in La MaMa’s virtual gallery. They will also be invited to present their work in a livestreamed celebration on September 29 at 7:00pm ET. The event will be followed by a livestreamed discussion with the judges and the winning designers. One outstanding designer will be chosen from the winning participants to receive the opportunity to design a show in La MaMa’s 60th season. The judging committee is comprised of Mimi Lien (scenic), Jiyoun Chang (lighting), Justin Hicks (sound), Gabriel Berry (costumes), and Hao Bai (projection). Applicants should visit http://lamama.org/designfest/ for more information, rules, guidelines, and to fill out the submission form. The deadline for submissions is September 9, at 11:59pm ET.
For Your Pleasure:

Capathia Jenkins, aided by Martin Short and other members of the company, in “A Big Black Lady Stops the Show,” from the musical Fame Becomes Me: https://bit.ly/322zBrd.

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**COVID-19 Update: August 14, 2020:**

**Playing Post Office**

Congress adjourns without passing a stimulus bill, leaving millions of Americans dangling -- by which we mean subject to food and medicine shortages and the possibility of eviction, among other things. Meanwhile, the issue of stimulus relief is partly blocked because the GOP doesn’t want extra funding for the Postal Service -- a vital service already under stress. Indeed, the president has made clear he doesn’t want the Postal Service to get one additional dollar, for fear it will hurt his re-election chances. Some might think this a calamity. Others are proud: As The Los Angeles Times reports, “For instance, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) said his hope is that the talks remain at a stalemate, citing concern about adding to the deficit. ‘From my standpoint, the breakdown in the talks is very good news,’ he told Breitbart News. ‘It’s very good news for future generations.’” As for those alive right now? We suppose you know what they can do.

**The Latest:**


The airlines are threatening to lay off thousands of employees if additional government relief isn’t provided: https://bit.ly/2CxbSXK.

Jobless claims fall below one million for the first time since March, but the figure still isn’t great: https://cnb.cx/3kLa8va.

**Meanwhile:**

Dr. Anthony Fauci isn’t happy with the state of the pandemic: https://cnb.cx/3fFluxH. He adds that attempting herd immunity would lead to an epidemic of needless deaths: https://bit.ly/3ar8l9R.

In an example of good reality testing, a majority of Americans say the national response to the pandemic has been worse than other countries: https://bit.ly/3fVhfNV.

Joe Biden calls for a nationwide mask mandate: https://bit.ly/3fUNcWM.


The cruise ship business starts up again in Europe: https://wapo.st/3kJEca.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The state passes the 600,000 mark in new infections: https://bit.ly/3fTJWuN.

The resignations of high-level health officials is hampering the state’s response to the coronavirus: https://lat.ms/3apzl9x.

The Sacramento County sheriff is refusing to share information regarding the spread of the coronavirus in jails under his jurisdiction: https://bit.ly/2XXijFZ.

The pandemic is forcing SAG/AFTRA to raise insurance premiums and tighten eligibility: https://bit.ly/3gXmZrD.
In Florida:

New infections are down but deaths remain up: https://bit.ly/2Fmin0p.

The governor defends the slowdown in coronavirus testing: https://bit.ly/30TTMlO.

Miami becomes a proving ground for rapid COVID-19 tests: https://hrld.us/3gWWDGz.

In Georgia:


In Illinois:

The state passes 200,000 total COVID-19 infections: https://bit.ly/2Y0j8mm.

In Massachusetts:


In New York:

The death tolls in the early days of the pandemic rivaled that of the 1918 influenza outbreak: https://wapo.st/2DJqKD2.

The Tribute in Light, an annual commemoration of the events of 9/11, is off this year: https://bit.ly/3kJvVEE.

A cleaning company that serves the Broadway community hangs on to survival: https://tinyurl.com/y3u7ahjq.

Seventy theatre professionals gather in Times Square to pay tribute to their community: https://bit.ly/3iH26Sd.

In Nevada:

Twelve major hotel/casinos remain closed, indefinitely: https://bit.ly/2Fh3ziA.

As the state passes 1,000 deaths, the governor issues a statement: https://bit.ly/2DIUCPT.

Around the World:

In France:

The new wave of cases is rising the fastest among the young: https://bit.ly/3iyNzIe.

In the Philippines:

The Russian vaccine is going to get an extensive clinical trial in here, but the president will skip it for now: https://bit.ly/3i-GY4Jz.

In Spain:


In the UK:
Socially distanced performances will be allowed beginning tomorrow: https://tinyurl.com/y2y7auhd.

The National Theatre will reopen in October with a socially distanced performance of a solo show: https://bit.ly/3iHcJ7o.

Another opening: Southwark Playhouse will return with The Last Five Years in the fall: https://bit.ly/2CsE3qL.

Company News:

Prolyte on its role in the August 11 UK day of action: https://bit.ly/3gWWcvD.

SLLFX reports on the day of action in the town of Lichfield: https://bit.ly/33VVISZ.

For Your Entertainment:

Friday, August 21 at 4:00pm ET: Davóne Tines is featured in excerpts from The Black Clown as part of Harlem Week. The work is a musico-dramatic adaptation of the eponymous poem by Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes, and the audio to be aired is taken from the work’s acclaimed New York premiere at last year’s Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center. Go to https://bit.ly/3kGm0Pb.

Friday, August 21 at 2:00pm, ET: Michael Tilson Thomas conducts New World Symphony in Steven Mackey’s reimagining of Berlioz’s Harold in Italy, featuring violist Tabea Zimmermann. Purchase tickets at https://bit.ly/3kMeyBN.

The Sun Valley Music Festival concludes its virtual summer season on August 29 at 6:30pm MT with a selection of encores performed by Festival Orchestra musicians, guest artists, and the entire orchestra conducted by music director Alasdair Neale. More than 100 musicians in 43 cities across North America perform in this concert. Program details will be announced during the webcast. Go to https://bit.ly/2E4GHTM or https://bit.ly/3fTGdNP.

For Your Pleasure:

Liz Callaway offers a thought-provoking response to our tumultuous times: https://bit.ly/2PV4UyN.

###

**COVID-19 Update: August 13, 2020:**

**Curtains?**

There’s no word from either side in the Congressional stimulus bill negotiations, but the president is pronouncing it dead, for reasons that are, shall we say, highly personal. Meanwhile, the number of US deaths is probably higher by 25% than reported, the Federal Reserve says that reopening businesses have damaged the economy, and the head of the CDC has grave fears for the fall months.

**The Latest:**

Truth or posturing? The president says the new stimulus bill is dead: https://bit.ly/2DUDyWJ. One reason is his refusal to allocate money for the post office. https://bit.ly/3fY51UG.

The head of the CDC warns that unless COVID-19 restrictions are adhered to, we are looking at the worst autumn ever for public health in this country: https://cnn.it/2DVUgoG.

A Federal Reserve official says the decision to reopen businesses before the coronavirus was under control has damaged the economy: https://bit.ly/30TpRjZ.

The official number of COVID-19 deaths in the US is 166,000, but it is really 200,00 or more: https://tinyurl.com/yxmkccqk.

**Meanwhile:**
The number of COVID-19 cases among children doubles in four weeks: https://bit.ly/3ampqBB.

Chloroquine, part of the president’s favorite miracle cure, is linked to serious psychiatric side effects: https://bit.ly/33XsDGz.

As if they don’t have enough problems, millions of healthcare workers can be denied paid sick leave, thanks to a Labor Department ruling: https://wapo.st/2XT0mY.

Is an apparent drop in new infections related to a concurrent drop in testing? https://cnb.cx/30QD6Su.

In addition to vaccines, there’s also a race to develop a drug that delivers antibodies without having to train the body to make them: https://bit.ly/33SD52h.

Zoos across the country, their income dried up by the pandemic, are facing the possibility of closing: https://bit.ly/3fVEjw7.

For reasons of safety, theatre companies experiment with promenade presentations: https://tinyurl.com/y5kn6zy7.

Following the lead of the Big Ten and Pac-12, the Big East conference is canceling its fall season: https://tinyurl.com/y2qeqxy7.

“We are the guinea pigs;” film production restarts with many restrictions in place: https://nyti.ms/3fONhes3fONhes. How the pandemic will transform the look and feel of film and television: https://wapo.st/3iISSFb.

Food for Thought:

How many community outbreaks of COVID-19 have been tied to bar and restaurant openings: https://nyti.ms/2DOLj0K.

How contact tracing is keeping the death rate low in Native American land: https://nyti.ms/3iHlyNl.

Beware of masks with vents or one-way valves: https://wapo.st/3gSNWgc.

Around the Country:

In California:

The state’s second wave of infections leads to a near-doubling of weekly deaths: https://bit.ly/2XZwXBt.

Metallica to film a concert for showing at drive-in theatres: https://fxn.ws/2E24HHa.

Facebook says the pandemic has compromised its ability to remove harmful material: https://bit.ly/33TTuDC.


In Florida:

The sheriff of Marion County forbids his deputies to wear protective masks: https://bit.ly/33SwswV.

In Miami, the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, battered by the pandemic, turns to the public for help: https://hrld.us/3akR8Pn.

On-site testing clears the way for the return of Actors’ Equity performers to Disney World: https://tinyurl.com/y4rme84y.

In Illinois:

In Kansas:
The AMC cinema chain, fighting back from a near-death experience, will charge 15 cents a ticket on its reopening day: https://bit.ly/2PQdkYk.

In New York:
Actors Equity signs off on a plan to film the forthcoming Broadway musical Diana for Netflix: https://tinyurl.com/y4rwjq7t.

Around the World:

In Bolivia:
The country keeps up with its surging death rate via a mobile crematorium: https://bit.ly/2DVYnkC.

In France:
The prime minister warns that the COVID-19 infection rate is headed in the wrong direction: https://bit.ly/31SHaRg.

In India:
More than half of Mumbai's slums may have had COVID-19: https://cnn.it/2XZzjL.

In the UK:
That outdoor production of Jesus Christ Superstar expands its audiences via the use of video screens: https://bit.ly/2PR1soE.


Mobilization:
The #ArtsHero campaign urges Congress to release $43.85 in relief for the country's arts sector: https://tinyurl.com/y2w9we8f.

Company News:

Martin Audio on its involvement in the #WeMakeEvents campaign: https://bit.ly/3atSnvK.

Entertainment:
Patti LuPone, Jason Alexander, Santino Fontana, and Michael McKean star in a reading of a new play, Judgment Day. The reading will premiere August 22 at 7:30pm and be available (with a donation of $35 or more) through August 25. Proceeds will go to the regional theatre and The Actors Fund: https://bit.ly/2CtYweQ.

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: August 12, 2020:**

Crickets on Capital Hill

As the excitement over the choice Kamala Harris as the Democratic vice-presidential pick highjacks the news cycle,
millions of Americans have run out of government relief and negotiations on a new bill remain stalled. And, at the moment, there’s no sign of a breakthrough. The president, feeling that he has done his bit, has moved on. If something doesn’t happen by Friday, it will be likely be postponed until September. Meanwhile, there’s plenty happening elsewhere in the world, some of it good.

The Latest:

A report from the quieted halls of Congress: https://nyti.ms/3gXkuG8.

Here’s a list of the issues holding up a bill: https://bit.ly/3fQOT7x.

Here are two quick actions to take now: https://bit.ly/2DWPgQN.

Even the governor of Florida supports the stimulus bill; in fact, he says the state needs it: https://politi.co/3kAbCZ4. And in a rare display of discord, he dismisses the president’s executive order on enhanced unemployment as “not an option” for the state: https://hrld.us/33SOzCY.

Let this sink in: The number of COVID-19 cases worldwide went from 10 million to 20 million in six weeks: https://bit.ly/3kEiKA4.

The pandemic, and the government’s response to it, have made the US the weak link in the global economy: https://bit.ly/2XUukRE.

Meanwhile:

The fate of any vaccine may rest in the hands of the FDA commissioner: https://wapo.st/30Pxqbn.

A coalition of labor unions and climate activists call on the government to use the Defense Production Act to manufacture much-needed PPE gear; they’re prepared to sue for it: https://bit.ly/2Cp6dD0.

Research shows that not all masks are created equal: https://wapo.st/30NANPW.

A new database, by The Guardian and Kaiser Health News, tracks the 922 frontline healthcare workers who have died from COVID-19. By the time you click on, the number may by higher: https://bit.ly/30OTJxD.

A study shows that young people who vape are more than five times likely to contract COVID-19: https://bit.ly/2XTNJIn.

A growing number of voters oppose reopening schools this fall: https://politi.co/2XTuytE.

The Big Ten and Pac 12 are the first major sports conferences to postpone the fall season: https://nyti.ms/3gRRVd2.

Confirmed: The coronavirus does indeed transmit through aerosols in the air: https://nyti.ms/2FbVHqo.

Fears rise of a “vaccine manhood contest” between Trump and Putin, leading to the release of unproven vaccines: https://nyti.ms/31M6acR.

Around the Country:

In Florida:

The daily case rate is trending up again, with 8,109 new infections and 212 deaths: https://bit.ly/3gLDN4Z.

Proof that the notion of COVID-19 is only a disease of the elderly is a lie: https://nyti.ms/2DciVPu.

In Georgia:

Cherokee County schools opened for the year. A week later, 1,100 students are in quarantine: https://nbcnews.to/3gRi9fL.
The state sets a record for daily number of deaths: https://bit.ly/2FIJVmR.

**In Illinois:**
A GOP effort to block penalties for ignoring the state’s mask mandate fails: https://bit.ly/3ah9PTU.

**In Kentucky:**
Fury over Congressional inaction is fueling protests against Senator Mitch McConnell: https://wapo.st/3izO7O6.

**In Massachusetts:**
A backstage look at the Actors’ Equity-approved, socially distanced production of Godspell in the Berkshires: https://tinyurl.com/y4wh3wuq.

**In Nevada:**
The state health department is reporting an increasing number of visitors who test positive for the coronavirus, while still in the state or after returning home: https://bit.ly/2XRJI0M.

The governor signs a bill providing worker protections from and offering limited liability against lawsuits related to the coronavirus: https://bit.ly/33UsJ22.

**In New York:**
Retail and restaurant chains start to abandon Manhattan: https://nyti.ms/31NKZXR.

**In Texas:**
The state passes the 500,000 case mark, as new infections continue to rise: https://bit.ly/3iDkXh5.

The number of tests plummets as experts worry about kids going back to school: https://bit.ly/3ahw0t6.

**Around the World:**

**In the UK:**
The country’s GDP contracted by a jaw-dropping 20.4% in the second quarter: https://cnb.cx/30QKeOC.

The #WeMakeEvents day of action includes this roadie parade in Manchester: https://bit.ly/3ag9VeG.

Red Alert: The BBC covers the day of action, with plenty of striking photos: https://bbc.in/3gS9Sbg.

Part I of Light & Sound International’s coverage of the day of action, written before the main events: https://bit.ly/2FlFJ6B.

And here’s the LSi recap: https://bit.ly/3gSy2lV.


The dean of British theatre critics pens a letter to the minister for digital, culture, media, and sport, blasting the government’s handling of the culture sector as clueless and ineffective: https://bit.ly/2XTZMzr.

The country’s theatre festivals adapt for the summer of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y2urel2g.

**Losses:**

Singer Trini Lopez, 83: https://nbcnews.to/3kGjTuo.
**For Your Entertainment:**


**For Your Pleasure:**


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**COVID-19 Update: August 7, 2020:**

**On Deadline**

The self-imposed deadline for an agreement on the pandemic stimulus bill arrives, and it looks like Congress will have to cool its heels in DC, because the parties remain far apart. The economy shows more troubling signs. And the coronavirus continues to spread into the rural US. A breakthrough is needed.

**The Latest:**

Mitch McConnel and Nancy Pelosi are gritting their teeth in determination to accomplish something, but a Congressional stimulus bill agreement remains elusive: [https://bit.ly/33DrV1m](https://bit.ly/33DrV1m).

The US adds 1.8 million jobs in July, in a sign that hiring is slowing down: [https://tinyurl.com/y43gb347](https://tinyurl.com/y43gb347).

**Meanwhile:**

The coronavirus spreads into non-urban areas: [https://wapo.st/2PvOQTJ](https://wapo.st/2PvOQTJ). For example, consider the case of rural California: [https://yhoo.it/2PAi304](https://yhoo.it/2PAi304).

Dr. Anthony Fauci cautiously supports reopening schools -- with the emphasis on “cautiously”: [https://wapo.st/2XEzbpN](https://wapo.st/2XEzbpN).

Two-thirds of Americans say they will accept a coronavirus vaccine; is that enough to stop the spread? [https://bit.ly/3a5AgvK](https://bit.ly/3a5AgvK).

Fifty-six NFL players test positive for the coronavirus: [https://wapo.st/3a53AIY](https://wapo.st/3a53AIY).

Africa surges past one million cases, and that’s probably a low-ball figure: [https://bit.ly/3gQ0q8B](https://bit.ly/3gQ0q8B).

Actors’ Equity joins other unions in demanding pandemic relief: [https://tinyurl.com/y3apzsq2](https://tinyurl.com/y3apzsq2).

**Food for Thought:**


**Around the Country:**

**In California:**


In Florida:
The state reports 7,686 new cases (down) and 180 deaths (up): [https://bit.ly/31y6kVr](https://bit.ly/31y6kVr).
The governor cites sports as a reason to reopen schools: [https://hrld.us/3knDGig](https://hrld.us/3knDGig).
An expert says if the US economy is in a recession, the travel industry is in a depression: [https://bit.ly/3a3opOZ](https://bit.ly/3a3opOZ).

In Illinois:

In New Jersey:

In New York:
The governor says all of the state’s school districts meet the health criteria for reopening, but adds that schools must get final approval from state health and education departments: [https://bit.ly/3ijHsqY](https://bit.ly/3ijHsqY).

In Kansas:
The Kansas House Speaker discloses he was hospitalized for COVID-19 -- but he attended a meeting with other officials without revealing his diagnosis: [https://b.ly/3ibdRjA](https://b.ly/3ibdRjA).

In Minnesota:
A funeral becomes a super-spreader event: [http://strib.mn/3a3Ai7i](http://strib.mn/3a3Ai7i).

In Utah:
The state reports 587 new cases; the governor sets a goal of 400 a day: [https://bit.ly/2DDi2pj](https://bit.ly/2DDi2pj).

Around the World:

In China:

In the Dominican Republic:
The country leads the Caribbean in new infections, with hospitals hitting overflow: [https://hrld.us/3kozcrK](https://hrld.us/3kozcrK).

Company News:

For Your Pleasure:
In memory of the great Brent Carver, who died this week, "This Is Not Over Yet," from Parade, with Carolee Carmello: https://bit.ly/3fDwLO8.

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**COVID-19 Update: August 6, 2020:**

**Behind Closed Doors**

Congressional negotiations over the stimulus bill continue, but progress is elusive, and nobody seems to know what is happening in the room with Mark Meadows, Steven Mnuchin, Nancy Pelosi, and Chuck Schumer. A Friday deadline looms, and the Senate’s vacation recedes. Meanwhile, the world keeps spinning and the war on science continues, with insults, flights of fancy, and death threats.

**The Latest:**

As both sides trade insults, it looks as if negotiations will drag on past the self-imposed Friday deadline: https://wapo.st/2DqZRDx.

Strangely enough, Mitch McConnell is a witness, not a participant, in the stimulus talks: https://nyti.ms/30w6uxc.

Enhanced unemployment has expired but, for the 20th straight week, more than a million Americans have filed new job-less claims: https://wapo.st/2XyY7It.

**Meanwhile:**

Dr. Deborah Birx warns nine cities and California’s Central Valley about their increasing COVID-19 caseloads: https://cnn.it/31tewG7.

Dr. Anthony Fauci’s family is bombarded with death threats: https://bit.ly/2PwDNcY.

Yet even as the president abandons science, scientists fight back: https://bit.ly/2PrlDs4.

As the number of deaths rises, the rate of COVID-19 testing drops: https://bit.ly/2PwelPy.

Facebook, Twitter remove posts by the president that falsely claim children are “almost immune” to COVID-19: https://npr/33CrLXR.

You need to double-check your brand of hand-sanitizer, because some of them are toxic: https://bit.ly/3gCUCiC. And in another story we never though we’d see, the CDC issues a warning against drinking hand sanitizer: https://bit.ly/2C9x1qM.

Faced with multiple outbreaks among the Marlins and Cardinals, Major League Baseball revises its coronavirus protocols: https://bit.ly/3gB7x4m.

In another likely blow to the economy, Halloween probably won’t happen this year: https://bit.ly/2XDhffk.

Rodney Davis becomes the third Congressman to test positive for the coronavirus this week: https://bit.ly/3fzo6MT.

Nearly half of the world’s cinemas have reopened: https://bit.ly/3gzE5vy.

And LDI 2020 has been canceled: https://bit.ly/3fB5Um7.

**Food for Thought:**

Why the US is the only affluent nation not to control its pandemic outbreak: https://tinyurl.com/y2jfwd2t.

Around the Country:

In California:

A breakdown in electronic collection of coronavirus test data is leading some public health experts to count the results by hand:  https://lat.ms/3a5REAv.

The mayor of Los Angeles authorizes shutdowns of power and water to homes and other venues hosting large gatherings during the pandemic:  https://bit.ly/3kivNu7.


La Jolla Music Society’s Summerfest will be held online this year:  https://bit.ly/3gzByBJ.

The first live, in-person professional theatre production on the West Coast will be a drive-in adaptation of TS Eliot’s The Waste Land:  https://tinyurl.com/yxgew9mj.

In Connecticut:

University of Connecticut cancels its football season:  https://es.pn/3fxAhK3.

In Florida:

The state stays below 8,000 in new infections and the positivity rate drops to 8.3%:  https://bit.ly/2DsuCYD.

In Georgia:

The state passes 200,000 infections and nears 4,000 deaths:  https://bit.ly/33BlnjA.

In Massachusetts:

The latest on the state’s two Equity-approved summer theatre productions; check out the photos of performers onstage, standing behind shields:  https://tinyurl.com/yxukcjvw.

In Mississippi:

More than 100 students in the Corinth School District test are infected with COVID-19:  https://cnn.it/3a3JXe1.

In New Jersey:


Around the World:

In Brazil:

A prominent indigenous leader dies of COVID-19:  https://reut.rs/31ux4WA.

In New Zealand:

The country launches an offensive against “COVID fatigue:”  https://bit.ly/3ifSAVO.

In the UK:
How the cancelation of the Christmas panto season could deal a devastating blow to the theatre industry: https://tinyurl.com/y3ctthly.


Training:

Check out HOLD: Design for Empty Rooms, described by American Theatre as “a website that showcases halted productions with a soup-to-nuts peek at the design process. From audio files to costume renderings, from color palettes to pre-production photos, the website offers a glimpse at the directions some of the 2020 spring productions were headed.” https://www.holdfordesign.com/.


For Your Entertainment:

On August 25 at 8pm Bay Street Theatre in Long Island will stream The Letters of Noël Coward, starring Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason: https://bit.ly/3fx5Q6D.

Starting tonight at 7pm, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre will stream Love Stories, Judith Jamison’s collaboration with Rennie Harris and Robert Battle. On August 13, the company will stream a double feature of ballets by Battle: In/Side, set to Nina Simone’s “Wild is the Wind,” and Ella, set to the scatting of Ella Fitzgerald: https://bit.ly/2DCRwfK.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra presents World on a String, with some of the most swinging songs ever produced by Broadway. Joined by vocalist Kate Davis, the JLCO re-invents classics from the likes of Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, and more: https://bit.ly/39YQCq4.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: August 5, 2020:
Waiting for Stimulus

Negotiations continue for a stimulus bill; we hear that progress if being made, if slowly, with enhanced unemployment as the biggest bone of contention. Meanwhile, infections rise up in some places and decline in others, deaths continue to soar, and plenty of people, fed up with the status quo, are taking action. We may hear something definitive about the stimulus bill by Friday. If you haven’t done so, write to Congress.

The Latest:

The United States approaches an appalling 5,000,000 coronavirus infections: https://tinyurl.com/y3p2r5f3.

As Congressional negotiations remain deadlocked, the White House mulls executive orders on unemployment: https://bit.ly/33qvK9X.

That $600 enhanced unemployment benefit is a major sticking point between Democrats and Republicans: https://tinyurl.com/y6fcswd6.

Corporate CEOs push for the RESTART Act: https://tinyurl.com/yww9ofg.

Meanwhile:
At least 33 US states have coronavirus positivity rates of more than 5%: [http://dailym.ai/2EXa5Mx](http://dailym.ai/2EXa5Mx).

The growth of private payrolls continues to lag far behind expectations: [https://cnb.cx/31oUUD0](https://cnb.cx/31oUUD0).

Seven states band together to create a combined coronavirus testing strategy: [https://wapo.st/2PnJSbl](https://wapo.st/2PnJSbl).


**Food for Thought:**

How pandemic aid is held up by indecision on the GOP end: [https://wapo.st/3fCLvgA](https://wapo.st/3fCLvgA).

**Around the Country:**

**In Arizona:**


**In California:**

Some signs suggest that California’s infection rate may be peaking: [https://bit.ly/3gz1e1h](https://bit.ly/3gz1e1h). Then again, the data might be due to a technical glitch: [https://bit.ly/3gwkJMDI](https://bit.ly/3gwkJMDI).

Disney’s theme parks lose $2 billion: [https://tinyurl.com/y35jvve9](https://tinyurl.com/y35jvve9). In a sign of the times, Disney Plus surpasses 60.5 million subscribers: [https://tinyurl.com/y4djpzcl](https://tinyurl.com/y4djpzcl).

**In Connecticut:**

Six top theatres band together to lobby local, state, and federal governments for pandemic aid: [https://tinyurl.com/y569ea4x](https://tinyurl.com/y569ea4x).

**In Florida:**

New cases drop below 8,000 for the third day in a row: [https://hrld.us/33sDgL1](https://hrld.us/33sDgL1). But the number of cases also crosses the 500,000 mark: [rb.gy/oquuzx](https://rb.gy/oquuzx).


The major cruise lines are postponing trips until mid-October: [https://tinyurl.com/yyal3mxn](https://tinyurl.com/yyal3mxn).

**In Georgia:**

A second grader tests positive after one day in the classroom: [https://cnn.it/3guzbQI](https://cnn.it/3guzbQI).

**In Illinois:**

Chicago Public Schools will open the school year with online learning: [https://tinyurl.com/yybkjvs2](https://tinyurl.com/yybkjvs2).

**In Mississippi:**

With the state in line to become number one for new infections per capita, the governor delays some school openings and issues a mask mandate: [https://n.pr/3gvL9JV](https://n.pr/3gvL9JV).

**In New York:**

More than 150 music venues form NIVA to lobby for pandemic relief: https://tinyurl.com/y3yevdl.

Even Fox Corporation has been hit by the pandemic: https://bit.ly/3ieNPMr.

In Virginia:

AVIXA, the association behind InfoComm, eliminations jobs, admits it doesn’t know when trade shows will return: https://bit.ly/3iadPIB

The state rolls out a smartphone app designed warn one of exposure to the coronavirus: https://bit.ly/3icjE8E.

In Washington State:


Around the World:

In Australia:

In Melbourne, lockdown 2.0 is underway: https://nyti.ms/3fsRlkl.

The country suffers its deadliest day yet in the pandemic: https://reut.rs/30zUtXH.

In Brazil:

The president’s chief of staff tests positive for the coronavirus: https://reut.rs/33ynXXB.

In Gambia:

New cases surge 60% in a single week: https://tinyurl.com/yxrybqye.

In Italy:

Amplifier manufacturer Powersoft pledges a portion of its profits to the Crew Nation relief fund: http://rb.gy/bfg64q.

In South Korea:


Despite its stellar pandemic response, the country slips into recession: https://bit.ly/31oFwGS.

In Sweden:

The country’s gross domestic product drops 8.6% in one quarter, confirming that it’s laissez-faire pandemic policies are no panacea; still, the country has done better economically than much of Europe: https://cnb.cx/3fwtdgX.

In the UK:

The grassroots initiative #LightItInRed teams up with PLASA’s #WeMakeEvents Red Alert Day: http://rb.gy/dqwc0a.

Entertainment:

Marsha Mason and Brian Cox will star in a reading of Dear Liar -- based on the correspondence of George Bernard Shaw and Mrs. Patrick Campbell -- to benefit Bucks County Playhouse, on September 1 at 7:00pm ET: https://tinyurl.com/y6d-pehbq.

Lyric Opera of Chicago will open the company’s reimagined fall season with For the Love of Lyric, a virtual concert from
the stage of the Lyric Opera House, on Sunday, September 13, available for free streaming starting at 6:00pm CDT: https://bit.ly/31I82Jv.

For your Pleasure:

"It Never Entered My Mind," by Rodgers and Hart, performed by Jeff Goldblum and the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra: https://tinyurl.com/y5c4k99l.

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**COVID-19 Update: August 4, 2020:**

**Holding Patterns**

There’s no agreement on a stimulus bill. Schools are reopening -- bumpily at best -- or they aren't but the president insists they must. And, in a shocking interview, he reveals how little he understands about the pandemic. Today, real progress is in short supply.

**The Latest:**

Negotiators remain far apart on the stimulus bill: https://cnn.it/3i0N5Ky. Rather than get involved, the president chooses to sit this one out: https://nyti.ms/3keruAb.

An unsettling interview on HBO leaves the impression that the president has no grasp of the pandemic's scope: https://tinyurl.com/y5m56nyz.

Inside the unresolved national controversy about reopening schools: https://wapo.st/2XtZajD.

**Meanwhile:**


When the vaccine becomes available, who will be first in line? https://bit.ly/3go53Gu.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

Hospitalizations are dropping in Los Angeles and Orange Counties: https://bit.ly/2Dt9pgZ.

The state’s unemployment system is stressed to the breaking point by the pandemic: https://bit.ly/3fzjFLQ.

**In Florida:**

It may be because of reduced testing thanks to Tropical Storm Isaias, but new cases drop below 8,000 for the third straight day: https://hrld.us/2BXAU1T.

Opera Orlando delays its fall productions: https://bit.ly/3ijjT1N.

**In Missouri:**

The outbreak affecting the St. Louis Cardinals apparently began with two team members visiting a casino: https://bit.ly/3kICGv8.

**In New York:**
The Radio City Christmas Spectacular is off this year: [https://tinyurl.com/y65olzy5](https://tinyurl.com/y65olzy5).

A news story from WPIX highlights the stress on the city’s events industry: [https://bit.ly/2C2C1gQ](https://bit.ly/2C2C1gQ).

The Broadway musical Sing Street, which had yet to open when lockdown began, has officially postponed until some unspecified time next season: [https://tinyurl.com/y5wpfqsd](https://tinyurl.com/y5wpfqsd).

**In Texas:**


**Around the World:**

**In Israel:**

The country’s schools reopen, unleashing a super-spreader event: [https://tinyurl.com/y5ohjhbj](https://tinyurl.com/y5ohjhbj).

**In the Philippines:**

Manila goes back under lockdown: [https://bloom.bg/3gz3lgk](https://bloom.bg/3gz3lgk).

**In the UK:**

Job losses in the theatre industry have jumped from 3,000 to 5,000 in a month: [https://tinyurl.com/y2cbswo3](https://tinyurl.com/y2cbswo3).

The #WeMakeEvents movement enters its red alert stage: [https://bit.ly/3k9MEzB](https://bit.ly/3k9MEzB).

**Mobilization:**


On August 6 at noon, live events industry professionals will join IATSE Local 8 and the Philadelphia chapter of Live Events Coalition to educate the federal government about the industry’s specific plight during the pandemic. This is a strictly masked and physically distancing event: [https://bit.ly/30sjpQM](https://bit.ly/30sjpQM).

**Training:**


**Entertainment:**


Classical Theatre of Harlem reprises its performance of Cuttin’ Up, by Charles Randolph Wright, starring Joe Morton, Blair

Here’s the latest lineup of streams from Metropolitan Opera: [https://bit.ly/3fuPnQx](https://bit.ly/3fuPnQx).

Next from Tanglewood Online: August 5 at 8:00pm: Recitals from the World Stage featuring the Danish String Quartet from Copenhagen performing Shostakovich’s Quartet No. 10 in A-flat, Op. 118, and a folk song arrangement to be announced from the stage, hosted by Karen Allen. August 7 at 8:00pm: BSO Musicians in Recital, featuring Bonnie Bewick, Mickey Katz, and Lawrence Wolfe performing traditional, folk, and contemporary selections arranged and composed by Bewick and Wolfe, as well as a performance of #cellominute -- a world-premiere compilation of small works for solo cello featuring works by Nico Muhly and Marti Epstein, among others. Cynthia Meyers, Robert Sheena, Michael Wayne, Richard Ranti, and Jason Snider round out the program with a performance of Umoja by celebrated composer Valerie Coleman and works by Paquito D’Rivera, hosted by Lauren Ambrose. August 8 at 8:00pm: Great Performers in Recital from Tanglewood featuring pianist Daniil Trifonov performing Bach’s The Art of Fugue, hosted by Nicole Cabel [www.tanglewood.org](http://www.tanglewood.org).

For Your Pleasure:

West End star Hadley Fraser presents the touching “Looking at the Moon,” winner of the Song for Our Time contest: [https://bit.ly/30oMFb0](https://bit.ly/30oMFb0).

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**COVID-19 Update: August 3, 2020:**

The Comeback

Despite faint rays of hope, the pandemic rages through the US and elsewhere. Here, the government seems paralyzed as hopes are pinned on the development of the vaccine in the foreseeable future. Congressional negotiations for new stimulus bill remain in deadlock. This is not a happy Monday.

The Latest:

As the coronavirus spreads unabated through the country, health experts call for a reset in national policy: [https://wapo.st/2DqBxkP](https://wapo.st/2DqBxkP).

Dr. Deborah Birx warns that the pandemic has entered a new phase, saying, “It is extraordinarily widespread;” [https://wapo.st/2BSeEGx](https://wapo.st/2BSeEGx).


Enforcing mask mandates is harder than it looks: [https://nyti.ms/2EHhrDF](https://nyti.ms/2EHhrDF).

Forget the second wave; the world can’t get past the first one: [https://wapo.st/33ff5Gc](https://wapo.st/33ff5Gc).

For some reason, the Trump Administration is turning over the distribution of the vaccine -- when it happens -- to the Pentagon: [https://bit.ly/3gktAfv](https://bit.ly/3gktAfv).


New research indicates that COVID-19 can result in sustained damage to the heart: [https://bit.ly/33u5dZx](https://bit.ly/33u5dZx).


The pandemic has crushed the global tourist trade: [https://bit.ly/3jY1j0y](https://bit.ly/3jY1j0y).

As the pandemic cuts demand, the oil industry experiences one of its worst quarters ever: [https://bit.ly/2XjZ51X](https://bit.ly/2XjZ51X).
Food for Thought:

Why is the president not taking action to save the economy? Even his supporters are baffled: https://nyti.ms/39MKJMt. Is he cutting corners to produce a vaccine in time for the election? https://nyti.ms/3kem3BB. Paralyzed by limited communications and misinformation from the federal government, states wonder how they will implement a vaccine: https://wapo.st/31sOzH5.

How the president constantly promises a health-care system overhaul that never arrives: https://wapo.st/30pliP. Two weeks ago, he promised a new health care plan -- in two weeks. Where is it? https://wapo.st/3i3QY1g.

Around the Country:

In Arkansas:

The state's COVID-19 deaths were up 63% in July; hospitalizations rose 84%: https://bit.ly/2EztbYE. The state's schools are already dealing with infected students: https://bit.ly/3hXOpxK.


In California:

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state passes 500,000: https://bit.ly/33hLETQ.

With 214 dead, the state smashes the daily record for the fifth time in a month: https://lat.ms/30ktgrO.

San Francisco was one of the first cities to flatten the curve; now the coronavirus is back: https://wapo.st/3k6xzje.

Librarians use their unique skills to join the contact tracing effort: https://bit.ly/2PiPCmU.

With 12 people living in a three-bedroom Silicon Valley house, the coronavirus is a constant presence: https://nyti.ms/33iGBTq.

In Florida:

On Friday, the state adds 9,642 new cases and 179 deaths: https://hrld.us/3fm90u5. But on Monday, it reports only 4,752 infections -- a significant drop -- 73 deaths: https://bit.ly/3foiy7Y.

The state reports a record number of deaths in the past: https://bit.ly/2Xlc2su.

Hospital stays in the state are starting to decline, a possible sign of progress: https://hrld.us/3glF5Dt.


A couple in the Florida Keys are arrested for breaking quarantine, having testing positive for COVID-19: https://bit.ly/2D-1buKB.

In Georgia:

Hundreds of young people and counselors are infected at a summer camp: https://nyti.ms/2PIdFTi.

In the Gwinnett County School District, 260 employees have been exposed to, or have tested positive for COVID-19: https://cnn.it/30oemkc.

The Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta will open to accept COVID-19 patients: https://bit.ly/2D8n2SQ.

In Illinois:
The state records 1,941 new cases in one day and reports that 11 counties are at the "warning level" for a COVID-19 resurgence: [https://bit.ly/3hYAZ4M](https://bit.ly/3hYAZ4M).

An outbreak of cases is traced to a private prom, attended by 270, in Will County: [https://abc7.ws/2PeGAaL](https://abc7.ws/2PeGAaL).


**In Indiana:**

Schools open in Greenfield and immediately a student tests positive: [https://nyti.ms/3fiiExB](https://nyti.ms/3fiiExB).


**In Michigan:**


**In Missouri:**

More St. Louis Cardinals test positive, imperiling the Major League Baseball season: [https://wapo.st/33whrRp](https://wapo.st/33whrRp).

The state reports the lowest number of cases since a two-week surge began: [https://bit.ly/3gnQlii](https://bit.ly/3gnQlii).

**In New Jersey:**

Airbnb suspends a number of listings, to stop large house parties that spread the coronavirus: [https://bit.ly/3k2fuBT](https://bit.ly/3k2fuBT).


**In New York:**


Broadway community members launch Mask Up Curtain Up social media campaign: [https://tinyurl.com/yy389q5s](https://tinyurl.com/yy389q5s).

**Around the World:**

**In Canada:**

The country’s border patrol battles Americans trying to sneak in via boats: [https://n.pr/2Xn7RMC](https://n.pr/2Xn7RMC).

**In Germany:**


**In Hong Kong:**

The government postpones the upcoming election, citing the pandemic: [https://cnb.cx/2DjF2ZQ](https://cnb.cx/2DjF2ZQ). Despite the fact that the president floated the same idea a day before, the White House condemns the move: [https://wapo.st/2XjPAVI](https://wapo.st/2XjPAVI).

**In India:**
The country now has the fifth-highest number of deaths from COVID-19: https://bit.ly/318cP0H.

In Iran:

The country is drastically underreporting the number of infections and deaths: https://bbc.in/2BUtOLr.

In Israel:

COVID-19 patients recover from respiratory failure thanks to a new treatment, RLF-100: https://reut.rs/2ECm7dN.

In Italy:

The country was one of the worst places to be in the pandemic; now it is one of the best: https://nyti.ms/2ExTr5E.

In New Zealand:

“They didn’t close the deal;” the country looks on in horror as Australia battles a resurgence of COVID-19: https://bit.ly/318zkTm.

Entertainment:

Kristoffer Diaz directs a reading of his play The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, a Pulitzer finalist about a decade ago; the performance is August 15 at 7:00pm and tickets are $5: https://tinyurl.com/y6jcy4lh.


For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: July 31, 2020:**

**Take Action Now, Part II**

It’s time to act again. As you know, negotiations are stalled on the new COVID-19 relief bill and the clock has run out on current unemployment benefits. Congress has adjourned for a long weekend, and there is considerable infighting on the GOP side of the aisle. It is vitally important that you reach out to your senators and congresspersons. As Michael Strickland, of Bandit Lites, has repeatedly noted, numbers count and they lead to real results: The more our legislators hear from us, the more likely they are to craft bills that will meet our specific needs with relief that will last through the end of the year. Go to https://bit.ly/3fi2eFq and find a template, created by the staff of NAMM, for writing Congress. (Note: Contact your elected representatives only.) You can personalize it any way you want. The link also includes information about accessing your legislators. This is a time-sensitive request, so do it ASAP. Again, the link is https://bit.ly/3fi2eFq.

**The Latest:**

Throwing a curveball, the president signals his willingness to cut a stimulus deal that leaves out liability protection for employers. This is something of a slap to the GOP; is it real? https://wapo.st/2DrL4ba.

The US strikes a deal with French pharmaceutical company Sanofi and its British partner GSK on development of a vaccine: https://wapo.st/3flvw65.

New research indicates children may carry the coronavirus at very high levels: https://nyti.ms/3jS1j26.

A study, taken from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, offers new insights into aerosol transmission: https://nyti.
Food for Thought:


Why contact tracing is failing in many states: https://nyti.ms/39IA7hG.

Around the Country:

In California:

As the pandemic waxes, testing efforts wane: https://bit.ly/39IQ27r.

A San Diego gym that stayed open in defiance of public health orders is now the site of a COVID-19 outbreak: https://bit.ly/3184s5c.

Actor Bryan Cranston reveals the details of his recent COVID-19 infection: https://tinyurl.com/yxo3mcq.

In Florida:

The daily toll: 9,007 new infections and 257 deaths; the latter is another record: https://bit.ly/2EwxnZa.

As if the state didn’t have enough problems, there’s hurricane headed its way: https://bit.ly/30dYFvW.


The number of Miami Marlins testing positive is now 19: https://hrld.us/2PeMzw.

Norwegian Cruise Lines cancels all cruises until November: https://hrld.us/2Xei8uu.

In a good sign, hospital stays in Central Florida are declining: https://bit.ly/3ghwa5T.

In Hawaii:


In Maryland:

The state reports 1,000 news cases for the third time this week: https://bit.ly/2Pf7U8R.

In Massachusetts:

The Boston Symphony Orchestra cancels its fall concert season: https://wbur.fm/3jWI8nS.


In Mississippi:

The state posts 1,775 new infections and 28 deaths, a daily record: https://bit.ly/33hxP7Z.

Seventy-one of the states 82 counties are now coronavirus red zones: https://bit.ly/33aWlIQ.

In Missouri:

The state posts 2,000 cases, a new daily record: https://bit.ly/39l1SqC.
Two members of the St. Louis Cardinals test positive for the coronavirus: https://bit.ly/39R1feA.

In New York:

Broadway workers, facing months of unemployment, scramble for jobs and review their options: https://bit.ly/30dEGNV.

The city’s taxi fleet, already hit hard by Uber, Lyft, and predatory lending, is on the ropes, thanks to the pandemic: https://bit.ly/33gd38K.

In Ohio:

The state posts 1,733 new cases, a daily record: https://bit.ly/3jXHZka.

Around the World:

In Brazil: The president says he has “mold” in his lungs as his wife tests positive for the coronavirus: https://cnn.it/30ecF-ppn.

In Greece:

The country’s theatre industry is on the brink of collapse: https://tinyurl.com/y6pyao68.

In Saudi Arabia:

The hajj in the age of the pandemic is quite a different thing: https://bit.ly/3jROR2m.

In the UK:

Professionals from across the global concert touring industry have joined forces to form the PSA Tour Production Group (PSA TPG), in order to provide a unified response to the impact of COVID-19 on live music events: https://bit.ly/339xhRH.

Ambassador Theatre Group lays off 1,200: https://tinyurl.com/y4u43fk4.

Entertainment:

Ed Harris, Jane Krakowski, and Amy Madigan will star in a reading of Beth Henley’s The Jacksonian on August 27; it’s a benefit for the New Group: https://bit.ly/3hUHZ2G.

For your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: July 30, 2020:**

**Songs for the New Depression**

The title of an old Bette Midler album comes to mind. Maybe it’s the catastrophic drop in the country’s GDP. Or maybe it’s Congress’ inability to pass a relief bill. Then again, it might be the president floating the idea of postponing an election that, if current polls are any indication, will hand him a record-breaking wallop. Anyway, you look at it, it’s 1931 all over again.

The Latest:


Weekly job claims rise for the second week in a row, reaching 1.434 million: https://cnb.cx/2CWgrTs.

The failure to contain the pandemic leads to ever-multiplying problems nationwide: https://nyti.ms/3hPIRGM.

The already slow-moving stimulus bill is further undermined by the president’s lack of interest, combined with vague comments about an alternative approach; meanwhile, benefits lapse tomorrow: https://nyti.ms/3fe18e3. Anyway, Republicans remain divided over their own bill: https://nyti.ms/2P8E9GP.

The pandemic gives the president a chance to muse about delaying the November election: https://bit.ly/39NYCKw. By the way, he can’t do that: https://wapo.st/2EAjGJR.


Unsurprisingly, in light of the pandemic, giving to arts organizations is down: https://tinyurl.com/y3b7wqxy.

Senators John Cornyn and Amy Klobuchar introduce the Save Our Stages Act, a relief bill for independent music and entertainment venues: https://tinyurl.com/yxbqupd7.

In a sign of support for the president’s policies, Representative Louis Gohmert, recently diagnosed with COVID-19, opts to take the proven-to-be-useless hydroxychloroquine: https://bit.ly/3jUHrvc. He also tries out the idea that he caught the coronavirus from wearing a mask: https://bit.ly/3ggmAQL.


Food for Thought:

The president and chief executive of the Association of American Medical Colleges offers a practical plan for a COVID-19 reset: https://wapo.st/3121kb5.


Tyler Perry on how he successfully filmed a sitcom during the pandemic: https://bit.ly/30fMnTT.

Around the Country:

In California:

If Congress cuts the enhanced unemployment benefit of $600, the state will move to take up the slack: https://bit.ly/2Paky-tQ.

Roll up the red carpet: Of course, this year’s Emmy Awards will be virtual: https://bit.ly/30dy9Tt.


In Connecticut:

Hartford Stage will not reopen for live performances until the 2021 – 22 season: https://tinyurl.com/yxhdv9wa.

In Florida:

The daily toll: 9,956 new infections and 235 deaths, the latter a new record: https://bit.ly/39FaE8Q.
A petition signed by 32,000 educators asks the governor to nullify his order to reopen the state’s schools: https://bit.ly/311blFJ. Indeed, Miami-Dade schools will open late and online: https://hrld.us/3hJ9EU2.

The state’s hospitals aggressively hire new personnel to deal with its overflow of COVID-19 cases: https://hrld.us/3gf7JWY.


To prove that the insanity cuts two ways, police arrest a man for firing a gun in a Miami hotel lobby. His motive? Two guests weren’t practicing social distancing: https://bit.ly/3hPMIYD.

In Illinois:

The governor warns that the state’s coronavirus numbers are headed in the wrong direction: https://bit.ly/39Saj2V.


In Minnesota:


In New York:

The NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund distributes more than $110 million to struggling arts organizations: https://bit.ly/30eJW3P.

In Texas:


Around the World:

In Hong Kong:

Even as the government cuts back on individual liberties, its indecision in dealing with the pandemic as the locals talking: https://tinyurl.com/y2kusexz.

In the UK:

The editor of the blue-chip medical journal The Lancet publishes a new book in which he accuses President Trump of crimes against humanity and Boris Johnson of causing thousands of needless deaths: https://wapo.st/3jTpFsk.

West End theatres won’t open before November: https://tinyurl.com/y57telfl.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Olivia Colman launch the Theatre Community Fund, to help theatre workers displaced by the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/vyts2th6.

In a sign that Cameron Mackintosh and Andrew Lloyd Webber really should take a meeting, the London Phantom of the Opera may not be closing after all: https://bit.ly/2P7Qef4.

David Hare has written a play about his bout with COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yxqfqhaz.

In Vietnam:

The country, once a haven in the pandemic, faces a mystery surge in cases: https://nyti.ms/311ocYv.
Losses:

Bill Montgomery, co-founded of conservative group Turning Point USA: https://politi.co/311j0nt.

Former presidential candidate Herman Cain: https://cnb.cx/30baAdW.

Entertainment:

Obie Award winner Metropolitan Playhouse continues its run of a free “screened” readings with In the Season, a one-act play by Langdon Mitchell, via livestream video, with talkback to follow, on August 1 at 8:00pm, EST. Running time: 30 minutes. Talkback to follow, including audience questions via Zoom and YouTube chat. Go to https://bit.ly/2P7LQg6.

For your Pleasure:

Jelani Alladin (Frozen) and Christiani Pitts (King Kong) give a super-smooth spin to “The Lady is a Tramp;” bonus tap dancing by Richard Riaz Yoder (Hello, Dolly!): https://bit.ly/2Xd07wG.

COVID-19 Update: July 29, 2020:

It’s the Economy, Stupid

Congress struggles to unite over a relief bill. The president pushes a video that claims masks are useless and hydroxychloroquine cures COVID-19; it stars a doctor notorious for insisting that gynecological problems are caused by sleeping with demons. And the global economy takes it on the chin, felled by pandemic conditions. Isn’t this administration supposed to be pro-business?

The Latest:

Apparently stung by the lack of support for his proposed new FBI building, the president dismisses the proposed GOP relief bill as “semi-irrelevant;” in other news, a possible bridge extension of benefits is possible: https://wapo.st/30cn9FY.


Europe scrambles to avoid a second wave of infections: https://wapo.st/3f8Fec3.

In the US, 21 states are in the red zone of increasing infections: https://tinyurl.com/y5zc3hvg.

A persistent US hot spot problem: Multi-generational families in which the young infect the old: https://tinyurl.com/y46geyhm.

Shots are administered as the next stage of testing of the Moderna vaccine begins: https://bit.ly/2P7eiz2.


IATSE has some sharp words for the GOP relief bill known as the HEALS Act: https://bit.ly/3jYrPHp.

In a shakeup to Major League Baseball, the Phillies and Marlins’ seasons are on hold, now that 17 members of the Marlins have tested positive: https://bit.ly/3gnZfgp.

Puerto Rico and Washington, DC are added to the ever-lengthening list of states whose visitors must quarantine when traveling to the Tri-State Area: http://dailym.ai/2P6meAq.

Across Latin America, the pandemic is eating away at democratic norms: https://nyti.ms/2Xat5xf.
Back to school, at your own risk: 6,300 COVID-19 cases have been linked to colleges in the US: https://tinyurl.com/y2v7ow79.

Food for Thought:


From the UK: The real crown jewels of the arts are the unprotected freelance workers: https://tinyurl.com/y5uxqyf3.

Around the Country:

In California:

As the pandemic moves inland, Imperial County is among the hardest hit: https://bit.ly/3hQei2K.


Los Angeles Opera postpones its four fall productions, moving them to the first half of the 2020 – 2021 season: https://bit.ly/3gd6oQI.

The KAABOO Festival in San Diego is officially off until 2021: https://bit.ly/2P9KKQY.

In a sign of the pandemic times, Universal and AMC Theatres ink an agreement that allows films to reach theatres and homes only three weeks apart: https://tinyurl.com/yyrxc7kd.

In Florida:

The daily toll: 9,446 new cases and 216 deaths; the latter, sadly, sets a new record: https://tinyurl.com/yyfy7k22.

Broward County hospitals are filling up as they take the over flow from Miami-Dade: https://bit.ly/2Ex9OzB.

The union representing 5,000 nurses in the Jackson Health system calls for a statewide mask mandate: https://hrld.us/2P8kVAR.

Nearly 3,000 South Florida businesses have closed during the pandemic, some forever: https://hrld.us/3fa03Us.

A new report indicates that the pandemic will slow the state's population growth: https://bit.ly/3gcd9C7.

In Georgia:

Atlanta’s Alliance Theatre announces its 2020 – 21 season, beginning with a solo holiday show, starring Terry Burrell, followed by more productions in the spring. Streamed productions will be offered in the fall: https://tinyurl.com/yybl28cp.

In Illinois:

Boeing posts a $2.4 billion quarterly loss and offers bleak short-term prospects for an industry laid low by the pandemic: https://cnb.cx/3jRjm8J.

Parents, faced with another semester of online learning, experiment with "pandemic pods" and “micro-schools:” https://bit.ly/3f8JnwD.

In Michigan:

General Motors, dealing with shuttered factories and shrinking demand, posts a second quarter loss of $800 million: https://cnb.cx/2BEuULa.
In New York:

The governor has stern words and threats for those who attended a Chainsmokers drive-in concert and didn’t obey social distancing rules: https://bit.ly/2P2edfU.

Broadway and Pose star Billy Porter appears on MSNBC’s Morning Joe to advocate for arts workers: https://tinyurl.com/yxxyaorh.

How is New York City’s contact tracing program doing? The city says one thing; those working in it say another: https://nyti.ms/309RCEr.

In Nevada:

Garth Brooks has postponed his much-anticipated concert at Allegiant Stadium in Vegas from August to February: https://bit.ly/2EzbKaV.

In Pennsylvania:

Opera Philadelphia will focus on digital presentations for the fall: https://bit.ly/33axaoP.

In Texas:

In what passes for good news these days, Dallas County reports fewer than 1,000 new cases for three days in a row: https://bit.ly/2X7d6A0.


Representative Louis Gohmert, no fan of masks, tests positive: https://bit.ly/2BKZumA.

In Washington State:

Starbuck’s stores sales plunge 40%: https://cnb.cz/2BE9TQL.

Seattle Rep postpones its 2020 – 21 season, setting no time frame for returning: https://tinyurl.com/yxk3n9cd.

Around the World:

In France:

Dejected vintners, facing a tariffs from the US and a collapsing market because of the pandemic, are turning their wine into hand-sanitizer: https://nyti.ms/2D2vGlM.

In Germany:

Deutsche Bank, buffeted by the pandemic, posts a second quarter loss of $90 million, a figure that actually beat expectations: https://cnb.cz/3hKXxKi.

In the UK:

Profits at Barclays slide as the bank puts aside 1.6 billion pounds to deal with pandemic-related loan losses: https://cnb.cz/3hKXOsu.

Mobilization:
In the UK, PLASA’s #WeMakeEvents initiative goes on red alert: https://bit.ly/3hKitwM.

For Your Pleasure:

New York City Ballet principal Taylor Stanley performs a new solo, choreographed by Kyle Abraham and set to the music of Erik Satie, on Lincoln Center Plaza. You can read about the rainbow lighting installation, to celebrate Pride Month, in the July issue of Lighting&Sound America: https://bit.ly/3hMi8ov.

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**COVID-19 Update: July 28, 2020:**

**Rumor Has It**

As the political parties remain far apart on a stimulus bill, the president returns to hydroxychloroquine, spreading baseless rumors that it is a proven cure for COVID-19 and Anthony Fauci worked to suppress it. It’s another day in the US during the pandemic, where 151,000 people have died from the coronavirus.

**The Latest:**

It’s official: The GOP relief plan would cut the enhanced unemployment benefit by two-thirds, and, ultimately, removed in favor of state unemployment insurance of up to 70% of a worker’s salary. Many more details, including a one-time payment ranging between $1,200 and $2,400 can be found at https://cnb.cx/3hHcfhc.

Here’s the state of negotiations between the parties on the bill: https://cnb.cx/3hQ24Y3.

Dr. Anthony Fauci says the Moderna vaccine may have results as early as November: https://bit.ly/3jJid37.

Under assault from the president -- who, among other things, makes baseless claims about the suppression of data about hydroxychloroquine -- Dr. Fauci keeps his cool: https://bit.ly/2BB2XDZ.

Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube delete a video, from Breitbart News, that claims, against all the evidence, that hydroxychloroquine is a cure for COVID-19: https://cnn.it/39HsyrG.

The Major League Baseball season is suddenly in doubt: https://nyti.ms/3g8KaPy.


**Food for Thought:**

Declining antibody levels may mean that tests are looking for the wrong things: https://nyti.ms/2X6B5zj.

The difficulties of parsing the mountain of COVID-19 data: https://nyti.ms/2P2ILzb.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

Warner Bros. will release Christopher Nolan’s Tenet internationally: https://bit.ly/3hHBCjY.


**In Florida:**

The state records 9,230 new cases and 186 more deaths, pushing the total of deaths past 6,000: https://hrid.us/331Sa0R.


**In Illinois:**


Visitors from Wisconsin will have to quarantine for 14 days: [https://bit.ly/32YQYeR](https://bit.ly/32YQYeR).

**In New Jersey:**


**In New York:**

A Chainsmokers concert in the Hamptons, billed as Safe and Sound, causes a backlash, led by New York’s health commissioner: [https://nyti.ms/2P48GWg](https://nyti.ms/2P48GWg).

**In Pennsylvania:**

The Miami Marlins remain in Philadelphia, as 15 team members test positive: [https://hrld.us/3jUljiN](https://hrld.us/3jUljiN).

**In Tennessee:**

Dr. Deborah Birx urges the state to shut down bars and limit indoor dining to prevent a looming spike in cases; the governor declines: [https://bit.ly/2BAkIDo](https://bit.ly/2BAkIDo).

**Around the World:**

**In Brazil:**

Frontline health workers and Catholic bishops denounce the government’s handling of the pandemic: [https://n.pr/330lHbq](https://n.pr/330lHbq).

**In Spain:**

The country races to save its tourist season as new cases surge: [https://bbc.in/2X0Qa59](https://bbc.in/2X0Qa59).

**In the UK:**

Boris Johnson has a new plan to fight the pandemic -- lose weight: [https://nyti.ms/3hNLM1l](https://nyti.ms/3hNLM1l).

Andrew Lloyd Webber calls on the government to provide clarity about the Christmas pantomime season: [https://tinyurl.com/y2kqnm9a](https://tinyurl.com/y2kqnm9a).


**Training:**

“Adapting Higher Education for COVID-19:” Wednesday, July 29, at 3:00pm. Audinate’s Joshua Rush speaks with Joe Way, director of learning environments-information technology services for USC to discuss the school’s migration to AV-over-IP using Dante. They will cover how this approach has helped to position USC to support a hybrid learning model in response to COVID-19 that combines limited on-campus student attendance with distributed classrooms and robust at-home experiences. They will cover details of the various learning scenarios that are being contemplated at USC, the
technology and products used, and how this Dante-driven model can be extended to other colleges and universities: Register at https://bit.ly/39xUu0S.


The next webinar from Martin by Harman: “Programming Essentials: Workflows and Views with Benny Kirkham,” August 13, at 11:00am; register at: https://bit.ly/3gaOygT.

Entertainment:

Here’s the lineup of this week’s streams from Metropolitan Opera: https://bit.ly/39xb7tM.

The latest from Tanglewood Online: July 29 at 8:00pm: “Recitals from the World Stage” features Silkroad Ensemble in two world premieres. July 31 at 8:00pm, “BSO Musicians in Recital” features the world premiere of American composer Ulysses Kay’s Sonatine for Viola and Piano, which was discovered 20 years after his death. August 1 at 8:00pm, “Great Performers in Recital,” features Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax performing Beethoven, Brahms, and Mendelssohn: www.tanglewood.com.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: July 27, 2020:

Without a Net

Negotiations for a new stimulus bill stall, and the funding runs out. Senator Mitch McConnell says the GOP will be need weeks to come up with a bill. A storm of criticism follows. Today, the party is ready to make an announcement, which will significantly cut benefits for workers. Of course, the Democrats are pushing a far more expansive bill. Let the negotiations begin.

The Latest:

As the Republican Party struggles come up with a plan for a new stimulus bill, the current plan of extra unemployment expires: https://bit.ly/30OPC3o.

Facing criticism for not coming up with a plan, the GOP offers a bill that cuts enhanced unemployment insurance from $600 to $200 until states implement a new program that will pay workers 70% of their income before losing their jobs: https://tinyurl.com/y64g3g3x.

FEMA sends faulty protective gear to nursing homes around the country: https://nyti.ms/3hNbraP.

Three out of four Americans, including a majority of Republicans, favor the mandating of wearing masks in public: https://bit.ly/30L5kNh.

Food for Thought:

New York actor Nick Westrate makes a passionate argument about the need for government relief the industry: https://tinyurl.com/y467kct2.


Around the Country:
In Alabama:

More than 40 people test positive for the coronavirus after attending a multi-day revival: https://tinyurl.com/y2l2dmjy.

In California:

Seventy-eight percent of San Diego parents are worried that sending kids back to school will expose them to the coronavirus: https://bit.ly/32TjfDn.

San Joaquin is overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases, because, well, masks: https://lat.ms/32REzt6.

In Orange County, contact tracing proves to be frustratingly difficult: https://bit.ly/2OSBxMY.

Google extends its work-at-home order to summer 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y6rgo63u.

Violating social distancing rules, hundreds attend a religious event in Shasta County; officials ask them to self-quarantine: https://cnn.it/3hBAvkI.


In the District of Columbia:


The Kennedy Center cuts 30% of its administrative staff: https://tinyurl.com/y39zduof. The center also plans to return to large-scale performances in January: https://tinyurl.com/y44gvnbn.

In Florida:


The state registers 12,199 infections and 124 deaths on Saturday: https://hrld.us/2WVBcOa.

The state reports 9,344 new cases on Sunday: https://bit.ly/3hzuTaG.

The state adds 8,892 new cases on Monday, the lowest number in weeks: https://tinyurl.com/yxgb74aw.

But one in 50 Floridians have tested positive: https://tinyurl.com/y32dgrd6.

COVID-19 is also spreading dangerously at nursing homes in 23 hot-spot counties: https://hrld.us/2D2UYAb.

The state’s top politicians are split on the issue of sending their kids to school this fall: https://hrld.us/30NeIjq.

The state agency that tracks COVID-19 hospitalizations collects much more information than it shares with the public: https://hrld.us/2CDruZR.

How following politics, not science, brought the state to its current conditions: https://wapo.st/2WTBFAc.

Game off: Eleven Miami Marlins test positive for the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yyj9tt8h.


In Illinois:

The state reports more than 1,500 new cases and four counties reach the “warning level:” https://bit.ly/39udRrN.

In Maryland:

Stations in the Sinclair Broadcast Group, planning to air a conspiracy-theory video about the epidemic, are forced to back-pedal when word gets out that it baselessly accuses Dr. Anthony Fauci of helping to create the coronavirus: https://wapo.st/3f2rP5k.

In Massachusetts:

Phase three of the Moderna vaccine trial begins: https://tinyurl.com/y4nej8mm.

In Minnesota:

COVID-19 cases have surpassed the 50,000 mark: http://strib.mn/301FhSS.

In New York:

The states reports only three deaths in one day, along with a 1% positive test rate: https://tinyurl.com/y36cr82m.

Following the news about the Miami Marlins outbreak, Monday night’s game between the Yankees and the Phillies is called off: https://tinyurl.com/y2ub6af6.

New York City plots a “robust comeback” for film and television production in September: https://tinyurl.com/y3cw47qs.

Actors’ Equity issues a statement criticizing Congress for its inability to expeditiously pass a new relief package: https://tinyurl.com/yxfxts8w.

This graphic from the Broadway Community Project shows the enormous economic reach of the Broadway industry: https://tinyurl.com/y5u3a2yt.

In Pennsylvania:

The Live Events Coalition stages a demonstration to draw attention to the plight of the industry’s workers: https://bit.ly/32QiWqV.

In Texas:

The canceled state fair is spreading economic pain among those who typically work at it: https://bit.ly/300NdJ.

Around the World:

In the Bahamas:

Visitors from the US are welcome after all, but they must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival: https://hrld.us/3hzcGtW.

In Brazil:

The country reports record infection numbers as the coronavirus spreads to all areas: https://wapo.st/2OZ42II.

In Spain:

Following a spike in cases, the country faces the possibility of a second wave: https://n.pr/2BtwBLI.
In the UK:

Check out the video promoting the sanitary plan proffered in West End theatres owned by Andrew Lloyd Webber: https://bit.ly/301FHZs.

The Theatre Artists Fund, started by Sam Mendes, raised 1.6 million pounds: https://tinyurl.com/y3rgnlpt.

For Your Pleasure:

In honor of Alan Mencken, a newly minted EGOT, MJ Rodriguez and George Salazar perform “Suddenly Seymour” from Little Shop of Horrors: https://tinyurl.com/yyb6rxt6.

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**COVID-19 Update: July 24, 2020:**

**Three New Yorks**

The title above is Dr. Deborah Birx’s characterization of the pandemic in Florida, California, and Texas She, of course, means New York three months ago: https://tinyurl.com/y469wcop. It’s a three-alarm fire, if you will. Meanwhile, there are very real worries about the future of the COVID-19 safety net.

**The Latest:**

The stimulus bill bogs down because the GOP can’t seem to agree on an ask: https://tinyurl.com/yxslenz8.


The GOP convention in Jacksonville is off: https://cnb.cx/3eVv7qX.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

“It’s emotional whiplash:" The state returns to the center of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yxvavpno.

Even as Congress contemplates cutting enhanced unemployment, many are afraid to return to work: https://bit.ly/2ZVOMCJ.

The release of Mulan has been postponed indefinitely: https://bit.ly/3fZBpqL. The whole Disney release calendar is up for grabs: https://bit.ly/3eYViRE.

Pasadena Playhouse opens its digital platform: https://tinyurl.com/y64zuhen.

**In the District of Columbia:**

Juan Soto, of the Washington Nationals, tests positive for the coronavirus: https://es.pn/30GlpDT.

**In Florida:**

The state adds 12,444 new coronavirus cases and 135 deaths; infections now surpass 400,000: https://bit.ly/2ZYVIEW.


Hospitals in the state are further stretched: https://tinyurl.com/y5kmrfym.
Princess Cruises cancels all itineraries through mid-December: https://hrld.us/2D88Okv.

One hundred breweries may close unless they get relief: https://bit.ly/2ZXlRyd.

In Kentucky:

As infections spike up, the governor considers reclosing bars, restaurants, and schools: https://bit.ly/3hBl3X1.

In Illinois:

New cases reach a daily total of 1,624: https://bit.ly/3f0RETc.

In Maryland:

The state reports 930 cases, the biggest daily total since June: https://bit.ly/2BqVcAs.

In New York:


In North Carolina:

Unpaid utilities bills are driving families and cities to the brink: https://wapo.st/3gaC7Ir.

In Ohio:

The governor mandates the wearing of masks statewide: https://tinyurl.com/y4amm6b5.

In Texas:

Hospitals in Starr County will send coronavirus patients home to die if they are deemed too sick: https://bit.ly/2ZUcW0G.

Around the World:

In Brazil:

Despite the president’s enthusiastic consumption of it, a new study in the country shows no benefit in taking hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y46lor2s.

In the UK:

Andrew Lloyd Webber’s sanitized performance test run at London’s Palladium Theatre takes place: https://tinyurl.com/y7eryn7.

Training:

Following its popular house of worship roundtable in April, the Sennheiser SoundAcademy is pleased to offer a new session on live sound mixing for houses of worship on July 28, 2020. Panelists include three live sound engineers: Raph Williams of Bethel Productions, Dan Bowater of Church Sound Summit, and Paul Mitchell who is director of production technology for Chase Oaks Church. Micah Williams of Eagle Vision Videos will also join to offer insight into video production for houses of worship. The roundtable will be hosted by Sennheiser’s Andy Egerton and Tim Moore, who will lead discussions focused on mixing live audio, as well as how the panelists are adapting to production for livestreamed events and services during COVID-19. The panelists will also share how they initially become involved in houses of worship, as well as talk about their individual careers and the experiences they have gathered along the way. The roundtable will take questions from the audience. Please register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yT1jDjvtQvClpdTtXbQHWA.

For your Pleasure:
Kristin Chenoweth ponders "Maybe This Time:"  
https://tinyurl.com/y2q3ergo.

###

**COVID-19 Update: July 23, 2020:**

**Groundhog Day**

Today’s title is a reference to a comment made by a frustrated public health administrator (see link below) but it could stand in for the entire pandemic in the US: Each day, cases go up, equipment runs low, the economy falters, and leaders vacillate. Pray for an effective vaccine.

**The Latest:**

New unemployment claims reach a higher-than-expected 1.4 million:  
https://cnb.cx/2ZTs7Hm.

"It’s like Groundhog Day," says one public health administrator as labs across the country once again run out key supplies:  

A new study shows that anywhere from two to 13 times as many people have been infected with the coronavirus; these asymptomatic cases are probably responsible for COVID-19's spread:  

The GOP eyes reducing enhanced unemployment from $600 a week to $100 a week:  
https://cnb.cx/2WSp9RE.

Whatever else is in the stimulus bill, the president’s proposed payroll tax cut won’t be:  

Can you get COVID-19 twice? Probably not:  
https://nyti.ms/3eYgVgS.

The Latest:

The president wants schools to reopen in the fall, but only one in ten American agree:  

**Around the Country:**

**In Arkansas:**

Goodbye, Black Friday? Walmart rethinks its plans for the holiday shopping season:  

**In California:**

The state reports 12,807 new cases, a record:  
https://abc30.tv/2OPmN1l.

One reason the state is on the verge of shutdown can be found in Huntington Beach, where masks are disregarded:  

Two state universities plan to start the fall semester with online classes:  

**In Florida:**

The state adds 10,249 new cases and a record 173 deaths:  
https://bit.ly/2ON0Y2B.

The lag time for coronavirus test gets worse in South Florida:  
https://tinyurl.com/y3oh43r2.

Hospitals in the southern part of the state scramble to shore up staff and equipment:  
https://hrld.us/30JCwEE.

The governor sees encouraging signs in terms of caseload:  
The governor also backpedals, giving local school boards a say in deciding whether to reopen for first-person learning: https://hrld.us/2OPUQGK.

In Kansas:


In New York:

IATSE releases its safety measures for reopened theatres; the story contains a link, allowing you to download the document: https://bit.ly/2D50Mc7.


Around the World:

In Brazil:


Meanwhile, the country reports 68,000 new cases in a day: https://bit.ly/30Fm9Jd.

In Canada:

The Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, has issued the following statement: “Based on the Province of Ontario’s framework for reopening businesses and the further extension of the State of Emergency, it is clear that the Shaw Festival is not able to proceed with the season as scheduled. As a result, The Shaw must cancel all performances and public events through September 15. The further delay has forced the Festival to cancel most of the 2020 productions. All 2020 performances of Gypsy, The Devil’s Disciple, Sherlock Holmes and The Raven’s Curse, Prince Caspian, The Playboy of the Western World, Assassins, Desire Under the Elms, Trouble in Mind, and Me and My Girl are cancelled. Performances of Charley’s Aunt, Flush, and A Christmas Carol after September 16 have not yet been cancelled in the hopes that The Shaw can safely welcome audiences into reduced-capacity theatres. The Festival will announce details of protocols and safety measures in the coming weeks, in conjunction with guidance from Public Health and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

In the UK:

A bipartisan report by members of Parliament offers scathing criticism of the government’s lack of support for the arts sector in the pandemic, makes many recommendations that industry members will welcome: https://tinyurl.com/y3dhvx79.

A new musical will open in London, with socially distanced audiences and daily rapid-response testing for everyone in the company: https://tinyurl.com/y63scenq.

Training:

Just Add Power, a provider of video-over-IP distribution, announced that the company is now offering webinars on demand via registration through its website. For dealers with questions on Just Add Power and its products, the personalized webinars allow them to conveniently get answers, on their schedule. To schedule a webinar, dealers can visit http://www.justaddpower.com/webinar-registration.html, select the date and time they’d like to meet with Just Add Power, and click on “confirm.” After adding any guests and making note of the questions they have, the request is sent to Just Add Power. Once the company receives the request, a team member will contact the dealer with a link for the online meeting.

Entertainment:

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Judy Collins hosts a Live with Carnegie Hall episode on Thursday, July 30 at 2:00pm EDT joined by special guests, Shawn Colvin, Alan Cumming, Steve Earle, and Jimmy Webb for a discussion and performance of both original songs as well works by Stephen Sondheim. It’s on Carnegie Hall’s webpage, as well as the

For Your Pleasure:


###

COVID-19 Update: July 22, 2020:
Getting Worse Before Getting Better

As several unwanted milestones are reached, the president offers a nod to reality. The next stimulus bill is bogged down because Republicans can’t agree on what to ask for. And everybody pins their hopes on a fast and effective vaccine.

The Latest:

As 1,000 people die in one day in the US, the country reaches four million cases: http://cnn.it/2WIMIMo. Meanwhile, the global caseload reaches 15 million: https://reut.rs/3eOwKGL.

The president, resuming daily briefings, warns that the pandemic will get worse before it improves: https://cnb.cx/3eNXJlT. The president revives the briefings without the benefit of professional scientific assistance: https://bit.ly/2ZUPfFD.

The CDC reports that most states fail to report key data for controlling the pandemic: https://wapo.st/32KD5kc.

The US agrees to pay Pfizer and BioNTech $2 billion for 100 million doses of the vaccine: https://cnb.cx/3fSb5Pw.

"It’s acting like Europe.” The Northeast stands out, compared to the rest of the country, in virus control: https://nyti.ms/2OLxBgZ.

The EU adopts a massive plan of coronavirus relief: https://nyti.ms/3jtfBpK.


Two theatres plan to reopen, one with Actors Equity approval and one without: https://tinyurl.com/yxkwlxng.

Around the Country:

In Florida:

The state adds 9,785 cases and 139 deaths: https://bit.ly/3jwinKQ.

In Idaho:

The state sees a surge in infections: https://yhoo.it/2WNV2uB.

In Illinois:

In Chicago, 4,440 businesses have been shuttered by the coronavirus: 2,400 say they won’t reopen: https://bit.ly/2ZUPfFD.

United Airlines loses $1.6 billion in the second quarter: https://cnb.cx/30z80NK.

In New York:


The governor expands the quarantine to 31 states: http://dailym.ai/30CGwXx.


In North Carolina:


In Oklahoma:

Hundreds camp out in unemployment lines: https://wapo.st/30CJpHR.

In Texas:

Dallas County reports 734 daily cases, a heartening drop: https://bit.ly/2OOFJqB.

Around the World:

In Brazil:


In Germany:

In what is either an intriguing experiment or a public health disaster, scientists are hosting a concert for 4,000 audience members to see how the coronavirus spreads and how to combat it: https://bit.ly/39lIVtv.

In the UK:

PLASA warns that the events supply chain is “on the brink of collapse.” https://bit.ly/2ONwM7i.


Mobilization:

Check out PLASA’s new state-of-the-industry video: https://bit.ly/2WMFJCd.

Entertainment:

A production of Aeschylus’ The Persians will stream, for free, from the ancient theatre at Epidaurus, Greece, July 25. The stream starts at 1:00pm ET with the performance commencing at 2:00pm: https://tinyurl.com/yqgtxcou.

For Your Pleasure:


###

**COVID-19 Update: July 21, 2020:**

Let’s Make a Deal
The pandemic continues unabated. The president returns to daily briefings. And negotiations begin in Congress on the all-important relief bill. The next couple of weeks are going to be busy, with implications for us all.

The Latest:

The global death rate from the coronavirus passes 600,000: https://bit.ly/2WCcuSH.

Negotiations for the next stimulus bill begins. One sticking point: Many legislators (including Republicans) are pushing back against the president's attempt to cut out funding for testing and contact tracing: https://wapo.st/32BYRqt.


The president's campaign to reopen schools is falling flat, even in GOP strongholds: https://wapo.st/2CzXRZ5.

The new COVID-19 hot spot is Latin America: https://hrld.us/2WF8cKo.

Actor Brendan Bradley invents Future Stages, “a 3D virtual theatre-going experience,” designed to keep theatre vital until a vaccine arrives: https://bit.ly/30x3wr0.

Around the Country:

In Alabama:


In California:

After bending the curve, the state is poised to take over from New York as the state with the most COVID-19 cases: https://cnn.it/2OLXtcl.

The surge in new cases is being driven by young people; the majority of those infected are under 41: https://bit.ly/32ChkTP.


In Florida:

The state posts 9,440 new cases and 134 deaths in a day: https://bit.ly/30wa2OJ.

Industry experts says that state’s nursing homes face a “category 5 emergency.” https://hrld.us/3jy0M5x.

The state's teachers' union sues the governor and education commission over a “reckless, unsafe reopening:” https://hrld.us/32B4l4K. An organization representing thousands of pediatricians writes the governor, urging him to reconsider reopening schools: https://bit.ly/2WIS8ah.

The sheriff of Duval County, which includes Jacksonville, says that safely hosting the Republican National Convention is no longer an option: https://bit.ly/3hlhZwN.

Palm Beach delays opening schools for three weeks: https://bit.ly/30vUdYd.

Miami deploys a police squad to enforce mask violations: https://bit.ly/32FZGi0.

The governor urges Floridians who have recovered from COVID-19 to donate blood: https://hrld.us/2ZNDRLF.
Disney World, face with a grievance from Actors’ Equity regarding safety, has a workaround for its live shows: https://bit.ly/3jt1XTp.

In Illinois:
Bars, gyms, and restaurants prepare for re-imposed restrictions as new cases rise: https://abc.ws/2WIX2nH.

In Michigan:
Thirteen nuns from one convent die from the coronavirus, 12 in one month: http://dailym.ai/2BooUpW.

In Minnesota:
The state sees the biggest single-day increase in cases since the pandemic began: https://bit.ly/3eMiKNR.

In New York:
Saturday Night Live plans a return to the studio in the fall: https://bit.ly/2WK4yyR.

In South Carolina:
The state posts record numbers of new cases: https://bit.ly/3jtUvHJ.

In Texas:
Dallas County reports 1,000 cases for the 18th straight day: https://bit.ly/2Cyrw53.

Around the World:
In Brazil:
Deaths from COVID-19 reach 80,000 as two top government ministers test positive: https://n.pr/3eMiQFd.

In Hong Kong:
A new wave of infections has experts puzzled: https://nyti.ms/2WHbZXD.

In the UK:
The country’s arts sector pushes back against the government’s plan for socially distanced performances starting August 1: https://tinyurl.com/y4pd79uo. Andrew Lloyd Webber seconds the motion: https://tinyurl.com/y5zatfpa.

Training:

“Become a WYSIWYG CAD Specialist,” a two-part webinar, will be held on July 30 and 31, 2:00 – 4:00pm EDT each day. Register at https://bit.ly/2WDuego.

Entertainment:
New from Tanglewood: “Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Isaac Stern’s Birth,” July 23 at 8:00pm ET; “Recitals from the World Stage,” with the string quartet Brooklyn Rider and host Karen Allen, July 22 at 8:00pm ET; “BSO Musicians in Recital” in a program of Bach, Paganini, Mendelssohn, and others, hosted by Laurent Ambrose, July 24 at 8:00pm ET; and “Great Performers in Recital from Tanglewood,” featuring Augustus Hadelich and Orion Weiss performing Debussy,
Brahms, and John Adams, hosted by Nicole Cabell, July 25 at 8:00pm. Details at https://www.bso.org/Home.

A reading of George Bernard Shaw’s Misalliance, to benefit The Actors Fund, will take July 25 at 2:00pm. The production, directed by Shaw specialist David Staller, features Dan Domingues, Peter Francis James, Teresa Avia Lim, Thom Sesma, Ryan Spahn, and Sharon Washington. Go to https://www.starsinthehouse.com/pith.

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: July 20, 2020:**

**Flying Blind**

The pandemic rages throughout most of the US. The president, in a controversial interview, displays little interest in and no ownership of the situation. Indeed, he is trying to block new funding for testing and contact tracing. As the links below demonstrate, different states and communities are struggling to patch together an effective response to the coronavirus.

**The Latest:**

The United States smashes another record, with 77,000 new coronavirus cases in one day: https://cnn.it/3ffKfV74.

The world also breaks records, with 260,000 new cases in 24 hours: https://bbc.in/3hetE0l.

The president says we have “the best testing in the world.” Here are the facts: https://bit.ly/32wKh3p.

And yet the White House is trying to block funding for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing: https://wapo.st/2DTvUvD.

The conventional wisdom is that the coronavirus has grown less fatal over time, but death rates are rising again: https://bit.ly/32wKh3p.


Inside Johnson & Johnson’s search for a COVID-19 vaccine: https://nyti.ms/2ZGbEWZ.

The former head of music at William Morris (and a co-founder of Lollapalooza) predicts concerts won’t be back until 2022: https://bit.ly/2Ba5HrI.

**Food for Thought:**


**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

New cases continue to surge in Los Angeles County: https://bit.ly/2OCaPIb.

Early in the pandemic, some claimed that COVID-19 was less prevalent than the flu. In San Diego, that’s not true: https://bit.ly/2ZFMLL4.

How testing delays, inadequate resources, and reopening too soon allowed the pandemic to flourish in the state: https://bit.ly/2BhRbym.

San Francisco’s reopening is put on hold, as the number of coronavirus infections heads in the wrong direction: https://bit.
ly/32DPgiC.

In San Diego, some businesses are defying orders to close: https://bit.ly/2Bc8YqF.


In Colorado:


In Florida:

On Friday, the state adds 10,328 new cases; the death toll reaches 5,000: https://bit.ly/2OEOPwl.

On Sunday, the state reports another 12,478 infections and 83 deaths: https://bit.ly/30u8rcf.

It isn’t even over, but July is the deadliest month for COVID-19 in the state so far: https://bit.ly/3eKlnR8.

New cases are surging in the state’s nursing homes: https://bit.ly/3jk8XSv.


The state and Miami-Dade County can’t agree how to count positive test results for COVID-19, spreading confusion: https://hrld.us/30o5Dxl.

A data scientist in the state’s department of health, fired for insubordination, files a whistleblower complaint, saying she was let go for refusing to falsify data: https://bit.ly/32DjUJj.

Orange County schools will open August 21, with on-campus and online options available: https://bit.ly/2WuFGec.

An entire family is infected, and the father hospitalized, apparently because as 21-year-old son went out with friends: https://nbcnews.to/2OEN8Pv.


How the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami plans to host a presidential debate: https://hrld.us/2CpISkv.

A Central Florida theatre reopens, with a production of Assassins in a shopping mall: https://bit.ly/2WBi87D.

In Illinois:


In Kentucky:

The state sees an alarming rise in new cases: https://bit.ly/30uzHXZ.

In New York:

New York City continues on the path to reopening, with zoos and gardens opening up on Monday; no indoor dining yet, however: https://bit.ly/2WwclLa.


Dr. Anthony Fauci says that New York is the model for fighting the coronavirus: https://cnb.cx/39fcuNG.


In Texas:

Four out of five people are living in COVID-19 red zones: https://bit.ly/32luT3Q.


In Utah:

Citizens stage rallies against masks and for in-person school attendance: https://bit.ly/2OCh7HV.


Around the World:

In the Bahamas:


In China:

Audiences are trickling into the reopened cinemas: https://bit.ly/2OII9NL.

In India:

The number of COVID-19 infections reaches one million; the country is now third in the number of cases, behind the US and Brazil: https://bit.ly/2WyJKu0.

In the UK:

The Oxford vaccine produces a positive immune response: https://tinyurl.com/y3jhp7w9.


Entertainment:

Ten years after presenting Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen in its first complete staging produced in the city of Los Angeles, music director James Conlon and LA Opera invite online audiences to experience these historic performances through a marathon audio stream of all four music dramas back-to-back on July 25. Listen via LA Opera’s Facebook channel (@LAOpera) or at LAOpera.org/Ring. Das Rheingold begins at 8:00am PT, with Die Walküre following at 11:00am PT, Siegfried at 3:00pm PT, and Götterdämmerung at 7:00pm PT.

This week’s streams from the Metropolitan Opera include Il Barbiere di Siviglia, with Isabel Leonard; Tannhäuser, with Eva Marton, Tatiana Troyanos, and Richard Cassilly, conducted by James Levine; Macbeth, also conducted by Levine; Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette, with Anna Netrebko, Roberto Alagna, and Nathan Gunn, conducted by Plácido Domingo; Falstaff, with Mirella Freni, Marilyn Home, and Paul Plishka, conducted by Levine; Der Rosenkavalier, starring Renée Fleming and Susan Graham, conducted by Edo de Waart; and La Fanciulla del West, starring Eva-Maria Westbroek and Jonas Kaufmann, conducted by Marco Armiliato. https://bit.ly/2COPZme.

Also available from the Met Opera: Jonas Kauffmann in a recital of Puccini, Bizet, and Gounod, among others: https://bit.ly/3hf9ovS.
For Your Pleasure:


To receive your LSA copies at home (no charge), please email mailto: LSA@plasa.org or go to [https://www.ezsubscription.com/lsa/mysubscription](https://www.ezsubscription.com/lsa/mysubscription)  

Previous LSA COVID-19 Updates: [http://plasa.me/lsacovid19resources](http://plasa.me/lsacovid19resources)

###

**COVID-19 Update: July 17, 2020:**

**Take Action Now**

As the stories below make clear, the pandemic in the US is not getting better. The live events industry remains at a standstill, with the livelihoods of thousands under existential threat. As you read this, a new relief bill is being written in Congress. It is of paramount importance that you raise you voice -- immediately. Contact you senators today, along with -- and this is vitally important -- their chiefs of staff and legislative directors. The more people heard from, the more likely that our businesses will receive paycheck protection and our freelancers will get unemployment relief, which will be needed at least through the end of 2020. The link below will take you to a template letter, put together by NAMM. which you can use. Also included is a list of chiefs of staff and legislative directors. Act now and help this industry survive: [https://bit.ly/32v06Yo](https://bit.ly/32v06Yo).

**The Latest:**

The United States smashes another record, with 77,000 new coronavirus cases in one day: [https://cnn.it/3fFkV74](https://cnn.it/3fFkV74).

A document prepared for the White House Coronavirus Task Force identifies 18 states as “hot spots” and suggests that at least 12 should revert to more stringent measures: [https://bit.ly/32r6cZF](https://bit.ly/32r6cZF).

How a struggling company got $1.6 billion to make a COVID-19 vaccine: [https://nyti.ms/3hcTkL8](https://nyti.ms/3hcTkL8).

The CDC bans cruising in US waters until October 1 or the pandemic is declared over: [https://hrld.us/2DJtnUL](https://hrld.us/2DJtnUL).

**Food for Thought:**

How did Miami become the hottest of hot spots? [https://hrld.us/394viig](https://hrld.us/394viig).

How to bring COVID-19 testing back from the brink of paralysis: [https://nyti.ms/2ZADML6](https://nyti.ms/2ZADML6).

**Around the Country:**

**In Arizona:**

“You can’t bluff this virus;” doctors feel abandoned by their governor as new COVID-19 cases surge: [https://bit.ly/2ZCxDOo](https://bit.ly/2ZCxDOo).

**In Arkansas:**


In California:

Medical personnel report feeling overwhelmed as new coronavirus cases fill hospitals: [https://lat.ms/32siHUN](https://lat.ms/32siHUN).

As the state faces another shutdown, tempers explode: https://bit.ly/2Wvb4cr.

In Florida:
The state’s emergency operations center shuts down for the weekend after 12 staffers test positive for the coronavirus: https://bit.ly/3fKdegc.
Publix, CVS, and Target stores mandate the wearing of masks: https://bit.ly/32siReR.

In Georgia:
"When you have to start shipping patients out of state, it’s bad:" A report from a hospital in the Navicent network: https://npr/30ITzMN.

In Illinois:
The governor lays out a highly targeted plan for reopening the state: https://bit.ly/2Ox2NAj.
Chicago’s arts sector is hemorrhaging jobs: https://bit.ly/2Ox0HQX.
Even as cases rises among those under 30, the city’s young people aren’t alarmed: https://bit.ly/3eFgOXg.

In Texas:
Dallas County reports 1,027 new COVID-19 cases, making for two full weeks with more than 1,000 new cases a day. The death toll is now 500: https://bit.ly/2B9qXEN.

Around the World:
In Brazil:
The country passes two million cases, with more than 76,000 dead: https://cbsn.ws/2WrVqOY.

In China:
Rushing to get as much vaccine data as possible, scientists are cutting ethical corners: https://nyti.ms/2WxPDrs.

In France:
An eyewitness account from a reopened Paris theatre: https://tinyurl.com/yywzc8sd.

In the UK:
Indoor live theatre performances are okayed starting August 1: https://tinyurl.com/y3e8t9tk.
The musical Frozen, originally scheduled for November, will open in April: https://bit.ly/2DT0eXr.

Entertainment:
Doireann Glackin (fiddle) and Sarah Flynn (concertina) perform their debut duet album, The Housekeepers, a collection of rare traditional Irish songs -- original compositions and unique interpretations of common tunes -- drawn from the repertoires of five seminal early 20th century women artists: Ella Mae O’Dwyer, Nora Hurley, Aggie Whyte, Ellen Gal-
vin, and Mollie Myers Murphy. It happens July 19 at 5:00pm EDT at https://tinyurl.com/yy7ca25b or https://tinyurl.com/yzys4q9.

Now through July 23, London’s National Theatre is streaming its recent acclaimed production of Peter Shaffer’s Amadeus, starring Lucian Masamati and Adam Gillen. Donations cheerfully accepted: https://tinyurl.com/y2nkraak.

Playbill hosts a watch party of the original Julie Andrews production of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella, beginning July 24 at 8:00pm; it will be available for 48 hours after that. Go to: https://tinyurl.com/y4tvfgc5.

For Your Pleasure:

The cast of Smokey Joe’s Café, in “Stand by Me” https://tinyurl.com/yyvvugz7.

###

**COVID-19 Update: July 16, 2020:**

**Reality Bites**

There’s good news on the vaccine front. The president seems to be backing down from attacking Dr. Anthony Fauci. A stimulus bill is in the works. The reality is, however that we still have a long way to go before normality -- or something like it -- returns.

**The Latest:**

As the resurgent pandemic causes more lockdowns and closures, the economy is on the edge of a recessionary spiral: https://nyti.ms/38ZOuOm.

Weekly jobless claims are more than one million for the 17th straight week: https://cnb.cx/2WsJPiL.

The US, Canada, and the UK accuse of Russian hackers, attached to the country’s intelligence service, of trying to steal vaccine information: https://bit.ly/32sbcNI.

Here’s what’s likely to be in the new stimulus bill and what the political parties are still arguing about: https://tinyurl.com/ybz3fatq.

**Food for Thought:**

Your vaccine FAQS answered by Angela Rasmussen, a virologist from Columbia Public Health, and Anna P. Durbin, a faculty member at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: https://bit.ly/2B5Z1uT2.

A practical plan for speeding up the currently lagging coronavirus testing process: https://wapo.st/3jc5NR1.

How the Disney – Actors’ Equity dispute threatens Orlando’s theatre scene: https://tinyurl.com/y8vzorkg.

How Latino communities, filled with essential workers, have been ravaged by COVID-19: https://bit.ly/3h6WfeQ.

**Around the Country:**

**In Alabama:**


**In Arizona:**

The state reports 3,259 new cases and 58 deaths: https://bit.ly/2ZxSm5W.
In Arkansas:
Walmart will require all shoppers in its stores to wear masks: https://wapo.st/32LHO9.

In California:
The state reports 11,126 new COVID-19 cases, the highest daily number since the pandemic began: https://bit.ly/3fBPbQA.
YouTube star Jake Paul is criticized for throwing a giant party at his mansion in Calabasas: https://wapo.st/32nAUFQ.
The Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, held in January, has been canceled: https://bit.ly/2CBjMyR.

In the District of Columbia:
Arena Stage announces a new season, to start in January: https://bit.ly/32o6WyM.

In Florida:
The state may be skewing its COVID-19 data by underreporting positive tests: https://bit.ly/3h6TcMU.
The governor says the state will stop sending COVID-19 tests to facilities that are too slow to respond: https://bit.ly/3ECs-JoV.
Miami Beach fights the coronavirus with more cops and a ban on vacation rentals: https://hrld.us/394I5RZ.
HCA hospitals in Central Florida are temporarily halting elective surgeries: https://bit.ly/3h3UYOx.
Despite the rising numbers, the state’s education commissioner sticks by the requirement for five-day-a-week, in-person instruction: https://bit.ly/3j8TMM0.
The Republican National Convention will be scaled back, with smaller crowds and outdoor presentations: https://hrld.us/32FOE1B.

In Georgia:
Ignoring science, the governor bars cities and counties from mandating the wearing of masks: https://wapo.st/2Oyd5QK.
The state’s latest daily figures are 3,871 new cases and 37 additional deaths: https://bit.ly/2ChUrDw.

In Illinois:

In New Jersey:
Paper Mill Playhouse will remain dark until January: https://tinyurl.com/yb9jq2pk.

In New York:
Broadway beats the drum for continued government relief: https://tinyurl.com/y755rpyv.
The Broadway-bound musical KPOP forges ahead, with video auditions: [https://tinyurl.com/ydhwtor2](https://tinyurl.com/ydhwtor2).

In Ohio:

News from Cincinnati: “Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, and Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati today issued a joint announcement that they will delay the start of their 2020-21 seasons due to the complex challenges around continuing live performances. All three theatres plan to kick off their revised seasons this winter with a smaller slate of rearranged, rescheduled, or new shows.”

In Oklahoma:

The governor tests positive for the coronavirus; he still doesn’t believe in masks. Note also that the state “reported a record case increase for the second day in a row on Wednesday, with 1,075 new cases, bringing its total to 22,813:" [https://bit.ly/3fDNba8](https://bit.ly/3fDNba8).

In Pennsylvania:

In Philadelphia, large-scale events are off until February: [https://tinyurl.com/y87yyuhg](https://tinyurl.com/y87yyuhg).

Around the World:

In China:

The country’s cinemas begin reopening this weekend in “low-risk regions:” [https://tinyurl.com/y7pqnpv7](https://tinyurl.com/y7pqnpv7).

In Japan:


In the UK:

A Live Nation-sponsored drive-in tour of the musical Six has been canceled due to coronavirus concerns: [https://tinyurl.com/y7te4lt8](https://tinyurl.com/y7te4lt8).

But London’s Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre will present a concert version of Jesus Christ Superstar: [https://tinyurl.com/y8xk7ulq](https://tinyurl.com/y8xk7ulq).

A Scottish architect proposes a safer theatre of the future: [https://tinyurl.com/ya4qc5ym](https://tinyurl.com/ya4qc5ym).

Entertainment:

Broadway Bares, the annual fundraiser for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, will take place online on August 1: [https://tinyurl.com/y7hgf2nx](https://tinyurl.com/y7hgf2nx).

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: July 15, 2020:**

**Shutdown: A New Hope**

There’s good news today: The vaccine being testing by Moderna shows real promise: [https://tinyurl.com/y7f7yl9k](https://tinyurl.com/y7f7yl9k). Unsurprisingly, shares of Moderna stock soar: [https://cnb.cx/2Orobab](https://cnb.cx/2Orobab).
And we’ve never needed good new more than now.

The Latest:

The worldwide surge in coronavirus cases is being shared by the developing world and the US: https://tinyurl.com/yaggu-zrr.


Why most big school districts aren’t ready to reopen: https://nyti.ms/3erodJH.

Why a vaccine taken through the nose would be superior to a needle: https://nyti.ms/2Ou4Rcx.

Losing their hero status: Many retailers are doing away with pandemic-related pay raises: https://nyti.ms/2OsJPec.

The War on Science:

The Trump Administration has ordered hospitals to bypass the CDC and send all COVID-19 related patient information to a new central database: https://nyti.ms/2CGExZO.

The White House trade advisor attacks Dr. Anthony Fauci: https://bit.ly/3fvTRqN.

Food for Thought:

Looking for more good news about the pandemic? Check this out: https://wapo.st/2OEYJ1j.

Around the Country:

In California:

The next season of the CBS series Survivor is on hold, for obvious reasons: https://bit.ly/2B1ZHRZ.

In Colorado:

The Telluride Film Festival, scheduled for early September, has been canceled: https://bit.ly/38Xit9w.

In the District of Columbia:

A survey of area theatregoers reports, ominously, that most won’t be comfortable with theatre attendance until May or June 2021: https://tinyurl.com/ybdu73gw.

In Florida:

The state reports 10,181 new COVID-19 cases, pushing its total past 300,000: https://bit.ly/3j3CDmV.

South Florida’s ICUs are at capacity, mostly with older patients: https://hrld.us/2OrrQEX.

Several lab companies reporting coronavirus test results, haven’t been including negative cases: https://bit.ly/2Ch8lwv.

The superintendent of Broward County recommends that the school system stay online for the fall: https://hrld.us/3er4ji4.


French entrepreneurs and culinary specialists, once drawn to Miami, are fleeing: https://hrld.us/30cX2NN.

In Illinois:

Chicago’s Court Theatre plans a February reopening, with streamed performances also available: https://bit.ly/32rjJRf.

**In New Jersey:**

A federal judge denies an effort to reopen cinemas: https://bit.ly/38XCqwY.

**In New York:**

Following yesterday’s revelations that 5.4 million Americans have lost their health insurance since March, Actors’ Equity calls on Congress to pass a COBRA subsidy: https://tinyurl.com/ycy37zlz.

The state tries to insulate itself from the risks posed by visitors from Florida and Texas: https://nyti.ms/3g3o1A.

How one performer’s Broadway debut was thwarted by the coronavirus: https://cnb.cx/2ZtCWzC.

**In North Dakota:**

The band Great White apologizes for performing in front of a maskless audience: https://cnn.it/30c7k0G. In other news, the state sets new records for coronavirus diagnoses and hospitalizations: https://bit.ly/2Zw229x.

**In Texas:**

The state’s hospitals are running out of drugs, beds, ventilators, and staff: https://bit.ly/32nZa82.


**Around the World:**

**In Ireland:**

The country’s tourism industry is forced to deal with quarantine-flouting Americans: https://nyti.ms/3gYMubV.

**In the UK:**

Boris John’s mandating of masks while shopping has Tory voters up in arms: https://bit.ly/2OtTx04.

London’s Donmar Warehouse will reopen in August, temporarily, with a socially distanced sound installation based on the novel Blindness, by José Saramago.

**Entertainment:**

Obie Award-winning Metropolitan Playhouse will present a reading of The People, a one-act play by Susan Glaspell, via live stream video, with talkback to follow, on July 18 at 8:00pm EST. The running time is 30 minutes. The talkback will feature Glaspell scholar Cheryl Black, including audience questions via Zoom and YouTube chat. It is available via Zoom and YouTube at https://bit.ly/32lMK8. All links available at https://bit.ly/3eyxD6l.

Off Broadway’s Red Bull Theater will live stream its 2020 Short New Play Festival as a free online benefit event July 20. The company’s 10th annual festival of short works will feature new commissions from Slave Play writer Jeremy O. Harris and Theresa Rebeck (Bernhardt/Hamlet, Seminar), alongside six new plays by Ben Beckley, Avery Deutsch, Leah Maddrie, Jessica Moss, Matthew Park, and Mallory Jane Weiss. The 2020 Short New Play Festival will stream July 20 at 7:30pm ET at RedBullTheater.com. The evening will also include short interviews with the playwrights and host Craig Baldwin.
For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: July 14, 2020:**

**Shutdown: The Sequel**

Despite the White House’s assertions to the contrary, the pandemic continues unchecked, sending large parts of the country back in the direction of lockdown. Those that don’t are faced with overcrowded hospitals and stressed medical workers. Meanwhile, municipalities must decide what to do about reopening schools. Today’s key fact: Fifty percent of new coronavirus cases around the world -- fifty percent -- yesterday came from two countries: The US and Brazil. There appears to be some movement on the vaccine front; it can’t come soon enough.

The latest:

New coronavirus cases rise by one million over only five days; 50% of them come the US and Brazil: https://cnn.it/2C0aVHb.

Approximately 5.4 million Americans lost their health insurance between February and March: https://nyti.ms/3gVGQw.

Quest Diagnostics is now reporting a turnaround time of seven days for coronavirus test results: https://bit.ly/2OqvP4Q.

The tortured relationship between the president and Dr. Anthony Fauci continues: https://nyti.ms/3tT7Cz. Meanwhile, a member of the White House Economic Task Force is circulating a memo that calls Dr. Fauci “Dr. Wrong:” https://bit.ly/3gZEvve.

US health officials and drug manufacturers expect to start making vaccines by summer’s end: https://cnb.cx/2OnOrm3.

The race is on to make enough small glass vials to distribute vaccine around the world: https://wapo.st/3gVoQNm.

**Food for Thought:**


The challenge of getting the flu vaccine disseminated during the coronavirus pandemic: https://bit.ly/2OrTiSU.

How years of research into HIV supports the search for a COVID-19 vaccine: https://wapo.st/2AYzHH9.

An emergency room physician, noting the deaths of so many colleagues, says, thanks for the cheering, but wear a mask: https://wapo.st/2WkqeRL.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The governor once again closes indoor restaurants, cinemas, and bars statewide: https://cnb.cx/2ZpSa8W.

Los Angeles and San Diego County schools will remain closed for the fall; online learning will continue: https://n.pr/3gXR5B5.

The Orange County board of education votes to reopen schools without masks or social distancing: https://lat.ms/2B-
30diE.

In Florida:
The state reports 9,194 new coronavirus infections and sets a record for deaths, with 132 in single day, total deaths reach 4,400: https://bit.ly/2WiQVq4.

Senator Marco Rubio doesn’t believe that open restaurants are driving the state’s surge in new infections: https://bit.ly/2C3vbaW.

In Illinois:
The Chicago Marathon, scheduled for October, has been canceled: https://bit.ly/3gZx3jO.

In New York:
The governor says the state’s schools can reopen, if certain conditions are met: https://bit.ly/2Wk8kyD.

In Ohio:
A Port Clinton man filled social media with posts insisting that COVID-19 was overhyped. Then he got sick: https://tinyurl.com/yd28ta4e.

In Texas:
The Houston Chronicle publishes a stand-alone 43-page obituary section; that adds up to about 900 dead: https://bit.ly/3ftU1ir.

San Antonio’s hospitals are “under severe stress,” says the mayor, as cases continue to climb: https://bit.ly/3exaUaB.

A New York Times reporter returns home to Texas to cover the spread of COVID-19, only to find that his family is part of the story: https://nyti.ms/3fu2Mcq.

Around the World:

In Canada:
The touring organization Broadway Across Canada says its new season will begin in January: https://tinyurl.com/yd4vdp-fb.

In Hong Kong:
Hong Kong Disneyland will shutter again, following a resurgence of the coronavirus: https://bit.ly/32j4D02.

In Israel:
A surge in coronavirus cases is causing citizens to push back at the government: https://bit.ly/32h4xpB.

In Russia:
A coronavirus vaccine may be distributed as early as next month: https://tinyurl.com/yd8vjtwc.

Mobilization:
An urgent message from IATSE about contacting Congress to preserve unemployment benefits: https://bit.ly/38VchV.

Training:


Entertainment:

The Muny Summer Variety Hour Live! will feature footage from past productions presented by the St. Louis institution; it launches July 20 at 9:15pm ET: https://bit.ly/3esCKoD.

New offerings from Tanglewood include duo pianists Lucas and Arthur Jussen performing Mozart, Schubert, Ravel, and Hanna Kulenty; Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians in recital, performing Gabriela Lena Frank, Ravel, and Loeffler; and Pinchas Zukerman, Amanda Forsyth, and Bryan Wagon performing Kodály, Glóré, Fauré, Paradis, and Beethoven. Details at https://www.bso.org/Home.

Off Broadway’s Transport Group will stream the musical Broadbend, Arkansas July 20 through August 16 at http://transportgroup.org/, free of charge and with registration at http://transportgroup.org/broadbend-streaming. In lieu of a ticket fee, Transport Group encourages contributions be made to Black Theatre Network, an organization comprised of artists, educators, scholars, students, and theatre lovers who are dedicated to the exploration and preservation of the theatrical visions of the African Diaspora. The production was seen last season.

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: July 13, 2020:**

The War on Science

Given the events of the weekend, it would seem that the Trump Administration has declared war on science, with results detailed below.

On Friday, the number of new coronavirus cases in the US hits 70,000 for the first time: https://nbcnews.to/3esMoI0.

Citing the opinion of Chuck Woolery, former host of Love Connection, the president endorses his opinion that the pandemic is a fiction perpetrated by the CDC, Democratic Party, and all doctors: https://tinyurl.com/ybs4zx3g.

For the president and Dr. Anthony Fauci, the bromance is over: https://wapo.st/2CrrMT6. In fact, the White House is now providing opposition research against the US’ leading authority on the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yawqmejl.

Citing a much-criticized study, the White House again presses the case for hydroxychloroquine: https://tinyurl.com/ycdz-sk7u.

The Secretary of Education wants to see all US children in schools this fall: https://tinyurl.com/ybtd4ojc. But she won’t say how it should happen: https://tinyurl.com/ybz7fnn9.

Why is the US using an untested company to deliver the coronavirus vaccine? https://tinyurl.com/y7q8eytb.
Meanwhile:

With bankruptcies, layoffs, and store closings, the pandemic economy sputters: [https://wapo.st/3gSDqW0](https://wapo.st/3gSDqW0).

Fourth months later, tens of thousands of Americans are still waiting for their unemployment benefits: [https://tinyurl.com/ycy2hwfy](https://tinyurl.com/ycy2hwfy).

Pfizer and BioNTech get FDA fast-track designation for their vaccine candidates: [https://tinyurl.com/yaxzwpxr](https://tinyurl.com/yaxzwpxr).

**Food for Thought:**

If you think the coronavirus is little more than a flu, consider how it effects nearly every organ in the body: [https://tinyurl.com/ybopmm9v](https://tinyurl.com/ybopmm9v).


**Around the Country:**

**In Arizona:**

Three teachers who shared a classroom contracted the coronavirus; one of them died: [https://tinyurl.com/y88h75s7](https://tinyurl.com/y88h75s7).

More than 60 Phoenix firefighters test positive for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/yawjt4f3](https://tinyurl.com/yawjt4f3).

**In California:**


**In Florida:**

The state finally releases data on COVID-19 hospitalizations; the number, as of Friday, is 7,000: [https://tinyurl.com/ybtd-vzce](https://tinyurl.com/ybtd-vzce).


On Sunday, the state shatters its record for new infections, with 15,000: [https://tinyurl.com/ybf6gphc](https://tinyurl.com/ybf6gphc).

On Monday, the number of new cases is 12,624: [https://tinyurl.com/y9lezmsw](https://tinyurl.com/y9lezmsw).


With new infections out of control, can schools open? [https://tinyurl.com/yctgkksd](https://tinyurl.com/yctgkksd).

The head of AdventHealth says the pandemic will peak in the state in July, if people follow the rules of masks and social distancing. Of course, that’s a big if: [https://tinyurl.com/y8tp9p](https://tinyurl.com/y8tp9p).

Carnival Corporation to shed 13 ships, plans German cruises: [https://tinyurl.com/y8a2hhmk](https://tinyurl.com/y8a2hhmk).

Despite the surge in new cases, South Florida's party scene rages on: [https://tinyurl.com/y8cjkade](https://tinyurl.com/y8cjkade).

Fifteen staffers and three children are infected with the coronavirus at Miami-Dade summer camps: [https://tinyurl.com/y73zogcq](https://tinyurl.com/y73zogcq).
In Illinois:

New COVID-19 cases top 1,000 for the third day in a row: [https://bit.ly/2DrVxU6](https://bit.ly/2DrVxU6).

In Indiana:

New COVID-19 cases are rising, with Friday’s numbers the highest for a month: [https://tinyurl.com/y9azea7s](https://tinyurl.com/y9azea7s).

In Louisiana:

The governor mandates the wearing of masks: [https://tinyurl.com/yb8r8ng9](https://tinyurl.com/yb8r8ng9).

In New York:


The state reaches a milestone, with no new deaths: [https://tinyurl.com/y9rvknzq](https://tinyurl.com/y9rvknzq).

The Broadway League approves a 15-second coronavirus test for actors and crew: [https://tinyurl.com/y8gpxrqq](https://tinyurl.com/y8gpxrqq).


In Tennessee:


In Texas:

“I think I made a mistake;” a 30-year-old patient dies after attending a COVID party, “a gathering held by somebody diagnosed with coronavirus to see if the virus is real and to see if anyone gets infected:” [https://tinyurl.com/y83awarm](https://tinyurl.com/y83awarm).

The state’s Supreme Court rejects the GOP’s plan for an in-person state convention: [https://tinyurl.com/ya3gqpb](https://tinyurl.com/ya3gqpb).

Around the World:

In Bolivia:

The president tests positive for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/yddooxtp](https://tinyurl.com/yddooxtp).

In Germany:

Bolstered by government funding, the country’s arts sector starts to come back: [https://bbc.in/2CvD5K4](https://bbc.in/2CvD5K4).

In the UK:

Shooting of Jurassic Park: Dominion resumes, with the studio denying reports of coronavirus infection among the crew: [https://tinyurl.com/y9u3w3mt](https://tinyurl.com/y9u3w3mt).

The government will cut value-added tax from concert, festival, and theatre tickets for the next six months: [https://tinyurl.com/yazm7ave](https://tinyurl.com/yazm7ave).

Despite new government guidelines that allow for outdoor theatres to reopen, Shakespeare’s Globe in London reports that to do so is not "economically viable:” [https://tinyurl.com/y9nfekv](https://tinyurl.com/y9nfekv).

London’s Old Vic, reeling from the pandemic, fends off an attempted acquisition by Ambassador Theatre Group: [https://tinyurl.com/ybgax8dm](https://tinyurl.com/ybgax8dm).

How scenic and costume designers have drawn attention to the arts’ plight with a series of pink tape installations: https://bit.ly/2Oh7pN.

The prime minister is now a believer in masks: https://tinyurl.com/y8u4xyx5.

Entertainment:

Here’s this week’s lineups of streamed performances from the Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/ycdac4dws. The Met will also livestream ticketed concerts featuring the likes of Anna Netrebko and Jonas Kaufmann: https://tinyurl.com/yawb35ro.

New York Philharmonic’s presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Carousel, featuring Kelli O’Hara, Nathan Gunn, Stephanie Blythe, Shuler Hensley, Jason Danieley, Jessie Mueller, Kate Burton, John Cullum and New York City Ballet dancers Robert Fairchild and Tiler Peck, streams through tomorrow night at 9:00pm: https://tinyurl.com/y9oek2fc.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival is streaming its productions of A Midsummer Night’s Dream and The Copper Children, the latter a drama about orphan trains in the Old West. For information about ticketing: https://bit.ly/2CvDxIq.

For Your Pleasure:

Birthday boy Cheyenne Jackson in “Don’t Wanna Know:” https://tinyurl.com/y7s6x42y.

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**COVID-19 Update: July 9, 2020:**

American Exceptionalism

The US set another record yesterday, with more than 60,000 new cases of COVID-19: https://bit.ly/2ZLUCoY.


Dr. Anthony Fauci says states with rapidly expanding outbreaks should consider shutting down again: https://cnb.cx/3iP4LKj.

Once again, the country is running out of medical masks, gowns, and gloves: https://wapo.st/2O8Pnur.

Another 1.3 million workers apply for unemployment: https://tinyurl.com/yclocf2a.

Churches, reopening across the US, have become a vector of infection: https://nyti.ms/2Zb9ZZd.

How retail workers are dragged into the frontlines of the war over masks: https://tinyurl.com/y9enle2d.

And yet the president wants schools to open in the fall: https://nyti.ms/3ffJKXc.

Around the Country:

In Florida:

The state racks up another 8,900 infections; a spike in deaths means 4,000 have been lost: https://bit.ly/2DixqqS.

AdventHealth hospitals move to their emergency plan: https://bit.ly/3fdYFkL.

Disney World reopens this weekend; what will it be like? https://tinyurl.com/yaqool4j.
In Illinois:


In New Jersey:

The state will now require people to wear masks outdoors in public: https://bit.ly/322g1gy.

In New York:

Residents of Corona, Queens test 68% positive for coronavirus antibodies; are they a herd immunity? https://tinyurl.com/yc9cao2r.

In Oklahoma:

The director of the Tulsa health department says the president’s rally is probably the source of the city’s dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases: https://bit.ly/2W2oyMI.

In Texas:

The in-person edition of the state’s GOP convention is off: https://bit.ly/2ZdwUTR.

Around the World:

In the UK:

Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Cinderella, an anchor of the new West End season, originally schedule for October, will now open April 7: https://tinyurl.com/y8rp8kpf.

Food for Thought:

Health officials emphasize that the pandemic didn’t have to happen this way: https://wapo.st/38E5U2T.

Mobilization:

The Mellon Foundation will award $10 million in emergency grants to arts groups: https://tinyurl.com/ya5v24mm.

Training / Webinars:

On July 16 at 4:00pm, Arup hosts “Returning to Daily Life: The Built Environment and Its Implications on Wellness.” It’s the first in a series of live digital events that spotlights how the built environment can positively impact a return to daily routines. Experts from healthcare and office design to education and arts and culture will each share short presentations on how aspects of everyday lives, including traveling to work, taking kids to school, or experiencing art and entertainment, might change, as well as the digital connection underpinning each. Register at https://bit.ly/3gCG8P2.

Entertainment:

The 27th annual Obie Award-winning Ice Factory Festival will be livestreamed online for the first time, and will feature four new works over four weeks, July 24 – August 15. For more info, visit http://NewOhioTheatre.org.


The New Group Off Stage and NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) announce “Facing the Rising Tide: A free digital festival of play readings and conversations about environmental racism, the climate crisis, and hope” featuring
five plays, each followed by a discussion. The week will also feature an hour-long New Group Now panel entitled “Climate Arts Activision,” an inspiring conversation on how art and storytelling can help save the world. The series is free and will be streamed on YouTube Live (youtube.com/user/TheNewGroupNYC/live). Free registration and additional information including climate action resources are available at https://bit.ly/3elvURX.

New from Playwrights Horizons Soundstage series is The Edge of Night, by Kirsten Childs: https://bit.ly/2Oc2WZP.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: July 8, 2020:
Records You Don't Want to Break

The US sets another record, with 60,000 new coronavirus infections in one day: https://tinyurl.com/y93g67wn.

The promise of virus-tracing apps has not been fulfilled: https://tinyurl.com/y6wf2d5n.

The World Health Organization finally admits that the coronavirus can be transmitted via air: https://tinyurl.com/y783nzu7.

The Retail Industry Leaders Association asks state governments to send a strong and uniform message about the wearing of masks: https://tinyurl.com/yc8jtghr.

Dr. Anthony Fauci: Taking comfort in the lower COVID-19 death rate is “a false narrative:” https://tinyurl.com/y87whlkn.

Around the Country:

In Arizona:

It can take up to a week or longer to get results from COVID-19 tests: https://tinyurl.com/ycuor2hg.

In California:

San Diegans sign up for a controversial human challenge trial for a coronavirus vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y9rdcuiz.

In Florida:

The state posts 9,9898 new infections in one day: https://tinyurl.com/ya485ebc.

Why won’t the governor release the state’s hospitalization data? https://tinyurl.com/y9eulul3.

At least 56 of the state’s intensive care units are at capacity: https://tinyurl.com/ycurfxdv.

Miami-Dade’s public hospital network asks the state for help in hiring more nurses: https://tinyurl.com/yaczwccw.

A member of the Orlando Magic tests positive: https://tinyurl.com/ya6enslq.

The mayor of Miami changes his mind, allows gyms to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/yaf26v6q.

In New Jersey:

Cinema chains sue the state, citing a First Amendment right to reopen during the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yaquk9wy.
In Puerto Rico:
The pandemic and related economic distress have turned the island into a basket case: https://tinyurl.com/y947hu8.

In Texas:
The state breaks another record with 10,000 new infections on Tuesday: https://tinyurl.com/yb9udcun.
The state fair has been canceled: https://tinyurl.com/y7v7vuac.

Around the World:

In Germany:
The country’s theatres reopen with creative responses to pandemic restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/ycetpcx4.

In Sweden:
The country skipped lockdown; now it is a cautionary tale: https://tinyurl.com/y8nkt8au.

In the UK:
Outdoor performances may begin soon, as per the culture secretary: https://tinyurl.com/yaujtnwh.
Lighting companies joined the #LightItInRed campaign, to highlight the need for entertainment industry relief: https://tinyurl.com/yaf95nt5.

A resource for freelancers working in the performing arts sector has been launched to help drive the community’s bid for further government support: https://tinyurl.com/yate832u.

Food for Thought:
The president says that 99% of coronavirus cases are totally harmless; here’s a fact check: https://tinyurl.com/yutc7w5.
Florida invited the nation to its reopening, only to become a driver in the resurgence of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yakhgm56.
How Arizona became #1 in coronavirus infections: https://tinyurl.com/y9c84fa6.
The UK is bailing out its arts sector; why not the US? https://tinyurl.com/yddkn6q.

Mobilization:
Four key UK industry figures -- Andy Dockerty, of Adlib; James Gordon, of Audiotonix; Peter Heath, of PLASA; and Koy Neminathan, of Avolites -- take part in a podcast about getting the industry back on its feet: https://tinyurl.com/y8tnqwoz.

Entertainment:
Next up from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beginning July 9 at 7:00pm EST, is Robert Battle’s Juba, and on July 16, Camille A. Brown’s City of Rain: https://tinyurl.com/y7hxvdxp.

Next upon line from Carnegie Hall are events that include a Cole Porter tribute hosted by Michael Feinstein and a new series curated by Audra McDonald: https://tinyurl.com/ybe5whk.

Off Broadway’s HERE continues its online presentations with new artists scheduled; the extensive list of available streams features such downtown luminaries as Taylor Mac, Sara Farrington, and Raja Feather Kelly: https://here.org/shows/still-
The recent, visually striking production of Monteverdi’s Orfeo, presented by Nederlandse Reisopera and feature in the online edition of LSA’s April/May issue, can be streamed at https://tinyurl.com/y7ekpetj.

For your Entertainment:

Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra note that “The Lady is a Tramp.” https://tinyurl.com/yccrcyec.

COVID-19 Update: July 7, 2020:
Knee-Deep in the First Wave

Today’s title is from Dr. Anthony Fauci, characterizing where we are: https://tinyurl.com/y7d37hvz.

No matter what you hear, the US still lacks vital testing capacity: https://tinyurl.com/y7vou9j8.

A professor of immunology at the Imperial College London warns that any acquired immunity to COVID-19 is “fragile” and “short-lived”: https://tinyurl.com/y8md7vx.

Around the Country:

In Arizona:

A woman melts down in a Target store, trashing a face mask display: https://tinyurl.com/y6ujt4v9. The video is at: https://tinyurl.com/y9lu93i3.

In California:

The COVID-19 outlook worsens across the state: https://tinyurl.com/y7q4rxo8.

The Assembly is put on indefinite hold, following a COVID-19 outbreak in the Legislature: https://tinyurl.com/y9fpu7nj.

In Florida:

The state logs another 7,000 cases: https://tinyurl.com/ycjrmsmu.

Miami-Dade is again closing restaurants and gyms as infections spike: https://tinyurl.com/y9gucfdy.

The governor offers a number of reasons why he thinks the spike on coronavirus infections isn’t that bad: https://tinyurl.com/yc2epggb.

The state’s education commission will require schools to open in the fall: https://tinyurl.com/yacz4z5no.

Five Central Florida hospitals reach full ICU capacity: https://tinyurl.com/ybz4w5fb.

Bank of America closes 50 Central Florida branches, because of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y8bypa38.

Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Lines team up for a “Healthy Sail Panel,” to develop safety best practices: https://tinyurl.com/y9549eg7.

In Georgia:

The mayor of Atlanta tests positive for the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y9xshl2j.
In Massachusetts:

Two theatre productions in the Berkshires have been okayed by Actors Equity: [https://tinyurl.com/y966ncsc](https://tinyurl.com/y966ncsc).

Around the World:

In Australia:

As a second wave looms, Melbourne goes on lockdown: [https://tinyurl.com/ybunjtsk](https://tinyurl.com/ybunjtsk).

In Brazil:

The president tests positive for COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/ya8dv64o](https://tinyurl.com/ya8dv64o).

In Canada:

“The pandemic after the pandemic:” doctors worry about the effect of isolation on the nation’s children: [https://tinyurl.com/y8s8df4k](https://tinyurl.com/y8s8df4k).

The Shaw Festival is forced to cancel all public events and performances scheduled in August due to the extension of the Province of Ontario’s Emergency Orders and the continuation of the State of Emergency in the Province and Niagara. In discussion with and under the guidance of The Shaw’s insurer, it has become clear that scheduled performances cannot proceed as originally planned [https://www.shawfest.com/](https://www.shawfest.com/).

In France:

A bus driver in Bayonne is left brain dead after being attacked by passengers who refuse to wear masks: [https://tinyurl.com/ya9n5ele](https://tinyurl.com/ya9n5ele).

In Israel:

The prime minister declares a state of emergency: [https://tinyurl.com/yapay8hp](https://tinyurl.com/yapay8hp).

In the UK:

The PLASA Show has been postponed, with 2021 dates announced: [https://tinyurl.com/y97bxbbf](https://tinyurl.com/y97bxbbf).

Food for Thought:

CNN correspondent Richard Quest on his long, long recovery from COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y72n7wxp](https://tinyurl.com/y72n7wxp).

Training / Webinars:

New webinar from JBL: “Performance Manager Applications for Concerts and Festivals with Juan Soothill,” July 8 at 6:00pm CDT; register at [https://tinyurl.com/y7uqa9om](https://tinyurl.com/y7uqa9om).

New webinars from Martin by Harman: “The Quality of Light with Brad Schiller,” July 16 at 11:00am, CDT; register at https://tinyurl.com/ycdmlbpo. “Incorporating Martin MAC Encore and ELP Into Modern Lighting Design with Paul Collison,” July 27, 10:00pm CDT; register at [https://tinyurl.com/yc6os27h](https://tinyurl.com/yc6os27h).

New webinars from Sennheiser: “Introduction to Wired Microphones,” July 10, at 4:00pm EST; Sennheiser microphone expert Volker Schmitt will give you insights into different transducer designs, explain polar patterns, and show you the ideal microphone positioning for various application scenarios: [https://tinyurl.com/ybxoj9](https://tinyurl.com/ybxoj9). “Digital 6000 and the RF Principles Behind the System,” July 13, 10:00am and 2:00pm EST, Sennheiser’s Greg Simon will introduce you to the Sennheiser Digital 6000 and explain the RF theory behind this wireless microphone system. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/y94xpuk8](https://tinyurl.com/y94xpuk8) for the earlier session and [https://tinyurl.com/yathdfeu](https://tinyurl.com/yathdfeu) for the later session.
Ultratec hosts a session on how to set up a fog curtain, July 9 at 12:00pm EDT. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y8opdbtz.

USITT and Wenger are sponsoring a global conversation about entertainment in the pandemic, July 15 at 9:00am EDT. Wan-Jung Wei, executive director of OISTAT, headquartered in Taipei, will be joined by Professor Duro Oni, of University of Lagos; Bolanle Austen-Peters, of the Lagos State Committee on the Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Creative Industries; Dr. Gabrielle Hoegg, owner of HOAC Industries in Duisberg; and Juan Pablo Rozo of Arquitorium, a theatre architecture firm in Bogota. David Grindle, of USITT, and Toby Smith, of Wenger, will lead the discussion. Advance registration is required: Go to https://tinyurl.com/ybejttq5o.

Entertainment:
The latest lineup of streamed productions from the Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/yd72hgpg.
The latest news about online offerings from Tanglewood: https://tinyurl.com/ycocgokk.

For Your Pleasure:
Jeannette Bayardelle and Austin Scott, of Girl from the North County, present “To Make You Feel My Love”: https://tinyurl.com/y7khvvmw.

###

COVID-19 Update: July 6, 2020:
Independence Day Blues

A somber Fourth of July weekend was loaded with developments. To wit: Hundreds of scientists plead with the World Health Organization to admit that the coronavirus lingers in the air indoors: https://tinyurl.com/y99dohcc. Many colleges and universities want to reopen in the fall; not so fast, say professors: https://tinyurl.com/ya5hcwwk. Meanwhile, health experts are stunned -- and not in a good way -- by the CDC’s guidance for reopening schools in the fall: https://tinyurl.com/yck5o6l.

Evidence grows that the Black and Latino populations are, by a wide margin, more affected by the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/ybsj4bh6. Is an epidemic of arrests abetting the spread of the pandemic? https://tinyurl.com/y72cb5ut.

The US Conference of Mayors has issued a resolution supporting relief for the arts and humanities: https://tinyurl.com/y7ka7gzz.

Tiny audiences, drive-in venues, Plexiglas: How theatres around the US are experimenting with staying open: https://tinyurl.com/y8f5net2.

Underpaid, disrespected, at risk; stories of front line workers in the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y7qoj6rj.

Around the Country:

In Arizona:
The mayor of Phoenix begs for help with coronavirus testing: https://tinyurl.com/ycd9okst5.

One of the state’s representatives calls for the disbanding of the White House coronavirus task force, charging that Drs. Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx are spreading panic: https://tinyurl.com/y7csadv7.

In California:

Inside Los Angeles’ COVID-19 explosion: https://tinyurl.com/y7cmd6co.

How the state’s COVID-19 plan, once so successful, went wrong: https://tinyurl.com/ybqjhash.
The governor works to keep a lid on the coronavirus, but enforcement isn’t easy: https://tinyurl.com/y7ln26s9.

Following the spike in cases in Los Angeles County, Major League Baseball cancels the All-Star Game: https://tinyurl.com/yah7zho3.

Citing issues with safety protocols, SAG/AFTRA attaches a do-not-work order on Michael Bay’s new thriller Songbird: https://tinyurl.com/y8gtqg6h.

More than 40 school principals are quarantined after being exposed to the coronavirus at an in-person meeting: https://tinyurl.com/y8ffvbzv.

Like every other awards show in Christendom, the SAG Awards have been postponed, in this case until March 14: https://tinyurl.com/ybkkvb8r.

In DC:

The country is in a crisis, but Congress takes a vacation, leaving little time next month to pass a relief bill: https://tinyurl.com/ydd4qs84.

In Florida:

The state sets another record, with more than 59,000 cases in one week: https://tinyurl.com/ybdrdjtg.

As the NBA gears up for its reduced season, three Miami Heat players test positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y6a6wodk.

Many Disney workers assigned to the NBA bubble will be commuting from coronavirus hot spots: https://tinyurl.com/y7iz7zmc9.

Four Miami Marlins players have tested positive as well: https://tinyurl.com/y8u99r2b.

“People have no regard for anyone else,” how Miami’s house party scene causes the coronavirus to spread and why tracking the infected is so difficult: https://tinyurl.com/ydd4qs84.

In Illinois:

People coming to Chicago from 15 states will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days: https://tinyurl.com/ycttjwtt.

Chicago’s for-profit theatre community has been devastated by the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y945dvt8.

Chicago will allow the rooftops around Wrigley Field to open, at 25% capacity, for Cubs games: https://tinyurl.com/y7ho43ct.

In Massachusetts:

Moderna stock drops 9.4% after the company warns that its coronavirus vaccine may be delayed: https://tinyurl.com/yas-wz9cj.

In New York:

A major hurdle for Broadway producers: getting insurance: https://tinyurl.com/y9bs638v.

In Texas:

In a sentence we’re getting sick of writing repeatedly, the state on Friday sets a new record for infections: https://tinyurl.com/ycwrblst.
The governor finally mandates the wearing of masks: https://tinyurl.com/yce3dpaj.

“It’s New York all over again;” scenes from Houston’s overwhelmed hospitals: https://tinyurl.com/ycdx3l2d.

Even as the coronavirus spreads into rural West Texas, many want nothing to do with masks: https://tinyurl.com/y926ar28.

**In Washington State:**

More than a hundred University of Washington students, clustered in fraternity houses, test positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y8xkjvt.

**Around the World:**

**In Israel:**

In an hopeful development, scientists have developed a simple, one-minute breath test for the coronavirus; it has been submitted to the FDA for approval: https://tinyurl.com/yapagb6z.

**In the UK:**

At last, Boris Johnson pledges a 1.5-billion-pound lifeline to the arts sector: https://tinyurl.com/y9hcxgzo.

Director Sam Mendes starts a fund to help theatre workers who are in desperate straits: https://tinyurl.com/y8c6nh2s.

The National Theatre terminates 400 front-of-house and backstage staffers: https://tinyurl.com/yclphunw.

The rest of the West End remains closed but Agatha Christie’s 68-year-old war horse The Mousetrap plans to reopen in October: https://tinyurl.com/y9fcpwy2.

**Food for Thought:**

Interestingly, more COVID-19 patients are surviving being put on ventilators: https://tinyurl.com/y9wgec58. Apparently, the more recent strain spreads faster but is less virulent: https://tinyurl.com/yce3dpaj.

This collection of nation-by-nation charts reveals just how effective lockdowns were, when they were fully put in place: https://tinyurl.com/y7dyzxpx.

There may be no such thing as a mild case of COVID-19, thanks to side effects and lingering long-term problems: https://tinyurl.com/ycw4yo2i.

Does the pandemic -- and the social tremors accompanying it -- constitute an existential threat to the Disney Organization? https://tinyurl.com/yajudv4l.

**Losses:**

After a long and terrible journey, Broadway actor Nick Cordero passes away at 41: https://tinyurl.com/y9lksvb8.

**Entertainment:**

The streaming of Molière in the Park’s acclaimed production of Tartuffe has been extended through July 12. The cast includes Raúl E. Esparza, Samira Wiley, Jennifer Mudge, and Rosemary Prinz. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y9n2tyid. To appeal to their French speaking audience, hearing-impaired audience, and language learners, MIP is offering the option to choose closed captions in French or in English.

Mad Cow Theatre in Orlando will stream its productions of Donald Margulies’ incisive literary drama Collected Stories and Dylan Thomas’ Under Milk Wood: https://tinyurl.com/y77rqhjp.
For Your Pleasure:


###

**COVID-19 Update: July 2, 2020:**

*The Left Hook*

It’s another day, but the same story. The US sets a new record for infections, with 50,000-plus cases in a single day; the FDA holds out hope for a vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/yc9uegpm.

“Like leaning into a left hook;” the price of reopening before the coronavirus is under control: https://tinyurl.com/y7cn9d6q.

The new job numbers are good, but they need to be better: https://tinyurl.com/ycc6opqn.

**Around the Country:**

**In Arizona:**

The state sets another record for new cases, at 4,878: https://tinyurl.com/ycm9f5yx.

**In California:**

The governor closes indoor dining, cinema attendance in most of the state for three weeks: https://tinyurl.com/y9hvm3ex.

A man does public penance on Facebook for attending a party while infected; the next day, he dies: https://tinyurl.com/y9ro5pzk.

**In DC:**

The Senate extends the application deadline for PPP small business loans: https://tinyurl.com/y7rpopd7.

Industry associations call on Congress to provide pandemic insurance: https://tinyurl.com/yboy743e.

The head of the NEA says that, in terms of emergency funding for the arts, the supply far outstrips the demand: https://tinyurl.com/yamn7v3w.

**In Florida:**

The state sets a new daily record, with 10,000 COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/yafpxgzc.

Actors’ Equity rejects Walt Disney World’s reopening plan, because it doesn’t includes coronavirus testing for performers: https://tinyurl.com/y7j7mxmj.

Miami’s public hospital is canceling non-urgent surgeries to deal with the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y8suc7ml.

In Orlando, 30 employees of Publix grocery stores have tested positive for the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y8jhh3hf.

Palm Beach County residents file suits against mandatory mask order: https://tinyurl.com/ya4gtst.

**In Illinois:**

With other states pausing or going backward, Illinois plans to stay the course: https://tinyurl.com/y8kvng7n.
In New York:

The Broadway revival of Take Me Out, scheduled for last April, will open on April 22, 2021. [https://tinyurl.com/y9r6hlb5](https://tinyurl.com/y9r6hlb5). There are now six Broadway shows schedule for next spring: The Minutes (opens 3/15); Plaza Suite (previews 3/19, opening date TBA); American Buffalo (opens 4/14); MJ (opens 4/15); Take Me Out (opens 4/22); and The Music Man (opens 5/20).

New York City cuts arts funding by 11%: [https://tinyurl.com/y73qgybx](https://tinyurl.com/y73qgybx).

Broadway leading man Nick Cordero, struck down by COVID-19, has now been in the hospital 90 days: [https://tinyurl.com/ym6jto4](https://tinyurl.com/ym6jto4).

In Texas:

The state sets another record, with 8,076 new COVID-19 cases: [https://tinyurl.com/y7axtgao](https://tinyurl.com/y7axtgao).

The mayor of Houston, faced with overwhelmed hospitals, asks the governor to implement stronger public health safety measures to avoid “a last resort.” [https://tinyurl.com/y8yxzm3c](https://tinyurl.com/y8yxzm3c).

Around the World:

In Germany:

Masks are required and audiences are small, but the country’s theatres are coming back: [https://tinyurl.com/yc5eqbxs](https://tinyurl.com/yc5eqbxs).

In the UK:

In Europe, the culture sector is coming back; in the UK, it is on the edge of collapse: [https://tinyurl.com/y86p9eke](https://tinyurl.com/y86p9eke).

MPs from all parties are pushing Boris Johnson to provide support for the flailing theatre sector: [https://tinyurl.com/y7wcj6tn](https://tinyurl.com/y7wcj6tn).

The government’s culture secretary checks out Andrew Lloyd Webber’s new safety measures at the Palladium Theatre: [https://tinyurl.com/yc4naub6](https://tinyurl.com/yc4naub6).

Sir Ian McKellen launches a fundraiser for theatre workers: [https://tinyurl.com/yc8sfox9](https://tinyurl.com/yc8sfox9).

Food for Thought:

Why haven’t the antiracism demonstrations so far produced a spike in infections? [https://tinyurl.com/ya9mz8m7](https://tinyurl.com/ya9mz8m7).

Why most Canadians aren’t eager to reopen the border with the US: [https://tinyurl.com/ydcpfztg](https://tinyurl.com/ydcpfztg).

What autopsies of those who have died of COVID-19 reveals about the disease: [https://tinyurl.com/ycdj7bhh](https://tinyurl.com/ycdj7bhh).

Training:

On the next ADJ Stay Connected Summer Session, July 14 at 12pm, ADJ’s video specialist, Corey Saenz, will showcase the new Pixie Strip Series of pixel battens, which, the company says, combine vibrant LEDs with intelligently designed housings to create a powerful and versatile system. In the live video presentation, Saenz will go over the various products that make up the Pixie Strip Series and also explain how they can be combined together, setup and configured for pixel-mapping with Kling-Net. Go to [www.facebook.com/adjlighting/](http://www.facebook.com/adjlighting/).

Entertainment:

Julianne Moore and Kaitlyn Dever star in the reading of Good as New, by Peter Hedges, on July 16 at 7:00pm. It's a fundraiser for MCC Theater; purchase tickets at [https://tinyurl.com/y9rejezr](https://tinyurl.com/y9rejezr).
Starting tonight, National Theatre at Home streams its acclaimed production of Lorraine Hansberry’s little-seen drama Les Blancs: https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home.

For Your Pleasure:


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**COVID-19 Update: July 1, 2020:**

**One Hundred Thousand a Day?**

Dr. Anthony Fauci warns that new COVID-19 infections in the US could reach 100,000 a day if the current outbreak isn’t curtailed: https://tinyurl.com/y7l4afzl.

The US government buys up the world supply of remdesivir, one of the few drugs shown be effective against the coronavirus; other countries will have to wait three months for more: https://tinyurl.com/y9lcpts4.

The FDA says that any vaccine needs to have a 50% success rate to win approval; exceptions will be considered: https://tinyurl.com/y6vmprnq.

Goldman Sachs says that, in addition to saving lives, a national mask mandate could avert a 5% hit to the country’s GDP: https://tinyurl.com/yctfgvdc.

The head of the CDC deplores American Airlines’ plans to return to full planes: https://tinyurl.com/ybsa8afe.

Hollywood studios, the Director’s Guild, and IATSE petition the government for entertainment industry relief: https://tinyurl.com/y8pr2gzx.

AudienceView, a ticketing service, has released the results of a survey of 5,000-plus arts patrons; for information and to download the results, go to: https://tinyurl.com/ya5ahmlb.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The spike in infections puts Hollywood’s back-to-work plans in jeopardy: https://tinyurl.com/ybxrkomo.

**In the District of Columbia:**

A socialite threw a dressy backyard barbecue; then the diagnoses started: https://tinyurl.com/yb6k7mvv.

**In Florida:**

Infections keep spreading, with over 6,500 new cases in one day: https://tinyurl.com/y94g9k5y.

Trying to stem the spread of the coronavirus, Miami declares a citywide curfew: https://tinyurl.com/y7nqj8o.

The state’s hospitals are filling up with young people diagnosed with COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/ydgkmd75.

**In Illinois:**

Why does one Chicago zip code have so many more COVID-19 cases? https://tinyurl.com/ycdajw73.
In New York:

The mayor of New York City puts indoor dining on indefinite hold: [https://tinyurl.com/ybsa8afe](https://tinyurl.com/ybsa8afe).

In North Carolina:

Information about a COVID-19 outbreak at a meat processing plant is being suppressed by the local government: [https://tinyurl.com/y8nz7cp3](https://tinyurl.com/y8nz7cp3).

In Pennsylvania:

Philadelphia’s Wilma Theatre plans to open with a new theatre structure that essentially puts each patron in a box: [https://tinyurl.com/y9v6pt2q](https://tinyurl.com/y9v6pt2q).

In Texas:

New infections continue to set new records, especially on Dallas and Tarrant Counties: [https://tinyurl.com/y7qzxzp2](https://tinyurl.com/y7qzxzp2).

Protesting the state’s decision to close drinking establishments, a group demonstrates in Austin, declaring that “Bar Lives Matter”: [https://tinyurl.com/y8qlfzpf](https://tinyurl.com/y8qlfzpf).

The UAW wants General Motors to shut down its Arlington SUV plant, because of the spike in cases in the North Texas area: [https://tinyurl.com/y8qlfzpf](https://tinyurl.com/y8qlfzpf).

Training:

On Wednesday, July 8, Martin Audio presents a webinar on the application and deployment of BlacklineX Powered Systems, taking a look at the product itself, remote connection and control, and deployment. With three time slots throughout the day, there is a session to suit all time zones. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/ybf96ps2](https://tinyurl.com/ybf96ps2).

Pliant Technologies announces an upcoming free webinar series for existing and potential Pliant partners and customers to learn more about the company’s wireless intercom solutions. The first in the series will be held on July 8, at 10:00am CDT and July 9 at 4:00pm CDT, and will focus on its MicroCom M and MicroCom XR intercom. Pliant’s vice president of global sales, Gary Rosen, along with market development manager, Art Gonzales and regional sales manager, Mark Rehfuss, will cover the features and benefits of these new and affordable wireless intercom solutions. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/y8vqtlrz](https://tinyurl.com/y8vqtlrz).

Radio Active Designs (RAD) has teamed up with Practical Show Technology to host an RF webinar on Tuesday, July 7 at 4:00pm EDT. One of the topics discussed will be the end of using production wireless equipment that operates in the 616-653 and 663-698 MHz spectrum as of July 13, 2020. Register at [www.practicalshowtech.com](http://www.practicalshowtech.com).

Entertainment:

Jazz at Lincoln Center presents a concert in tribute to Jelly Roll Morton: [https://tinyurl.com/y9a6dns7](https://tinyurl.com/y9a6dns7).

The Public Theater presents Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen’s The Line. Created in a documentary style similar to that of The Exonerated, Aftermath and Coal Country, the play brings stories of New York City’s first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic to the digital stage. Directed by Blank, the livestreamed production will debut on July 8 at 7:30pm ET on the Public’s website ([www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org)) and YouTube channel ([https://tinyurl.com/y95p86qh](https://tinyurl.com/y95p86qh)). The company will feature Santino Fontana, Alison Pill, Arjun Gupta, John Ortiz, Nicholas Pinnock, Jamey Sheridan, and Lorraine Toussaint. The Line includes original music composition by Aimee Mann. Janelle Caso will serve as production stage manager.

San Francisco Opera continues streaming performances as part of its Opera is ON initiative with Gioachino Rossini’s La Cenerentola (Cinderella) on July 18 and Leoš Janáček’s Věc Makropulos (The Makropulos Case) on July 25. The presen-
tations, filmed live in high-definition at the War Memorial Opera House, will be viewable on demand for free at https://sfopera.com/ on the streaming date starting at 10:00am (PDT) and expiring at 11:59pm the following day.

For Your Pleasure:

Jimmy Fallon introduces The Roots and the cast of Hamilton in “Helpless:” https://tinyurl.com/ycd2h8tf.

###

COVID-19 Update: June 30, 2020:
Out of Control

Increasingly, the lack of coordinated policy is allowing the coronavirus to rage on; we’re in this for the long haul. Consider the following: The coronavirus is spreading too rapidly in the US to be controlled, says the CDC: https://tinyurl.com/y9oft5lp. The US joins Russia and Brazil as being banned from traveling to Europe: https://tinyurl.com/y8n39w7e.

Food for Thought:

How Germany lead the way in COVID-19 testing: https://tinyurl.com/y9youuv3.

Around the Country:

In Arizona:

The state reverses its reopening, as COVID cases spike: https://tinyurl.com/y7b5ofmc.

In California:

The state struggles with a newly resurgent pandemic: https://tinyurl.com yc9lcoqpx.

The state sets a new record, with 8,000 cases in a single day: https://tinyurl.com/y6vklw2g.

In DC:

The Paycheck Protection Program ends with $130 billion unspent: https://tinyurl.com/y7vuyzct.

In Florida:

The state reports 6,093 new infections, the fourth-highest figure so far: https://tinyurl.com/y7vw5a92.

The governor vetoes $1 billion from the state budget, ravaged by the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y9bf28jx.

Miami to impose ten-day shutdown for businesses that violate COVID-19 restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/ya4y9v54.

Seminole County mandates the wearing of masks in businesses and other public places: https://tinyurl.com/yapxvdyg.

In Kansas:

The AMC cinema chain delays reopening by two more weeks: https://tinyurl.com/yb4t2qdb.

In Nevada:


In Tennessee:
Chase Rice has no apologies or regrets for that widely criticized concert: https://tinyurl.com/y75bnnb7w.

In Texas:

As the pandemic continues unchecked, an unmasked chorus of 100 serenades the vice-president: https://tinyurl.com/yb8rykvy.

Around the World:

In Canada:


Training:

Chauvet Professional’s next Tech Talk happens July 2 at 2:00pm, ET on Facebook LIVE, YouTube Live, and IGTV. This week’s topic is “IP Fixture & Maintenance/ What IP Ratings Mean.” A live Q&A is hosted by the company’s product managers.

On July 2, d&b audiotechnik will be chatting to sound designer Jessica Paz, the first woman to win a Tony Award for sound design. Paz will talk about the Delacorte Theater’s free summer sessions in Central Park, and how she used the d&b V-Series, and E-Series with standard weather resistance to deliver exceptional sound to the audience. It happens at 1:00pm EDT on Instagram by following @dbaudiotechnik_gmbh.

New from JBL: “Performance Manager 2.x Advanced” with Juan Soothill, July 7 at 6:00pm CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/yatyxt6l. “Performance Manager Applications for Concerts & Festivals with Juan Soothill”, July 8 at 6:00pm CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/y7uqa9om. “Audio Engineering: Setting up a Vocal Template for Recording Session” with Tiffany “Dellah” Miranda, July 10, at 1:00pm CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/y79wh4ut.

New from Martin by Harman: “Basic Introduction to Martin P3” with Wouter Verlinden, July 2 at 10:00am CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/ybwmvxp7. “P3 -- Ask the Experts with Wouter Verlinden and Bjoern Stolt,” July 9 at 10:00am CT; register at https://tinyurl.com/y7gz8tsm.

New from Studer: “Studer VISTA 1 Class from Hungary Part 1” with Mihály András and Dávid Rikk, July 21, 11:00am; register at https://tinyurl.com/yajlq929. Part II is July 23 at 11:00am; register at https://tinyurl.com/y8oyk263.

Entertainment:

The Mint Theatre Company is producing a summer stock season online, featuring George Kelly’s The Fatal Weakness, Harold Chapin’s The New Morality, and Hazel Ellis’ Women Without Men: https://tinyurl.com/yc626ygl.

The latest list of productions being streamed by Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/yawt4858.

Tanglewood’s Online Festival 2020 starts this week; for more information, go to https://www.bso.org/.

For Your Pleasure:

Billy Porter, Cyndi Lauper, Stark Sands, Annaleigh Ashford, and Harvey Fierstein join international casts members of Kinky Boots to “Raise You Up:” https://tinyurl.com/y7984xfl.

COVID-19 Update: June 29, 2020:
Closed, Again
The number of coronavirus cases has reached 10 million worldwide, 25% of them in the US: https://tinyurl.com/y8ze9ccn. The worldwide number of deaths is 500,000: https://tinyurl.com/y8rkjkoa.

Coronavirus cases are rising in 36 states and falling in two: https://tinyurl.com/ydc72p4y.

Thanks to the surge of cases, hospitals in several states are on the edge of being overwhelmed: https://tinyurl.com/ydcd-c9lg.

A new pattern emerges as cases spread through rural areas: https://tinyurl.com/y8h75dnn.

Governors making rosy predictions about the spread of COVID-19 are relying on misleading hospital data: https://tinyurl.com/y7bkaa6w.

If the Supreme Court overturns the Affordable Care Act, untold numbers of those suffering from -- or struggling to get over -- the coronavirus will lose their health insurance: https://tinyurl.com/ybc498h3.

The EU isn’t even thinking of allowing Americans past its borders: https://tinyurl.com/yaul5zft.

Dr. Anthony Fauci says that, with so many American being vaccine-resistant, we may never achieve herd immunity: https://tinyurl.com/ycwh4bjy.

Anatomy of a long shot: inside Operation Warp Speed, the government program to fast-track a COVID-19 vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y7f7gte8.

CBS Sunday Morning reports on resident theatres searching for a way forward in the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y964v4oz.

Food for Thought:

When public health depends on convincing men that masks are manly: https://tinyurl.com/ybmgq5yf.

Dr. Anthony Fauci’s pool-testing plan and how it could fast-track the entire testing process: https://tinyurl.com/y8gom3ym.

Around the Country:

In Arizona:


In California:

The governor shuts down bars in several counties, including Los Angeles, to stem the resurgent pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/ya2u46cx.

A high positivity rate is the leading indicator of COVID-19’s spread in the state: https://tinyurl.com/y8bI47kp.

San Quentin State Prison has become a coronavirus hotspot: https://tinyurl.com/yb6fz6bt.

San Diego healthcare workers recount the grind of caring for coronavirus patients, wishing the public could see what they see: https://tinyurl.com/yaee8ilmx.

San Diego’s Belmont Park is shut down for violating COVID-19 guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/ycjek3vt.

The fate of San Diego’s KAABOO Festival, scheduled for September remains up in the air: https://tinyurl.com/y96sns7r.

Recognizing the fiscal damage caused by the pandemic, La Jolla Symphony offers a pay-what-you-can subscription plan:
In Florida:


Sunday report: The state adds another 8,530 cases; Miami-Dade hits a single-day high: https://tinyurl.com/y9hpw58x.

All told, that means nearly 44,000 cases in one week: https://tinyurl.com/ydb8ecqc.

“You can’t control...they’re younger people. They’re going to do what they’re going to do;” so says the governor, explaining the spike in cases: https://tinyurl.com/y78fymcp.

Fort Lauderdale shutters 21 business for breaking restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/y9v6u9bw.

When it comes to reporting infections, is the governor cooking the books? https://tinyurl.com/y9hpw58x.

The mayor of Pinecrest warns that house parties are a community danger: https://tinyurl.com/y9l5ysr5.

If you live in Palm Beach Country, you’re getting a mask in the mail: https://tinyurl.com/ya9gfhhc.

Welcome to the drive-in synagogue: https://tinyurl.com/y9q679zl.

In Illinois:

Casinos can reopen on Wednesday: https://tinyurl.com/yd5gncsv.

In Maryland:

The co-founder of a movement to reopen the state during the pandemic tests positive for COVID-19; he blames Satan: https://tinyurl.com/y8zb7cua.

In Nevada:


In New York:

An outbreak of infections at a high school graduation in Chappaqua is traced to a student who recently visited Florida: https://tinyurl.com/y7h6vz98.

In Oklahoma:

Chesapeake Energy, a giant in shale gas energy, files for bankruptcy, brought low by the coronavirus-related drop in energy prices: https://tinyurl.com/ycpzxje8.

In Tennessee:

Country star Chase Rice reaps a harvest of scorn for staging a concert that didn’t follow social distancing guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/yd8d8jpa.

In Texas:

The Department of Health and Human Services is going to keep federally funded testing sites open, after all: https://tinyurl.com/y8qra15.

Which is good, because Dallas County registered another one-day high in COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y8fxdqjf.
A Dallas county judge asks the governor to issue a mandatory mask order: https://tinyurl.com/yayn3tyt.

**Around the World:**

**In India:**

The country’s COVID-19 cases skyrocket past 500,000: https://tinyurl.com/y7cs8kj2.

**In the UK:**

The government relaxes rules for summer vacations: https://tinyurl.com/y8szpc23.

British Equity and The Theatres Trust respond to the government’s five-stage reopening plan; they’re not impressed: https://tinyurl.com/y8yuyk6u.

If panto season is canceled at the end of the year, the country’s theatres will face catastrophic losses: https://tinyurl.com/yacoxghh.

Glastonbury 2021 books its first artist: https://tinyurl.com/ycoplh3g.

**For Your Pleasure:**

The great Gregory Hines, in a tribute to Gene Kelly: https://tinyurl.com/y8u4yn2s.

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**COVID-19 Update: June 26, 2020:**

**Reaping the Whirlwind**

Thanks to a patchwork approach by state and local authorities, with no real national oversight, the pandemic is now raging in many places at rates not seen in months. Confirmed new cases of COVID-19 in the US reaches a new high of 40,000: https://tinyurl.com/yat3ncjx.

More and more, those infected are under 40: https://tinyurl.com/y7264kaf.

In the middle of the pandemic, the president asks the Supreme Court to invalidate Obamacare: https://tinyurl.com/y7chz8p9.

The president insists the economy is roaring back and the effects of COVID-19 constitute "an artificial problem:" https://tinyurl.com/y95sbqkt.

The reason that federal testing centers are closing is that the funding came with a cut-off date that won’t be changed: https://tinyurl.com/y9fg5fr9.

Public health officials are up in arms over the government’s handling of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yakc4qow.

Bill Gates says that US isn’t doing nearly enough to fight the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yl3prjgp.

Candidate Joe Biden says he would use federal power to enforce the wearing of masks: https://tinyurl.com/y89e4dfy.

The Federal Reserve puts new restrictions on the banking industry out of fear that the pandemic might cause some to hit minimum capital levels: https://tinyurl.com/y8vjy55r.

**Food for Thought:**
How the decentralized approach to the pandemic has brought us to this place: [https://tinyurl.com/y8ng79v2](https://tinyurl.com/y8ng79v2).

**Around the Country:**

**In Arizona:**

As infections spike, the governor begs citizens to stay at home or wear masks: [https://tinyurl.com/y7l97nfe](https://tinyurl.com/y7l97nfe).

“We have failed on so many levels:” How the state lost control of the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y9fg5fr9](https://tinyurl.com/y9fg5fr9).

**In California:**

The release of Christopher Nolan’s Tenet -- arguably the summer’s most anticipated film -- has been delayed again: [https://tinyurl.com/ydy34wud](https://tinyurl.com/ydy34wud).

**In Florida:**

The state records nearly 9,000 more cases in a day, a new record: [https://tinyurl.com/yakqmaau](https://tinyurl.com/yakqmaau).

Health experts warn that immediate action is needed to stop the explosive spread of the coronavirus across the state: [https://tinyurl.com/y8hxs8y2](https://tinyurl.com/y8hxs8y2).

The state bans consumption of alcohol in bars: [https://tinyurl.com/y7akx6z3](https://tinyurl.com/y7akx6z3).

Actors’ Equity calls on Walt Disney World to delay reopening: [https://tinyurl.com/y72qnx8u](https://tinyurl.com/y72qnx8u).

**In Maryland:**

Baltimore Center Stage announces a shortened season, starting in January 2021: [https://tinyurl.com/y7myhutm](https://tinyurl.com/y7myhutm).

**In New York:**

Two Broadway productions curtailed by the city’s lockdown -- American Buffalo and The Minutes -- reschedule for spring 2020: [https://tinyurl.com/yc5t4sg2](https://tinyurl.com/yc5t4sg2).

**In Texas:**

New infections continue unabated in Dallas and Tarrant Counties: [https://tinyurl.com/ycasar9rf](https://tinyurl.com/ycasar9rf).

The governor recloses bars, cuts restaurant attendance: [https://tinyurl.com/y77cm5wb](https://tinyurl.com/y77cm5wb).

A family birthday party leads to 18 new infections: [https://tinyurl.com/yco8yz2v](https://tinyurl.com/yco8yz2v).

Forget those empty middle seats: American Airlines will fly full planes starting July 1: [https://tinyurl.com/y7pkwat5](https://tinyurl.com/y7pkwat5).

**Around the World:**

**In Australia:**

The government unveils $250 million in support for the arts sector, “including $90m in government-backed concessional loans to fund new productions that will create jobs during the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic:” [https://tinyurl.com/yahz38nh](https://tinyurl.com/yahz38nh).

**In Germany:**

The government’s reopening plans run into a new outbreak of infections: [https://tinyurl.com/ya47dgmo](https://tinyurl.com/ya47dgmo).
In Sweden:

Confidence is falling in the government’s handling of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/ya655wcq.

In the UK:

The culture secretary announces a five-stage plan for reopening theatres, but no government financial assistance: https://tinyurl.com/yaee63g78.

Crowds flock to Dorset beaches despite pleas to stay away: https://tinyurl.com/ycznq6gr.

The organizer of the Glastonbury Festival says it could be curtains unless the event goes on next summer: https://tinyurl.com/ybm7dmab.

Mobilizing:

Check out Go Live Together, a new initiative to help the events industry: https://tinyurl.com/ybchzfj4.

Company News:

Frank Montero, of ROE Visual, talks about how the company is doing at the moment: https://tinyurl.com/ycjjse5v.

Entertainment:

Richard Nelson’s latest Apple Family play will begin streaming on July 1. Donations to The Actors Fund are cheerfully accepted: https://tinyurl.com/ycq6xw7d.

The 2020 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular: A Boston Pops Salute to Our Heroes, will be broadcast on Bloomberg Television, Bloomberg Radio, and the city’s WHDH TV, July 4 beginning at 8:00pm ET. Performances from previous programs include Tony winner Brian Stokes Mitchell singing “America the Beautiful” and Ragtime’s “Wheels of a Dream;” Tony winner Leslie Odom Jr. singing “Sarah” from The Civil War and “Without You” from Rent; Rita Moreno narrating excerpts from Ellis Island: The Dream of America; America’s Got Talent semifinalist Amanda Mena singing Pink’s “What About US” and the National Anthem with the US Navy Sea Chanters; singer-songwriter Melissa Etheridge performing “I Wanna Come Over;” Amanda Gorman offering “Believer’s Hymn for the Republic;” Grammy winner Rhiannon Giddens performing “Pretty Little Girl” and “She’s Got You;” folk singer-songwriter Arlo Guthrie and The Texas Tenors joining forces on “This Land Is Your Land;” Queen Latifah singing “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy;” singer-songwriter Andy Grammer performing “Give Love;” and The US Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus joining the Pops for “The Stars and Stripes Forever."

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: June 25, 2020:

Just Wear the Damn Mask

The above words are those of Marco Rubio, as the pandemic rages in many states: https://tinyurl.com/y8rc3pmv.

The coronavirus runs rampant through the three most populous states: https://tinyurl.com/ychazklu.

The Trump Administration sparks alarm by announcing plans to close 13 COVID-19 testing stations: https://tinyurl.com/y9csn4aa.

Another 1.48 million Americans file for unemployment: https://tinyurl.com/yc7rhwej.
The Treasury sent stimulus payments to one million dead Americans: https://tinyurl.com/y75qvrq6.

Theatres in Florida and Utah experiment with reopening: https://tinyurl.com/ydd7wwdz.

**Around the Country:**

**In Arizona:**

The state is overwhelmed by requests for coronavirus testing: https://tinyurl.com/y8tsd5mn.

**In California:**

The reopening of Disneyland is one hold: https://tinyurl.com/y824xrpu.

Live Nation announces its first drive-in concert series: https://tinyurl.com/yccy2w9zm.

**In Florida:**

Palm Beach’s mask order is now in effect: https://tinyurl.com/yc2ex8vt.

Broward Country ramps up enforcement against businesses that don’t follow COVID-19 rules: https://tinyurl.com/y733o45z.


Carnival Cruise Lines has its credit rating downgraded: https://tinyurl.com/ydc566a.

**In Massachusetts:**

Boston’s Huntington Theatre plans 2021 return, lays off staff: https://tinyurl.com/y8738d9g.

**In New York:**

New York City is on track to move to Phase 3 on July 6: https://tinyurl.com/y8d8r8w.

But even in Phase 4, theatres will remain closed: https://tinyurl.com/y8xm59h3.

The state releases guidelines for restarting film and TV production: https://tinyurl.com/yctmhyzt.


Broadway performer Adam Perry, a COVID-19 survivor, talks about the disease’s lingering effects: https://tinyurl.com/yacpkgyc.

**In Texas:**

The governor hits the pause button on the state’s reopening: https://tinyurl.com/yb6gdpvq.

The parent company of Chuck E. Cheese files for bankruptcy: https://tinyurl.com/yd5yusro.

Houston Grand Opera cancels its 2020 productions plans only two for the first half of 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y7hh5ajl.

**In West Virginia:**

The governor forces a top health official to resign when the latter notes that the coronavirus infection rate is worse than advertised: https://tinyurl.com/yasksj6h.
In Wisconsin:

The Herd Immunity Fest was announced. Then cooler heads prevailed: https://tinyurl.com/yd9qfpmz.

Food for Thought:

Why have the anti-racism demonstrations not led (so far) to a spike in infections: https://tinyurl.com/y72u6ft7.

Mobilizing:

The Broadway Relief Project at Open Jar Studios has created more than 51,000 medical gowns for the New York City public hospitals. It also created 400 jobs and many workers donated their pay to The Actors Fund. The amount donated is $32,948: https://tinyurl.com/y99ok4zc.

Lin-Manuel Miranda and the original Broadway cast of Hamilton will team up with Jimmy Fallon and The Roots for the concert Global Goal: Unite for Our Future which will shine a light on how the global coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted marginalized communities. It happens June 27. Also taking part are Miley Cyrus, Shakira, J Balvin, Justin Bieber and Quavo, Jennifer Hudson, Coldplay, Usher, Christine and the Queens, Chloé x Halle, and Yemi Alade. Billy Porter and Hugh Jackman are among the many others who will also make appearances, and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson will take on the role of host for the evening: https://tinyurl.com/y8ojdfxh.

For Your Pleasure:

Jelani Alladin and Matt Doyle give a new twist to Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “We Kiss in a Shadow:” https://tinyurl.com/y7uo3hey.

COVID-19 Update: June 24, 2020:
Caught in the Wave

The price of denial and doing nothing is becoming increasingly apparent as the first wave of COVID-19 infections comes roaring back. As the president maintains that the coronavirus will fade away, Anthony Fauci testifies to Congress that it is still out of control and not going anywhere: https://tinyurl.com/ybguuwjm.

New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut will quarantine visitors from states where infections are spiking: https://tinyurl.com/ymb5eb6pp.

As the European Union reopens, it may ban US travelers: https://tinyurl.com/y8orxmzt.

The IMF’s outlook on the pandemic-ravaged economy is gloomy at best: https://tinyurl.com/yafjkshj.

As the president disparages testing, Dr. Deborah Birx quietly orders governors to step it up: https://tinyurl.com/yf3pif7f.

As cinemas reopen, Fandango rolls out its safety information program: https://tinyurl.com/ycenc9py.

After much wrangling, Major League Baseball is back, sans audiences: https://tinyurl.com/y7386bp4.

Food for Thought:

The race for a COVID-19 vaccine; it’s harder than you think: https://tinyurl.com/ybak8nf9.

How Florida is shaping up to be a COVID-19 disaster: https://tinyurl.com/ymbm97573.

How Florida’s problem could become a national problem: https://tinyurl.com/y7scnvfc.
Around the Country:

In California:

The state falters in the battle against the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y6uos35x.
Like so many other award shows, the Golden Globes is postponing a couple of months: https://tinyurl.com/y7bcoack.

In the District of Columbia:

The Kennedy Center cancels most of its performances through the end of 2020: https://tinyurl.com/y9lnxkmy.

In Florida:

The state posts another record-breaking numbers of infections: https://tinyurl.com/y8dauy4u.
Record numbers of patients are filling Miami-Dade hospitals: https://tinyurl.com/y8vgjeog.
Two weeks after reopening, Universal Studios Orlando lays off workers: https://tinyurl.com/y7mtktlw.
The governor threatens non-compliant bars and restaurants risk losing their liquor licenses: https://tinyurl.com/ybnmt76u.
The Trump – Biden debate originally scheduled for Ann Arbor, Michigan, is being moved to Miami: https://tinyurl.com/yam-fb3cn.
Caribbean nations are furious at Senator Rick Scott, who wants to punish them for using doctors from Cuba to fight COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y8f36yvx.

In Illinois:

Chicago will expand outdoor dining to include five neighborhoods: https://tinyurl.com/yb7mth37.
Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre will resume performances in December: https://tinyurl.com/y87xrbvc.

In New York:

The New York City Marathon has been canceled, due to the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yb9pl3wr.
In Dutchess County, a drive-in high school graduation ceremony: https://tinyurl.com/y9romdv2.
Lincoln Center Theater reschedules its productions of Intimate Apparel and Flying Over Sunset -- which were just getting underway last March -- for spring 2021: https://tinyurl.com/yb2bgfjm.

In Texas:

For the first time, the state surpasses 5,000 COVID-19 cases in a single day: https://tinyurl.com/yasnjlha.
Hospitals are filling up in Dallas County, including ICUs: https://tinyurl.com/ycustbsm.

In Utah:

The governor pushes back after a public health official says a shutdown may be needed to stop the spread of the coronavirus in the state: https://tinyurl.com/y9jhntvw.

Around the World:

In France:
Disneyland Paris will reopen July 15: [https://tinyurl.com/yajc9pyk](https://tinyurl.com/yajc9pyk).

In Spain:

The Barcelona Opera reopens -- with an audience of plants: [https://tinyurl.com/y8v8hbun](https://tinyurl.com/y8v8hbun).

Mobilizing:

PLASA has launched #WeMakeEvents, a new campaign with the aim of amplifying the industry’s voice and gaining meaningful UK government support. Central to the campaign is a video highlighting the vital role of supply chain companies along with the freelance community and the devastating impact of the pandemic upon the live events sector. PLASA is calling for people from across the industry to share the video across social media to give much needed exposure to the supply chain to events including production and rental companies, manufacturers and freelancers, to raise awareness of the need for longer term financial support.

In addition to sharing the video, PLASA has published two infographics illustrating the complexity of the live events supply chain and the typical arena show -- which requires an average of 443 professionals spanning design, planning, preparation, warehousing, and venue staff. The graphics also show how valuable the sector is, collectively delivering £100 billion to the UK economy.

PLASA also encourages everyone to add their name to the campaign, and to send a letter to their local MP using the customizable letter samples which were created by a collective of PLASA, ABTT, PSA, SOLT, and UK Theatre.

PLASA’s managing director, Peter Heath comments, “We all know that the events industry has been devastated due to COVID-19, and we expect that the road to recovery will be a long one. PLASA is part of an incredibly robust community and it’s times like this we have seen us all working together. Through this campaign we are trying to boost awareness of the massively diverse and talented supply chain, in order to get the financial support and recognition needed. We really need everyone to get involved and share our new campaign and video with all those you know.”


The Costume Industry Coalition forms to help small businesses and artisans survive in the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/yc43zmfm](https://tinyurl.com/yc43zmfm).

A group of UK-based scenic designers form #SceneChange, to help colleagues cope with the current disruptive change: [https://tinyurl.com/yc38nzp7](https://tinyurl.com/yc38nzp7).

#ArtsAreEssential, a new initiative, aims to keep arts education funding in the already stretched New York City budget: [https://tinyurl.com/y8hp7b5n](https://tinyurl.com/y8hp7b5n).

Entertainment:

Great Performances presents the intimate theatrical production Gloria: A Life about Gloria Steinem, one of the most inspiring women of the feminist movement, premiering nationwide on Friday, June 26 at 9:00pm on PBS (check local listings), [http://www.pbs.org/gperf/](http://www.pbs.org/gperf/) and the PBS Video app. Christine Lahti stars.

From Jazz at Lincoln Center, Big Band B-3, featuring Hammond organ maestro Joey DeFrancesco (see below): [https://tinyurl.com/yc7e7f45](https://tinyurl.com/yc7e7f45).

Starting tomorrow, Lincoln Center Theater streams its Broadway revival of William Finn’s musical Falsettos: [https://tinyurl.com/yc3q7e9p](https://tinyurl.com/yc3q7e9p).

For Your Pleasure:

The Joey DeFrancesco Trio performs “Fly Me to the Moon:” [https://tinyurl.com/o2fakr4](https://tinyurl.com/o2fakr4).
COVID-19 Update: June 23, 2020:
No Direction Home

The lack of a coordinated policy guarantees that COVID-19 will be checked in some parts of the country while spreading freely in others. As the country reopens, many new coronavirus hotspots emerge -- in bars, strip clubs, churches, and summer camps, among others: https://tinyurl.com/y9j9myme.

“As you reopen ... you expect to see more cases. But what we’re hearing, in terms of the public health model -- of testing people, through contact tracing, and then isolation and quarantine -- it doesn’t sound like it’s working as well as it really needs to,” says former acting director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Richard Besser: https://tinyurl.com/y9j9myme.

Despite the back and forth, and the denials from the White House press secretary, the president admits that he wanted to slow testing for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y7x2ea4r.

According to a federal analysis, income and race are key predictors of coronavirus infection; in other words, if you’re black and poor, good luck: https://tinyurl.com/y7b44tsd.

The FDA warns that nine brands of hand sanitizer may be toxic: https://tinyurl.com/y9jpnhzh.

A new study suggests that 8.7 million Americans came down with the coronavirus in March, but 80% were never diagnosed: https://tinyurl.com/ybpg6aee.

For doing their jobs, public health officials are becoming public enemies: https://tinyurl.com/yc973b4z.

Cinemas, reopening, struggle with emphasizing safety measures without scaring away customers: https://tinyurl.com/y6u8tf44.

Around the Country:

In Arizona:

What are the odds? The mayor of Phoenix urges the president to wear a mask during his visit today: https://tinyurl.com/y9m4ntx9.

In Florida:

Hospitalizations are rising in the center of the state: https://tinyurl.com/ydhjzj82.

Miami-Dade’s largest cities will mandate the wearing of masks: https://tinyurl.com/y7je37rj.

The state’s surgeon general quietly urges all Floridians to wear masks in public spaces: https://tinyurl.com/yayck8mn.

“This virus is not gone, unfortunately, it’s only become worse in this state.” So says a petition by Disney World workers, asking park management not to open as planned: https://tinyurl.com/ydbpg98e.

The women’s soccer team Orlando Pride drops out of NWSL Challenge Cup after six players and four staff members test positive for the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/ycr5m7xn.

In Illinois:

The head of Broadway in Chicago says the theatre won’t survive without relief: https://tinyurl.com/y7oho2yl.
Interestingly, despite extensive anti-racism demonstrations, the number of infections in Chicago is trending in the right direction: https://tinyurl.com/y9ccy39z.

In Michigan:

The University of Michigan is withdrawing from hosting one of the presidential debates, thanks to coronavirus-related fears: https://tinyurl.com/y8lwrx8w.

In New York:

It looks like Broadway is closed until at least January 3: https://tinyurl.com/y9s9g4l9.

A couple of Off Off Broadway theatres will experiment with live performance under some pretty odd conditions: https://tinyurl.com/yclxeq4j.

In Nevada:

Clark County, home of Vegas, registers the largest single-day increase in COVID-19 infections: https://tinyurl.com/y72w-ghd9.

In Texas:

The governor says the spike in COVID-19 infections is “unacceptable” but adds that the state remains “wide open for business;” https://tinyurl.com/yavvljpn.

American Airlines wants $3.5 billion to deal with the fallout from the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y7kmuo2n.

Around the World:

In Croatia:

Tennis star -- and noted anti-vaxxer -- Novak Djokovic and his wife both test positive for the coronavirus after hosting his controversial tournament across Eastern Europe: https://tinyurl.com/y8qv6bsz.

In Sweden:

The country, having gone it alone during lockdown, is no a pariah state in Scandinavia: https://tinyurl.com/y8re8bm6.

In the UK:

Cinemas, galleries, and museums can reopen as of July 4. And the 2m distancing rule will be reduced to 1m: https://tinyurl.com/ya4967vt.

Mobilizing:

The National Independent Venue Association takes the case for industry relief to Congress: https://tinyurl.com/ybaldrex.

Training:

Tomorrow’s Elation Hour focuses on lighting for houses of worship. Elation Professional hosts John Dunn and Bob Mentelle welcome Josh Holowiki, from E2i Design; Griffin McCravy, from Church of the Highlands; and Chris Eguizabal, from Harvest Christian Fellowship for a discussion about elevating the worship experience utilizing lighting and control technology. It takes place 10:00am PDT. RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/yczuqrjs.

New Martin by Harman webinar: “When Good Shows Go Bad with John Featherstone,” June 25 at 11:00am CDT. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y8m7uguf.
Entertainment:

From Carnegie Hall: Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard curates a program on Thursday, June 25 at 2:00pm EDT as she is joined by soprano Janai Brugger, trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, and pianist Emanuel Ax, performing and discussing her many musical interests with Living the Classical Life’s Zsolt Bognár. She first performed on the Carnegie Hall stage in 2005 as a participant in Marilyn Horne’s series of master classes and has since traveled the world as one of the most celebrated and multifaceted artists. Her varied repertoire ranges from operas by Vivaldi to Nico Muhly, from Spanish art songs to treasures from the American Songbook. Go to https://tinyurl.com/yaaknzc3.

The New York Philharmonic launches Concerts in the Parks @ Home, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer, four days celebrating the free annual summer series, culminating in a broadcast on June 25 at 7:30pm EDT on Facebook (https://tinyurl.com/yct9qddg) and YouTube (https://tinyurl.com/yct9qddg). The June 25 event will feature Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Joshua Bell, and newly recorded Philharmonic performances. More information at https://tinyurl.com/y89bq9an.

Robert Lindsay, Joanna Lumley, and Michael Palin with take part in a live reading of Waiting for Godot. This is really interesting because for decades the Samuel Beckett estate would not allow women in the cast: https://tinyurl.com/y9rzzgnh.

For Your Pleasure:

A little bit of uplift from Idina Menzel: https://tinyurl.com/lznchr6.

COVID-19 Update: June 22, 2020:
It Ain’t Over Til It’s Over

Welcome to summer. It’s going to be a wild one, as the pandemic continues to defy official denials and the best laid plans.

The world enters “a new and dangerous phase,” thanks to the untamed pandemic, warns the World Health Organization: https://tinyurl.com/yd4g8alo. To prove the point, WHO on Sunday reported the largest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases: https://tinyurl.com/y7y9m5kw.

The US reported 30,000 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, the most since May 1: https://tinyurl.com/yao8s6f5.

As infections surge across the South and West, more local authorities are insisting on the wearing of masks: https://tinyurl.com/y78hrc4l.

Major League Baseball suspends operations indefinitely in response to the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yb7a72tu. But Governor Cuomo says that the Mets and Yankees will hold spring training in New York City: https://tinyurl.com/ybphyzow.

Certain politicians insist that COVID-19 death rates are inflated. Here’s why that is almost certainly not true: https://tinyurl.com/y8aospq7. The president says he asked the administration to slow down testing, to make the numbers appear lower: https://tinyurl.com/yd6rhsx5. The White House later claims that the remark was a joke; health experts aren’t laughing: https://tinyurl.com/y8vk82cf.

Major cruise lines suspend trips out of US ports until September 15: https://tinyurl.com/yannddoc.

Here’s a roundup of what countries around the world are doing to financially shore up the arts. Note which country is missing: https://tinyurl.com/y8xmjpxm.

Food for Thought:

Masks save lives -- so why are they so politically divisive? https://tinyurl.com/y8l43ul9.

Around the Country:
In California:

Rising infection levels are linked to confusing messages from the authorities: [https://tinyurl.com/y8obe7n9](https://tinyurl.com/y8obe7n9).

Disneyland’s July 17 opening plan is getting plenty of pushback: [https://tinyurl.com/y8tcoql8](https://tinyurl.com/y8tcoql8).

La Jolla Playhouse is streaming a new play. The catch: It’s 12 hours long: [https://tinyurl.com/ybu7j6ad](https://tinyurl.com/ybu7j6ad).

Pala Sun Casino Resort, in the San Diego area, plans 12 socially distanced outdoor concerts; the first is June 28: [https://tinyurl.com/y863og25](https://tinyurl.com/y863og25).

The summer season of So You Think You Can Dance is off: [https://tinyurl.com/ybt3hely](https://tinyurl.com/ybt3hely).

Here’s to the Auntie Sewing Squad, which makes and distributes masks to at-risk communities: [https://tinyurl.com/ya9x-z3uq](https://tinyurl.com/ya9x-z3uq).

In Florida:

The state reports the highest weekly number of new cases since the pandemic began: [https://tinyurl.com/ya93p6nk](https://tinyurl.com/ya93p6nk). And today it hits the 100,000 mark: [https://tinyurl.com/ya93p6nt](https://tinyurl.com/ya93p6nt).

Why the state has “all the markings of the next large epicenter of coronavirus transmission:” [https://tinyurl.com/y99pjbda](https://tinyurl.com/y99pjbda).

The pandemic is aging in reverse, as more younger people become infected: [https://tinyurl.com/ycgcgfdc](https://tinyurl.com/ycgcgfdc). Which, the governor insists, is good news: [https://tinyurl.com/yaybp6vc](https://tinyurl.com/yaybp6vc).

Unlike Orange County, Seminole County will not mandate the use of masks, despite health authorities acknowledging that they are the single most effective guard against the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/ycahokkp](https://tinyurl.com/ycahokkp).

But if you’re going the Florida Keys, bring a mask: [https://tinyurl.com/ycgy7emo](https://tinyurl.com/ycgy7emo).

The governor says that farmworkers are driving the state’s infection rate; he is cherry-picking his data. In any case, most of the testing of this group is being done not by the state but Doctors Without Borders: [https://tinyurl.com/y8b3ubyx](https://tinyurl.com/y8b3ubyx).

At Disney World, Mickey’s Not-So-Scary Halloween Party is off: [https://tinyurl.com/y77tcqa5](https://tinyurl.com/y77tcqa5).

In Illinois:

On Friday, Chicago moves to phase four of reopening: [https://tinyurl.com/y8hu57p4](https://tinyurl.com/y8hu57p4).

In New York:

New York City enters phase two of reopening: [https://tinyurl.com/ym3bpvxd](https://tinyurl.com/ym3bpvxd).

The city’s contact tracing program is off to a rocky start: [https://tinyurl.com/y9z2v62s](https://tinyurl.com/y9z2v62s).

In South Carolina:

Anti-racism demonstrations are canceled as some protestors are diagnosed with COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/ycmx-u2uw](https://tinyurl.com/ycmx-u2uw).

In Tennessee:

The House of Representatives passes a resolution stating that the media has sensationalized COVID-19: [https://tinyurl.com/y96tng2y](https://tinyurl.com/y96tng2y).

Comedian D. L. Hughley is diagnosed with the coronavirus after he passes out onstage: [https://tinyurl.com/ycywbruf](https://tinyurl.com/ycywbruf).
In Texas:
The Alamo Drafthouse cinema chain will require its patrons to wear masks: https://tinyurl.com/ybjhe84n.

In Vegas:
Two weeks after the casinos reopen, Vegas sees record numbers of infections: https://tinyurl.com/yboh8skk.

Around the World:

In the Bahamas:

In Brazil:
The number of infections passes one million: https://tinyurl.com/y9b4z8yd.

In Croatia:
Tennis players begin withdrawing from Novak Djokovic’s Adria Tour, as two of their colleagues are diagnosed with COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/ybhm2joy.

In Germany:
Previously, a success story, the country has seen its R rate soar: https://tinyurl.com/y7nl53do.

In the UK:
The country lowers its coronavirus threat level: https://tinyurl.com/yq5p2x2q.

The West End musical The Prince of Egypt is now selling tickets for performances starting November 2: https://tinyurl.com/yawy2bn.

Company News:
Screen Goo writes: “We shut our factory down in late March out of an abundance of caution and out of concern for the welfare of our employees. Shortly after the shutdown, we were contacted by Federal and Provincial authorities here in Ontario, Canada and arrangements were made for us to concentrate on making hand sanitizer and other PPE. Employees returned on a voluntary basis to assist in our small efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

“In the last week or so, our government agencies have been able to return to their pre-crisis sources for sanitizer and PPE, so we’ve been able to get back to making Screen Goo, the world’s finest projection screen coatings!”

“A not unwelcome consequence of the COVID precautions is that many of the world’s theme parks have used the opportunity of an unanticipated shutdown to refresh existing attractions and to “Goo” brand new attractions in key markets for us, especially the US and China. This activity has allowed Goo Systems Global to navigate the difficult economic circumstances of the last quarter with few negative consequences to our business and to maintain an optimistic outlook for the times ahead.”

Training:
Starting today, Meyer Sound launches a refreshed comprehensive summer webinar program. It follows the same schedule as the spring season, with English-language webinars hosted Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and Spanish language webinars Tuesday and Thursday. New is a “Festival Fridays” feature, with special guests discussing case studies. Check out the schedule at https://tinyurl.com/rluxk5n. English webinars are at https://tinyurl.com/ycbeglz4. Spanish webinars are
at [https://tinyurl.com/ybdmf3lb](https://tinyurl.com/ybdmf3lb).

On Thursday at 12:00pm EDT, Tony Wikner, of Ultratec, demonstrates how to set up a floor pocket: [https://tinyurl.com/y8opdbtz](https://tinyurl.com/y8opdbtz).

**Scheduling:**

The national tour of the musical Anastasia has canceled all summer performances: [https://tinyurl.com yc9td9h7](https://tinyurl.com yc9td9h7).

**Entertainment:**

Selected by director of artistic planning Dennis Alves, this new audio stream features beloved Boston Pops Orchestra recordings, conducted by the orchestra’s three most recent (and famous) conductors: Arthur Fiedler, John Williams, and Keith Lockhart. For this week, the theme is favorite marches and includes John Williams leading the Pops in “76 Trombones” from Meredith Wilson’s The Music Man (arranged and orchestrated by Leroy Anderson) and the Imperial March from Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back, among other selections: [https://tinyurl.com/ych73sp4](https://tinyurl.com/ych73sp4).

**For Your Pleasure:**

Dancers from Hamilton join with poet Carvens Lissaint to celebrate Juneteenth: [https://tinyurl.com/ybqlalzl](https://tinyurl.com/ybqlalzl).

###

**COVID-19 Update: June 19, 2020:**

**The Battle Over Masks**

Happy Juneteenth.

Ya think? Anthony Fauci says the US is afflicted with anti-science bias: [https://tinyurl.com/yarz492q](https://tinyurl.com/yarz492q). (He also notes that pro football might have to skip a season: [https://tinyurl.com/y78tyhoa](https://tinyurl.com/y78tyhoa).

He has a point: As the pandemic spreads around the country, the wearing of masks -- which, according to solid scientific data, is the surest way to deter the coronavirus -- has become a political hot potato. The evidence is laid out in detail below.

**Meanwhile:**

The vice-president says that COVID-19 has stabilized; a leaked CDC document notes that infections are up 18%: [https://tinyurl.com/yc5ngbxt](https://tinyurl.com/yc5ngbxt).

“It really does feel like the US has given up.” Health experts elsewhere in the world are horrified at the country’s laissez-faire approach to the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/ybuf2nql](https://tinyurl.com/ybuf2nql).

Surprisingly, two-thirds of performing arts venues around the country plan to return in the fall. Interestingly, optimism is highest in areas that are currently the hardest hit by the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/yattxwws](https://tinyurl.com/yattxwws).

**Food for Thought:**

The destruction of the environment, especially deforestation, leads to pandemics, say the UN and WHO: [https://tinyurl.com/y8z8lpgx](https://tinyurl.com/y8z8lpgx).

**Around the Country:**

**In Alabama:**

The Montgomery city council votes down mandatory use of masks, leaving doctors outraged and disgusted: [https://tinyurl](https://tinyurl).
In California:

The governor orders citizens to wear masks in public: https://tinyurl.com/y84bvu2.

Faced with billions in losses, Live Nation looks to reshape its business model: https://tinyurl.com/yb5u5wyc.

In Florida:

The state sees another record-breaking day of new coronavirus cases: https://tinyurl.com/yavha8p.

The mayor of Orange county mandates the wearing of masks in public: https://tinyurl.com/yd6vdvt5.

Hospital ICUs are filling up with new cases of the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yaegn3.

More than two dozen Orlando firefighters have tested positive for COVID-19, and 87 more are in quarantine: https://tinyurl.com/yb3w66kz.

The governor, playing the xenophobia card, blames migrant workers for the state’s surge of COVID-19 infections: https://tinyurl.com/y9gu43j.

Not that anyone is enforcing the city’s mask mandate on Miami beaches: https://tinyurl.com/yav2t9q.

Dozens of workers at the Miami VA have tested positive for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yb3qgqtp.

Want to buy a cruise ship? Carnival has six for sales, as the pandemic kills off the cruise industry: https://tinyurl.com/ybq-m3o7.

In Georgia:

The town of Valdosta, on the Florida border, sees a surge of infections, causing businesses to shut down: https://tinyurl.com/y7y586t8.

In Illinois:

Chicago’s Mercury Theatre is the latest victim of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y8sjuam.

Another casualty: The city’s I/O Theatre: https://tinyurl.com/ybwol7r6.

The University of Illinois develops a saliva-based COVID-19 test to use on returning students: https://tinyurl.com/y8wbytrq.

In Kansas:

When AMC Theatres reopen in July, attendees won’t be required to wear masks, because, the CEO says, “we did not want to be drawn into a political controversy:” https://tinyurl.com/y6vqhwu. Actually, never mind: https://tinyurl.com/y6w3vqwu.

In Nebraska:

The governor threatens to withhold COVID-19 relief funds from counties that require the wearing of masks in government buildings: https://tinyurl.com/y8sduk.

In New York:

Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center cancel their fall performances: https://tinyurl.com/y7sw6jrg. (The latest roundup of classic arts organizations and their scheduling plans: https://tinyurl.com/y9jwzy5.)
The governor mulls quarantine for visitors from coronavirus hot spots, like Florida: [https://tinyurl.com/yc6hv7e9](https://tinyurl.com/yc6hv7e9).

**In North Carolina:**

This is why they don’t have a convention: State officials are strongly considering mandating the use of masks: [https://tinyurl.com/y945wx68](https://tinyurl.com/y945wx68).

**In Oklahoma:**

As residents sue to prevent the president’s rally from happening in Tulsa, the convention center asks the Trump campaign for a detailed health and safety plan: [https://tinyurl.com/ybcvbybty](https://tinyurl.com/ybcvbybty).

**In South Carolina:**

The state sees a record-breaking one-day surge in COVID-19 cases: [https://tinyurl.com/y9agywq2](https://tinyurl.com/y9agywq2).

**In Texas:**

Dallas County mandates the wearing of masks by everyone on the premises at businesses: [https://tinyurl.com/y79ddk9p](https://tinyurl.com/y79ddk9p).

**Around the World:**

**In Peru:**

Faced with an overwhelmed hospital system, patients turn to the black market, purchasing oxygen tanks at a 1,000% markup: [https://tinyurl.com/yb3sp4fa](https://tinyurl.com/yb3sp4fa).

**In the UK:**

Andrew Lloyd Webber moves ahead with plan to demonstrate to the government how theatres can reopen without social distancing in the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/yocrclx5j](https://tinyurl.com/yocrclx5j).

**Entertainment:**

Starting tonight, Lincoln Center Theater streams its 2014 production of *Act One*, based on Moss Hart’s classic Broadway memoir, starring Santino Fontana, Tony Shaloub, and Andrea Martin: [https://tinyurl.com/yd9gakf3j](https://tinyurl.com/yd9gakf3j).

The little OPERA theatre of ny (LOTNY) streams highlights of its productions of *Owen Wingrave, Piramo e Tisbe, L'Amant Anonyme, Slow Dusk & Markheim*, available to view for free at [https://tinyurl.com/y8rx2g74](https://tinyurl.com/y8rx2g74).

**For Your Pleasure:**

Broadway and <i>Pose</i> star Billy Porter gives us some sound advice: [https://tinyurl.com/y7e9yff3](https://tinyurl.com/y7e9yff3).

###

**Coronavirus Update: June 18, 2020:**

**The New Normal**

As should be clear by now, there is no overarching plan in place to combat COVID-19, and the state-by-state approach is yielding wildly different results. In the Northeast, New York is ready to move to Phase II of reopening. In the south, states are posting record numbers of infections.

And despite reopening plans and rosy announcements from the White House, unemployment numbers remain historically high: [https://tinyurl.com/y8e8lf6at](https://tinyurl.com/y8e8lf6at).
Meanwhile:

A coronavirus theatre think tank launches a website to figure out the details of reopening: https://tinyurl.com/yb5ppxyt.

The coronavirus risk of flushing the toilet: https://tinyurl.com/yd3wvn2o.

Food for thought: Compare the curves of the US and EU and ask yourself who is doing a better job of eradicating the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y7jtj859.


Around the Country:

In Arizona:

The governor stops blocking local lawmakers from mandating the use of masks: https://tinyurl.com/yde9xkbt.

The sheriff of Pinal County refused to enforce the state’s COVID-related restrictions; now he tests positive: https://tinyurl.com/yb7cc3d6.

In California:

The bumpy road back: After only one day, production on the soap The Bold and the Beautiful halts to accommodate testing: https://tinyurl.com/y7gbbdas.

Showrunners and writers are worried about being left out of new production guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/yb2xzcz3.

In Florida:

The state shatters its daily record for new cases: https://tinyurl.com/y9ogxyrj.

Inspections spike and long lines form outside testing centers: https://tinyurl.com/yd69mwom.

The Breakthrough Theatre in Winter Park shutters permanently: https://tinyurl.com/yazwc8yf.

In Illinois:

The GOP sues to end the governor’s restriction against public gatherings of ten or more people: https://tinyurl.com/yayex83s.

In North Carolina:

The lady is for burning: The leader of a Raleigh condemns masks as a form of social control and sets one afire on video: https://tinyurl.com/yaw2yzwy.

In Oklahoma:

In advance of the president’s rally, the state racks up a record number of new coronavirus cases: https://tinyurl.com/y7r7czm3.

What happens when a TV film starts up production in a pandemic? https://tinyurl.com/y6u5mgqn.

In Tennessee:

The Nashville Symphony suspends performances until July 2021, suspends musicians and staff: https://tinyurl.com/y976psmv.
In Texas:

Coronavirus hospitalizations surge 11% in a single day: https://tinyurl.com/y8azazvy.

The Houston music venue White Oak announces its return to live performance: https://tinyurl.com/y8se3aq7.

Around the World:

In the UK:

“British theatre is on the brink of ruin:” All this and more in a letter signed by virtually every top name in the country’s performing arts sector and sent to a so-far indifferent government: https://tinyurl.com/y9o6uwah.

Training:

Chauvet Professional will offer the first look at (and listen to) its Maverick Silens 2 Profile in a “Tech Talk” interactive livestream today at 2:00pm EST. Hosted by Chauvet Professional Global Brand Manager Caroline Chauvet and Product Manager Ben Dickmann, the program will review the key features of this unique fanless fixture as it runs silently “from curtain to camera.” Live questions will be taken. It will be streamed on YouTube Live and IGTV.

K-array hosts a new webinar on how to design and implement a variety of subwoofer configurations, including electronic arcs and cardioid patterns. It will explain the concepts and techniques for producing better bass coverage. Different times and languages are available. Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/ycyp4oux.

Entertainment:

To observe Juneteenth this week, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre will stream Donald Byrd’s Greenwood, a work that draws on the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre as a source. It makes its broadcast premiere tonight at 7:00pm EDT: https://tinyurl.com/y7hxvdxp.

London’s National Theatre is now streaming Small Island, one of its biggest recent hits: https://tinyurl.com/y8vpqvd4.

For Your Pleasure:

Another Bolero? Yes, but a gorgeous one, from the musicians and dancers of Royal Opera House: https://tinyurl.com/y9h3dffo.

COVID-19 Update: June 17, 2020:

120 Hours to Tulsa

As the president plans to arrive in Tulsa on Saturday for a rally, the city sees its highest one-day spike of coronavirus infections: https://tinyurl.com/y8cwwr89. Local officials beg him not to come: https://tinyurl.com/ydd43qfm. A judge denies a lawsuit seeking to block the Saturday rally: https://tinyurl.com/yblwknlx. Dr. Anthony Fauci says that attending the rally is too risky for him: https://tinyurl.com/ydfewxpt. The event will features face masks, hand sanitizer, and temperature checks: https://tinyurl.com/ych68lkc.

Meanwhile:

Why fast-tracking a vaccine isn’t as easy as it sounds: https://tinyurl.com/y9e9es9d.

We’re in the middle of a COVID baby bust, which depress the birth rate next year: https://tinyurl.com/ybjfo8lu.

The major airlines are cracking down on passengers who don’t wear masks: https://tinyurl.com/y77dg4yz.
A Fox News pundit denounces Anthony Fauci as a deep-state alarmist: https://tinyurl.com/yaeypdyx.

How Cinemark Theatres plan to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/y8w2b9w2.

And, despite everything, most Americans are following safety guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/y7ugz2h6.

**Around the Country:**

**In Arizona:**

With a rising infection rate, nightclubs are turning into more than one kind of hotspot: https://tinyurl.com/y9ng8ca8.

**In California:**

The Center Theatre Group will remain closed until April 29, 2021: https://tinyurl.com/ybjpea89.

San Francisco Opera cancels its fall season: https://sfopera.com/.

All the other awards ceremonies are postponing, and the Independent Spirit Awards joins in: https://tinyurl.com/yd5luvn5.

**In Connecticut:**

Yale Rep and Yale School of Drama will not produce a 2020 – 21 season: https://tinyurl.com/y8p3342j.

**In Florida:**

Sixteen friends test positive for the coronavirus after a night out at a bar: https://tinyurl.com/yco7cvcu.

COVID cases rise among young people near the University of Central Florida: https://tinyurl.com/ycxhh459.

As the number of new cases breaks records daily, the governor says another shutdown isn’t in the cards: https://tinyurl.com/y7od5omy.

The president’s corporation wants rent relief for its Palm Beach golf course, citing pandemic-related hardship: https://tinyurl.com/yccba4lq.

**In Illinois:**

Riot Fest 2020 is off, postponed until next year: https://tinyurl.com/y9jnhbhx.

Chicago Lyric Opera and Joffrey Ballet cancel all of their 2020 performances: https://tinyurl.com/yb66aepo.

**In Missouri:**

How masks prevented the spread of coronavirus in a Springfield hair salon: https://tinyurl.com/y9kwnmuo.

**In Oregon:**

The state’s biggest coronavirus outbreak yet is linked to a United Pentecostal Church: https://tinyurl.com/ycd6r4hh.

**In Texas:**

Window or aisle? Southwest Airlines won’t sell middle seats through September: https://tinyurl.com/y6v39zys.

**Around the World:**
In Brazil:
The country "is routinely posting more than 30,000 new cases a day -- five times more than Italy reported at the peak of its outbreak:" https://tinyurl.com/ybnxx6qu.

In China:
The country races to contain a second wave in Beijing: https://tinyurl.com/y8rrwtpc.

In Russia:
Want to visit Vladimir Putin? Step into the disinfection tunnel: https://tinyurl.com/y8m72k4y.

In the UK:
Cameron Mackintosh says that his West End musicals won’t reopen until 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y79foas3.

In an effort to get audiences back in cinemas, Disney will release a remastered 4K edition of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back: https://tinyurl.com/ydxndr4g.

Entertainment:
Boston Pops: Enjoy a rare peek back into the archives with Keith Lockhart’s first Evening at Pops television show--not seen since it aired in 1995 and shared here in honor of Keith Lockhart’s 25th anniversary as conductor of the Boston Pops (canceled for this season and rescheduled for 2021). The orchestra is joined by soprano Sylvia McNair and Broadway singer Mandy Patinkin, with special tribute appearances by conductor laureate John Williams and the legendary Doc Severinsen. It is accessible at www.bostonpops.org/athome. The video stream is available for free on-demand viewing on Sunday, June 21 at 3:00pm EDT for a 45-day duration.

The live reading of Will Arbery’s Heroes of the Fourth Turning, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, will take place June 18 at 8:00pm ET on the website Play-per-View: https://www.play-perview.com/.

Obie Award-winner Metropolitan Playhouse will present a free “screened” reading of Where the Cross is Made, a ghost story by Eugene O’Neill, via livestream video, with talkback to follow, on June 20, at 8:00pm, EST. Running time is 30 minutes, with a talkback to follow with Alexander Pettit, editor of the Eugene O’Neill Review, including audience questions via Zoom and YouTube chat. It is available via Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88395846819 and YouTube at https://youtu.be/sDY11ynh_X8

All links are available at www.metropolitanplayhouse.org/virtualplayhouse. The program will also be simultaneously broadcast on WBAI Radio, 99.5 FM, and www.wbai.org.

For Your Pleasure:
The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs “Walkin’”: https://orcd.co/walkin.

###

**COVID-19 Update: June 16, 2020:**
If We Didn’t Have So Many Tests...


So how are we doing compared to the rest of the world? https://tinyurl.com/y8uczbop.
A low-dose steroid treatment proves effective in treating those seriously ill with the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y9kor565.

The FDA revokes emergency use of hydroxychloroquine: https://tinyurl.com/y993j3e7.

**Meanwhile:**

A new theatrical streaming platform, aimed at amateur and community theatres, is set to launch: https://tinyurl.com/y8qz7haa.

Some non-Equity theatres are moving ahead with reopening plans: https://tinyurl.com/y8dxw6u7.
Cineworld cinemas will reopen in the US and UK in July: https://tinyurl.com/y7qj7aqy.
The Academy Awards have been pushed back until April 25: https://tinyurl.com/y9kjybs8. And the UK’s BAFTA Awards have been moved to April 11: https://tinyurl.com/yd6hxrlc.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

**Big News:** The 2021 NAMM Show is officially happening: https://tinyurl.com/yb8tbq83.

With shows canceled at not-for-profits, do ticketholders prefer refunds or donations? https://tinyurl.com/yb59cyn3.

**In Florida:**

With new rides under construction and lost revenues from lockdown, SeaWorld Orlando is in financial trouble: https://tinyurl.com/y923cz8c.

What is the future of Miami’s club culture? https://tinyurl.com/ybpj34v3.

**In Illinois:**

United Airlines borrows $5 billion, warns of furloughs: https://tinyurl.com/yb23mkpd.

**In Texas:**

Houston’s Theatre Under the Stars postpones its season until December: https://tinyurl.com/y8282wrh.

**Around the World:**

**In Haiti:**

The country struggles to cope with the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y96vk63l.

**In Russia:**

Messe Frankfurt has decided to postpone Prolight + Sound NAMM Russia and NAMM Musikmesse Russia to September 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y797zto2.

**In South Korea:**

The musical theatre sector moves forward, using starry productions to lure back audiences: https://tinyurl.com/y9p28bzn.

**In the UK:**

Scheduled for the West End, a new production opens instead in a parking lot: https://tinyurl.com/y79ozm2e.
Mobilizing:

A new UK initiative, Freelancers Make Theatre Work, is up and running: https://www.freelancersmaketheatrework.com/.

Training:

New JBL webinar: “Installed Line Array Solutions for Sporting Facilities with Rick Kamlet,” on June 30, at 12:00pm CDT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/yb9k7jwu.


Entertainment:

Here’s the latest list of streams from The Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/yajdmpng.

Next up from San Francisco Opera are streams of Salome, Manon, and Susannah: https://sfopera.com/.

On June 20 at 2:00pm, Stars in the House will air a reading of Shaw’s Mrs. Warren’s Profession, starring Tonya Pinkins, James Monroe Inglehart, and Thom Sesma. The reading is free; donations to The Actors Fund are cheerfully accepted: www.starsinthehouse.com.

Here’s the complete list of musical performances from Tanglewood online: https://tinyurl.com/ycnywtyu. Access them at https://www.bso.org/.

For Your Pleasure:

A bit of Ennio Morricone’s score from the film The Mission: https://tinyurl.com/yarxxsxv.

COVID-19 Update: June 15, 2020:

Wave 1.5

As we are learning, reopening has its price. Around the world, the pandemic continues to move in two directions at once. Infections continue to spread across the South, Southwest, and West Coast: https://tinyurl.com/yaybcvvw. And, across the country, public health workers are becoming pariahs -- for telling the truth: https://tinyurl.com/y8bbgj6p. A bitter irony: The work of slowing the coronavirus is allowing other diseases to spread: https://tinyurl.com/y7lrxyqe. It’s a big if, but Dr. Anthony Fauci says the US might not see a second wave of infections, “if you approach it in the proper way.” https://tinyurl.com/ybdrz4e9.

Meanwhile:

Could the plasma of coronavirus survivors help those who are sick? https://tinyurl.com/y8a9vl2f.

Can an old polio vaccine provide temporary protection against COVID-19? https://tinyurl.com/ybt84vhs.

The CDC finally releases a list of tips for avoiding infection: https://tinyurl.com/ybf2kwjt.

Keep wearing your mask; research shows that it works: https://tinyurl.com/y6wm9ym4.

Contrary to earlier reports, medication for high blood pressure does not increase one’s COVID-19 risk: https://tinyurl.com/ybl88skx.
There’s still $130 billion of small business aid available, but many are wary of applying: https://tinyurl.com/y88za4a6.

Unbelievably, 40,000 cruise ship crew members are still trapped at sea: https://tinyurl.com/y8ox98sj.

And what about the intriguing fact that countries run by women are battling the coronavirus much more effectively? https://tinyurl.com/yde39uo3.

**Around the Country:**

**In Alabama:**
New cases of the coronavirus are skyrocketing: https://tinyurl.com/y9l8viji.

**In Arizona:**
One month after reopening, the state’s COVID-19 cases are soaring, filling ICUs to near-capacity: https://tinyurl.com/y7av2n3k.

**In Arkansas:**
The state is racking up record numbers of infections: https://tinyurl.com/ycf2nxft.

**In California:**
How public health officials failed to warn travelers going through LAX of their exposure to the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y9atmdmn.

In a sign of the times, Hollywood is holding back the release of key blockbusters: https://tinyurl.com/yaao2kjb.

Los Angeles County issues its rules for film and TV production: https://tinyurl.com/y9zodym9.

La Jolla Music Society plans a reimagined Summerfest: https://tinyurl.com/y9tdh8h3.

**In Florida:**
The number of new cases hits another peak: https://tinyurl.com/yafsvazg.

How the governor’s daily COVID-19 updates haven’t been entirely accurate: https://tinyurl.com/ydhjhveh.

The coronavirus is accelerating the demise of shopping malls: https://tinyurl.com/ybbozaca.

In the absence of new releases, the state’s cinemas aren’t reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y9usd529.

**In Illinois:**
The cancelation of Lollapalooza doesn’t come cheap: https://tinyurl.com/yycyg8vcg.

**In Texas:**
Dallas County reports record levels of infection three days in a row: https://tinyurl.com/y9se88dg.

It’s still all about testing, but delays are allowing COVID-19 to spread: https://tinyurl.com/y7rc6deh.

**In Vegas:**
The Culinary Union says that hotel/casino owners aren’t doing enough to protect workers: https://tinyurl.com/yc2nd6qe.
Around the World:

In Brazil:

The country now has the second-highest death toll -- after the US -- from COVID-19, and nothing is being done about it: https://tinyurl.com/y7dwcpdq.

In China:

Beijing shuts down several districts as COVID-19 resurfaces: https://tinyurl.com/ya3ap5jo.

In Colombia:


In the UK:

Job cuts are coming to Cameron Mackintosh’s organizations: https://tinyurl.com/y8royadd.

Entertainment:

Carnegie Hall continues its new online series -- Live with Carnegie Hall -- with an episode on Tuesday, June 16 at 2:00pm EDT, hosted by the leading interpreter of the American Songbook Michael Feinstein. This program, dedicated to the music of Irving Berlin, features special guest Broadway stars Cheyenne Jackson, Kelli O’Hara, and Tony Yazbeck. Michael Feinstein leads this lively episode of music and conversation. Go to: https://tinyurl.com/y7fl669x.

Dance Theatre of Harlem launches seven weeks of online programming: https://tinyurl.com/y9gmlzph.

The St. Louis Muny is shuttered for the season, but it will offer a series of online concerts: https://tinyurl.com/y7yzb2xp.

For Your Pleasure:

The cast of the new Broadway revival of Company delivers the title tune: https://tinyurl.com/y8o4bt8c.

COVID-19 Update: June 12, 2020:
Looking for the Future

Reopening continues, even as infections surge in many states. The president barrels ahead with plans for rallies and a convention. And evidence mounts that a second wave is on the horizon. A second wave of infections in September is all too likely, says a new model: https://tinyurl.com/y8o295qm.


Garth Brooks is performing a drive-in concert, to be streamed to 300 similar venues: https://tinyurl.com/ycncl8kw. He is also performing at the opening of Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas: https://tinyurl.com/y6v9b43w.

Around the Country:

In California:

Coachella and Stagecoach are postponed until April 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y97954s2.
San Diego Zoo and Safari Park reopen June 20: https://tinyurl.com/yc3gqbk8.

**In the District of Columbia:**

Arena Stage, shut down, turns to filmmaking: https://tinyurl.com/yazq6pcv.

**In Florida:**

The state flattened the curve; then the surge in new infections began: https://tinyurl.com/yaql5bw.

**In Oklahoma:**

Anyone attending the president’s rally next week must waive liability if they get sick: https://tinyurl.com/y7luf9q6.

**Around the World:**

**In the UK:**

Compared to the US and Canada, the country’s theatres have been more severely hit by coronavirus-related closure: https://tinyurl.com/y866l672.

**In South Korea:**

The country rolls out a virus contact-tracing program to scan and collect personal data of nightlife patrons: https://tinyurl.com/y7o24r3t.

**Training:**

As many countries slowly lift confinement restrictions, L-Acoustics will re-open in-person education programs this month. Simultaneously, to complement in-person training and to offer the greatest flexibility to users, L-Acoustics is pre-launching a new online education platform. The first program on the platform is a complete, the remote version of its renowned System Fundamentals training, a prerequisite for all other L-Acoustics training modules. In 2019, L-Acoustics hosted training courses in 60 countries, completing 670 training days and awarding 6,000 certificates. Of these, 240 training days and 2,400 certificates were for the Systems Fundamentals course. Registration for both online and in-person trainings is accessible on the L-Acoustics website: https://tinyurl.com/y5znxebe.

**Entertainment:**

A conversation with legendary director Peter Brook: https://tinyurl.com/yckntb5.

Blair Underwood, Joe Morton, and Tisha Campbell lead the cast of Cuttin’ Up, by Charles Randolph-Wright. The live-to-tape reading will stream on https://www.playbill.com/, June 21 at 6:00pm ET. Prior to and during the broadcast, viewers will be able to donate a suggested donation of $10, and all proceeds go to Classical Theatre of Harlem.

Sokolow Theatre/Dance Ensemble will premiere a virtual performance video of Anna Sokolow’s Rooms, to be titled Rooms2020, on Thursday, June 25, at 7:00pm. Rooms2020 will be available to view at https://sokolowtheatredance.org.

**For Your Pleasure:**


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**COVID-19 Update: June 11, 2020:**

*Life Under Pandemic*
The US now has two million confirmed cases of the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/ya7cova2. Infections are increasing in 20 states: https://tinyurl.com/t9j9fdw. The Federal Reserve predicts a slow recovery, with unemployment at 9.3% by the end of the year: https://tinyurl.com/y9yd7q8x. Nevertheless, the president is moving on: https://tinyurl.com/y7gun8nl.

There are rough seas ahead for the cruise industry: https://tinyurl.com/yag2mnqt.

Around the Country:

In California:

Nine counties are experiencing a spike in infections: https://tinyurl.com/ydyrez5.

Los Angeles County okays film and TV production starting Friday: https://tinyurl.com/y8n298a4.

Disneyland proposes reopening on July 17: https://tinyurl.com/y7hepoc.

In Florida:

Infections are continuing to raise, although officials are taking a wait-and-see attitude: https://tinyurl.com/yar4fhsr.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino is set to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/y72r3lco.

In Missouri:

Two hairstylists with COVID-19 failed to transmit it to 140 clients, suggesting the value of masking: https://tinyurl.com/y9knp2p0.

The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis is postponing its 2020 – 2021 season, which now starts with A Christmas Carol in December: https://tinyurl.com/yboyv2vs.

In New York:

The New York Philharmonic cancels its fall season: https://tinyurl.com/yacas6uw.

In South Carolina:

The state may already be facing a second wave of infections: https://tinyurl.com/ybz88blj.

Company News:

In accordance with City of Chicago guidance, Sensaphonics, a hearing health company for the music industry, has reopened its Chicago headquarters. After nearly three months of required closure, all facilities are back in operation, including the Musicians Hearing Clinic and the adjoining manufacturing lab. All Sensaphonics operations are being conducted under the social distancing guidelines suggested by the CDC and City of Chicago. https://www.sensaphonics.com/

Training:

CAST Software is hosting a week’s worth of training in WYSIWYG essentials next week. Details here: https://tinyurl.com/ycowsw9.

On June 15 at 10:00am EST, Green Hippo hosts a #Creative Conversation webinar with lighting, video, and set designer Mikki Kunttu and content creator/designer Peppe Tannemyr. The topic is the role of media servers in the creative process, including preproduction, preprocessing, and lighting desk integration. Productions to be discussed in the Eurovision Song Contest, Swan Lake at Royal Danish Ballet, and Das Rheingold at the Finnish National Opera. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yaoonsd6.
Entertainment:

Off Broadway’s Metropolitan Playhouse will present Compromise, a 1925 play by Willis Richardson, on June 13, at 8:00pm EST. Running time is 30 minutes, with a talkback to follow, including audience questions via Zoom and YouTube chat. It is available via zoom at https://tinyurl.com/y9k5jle8 and https://tinyurl.com/ybgqtni2. Or go to the theatre’s website: https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksij.

New York’s The Tank presents Godforsaken, written and directed by Frank J. Avella, June 16 at 7:30pm at https://tinyurl.com/y8hx7mph. Donations cheerfully accepted.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: June 10, 2020:
Not Over Yet

Even as cities reopen, there are plenty of signs indicating that the pandemic is far from over. COVID-19-related hospitalizations are rising in more than a dozen states and Puerto Rico: https://tinyurl.com/y7sqaz7x. In Arizona, hospitals are activating emergency plans: https://tinyurl.com/y8awnba2.

The president’s coronavirus team is worried about a new wave of coronavirus outbreaks, related to the current demonstrations against racial injustice: https://tinyurl.com/yd9b6jy5.

Coronavirus developers are chasing outbreaks before they disappear: https://tinyurl.com/yd5lrs2w.

Despite what you’ve been hearing, unemployment is closer to 20%: https://tinyurl.com/y9aumuvs.

There’s still plenty of PPP cash available, with loosened restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/yaztpqso.

When will group singing be safe again? https://tinyurl.com/y9ozhbxh.

Around the Country:

In California:

The state is ready to restart film and TV production, but is the industry ready to go? https://tinyurl.com/ya3vbjh5.

The Switchfoot drive-in concert, in San Diego’s Petco Park, is a hit: https://tinyurl.com/ybsqa8qj.

In Florida:

When it reopens on Thursday, SeaWorld Orlando will cap attendance at 33% of capacity and stick to a five-day-a-week schedule: https://tinyurl.com/yd2nyy7h.

In Illinois:

Lollapalooza, Chicago Jazz Festival, and other events have been canceled: https://tinyurl.com/y7c7jy3f.

In Kansas:

The AMC cinema chain reports a $2.2 billion loss and announces reopening plans for July: https://tinyurl.com/yacce466.

In Rhode Island:
Providence’s Trinity Rep will postpone starting its season until January 2021, although it will present its annual production of A Christmas Carol in November and December: https://tinyurl.com/y9vl3rqb.

In Texas:

The governor has given a green light to performing arts venues, but logistical challenges remain: https://tinyurl.com/yd42znjh. Meanwhile, Actors Equity says that Texas’ spiking infection rate proves the importance of relying on science: https://tinyurl.com/y7mabysh.

Training:

Interactive Technologies is offering extensive CueServer training: https://tinyurl.com/ybhc9gt2.

Entertainment:

The Cherry Orchard Festival presents Boston’s Arlekin Players Theatre with State vs. Natasha Banina (www.ArlekinPlayers.com), a newly-conceived live Zoom interactive theatre art experiment, directed by Igor Golyak and featuring Arlekin company’s leading actress and 2020 Elliot Norton Award winner (Outstanding Actress) Darya Denisova. Performances will take place on Sunday evenings: June 14, 21, and 28 at 8:00pm live on Zoom. State vs. Natasha Banina is based on a play by contemporary Russian playwright, Yaroslava Pulinovich’s Natasha’s Dream. For information or to reserve a Zoom spot, visit www.CherryOrchardFestival.org. Each performance will also offer live post-show discussion.

Red Bull Theater will presented its free livestream presentation of its acclaimed production, The Government Inspector, on Monday, June 15 at 7:30pm at https://www.redbulltheater.com/live, on Facebook, Vimeo, and YouTube. The cast includes Michael Urie, Arnie Burton, Stephen DeRosa, Michael McGrath, and Mary Testa.

Sennheiser’s #DontStopTheMusic concerts, on Sennheiser’s Facebook page, include Tom Wurth and John Ford Coley, Wednesday, June 10 at 8:00pm EST; Tuco Gadaman on Friday, June 12 at 12:00pm EST, and Ludo Ji on Monday, June 15 at 11:00am EST.

For Your Pleasure:

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, with Wynton Marsalis, in the “Quarantine Blues:” https://tinyurl.com/yadhb4lk.

COVID-19 Update: June 9, 2020:
On the Plateau

The number of deaths worldwide from the coronavirus reaches 400,000. The US economy is officially in recession. And progress, though real, remains halting. COVID-19 continues to spread in areas where it was previously largely absent: https://tinyurl.com/y8bil869y. And many states may be undercounting the number of cases by not following CDC guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/yctg8o6y.

Shutdown orders prevented 60 million COVID-19 infections in the US, a new study finds: https://tinyurl.com/yalnu444. For those with the coronavirus, problems can linger long past recovery: https://tinyurl.com/yadxw9o8.

IATSE is making progress in developing safety guidelines for reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y7pjn55c.

How safe (or not) are airplane cabins? https://tinyurl.com/y7fhawfw.

Around the Country:

In California:
AEG announces layoffs and furloughs: https://tinyurl.com/yahelfwj.

In Florida:
The daily count of new cases drops below 1,000 for the first time in several days: https://tinyurl.com/yawxhp66.

In Ohio:
The popular theme parks Kings Island and Cedar Point are set to open July 2 and July 9, respectively, pending completion of ride inspections: https://tinyurl.com/ybxasdfj.

In Washington State:
Seattle Opera cancels first production of the season, furloughs administrative staff: https://tinyurl.com/y8sywcfx.

Around the World:
In Brazil:
The government adopts a novel approach to the coronavirus -- dispense with the death toll: https://tinyurl.com/y9beypdn.

In Germany:
The last cruise ship still carrying passengers has finally made its port of call: https://tinyurl.com/ydaksf55.

In Nicaragua:
Activists accuse the government of severely undercounting cases of COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y77sjjb5.

Training:
New JBL webinars: “Cable Diagnostics, Soldering Skills, and Troubleshooting with Fedj (Jeff) Sylvanus,” June 15 at 12:00pm CDT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/ydhuxwbp. “Installed Line Array Solutions for Sporting Facilities with Rick Kamlet,” June 30, at 12:00pm CDT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/yb5qbg3o.

New Martin by Harman webinars: “Paperwork from Production Management to Lighting Design with Jennifer Bass,” June 10 at 2:00pm CDT; register at: https://tinyurl.com/y73yyoo4. “Lighting with LED for Television with Robert Grobler,” June 16 at 1:00pm CDT; register at https://tinyurl.com/yblm9ch4.

Entertainment:
The Movement Theatre Company has opened the virtual gallery1MOVE: DES19NED BY... virtual gallery, featuring the work of 15 commissioned emerging designers. In addition, The Movement will be holding a virtual Meet the Designers event hosted by co-curator and Tony Award winner Clint Ramos on Tuesday, June 16, at 4:00pm. The virtual gallery will feature video pieces from co-curator Cha See and the 15 early career designers announced in May: Reza Behjat, Stefania Bulbarella, Dina El-Aziz, Edurne Fernandez, Maria Feuereisen, Megumi Katayama, Ntokozo Fuzunina Kunene, Ao Li, Chen-Wei Liao, Omar Madkour, Rodrigo Muñoz, Yee Eun Nam, Kimie Nishikawa, Riw Rakkulchon, and Wenzheng (Wen) Zhang. The gallery is live now, at www.themovementtheatrecompany.org/1move.

Off Broadway’s Ma-Yi Theater Company honors the life and work of Filipino cultural activist and performance artist Carlos Celdran (1972-2019) by streaming his celebrated one-man show Livin’ La Vida Imelda. Running online June 17 – 30, Livin’ La Vida Imelda takes a look at the inimitable life of one the world’s most extravagant personalities, Imelda Marcos, the wildly controversial former First Lady of the Philippines. Go to http://ma-yitheatre.org/.

Here’s a list of this week’s streams from the Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/y94bbheu.

NY Classical Theatre will present a free virtual zoom reading of William Shakespeare’s King Lear on Thursday, June 25 at
8:00pm, as a fundraiser for an intended full production later this year. For details or to register for the event, visit https://nyclassical.org/king-lear. The rehearsed virtual reading, adapted and directed by artistic director Stephen Burdman, will utilize the “happy ending” of Nahum Tate’s 1681 adaptation, which was popular in England for over 150 years, until Shakespeare’s original tragic text was restored in 1838. The Tate version of King Lear has not been performed in New York City in over 30 years. In its full production, NY Classical intends to stage Shakespeare’s and Tate’s versions on alternate nights.

The original Off-Broadway cast of Donja R. Love’s one in two will reunite for a livestream presentation of the play June 12 at 7:00pm on https://playbill.com/prideplays. Jamyl Dobson, Leland Fowler, and Edward Mawaere will repeat their roles in this provocative and informative drama about black men coping with HIV. It was acclaimed when presented by The New Group last November.

For Your Pleasure:


COVID-19 Update: June 8, 2020:

Spring Awakening?

After the wildest week this country has seen in decades, hopes are rising, even as events move in two directions at once. The rate of infections recedes in some areas and spike in others; will reopened cities and mass demonstrations make things worse? https://tinyurl.com/ycp2fs59. Doctors think yes and prepare for a second wave: https://tinyurl.com/ycd-d89gp.

As continental Europe reopens, the infection rate hasn’t spiked; there are several theories about that: https://tinyurl.com/y8yw6qrs.

That 13.3% unemployment rate, reported on Friday, isn’t as good as it looks: https://tinyurl.com/y78nbmpx. Nevertheless, the job numbers are causing Congress to put future stimulus on the back burner: https://tinyurl.com/ybr9u8sf.

A rising infection rate and falling death raises a question; is the coronavirus weakening? https://tinyurl.com/ybpyawls.

We won’t know until the end of the summer if works, but AstraZeneca is already manufacturing millions of doses of its COVID-19 vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y7ocx7nn.

The US is running out of remdesivir, the only drug that has shown any effectiveness against COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yagudz8y.

The CDC reports that some people are still trying to bleach their way to coronavirus immunity: https://tinyurl.com/yc2pdx-gz.

Around the Country:

In California:

Film and TV production can start back up on June 12, leaving the details to local officials and labor-management negotiation: https://tinyurl.com/y9hgzrva.

A new survey suggests that COVID-19 may not have spread as widely in LA as previously thought: https://tinyurl.com/y9hgzrva.

Two San Diego-area theatre companies experiment with a more sophisticated video presentation of plays: https://tinyurl.com/y9xed5ov.
A Bay Area theatre company finds a way to put its new-play festival online, and pay its employees: https://tinyurl.com/yarysj65.

Moonlight Stage Productions in Vista has canceled the rest of its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/yaosg3sj.

In Florida:

The number of infections keeps rising, and not just because of testing: https://tinyurl.com/yddufauh.

Universal Studios Orlando reopens; crowds don't pile in: https://tinyurl.com/y8oc3bw6. An eyewitness account of the first day back: https://tinyurl.com/yclk7tmh.

In Missouri:

The St. Louis Muny cancels its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/y9ym7ba4.

In New Jersey:

A spike in COVID-19 cases is linked to Jersey Shore house parties: https://tinyurl.com/yb4yyexy.

In New York:

The city takes the first steps to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/ya7jzf8j.

The Times asked theatre fans about returning to Broadway, and their answers remain thoroughly mixed: https://tinyurl.com/yah37drj.

In Nevada:

What happens in Vegas doesn’t necessarily stay there, as experts worry about the ability of super-spreaders to infect large crowds: https://tinyurl.com/y9nmly5f.

Around the World:

In Brazil:


In Israel:

Of course, it will kill you anyway, but a new study suggest that smoking reduces the risk of coronavirus infection by half: https://tinyurl.com/y9pl2dxq.

Training:

On June 11 at 12:00pm EDT, Ultratec hosts a webinar on how to set up your own fog blade, hosted by Tony Wikner. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y8opdbtz.

Entertainment:

The America Opera Project is streaming several new operas: https://tinyurl.com/ya9x59eh.

Classical Theatre of Harlem is streaming its spectacular production of The Bacchae for $10, which allows the troupe to pay the actors and designers. It is available at June 12 – 25. Pre-register at: https://tinyurl.com/y7lo674r.

Opera Parallèle is streaming Peter Maxwell Davies’ The Lighthouse: https://tinyurl.com/ydczasli.
Seattle Opera is streaming a recital, Songs of Summer, with soprano Angel Blue: https://tinyurl.com/y8h434za.

In celebration of his 90th birthday, Poetry in America – Live, hosted by New York’s Sheen Center will turn the spotlight on Stephen Sondheim’s song “Finishing the Hat” from Sunday in the Park with George. PS’s Poetry in America host Elisa New welcomes Tony Award nominee Melissa Errico, New Yorker staff writer and author Adam Gopnik, and noted musical director Tedd Firth. Errico, who starred in Sunday in the Park, at The Kennedy Center, will perform three songs from Sunday, including “Finishing the Hat,” accompanied by Firth. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y8c69nas.

For Your Pleasure:

As New York reopens, a word from Cole Porter: https://tinyurl.com/y9cyqw3d.

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**COVID-19 Update: June 3, 2020:**

**Under Seige**

While the country’s attention is focused on protests in the streets, there’s plenty going on related to the coronavirus: For example, the Department of Justice has asked Congress for legislation allowing chief judges to indefinitely hold people without trial and suspend other constitutionally-protected rights during the coronavirus and other emergencies: https://tinyurl.com/ycwxlyr3.

**Meanwhile:**

The countries where the coronavirus is spreading most virulently just happens to be those with illiberal populist leaders: https://tinyurl.com/ya2hy6cg.

Major arts organizations, strapped for cash, are doing the unthinkable, dipping into their endowments: https://tinyurl.com/y7dluh8w.

A new CDC grading system for cruise ships should facilitate the repatriation of stranded crew members: https://tinyurl.com/y7rznbfr.

Scientists say group singing can spread the coronavirus. Too bad the CDC doesn’t mention it: https://tinyurl.com/y9s8c-2qb.

**Around the Country:**

**In Alabama:**

Rural counties with substandard health care are badly hit by the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y9w2bw55.

**In California:**

Why aren’t San Diego’s virus numbers rising? https://tinyurl.com/y7lqaxbl.

**In Florida:**

Why the NBA wants to go to Disney World, for the duration of the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/ybbqos2q.

IAAPA is moving ahead with a conference and trade show November 16 – 20: https://tinyurl.com/ya5j933f.

**In New York:**

How the Trump Administration bungled distribution of remdesivir, oversupplying some hospitals while leaving others in the lurch: https://tinyurl.com/y78vx4e.
And good luck if you need hydroxychloroquine for the purpose it was intended: [https://tinyurl.com/y79ow29d](https://tinyurl.com/y79ow29d).

**In Texas:**

Citizens who exhaust their unemployment will get another 13-week extension: [https://tinyurl.com/ycwh74qu](https://tinyurl.com/ycwh74qu).

Dallas County reports record levels of new infections and deaths: [https://tinyurl.com/y7yl9cew](https://tinyurl.com/y7yl9cew).

**Around the World:**

**In Canada:**

The country’s production community is developing a custom insurance plan to get back to work. It involves getting the federal government to serve as a backstop for coronavirus insurance claims: [https://tinyurl.com/y97ajlxu](https://tinyurl.com/y97ajlxu).

**In Sweden:**

The architect of the country’s hands-off approach to the pandemic admits that it hasn’t gone so well: [https://tinyurl.com/ybjzglya](https://tinyurl.com/ybjzglya).

**In the UK:**

Royal Shakespeare Company postpones its fall and winter productions, making room for earlier postponed productions: [https://tinyurl.com/y9jpr7bu](https://tinyurl.com/y9jpr7bu).

**For your Entertainment:**

Aretha Franklin provides a bit of what we all need right now: [https://tinyurl.com/ycgzo4k2](https://tinyurl.com/ycgzo4k2).

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

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**COVID-19 Update: June 2, 2020:**

**Under Curfew**

Protestors keep taking to the streets. So do looters. The president unleashes tear gas and rubber bullets on peaceful protestors, then uses an Episcopal church and a Bible as props in a photo op. The Episcopal Bishop of the District of Columbia denounces him. And as city after city goes under curfew, the goal of reopening seems to recede.

In case you forgot, there’s still a pandemic on, spreading unevenly across the country: [https://tinyurl.com/yagbyv6s](https://tinyurl.com/yagbyv6s).

In reassuring news, more Americans are open to taking a coronavirus vaccine if and when it becomes available: [https://tinyurl.com/y9e66lkk](https://tinyurl.com/y9e66lkk).

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and American Guild of Musical Artists are hiring medical professionals to advise on safe reopening of theatres: [https://tinyurl.com/y72ucwo](https://tinyurl.com/y72ucwo).

Movie grosses are likely to plunge this year by 50%: [https://tinyurl.com/y89r9pe4](https://tinyurl.com/y89r9pe4).

**Food for Thought:**

Experts weigh in on how to make offices safer for returning employees: [https://tinyurl.com/y9c3p2nm](https://tinyurl.com/y9c3p2nm).
As offices reopen, fresh air will be the new hot commodity: https://tinyurl.com/y7u3ocnt.

Mobilizing:

The livestream of Chita: A Celebration, a tribute to Chita Rivera, raises $100,000 for The Actors Fund: https://tinyurl.com/y97gyhu6.

In Florida:

Legoland is the first major Orlando theme park to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/ycrcc9an.

In New York:

The Metropolitan Opera cancels its fall season. New productions of The Magic Flute, Don Giovanni, Aida, and The Fiery Angel are postponed, although Jake Heggie’s Dead Man Walking will go ahead: https://tinyurl.com/yt4dqlhu.

Met artists cope with life under lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/y8jkl3.

Around the World:

In South Korea:

How The Phantom of the Opera survived the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/ydzy6f92.

In the UK:

The head of the country’s Statistics Authority accuses of the government of misleading the public about the number of COVID-19 tests being carried out: https://tinyurl.com/y97c3h2k.

Two organizations representing the country’s stage sector turn to the government to prevent a total industry collapse: https://tinyurl.com/y9pg74e.

Under lockdown, British drinkers are reaching for the bottle earlier in the day: https://tinyurl.com/y77o6dbs.

Losses:

John McCormack, veteran Off Broadway artistic director: https://tinyurl.com/y8nvwv5u.

Training:


New Soundcraft webinars: “Soundcraft Vi 1000 Advanced Training with Gabriel Le Roux,” June 5 at 12:00pm CDT. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y75g3r33. “Soundcraft Vi 1000 Monitor Training with Gabriel Le Roux,” June 8 at 12:00pm CDT. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/yamu25dd

Entertainment:

Presented in honor of the frontline personnel working during the COVID-19 Crisis, this week’s Heroic Performances video concert is An American Salute: Pops at 125. Recorded in 2010 in celebration of the Pops’ 125th anniversary, conductor Keith Lockhart leads the orchestra in beloved Americana selections, as well as The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers, a commissioned work by New England-native composer Peter Boyer and lyricist Lynn Ahrens that celebrates the inspiring language and public service of the Kennedy family with a star-studded cast of narrators and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. Go to www.bostonpops.org/athome. The video stream is available for free on-demand viewing on June 7 at 3:00pm EDT for a 45-day duration. Also available now at the same URL: My Favorite Things, A Richard
Rodgers Celebration.

Next at Off Broadway’s Metropolitan Playhouse, June 4, at 8:00pm EST: COVID Cabaret with Zero Boy. Running time: 30 minutes. Available via Zoom at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85436625304 and YouTube at https://youtu.be/EJ5cJnQD0Xg. Viewers can make scenario suggestions via chat, and Zero Boy will turn them into a vocal improv scenario. All links are available at http://www.metropolitanplayhouse.org/virtualplayhouse.

For Your Pleasure:

Because there must be, Paula Kelly, Shirley MacLaine, and Chita Rivera remind us that there’s gotta be something better than this: https://tinyurl.com/yb36cfjy.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

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**COVID-19 Update: June 1, 2020:**

*When Crises Collide*

A new week: The streets of many cities are on fire. The White House went dark over the weekend. And a new crisis has consequences for the pandemic. Cities across the country worry that protests related to the killing of George Floyd may lead to a new spike in infections: https://tinyurl.com/ybgovhl6. The pandemic causes food prices spike to the highest point in 46 years: https://tinyurl.com/y9gg47cw. Still, even with the economic costs, a majority of Americans prioritize controlling the outbreak to jump-starting the economy: https://tinyurl.com/yabalulp.

**Meanwhile:**

The film studios brainstorm how to get audiences back into cinemas: https://tinyurl.com/y7v72ct8.

With his tour postponed, Kenny Chesney admits to feeling a little lost: https://tinyurl.com/yazzheul.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The band Switchfoot plans a drive-in concert in San Diego: https://tinyurl.com/yc8h3hdq.

**In Colorado:**

The Telluride Film Festival is still on: https://tinyurl.com/yd4ffhvy.

But the Denver Center for the Performing Arts cancels its 2020 – 21 season: https://tinyurl.com/y8xqerky.

**In Florida:**

The number of new COVID-19 cases spikes: https://tinyurl.com/y94kcotu.

The state okays the opening of Disney World and SeaWorld: https://tinyurl.com/y8gx9zdw.

Several Universal Studios hotels open tomorrow, offering guests first on the parks before they officially open: https://tinyurl.com/y7k2je2x.

When the coronavirus intersects with other events: Miami-Dade beaches won’t reopen today, because of the damage caused by riots over the killing of George Floyd: https://tinyurl.com/ybc9zvlq.

**In Missouri:**
A person at that notorious Lake of the Ozarks party tests positive for the coronavirus, setting off the race to trace contacts: https://tinyurl.com/ydbraj79.

In New York:

As the city plans to reopen, can people be persuaded to take mass transit? Should they? https://tinyurl.com/ydaa4goj.

In Vegas:

Fremont Street Experience will reopen the pedestrian mall and access to adjacent hotel casinos and retail stores when they reopen on June 3 at 9:00am. Leading up to the reopening of FSE’s casino partners, the world’s largest single video screen, Viva Vision, will display a 144-hour countdown that will conclude at the exact moment gaming operations restart at 12:01am on June 4. Adhering to the guidelines put forth by the Global Association for the Attractions Industry (IAAPA), SlotZilla zipline will also reopen in downtown Las Vegas on June 4 at 4:00pm. A statement reads, “To ensure the safety of visitors and employees, FSE will disinfect the pedestrian mall, parking garage and SlotZilla towers twice a day with environmentally friendly and highly effective products that are immediately safe for human contact.”

As the Strip plans to open, many questions remain, thanks to rules imposed by the state’s Gaming Control Board. For example, “The new requirements included an order for resorts to provide a holding area for people who aren’t cleared to check in to a hotel. That means guests who may have flown thousands of miles to go to their favorite Las Vegas resort instead will be counseled by a health professional who isn’t their doctor and possibly shuttled off to a nongaming hotel for quarantine.” For more: https://tinyurl.com/y92umn46.

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts will remain closed indefinitely: https://tinyurl.com/y728sbeq.

Around the World:

In Canada:

The Shaw Festival, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, cancels all July performances and events.

In Germany:

Theatres plan to reopen with social distancing. Can the plan be made to work? https://tinyurl.com/ycznp3sj.

In the Czech Republic:

A company experiments with drive-in theatre. And we don’t mean movies: https://tinyurl.com/y8fk4n7j.

In New Zealand:

The government will provide relief to the local arts sector to the tune of $175 million: https://tinyurl.com/ydx4cszl.

Food for Thought:

How to bring the economy back? A symposium: https://tinyurl.com/y97xhc9a.

How to make cruise ships safer -- doctors weigh in: https://tinyurl.com/y8o83obz.

Training:

New Christie webinars: “Christie Pandoras Box: Mystique Integration” will be held Wednesday June 3, 10:00am EDT. Did you know Christie Mystique integrates directly with Pandoras Box? See Mystique’s camera-based auto-alignment capabilities for flat and curved screens with multiple projectors and the Pandoras Box Manager workflow. “Christie Widget Designer: Phidgets Integration” will be held Friday June 5, 10:00am EDT. Learn how you can juggle data with Widget Designer version 6.1.2 and Phidgets VINT Hub, as well as other Phidgets devices. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y8s9na7b.
Lighting designers Sooner Routhier, Cory FitzGerald, and Travis Shirley are set to share their valuable insight into concert and live event lighting on the June 3rd Elation Hour, hosted by Elation national sales manager John Dunn and global product manager Matthias Hinrichs live on Wednesday, June 3 at 10:00am PST. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yag2vjku.

New IES webinar on June 4 at 12:00pm ET: “Show Me the Data: Characterizing the Performance of Color-Tunable Light Sources.” Color tunable light sources provide tremendous flexibility in terms of spectral power distribution, but the resulting range of variation in chromaticity, color rendition, and other characteristics poses a challenge for product characterization and specification. The millions or billions or trillions (or more!) of spectral power distributions that can be created from one luminaire enables designers to meet various design intents and influence the visual appearance of spaces. However, in contrast with characterizing the performance of a fixed-output luminaire, there are no established methods or guidelines for characterizing performance over the tuning range for the variety of SPD-related metrics, which can impede engineering and specification of color tunable products. Using a massive dataset generated with high-performance computers, this webinar will discuss new methods to convey the extent to which color rendition can be varied, and how different factors (number of LED channels, type of LEDs) influence the range of performance. Webinar participants are eligible for one (1) IES Continuing Education Unit (CEU). Register at https://tinyurl.com/y96kjz8.

Scheduling:

In the wake of the protests roiling the nation, the Drama Desk Awards were postponed yesterday: https://tinyurl.com/y7ns-gk6s.

The celebration of Broadway set to run online on Sunday, in lieu of the Tony Awards, has been postponed, for the same reason: https://tinyurl.com/y873e7m3.

Entertainment:

Here’s this week’s schedule of productions being streamed for free from the Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/ycut-6pl5.

Tuesday, June 2 at 2:30pm EDT, The Center for Contemporary Opera is offering Alienati, a new opera produced remotely by the Teatro Coccia in Novara, Italy. Go to https://www.fondazioneteatrococcia.it/.

Weekdays at 4:00pm, Long Beach Opera offers Artist Afternoons, featuring shows produced by artists in their homes. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y7baxzvj.

For Your Pleasure:


That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 29, 2020:**

**Survival Strategies**

Happy Friday. While much of the nation is consumed with events in Minneapolis and the lesser skirmishes on the field of Twitter, much continues to happen, as everyone tries to figure out the next step.

For most of the country, pandemic aid is running out, with no replacement is sight, and people are frightened: https://tinyurl.com/y9yp2ym4.

That EU recovery plan may not be enough the continent’s culture industry: https://tinyurl.com/yazobf7b.

Beleaguered arts groups turn to Michael Kaiser, former Kennedy Center president, for advice: https://tinyurl.com/yaqpg-
Meanwhile:

The White House and CDC removed warnings that singing in church choirs can spread the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y9wl2qnf.

Food for Thought:

Does Canada’s arts sector need a WPA-style stimulus? https://tinyurl.com/yaqdzbtl.

Why is COVID-19 deadlier in the US and Europe than in Asia? There are many possible reasons: https://tinyurl.com/y7neoab7.

Like it or not, the coronavirus may be here to stay and more planning is needed: https://tinyurl.com/y8dq7gec.

Around the Country:

In California:

Berkeley Rep’s new season in January or February: https://tinyurl.com/ycmczr9s.

In Florida:

The Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando is furloughing staff: https://tinyurl.com/ycaad2gy.

Here’s why Disney World is opening later than Universal Studios and SeaWorld: https://tinyurl.com/y98n5crc.

Orlando’s Garden Theatre plans for half-empty houses -- on purpose: https://tinyurl.com/y8x2qcuz.

In Illinois:

Writers Theatre devises a flexible approach to planning a season: https://tinyurl.com/y8wbhrmb.

In New York:

With their survival at stake, the city’s Off Off Broadway theatres are banding together to seek rent forgiveness: https://tinyurl.com/ycwyyehj. How some of those theatres are weathering the crisis: https://tinyurl.com/y9gs2llv.

Broadway pros, including lighting designer Mike Baldassari and scenic designer Edward Pierce, weigh in on what’s next for Broadway: https://tinyurl.com/yas95nj2.

In Texas:

The state will allow some fans at sports events, but so far there are no takers: https://tinyurl.com/yaaxlk7s.

In Vegas:

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas goes online for its summer session: https://tinyurl.com/ydyjn88o.

Bellagio celebrates the city’s reopening with three new water shows: https://tinyurl.com/y9fd39d2.

Around the World:

In France:

The country’s cinemas will reopen June 22: https://tinyurl.com/y9o98m6z.
In the UK:

Andrew Lloyd Webber is using the London Palladium as a “test bed” to develop methods that could make theatres safe: https://tinyurl.com/y8ewqmbf.

The government tackles the issue of insurance for the film and television industries post-pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/yb2odchh.

Training:

On June 8, 11:00am PDT, Barco hosts a webinar on the PDS-4K, a full-screen presentation switcher for small to mid-sized events designed with the rental industry in mind to meet today’s requirements for high-quality and fast seamless switching with digital inputs. Register at https://tinyurl.com/ymbp2toc.

On Tuesday, June 2, at 12:00pm EST, NSCA hosts a webinar “Keys to a Successful AVaaS Program,” presented by Bob Lobascio. NSCA member integration firms already know the value that recurring monthly revenue brings to their businesses -- and the COVID-19 crisis has only reinforced that reality. While AV as a service (AVaaS) makes sense for integration companies and their customers, the challenge for integrators is in the transition to a new sales and delivery model. Whether your company is thinking about making the shift to AVaaS or you’re looking to optimize your program, this webinar will help. Attendees will discover how to assess current capabilities to launch and execute a financially successful AVaaS program so you can pinpoint the skills and gaps you’re missing. The webinar will walk you through an assessment of current sales processes so you can understand the changes you need to make before you bring AVaaS to your customers. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y7ac3v9o.

Scheduling:

The Hadestown national tour is, at the very least, delayed: https://tinyurl.com/ya8lm5o6.

The Les Misérables North American tour has postponed all engagements: https://tinyurl.com/yd37u7r9.

The West End revival of Hello, Dolly!, starring Imelda Staunton, is postponed until 2022: https://tinyurl.com/yc4tscxb.

Entertainment:

Carnegie Hall continues its new online series -- Live with Carnegie Hall -- with an episode on Tuesday, June 2 at 2:00pm EDT curated by singer-songwriter Rosanne Cash, focusing on American protest music, past and present, and its ability to bring people together in times of crisis. Cash will be joined by special musical guests including Brandi Carlile, Ry Cooder, Elvis Costello, and Paul Janeway of St. Paul and the Broken Bones with discussion moderated by John Schaefer: https://tinyurl.com/yccuya3e. Michael Feinstein returns as host to Live with Carnegie Hall on Thursday, June 4 at 2:00pm EDT, with a program dedicated to the music of Irving Berlin and featuring special guest Broadway stars Cheyenne Jackson, Kelli O’Hara, and Tony Yazbeck: https://tinyurl.com/y7is3ek3.

Sennheiser’s #DontStopTheMusic series is now on Facebook. The next concerts in the series, which will be performed by Javier Reyes (Animals as Leaders), DJ A PLUS, Murthovic and Sadie Dupuis of Speedy Ortiz. Go to the company's Instagram page (@sennheiser) to stay up to date.

For Your Pleasure:

Take some inspiration from Gladys Knight, performing “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going,” from Dreamgirls: https://tinyurl.com/yaouxujf.

That’s all for today. Have a good weekend. Stay safe.

###
**COVID-19 Update: May 28, 2020:**
The Threshold is Closed

The terrible threshold has been reached: There are now 100,000 Americans dead from the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y7pk9udo.


And, the World Health Organization asserts, we’re still in the first wave: https://tinyurl.com/y8xk96lw.

Actors’ Equity announces four principles for going back to work, starting with increased testing: https://tinyurl.com/y8t-7e85p.

**Food for Thought:**

Could concert powerhouse Live Nation go away? And would that be a good or bad thing? A dispassionate analysis: https://tinyurl.com/y96pnfwz.

Anthony Fauci on how to prevent a second wave of infections: https://tinyurl.com/yd5579qv.

Could Six Flags provide a template for the reopening of other theme parks? https://tinyurl.com/y9r9fl4b.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The Broadway San Francisco 2020 – 2021 season starts in February 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y9uwbm2m.

**In Florida:**

Ultra Music Festival faces a class action lawsuit from fans who want refunds from the cancelled March event in Miami: https://tinyurl.com/yb98fjq8.

**In New York:**

Choreographer Mark Morris creates work for the online world: https://tinyurl.com/y97yubfn.

**In Rhode Island:**

The Providence Performing Arts Center announces its season will being in January: https://tinyurl.com/y8z32d7d.

**In Texas:**

American Airlines has a new policy, allowing those whose flights are full to rebook: https://tinyurl.com/ycdcogqn8.

**In Vegas:**

Yet again, gig workers have been frustrated in their attempts at filing for unemployment: https://tinyurl.com/y8jxnkxq. And unemployment in town reaches 33%: https://tinyurl.com/y7csnu4o.

**Around the World:**

**In Brazil:**

As the number of infections skyrockets, the president takes no responsibility: https://tinyurl.com/yc8qxf6t.

**In Sweden:**
The government’s liberal approach to lockdown has led to one of the highest per capita mortality rates in the world: [https://tinyurl.com/y9so78kw](https://tinyurl.com/y9so78kw).

In the UK:

When royalty speaks: Prince Charles warns that arts organizations need help, big-time: [https://tinyurl.com/yauhtj8f](https://tinyurl.com/yauhtj8f).

Lungs, starring Claire Foy and Matt Smith, was supposed to play Brooklyn this spring. Now comes a socially distanced version livestreamed from the stage of the Old Vic: [https://tinyurl.com/ya4vzuf6](https://tinyurl.com/ya4vzuf6).

Scheduling:

London productions of The Seagull, starring Emilia Clarke, and A Doll’s House, starring Jessica Chastain, are postponed, but the stars are committed to the projects: [https://tinyurl.com/ycb3ff7y](https://tinyurl.com/ycb3ff7y).

For your Entertainment:

NY Laughs, in partnership with The Actors Fund, the national human services organization that provides a safety net for performing arts and entertainment professionals, is proud to announce a special one-night-only streaming event “Laughter in Lockdown,” to benefit comedians and other comedy professionals in need on Friday, May 29 at 8:00pm ET on [https://www.nylaughs.org/lockdown](https://www.nylaughs.org/lockdown). “Laughter in Lockdown” will be hosted by Mo Amer and will feature appearances and performances by Wanda Sykes, Judd Apatow, Ray Romano, Roy Wood Jr., Carl Reiner, Craig Robinson, Dave Attell, Gary Gulman, Gina Yashere, Ian Edwards, Jeff Ross, Jim Norton, Jon Fisch, Keith Robinson, Marina Franklin, Moody McCarthy, Pete Holmes, Robert Kelly, Ronny Chieng, Ted Greenberg, Sal Vulcano, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Vanessa Hollingshead, and more. Proceeds from the online event will benefit struggling comedians and comedy club professionals as part of The Actors Fund’s greater initiative to help entertainment creatives in comedy affected financially due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The two-hour event will be accessible on YouTube thereafter.

Starting today, Off Broadway’s Playwrights Horizons shares Episode 5 of its anthological scripted fiction podcast Soundstage: nightnight, by Lucas Hnath. Directed, sound designed, and edited by Alex Barron, nightnight takes the audience into the Space Station and mission control, overhearing ordinary workplace conflict in an extraordinary environment. The cast includes Eboni Booth, Michael Cullen, Arian Moayed, and Linda Powell. It is available on Apple Podcasts ([https://tinyurl.com/ycr5kocs](https://tinyurl.com/ycr5kocs)), Spotify ([https://tinyurl.com/y9twd382](https://tinyurl.com/y9twd382)), Google Podcasts ([https://tinyurl.com/y8pfsjo9](https://tinyurl.com/y8pfsjo9)), and Stitcher ([https://tinyurl.com/yd36yzym](https://tinyurl.com/yd36yzym)).

The Vineyard Theatre Virtual Variety Show show hosted, by Hunter Bell, Susan Blackwell, Heidi Blickenstaff, and Jeff Bowen streams Saturday, May 30 at 8:00pm ET. Stars include Laura Benanti, Jeff Blumenkrantz, David Cale, Victoria Clark, Billy Crudup, Rachel Dratch, Barrett Foa, Christopher J. Hanke, John Kander, Judy Kuhn, Rick Lyon, Audra McDonald, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Joe Morton, Julia Murney, Alex Newell, Kelli O’Hara, Douglas Sills, Ryan Spahn, and Michael Urie. They join the previously announced special guests including Bill Irwin, Cheyenne Jackson, Linda Lavin, Leslie Odom Jr., and Nicolette Robinson, Steven Pasquale and Phillipa Soo, Zachary Quinto, Brooke Shields, and The Lopez Family Singers (Lindsay Anderson, Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Annie Lopez, Bobby Lopez, and Katie Lopez). Access to the show is available with a donation of $25 or more made before 12:00pm ET on Saturday, May 30 through this link: [https://donate.ONEcause.com/vineyardtheatre](https://donate.ONEcause.com/vineyardtheatre). Donors will receive a registration email followed by a pre-show email with an exclusive link sent an hour before performance time to stream the show.

Presented in honor of the frontline personnel working during the COVID-19 Crisis, this week’s Heroic Performances video concert is a continuation of the Best of Boston Pops program that began earlier this month. Performers include conductors Keith Lockhart, John Williams, and Arthur Fiedler leading the Pops in some of the orchestra’s most beloved musical selections. It is available Sunday, May 31 at 3:00pm EDT for free on-demand viewing. Go to [www.bostonpops.org/athome](http://www.bostonpops.org/athome). And right now, you can see and hear Boston Symphony Orchestra violinists Jason Horowitz, Lucia Lin, and James Cooke offering a performance of Bach’s Sonata No. 3 in C Major. The video is currently available at [http://www.bso.org/athome](http://www.bso.org/athome).

And, here’s a great roundup of upcoming online performances: [https://tinyurl.com/ybssgl3l](https://tinyurl.com/ybssgl3l).

For Your Pleasure:
The remarkable Captain Tom Moore, who raised millions for Britain’s National Health Service, with West End star Michael Ball and the NHS choir, performing “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” https://tinyurl.com/y7key84a.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 27, 2020:**
**Mixed Signals**

A $825 bailout plan could save the European Union. It could also alter the face of Europe: https://tinyurl.com/yc3ubogx.

Meanwhile:

Alarmingly, a poll shows only 50% of Americans are willing to take a vaccine if and when it becomes available: https://tinyurl.com/yd5t8s58.

The World Health Organization bans its hydroxychloroquine study over health fears: https://tinyurl.com/y7j6a2tn7j6a2tn. Belgium, France, and Italy are banning hydroxychloroquine for the same reasons: https://tinyurl.com/yddy4qta.

Actors’ Equity: Members shouldn’t work until pandemic is under control: https://tinyurl.com/yazmtnrv.

If you open it, will they come? In the case of US cinemas, not so much: https://tinyurl.com/y8edqxob.

Bookmark this link to a map, provide by Pearle Live Performance Europe; it will keep you updated on when each country plans to reopen for shows, and the audience sizes permitted: https://tinyurl.com/ybyzm4nh.


NHL fans may yet get a Stanley Cup in 2020: https://tinyurl.com/yaf8hhk9.

**Food for Thought:**

An expert from Harvard notes that the real problem with the coronavirus is airborne transmission, and offers a plan to deal with it: https://tinyurl.com/y7uj4cxo.

Why social distancing isn’t enough; practical steps for offices, restaurants, and places of entertainment: https://tinyurl.com/y8w6twg5.

The problem we all face: Not enough data to make decent risk assessments: https://tinyurl.com/ydyo2cxc.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The price of the pandemic: an economy in freefall: https://tinyurl.com/yadg44xh.

**In Florida:**

Disney World, SeaWorld, and Busch Gardens announce their reopening plans: https://tinyurl.com/y8v2n6ce. Universal Studios is already raring to go: https://tinyurl.com/ybcwgmle.

**In New York:**

Tonight, Times Square will darken “to alert the nation to the very real prospect that hundreds of thousands of American
restaurants, non-profits, and retailers -- employing millions -- are in danger of going dark because existing federal assistance programs are not achieving intended goal:” [https://tinyurl.com/y8oakx4u](https://tinyurl.com/y8oakx4u).

A poll shows one major bar to audiences returning to Broadway: fear of jerks: [https://tinyurl.com/yb5rc3v7](https://tinyurl.com/yb5rc3v7).

The Copacabana nightclub is a victim of the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/y8r2xfjp](https://tinyurl.com/y8r2xfjp).

In Oklahoma:

Six Flags parks start opening next week, first in at Frontier City in Oklahoma City: [https://tinyurl.com/y74fqecz](https://tinyurl.com/y74fqecz).

In Texas:

Four Dallas health experts weigh in on reopening the state: [https://tinyurl.com/y8n3rth](https://tinyurl.com/y8n3rth).

In Vegas:

Will crowds return to a city under pandemic rules? [https://tinyurl.com/yb5rc3v7](https://tinyurl.com/yb5rc3v7).

Around the World:

In China:

What's it like at the reopened Shanghai Disney? [https://tinyurl.com/y7solzm8](https://tinyurl.com/y7solzm8).

Training:

New Martin by Harman webinars: “Lighting Truss Rigging for Lighting Technicians,” presented by Sarah O’Brien, lead rigger, on Thursday, May 28 at 11:00am CDT. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/ydymg69t](https://tinyurl.com/ydymg69t). “The History and Art of the Advance,” presented by Andrew Pen, lighting designer, on Friday, May 29, at 3:00pm, CDT. Register at: [https://tinyurl.com/y76wsbtf](https://tinyurl.com/y76wsbtf).

New Soundcraft webinars: “Headroom of a Sound System,” presented by Jan Van Zyl, June 4 at 12:00pm CDT. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/y9q16qnt](https://tinyurl.com/y9q16qnt). “Soundcraft Vi1000 Advanced Training,” presented by Gabriel Le Roux, June 5m 12:00pm CDT. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/y8p6uk8v](https://tinyurl.com/y8p6uk8v).

Company News:

From Sapsis Rigging: “We have recently received several inquiries regarding the use of disinfectants, chemicals, and alcohol solution on Proplus fall arrest harnesses. Here’s what you need to know:

“After doing some research, we have found that there has not been any data collected on the long-term effects of using cleaning chemicals or disinfecting agents on webbing/fibers, protective coatings that are used in ProPlus fall arrest harnesses. We are concerned that there can possibly be a loss of strength, abrasion resistance, and resistance to environmental conditions if chemical or disinfecting agents are used. We’ve also been asked about steam cleaning, UV light, and other similar methods. Each of these treatments presents its own problems that can alter the equipment’s characteristics and, as noted above, there is no data to provide guidance.

“It is Sapsis Rigging’s recommendation that harness users continue with the established protocol for cleaning their equipment. The only cleaning products recommended are water and a diluted solution of hand soap or mild dish soap. Do not use bleach, cleaning chemicals, or disinfectants. Do not use aggressive cleaning tools or methods. (Do not, for example, use a washing machine. It may damage the equipment and will most certainly damage the washing machine.) A soft sponge or rag may be used lightly to rub the equipment.

“After cleaning, the harness should be thoroughly rinsed. Run clean water over the harness to remove any foreign substances and residual soap. Do not use a pressure sprayer of any type.

“Harnesses should be dried by hanging in a cool, dry, shaded area with adequate ventilation. Avoid direct sunlight. Fol-
Following these procedures is consistent with long standing practices in the care and maintenance of these types of equipment. As always, it is the responsibility of the user for proper inspection, care and use of the equipment.

“The advice provided is for ProPlus harnesses and related products. While we believe this advice holds true for most, if not all harnesses on the market, please confirm with the harness or safety device manufacturer before attempted to clean the harness or device.”

Scheduling:

A new UK / Ireland tour of The Phantom of the Opera is off: https://tinyurl.com/yap2zduu.

For your Entertainment:

Bookmark this comprehensive list of opera and classical music performances online: https://tinyurl.com/y73to319.

Chita: A Legendary Celebration, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS’ evening of song and dance celebrating the legendary Chita Rivera, returns this Friday, May 29, 2020, in an exclusive stream benefiting Broadway Cares and its COVID-19 emergency efforts. Watch at https://broadwaycares.org/pre-event/chita-a-legendary-celebration-stream/.

For jazz fans, Free to Be (Jazz of the 1960s), feature Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra: https://tinyurl.com/yajyqnkt.

Here’s the list of this week’s offerings from Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/y8nbggzq.

Off Broadway’s Metropolitan Playhouse will present Neith Boyce’s groundbreaking drama, Constancy, via live stream video, with talkback to follow, on May 30 at 8:00pm EST. Running time is 30 minutes with a talkback to follow, including audience questions. It is available via Zoom and YouTube at www.metropolitanplayhouse.org/virtualplayhouse. The program will also be simultaneously broadcast on WBAI Radio 99.5 FM and https://www.wbai.org/.

The New York Philharmonic is making available two new broadcasts this week on Facebook and YouTube Thursday, May 28 at 7:30pm EDT, the Philharmonic will rebroadcast the 1982 Great Performances episode featuring violinist Itzhak Perlman performing the Mendelssohn and Brahms Violin Concertos, conducted by David Zinman. A recently recorded interview between Perlman and Alec Baldwin will open the broadcast. A rebroadcast of the Philharmonic’s performance of Brahms’ A German Requiem on Facebook (https://tinyurl.com/ydda3so5) and YouTube (https://tinyurl.com/y9j3jmae).

Off Broadway’s Red Bull Theater presents a reading of The Revenger’s Tragedy on June 1 at 7:30pm at www.redbulltheater.com/live, and on Facebook, Vimeo, and YouTube.

Thirty-three Sondheim numbers in five minutes: https://tinyurl.com/y7mayj7u.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 26, 2020:**

**Memorial Day**

As the number of US deaths nears 100,000, The New York Times fills its front page and more with the names of 1,000. The most powerful comment: “They were us.” https://tinyurl.com/y8uuwv2r.

While the nation grieves, the president golfs and sends tweets calling Stacey Abrams “Shamu” and Hillary Clinton “a skank.” And that isn’t the half of it: https://tinyurl.com/ypd94uhoy. One thing he doesn’t talk about? The nearly 100,000 dead: https://tinyurl.com/y7sx9psv.

“An international example of bad judgment:” Crowds around the country violate social distancing protocols in search of Memorial Day fun: https://tinyurl.com/y7wjrcuy. The executive of St. Louis Country urges anyone involved in the Lake of
the Ozarks melee to self-quarantine: https://tinyurl.com/y94gruo.

And cases are still rising in 18 states: https://tinyurl.com/ybzwxo47.

Meanwhile:

Anthony Fauci says now is the time to start thinking about restarting the economy -- depending, of course, on where one is: https://tinyurl.com/yaqsyfgw.

The president tries to suggest that the death count is inflated: https://tinyurl.com/y8mozpp6.

In 2017, the European Union tried to start a fast-track program for developing vaccines, but the big pharma companies declined to take part: https://tinyurl.com/ya37cmax.

Washing your hands isn’t possible in countries where large swaths of the population don’t have access to water: https://tinyurl.com/yajdxx9p.

A new study shows that an increased risk for dementia also signals an increased risk for COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/ybfaqose.

Entertainment producers across the country and all disciplines are coming to the same conclusion -- 2020 is a wash: https://tinyurl.com/ycxgflww. But Charlotte St. Martin, president of the Broadway League has her sights set on January: https://tinyurl.com/yb46t8rb.

Could the NBA be back by mid-July? https://tinyurl.com/ydfjc79l.


The perils of online performance: The Killers had to restart a streaming show after someone started scribbling over the image: https://tinyurl.com/yb1qelob.

Around the Country:

In Arkansas:

A church opens up to a small congregation and the coronavirus spreads among the worshippers: https://tinyurl.com/yagzjiga.

In California:

Back-to-work guidelines for the film and television industry are delayed, because everyone has an opinion: https://tinyurl.com/y9xbyevu.

In Florida:

Universal Orlando is set to open June 5: https://tinyurl.com/yajmha6c.

Legoland says it has permission to open on June 1, but the governor says not so fast: https://tinyurl.com/ydxq8ygw.

Stranded Filipino crew members from Royal Caribbean ask a Federal to order the company to send them home immediately: https://tinyurl.com/y863w2r.

In Nevada:

This time’s the charm: Gig works can finally apply for unemployment benefits: https://tinyurl.com/y78kb6hr.

In Oklahoma:
The WinStar Casino and Resort, in Thackerville, opens tomorrow with reduced capacity: [https://tinyurl.com/ybjox3pe](https://tinyurl.com/ybjox3pe).

**In Oregon:**

A spike in COVID-19 cases is linked to family and social gatherings: [https://tinyurl.com/y9s6jhqn](https://tinyurl.com/y9s6jhqn).

**Around the World:**

**In Israel:**

In a first for the country since the pandemic, 5,000 people gather for a beachfront concert: [https://tinyurl.com/ycd3b7w2s](https://tinyurl.com/ycd3b7w2s).

**In Italy:**

The Venice Film Festival is still on for September: [https://tinyurl.com/ybxa66p6](https://tinyurl.com/ybxa66p6).

**In the UK:**

London’s Southbank Centre may remain closed until spring 2021: [https://tinyurl.com/y8o7qt3v](https://tinyurl.com/y8o7qt3v).

**Mobilizing:**

“Angel from Montgomery,” the classic by the late John Prine, is getting a recording, the proceeds of which will go to MusiCares’ COVID-19 relief fund: [https://tinyurl.com/y8vab9qy](https://tinyurl.com/y8vab9qy).

**Training:**

Members of the firm Lightswitch will appear on the next Elation Hour, tomorrow at 10:00am PST: [https://tinyurl.com/ydhw7z45](https://tinyurl.com/ydhw7z45).

On Thursday, May 28, Christie Pandoras Box Open Hour will give attendees the chance to discover what’s coming with Pandoras Box V6.4.3. There will be time for questions and answers. Register for this and other upcoming Christie seminars at [https://tinyurl.com/y8s9na7b](https://tinyurl.com/y8s9na7b).


On Thursday, May 28 at 12:00pm EDT, Ultratec Special Effects hosts an “EZ Kleen fluid maintenance demo.” Tony Wikner [https://tinyurl.com/ya2qkgvn](https://tinyurl.com/ya2qkgvn).

**Losses:**

Joel Revzen, Metropolitan Opera conductor: [https://tinyurl.com/ybfvylpo](https://tinyurl.com/ybfvylpo).

**Scheduling:**

Alicia Keys’ world tour has been put off. No word about rescheduling: [https://tinyurl.com/ybzb84ok](https://tinyurl.com/ybzb84ok).

Steely Dan and Stevie Winwood are holding their combined tour until 2021: [https://tinyurl.com/ydna2q3k](https://tinyurl.com/ydna2q3k).

As a sign of the times, 23 of 26 concerts at the North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre in Chula Vista, California, have been canceled or postponed. The holdouts are KISS, Luke Bryan, and the Doobie Brothers.

Josh Groban’s upcoming Great Big Radio City Show, scheduled to take place at Radio City Music Hall on Saturday, June 20, 2020; Saturday, September 26, 2020 and Monday, October 5, 2020, has been postponed to Thursday April 15; Friday, April 16 and Saturday April 17, 2021.
That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 22, 2020:**

**False Dawn?**

The president insists that in the event of a second wave, he won’t shut down the country: [https://tinyurl.com/y98l6v6f](https://tinyurl.com/y98l6v6f). A new study shows that patients treated with the president’s preferred COVID-19 drug are at increased risk for irregular heart rhythms and death: [https://tinyurl.com/yb7nowuy](https://tinyurl.com/yb7nowuy).

**Meanwhile:**

The CDC asserts that the coronavirus spreads between people, not so much through contaminated surfaces: [https://tinyurl.com/y9v7hsfl](https://tinyurl.com/y9v7hsfl).

Scientists from the Obama Administration warn that the government must stockpile medical equipment now against a second wave of infections: [https://tinyurl.com/ycr2vo3t](https://tinyurl.com/ycr2vo3t).

Infections spike in South America, with Brazil rapidly approaching disaster-area status: [https://tinyurl.com/yctpec8s](https://tinyurl.com/yctpec8s).

**Food for Thought:**

A manager with Adamson Systems Engineering argues that the industry must band together to protect the integrity of the live experience: [https://tinyurl.com/y8fyvl2z](https://tinyurl.com/y8fyvl2z).

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

Cruise ship workers, stuck in San Diego since the pandemic began, are starting to leave, but many more remain: [https://tinyurl.com/yaak7xls](https://tinyurl.com/yaak7xls).

**In Florida:**

How a lack of state guidance allowed Spring Break to happen in the face of the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/yd473bce](https://tinyurl.com/yd473bce). Miami Beach votes to open its beaches and hotels on June 1: [https://tinyurl.com/y7hf9rw](https://tinyurl.com/y7hf9rw).

Disney World workers struggle with the state’s shambolic unemployment system: [https://tinyurl.com/y7xxfkac](https://tinyurl.com/y7xxfkac).

In April, 13% of the state’s workforce was unemployed: [https://tinyurl.com/yae4mdjz](https://tinyurl.com/yae4mdjz).

**In Illinois:**

A gentleman’s club, claiming it was cut out of the Paycheck Protection Program, fights back: [https://tinyurl.com/ych3xnho](https://tinyurl.com/ych3xnho).

**In Nevada:**

Gig workers still can’t apply for unemployment: [https://tinyurl.com/ycsklu89](https://tinyurl.com/ycsklu89).

The state’s unemployment in April reached nearly 30%: [https://tinyurl.com/yd3rklok](https://tinyurl.com/yd3rklok).

**In New York:**

New York City is looking to reopen the first two weeks of June: [https://tinyurl.com/y889o2yc](https://tinyurl.com/y889o2yc).
The Public Theater fends off having to furlough its staff: [https://tinyurl.com/y6waznng](https://tinyurl.com/y6waznng).

Looking to the future, Off Broadway’s The Playwrights Realm puts off production plans to become a service organization for writers: [https://tinyurl.com/yd8v4cza](https://tinyurl.com/yd8v4cza).

Off Broadway’s Irish Repertory Theatre plans an entire summer season online: [https://tinyurl.com/yal5mskm](https://tinyurl.com/yal5mskm).

**Around the World:**

**In the UK:**

The Society of London Theatres announces a coalition to explore theatre reopening solutions: [https://tinyurl.com/yaljn58a](https://tinyurl.com/yaljn58a).

And not a moment too soon -- West End/Broadway producer Sonia Friedmans says the country’s theatres are "on the brink of total collapse:" [https://tinyurl.com/yacbaom7](https://tinyurl.com/yacbaom7).

**Training:**

On May 27, at 11:00am EST, Sennheiser hosts a roundtable discussion on the topic of immersive audio. Brian Glasscock of the Sennheiser AMBEO Immersive Audio team will welcome Andrés Mayo and Martín Muscatello for the first in a regular series of presentations and discussions with leading immersive audio practitioners. Registrations are now open at [https://tinyurl.com/y7eftx5q](https://tinyurl.com/y7eftx5q).

**Company / Association News:**

On Tuesday, June 16, NAMM’s Advocacy Summit will bring together arts and music education experts and policymakers for an advocacy briefing and training to prepare delegates to contact Members of Congress, as well as state and local officials, about the essential role of music education for every child. It’s a message that is perhaps more important than ever before. The half-day event will cover current policy updates, expected funding realities, and a state-by-state snapshot of advocacy action needs and training. Musical "breaks" will be provided by NAMM Fly-In delegates: award-winning hip hop producer, J. Dash, and NAMM Foundation board member, Latin Grammy award nominee, and former New York Yankee, Bernie Williams. Delegates interested in attending may register at [https://tinyurl.com/ybnh6wsb](https://tinyurl.com/ybnh6wsb). All sessions will be in Pacific Time. Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks.

ESTA’s PERG releases a draft, for public review, of its return-to-work guidelines: [https://tinyurl.com/y9q9jaup](https://tinyurl.com/y9q9jaup).

**Scheduling:**

The James Taylor – Jackson Browne tour has been rescheduled for May and June 2021: [https://tinyurl.com/ydxlc2uz](https://tinyurl.com/ydxlc2uz).

**Entertainment:**

The streaming service Britbox will feature the complete BBC Shakespeare series, starring the likes of Helen Mirren, Robert Lindsay, Brenda Blethyn, John Cleese, Alan Rickman, John Gielgud, and Jonathan Pryce. Subscriptions are $6.99 a month: [https://tinyurl.com/y8ua2unp](https://tinyurl.com/y8ua2unp).

Today at Lincoln Center at Home: At 5:30pm, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center will share a special broadcast from iconic locations in Greece. At 7:30pm, the Metropolitan Opera presents Don Giovanni, with James Morris and Joan Sutherland, conducted by Richard Bonynge. At 8:00pm, New York City Ballet presents Christopher Wheeldon’s Liturgy and Carousel (A Dance). All times are EST. [https://tinyurl.com/yc3tm9qr](https://tinyurl.com/yc3tm9qr).

Seth Rudetsky’s Broadway concert series, which first began in Provincetown at The Art House in 2011, will debut as a weekly virtual series entitled The Seth Concert Series. Hosted by beloved musical director and Sirius XM Star Seth Rudetsky, the first event will take place on Sunday, May 31 and will feature Tony award-winning actress Kelli O’Hara. Stage and screen favorites Jeremy Jordan and Jessie Mueller will headline the following two weeks. Each weekly show will premiere Sunday nights at 8:00pm EST with a second showing Mondays at 3:00pm EST for viewers in other time zones.
like the UK. Tickets are available at www.thesethconcertseries.com for $20.00 (early bird) and $25.00 each.

Weekend Reading:

Brighten your day with the extraordinary story of how Broadway scenic designer Edward Pierce, aided by his devoted family and medical team, beat the coronavirus. As a bonus, it opens a window a promising method of treatment: https://tinyurl.com/y7fu8pgr.

That’s all for today. Have a good Memorial Day Weekend. We will return on Tuesday. Stay safe.

###

COVID-19 Update: May 20, 2020:
“A Badge of Honor”

The above words are how the president characterizes the huge number of US deaths form the coronavirus, which today has reached 91,983: https://tinyurl.com/y86quajt.

Steven Mnuchin defends the administration’s reopening policy to a testy Senate committee: https://tinyurl.com/yau9737u.

And the lies about hydroxychloroquine continue to flow: https://tinyurl.com/ydyrqly7.

Meanwhile:

A new survey reveals that 87% of American nurses are working under dangerous conditions, forced to reuse PPE: https://tinyurl.com/y8sef3hb.

“Why are you Chinese people killing everyone?” Asian-American medical professions face bigotry on and off the job: https://tinyurl.com/ybja3tcc.

Better late than never? After every state starts to reopen, the CDC releases its guidelines for reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y87rocoq.

Cinemas are reopening, but 70% of Americans would rather see new films at home: https://tinyurl.com/ydfzp44h.

IATSE endorses Joe Biden for president: https://tinyurl.com/ycdrea5f.

IATSE has also hired a trio of epidemiologists to consult on getting back to work: https://tinyurl.com/yarghqdj.

Why public bathrooms are a stumbling block to opening theatres, restaurants stores, and other venues: https://tinyurl.com/ycu7xpca.


Food for Thought:

Twenty-five top theatre minds ponder what the theatre will look like post-pandemic -- including new aesthetic approaches, more inclusion, and cleaner dressing rooms: https://tinyurl.com/y95s4wd5.

Without minimizing the challenges, a Guardian columnist says the arts can come back stronger than ever: https://tinyurl.com/y7tqf72a.

Architect/set designer David Rockwell creates a template to make outdoor dining feasible: https://tinyurl.com/y7o3zcs4.

Around the Country:
In California:

LA County says retail and restaurants won’t open before July 4: https://tinyurl.com/y8ko4o88.

The 2021 Academy Awards ceremony will most likely be postponed: https://tinyurl.com/y8xozgzc.

The patrons pile in as tribal casinos in San Diego County reopen. "I’m a religious person," says one of them. "I believe when my number comes, my number comes:" https://tinyurl.com/y9wvn2s3.

In Florida:

As the Disney Springs shopping complex reopens, the Disney Organization is crystal clear: Proceed at your own risk: https://tinyurl.com/y76vq7ns.

The woman in charge of the state’s COVID-19 data says she was fired for not censoring data: https://tinyurl.com/ycstqyxx.

In New York:

A plan to disinfect Broadway theatres -- using drones: https://tinyurl.com/y7bjfng5.

In Vegas:

Three major casino companies will start testing employees before allowing them back to work: https://tinyurl.com/yd2chs5j.

The Venetian Hotel Casino is expected to open in June: https://tinyurl.com/ybv4mlu9.

Mobilizing:

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS announced that it has sent $5 million from its COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund to The Actors Fund. Broadway Cares' $5 million represents nearly half of what The Actors Fund has awarded in just two months to more than 9,300 entertainment professionals.

Andrew Lloyd Webber raises $500,000 for The Actors Fund through streaming: https://tinyurl.com/yd6gzo6d.

Company / Association News:

From Opera America: “Thanks to the generosity and consideration of the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, OPERA America, the national advocate and service organization for opera, is pleased to announce a dues waiver for fiscal year 2021 for all current organizational members and individual artists. At a time when the entire field is under tremendous financial pressure, this waiver will enable members to remain united and informed through the coming year.

“The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the opera field has been tremendous, with the cancellation of over 1,000 performances of more than 250 productions, and the loss of more than $100 million in box office revenue through the end of August. Numerous world-premiere productions have been canceled or postponed, along with over 2,000 education and community programs. Over 10,000 artists have lost engagements.

“All Opera America organizational members and individual artist members who are current as of June 30, 2020, will be eligible for an extended year of membership at no cost. Organizations that are not already Opera America members will be welcome to join the organization in the course of the year, free of charge.”

Scheduling:

La Jolla Music Society has postponed its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/yzd6xjzm.

Entertainment:
Today at 5:30pm EST, you can stream The Sentinels, a one-act play by Matthew Lopez (Broadway and London’s The Inheritance) starring Jane Alexander, Katrina Lenk, Denée Benton, and Priscilla Lopez. It’s free at https://tinyurl.com/yckfkp22.

Obie Award-winner Metropolitan Playhouse will present a free “screened” reading of Alice Gerstenberg’s The Potboiler, a comedy about the theatre, via livestream video, with talkback to follow, on Saturday, May 23, at 8:00pm, EST. The running time is 40 minutes A talkback follows, including audience questions. The event is available via Zoom and YouTube: and https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksjy. The program will also be simultaneously broadcast on WBAI Radio 99.5 FM and http://www.wbai.org.

Starting May 22, you can stream Puffs, the long-running Off Broadway spoof of all things Harry Potter: https://tinyurl.com/yb9bjtu.

For Your Pleasure:

Adventures in global lighting design -- many of them life-threatening -- with Durham Marenghi: https://durhamld.com/2020/05/18/under-arrest/.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

COVID-19 Update: May 19, 2020:

Self-Medication

The president announces he is taking hydroxchloroquine, which has no known medical benefits but comes with the risk of severe side effects: https://tinyurl.com/ycrf27p8. Evidence is thin in the ground, but the president’s advisers say that the economy is coming back any minute now: https://tinyurl.com/y8bc5py2. The president threatens to permanently withdraw funding for the World Health Organization: https://tinyurl.com/ybzvs9p6.

Meanwhile:

The administration signs an agreement with a generic drug manufacturer to stockpile necessary ingredients for medicines: https://tinyurl.com/y8k7vczw.

Here are some hard statistics showing how badly this industry has been affected: https://tinyurl.com/ybunbkq7.

ViacomCBS maps out the challenging road to Super Bowl 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y74ws6pq.

Around the Country:

In Arkansas:

The Travis McCready concert finally happens, with restrictions in place: https://tinyurl.com/y7q9lh79.

In California:

The LA City Council plans to turn developers’ fees into emergency arts grants: https://tinyurl.com/y7qh4kk2.

In Georgia:

The state’s department of health is slammed for posting misleading coronavirus data: https://tinyurl.com/y7sgkkt8. Here’s how the numbers got cooked: https://tinyurl.com/ydx478ma.

Delta Airlines announces that all flights will be no more than 60% full, at least through July: https://tinyurl.com/y8ttn3nd.
In Louisiana:
New Orleans is open, but there are few takers: https://tinyurl.com/y95zsqzo.

In Nevada:
The Colorado Belle hotel casino in Laughlin will remain closed, laying off its workers: https://tinyurl.com/y7a9cdkp.

In New York:
Actors Equity calls on the Senate to move without delay on the COBRA subsidy in the HEROES Act: https://tinyurl.com/ybwgyaus.
Governor Cuomo asks major league sports to return, without fans: https://tinyurl.com/ybbj5ok6.

Around the World:

In Iran:
A couple weeks after reopening, new infections surge: https://tinyurl.com/y8ywq3dn.

In Italy:
The government says theatres can open June 15: https://tinyurl.com/y9u4reeu.

In the UK:

Company News:
The newspaper The Tennessean reports on DWP Live and its coping strategies: https://tinyurl.com/y79v6sql.
Eurotruss has released this inspiring message: https://tinyurl.com/yc6ccpch.

Training:
The next Elation Hour, on May 20, 10:00am PST, features Broadway lighting designers Jeff Croiter, Bradley King, and Jason Lyons, along with John Froelich, head of lighting at the Metropolitan Opera: https://tinyurl.com/y83m2evq.
New Martin seminars: Today at 3:00pm CDT: “Designing for Theatre, Television and Film.” Presented by Mike Baldassari. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yb6lcaco. Friday, May 22 at 2:00pm CDT: “Creating a Production and Lighting Design to Take Advantage of Show Limitations and Challenges with Tess Falcone.” Register at https://tinyurl.com/ycmw5auh.
On May 21, 1:00pm EST, Rosco hosts a webinar on using gels and colored LED lighting on set. The moderators are Nils de Montgrand and Nicolas Goerg, of Rosco, and the panel includes Romain Lacourbas ASC; Pawel Pogorzelski, cinematographer; and Patrick Haegemann, gaffer. Register at https://tinyurl.com/ycjl83v2.

Scheduling:
The 25th edition of Guangzhou International Lighting Exhibition will be held from September 30 – October 3, 2020 at the China Import and Export Fair Complex in Guangzhou.
San Diego’s Old Globe Theatre has postponed its summer season to 2021.

Entertainment:
Off Broadway's Bedlam will present a reading of Much Ado About Nothing on Monday, May 25 at 6:30pm. A donation of $10 is suggested. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yd2qjxv5.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 18, 2020:**

**The Patchwork Approach**

Welcome to the ninth week. There are now 89,567 Americans dead from the coronavirus. Across the country, cities are opening up, with varied results: https://tinyurl.com/ya8jdzn5. The House of Representatives passes a $3 trillion coronavirus relief bill; the GOP pronounces it dead on arrival in the Senate: https://tinyurl.com/ybar2vey. The president is confident that a widely available vaccine is coming by the end of the year; scientists disagree: https://tinyurl.com/ya5h2wjb.

As the nations supporting the World Health Organization meet online, countries call for an investigation into the response to the pandemic, with an eye on China: https://tinyurl.com/ydvmn4hy.

The White House blames the pandemic on the CDC. Or people with pre-existing conditions. Or somebody: https://tinyurl.com/y8xwr3bf.

**Meanwhile:**

Could llama antibodies be the key to defeating the coronavirus? https://tinyurl.com/y9c3ey9g. Also, the firm Moderna reports promising results from its vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/yc7vdzxf.

One reason COVID-19 has devastated older populations is law-breaking nursing home chains like this: https://tinyurl.com/yb8joaxo.

All at sea: Inside the limbo life of 100,000 cruise ship crews, left onboard by the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/y8wbej66.

US cinemas are slowly reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y9lnhojf.

NASCAR and professional golf are coming back, as are other sports, without fans in attendance: https://tinyurl.com/ya33ae2m. Professional Bull Riders will allow audiences at an event in July: https://tinyurl.com/y953osn4.

Airports at looking at high-tech defenses against the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/ycaughfz.

Around the world, the pandemic is reshaping cities, driving efforts to get rid of cars and increase space for pedestrians and cyclists: https://tinyurl.com/y7dhav7b.

**Food for Thought:**

Dr. Sanjay Gupta on the importance of staying the course: https://tinyurl.com/y9mzuh9n.

An economist and a manufacturer of surgical gear have a plan to end the lockdown by July 4, if anyone will listen: https://tinyurl.com/y83l94sn.

Theatre artist Caridad Savich says that with venues shut down, it’s time to get creative: https://tinyurl.com/y8yyhaj8.

Don’t miss this compelling video, from the Live Events Coalition, which dramatizes the industry’s dilemma at this moment: https://tinyurl.com/ybgze62t.

The biggest challenges keeping Broadway from reopening when New York comes back: https://tinyurl.com/y9kvctsv.

Three possible scenarios for Broadway reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y87x638w.

### Around the Country:

#### In Arizona:

Five Phoenix-area casinos open up, with patrons banging down the doors at 9:00am: [https://tinyurl.com/yb6ktyc](https://tinyurl.com/yb6ktyc).

#### In California:

SeaWorld is sued by a pass holder for continuing to collect fees while closed: [https://tinyurl.com/y7krqkws](https://tinyurl.com/y7krqkws).

The governor asks San Diego's tribal governments to reconsider the decision to reopen their casinos: [https://tinyurl.com/y8c6s7cn](https://tinyurl.com/y8c6s7cn).

#### In Florida:

The Disney Organization and unions have worked out a deal for employee safety that will speed the reopening of Disney World: [https://tinyurl.com/y9n5ub5d](https://tinyurl.com/y9n5ub5d).

#### In New Hampshire:

A music venue experiments with a drive-in concert: [https://tinyurl.com/yaexxwgo](https://tinyurl.com/yaexxwgo).

#### In New York:

State-run beaches will open for Memorial Day, but New York City beaches will remain closed: [https://tinyurl.com/y7qp6pta](https://tinyurl.com/y7qp6pta).

Mayor Bill de Blasio lowers the boom on those violating social distance restrictions: [https://tinyurl.com/y9gexkcp](https://tinyurl.com/y9gexkcp).

### Around the World:

#### In Brazil:

As infections spread, the health minister resigns, after a month on the job: [https://tinyurl.com/yago4tve](https://tinyurl.com/yago4tve).

In Sao Paulo, the hospitals are overwhelmed: [https://tinyurl.com/yc8ufws3](https://tinyurl.com/yc8ufws3).

#### In Canada:

Could a combination of pre-existing problems and the pandemic spell curtains for Cirque du Soleil? It doesn’t help that Moody’s has downgraded the company’s stock to near-junk status: [https://tinyurl.com/y7n5dq6g](https://tinyurl.com/y7n5dq6g).

The country’s theatres plot possible comeback strategies: [https://tinyurl.com yc69y8m6](https://tinyurl.com yc69y8m6).

#### In the UK:

Can dogs be trained to sniff out COVID-19? [https://tinyurl.com/y9rbefyj](https://tinyurl.com/y9rbefyj).

London’s Globe Theatre is facing "extinction" without financial relief: [https://tinyurl.com/ybz5oetr](https://tinyurl.com/ybz5oetr).

### Losses:

Jimmy Glenn, former boxer and owner of theatre district dive bar Jimmy’s Corner: [https://tinyurl.com/ycm4kk8a](https://tinyurl.com/ycm4kk8a). Noted Argentinian dancer Luis A. Frias: [https://tinyurl.com/ybw3mzt3](https://tinyurl.com/ybw3mzt3).

### Training:
OSHA will hold a webinar on its recently released Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, which provides specific action steps employers should take to address the global pandemic. Expert Joe Keenan will explain best practices for developing and implementing effective business continuity and pandemic response plans, identifying and providing appropriate PPE to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It happens May 28 at 12:00pm ET. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yck85mbz.

On May 19 at 1:30pm ET, the Sennheiser SoundAcademy hosts David Missall and Brian Walker have invited Leslie Ann Jones, Michael Romanowski, Steve Genewick, Jim Anderson, and Ulrike Anderson to discuss the topic. The five industry experts will discuss their approach to recording, mixing, and mastering the immersive sound experience, and share their views on how immersive audio can help open up new creative possibilities and connect listeners more intimately with music. Register at https://tinyurl.com/ybkzngua.

Company News:

From Atlanta-based Magnum:

“We really thought we were ready to open this past Monday, but over the weekend we made the tough decision to wait one more week and see how things looked.”

“Georgia was the first state to lift the stay-at-home order, and no one really knew what that would do to the COVID-19 cases here, so instead of bringing everyone back, we decided to give it another week.”

“As of now, the cases are still dropping here, so we’re going to start the process of slooowly reopening next Monday (5/18/20). We will be monitoring the situation and will proceed with the utmost caution.”

“Before bringing our employees back into the offices and warehouse, we put together strict Post COVID-19 Protocols. Head to our website to see our guideline http://www.magnumco.com/, or download a pdf version at https://tinyurl.com/y9a92adb.”

“Our top priority is the safety of our employees and our clients.”

USITT has approved a change in the association’s bylaws to allow members to pay their dues either monthly or annually. Monthly memberships begin at only $7 for student members and top out at $15 for professional members. All individual memberships can now be paid on a monthly basis. New members may choose to begin their membership on a monthly basis, current members may convert their annual membership to monthly subscriptions, if they desire, when their current membership expires. Individuals can join or renew online at www.usitt.org/membership for either membership option. New members will be required to create an account and all members who choose the monthly option must store a payment method on our secure site.

Scheduling:

Wisconsin’s American Players Theatre has canceled its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/y93xzwnb.

The national tour of Summer: The Donna Summer Musical has closed: https://tinyurl.com/yb95huvp.

Maroon 5’s spring/summer tour is off until 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y7f6mkqw.

The summer season at Tanglewood Music Center has been canceled; however, patrons can access a variety of free and paid content will be available in July and August. Details to come.

Entertainment:

Germany’s Berliner Ensemble is streaming a 1957 production of Mother Courage, starring Helene Weigel, wife of playwright Bertolt Brecht and widely regarded as the most authoritative interpreter of his works. It’s in German with no subtitles, but if you know the play this is a golden opportunity: https://tinyurl.com/ya5tyrf5.
Tonight at 7:00pm BroadwayCon interviews Broadway set designer David Korins: https://tinyurl.com/y9wmsarx.


The latest offering in Playwrights Horizons Soundstage series is Outtakes, by Qui Nguyen, author of the acclaimed play Viet Gone: https://tinyurl.com/yclfzwka.

Tonight at 7:30pm ET, Off Broadway’s Red Bull Theater presents a free reading of Coriolanus, which the company presented to great acclaim in 2016. The reading reunites original cast members Lisa Harrow, Merritt Janson, Dion Johnstone, Aaron Krohn, Patrick Page, and Stephen Spinella, among others. Go to: https://www.redbulltheater.com/live. A new website, Thespie, will stream plays, interviews, and more: https://tinyurl.com/y7stz662.

Theatre for a New Audience and the Fisher Center at Bard are streaming the Bard College Theater & Performance Program production of Caryl Churchill’s Mad Forest, created by experimental theater and opera director Ashley Tata and performed and broadcast live online for free using a specially modified version of Zoom, Friday, May 22 (7:00pm EST), Sunday, May 24 (5:00pm EST), and Wednesday, May 27 (3:00pm EST). RSVP in advance is required to view each performance. Details for how to access the stream are available at www.tfana.org.

For Your Pleasure:

More than 150 alumni of Hairspray remind us that you can’t stop the beat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEgIJLlBFU1&feature=youtu.be. Remember The Actors Fund.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 15, 2020:**

**The Window is Closing**

The number of Americans dead from the coronavirus is now 85,906.

The whistleblower Brick Bright pours a gallon of cold water on the president’s triumphalist assertions that the worst is behind us: https://tinyurl.com/y88xdphp.

**Meanwhile:**

The new strategy on the right: If you can’t explain away deaths from COVID-19, deny them: https://tinyurl.com/y9rk6u6u.

In fact, the numbers are almost certainly worse than reported: https://tinyurl.com/y7cw5gdb.

In any case, the CDC has little to offer in the way of guidance about reopening: https://tinyurl.com/ybxtun3w.

The president’s response to the coronavirus isn’t doing a thing for the country’s status in the world: https://tinyurl.com/yccqv924.

A new poll finds a majority of Americans aren’t rushing to leave the house and go to work: https://tinyurl.com/ycs9athn.

Unsurprisingly, April’s retail sales plunged 16.4%: https://tinyurl.com/ybx8n8c2.

So how has Sweden’s no-lockdown policy been working out? https://tinyurl.com/ycku9nke.

Food for thought: Michael Strickland, of Bandit Lites, argues that the live entertainment industry needs to speak up for itself: https://tinyurl.com/y72qxf95.
And a new app shows promises in tracking infections: https://tinyurl.com/yaeq4gnp.

**Around the Country:**

**In Arkansas:**

That Travis McCready concert is off, after the state seizes the venue’s liquor license: https://tinyurl.com/y7xka9og.

**In California:**

The Screen Actors Guild Awards will now consider films that didn’t premiere in cinemas: https://tinyurl.com/y8tclyg9.

San Diego County wants to keep local casinos closed but tribal nations disagree: https://tinyurl.com/ybv9huhd.

**In Florida:**

The governor greenlights businesses reopening on Monday in Miami-Dade and Broward counties: https://tinyurl.com/y9uwn8wr.

Yesterday we noted that Carnival Cruise bookings for August were skyrocketing. Now, Carnival Corp. is furloughing a significant number of employees: https://tinyurl.com/ybx9368r.

**In Mississippi:**

Casinos can open before Memorial Day weekend: https://tinyurl.com/y76bgysr.

**In Nevada:**

Starting tomorrow, the state’s self-employed workers can finally apply for unemployment benefits: https://tinyurl.com/ytacsc5d.

**In New York:**

The central part of the state can reopen, but New York City remains on lockdown until mid-June: https://tinyurl.com/y7s8hync.

The next domino to fall on Broadway is Disney’s Frozen: https://tinyurl.com/yao5a4kn.

Broadway producers and theatre owners are still working out the issue of rent payments for suspended shows: https://tinyurl.com/y77jc3xg.

**In Wisconsin:**

As different parts of the government argue about lockdown, confusion reigns: https://tinyurl.com/ydcdrkbx.

**Around the World:**

**In Slovenia:**

The country is the first in Europe to declare that its epidemic is over: https://tinyurl.com/y9rk6u6u.

**In the UK:**

That vaccine trial in Oxford is looking better and better: https://tinyurl.com/ybxhr522.

**Mobilizing:**
The Divine -- and Generous -- Miss M: Bette Midler is matching donations to The Actors Fund up to $100,000: https://tinyurl.com/vmqfglr.

This is good news, since The Actors Fund has distributed $10.5 million in coronavirus relief: https://tinyurl.com/y8593ybr.

Training:

Next from Barco: The final class in the company’s event Master training series is a tutorial on how to program various controllers, single versus mix layer, device control and cues, 4K creation, output AOI, and custom formats/EDI. It takes place May 20, 2:30pm ET. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/y6uq4l9w.

EAW has assembled an extensive training program: https://tinyurl.com/ydan7xhq.

4Wall Entertainment launches a series of Sunday night roundtables hosted by Drew Quinones and Jeff Croiter. Joining them this week are Bob Barnhart, Ken Billington, Al Crawford, and Emmanuelle Gigi Pedron: https://tinyurl.com/y8jm4uzr.

Check out the list of Vectorworks’ May webinars: https://tinyurl.com/yb3yqqv8.

Scheduling:

Broadway national tours are dealing with the pandemic on a case-by-case basis: https://tinyurl.com/yahdr6xn.

Chicago’s Goodman Theatre is moving the final four productions of its season to 2020-21: https://tinyurl.com/y7g6bovy.

The Chicago engagement of the new Broadway musical <i>Six has been moved from July to November: https://tinyurl.com/y8l2wf3f</i>.

The DC production of Pulitzer Prize winner A Strange Loop is postponed until next spring: https://tinyurl.com/y7p3vzdv.

Entertainment:

The new streaming service Broadway on Demand beefs up its offerings: https://tinyurl.com/y946chqm.

The full original Off-Broadway cast of Jonathan Spector’s hilarious and extremely relevant play Eureka Day, presented by the Off Broadway company Colt Coeur, will reunite for a one-night only online charity reading, benefitting Colt Coeur and No Kid Hungry. Colt Coeur founding artistic director Adrienne Campbell-Holt returns to direct the event, streaming Friday, May 22 at 8:00pm on https://www.play-perview.com/. Tickets are $5.

Playbill and Pride Plays team up to present LGBTQ-themed streams during Pride Month: https://tinyurl.com/yc899zfp.


That’s all for today. Have a good weekend. And stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 14, 2020:**

**On The Brink**

The number of Americans dead from the coronavirus is 84,313.

Thirty-six million Americans are now unemployed: https://tinyurl.com/y83taqso.

Ousted health official Rick Bright warns that, without a coordinated federal effort, the US faces the “darkest winter in modern history:” https://tinyurl.com/ybc37h2c.
Can this bromance be saved? The president publicly cools on Anthony Fauci, for being too candid to the Senate: https://tinyurl.com/y8bdhm8h.

Because it doesn’t fit with his messaging, the president sidelines the CDC: https://tinyurl.com/y8rq8y9h.

Don’t panic, but the droplets from mere conversation may be enough to spread the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y9bglle5.

At least doctors are developing a box of tools to treat COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/y9xpmjvm.

Nancy Pelosi puts a $3 trillion relief bill on the table. The GOP recoils: https://tinyurl.com/yb5yqxlw.

**Food For Thought:**

The pessimist’s point of view: An argument that the coronavirus means curtains for artists: https://tinyurl.com/yctax7br.

The optimist’s point of view: Dave Grohl on why concerts must return: https://tinyurl.com/ycusuvg3.

The realist’s point of view: Nicholas Rivero assesses the road ahead and what you can do now: https://tinyurl.com/ydbwa23p.

COVID Event Planning: A website that you may find to be most useful: https://tinyurl.com/y9d4hl2u.

Wisdom from actors about dealing with uncertainty and unemployment: https://tinyurl.com/yc4zhefg.

State of the nation: As Snopes confirms, this sign is real: https://tinyurl.com/ycvv9c3r.

**Mobilizing:**

The ultimate lighting shootout. And we mean that literally. On May 17, 10:00am PT, lighting designer Christian Jackson explodes old gear to raise money for crew relief: https://tinyurl.com/y75wmb7c.

**Around the Country:**

**In Arkansas:**

That Travis McCready concert, sponsored by Live Nation, looks up in the air now that that the governor has issued a cease-and-desist order: https://tinyurl.com/y9ure6jn.

**In Florida:**

Disney Cruise Lines cancels all cruises through the end of July: https://tinyurl.com/y8hpys4.


**In Louisiana:**

Casinos are looking at reopening; in Oklahoma, not so much: https://tinyurl.com/y77uhz6b.

**In Nevada:**

It is now the only state not accepting unemployment claims from gig workers: https://tinyurl.com/y8mhzmte.

**In Wisconsin:**

The state’s supreme court strikes down the governor’s stay-at-home order: https://tinyurl.com/y8jrcu6q.
Around the World:

In the UK:

Artistic director Matthew Warchus says The Old Vic is in perilous condition: https://tinyurl.com/y9t7h12b.

In South Korea:

The country, which did so well in eradicating the virus, faces a setback: https://tinyurl.com/y9syx5j2.

Training:

Bill Sapsis announces a new training program that is social-distancing-compliant. Bill will bring his 45+ years of experience to your video screen for live discussions with you and your staff and crew on issues that address your specific concerns and the needs of your operation. The classes are held on Zoom or WebEx and are 60 – 90 minutes long. You identify the topics to be discussed. You provide the attendees. These sessions are perfect for organizations, theatre companies, service companies, IA locals, colleges and universities. The classes provide one full ETCP renewal credit for each hour of training. These classes are free for a limited time only. Email Bill for details: mailto: Bill@sapsis-rigging.com.

Company News:

From Sapsis Rigging: “Per the Pennsylvania Governor’s office, the SRI office and shop remain closed. However, some staff are working from home and are available to assist you with your rigging needs. The sales folks are drop shipping orders whenever possible. Our design teams will help with your temporary and permanent design questions for theatre rigging, fall arrest systems, rescue plans, art installations, and much more. And Uncle Bill is always available to talk with you about rigging or pretty much anything else. (He’s like that.)” http://www.sapsis-rigging.com

Scheduling:

Massachusetts’ Great Barrington Public Theater has canceled its summer season: https://www.greatbarringtonpublictheater.org/.

The Hollywood Bowl has canceled its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/ydyjz8t8.

MJ, the new Broadway bio musical about Michael Jackson, postpones its opening from August to mid-April 2021: https://tinyurl.com/yd72c6pv.

Entertainment:

Alanis Morrissette and the cast of Jagged Little Pill will take part in an online benefit for The Actors Fund on May 19 at 8:00pm ET: https://tinyurl.com/yax7gfsk.

The Howard Ashman Celebration, honoring the great Broadway songwriter, streams May 20 – 31, will be a benefit for Broadway Cares: https://tinyurl.com/y9hppkxx.

Tonight at 7:00pm, ET: In support of online fundraiser Artist Relief Tree (ART), Jonathan Biss gives a free video recital of Schumann’s Kreisleriana, selections from Janáček’s On an Overgrown Path, and two works by Mozart -- Piano Sonata in F major, K 533/494, and Rondo in A minor, K 511. Viewers are encouraged to donate to ART, which was established to support artists affected financially by COVID-19. Go to: http://www.facebook.com/JonathanBiss/, http://www.facebook.com/artistrelieftree/, or http://tinyurl.com/ycshvl2h.

Obie Award-winning Metropolitan Playhouse will present a “screened” reading of Susan Glaspell and George Cram Cook’s one-act comedy, Suppressed Desires, on live stream video, with special guest J. Ellen Gainor, of Cornell, participating in a post-show talk on May 16 at 8:00pm ET. The running time is 40 minutes. Go to www.metropolitanplayhouse.org/virtualplayhouse or tune in on WBAI Radio. 99.5 FM.
Norm Lewis and Kelli O’Hara will host the third and fourth Memorial for US All broadcasts sponsored by Lincoln Center, on May 17 and 24 at 6:00pm ET. The series, which launched May 3 with Wynton Marsalis, offers unity, comfort, and healing through music. Anyone who has lost a loved one during the pandemic is invited to submit the name of a friend or family member to be honored at https://tinyurl.com/y7ur5v8k For more information: https://tinyurl.com/y7lxzo9h.

Today at Lincoln Center at Home: Yo-Yo Ma plays Dvorak at 7:00pm ET. The Metropolitan Opera streams Benjamin Britten’s Peter Grimes, at 7:30pm, starring Patricia Racette, Anthony Dean Griffey, and Anthony Michaels-Moore, conducted by Sir Donald Runnicles: http://lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home.

The Public Theater streaming of Richard Nelson’s moving Apple Family drama, What Do We Need to Talk About?, has been extended through the end of June: https://tinyurl.com/y7lxzo9h.

On May 20, at 2:00pm Stars in the House, the online show that benefits The Actors Fund, will host a reading of George Bernard Shaw’s Candida, starring Andrea Burns, Santino Fontana, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Andrew Keenan-Bolger, Jay O. Sanders, and Michael Benjamin Washington. David Staller, artistic director of the Gingold Theatre Group, which specializes in Shaw, narrates and directs: https://www.starsinthehouse.com/.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 13, 2020:**

A Warning Delivered

As promised, Anthony Fauci gave it straight to the Senate: https://tinyurl.com/yd43o5b4.

According to an unreleased government report, cases of the coronavirus are spiking across the heartland. “The 10 top areas recorded surges of 72.4 percent or greater over a seven-day period compared to the previous week, according to a set of tables produced for the task force by its data and analytics unit. They include Nashville, Tennessee; Des Moines, Iowa; Amarillo, Texas; and -- atop the list, with a 650 percent increase — Central City, Kentucky.” NBC has the document: https://tinyurl.com/yanhyp2z.

A new poll shows that most Americans don’t believe public gatherings will be safe before mid-July: https://tinyurl.com/y8dk5p8h.

Meanwhile:

How the drop in pollution caused by COVID-19 may affect the weather: https://tinyurl.com/yb8tkov5.

Bryan Adams takes back his crazy rant about bat-eaters: https://tinyurl.com/ycxdarg8.

Food for thought: Nicholas Rivero, co-founder of the Atlanta-based creative agency MEPTIK, explains why the live events market is facing different challenges from any other: https://tinyurl.com/ydbwa23p.

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

The enterprising staff of the San Diego Opera costume shop are prototyping a face mask for deaf users, which allows for lip reading: https://tinyurl.com/ycxfj387.

Twitter employees will be allowed to work from home forever: https://tinyurl.com/yc8v8ipo.

The Fresno city council president gets three citations for pushing protestors who show up on his doorstep, demonstrating against lockdown measures: https://tinyurl.com/y7cr7phy.
In Florida:

Universal CityWalk in Orlando reopens on Thursday. Don’t forget your face mask: https://tinyurl.com/y9xkd4lt.

In Illinois:

Governor Pritzker, consulting the models, says COVID-19 infections won’t spike in the state until the middle of June. “In many ways, this is disheartening,” he adds: https://tinyurl.com/yak5d565.

In New York:

Governor Andrew Cuomo says that unless Congress provides $61 billion in funding, New York City will face devastating cuts: https://tinyurl.com/y82rpeso.

Broadway will remain shut down until September 6 at least: https://tinyurl.com/ycf9fqzy.

A new coalition is forming to bring tourists back to the city once the pandemic is over: https://tinyurl.com/y9uv3vpv.

Broadway leading man Nick Cordero, whose Job-like suffering from the coronavirus includes being unconscious for six weeks and having a leg amputated, has come out of his coma: https://tinyurl.com/ya9g7ego.

Around the World:

In China:

Wuhan plans to test all 11 million residents for the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yc5l65pm.

In Switzerland:


In the UK:

The government will continue to pay up to 80% of workers’ salaries through August: https://tinyurl.com/y8brnatk.

The country also posts its sharpest monthly economic decline on record: https://tinyurl.com/yc3lwvvu.

Mobilizing:

The cast of Smash, the much-loved, much-derided inside-Broadway TV series, will reunite on May 20 for a concert to benefit The Actors Fund: https://tinyurl.com/yb48t7fm.

Training:

The latest webinars from Christie include “Christie Terra SDVoE,” a three-part series taking you on a deep dive into Christie Terra SDVoE (Software Defined Video over Ethernet) technology solution. The dates are May 13, 14, and 20 at 1:00pm ET. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yb3zeg7r. Christie “MicroTiles LED,” May 13 at 2:00pm ET, is a live presentation on this award-winning LED video wall solution. Learn about its features, including the WebUI. Your hosts are Ted Romanowitz from product management, and Dave Veroba from marketing. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y88gv3ff. “RGB Pure Laser Projection: A Leap Forward in Color Space,” May 19, 9:00am and 2:00pm ET in the US, offers a better understanding of RGB pure laser projection, to more effectively advise your customers and specify technical requirements. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y8gyehqe for the 9:00am session and https://tinyurl.com/y8nskznm9 for the 2:00pm session. “Christie Spyder X80 -- External Control and the Spyder API,” on May 20 at 3:00pm ET, focuses on the Spyder Application Programming Interface (API) and how to control Spyder X80 from devices other than Spyder Studio software, using external commands. Register at https://tinyurl.com/yd264k7c.
Martin Audio’s Portfolio Review, a virtual trade show, takes place May 20, 2:30 – 4:00pm ET. Register at https://tinyurl.com/ydeclw6u.

Scheduling:

The much-anticipated Broadway revival of Neil Simon’s Plaza Suite, starring Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker, has been postponed until spring 2021. The show was in previews at the Hudson Theatre when the lockdown began: https://tinyurl.com/y7v8fb2m.

Milwaukee Rep has delayed the opening of its season until October 30: https://www.milwaukeerep.com/.

It appears that the first major film release to be seen in reopening theatres -- on July 1 -- will be Unhinged, a psychological thriller starring Russell Crowe: https://tinyurl.com/y7lpts3f.

Entertainment:

Partly because you can never have too many subscribers, but partly because they think we need it right now, the folks at the streaming service Disney+ will show the film of Hamilton. It’s a recording of the stage production with the original cast. It begins the day before Independence Day: https://tinyurl.com/y9valdnl.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre streams, on May 14 at 7:00pm ET, artistic director Robert Battle’s Mass, which showcases 16 dancers in ritualistic choreography set to a score by John Mackey. In conjunction with the broadcast, Aliey will share behind-the-scenes footage as well as a special discussion hosted by dancer Hope Boykin with Robert Battle and composer John Mackey, giving viewers a chance to learn more about their collaboration. The company also streams exercise classes at $12 per session. For everything, go to: https://tinyurl.com/y7hxvdxp.

From May 15 – 22, St. Ann’s Warehouse will stream The Encounter, Simon McBurney’s drama, seen on Broadway in 2016, about an American photojournalist at loose in the Amazon. Wear headphones to experience the extraordinary sound design by Gareth Fry with Peter Malkin. Streaming is free, but need to register with a special talkback with McBurney and special guests on May 20: https://tinyurl.com/y8s3nuw4.

Today at Lincoln Center at Home, the offerings include dance class with New York City Ballet’s Tiler Peck, a movement class with the company’s artistic director Wendy Whelan, and a Metropolitan Opera 1988 performance of Ariadne aux Naxos, starring Jessye Norman, Kathleen Battle, and Tatiana Troyanos, conducted by James Levine: http://lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home. This week’s concert from the vault finds Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis performing The Abyssinian Mass alongside the 70-piece Chorale Le Chateau as conducted by Damien Sneed: https://tinyurl.com/y7c9ezzz.

New York’s Repertorio Espanol is streaming Boxcar, by Silvia González and directed by René Buch. Based on a true story reported on CNN in 1987 about several men that crossed the border in a boxcar, it was the winner of the 2004 MetLife “Nuestras Voces” National Playwriting Competition. It is performed in Spanish with English subtitles. Check it out at https://tinyurl.com/y79vfshl. Donations cheerfully accepted. It streams through June 7. On Friday, May 15, at 8:00pm EST, the company presents a one-time only reading of The Way of Water, by Caridad Svich, directed by Henry Godinez, of the Goodman Theatre. Get your ticket ($5 - $50) at https://tinyurl.com/ycj8zff9.

On May 21 at 8:00pm, Off Off Broadway’s The Tank presents Puppet Spread, a live variety showcase. Tickets are $5. For information: https://tinyurl.com/y9n8xca2.
That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 12, 2020:**

**Tough Medicine**

Anthony Fauci to warn the Senate that prematurely reopening the country will cause “needless suffering and death:** [https://tinyurl.com/y7hwj3c6](https://tinyurl.com/y7hwj3c6).

Two of the president’s top economic advisers expect unemployment to hit 20% by next month: [https://tinyurl.com/y7ol4v9w](https://tinyurl.com/y7ol4v9w).

The president abruptly terminates a press conference after being challenged by a female, Asian-American reporter: [https://tinyurl.com/y8gygkei](https://tinyurl.com/y8gygkei).

Consumer prices fell by 0.8% in April, the biggest drop since the 2008 recession: [https://tinyurl.com/y8fmhqfp](https://tinyurl.com/y8fmhqfp).

The White House cuts funding for a key coronavirus researcher because of a lie about his ties to the lab in Wuhan: [https://tinyurl.com/y97enjtr](https://tinyurl.com/y97enjtr).

An enormous percentage of COVID-related deaths in the US are in nursing homes: [https://tinyurl.com/yb5gznbc](https://tinyurl.com/yb5gznbc).

A new poll shows that most Americans approve of governors who keep their states under lockdown; other governors, not so much: [https://tinyurl.com/y8cebsda](https://tinyurl.com/y8cebsda).

Frustrated by the cancelation of his dates at Royal Albert Hall, Bryan Adams has a meltdown that is either an act of vegan advocacy or a racist rant. You decide: [https://tinyurl.com/yaprlcdk](https://tinyurl.com/yaprlcdk).

Major League Baseball has a reopening plan, featuring a July startup and an 82-game season, but it hinges on players accepting a revenue-sharing plan: [https://tinyurl.com/y8fnhknm](https://tinyurl.com/y8fnhknm).

The ongoing nightmare of crew members trapped on cruise ships: [https://tinyurl.com/y9cskrlb](https://tinyurl.com/y9cskrlb).

Here’s an excellent list detailing the statues of classic arts organizations: [https://tinyurl.com/y9jcwzy5](https://tinyurl.com/y9jcwzy5).

**Around the Country:**

**In California:**

In Van Nuys, a dispute about wearing face masks at a Target store, descends into a brawl, arrests: [https://tinyurl.com/y76lxvgf](https://tinyurl.com/y76lxvgf).

**In Nevada:**

The governor declares a fiscal emergency: [https://tinyurl.com/ycjcrjrc](https://tinyurl.com/ycjcrjrc).

Caesars Entertainment Corp. plans to phase in the reopening of its casinos: [https://tinyurl.com/y8m49qde](https://tinyurl.com/y8m49qde).

Las Vegas Sands properties to open sometime in June; employees remain on the payroll until then: [https://tinyurl.com/yagc4zce](https://tinyurl.com/yagc4zce).

**In New York:**

Governor Cuomo says that the state is “on the other side of the mountain”: [https://tinyurl.com/y79cxojp](https://tinyurl.com/y79cxojp).
The League of Independent Theater and IndieSpace will convene a town hall on May 28 about the problem coronavirus-related theatre closures: https://tinyurl.com/yayn3g56.

Concert venues here and in New Jersey face an uncertain summer: https://tinyurl.com/y77r6u3g.

In a startling statistic, 81% of social distancing arrests have involved minorities: https://tinyurl.com/y8uo28ea.

How they're doing: Lighting designer Bradley King and his wife Danielle, managing producer of Off Off Broadway’s The Tank, describe life under lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/y959obpd.

Around the World:

In Singapore:

There’s a new wave of infections: https://tinyurl.com/ybmkzzfo.

Mobilizing:

The Event Safety Alliance releases an event safety reopening guide: https://tinyurl.com/y7pjn589.

Training:


On Thursday, May 14, from 1:00 – 2:00pm ET, Genelec will be hosting an exclusive online tutorial, “G*Connect Webinar: Transforming the LF Performance of Your Room: Meet the W371,” hosted by Paul Stewart (Genelec Inc. senior technical sales manager) and Will Eggleston (Genelec Inc. marketing director). Register now at https://tinyurl.com/ycsnl8aq.


Scheduling:

The national tour of The Cher Show has postponed until fall 2021: https://tinyurl.com/yb4xtuyl.

Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre in London has postponed its summer season until 2021: https://openairtheatre.com/

The national tour of To Kill a Mockingbird has canceled its summer engagement at The Kennedy Center: https://tinyurl.com/ya8g855c.

Entertainment:

LAByrinth Theater Company will reunite much of the original Off-Broadway cast for a virtual reading of Our Lady of 121st Street by Stephen Adly Guirgis. The reading, with stars of stage and screen joining original cast members, is set for May 23 at 8:00pm EST and will be available to stream for 24 hours. The event is free to the public, with donations throughout the evening benefitting LAB’s operation and growth during the COVID-19 pandemic. The cast includes Elizabeth Canavan, Liza Colón-Zayas, Scott Hudson, Russell G. Jones, Portia, Al Roffe, Felix Solis, and David Zayas. Bobby Cannavale, John Doman, Laurence Fishburne, and Dierdre Friel. Elizabeth Rodriguez directs the reading. Go to https://labtheater.org/

For Your Pleasure:

Author and educator John Huntington builds a pandemic home entertainment center -- for his cat. Featuring video footage
That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 11, 2020:**
**The White House Virus**

Welcome to the eighth week.

The president wants the country to reopen, but even the White House isn’t safe from the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/ydf7vwm7](https://tinyurl.com/ydf7vwm7).

Even as most states begin reopening, a new model predicts 137,000 COVID-19 deaths by August: [https://tinyurl.com/y95dn3cv](https://tinyurl.com/y95dn3cv).

And no matter what some people may think, warmer weather won’t stop the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/y8z2f9a2](https://tinyurl.com/y8z2f9a2).

**Meanwhile:**

The FDA offers emergency authorization for an antigen test, hoping to fast-track the COVID-19 testing process. One problem is the high instance of false negatives: [https://tinyurl.com/y75gq5x5](https://tinyurl.com/y75gq5x5).

The distribution of remdesivir is turning into a rolling calamity: [https://tinyurl.com/ya3fgh3m](https://tinyurl.com/ya3fgh3m).

If nothing else, the president is happy that the UFC staged a match: [https://tinyurl.com/yaspkjbf](https://tinyurl.com/yaspkjbf).

The airline industry is tanking: [https://tinyurl.com/ybe5an2v](https://tinyurl.com/ybe5an2v).

After a surprising jump, the stock market is dropping again: [https://tinyurl.com/ycn4rtje](https://tinyurl.com/ycn4rtje).

New studies warn: Don’t expect to see audiences rushing back into theatres: [https://tinyurl.com/ya9m37zr](https://tinyurl.com/ya9m37zr).

The country’s top health official tries to blame on the COVID-19 outbreaks at meat plants on the workers: [https://tinyurl.com/yapb3lm4](https://tinyurl.com/yapb3lm4).

Rep. Adam Schiff will meet on May 12 with SAG/AFTRA’s Gabrielle Carteris and IATSE’s Matt Loeb for a town hall about the pandemic. Questions are being taken now: [https://tinyurl.com/yas3h4bn](https://tinyurl.com/yas3h4bn).

Where in the US is the coronavirus spreading the fastest? Check out this chart: [https://tinyurl.com/y79cd7uz](https://tinyurl.com/y79cd7uz).

**Around the Country:**

**In Arkansas:**

Travis McCready will star in Live Nation’s first “socially distanced” concert on May 15: [https://tinyurl.com/ydbhn8g8](https://tinyurl.com/ydbhn8g8).

But the governor isn’t happy about it: [https://tinyurl.com/yclxurb](https://tinyurl.com/yclxurb).

**In California:**

A Pasadena partygoer jokes about having COVID-19 -- and then she infects several others: [https://tinyurl.com/y9ydubbl](https://tinyurl.com/y9ydubbl).

**In Florida:**
SeaWorld's revenues plunge: https://tinyurl.com/ybcspped.

In Minnesota:
In a decision that shocked the resident theatre world, The Guthrie Theatre will remain closed until March 2021: https://tinyurl.com/yaeywfm2.

In New York City:
The mayor of NYC appoints members of the Broadway community to his re-opening council: https://tinyurl.com yc44548r.

In Texas:
Dallas' iconic Lizard Lounge shutters, a victim of pandemic economics: https://tinyurl.com/y9hqxajf.

Around the World:

In Argentina:
The pandemic drives the government to its latest default: https://tinyurl.com/ybrbmzu9.

In Brazil:
Meanwhile, the president, insisting that all is well, attends a floating barbecue: https://tinyurl.com/ ydaroxmx.

In France:
The idea of a fall Cannes Film Festival has been ruled out, with organizers looking at other ideas: https://tinyurl.com/ yd9befbn.

In Mexico:
The government undercounts the number of coronavirus cases, but in Mexico City the hospitals are overwhelmed: https://tinyurl.com/yalyj6cr.

In Russia:

In the UK:
Boris Johnson's reopening plan leaves most people confused: https://tinyurl.com/y77sd5s8.
The country's cinemas won't open before July 4: https://tinyurl.com/ycmfoejm.

Mobilizing:
Lin-Manuel Miranda is behind Raise Up, a new charity that aims to help immigrant communities affected by COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/yazo3uet.
Broadway star wins $10,000 at a celebrity poker tournament, and donates to Broadway Cares: https://tinyurl.com/ybqtsn-wl.
The Off Broadway musical Daddy Long Legs will be streamed as a fundraiser for The Actors Fund: https://tinyurl.com/yd-gen63l.
Company News:

Rosco has added some pertinent messages to its line of Gobos of Hope: [https://tinyurl.com/y85kae7w](https://tinyurl.com/y85kae7w).

Losses:

Roy Horn, of Siegfried and Roy: [https://tinyurl.com/y9t7vnbz](https://tinyurl.com/y9t7vnbz).

Training:

Barco hosts a class in its Event Master training session on May 13 at 2:30pm EDT. The topics are Two Box SIM and the new VM-Ware SIM. Register at: [https://tinyurl.com/y96b32ej](https://tinyurl.com/y96b32ej).

The next Elation Hour, broadcast live on Wednesday, May 13 at 10:00am PST, features service manager Gines Gines, exploring service and support, and also taking a closer look at Elation Professional’s new atmospherics brand, Magmatic, with product manager Anthony Velasquez. The hosts are John Dunn and Matthias Hinrichs. Gines has served as Elation’s top service specialist for over a decade and on this episode will cover service/support topics like RMAs, service centers, updates, warranties, and more. Velasquez will share insight into Elation’s Magmatic brand. RSVP at: [https://tinyurl.com/ydyvfnfu](https://tinyurl.com/ydyvfnfu).

Ultratec Special Effects is hosting a Facebook Live demo in which Tony Wikner, senior service technician demonstrates how to rebuild the G3000 fog machine. It happens Thursday, May 14 at 12:00pm ET. Go to: [https://tinyurl.com/ya2qkgvn](https://tinyurl.com/ya2qkgvn).

Scheduling:

The Boston Pops cancels its annual July 4th concert and fireworks display on the Esplanade: [https://tinyurl.com/ydykud3g](https://tinyurl.com/ydykud3g).

Chicago Symphony Orchestra cancels all performances through June 27: [https://cso.org/pages/alert/](https://cso.org/pages/alert/).

Oregon Shakespeare Festival has canceled its fall season: [https://tinyurl.com/ycug6nre](https://tinyurl.com/ycug6nre).

Entertainment:

Carnegie Hall continues its new online series Live with Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00pm EDT with Michael Feinstein hosting a program dedicated to the music of George Gershwin, joined by special guests. The series continues on Thursday, May 14 at 2:00 EDT hosted by Renée Fleming joined by Rufus Wainwright for a program exploring the art of song, and also revisiting a classic performance of a work from her signature repertoire -- Richard Strauss’s Four Last Songs -- in discussion with WQXR’s Elliott Forrest. Philadelphia Orchestra music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin returns as host on Tuesday, May 19 at 2:00pm EDT for a program centered on the ensemble’s history at Carnegie Hall. Go to [https://www.carnegiehall.org/](https://www.carnegiehall.org/).

Lincoln Center and BroadwayHD will screen Dominique Morriseau’s acclaimed drama Pipeline for one week starting May 15 at 5:30pm ET. On Monday, you can also catch Lincoln Center screenings of Helgi Tommasson’s Romeo and Juliet, performed by San Francisco Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera production of Massenet’s Werther, starring Jonas Kaufmann. For this and more, go to [https://tinyurl.com yc3tm9gr](https://tinyurl.com yc3tm9gr).

For Your Pleasure:

Durham Marenghi on some of his adventures at corporate events with the firm Imagination. What could possibly go wrong? Read on: [https://tinyurl.com/y8ftchkr](https://tinyurl.com/y8ftchkr).

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

###
COVID-19 Update: May 8, 2020: These Numbers are Huge

Happy V-E Day; the world is short on victories at the moment.

The so-called greatest economy in US history is officially over. The new unemployment numbers are the worst since the Great Depression: https://tinyurl.com/yauxxock.

Then again, based on the assumption that we have hit rock bottom, the stock market leaps up: https://tinyurl.com/y93hgy-iv.

But American attempts at flattening the coronavirus curve lag behind similar efforts in Europe: https://tinyurl.com/y9nfg2la. Which may be why two-thirds of Americans don’t want their cities and states to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/y8d2q7pf.

The secretary of state walks back his assertion that the coronavirus originated in a Wuhan lab: https://tinyurl.com/yaycb-jml.

News Corps loses $1 billion in three months: https://tinyurl.com/ya5t7fzc.

As the cruise industry struggles to recover, it could be curtains for Broadway shows at sea: https://tinyurl.com/y9e7wrv8.

Social media platforms scramble to remove video peddling conspiracy theory that the coronavirus was created to increase profits for vaccine manufacturers: https://tinyurl.com/yc6uvm6l.

Live Nation issues its first pandemic-era earnings statement. The numbers are grim but the good news is that, where refunds are available, 90% of the fans are holding on to their tickets: https://tinyurl.com/yadzrryw. The company’s CEO, Michael Rapino, discusses the lay of the land: https://tinyurl.com/y86vm9g4.

In Alabama:

An off-duty police officer body-slams a woman at a Walmart, in a dispute about wearing a face mask: https://tinyurl.com/ycldw4yd.

In China:

Tickets sell out fast for the reopening of Shanghai Disneyland: https://tinyurl.com/y9ae5e48.

In the Czech Republic:

Film and TV production are back: https://tinyurl.com/ycd5pxg.

In DC:

The Small Business Administration slashes its disaster loan limit from $2 million to $150,000: https://tinyurl.com/ydchf25.

In Florida:

The Disney Springs dining, shopping, and entertainment complex will be the first part of Disney World to open: https://tinyurl.com/yblhozzj.

In Iowa:

More than 1,000 workers at a Tyson meat processing plant are infected, double the number cited by the governor a day earlier: https://tinyurl.com/y9stfrkx.

In New York:
Long Island City’s Secret Theatre has closed, a victim of the lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/y9b8dfsc.

In Vegas:

Businesses must decide whether to open tomorrow: https://tinyurl.com/y8nhlkv8. But restaurants are blindsided by the short lead time: https://tinyurl.com/yd8rmtec. And the businesses on Fremont Street feel especially vulnerable: https://tinyurl.com/y cjzssz5.

And the Nevada Gaming Commission has released its guidelines for reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y7su68tk.

Losses:


Mobilizing:

On Saturday, April 25, over 50,000 people from around the globe in more than 70 countries were treated to ALL TOGETHER NOW! -- an all-star online telethon that raised over $110,000 for the City of Los Angeles Coronavirus Crisis Fund. The event, was presented in association with the Get Together Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3), and Los Angeles City Council member John Lee and aired on Alert the Globe (www.alerttheglobe.com), www.abc7.com, Facebook Live, and www. alltogethenowla.org. 100% of the money raised is going directly to the Mayor's relief fund to help Los Angeles support families and small businesses, relieve hospital and healthcare workers, provide critical medical resources, and provide essential services to the unhoused.

Training:

On May 12 at 11:00am ET, Sennheiser’s expert round table will see leading women from the pro audio and touring industry join Sennheiser hosts Jessica Dabbs and Tim Moore. Loreen Bohannon, Rachel “MrSoundlady” Ryan, Jess Jacobs, Grace Royse, Jac Nott, and Amanda Davis will speak about their roles in the industry and answer questions from the audience. Registration is now open at https://tinyurl.com/y9mbwb83.

Company News:

The Audio Engineering Society has raised more than $159,000 USD since the launch of its COVID-19 pandemic-driven fundraising campaign in mid-April with a goal of raising $500,000 by June 1. More than 170 individuals, making donations ranging from $10 to $4,500, have been joined by corporations and organizations -- 21 new names have been added to the educational non-profit AES’s Sustaining Member roster. “The AES is grateful for the validation of its importance to the professional audio industry by each and every contributor that is helping at whatever level they can,” said AES president Agnieszka Roginska.

Atlanta, Georgia-based MAGNUM will be opening its offices and warehouse on Monday, May 11. The company writes, “We’ve continued to do business during the lockdown, but the shop has mostly been closed. Starting Monday, we are fully open, but with very strict protocols for returning to work. Access the protocols at https://tinyurl.com/y8phsbzl.

Messe Frankfurt has announced that the two concurrent fairs in its Light + Building portfolio, Guangzhou International Lighting Exhibition (GILE) and Guangzhou Electrical Building Technology (GEBT), have been postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Both fairs were originally due to take place from June 9 – 12 and will now be held at a future date which will be announced shortly. They will remain at the China Import and Export Fair Complex in Guangzhou.

Scheduling:

The Off Broadway musical Between the Lines, based on Jodi Picoult’s best-selling novel, has been postponed until spring 2021: https://tinyurl.com/ydeo9u33.

Off Broadway’s Potomac Theatre Project has canceled its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/y992qyju.
Entertainment:

Starting this evening, at the Metropolitan Opera’s website, you can stream a 1977 production of La bohème, starring Luciana Pavarotti and Renata Scotto. [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org).

For Your Pleasure:

Durham Marenghi on bad reviews and lighting Naomi Campbell and Grace Jones: [https://tinyurl.com/y8tp6dsj](https://tinyurl.com/y8tp6dsj).

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 7, 2020:**

**What, Me Worry?**

3.2 million more Americans apply for unemployment, bringing the total to 33 million: [https://tinyurl.com/yb24w59y](https://tinyurl.com/yb24w59y).

But the president wants to move on: [https://tinyurl.com/yccct8j4](https://tinyurl.com/yccct8j4).

The White House suppresses the CDC’s guidelines for reopening states: [https://tinyurl.com/y733k38k](https://tinyurl.com/y733k38k).

A dozen entertainment unions and organizations hold a summit on dealing with the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/ya697p9u](https://tinyurl.com/ya697p9u).

Travel from New York City spread the coronavirus through the country: [https://tinyurl.com/yaal5e22](https://tinyurl.com/yaal5e22).

Why you should wear a mask whenever you go out: [https://tinyurl.com/y8efzv82](https://tinyurl.com/y8efzv82).

In California:

Los Angeles begins opening some stores, public spaces tomorrow: [https://tinyurl.com/y7x8dnfu](https://tinyurl.com/y7x8dnfu).

In New York City:

Shetler Studios, home to rehearsal studios and black box theatres, shutters, because of the coronavirus: [https://tinyurl.com/ya52995o](https://tinyurl.com/ya52995o).

A new survey shows that theatregoers are not eager to rush back to see shows: [https://tinyurl.com/ybwge2to](https://tinyurl.com/ybwge2to).

Will this year’s Tony Awards be canceled? [https://tinyurl.com/yaldyqts](https://tinyurl.com/yaldyqts).

The Metropolitan Opera furloughs 41 staffers: [https://tinyurl.com/yb9ce4th](https://tinyurl.com/yb9ce4th).

Inside the pandemic-related shutdown of the Broadway musical Mrs. Doubtfire: [https://tinyurl.com/ycogcamx](https://tinyurl.com/ycogcamx).

In Oklahoma:

Two McDonald’s workers were shot trying to enforce social distancing: [https://tinyurl.com/yb3wv3pn](https://tinyurl.com/yb3wv3pn).

In Washington State:

People are throwing COVID parties, hoping to get infected. Yes, really: [https://tinyurl.com/y9ryjunj](https://tinyurl.com/y9ryjunj).

Mobilizing:

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS announces a new initiative titled Emergency Grants for Pandemic Relief: [https://tinyurl.com/ya6exgsm](https://tinyurl.com/ya6exgsm).

Education:

Australian lighting manufacturer ENTTEC hosts a virtual trade show at: [https://tinyurl.com/ya3oe7br](https://tinyurl.com/ya3oe7br).

The Hemsley Lighting Programs has assembled a virtual portfolio of this year’s students, as the real thing was scuttled by the pandemic. It’s well worth a look: [https://tinyurl.com/y8revpf8](https://tinyurl.com/y8revpf8).
The Illuminating Engineering Society hosts a webinar, “Germicidal Ultraviolet Disinfection in the Days of COVID-19,” on May 7, at 11:00am ET. To register: https://tinyurl.com/yax67vfo.

Shure hosts a webinar on the SM58 microphone, with Henry Rollins and the Rascal Flatts sound engineers Jon Loeser and Stuart Delk. It takes place May 8 at 3:00pm CT. Check it out at https://tinyurl.com/y8v4d6w2. Register in advance for the chance to win prizes at https://tinyurl.com/y8vgpn9g. Enter to win one of five custom Ignition Green SM58-LC microphones at: https://tinyurl.com/ych24uwv.

Scheduling:

Chicago’s Pitchfork Music Festival has been canceled: https://tinyurl.com/y7o7wfhq.

The musical Swept Away, with a score by the Avnett Brothers, has been postponed a year, according to the Berkeley Rep. The show has its eye on Broadway: https://tinyurl.com/yb5fntnm.

Entertainment:

London’s National Theatre schedules more streams, including Coriolanus (starring Tom Hiddleston), A Streetcar Named Desire (starring Gillian Anderson and Ben Foster), Barber Shop Chronicles, and James Graham’s political comedy This House: https://tinyurl.com/yafsj5jw.

Theatre of War Productions presents The Oedipus Projects, featuring scenes from Oedipus Rex, with, among others, Frances McDormand, John Turturro, Oscar Isaac, Jeffrey Wright, Frankie Faison, David Strathairn, and NYC public advocate Jumaane Williams. RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/ycajw8no.

The latest edition of The 24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues will focus on those affected by COVID-19 and incarceration: https://tinyurl.com/ych33s4t.

For Your Pleasure:

A brace of West End stars joins 103-year-old(!) Dame Vera Lynn in an uplifting rendition of her classic, “We’ll Meet Again:” https://tinyurl.com/yccomkx6.

The New York Philharmonic’s online Bolero: https://tinyurl.com/t9waf7o.

COVID-19 Update: May 6, 2020:

Tasked or Untasked?

The number of deaths rises, infections spread into new areas, and unemployment explodes, but the president decides to retire the coronavirus task force: https://tinyurl.com/y7osw5yv. But then he changes his mind: https://tinyurl.com/ybwnbxr. The turnabout is due in part to public criticism, but members of his administration were also in a panic: https://tinyurl.com/ybomt68s.

Meanwhile:

New evidence surfaces suggesting that the coronavirus can spread silently: https://tinyurl.com/yamb2v4g. Private payrolls drop by 20.2 million in April, the worst in the history of the ADP report: https://tinyurl.com/y8twpfjx. Europe’s economic downturn is the worst since World War II: https://tinyurl.com/y92t89w7.

Arts groups fight their insurers over coronavirus losses: https://tinyurl.com/ycyoh9cl.

Europe’s theatres look at reopening, but artistic directors say safety guidelines are unrealistic: https://tinyurl.com/y8o-3p4n9.
A useful list of legislative must-haves for entertainment industry works: https://tinyurl.com/yawempl4.

In California:
Disney reports a 58% drop in operating income: https://tinyurl.com/y8odmvvt.

In Canada:
Arts groups to the north are doing much better than their US counterparts: https://tinyurl.com/yad2ur95.

In China:
Disneyland Shanghai is set to reopen May 11: https://tinyurl.com/ycsc99dd.

In Italy:
Organizers of the Venice Film Festival work to gauge who is willing to attend the event in September: https://tinyurl.com/y7qb3r7f.

In Missouri:
The state opens up, but nobody is rushing to take part: https://tinyurl.com/y8eomz28.

In Nevada:

In New York:
The mayor of New York City aims for life to return to something like normal in September: https://tinyurl.com/ybfzb252.

An ICU doctor arranges bedside concerts for her patients, via FaceTime: https://tinyurl.com/y9h33fwh.

In Texas:
The governor privately admits that reopening the state will lead to more deaths: https://tinyurl.com/y7ax3nc9.

In the UK:
Cinemas may reopen in late June: https://tinyurl.com/y6vy99eg.

In Washington State:
Seattle arts groups get nearly $5 million in relief from the nonprofit ArtsFund: https://tinyurl.com/y9zuaq3w.

Company News:

How Lex Products, deemed an essential business, has kept going, aided by hand sanitizer from a distillery, face masks from a bathing suit manufacturer, and PPE shields from Upstaging: https://tinyurl.com/y77g1cq7.

Training:
From Avixa: “How Can We Ensure That Collaboration is Secure?” May 7, 1:00pm ET. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y8e-
Harman adds new training events: https://tinyurl.com/ybfvp6tb.

“Shackles, Burlap, & Lies” is a new Podcast about the entertainment rigging industry and the people in it. Each episode features different individuals about topics ranging from their journey into the business to their thoughts on the current industry. Hosted by Ethan Gilson of Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC, an ETCP certified rigger and recognized trainer. Go to https://tinyurl.com/yah7yezt.

Scheduling:

The Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York has canceled its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/y8756f8f.

The organizers of Prolight + Sound Guangzhou (PLSG) 2020 have announced new show dates. The previously postponed show will be held from August 21 – 24 in Areas A and B of the China Import and Export Fair Complex, Guangzhou. The much-loved symposium Showlight is off for 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y75subql.

Entertainment:

On Thursday at 7:00pm ET, Alvin Ailey American Dance theatre will stream the legendary Judith Jamison in Ailey’s solo piece Cry. Go to: https://tinyurl.com/y7hxvdxp.

The Off Broadway theatre company The Civilians holds an online benefit May 11. Hosted by Jo Lampert, it will feature Harriet Harris, Jason Butler Harner, Rebecca Naomi Jones, Lesli Margherita, Grace McLean, Duncan Sheik, Jill Solbule, and Marty Testa. Viewers can join the livestream for a contribution in any amount. Donations can be made online at https://one.bidpal.net/thecivilians/welcome, by calling 929-428-5024, or by emailing margaret@thecivilians.org.

Beginning tonight, the Metropolitan Opera streams its production of Kaija Saariaho’s L’Amour de Loin. Go to http://www.metopera.org for information.

Obie Award winner Metropolitan Playhouse will present a “screened” reading of William Dean Howells’ one-act farce, The Parlor Car via livestream video on Saturday, May 9 at 8:00pm ET. It is available via Zoom and YouTube: https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksjy. The program will also be simultaneously broadcast on WBAI Radio 99.5 FM.

And For Your Pleasure:

Check out this video of the Paris Opera Ballet dancers at home: https://tinyurl.com/y9hlzj39.

That’s all for today. Stay safe. Make good choices.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 5, 2020:**

**Facing the Music**

White House privately expects the number of daily deaths to increase to 3,000 by June 1. The administration tries to refute the document, but Talking Points Memo has a copy of it: https://tinyurl.com/yam89a5w.

**More Sobering Thoughts:**

Why the notion of “reopening” the country doesn’t make sense at this point: https://tinyurl.com/yd7seauq. The president cheers on those governors reopening their states without meeting the administration’s guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/y9pr7chv.

We don’t have a vaccine yet, but the anti-vaxxers are already on the march: https://tinyurl.com/ybynqhb7.

A new poll finds that Americans widely oppose opening most new businesses: https://tinyurl.com/y9l9qtzg. Scientists identify a variation of the coronavirus that is more contagious: https://tinyurl.com/y9zblv5y. The US is missing in action at the world vaccine summit: https://tinyurl.com/yb7m3nak. More than 370 workers at a Missouri meat plant test positive for the coronavirus, all of them asymptomatic: https://tinyurl.com/y8ouf8m. Some stores have begun limiting meat purchases: https://tinyurl.com/yblijk6x.

Then Again:

Pfizer begins human testing for a vaccine: https://tinyurl.com/y8e82w2u.

In Florida:

A Miami Beach park is closed because of people ignoring the face mask order, getting surly about it, to boot: https://tinyurl.com/ya38dtzf.

In Hong Kong:

Cinemas will be allowed to reopen on Friday: https://tinyurl.com/yayb5bdd.

In India:

Officials impose a 70% corona tax on retail alcohol sales, to deter crowds in stores: https://tinyurl.com/yd77fpzb.

In Oklahoma:

The mayor of Stillwater has to revise the city’s mask mandate after violent threats: https://tinyurl.com/yb2qmfaa.

In the UK:

The country is now the epicenter of the pandemic in Europe: https://tinyurl.com/yapjvlh5.

The West End is officially closed until June 28: https://tinyurl.com/yc46ktk5.

Detailed proposals on how film and high-end TV production can safely resume in the UK are to be circulated among members of union Bectu this week. https://tinyurl.com/ybyccy2p.

In Washington, DC:

The head of the NEA says, “At the moment, it’s all about survival.” https://tinyurl.com/y6vzxryd.

In Washington State:

Seattle-area arts groups project losses of $135 million: https://tinyurl.com/y9y6ot9z.

Mobilizing:

Robin Hood, New York’s largest poverty-fighting organization and iHeartMedia will join forces with NYC television and radio stations to air a citywide virtual telethon, Rise Up New York!, on May 11 at 7:00pm ET. The stars set to appear on the broadcast, which will be hosted by Mean Girls scribe Tina Fey, include Bette Midler, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Barbra Streisand, Ben Platt, Christopher Jackson, Cynthia Erivo, Idina Menzel, Jake Gyllenhaal, Jennifer Lopez, Robert De Niro, Spike Lee, Sutton Foster, and many more. Bon Jovi, Billy Joel, Mariah Carey, and Sting will perform. The aim of the one-hour benefit is to raise awareness and funds to help New Yorkers whose lives have been dramatically impacted by the coronavirus crisis. The special will be simultaneously broadcast on all New York City TV stations, iHeartMedia and Entercom broadcast radio stations, News 12, Spectrum News NY1, SiriusXM, and nationally on CNBC. All donations will
provide support for food, shelter, cash assistance, health, legal services, education, and more to help New Yorkers rebuild their lives as the city moves towards recovery. Make donations at: https://tinyurl.com/y85xp6um.

Losses:


Dave Greenfield, keyboardist for the influential punk band The Stranglers: https://tinyurl.com/ycdwdot5.


Soprano Arlene Saunders: https://tinyurl.com/y96zevpp.

Training:

The next Elation Hour will broadcast Wednesday, May 6, at 10:00am PT. Patrick Dierson and Chris Lisle will join hosts John Dunn and Matthias Hinrichs for a “Tools & Techniques” discussion about the ins and outs of lighting for festivals and outdoor events. RSVP to: https://tinyurl.com/ycxohphy.


Scheduling:

Chicago’s Grant Park Music Festival has been canceled this summer: https://tinyurl.com/yc33m3ky.

The Kennedy Center cancels performances through August: https://tinyurl.com/yd6koo9w.

Entertainment:

Irish Repertory Theatre announces a virtual performance of Brian Friel’s Molly Sweeney directed by Charlotte Moore and starring Geraldine Hughes, Ciarán O’Reilly, and Paul O’Brien. It will be streamed on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00pm; Wednesday, May 13 at 3:00pm; Thursday, May 14 at 7:00pm; and Friday, May 15 at 8:00pm. To view the performance, audience members must register at https://irishrep.org/ for one of the performance dates. A link will be sent to all registrants two hours before the performance begins. Additional digital programming will be announced at a later date.

Streaming from Joe’s Pub: Neo-sufi and minimalist composer/singer Arooj Aftab, American jazz pianist Vijay Iyver, and multi-instrumentalist composer Shahzad Ismaily, May 7 at 8:00pm. Go to https://tinyurl.com/yc3qusch.

New York City Ballet will stream the ballet Rubies May 5 – 8, with Megan Fairchild, Gonzalo Garcia, and Mira Nadon in the ballet by Balanchine, set to score by Igor Stravinsky. The NYCB Orchestra is conducted by Andrew Litton and features solo pianist Stephen Gosling. From May 8 – 11, the company will stream Sara Mearns, Tyler Angle, Ashley Bouder, Gonzalo Garcia, and Joaquin De Luz in Concerto DSCH with choreography by Alexei Ratmansky to music by Dmitri Shostakovich. The presentation begins with an introduction by Ratmansky and is accompanied by the NYCB Orchestra, this time conducted by Andrews Sill with solo pianist Susan Walters. Go to https://www.nycballet.com/, http://www.facebook.com/nycballet, or https://www.youtube.com/nycballet.

David Manet’s political comedy November streams May 7 at 8:00pm ET. The cast includes John Malkovich, Patti LuPone, Ethan Phillips, and Michael Nichols. It’s a benefit for The Actors Fund. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y9mc5d2y.
Opera Philadelphia next streams *We Shall Not Be Moved*, a contemporary opera by Daniel Bernard Roumain with a libretto by Marc Bamuthi Joseph. It happens May 10 at 7:00pm. On the run after a series of tragic incidents, five North Philly teens find refuge in an abandoned, condemned house in West Philadelphia at the exact location that served as headquarters of the MOVE organization, where a 1985 standoff with police infamously ended with a neighborhood destroyed and 11 people dead, including five children. This self-defined family is assuaged and even inspired by the ghosts who inhabit this home and begin to see their squatting as a matter of destiny and resistance rather than urgent fear. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y7bpcib9.

**For Your Pleasure:**

Durham Marenghi’s Diary: On the dangers of relying on stadium lighting systems. Bonus: His recipe for a British breakfast: https://tinyurl.com/ydytej7d.

Give your heart a lift with Ravel’s Bolero, featuring the students and alumni of Juilliard: https://tinyurl.com/ycmtzyrj.

That’s all for today. Stay safe, everyone. Seventh Week of Lockdown Begins.

###

**COVID-19 Update: May 4, 2020:**

**The Great Race**

The global race to produce a vaccine is on, with speed being valued over safety: https://tinyurl.com/yat48m5z. The FDA approves an antibody test said to be 100% accurate: https://tinyurl.com/y785pfd. US government scientists design a new test that could identify carriers before they become infectious: https://tinyurl.com/y8a7zpvt.

But a vaccine will demand a massive effort to produce it on the necessary scale: https://tinyurl.com/yavfyasy. The FDA okays Gilead Sciences’ remdesivir, which reduces hospital stays by at least a few days: https://tinyurl.com/y8e-kw7hu. And Gilead donates its supply to the effort: https://tinyurl.com/ybqp43cf. The president now predicts 100,000 deaths; he adds that the press treats him worse than any previous chief executive, including Lincoln: https://tinyurl.com/yd92quoo.

**Meanwhile:**

Is your state open? Is it reopening? Here’s a helpful guide: https://tinyurl.com/y85a5jyg. A powerful reminder that “R-naught” is the metric to which we should all be paying attention: https://tinyurl.com/ycl3o4p7. In reopening states, dining out comes with rules and regulations: https://tinyurl.com/y8pmm08v. Signs of progress: In Chicago, the city is shutting down its improvised hospital at McCormick Place: https://tinyurl.com/y8lfpiy9. Same thing with New York’s Jacob Javits Center: https://tinyurl.com/y8z6bkr6. The mystery of “happy hypoxia:” patients who have drastically low oxygen levels but don’t feel sick: https://tinyurl.com/y9qwea7u.

**In California:**

The governor gets pushback over beach closures and other restrictions: https://tinyurl.com/ybmp4y4t. An Antioch city planner sees an upside in the coronavirus killing off the elderly, sick, and weak: https://tinyurl.com/ybp-642gx.

For the first time in decades, the Disney empire looks vulnerable: https://tinyurl.com/ycyb3s54. The presidents of Warner Brothers TV lay out what production may be like in the near future: https://tinyurl.com/y972z8vl.
The state reports a spike in coronavirus cases: https://tinyurl.com/yb957ydz.

**In Mississippi:**

The governor has second thoughts about reopening: https://tinyurl.com/yawb57yw.

**In Missouri:**

The governor says concerts can begin today: https://tinyurl.com/y6ucogil.

**In New Jersey:**

The curve has been flattened at the Actors Fund Home: https://tinyurl.com/yam2fply.

**In New York:**

Film and television set builders put their skills to work, building needed hospital equipment in the training workshop of the IATSE Local 52 Studio Mechanics Union: https://tinyurl.com/y7pmc3sv.

The Broadway League insists it is on the same page as Governor Cuomo: https://tinyurl.com/ybqqz4jo.

Off Broadway theatres work to hold it together, plan for the future: https://tinyurl.com/yalv6cu.

**In Russia:**

The country reports 10,633 cases in a single day: https://tinyurl.com/yacax8ny.

**In Texas:**

Some cinemas are open, with health and temperature checks: https://tinyurl.com/y99fsi95.

**In the UK:**

Cameron Mackintosh says the West End is probably closed until 2021: https://tinyurl.com/y6vpjyxe.

The impromptu hospital in London’s ExCel Centre is closing, due to lack of demand: https://tinyurl.com/ycb6rbvu.

**In Vegas:**

The Nevada Gaming Board issues casino requirements for reopening, and they don’t make for a carefree atmosphere: https://tinyurl.com/yavshoqo.

MGM Resorts lays off the presidents of Bellagio, New York-New York, Luxor, and Excalibur: https://tinyurl.com/yc2a4nzn. Also, Bellagio and New York-New York are slotted to open first.

Station Casinos, which owns, among others, The Palms, Red Rock Resort, and Green Valley Ranch Resort, is laying off employees: https://tinyurl.com/ydfssym.

But even in tough times, the abandoned site of the Skyvue observation wheel project draws interest from potential buyers: https://tinyurl.com/yaechzst.

**Training:**

On Wednesday, May 6, from 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Barco hosts a seminar that takes in comprehensive information about VPUs (video processing units) and layer resources, along with some advanced programming, specifically source vs. input. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/y7rtau6j.

City Theatrical hosts an Introduction to Multiverse, presented by Harrison Hohnholt, on Thursday, May 7, from 11:00 -
11:30am EDT. In it, you’ll learn more about the company’s vision of wireless DMX and how Multiverse technology is innovating wireless DMX/RDM for future lighting projects. Register at: [https://tinyurl.com/ybl7fk2k](https://tinyurl.com/ybl7fk2k).

Fulcrum Acoustics hosts a webinar led by Stephen Siegel, president and co-founder. He will discuss the unique attributes, technology, and application of the Prophile, CX, DX, GX, and RX product families. The webinar will take place on YouTube Live ([https://tinyurl.com/y95s6gdj](https://tinyurl.com/y95s6gdj)) on Thursday, May 7 at 11:00am EDT and will be available on our YouTube channel and social media networks afterwards.

On Tuesday, May 5, from 7:00 – 8:00am ET, Genelec hosts an exclusive online tutorial, “G*Connect Webinar: Choosing the Right Loudspeakers,” hosted by Andy Bensley, regional business development manager at Genelec Oy. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/y8xahvty](https://tinyurl.com/y8xahvty).

Company News:

Robe reports that the guys from UK-based Clearsound are back with an even bigger lighting display designed to lift the hearts of their fellow citizens: [https://tinyurl.com/yaq9xks3](https://tinyurl.com/yaq9xks3).

Scheduling:

The Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, Illinois, the oldest outdoor music festival in the US, is off this year: [https://tinyurl.com/yagwaevf](https://tinyurl.com/yagwaevf).

Maine’s Ogunquit Playhouse cancels its summer season: [https://tinyurl.com/yc47noh9](https://tinyurl.com/yc47noh9).

Entertainment:

Wednesday, May 6, New York’s Ballet Hispánico streams Tito on Timbales, a 1984 piece choreographed by William Whitener to music by Tito Puente, with costumes by Patriciz Zipprodt and lighting by Roger Morgan. Go to [https://tinyurl.com/y9dlcwmj](https://tinyurl.com/y9dlcwmj) or [https://tinyurl.com/ya4h60ogi](https://tinyurl.com/ya4h60ogi).

San Francisco Opera will stream performances from its archives beginning Saturday, May 9 with Arrigo Boito’s Mefistofele. Each streamed opera will be presented on Saturdays at 10:00am PT at [https://sfopera.com/](https://sfopera.com/) and remain available until midnight the following day. Mefistofele is a production by Robert Carsen starring Russian bass-baritone Ildar Abdrazakov in his staged role debut as the devil Mephistopheles, Mexican tenor Ramón Vargas as Faust, and American soprano Patricia Racette in the dual roles of Margherita and Elena.

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**COVID-19 Update: May 1, 2020:**

**Operation Warp Speed**

The president announces a Manhattan Project-style effort to develop a vaccine: [https://tinyurl.com/ydyfcsbg](https://tinyurl.com/ydyfcsbg).

Investigators find no evidence that the coronavirus is man-made: [https://tinyurl.com/y9yoae24](https://tinyurl.com/y9yoae24). The president, however, doesn’t believe it: [https://tinyurl.com/y88euxco](https://tinyurl.com/y88euxco). But China has refused WHO requests to take part in an investigation of the coronavirus’ origins: [https://tinyurl.com/ydyqs23n](https://tinyurl.com/ydyqs23n).

Flattening the curve: How is your state doing? Here’s a comprehensive look: [https://tinyurl.com/y9c6k7z4](https://tinyurl.com/y9c6k7z4).

What if a coronavirus vaccine already exists? The repurposing search is on: [https://tinyurl.com/y8dwgayg](https://tinyurl.com/y8dwgayg).

Meanwhile:

Macy’s plans to open 68 stores on Monday with all 775 stores open by June: [https://tinyurl.com/ybo588w8](https://tinyurl.com/ybo588w8).

How cinema owners make patrons feel safe? [https://tinyurl.com/y9k4e3sz](https://tinyurl.com/y9k4e3sz). A survey indicates what patrons want to see
happen: https://tinyurl.com/yafoodcu.

Essential workers at Amazon, Whole Foods, and elsewhere plan a one-day strike to protest coronavirus-related conditions: https://tinyurl.com/y9h697b5. In case you were worried, Amazon posted $75 billion in first-quarter revenues: https://tinyurl.com/yb42t7po.


In Brazil:

The health secretary warns his citizens to brace themselves for hard times. But, as The Guardian reports, "Asked about the rising death toll this week, [Jair Bolsonaro] sparked outrage by declaring: "So what?": https://tinyurl.com/yawm3fqk.

In California:

MusiCares, the charitable wing of the Recording Academy, is not accepting any additional requests for aid until it raises more money: https://tinyurl.com/yal4wjgg.

In Europe:

The Russian Prime Minister falls ill with the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yaplpmh8.

In New York:

The subways will shut down between 1:00am and 5:00am for deep cleaning: https://tinyurl.com/y7rxffq6.

In Vegas:

Convention attendance in March, usually one of the strongest months, fell by nearly 55%: https://tinyurl.com/y7gqybr8.

The governor of Nevada says most Vegas businesses will open on May 15: https://tinyurl.com/y96hpwzl.

Training:

ADJ announces the second wave of its “Stay Connected” educational live videos: https://tinyurl.com/yawr9rrs.


QSC announces the premiere of QSC@Home, a comprehensive online launch point dedicated to users’ success across a vast range of solutions and applications: https://tinyurl.com/y99az2hv.

On Wednesday, May 6, Shure hosts a webinar on the history of the Unidyne 55 microphone. For information, go to: https://tinyurl.com/y7k6lxhp.

Company News:

From City Theatrical, Gary Fails writes, “We are fortunate that the State of New Jersey designated manufacturers as essential businesses and we have been allowed to remain open when many other businesses were forced to close. Despite our best efforts to maintain the health and safety of our workers, COVID-19 ripped through our factory in late March and 12 staff members were infected, including myself. We were forced to close our manufacturing facility for three full weeks while our staff recovered. We maintained a skeleton crew working on site (huge shout out to Gary Vilardi for his leadership) to pack, ship, and receive, and our sales and engineering teams continued to work from home answering incoming calls, providing customer service, and designing new products.”

“On April 22, we reopened our factory with nearly our full staff, turned on our machinery, and resumed making electronic and metal parts to fill our customers’ orders. It was great to be back in the shop and back in full production and to see all of our production staff again.”
“We also wrote and implemented a carefully detailed COVID-19 Return to Work Plan for our New Jersey and London offices, using the best local, state, and federal guidelines available. Anyone working anywhere today should be using at least these 13 health and safety guidelines.” [http://www.citytheatrical.com/home](http://www.citytheatrical.com/home)

**Scheduling:**

The Boston Symphony Orchestra announces plans to begin its season September 16, but with a caveat: “The Boston Symphony Orchestra acknowledges the ongoing uncertainty around the COVID-19 health crisis and the lack of clarity regarding the duration of the pandemic. Though the BSO is announcing its usual full complement of performances for its 2020 - 2021 Symphony Hall season and hopes the season will proceed without interruption, the organization is prepared to respond to all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Boston, should circumstances necessitate changes to its performance schedule or to its current health and safety policies.”

Broadway Bares, the risqué revue that raises money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, has been canceled for this year. The next edition will occur Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Company, in Garrison, New York, has canceled its summer season: [https://hvshakespeare.org](https://hvshakespeare.org).

Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre cancels productions until October, plans virtual presentations: [https://tinyurl.com/yd4ge278](https://tinyurl.com/yd4ge278).

**Entertainment / Enlightenment:**

The free theatrical newsletter Broadway Briefing has created a new service to help one keep up with the theatrical entertainment currently available online. Check it out at: [https://curtaintimes.com/](https://curtaintimes.com/).

Durham Marenghi muses on a sad fact of life under lockdown: [https://tinyurl.com/y7dleves](https://tinyurl.com/y7dleves).

A new date of Wednesday, May 6 has been announced for the free encore viewing of Paul Gordon’s musical Emma, based on the novel by Jane Austen. Producers Streaming Musicals, Apples and Oranges Studios, Tryptyk Studios, Tom D’Angora and Emma Market Development, LLC will now offer a streaming encore viewing and cast party on May 6 at 7:00 pm ET (previously May 7) in order to accommodate a scheduling conflict with a soon-to-be-announced industry benefit. There will be encore presentations on May 6 at 10:00 pm ET/7:00 pm PT, and at 7:00 pm BT/2:00 pm ET on Thursday, May 7, 2020. For information and to register, visit [https://www.emmamusicalpremiere.com/](https://www.emmamusicalpremiere.com/).


During the month of May, the Grammy Museum is releasing digital sessions with such artists as Trey Anastasio, Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon), Dave Stewart, Shinedown, Bush, and The Zombies. For the full lineup, go to [https://www.grammymuseum.org/](https://www.grammymuseum.org/).

On May 5 at 3:00pm ET, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre hosts The Impact of COVID-19 on Our Humanity. Facilitated by National Black Theatre’s artistic director, Jonathan McCrory, with playwright David Henry Hwang, cultural organizer Geoffrey Jackson Scott, and Rattlestick managing director Yue Line, the conversation will center on addressing how the pandemic is affecting the way we treat one another. RSVP at [https://tinyurl.com/yde3whju](https://tinyurl.com/yde3whju).

That’s all for today. Have a good weekend. And stay safe.

###
COVID-19 Update: April 30, 2020:

The (Unemployment) Line Forms at the Right

Welcome to Thursday:

New unemployment claims reached 3.8 million last week: https://tinyurl.com/yctmfhlc.
The full truth is probably worse: https://tinyurl.com/ycltht3h.
And if Wuhan is anything to go by, the economy won’t bounce back right away: https://tinyurl.com/ydyezymt.
But the president and Jared Kushner think their performance has been first-class: https://tinyurl.com/ycw49v53, The president also sees social distancing “fading out” in the near future: https://tinyurl.com/yb8nwouw.

Meanwhile:

The FDA is set to approve remdisivir as a coronavirus treatment: https://tinyurl.com/ydgdqvlz.
Some reopening states may cut workers’ unemployment benefits if they don’t go back to work: https://tinyurl.com/y9t6d-jaa.
New insight into the coronavirus: Beware the second-week crash: https://tinyurl.com/ymbacmn2g.
Food for thought: What coverage of the Spanish flu pandemic can tell us about the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y92hblj7.

Why is no one from Broadway on Governor Cuomo’s board on reopening business? https://tinyurl.com/ycegm5gn2
Venues large and small consider reopening strategies: https://tinyurl.com/yc6m6jxv. How they’re doing it in South Korea: https://tinyurl.com/yavsxwed.

In California:

The San Diego theatre community plots its return: https://tinyurl.com/ybdkm8h5.
The Regal Entertainment chain is also refusing to screen Universal Pictures, protesting the studio’s new combined cinema-and-home release plans: https://tinyurl.com/y9ga3vyq.
The Daytime Emmys will be streamed: https://tinyurl.com/yaacj8fm.
Governor Gavin Newmon is closing the state’s beaches: https://tinyurl.com/y8fz87dr.

In Europe:

The Locarno Film Festival is off: https://tinyurl.com/ybttuktjm.

In Florida:


Also:

Thanks to the coronavirus, condom sales are down: https://tinyurl.com/yc4ltm35.
Many states are using the pandemic to limit access to abortions: https://tinyurl.com/y7xnzyon.

Mobilizing:

Freeman founds Go LIVE Together, to advocate for the trade show industry: https://tinyurl.com/y7efexwe.

Company News:
K-array writes: “Regarding the recent health protocols issued by the Italian government, K-array’s production and warehouse in San Piero a Sieve (Florence) will resume operating Monday through Thursday at 8:30am to 1:00pm and 2:00 to 5:00pm starting Monday, May 4. With the well-being of our staff at the forefront, K-array has implemented all the safety and health regulations required for all its employees to reopen at this time. Furthermore, we’d like to inform you that our administrative office and several departments will continue to operate remotely to provide customer care as well as design and technical consulting. We remain committed to keeping you informed on our company activity and we thank you for
your precious collaboration.”

Transformit writes, “When the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospitals and health care facilities became apparent, we began reaching out to our peers in the fabrics industry, to state officials, and to local hospitals to see how our fabric design and fabrication resources could help create personal protective equipment (PPE). As it turns out, our search led us just up the road to our neighbors, Flowfold.”

“Flowfold, maker of minimalist wallets, packs, and travel accessories, had pivoted their entire production line to manufacture face shields, a crucial piece of equipment that helps keep health care workers safe during prolonged face-to-face contact with potentially infectious patients.”

“The team at Transformit, with extensive experience prototyping, creating with fabrics, stitching, and fabricating, eagerly joined forces with Flowfold to help ramp up production of face shields. In the weeks since, with components Flowfold fabricates using an advanced material cutting machine in their shop, we have been producing upwards of 2,000 face shields a week.”

“Ironically, before this pandemic, which has become synonymous with social distancing and isolation, we had never come together to collaborate with our neighbors at Flowfold even though our shops are just a few hundred feet apart. In addition to this corona-initiated neighborly collaboration, we are also finding ourselves talking more these days with peers and customers to share ideas, lessons learned, and opportunities to help others and each other. And in the midst of the hardships caused by this pandemic are people and experiences for which we are grateful and cherish -- the ingenuity and camaraderie of our customers and peers, the community of our neighbors, and the extraordinary generosity of health care professionals who are caring for those in need.”

Scheduling:

The national tour of Cats has closed: https://tinyurl.com/ycgm5gn2.

Entertainment:

The one-woman show Bette Davis Ain’t for Sissies will stream live on Facebook May 6 at 6:30pm EST, directed by Karen Carpenter and starring Jessica Sherr, presented on Facebook Live. www.facebook.com/BetteDavisAintForSissies.

Carnegie Hall and medici.tv have a new streaming Carnegie Hall Fridays. From May 1 – July 11, concerts from Carnegie Hall and medici.tv’s archive of past live broadcasts will be put online on both the https://www.medici.tv/en/ platform and https://www.carnegiehall.org/. Each program will remain available to watch on-demand, free of charge, for 72 hours, from Friday, 9:00am CET (Paris time) to Monday, 9:00am CET. Also, medici.tv will host a watch party on its homepage each Friday at 4:00pm CET (10:00am in New York City). The program launches Joyce DiDonato and Yannick Nézet-Séguin’s performance of Schubert’s Winterreise. On Sunday, May 3, a 2017 concert performance of Handel’s Ariodante, featuring Joyce DiDonato, Harry Bicket, and The English Concert, will be available for 48 hours.

The Manhattan nightclub Feinstein’s/54 Below has a new lineup of online concerts: https://tinyurl.com/y73uqeqm.

Next on Live from The Gilmore: An all-Beethoven recital by pianist Jonathan Bliss, Monday, May 4 at 2:00pm ET, baritone Steven LaBrie (recently recovered from the coronavirus) at 2:00pm CT. Go to https://www.thegilmore.org/. Also, Jen Shyu, a vocalist, composer, producer, instrumentalist, and dancer is the featured artist in the Jazz Gallery’s Happy Hour Hang, May 4 at 6:00pm ET. To create a more intimate, participatory atmosphere, the event is limited to a small, ticketed audience on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets at https://tinyurl.com/yashqzn6.

On Friday, May 1, at 5:00pm, Lincoln Center’s American Songbook Series will stream Broadway songwriter Joe Iconiss with special guests Betty Buckley and Annie Golden: https://tinyurl.com/y6u3wvh9.

The next episode of Playwrights Horizons Soundstage series of scripted short fiction works, Jordan Harrison’s Play for Any Two People, goes live today. Find out more at https://tinyurl.com/yb6rblum and check out earlier pieces by Heather Christian and Robert O’Hara.

Jeremy Jordan, Brandon Victor Dixon, Jessica Vosk, and Kate Baldwin will take part in the online launch of composer
Georgia Stitt’s new album, A Quiet Revolution: https://tinyurl.com/yd6jc4zo.

Cast members from Hamilton will take part in a reading of the play This Ends Tonight, a benefit for Broadway Cares: https://tinyurl.com/yb7scvu9.

If you’d like access to the Vineyard Theatre’s one-night-only concert presentation of [title of show TBA], one of its bigger hits, donate $25 or more at https://tinyurl.com/ybc8qte6.

###

**COVID-19 Update: April 29, 2020:**

**Side Effects**

Good morning: There are now a million cases of the coronavirus in the US, and more Americans have died from it -- in three months -- than in the ten years of the Vietnam War.

**Meanwhile, the Coronavirus is Producing Economic Side Effects:**

The country’s gross domestic product fell by 4.8% in the first quarter: https://tinyurl.com/ybct8thm. And the future is looking, well, difficult: https://tinyurl.com/yabq4m3h.

**Meanwhile:**

The president, finally citing the Defense Production Act, will order meat processing plants to remain open: https://tinyurl.com/y7r88skr.

Briefing books reveal that the president was briefed repeatedly on the coronavirus threat in January and February: https://tinyurl.com/ycntwpjh.


Pfizer is bullish about developing a vaccine in record time: https://tinyurl.com/y9vlcyp.

Air travel is changing: https://tinyurl.com/ybnxoynb.

**In California:**

Governor Gavin Newsom says the reopening of cinemas is months away: https://tinyurl.com/y7q6tzmh.

AMC Theatres cuts ties to Universal, over the latter’s decision to simultaneously release films to cinemas and home viewers, even after the pandemic is over: https://tinyurl.com/ycdnk5b9.

The head of the National Association of Theatre Owners discusses reopening plans: https://tinyurl.com/y73x95pc.

For the first time, the Academy Awards will consider films not released in theatres: https://tinyurl.com/yaradphq.

**In Europe:**

Czech cinemas are set to be the first to reopen in Europe: https://tinyurl.com/ycrx2kp7.

**In the UK:**

The BBC says that the coronavirus-caused shortage of scripts will lead to more co-productions: https://tinyurl.com/y9k-zlyf5.

**In Vegas:**
The Venetian’s reopening plan includes EMTs on-site and thermal cameras: https://tinyurl.com/ycuphf2o.

Boyd Gaming, owner of The Orleans, Sam’s Town, and Main Street Station, among others, reports an 18% drop in revenue: https://tinyurl.com/y7oa3u7c.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board is looking at guidelines for reopening casinos: https://tinyurl.com/yba9k8zh.

Mobilizing:

Billboard has a copy of the memo from 19 signatories, including AEG, Live Nation, and The Broadway League, which asks Congress to expand the Paycheck Protection Act to entertainment companies with 500 or fewer employees and an expansion of loans to mid-sized businesses: https://tinyurl.com/yas78hnw. Forbes Magazine argues that without federal help, the entertainment business is going to have a hard time: https://tinyurl.com/y7kuuxl.h.

Losses:

Bruce Myers, an actor with Peter Brook’s troupe: https://tinyurl.com/ydgtxag9.

Training:

On the next d&b audiotechnik, live event, Tony David Cray, Grammy Award-winning recording engineer and head of recording and broadcast at Sydney Opera House, will be chatting to Ralf Zuleeg, d&b sales services, and application engineering. The event takes place on April 30. Cray and Zuleeg will discuss Cray’s experience as an engineer, how he’s used d&b Soundscape in the past, and what he is working on in his studio at the moment. There will also be an opportunity for viewers to ask their audio questions. Join d&b audiotechnik and Tony David Cray on Instagram by following @dbaumediainfo. The full list of d&b events can be found at https://tinyurl.com/yayjnccj.


Registration is open for AES Virtual Vienna Convention: https://tinyurl.com/y8cczkry.

Scheduling / Rescheduling:

The West End musical Everyone’s Talking About Jamie has canceled its Australian tour: https://tinyurl.com/y6wkhpsx.

The French-language musical Notre Dame de Paris has moved its opening to 2022: https://tinyurl.com/yamk8x4w.

Entertainment:

Ailey All Access, the streaming site for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, is currently offering Ailey’s Night Creatures. Next up, starting tomorrow, is Ode, Jamar Roberts’ acclaimed new piece: https://tinyurl.com/y7hxvdxp.

Scheduled for May 11, A Shining Light is an online benefit concert for the theatre company The Civilians. Hosted by Jo Lampert, the event features Cindy Cheung, Eddie Cooper, Molly Hager, Jason Butler Hamer, Van Hughes, Rebecca Naomi Jones, Lesli Margherita, Grace McLean, Alex Newell, Duncan Sheik, Jill Sobule, Mary Testa, and more to be announced. Also, an auction featuring compelling, one-of-a-kind experiences from artists like Anne Washburn, Sam Pinkleton, Linda Cho, and more. To see these artist’s unique offerings, go to https://tinyurl.com/y8dao5bp. Tickets for the concert have no minimum price; to purchase them, go to https://tinyurl.com/y8ezzvt.

The Goodman Theatre has canceled its production of A Paris Love Story, starring the actor/pianist Hershey Felder. But Felder will offer a livestream performance from Florence, Italy on Mother’s Day, May 10 of his solo piece about Irving Berlin. The performance is viewable on Internet-enabled home and handheld devices and features an audience participation opportunity via text or email. Trevor Hay directs. A benefit for the Goodman, tickets are $50 per household. You can purchase them at https://tinyurl.com/y974z4g3.
Over 50 leading and emerging actors and playwrights have united for The Homebound Project, a new independent, online theater initiative created to help feed children affected by COVID-19. Founded by playwright Catya McMullen and director Jenna Worsham, The Homebound Project is theatre made to raise funds for nonprofit organizations working at the forefront of the pandemic. Each edition features a collection of 10 new theatre works, written by homebound playwrights and recorded by sheltering actors. View-at-home tickets begin at a donation level of $10, with all proceeds benefiting No Kid Hungry, https://www.nokidhungry.org/, a national campaign helping to feed countless children living with hunger. The Homebound Project is currently scheduled to include three editions, with each collection of new works available to stream over a strictly limited four-day period. The first edition will stream online beginning at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 6 until 7:00pm on Sunday, May 10. Subsequent editions will air May 20 – 24 and June 3 – 7. Tickets to the first collection are now available at https://www.homeboundtheater.org/. Among those involved are actors Christopher Abbott, William Jackson Harper, Jessica Hecht, Marin Ireland, Alison Pill, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Thomas Sadoski, and Amanda Seyfried in pieces by Lucy Thurber, Qui Nguyen, Max Posner, Sarah Ruhl, C. A. Johnsons, Rajiv Joseph, and Marina Majok.

Jazz at Lincoln Center has a concert celebrating Ella Fitzgerald: https://tinyurl.com/y6wrgzhc.

Off Broadway’s Metropolitan Playhouse will present COVID Cabaret with Zero Boy, starring the downtown performer on April 30 at 8:00pm ET. The 30-minute show will be available via Zoom and YouTube at https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksiy. Metropolitan Playhouse will also present a reading of Alice Gerstenberg’s one-act comedy Fourteen, and Rachel Crothers’s one-act drama Criss Cross, via live stream video on Saturday, May 2 at 8:00pm ET. Running time is 35 minutes, with talkback to follow. The program will also be simultaneously broadcast on WBAI Radio 99.5 FM.

The latest round of the 24-Hour Plays: Viral Monologues features, among others, Dane DeHaan, Crystal Dickinson, Brandon J. Dirden, Minnie Driver, Michael Esper, Santino Fontana, Isabelle Fuhrmann, Justin Kirk, Ashley Park, Rita Wilson, and Alison Wright in new pieces by the likes of Lemon Anderson, Pascale Armand, Courtney Baron, David Cote, Kristoffer Diaz, David Lindsay-Abaire, Craig Lucas, Catya McMullen, Marsha Norman, and Anna Ziegler: https://tinyurl.com/yaumlj6h.

For Your Pleasure:

Lighting designer and raconteur Durham Marenghi on the night he learned that no lighting plan survives the first contact with a helicopter’s downwash. Bonus: a stunning reimagining of Puccini’s Nessun Dorma, featuring the London Concert Orchestra and tenor Wynne Davies, in tribute to workers in the UK’s National Health Service: https://tinyurl.com/ya4lt99b.

###

COVID-19 Update: April 28, 2020:

God, I Hope I Get It

The Small Business Administration system teeters from too many requests: https://tinyurl.com/ya75efrf. The Florida unemployment system isn’t working: https://tinyurl.com/y8m6ognq. In Nevada, the unemployment system can’t get started: https://tinyurl.com/yansxbwl. A consensus forms in DC that the states need more federal help: https://tinyurl.com/y9yl38f4.

Meanwhile:

The president withdraws funding for a coronavirus study, based on a false accusation against the institute behind it: https://tinyurl.com/y9rczrs4.

Kansas health authorities note that some of their citizens are taking the president at his word about disinfectant products, including a poor fool who drank bleach: https://tinyurl.com/y97ywxpj.

Does Oxford University have the inside track on a vaccine? https://tinyurl.com/yawhumew. New York hospitals are looking at heartburn medication as a possible coronavirus treatment: https://tinyurl.com/ybwkrs9u. The dark side of reopening: All of the models agree, if social distancing is dropped, deaths will rise: https://tinyurl.com/ycpltfqa.
No vaccine, no 2021 Olympics; so suggests the head of the Japan Medical Association: [https://tinyurl.com/y9yhlsxh](https://tinyurl.com/y9yhlsxh).

Meat shortages may be happening: [https://tinyurl.com/ydha49dr](https://tinyurl.com/ydha49dr).

Screenings for cancer and other grave illnesses have cratered: [https://tinyurl.com/ydgnz4tm](https://tinyurl.com/ydgnz4tm).

American Repertory Theatre, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is working with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to develop guidelines for reopening: [https://tinyurl.com/ybtopq37](https://tinyurl.com/ybtopq37).

Texas reopens its movie theatres on Friday: [https://tinyurl.com/yavd3s9v](https://tinyurl.com/yavd3s9v).

Training:

A.C. ProMedia is hosting webinars to introduce the AUDAC line of pro audio solutions: [https://tinyurl.com/ya3k73yh](https://tinyurl.com/ya3k73yh). Christie is holding webinars on Pandoras Box (register at [https://tinyurl.com/ycguxnnt](https://tinyurl.com/ycguxnnt)) and Christie Terra (register at [https://tinyurl.com/y9jt8kcs](https://tinyurl.com/y9jt8kcs)).

Harman has a new webinar. “Line Array Calculator III: Advanced Subwoofer Arrays, EDS, Ground Stacks” will be held on Thursday. Register for Session I (10:00am CT) at [https://tinyurl.com/yat4tnjb](https://tinyurl.com/yat4tnjb). Register for Session II (8:00pm CT) at [https://tinyurl.com/ydx65f4z](https://tinyurl.com/ydx65f4z).

Company News:

In the UK, #EventsForTheFuture brings together industry associates to lobby for government support: [https://tinyurl.com/y998rv45](https://tinyurl.com/y998rv45).

A group of manufacturers including Lectrosonics, Sound Devices, Audio Ltd., Ambient, dB Audio, DPA Microphones, K-Tek, Sonosax, Bubblebee Industries, Schoeps, Ursa Straps, Viviana Straps, and more are pleased to present the virtual Sound Summit 2020, a two-day virtual event which will feature new product announcements which would have taken place at the NAB 2020 show. It takes place April 30 and May 1. The Sound Summit 2020 will feature new product and technology presentations of interest to location sound and production professionals, chief engineers, news technicians, crews, camera operators, network executives, and other audio professionals in the field. More information and registration at [https://tinyurl.com/yba5gc7x](https://tinyurl.com/yba5gc7x).

Losses:


Scheduling:

Barrington Stage Company in Massachusetts will experiment with a reduced season marked by low seating capacity and face masks: [https://tinyurl.com/y8s6ky4q](https://tinyurl.com/y8s6ky4q).

The Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center in Waterford, Connecticut is putting its summer activities on hold: [https://tinyurl.com/ydgmetr4](https://tinyurl.com/ydgmetr4).

The Stratford Festival in Ontario puts its full season on hold: [https://tinyurl.com/y93r33mq](https://tinyurl.com/y93r33mq).

Entertainment:

Andrew Lloyd Webber – The Royal Albert Hall Celebration, will be available May 1 at 2:00pm ET for 48 hours at the Show Must Go On: [https://tinyurl.com/qut97fa](https://tinyurl.com/qut97fa).

Lincoln Center’s portal presents A Celebration of Brahms with Jessye Norman: [https://tinyurl.com/yawcnqg6](https://tinyurl.com/yawcnqg6). New York City Ballet’s production of Apollo: [https://tinyurl.com/yd2ssdx9](https://tinyurl.com/yd2ssdx9), and various concerts from Jazz at Lincoln Center: [https://](https://).
tinyurl.com/y8ljsew3, and starting Wednesday, SUDS, a concert for kids: https://tinyurl.com/y7tttsy.


The Wooster Group is streaming performances of its productions Flaubert Dreams of Travel But His Mother’s Illness Prevents It (https://tinyurl.com/y9mm67qy) and Channel J (https://tinyurl.com/y8b9hjzb).

###

**COVID-19 Update: April 27, 2020:**

**Ready or Not**

The sixth week of lockdown begins.

Despite warnings from health experts, some states tentatively start to reopen: https://tinyurl.com/ydzextc7. Yet Dr. Deborah Birx suggests that social distancing may last for months: https://tinyurl.com/ya8mvhar. The President’s hawking of disinfectant as a cure-all and calls to New York City’s Poison Control Center spike: https://tinyurl.com/vck6go2d. And the FDA has issued a warning against hydroxocholorquine and chloroquine: https://tinyurl.com/y7tysauk. The idea that the coronavirus only affects older people isn’t true: https://tinyurl.com/ybssfk32e.

Boris Johnson is back on the job: https://tinyurl.com/ybf6bacs.

As it happens, the same people demonstrating against social distancing also think climate change is a hoax: https://tinyurl.com/yahpdalt.

Even as the President of Brazil insists that the coronavirus is little more than a bad cold, doctors say the country’s hospitals are overwhelmed: https://tinyurl.com/ydx8tyxa.

Conservative Australia and liberty New Zealand both flatten their curves. What’s their secret? https://tinyurl.com/yboc5l3h.

**Meanwhile:**

Actor’s Equity hires a former OSHA administrator to advise on safely reopening on Broadway: https://tinyurl.com/y8qr-v9ox.

How the coronavirus brought down the Cirque du Soleil empire: https://tinyurl.com/yardx3lgg.

Oklahoma wants to reopen its cinemas in early May: https://tinyurl.com/y7ebdjtx.

In the absence of an upfront, NBCU plans a streaming update for advertisers: https://tinyurl.com/y8djc225.

The White House eliminates the bar to small casinos benefiting from the Paycheck Protection Program: https://tinyurl.com/ycullfm4.

Vegas hotel owners reveal their post-opening safety plans: https://tinyurl.com/yavozq4c.

Rufus Norris, artistic director London’s National Theatre, is worried about his institution’s survival: https://tinyurl.com/ygvmmsgq.

Attendees at the Tribal Gathering Festival in Panama find themselves indefinitely stranded: https://tinyurl.com/ybm8luq7. As the Bolshoi Ballet struggles to survive, its company members perform from home: https://tinyurl.com/yd6j74hr. The man without a country: The story of a performer trapped at sea: https://tinyurl.com/ybk8v6mr.
Losses:

Steve Dalkowski, pitched for the Baltimore Orioles: https://tinyurl.com/y9keo68c; Jennifer Robin Arnold, dresser at Broadway’s Phantom of the Opera: https://tinyurl.com/y7v8ggg.

Mobilizing:

As part of its mental health initiative, Behind the Scenes has launched a peer-to-peer chat app: https://tinyurl.com/y7bb2kby.

More than 800 music venues band together to petition Congress for aid: https://tinyurl.com/y8efvken.

Training:

Sound designer, composer, and Broadway associate Brad Ward, of theatre consultants Auerbach Pollock Friedlander joins industry professionals for USITT’s panel discussion on strategies and techniques for sound design solutions in live theatre. It happens Tuesday, April 28 at 4:00pm ET. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y9dj2gt5.

Elation Professional continues its Elation Hour online presentation series Wednesday, April 29, where three of America’s top lighting designers for television -- Victor Fable, Joshua Hutchings, and Ed Motts -- join hosts John Dunn and Matthias Hinrichs for a “Tools & Techniques” discussion about the ins and outs of television and broadcast lighting. Hear about what makes television and broadcast lighting truly unique as some of the most experienced designers in the business share their own personal insight and tricks of the trade. The free webinar will take place on April 29 at 10:00am PT. Register at https://tinyurl.com/ycwlvrld.

The latest Harman webinars includes “FOH/Monitor Mixing Fundamentals,” April 28 and 29 (register at https://tinyurl.com/y8wafe59); “Line Array Calculator III Advanced Subwoofer Arrays, EDS, Ground Stacks, Session 1” (register at https://tinyurl.com/yd39927z) and Session 2 (register at https://tinyurl.com/ycluhy84), both on April 30 and May 1; and “Mixing Tips from Clubs to Stadiums,” on April 30 and May 1 (register at https://tinyurl.com/y7f8hfvw).

Company News:

TLS Productions, Inc. is happy to announce “that we are back to work! Although, in a limited capacity -- and at our Ann Arbor headquarters only at this time. As restrictions are lifted, we will come back online in Las Vegas and the rest of the country. Beginning Monday, April 27, 2020, TLS Productions, Inc.’s Ann Arbor headquarters will be open for curbside pickup and delivery of expendables and rentals. Our hours during this unprecedented time have been adjusted to Monday - Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm (EDT).”

Cancelations / Postponements / Rescheduling:

The St. Louis Muny will open its season July 20: https://tinyurl.com/y87slrdl.

Entertainment:


For the duration, Pink Floyd will stream a concert each Friday: https://tinyurl.com/ychf8yjl.

The Ruen Brothers will perform on Warm Audios Facebook page on May 2 at 7:00pm ET. The brothers will perform songs they wrote for the Netflix original film The Half of It, which releases on May 1. The event includes a condenser microphone giveaway. https://tinyurl.com/y77y4k2k.

###
COVID-19 Update: April 24, 2020:
Lysol, Sunlight and Other Illusions

Good morning. By the time you read this, 50,000 Americans will have died from the coronavirus.

The president horrifies medical experts by suggesting the coronavirus can be beat with injections of disinfectant or bursts of UV rays: https://tinyurl.com/y7cdshtj. Lysol responds: https://tinyurl.com/ybbweamp.

But the House passed the stimulus bill: https://tinyurl.com/y8c97y8g.

Meanwhile:

How three governors are unilaterally choosing to reopening their states, leaving their staffs in uproar: https://tinyurl.com/y89ycga5.

Illinois’ stay-at-home order is to remain in place, with some modifications, through May 30: https://tinyurl.com/ybzx9mbm. The flight attendants’ union wants leisure travelers grounded: https://tinyurl.com/yddyg288.

A preliminary study suggests that 21% of New York City residents are infected with the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/yboqll2k.

The president urges restoration of tax deductions that could help Broadway: https://tinyurl.com/y8n68f4->tinyurl.com/y8n-68f4.

London’s West End is functionally closed until September: https://tinyurl.com/ybuppz2e.

In Las Vegas:

MGM Resorts International reports a revenue drop and warns that the worst is yet to come: https://tinyurl.com/yddeo7h5. Treasure Island plans to reopen on May 15: https://tinyurl.com/y7o22xus.

Company News:

Westview Productions offers an update on its status: https://tinyurl.com/ycsft8mb.

Cancellations / Postponements:


Entertainment:

Starting tonight at 7:30pm, you can catch the LA-based band Vintage Trouble performing at Afropunk at Lincoln Center Out of Doors: https://tinyurl.com/y8xblzfk.

Massachusetts’ Great Barrington Public Theater announces a series of online readings that includes a new play by David Mamet: https://tinyurl.com/y99q8k3z.


Check out New York City Ballet’s digital spring season: https://tinyurl.com/y8v36mov.

The New York Philharmonic is offering a Mahler festival: https://tinyurl.com/y9dwayn5.
That’s all for today. Have a good weekend. Stay safe. And stay away from Lysol and Clorox.

###

**COVID-19 Update: April 23, 2020:**

**Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?**

Another 4.4 million Americans have filed for unemployment bringing the total number of jobless to 26 million: [https://tinyurl.com/y85hyhdx](https://tinyurl.com/y85hyhdx).

Senator Mitch McConnell tells struggling state governments that bankruptcy is better than federal aid: [https://tinyurl.com/y86swawu](https://tinyurl.com/y86swawu).

Las Vegas Sands reports a 51% drop in first-quarter revenue: [https://tinyurl.com/yb38pu6a](https://tinyurl.com/yb38pu6a).

Also, it’s not a good day to be mayor of Las Vegas, after those train wreck interviews with Katy Tur and Anderson Cooper: [https://tinyurl.com/yc6sn3sp](https://tinyurl.com/yc6sn3sp).

Meanwhile:

Another pork plant shuts down: [https://tinyurl.com/y9gxr9lb](https://tinyurl.com/y9gxr9lb).

Fox Corp. slashes executive salaries: [https://tinyurl.com/ybbws9u4](https://tinyurl.com/ybbws9u4).

Also, the romance between Fox News and hydroxychloroquine is over: [https://tinyurl.com/y72bat6s](https://tinyurl.com/y72bat6s).

Cal State Fullerton has already opted to put its fall semester online: [https://tinyurl.com/yb5ggwzr](https://tinyurl.com/yb5ggwzr).

The coronavirus spread through the US much earlier than previously thought: [https://tinyurl.com/y7fab7zp](https://tinyurl.com/y7fab7zp).

China may have had four times more COVID-19 cases than it has reported: [https://tinyurl.com/ycj5ajuu](https://tinyurl.com/ycj5ajuu).

AMC Theatres sued by Florida landlord for not paying rent: [https://tinyurl.com/y9ow42vn](https://tinyurl.com/y9ow42vn).

What will the Toronto Film Festival, scheduled for September, look like? [https://tinyurl.com/ydffdyw4](https://tinyurl.com/ydffdyw4).

How some Broadway crews and creatives are keeping busy: [https://tinyurl.com/y7clfhs5](https://tinyurl.com/y7clfhs5).

**Food for Thought:**

How Germany and South Korea have battled the coronavirus so effectively: [https://tinyurl.com/y8gxgqqy](https://tinyurl.com/y8gxgqqy).

How Kentucky has so effectively battled the coronavirus, but Tennessee not so much: [https://tinyurl.com/yd7lwo8k](https://tinyurl.com/yd7lwo8k).

**Mobilizing:**

TikTok donates $2 million to The Actors Fund: [https://tinyurl.com/ybsbrvyl](https://tinyurl.com/ybsbrvyl).

**Training:**

New from Harman: “From Stage Plot to Doors in Five Hours or Less,” being held today and tomorrow. Register at [https://pro.harman.com/lp/learning-sessions](https://pro.harman.com/lp/learning-sessions).

ROE Visual is putting training online. The company’s processing partner Megapixel VR has launched a series of training videos on the HELIOS LED processing platform. In them, Megapixel VR will go through the features of the HELIOS processor step-by-step, highlighting all the great aspects and explaining what makes HELIOS such a powerful and flexible processing system. Go to [http://www.megapixelvr.com/training/](http://www.megapixelvr.com/training/).

Variety will stream NAB’s Executive Leadership Summit on May 11 and May 13: [https://tinyurl.com/yat2rb2c](https://tinyurl.com/yat2rb2c).

**Company News:**

Gregg Brunclik, founder and chairman of Clearwing, writes, “It is no secret that the current pandemic and its ripple effects have affected the live event industry in unprecedented ways. All Clearwing offices and divisions remain in business and available for work as we adhere to local and national guidelines. Clearwing has been able to maintain a core infrastructure
to service all our clients, large and small. We are operating with production, sales, and installation staff and can accommodate rental, production, or sales requests in all three of our offices. In addition to our typical services, we are finding innovative ways to keep the industry moving, including drive-in church services, socially distanced client experiences, and trainings. Clearwing is weathering the current pandemic but by no means are we standing still. With our eye to the future, we are implementing strategies across our organization that ensure we are nimble and ready to go as our communities begin reopen. Reach out to us now to discuss working together beyond the current situation.”

https://www.clearwing.com/

Cancellations / Postponements:

Chicago’s Gay Pride Parade is off: https://tinyurl.com/y9qj8hxe.


Entertainment:

Kalamazoo, Michigan’s Gilmore Festival’s video streaming series Virtually Gilmore continues with a recital from earlier in the season -- pianist Lukas Geniušas performing Schubert's Impromptus D. 935.

Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No. 3, and additional works by each composer. Mr. Geniušas’s most recent solo album, an all-Prokofiev recording featuring Piano Sonatas No. 2 and 5, won a Diapason d'Or Award in 2019. It starts Monday, April 22, 2020. Go to https://tinyurl.com/y8e8jfh or www.thegilmore.org. Starting on April 28, the Gilmore has jazz pianist and recent Cole Porter Fellow Emmet Cohen leading his trio in a medley of Fats Waller compositions. On Wednesday, the program features pianist and YouTube sensation Tiffany Poon offering a program that ranges from sonatas by Scarlatti and Haydn, to Schumann’s Carnaval and a Chopin Nocturne, to Lowell Liebermann’s Gargoyles.


New York’s MCC Theater will present a special MCC Virtual TV benefit play reading of the late Alan Bowne’s Beirut, starring Marisa Tomei and Oscar Isaac on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30pm ET. A limited number of tickets will be available at $5, with additional tickets at $15 and $25. For more information, go to https://tinyurl.com/yamuxjln.

New York’s Metropolitan Playhouse will present a streamed reading of Bronson Howard’s one-act play Old Love Letters on Saturday, April 25 at 8:00pm ET, with a talkback to follow. It is available via Zoom and YouTube. For more information, go to: https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksjy.

Stating today, and running for a week, London’s National Theatre is streaming Twelfth Night, starring Tamsin Greig: https://tinyurl.com/vmea9bt.

New York’s Public Theatre will stream a new Apple Family play by Richard Nelson: What Do We Need to Talk About? Conversations on Zoom, on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30pm ET. This is the latest in a series of plays about a Rhinebeck, New York clan, which are deeply informed by the headlines. Go to the Public’s website www.publictheater.org to see it. Beforehand, check out the previous four Apple plays at https://www.thirteen.org/programs/theater-close-up/.

Check out Tulsa Opera’s world premiere production of Tobias Picker’s Emmeline, at https://tinyurl.com/yazs23ck.

###

COVID-19 Update: April 22, 2020:
The Next Wave of Aid

Good morning. Happy Earth Day. Although, to be honest, the earth has been in better shape.
Finally: The Senate passes the new small business aid bill; the House is set to vote tomorrow: https://tinyurl.com/yd-4hy5xl.

That suspension of immigration announced by the President is in fact a halt to green cards for 60s. Then again, since it is still being written, who knows? https://tinyurl.com yc3b6xaj.

The Patchwork, State-by-State Approach to the Coronavirus:

The mayor of Chicago expects the city’s lockdown to stay in place until June: https://tinyurl.com yc9wdpfi.

Georgia’s mayors were blindsided by the governor’s announcement that the state is reopening: https://tinyurl.com y7owamhd.

The mayor of Las Vegas wants to open the casinos and let the chips fall where they may: https://tinyurl.com y8efp7j5.

The governor of Florida says his state has avoided a public health disaster: https://tinyurl.com ycldyp4h. Florida is ninth in the top ten of US state infections.

And the head of the CDC warns that the second wave of the coronavirus could be worse than the first: https://tinyurl.com y8n9quch.

Meanwhile:

The FDA greenlights the first coronavirus test with at-home sample collection; it will initially be made available to health care workers and first responders who might have been exposed to the virus. https://tinyurl.com ydzxc8mk.

The cancelled SXSW Film Festival is going digital after all: https://tinyurl.com yc5h4cay.

How the Venice Film Festival, opening September 2, is likely to unfold: https://tinyurl.com y7yrkhot. Hollywood ponders how to protect film crews, going forward: https://tinyurl.com y9adwm1z. When business travel comes back, what will it look like? https://tinyurl.com ya53h6um.

Mobilizing:

The livestream performance of Buyer and Cellar, starring Michael Urie, raised more than $200,000 for Broadway Care’s emergency COVID fund: https://tinyurl.com ybptfzp2.

Training:

Chroma-Q is rolling out a series of webinars. Topics include “White LED in Practice” (Friday, April 24), “Color References and LED – CRI/TM-30 and More” (Friday, May 1), “Camera Sensors and LED lighting” (Friday, May 8), and “LED Fixture for Installs: What to Consider” (Friday, May 15). For details, go to https://tinyurl.com ybbwnl6.

Today, Elation Professional launches Elation Hour, a weekly virtual presentation that will delve into the more personal side of product development while also addressing the technology and process behind the company’s most popular product series. Hosts are national sales manager John Dunn and global product manager Matthias Hinrichs. Today’s event, “Behind the Products -- R&D” will be held at 10:00am PT. Next week television lighting designers Victor Fable, Joshua Hutchings, and Ed Motts will take part in a “Tools and Techniques” discussion. RSVP at https://tinyurl.com y76guhpo.

On Thursday, April 23, from at 12:00pm CT, Genelec will host an exclusive online tutorial, “G*Connect Webinar: A Complete Systems Approach to Immersive Monitoring Solutions,” hosted by Paul Stewart. senior technical sales manager. Register now at https://tinyurl.com yb2xjbx.

Cancellations, Closings, and Postponements:

The release of In the Heights, based on the hit Broadway musical, has been delayed for a year: https://tinyurl.com/
Upright Citizens’ Brigade, breeding ground for star comics, is closing its New York locations: https://tinyurl.com/ybb9vaq5.

Entertainment:

All Together Now! -- an online entertainment event helping the City of Los Angeles during the coronavirus pandemic, will stream on Saturday, April 25, at 2:00pm PT. New performers have been added to the roster, including Carole King, guitarist Joe Bonamassa, actor Malcolm McDowell, and actor/comedian Tim Allen. Additionally, Grammy winners Alan Parsons and David Pack (Ambrosia) will be performing a first-ever digital duet. The event is being presented in association with the Get Together Foundation and Los Angeles City Councilman John Lee. With the goal of helping Angelenos cope with the severe restrictions imposed on everyone during this alarming and uncertain time of the novel coronavirus crisis, All Together Now! will be broadcast free through the high-quality streaming system Alert the Globe. For the full list of artists, which includes T Bone Burnett, Smokey Robinson, Jeff Bridges, Mike Love, Rick Springfield, Melissa Manchester, Mary Wilson, and Mickey Dolenz, go to http://www.alerttheglobe.com.

COVID-19 Update: April 21, 2020:

Build Another Wall

The President announces a suspension of all immigration. He does so via tweet. Policy to follow: https://tinyurl.com/y77zkpfy.

In Australia: The cratering infection rate sparks calls for an easing of lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/y9jxlaao.

Oil futures have plunged below zero: https://tinyurl.com/ybyxj9wl.

Meanwhile:

The sticking point on additional stimulus funding is -- you guessed it -- testing: https://tinyurl.com yc77nw66. Senator Charles Schumer says the bill is good to go, but the GOP is hesitating: https://tinyurl.com/ yd4hy5xl.

Brett Giroir, the White House’s coronavirus testing czar, has had a checkered career: https://tinyurl.com/yasyhwzj. And the White House is being criticized after so much money went to multi-million (and billion) dollar hotel and restaurant chains while small local businesses are shut out: https://tinyurl.com/y96cu92p.

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp wants to open the state's movie theatres on April 27: https://tinyurl.com/yb7v4g5j. Not so fast, say the theatre owners: https://tinyurl.com/y8ygl2qj.

How American Idol plans to broadcast from more than 40 different locations: https://tinyurl.com/ y7kq69oy.

If the NBA goes with fanless games, a model exists in Vegas: https://tinyurl.com/y8yvn8ca.

The Venice Film Festival is set to open September 2: https://tinyurl.com/y779yoey. But in Munich, Oktoberfest won’t be happening: https://tinyurl.com/y7v2cx27.

Elsewhere in Europe, people are attacking cell towers in the mistaken belief that 5G technology is linked to the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/y8xu9gffy.

For God’s sake, don’t litter with your masks and gloves: https://tinyurl.com/ybbu5fky.

Mobilizing:

The Actors Fund reports that The Shows Must Go On! YouTube Channel broadcast of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s The Phantom of The Opera at the Royal Albert Hall raised more than $400,000 in just 48 hours for the national human services or-
organization that fosters stability and resiliency and serves as a safety net to everyone in performing arts and entertainment, among others: https://tinyurl.com/vvkq5wd.

**Company News:**

LynTec has announced a new on-demand, tailored training and support program via live video to enhance the lines of customer communication during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis. Designed to work around customers' schedules and needs, the company's live video sessions provide customers with real-time information, training, and technical support for the company's leading range of electrical automation and control systems. The live sessions will take place from LynTec's new HD demo room. Customers can schedule a customized, interactive electrical or power control training session by contacting LynTec at 913-529-2233 or info@lyntec.com.

**Training:**

Harman has more webinars on tap. "Stage Plot to Doors in 5 Hours or Less" with Dustin Dunsmore will be held on Thursday. Register at https://tinyurl.com/ymbnzn43b. "How to Program a Show for a Festival Rig" with Lauren Sago is on Friday: Register at https://tinyurl.com/ya3sl6cd. "Architectural Lighting Products" with Robert Svensson and Henrik Kristensen is Monday, April 27. Register at https://tinyurl.com/y8jfgylld.

Lectrosonics has produced the new video series "Wireless Side Chats," hosted by Karl Winkler, vice president of sales and marketing, and available as a playlist on the company's YouTube page: https://tinyurl.com/ybxpp3r2.

Vanguard LED Systems is hosting a virtual trade show. To reserve attendance, send a request to info@vanguardled.com.

**Cancellations and Postponements:**

New York's Gay Pride Parade, held on the last Sunday in June, is off, along with other large gatherings in June: https://tinyurl.com/ybuc6ymb.

Powerhouse Theatre in Poughkeepsie, New York, has cancelled its summer season: https://tinyurl.com/yd2bmxdx.

**Entertainment:**

You can catch the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's 30th anniversary gala online today at 5:30pm: https://tinyurl.com/ya786e6a.

The Flea Theater in New York says that SERIALS @ The Flea: ONLINE!, a spinoff of the organization's popular late-night episodic show, will feature five all-new plays specifically created for digital viewing. SERIALS will be available on Saturday, April 25 at 9:00pm on the Flea’s Instagram (https://tinyurl.com/ya7ryw4c) and YouTube (https://tinyurl.com/ycx29ak8) channels.

This week, you can see livestreams of the following Metropolitan Opera productions: Tosca, Les Contes d'Hoffmann, The Merry Widow, La Traviata, and La Cenerentola. Utah Opera's Carol Anderson gives a talk before each opera at https://www.facebook.com/utahopera/.

Savannah Voice Festival is offering “Virtually Live,” a series of talks and concerts, at https://tinyurl.com/y8q8ddur.

Until April 27, you can stream for free The Wooster Group’s production of House/Lights, which, as only this troupe can do, combines Gertrude Stein’s Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights with Joseph Mawra's B-movie classic, Olga's House of Shame. Donations cheerfully accepted: https://tinyurl.com/ya6y8yr8.

###

**COVID-19 Update: April 20, 2020:**

It’s the Testing, Stupid

Good morning. The fifth week of lockdown begins.
A deal is near in Congress for more small business aid that includes money for hospitals and testing: https://tinyurl.com/yboz2p85. Of course, the rollout of Federal COVID-19 relief has been, at best, rocky: https://tinyurl.com/y9mexazk. Governor Andrew Cuomo announces antibody testing in New York: https://tinyurl.com/ybkcgqgd. Nationally, testing lags because of bureaucratic errors and presidential foot-dragging: https://tinyurl.com/yvcr7apd.

Cratering oil prices, caused by the pandemic, caused stocks to tumble 500 points: https://tinyurl.com/ycvzcnk9.

In Florida:
With the state reporting more cases than 42 states, Jacksonville reopened its beaches and citizens flocked to them: https://tinyurl.com/ycalrbcw. As of April 16, the state had processed only 4% of its COVID-19-related unemployment claims: https://tinyurl.com/yc8zc7y3. The state’s gig workers may get to apply for unemployment, long after everyone else: https://tinyurl.com/ydhxcwqp. Even as SeaWorld furloughs 90% of its employees, its executives get $6.8 million in stock options: https://tinyurl.com/y9sazwyr.

In New York:
In this interview, Charlotte St. Martin, president of the Broadway League, notes that the theatres will need six weeks to come back after the all-clear sounds. She adds that social distancing arrangements won’t work, financially, and livestreaming is not a commercial option: https://tinyurl.com/yaq59qwh.

The Actors Home in New Jersey has not escaped the devastation affecting the nation’s nursing homes: https://tinyurl.com/y83hcmfg.

In Nevada:

In the UK:
The government’s job retention scheme has been extended through the end of June: https://tinyurl.com/y8c3yoy. And the Queen has cancelled her birthday celebrations: https://tinyurl.com/y9syxfua.

Meanwhile:
A tough, but realistic, assessment of the situation, going forward: https://tinyurl.com/yaustrbjv. Researchers at Harvard say that for the economy to reopen in mid-May, the rate of testing has to triple: https://tinyurl.com/yog3hqmt.

Despite what the President says, Americans working at the World Health Organization sounded the alarm about the coronavirus long before he reacted to it: https://tinyurl.com/ys2vyj2.

Those anti-lockdown protests in several cities are being driven in large part by pro-gun groups: https://tinyurl.com/ya-he9k6h.

The President wants the nation’s cinemas to reopen soon, but the studios are keeping the summer blockbusters on ice: https://tinyurl.com/y72tm7ag.

Live Nation rolls out the details of its ticket refund program: https://tinyurl.com/yaz55tbf.

Netflix expands its hardship fund to $150 million: https://tinyurl.com/y9rlr7hh.

Read this nuts-and-bolts examination of a dance company’s budget and you’ll get a sense of what small troupes and theatre companies are up against. They certainly do a lot with very little: https://tinyurl.com/y87za5ve.

Members of the Chicago theatre community wonder what the future holds: https://tinyurl.com/ybokynew.

Broadway leading man Nick Cordero has undergone a leg amputation to survive: https://tinyurl.com/yfcrajuc.

Tennis star Novak Djokovic says even when there is vaccine, he doesn’t want to take it: https://tinyurl.com/ycdgludk.
Legislative Matters:

Nevada’s Congressional delegation pushes a bill to help small casinos: https://tinyurl.com/yd8odw4v.

IATSE has published a list of its priorities for subsequent COVID-19 relief legislation: https://tinyurl.com/ybhh79wx.

Losses:

Giuseppi Logan, free jazz reeds master: https://tinyurl.com/ycwmzxbu.

David Bowie bassist Matthew Seligman: https://tinyurl.com/ycu49w8u.

Mobilizing:

The Bret Adams and Paul Reisch Foundation has announced the recipients of its special COVID-19 response grants for playwrights, composers, lyricists, and librettists who have had a full professional production cancelled, closed, or indefinitely postponed due to the COVID-19 closures. Earlier this month, in response to theatre closures due to the pandemic, the foundation announced its decision to reinvent the means by which it would distribute funds allocated for its 2020 Idea Award for Theatre. Supplemental funding from the Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation supports additional grants to playwrights, through administrative services provided by New Dramatists. The Foundation has awarded 80 grants of $2,500, a total of $200,000, for theatre writers impacted by the crisis.

That contested Disney concert for Broadway Cares raised more than $600,000: https://tinyurl.com/ycp5prn8. Even as protests rage and Floridians take to their beaches, Broadway leading lady and writer Heidi Blickenstaff and her husband, attorney Nichols Rohlfing, have announced the launch of GenZStayHome, a new public service announcement and campaign featuring the GenZ generation from nearly all 50 states and beyond, discussing the importance of staying home in an effort to keep themselves from unknowingly spreading COVID-19. Check out the inspirational video at https://tinyurl.com/yas8l7p3j.

Training:

Antelope Audio is initiating a campaign called Together We Create to support the audio community with activities aiding creativity and offers to ease the music-making journey while staying safe at home. “Stay at Home and Mix with…” is the company’s new live stream series, allowing anyone to learn the tools of the trade utilized by some of its favorite producers and audio engineers. Engaging with these YouTube sessions will yield valuable mixing tricks and recording secrets. Meanwhile, more product-orientated live streams offer insight on how to make more effective use of some of the company’s hardware and software. “Stay at Home and Mix with…” stream scheduling is available -- alongside past stream replays -- here: https://tinyurl.com/y9f46gfs.

Martin Audio is hosting a virtual trade show: https://tinyurl.com/y825cbcc.

NAB Express, taking place May 13 – 14, is an attempt at putting a trade show online. Check it out at: https://nabshow.com/express/.

The always-inventive folks at MAGNUM have posted advice on taking your virtual happy hour to the next level: https://tinyurl.com/ycczddefl, tips on getting your focus under control during lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/yahp9whf, and beginner tips on getting started with live streaming: https://tinyurl.com/ybzzyc3u.

The next Sennheiser Academy roundtable, on April 21 at 11:00am ET, is all about theatre sound. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/y9xnlnauw.

Company News:

This a quickie, but Available Light has an upbeat message: https://tinyurl.com/y7fh4r7g.

Cancellations / Postponements:
Comic-Con, schedule for July 23 – 26 in San Diego, is off: https://tinyurl.com/ybtr5o3q.

New York Theatre Workshop has officially announced that its season has concluded. This includes its mainstage productions Sanctuary City and Three Sisters, productions at the space known as NYTW Next Door, and summer residences at Adelphi University and Dartmouth College.

The Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera summer season is off: https://tinyurl.com/y7que7lk.

Taylor Swift has pushed her remaining Lover Fest concert dates into next year: https://tinyurl.com/y837wkup.

Entertainment:

I Heart Broadway has launched its Saturday matinee series: https://tinyurl.com/ya3o7sp.

New York’s Irish Arts Center is streaming a variety of readings and musical performances: https://tinyurl.com/yblkns9d.

La Jolla Playhouse has a new series of digitally delivered productions as part of its acclaimed Without Walls (WOW) program: https://lajollaplayhouse.org/.

Loop Media, Inc., a streaming media company focused exclusively on premium short-form video, will host its virtual Loop.tv Music Festival in partnership with Twitch, a service and community for multiplayer entertainment. On April 25th, audiences can stream rising artist favorites directly in-home via the Loop TV channel and Twitch's main page. The festival will feature live streamed performances of artists including Hanson, Francesco Yates, NETTA, Louis York, Kierra Sheard, Sharaya J, DJ Lizzy, Shawn James, and many more. Viewers are encouraged to make donations benefiting MusicCares through Tiltify to help support the artists involved in the festival. A portion of Loop TV’s sponsorships will be going towards MusicCares to help all the artists and musicians affected by COVID-19. Talkhouse, a podcast and live event media company, will partner with the event to create new live podcast content. https://loop.tv/pr_festival.

Ontario’s Stratford Festival is launching a film festival offering free streaming of 12 Shakespeare productions captured as part of its Stratford Festival on Film series. This is the first time the full-length versions of these productions have been available for free. It launches on Shakespeare’s birthday, April 23, with King Lear, directed by artistic director Antoni Cimolino and featuring Colm Feore in the title role. Each film will debut with a 7:00pm viewing party and remain available for free for a three-week period on the Stratford Festival website at https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/. There will be a new film each week, each available for three weeks.

New on the Playwrights Horizons series of podcast dramas is Gather, by Robert O’Hara: https://pod.link/1506030952.

That’s all for today. Stay safe.

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COVID-19 Update: April 17, 2020:

Call Your Own Shots

The death toll in the US reaches a new high: https://tinyurl.com/yabefiy. The President tells governors to decide for themselves to reopen, a right that already belonged to them; he also presented a broad, if vague set of guidelines for reopening: https://tinyurl.com/y8cnv7mm. But why is there no plan to increase testing? https://tinyurl.com/ya2bhe25.

Meanwhile:

While most cities are sitting tight, Seattle may be the first to open up: https://tinyurl.com/ya73lr2n.

An investment banker says that Vegas may face a slow recovery -- "Mega resorts may initially feel like boutiques" -- but the locals market may rebound more quickly: https://tinyurl.com/ybw1bxb7.
The country’s meat supply may be imperiled: https://tinyurl.com/y96jtpod. In part because of policies like this: https://tinyurl.com/yc3ocw73.


Here’s a list of the New York arts institutions receiving grants from the NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund: https://tinyurl.com/yak2dm7j.


Roc Nation, the partnership between Jay-Z and Live Nation, has implemented furloughs and pay cuts. Also affected is the streaming service Tidal: https://tinyurl.com/y7atn6yh.

From bad to worse: Wuhan, China has revised its death toll upward by 50%: https://tinyurl.com/yckqkmdc.

Losses:

Jazz saxophonist Lee Konitz: https://tinyurl.com/y7ph4h9ey7ph4h9e. Allen Daviau, cinematographer of E.T., The Color Purple, and Empire of the Sun: https://tinyurl.com/yckn5v7w.

Taking Care of Business:

Here’s an excellent independent contractor’s guide to Cares Act Relief: https://tinyurl.com/y6fo5eh.

Training:

The latest from Harman: Martin by Harman has a video seminar on its new MAC Aura PXL: https://tinyurl.com/y8ztcmj. You can also register for JBL DDA Software -- 3D Modeling Software for Loudspeakers at https://tinyurl.com/yackmdt. Touring Different Sized Venues: How to Scale and Adapt a Lighting Design with Jennifer Bass at https://tinyurl.com/ydagbf3; Martin Lighting 101 at https://tinyurl.com/yd8wctdz; and PerformanceManager applications for corporate audio at https://tinyurl.com/yaa8p34y. All of the seminars will be held on Monday.

K-array has added new dates for its product training sessions: https://tinyurl.com/v4dru7e.

L-Acoustics has published a number of white papers and scientific articles that you can download at: https://tinyurl.com/yak7fce7s.

Loudspeaker manufacturer Outline is holding a series of webinars, for which you can register at https://outline.it/webinars/

Cancellations / Postponements:

New York’s Public Theater has cancelled its Shakespeare in the Park season of As You Like It and Richard II. All events at the theatre’s flagship location on Lafayette Street have been cancelled through August 31.

That’s all for today. Have a good weekend. Stay safe.

###

**COVID-19 Update: April 16, 2020:**

**The Long Haul**

Good morning. Twenty-two million Americans have applied for unemployment in the last four weeks: https://tinyurl.com/y86u5hj8.
Meanwhile:

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no concert or sporting events can take place until his “five pillars” are in place: https://tinyurl.com/y7f3a44z.

Still, in California things are looking up: https://tinyurl.com/ybg5kh6z.

Then again, the concert industry struggles to find a way forward: https://tinyurl.com/ycmt6sl7.

Political Pushback:

Senator John Kennedy is the latest member of the GOP to assert the economy must reopen, no matter the human toll: https://tinyurl.com/y8q6e6an.

Thousands of drivers clogged the streets of Detroit to protest Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s stay-at-home policy. Too bad they got out of their cars and mingled, potentially helping to spread the virus: https://tinyurl.com yc2ss3e6.

What happens to the global economy when countries don’t trust each other to maintain supply chains? https://tinyurl.com/yd9ag87u.

The Blowback Continues:

Theatre Communications Group has released a snapshot survey of the coronavirus’ impact on the theatre community. “Some of the key takeaways from the survey include substantial revenue losses, with an estimate of nonprofit theatres losing more than $500 million through June. Of the respondents, 56% have committed to offering some kind of compensation for artists and production staff involved in cancelled performances, and 67% are exploring performance alternatives and virtual programming." Access the report at: https://tinyurl.com/y9ucoahn.

Actor’s Equity says it has “troubling reports” of theatres planning May 6 openings: https://tinyurl.com/yb7lpqhz.

Brian Allen is the first NFL player to test positive for the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/ybb8jkg8.


Mobilizing:

Entertainment technicians build a hospital in Cardiff, Wales: https://tinyurl.com/y9n942ex.

It’s now possible to 3D-print face masks: http://maskimpact.com/.

InfoComm wants to know: What sessions or topics would you want to see at a virtual edition of its annual trade show? https://tinyurl.com/y8c6s9xu.

Entertainment:

Off Broadway’s Metropolitan Playhouse will stream a reading of Overtones, a 1913 play by Alice Gerstenberg. The event takes place April 18 at 8:00pm, ET and is available via Zoom and YouTube: http://www.metropolitanplayhouse.org/virtualplayhouse.

###

**COVID-19 Update: April 15, 2020:**

**How Much Is a Human Life Worth?**

The President’s decision to cut funding for World Health Organization sparks widespread fury: https://tinyurl.com/ullgcn3.
The CDC and FEMA are circulating a plan to reopen the economy, a decision not really theirs to make: https://tinyurl.com/tb5p6hy. But if your stimulus check is late, it may be because the President wanted his name on it: https://tinyurl.com/v7tr3o5. And a GOP Congressman says an increased death rate is the lesser of two evils compared to an economic shutdown: https://tinyurl.com/yx4p253m.

Meanwhile:

Consumer spending is in the cellar: https://tinyurl.com/s3th4o.


But GM and Ventilec are ahead of schedule with those ventilators: https://tinyurl.com/wuh3462.

A new survey shows that Washington, DC audiences are not going to be rushing back to the theatre: https://tinyurl.com/uz7t8v3.

The President wants professional sports back: https://tinyurl.com/wtxokf6.

The LA Times, absent any ad revenue, furloughs staff members: https://tinyurl.com/sgr32xz.

How dallying led to mass death: China waited six days to announce the pandemic: https://tinyurl.com/s849keb.

Many cruise ship personnel are experience a peculiar form of lockdown: https://tinyurl.com/ufmzsb2.

How Andrea Bocelli’s Easter livestream became a global blockbuster: https://tinyurl.com/th9u39t.

Mobilizing:

Global Citizen has announced a second round of artists for its One World: Together At Home global broadcast Saturday night, with Taylor Swift, Celine Dion, Shawn Mendes, Camila Cabello, Jennifer Lopez, Alicia Keys, Sam Smith, Usher, and Pharrell Williams among the musicians newly set to join the telecast. The six-hour digital stream pre-telecast show will begin at 2:00pm ET, 11:00am PT: https://tinyurl.com/v7dkg43.

Learning / Training:

ETC introduces On Headset, a new audio series that allows listeners to program a major theatrical production in real time while listening to the audio cues of a lighting designer. The series features esteemed Broadway’s Ken Billington and a lightly curated recording of the headset conversations during technical rehearsals of the New York City Center Encores’ Me and My Girl in May of 2018. The recordings are broken into 13 episodes, which start as Billington begins putting cues into the console and end after the dress rehearsal – which for Encores, is about 90 percent of the lighting time allowed. Users can find the audio series on their preferred podcast streaming service or at https://www.etcconnect.com/onheadset/.

Meyer Sound launches a comprehensive daily online training session: https://tinyurl.com/rluxk5n.

Synthax is also hosting daily online training: https://www.synthax.com/webinars/.

Company News:

As an alternative to its annual vendor event, 4Wall’s Virtual Vendor Showcase currently has a total of 30 manufacturers signed on. Starting on Monday, April 20, at 10:00am PT through Friday, April, 24, 4Wall will premiere prerecorded videos on its Facebook page, live for a little over an hour. The concept and creative direction were left in the hands of each manufacturer, so 4Wall is expecting some fun and entertaining videos. In addition, 4Wall and each manufacturer will participate in a Code Word Challenge. Each vendor video will incorporate a code word. If you collect all the code words, you will be entered to win swag packages from the 30+ manufacturers and 4Wall.To RSVP for the event and see a complete list of manufacturers, go to https://tinyurl.com/weyrdrc.
Cancellations / Postponements:

The Cannes Film Festival won’t happen as planned. Since this story was published, the sidebars Critics’ Week and Directors’ Fortnight have been put off, too: https://tinyurl.com/u6ohfdl.

San Francisco Opera cancels its summer season: https://sfopera.com/summer2020/.


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**COVID-19 Update: April 14, 2020:**

**Who’s the Boss?**

As signs of easing begin, governors on both coasts form coalitions to manage process of reopening their cities: https://tinyurl.com/2abv29. And yesterday’s presidential briefing becomes a psychodrama: https://tinyurl.com/us7uy8m.

And here’s how that Smithfield pork plant became a viral hot spot: https://tinyurl.com/rlkqmaw.

**Meanwhile:**

Executives at Brooklyn Academy of Music take steep pay cuts: https://tinyurl.com/s7skz5k. The theatre has also cancelled its season through June.

Tokyo has no Plan B if the Olympics must be postponed a second time: https://tinyurl.com/rk74flx.

San Francisco Opera cancels its summer season: https://sfopera.com/summer2020/.

Tokyo has no Plan B if the Olympics must be postponed a second time: https://tinyurl.com/rk74flx.

Governor Ron DeSantis, of Florida, has deemed pro wrestling an essential business: https://tinyurl.com/wn658mu. Florida, by the way, is in the top ten of states’ COVID-19 infections.

That unfortunate conflict between Broadway Cares and the musicians’ union has been resolved and the fundraising show will go on: https://tinyurl.com/usgcyqd.

Broadway commits to taking part to honor essential workers in the Light It Blue campaign: https://tinyurl.com/wor6pnl.

The XFL files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy: https://tinyurl.com/s3yzm4z.

In the UK, playwright James Graham warns that the theatre industry won’t survive without a massive government bailout: https://tinyurl.com/w2znchm.

Losses: Actor Allen Garfield, a key figure in 1970s cinema, thanks to his roles in Nashville and The Conversation, among others: https://tinyurl.com/v8xakpx. Wynn Handman, famed acting teacher and founder of the American Place Theatre: https://tinyurl.com/qvd9b4w.

**Mobilizing:**

Broadway producers have pledged to match, dollar for dollar and up to $1 million, every new donation made to Broadway Cares’ emergency COVID-19 fund. You can make your tax-deductible donation at https://donate.broadwaycares.org/campaign/covid-19-emergency-assistance-fund/c276873.

**Company News:**

Adrian Segeren, president of Ultratec Special Effects, writes, “From only a few months ago to now, times have certainly changed. We came roaring in to 2020, only to come to a screeching halt. While the COVID-19 pandemic has put our industry on pause, it cannot stop us from talking with our peers, engaging with our clients and inspiring one another while...”
we wait for normalcy to return.

“Rest assured, we continue to take steps so we are prepared when entertainment events resume. Our pyro development team has been proactive, completing maintenance and upgrades at our manufacturing facility. This will strengthen our capabilities so we can service you better than ever.

“Likewise, our special effects team recently sent out an e-blast on maintenance of special effects machines. Currently we are waiving the assessment fee for any machine. With the time available, this will allow our customers to have their machines serviced, repaired and ready for use.

“We are always ready to hear from you, whatever you may need. This includes orders, repairs, consultation, or if you just want to talk about the current state of our industry. While the COVID-19 pandemic may have collectively knocked us to our knees, we will rise again. The time will come when the low-fog rolls in, the haze radiates over the stage and the stadium is lit up with beautiful bright colored mines, comets and Kleen Skybursts. When you come together again, we will be here for you.”

http://www.ultratecfx.com/home

Education and Taining:

ChamSys has expanded its Training Academy. Conducted by the ChamSys training staff, the new sessions will delve deeply into key MagicQ software capabilities, such as mapping complex fixtures, FX setup and tracking. In addition to being livestreamed on Facebook and IGTV, the lessons will be available for viewing 24/7 on the ChamSys website at https://tinyurl.com/ujvtr3j.

Pangolin and Kvant have posted a number of informative training videos: https://tinyurl.com/vmzx8ye.

TAIT is now offering free online training courses for iQ Powered by NAVIGATOR to the live event community. The Q Training Video Series is tailored to all levels of entertainment automation. Viewers will learn how to operate machines using a variety of methods, add windows to workspaces, create time saving presets, program a show using various cue lines and organizational helpers, as well as stop and restart cues. In addition to the launch of TAIT’s online training, Scott Chalfant, director of product management for TAIT Navigator, is co-hosting USITT’s News @ Noon webinar on Thursday, April 16, 2020 to further dive into iQ Powered by Navigator and show viewers how to access the iQ Training Video Series. TAIT’s iQ Training Videos will be offered at no charge until May 15, 2020. Find the video series at https://tinyurl.com/tkhawc6. Register for the USITT event at https://tinyurl.com/qlk9l6n.

Zero 88 has ramped up its training offerings, 42 of them per month, as long as the crisis lasts. Check them out at https://zero88.com/

Entertainment:

Off Broadway’s Red Bull Theatre will livestream a reading of John Ford’s Jacobean revenge tragedy ‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore on April 20 at 7:30pm ET. Check it out at https://www.redbulltheater.com/live.

The Wooster Group, one of New York’s most storied avant-garde theatres, is now streaming one of its seminal productions, Spalding Gray’s Rumstick Road. Viewing is free; donations are welcome: https://tinyurl.com/vljnk48.

COVID-19 Update: April 13, 2020:

Playing for Time

Good morning. The fourth week of lockdown begins.

Experts, including those in the Trump Administration, throw cold water on the idea of a quick reopening of the economy: https://tinyurl.com/rchs6oc. The president signals his dissatisfaction with Dr. Anthony Fauci: https://tinyurl.com/t6ob38d. A pork plant closes, thanks to the virus, raising fears about the food supply chain. https://tinyurl.com/thpn9rs. Boris Johnson is out of the hospital, but he faces a long recovery: https://tinyurl.com/ubqdgxu.
Meanwhile:

The Pope’s Easter message, noting that the virus has most badly hurt the poor, calls for universal basic income: https://tinyurl.com/uezn4bg.

LA County extends its stay-at-home order until May 15: https://tinyurl.com/vuxerg8.

Salary cuts are in place at Live Nation, with CEO Michael Rapino foregoing his 2020 salary: https://tinyurl.com/ryw2ge2. Broadway Cares planned to stream a recorded Disney concert for COVID-19 relief. Then negotiations broke down with the musicians’ union. Now the musicians are demanding that the show go on: https://tinyurl.com/rmx6fs.

Disney World furloughs 43,000 employees: https://tinyurl.com/umb7uyq. And Disney CEO Robert Iger, who planned to step back, is back in control: https://tinyurl.com/wc2ozas.

The Shubert Organization has furloughed employees across several departments: https://tinyurl.com/wz9qgx.

The cruise ship industry, already on the ropes, has been hit by a CDC order that cruises should not "resume until COVID-19 no longer constitutes a public health emergency, the agency rescinds or modifies the order or for 100 days, whichever comes first:" https://tinyurl.com/wr53uxt.

The XFL has suspended operations and laid off most of its staff: https://tinyurl.com/t8k32xw.

A Las Vegas-based reporter predicts that sports will drive the city’s recovery: https://tinyurl.com/v3pgx4f.

Broadway star Danny Burstein recounts his harrowing experience with the virus: His wife, the leading lady Rebecca Luker, who is already coping with ALS, has also been infected: https://tinyurl.com/w32uh82.


On The Mobilization Front:

A virtual Seder, featuring an array of stars, including Billy Porter, Idina Menzel, Jason Alexander, and Andy Cohen, raises over $1.6 million for virus relief: https://tinyurl.com/t3vy7h6.

Company News:

Atlanta-based MAGNUM took part in the #LightItBlue event: https://tinyurl.com/ulqq37d. The company has also posted a list of free things to do while sheltering at home: https://tinyurl.com/vx3gh5f5; a guide to virtual events: https://tinyurl.com/wls6lb7; advice on switching to a virtual event: https://tinyurl.com/tk9rvqg; a list of training opportunities: https://tinyurl.com/sjsyqy8; and a list of livestreams and virtual concerts: https://tinyurl.com/rqkwfdp.

Vincent Lighting has also posted an excellent list of training opportunities: https://tinyurl.com/qvzh7x.

Cancellations / Postponements:

Of course, the Burning Man Festival is off: https://tinyurl.com/vb44jeb.

Entertainment:

Dave Molloy’s musical Beardo, about Rasputin, is streaming for free for two weeks: https://vimeo.com/405728003.

Jazz at Lincoln Center is putting its gala online, starting April 15. Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra are joined by Cécile McLorin Salvant, Dianne Reeves, and other luminaries: https://tinyurl.com/wwwlf2o.

That’s all for today. Stay safe, everyone.
COVID-19 Update: April 10, 2020:
Optimism: True or False?

Greetings from New York, the city that has more cases than any nation on the planet: https://tinyurl.com/yx4wzzto. The number of deaths worldwide approaches 100,000: https://tinyurl.com/wdp4dym. The president wants to reopen the country in two weeks: https://tinyurl.com/rfzp3l3. Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks out against coronavirus conspiracy theories: https://tinyurl.com/srhijv5. And the governor of Florida falsely claims that COVID-19 doesn’t threaten children: https://tinyurl.com/vbt2kxy.

Mark Harris wonders what happens to a Broadway starved for tourists and investors: https://tinyurl.com/sqezc2q.


You can still make nominations for the NAMM TEC Awards, thanks to an extended deadline of August 31: https://www.tecawards.org/call-for-entries.


Helping Out / Mobilizing:

The Roadie Rescue Campaign, created to provide relief to eligible freelance professionals, has raised close to $70,000 in donations to date, both through direct contributions to the GoFundMe campaign started in its name and to a special Show Makers Symposium (pending 501C-3) fund set up in the name of the Roadie Rescue Campaign. The contribution milestone was achieved by major contributions from three donors. Kim and Tom Scholz, multi-instrumentalist founder of the American rock band, Boston, made a $50,000 campaign contribution to Roadie Rescue managed by Show Makers Symposium. Take1 Insurance made a $10,000 contribution directly to the GoFundMe campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise $250,000 in donations to provide relief to eligible freelance professionals affected by the coronavirus pandemic due to event cancellations. The campaign is initially being sponsored by Alive Risk, Clair Global, the Event Safety Alliance, Griffin360, Merch Roadie, Show Makers Symposium and Take1 Insurance, with other companies expected to join the cause. www.roadierescue.com.

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation has created an emergency assistance fund to help members in need: https://tinyurl.com/uxhen37.

ViacomCBS has launched a $100 million fund to provide support to the crew members, actors, and filmmakers whose livelihoods have been impacted by the production shutdown: https://tinyurl.com/rga526s.

Training:

Sensaphonics, in-ear monitoring specialist firm is offering free email consultation with Dr. Michael Santucci, the company’s founder and president. for music industry professionals. Dr. Santucci is a globally recognized expert and advocate in hearing wellness for musicians. Each day during April, Dr. Santucci will reply personally to hearing health questions from pro audio and music industry workers who are sidelined during the coronavirus pandemic. Questions can be submitted at: sensaphonicsaudiologist@gmail.com.

Shure has expanded its learning offerings. Check them out at https://tinyurl.com/ux3n9sy.

Company Reports:

TAF (Truss Aluminum Factor) writes that it “is well aware of the world-wide situation with the COVID pandemic and that is why, based on the company’s long experience in manufacturing temporary structures for event industry, we would like to
take part in the fight against it. We can offer our skills and production capacities in order to help to save lives. We are able to produce and deliver temporary units from trussing structures for whatever purpose is needed, from mall (10’ x 10’) units to large-scale temporary tents, roofs, or halls. We can accommodate the structures with proper covers to ensure their complete functionality in both indoor and outdoor installations.”

Cancellations / Postponements:

Lincoln Center has cancelled its summer programs, including Mostly Mozart, Midsummer Night Swing, and Lincoln Center Out of Doors: https://tinyurl.com/v5mggnd.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic has cancelled the rest of its season; the fate of the Hollywood Bowl summer seasons remains up in the air: https://tinyurl.com/rrrfzcx.

Disney puts a stop to UFC’s plan to stage an event on tribal land: https://tinyurl.com/r2a7h8n.

Universal Studios is keeping its theme parks closed through the end of May, at a minimum: https://tinyurl.com/v9re85w.

New Entertainment Options:

Irish Repertory Theatre is providing more online programming. Meet the Makers is a digital series of conversations with scholars and Irish Rep artists discussing their work and theatre in general. Follow the hashtags #IRTMeettheMakers and #IrishRepOnline for Meet the Makers updates and new videos. All videos will also live on Irish Rep’s website: www.irishrep.org/meetthemakers.

Check out New York Philharmonic concerts on demand at https://nyphil.org/playson.

Playwrights Horizons today launches Soundstage, an original anthological series of scripted short fiction works commissioned from a wide range of playwrights. Episode 1, by Heather Christian, is out, Episode 2, by Robert O’Hara, is out next Thursday, April 16, and subsequent episodes will be released biweekly thereafter, with Jordan Harrison’s on Thursday, April 30, and Qui Nguyen’s on Thursday, May 14. Playwrights creating later episodes include Kirsten Childs, Milo Cramer, Jeremy O. Harris, Lucas Hnath, Carlos Murillo, Jenny Schwartz, and Kate Tarker. Episodes run 15 – 40 minutes in length and are available for free to listeners on all major podcasting platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, and Stitcher.

See the Vakhtangov State Academic Theatre of Russia’s production of Anna Karenina at https://tinyurl.com/tq6dsbd. This portal provides other examples of Russian theatre productions.

WP Theater has announced that the third biennial Pipeline Festival will continue virtually, with #pipelineonline. Originally slated to begin performances on March 26, each of the festival plays will now be featured weekly by WP Lab Artists in weekly emails and on WP Theater’s Instagram @wptheater, through April 24.

COVID-19 Update: April 9, 2020:

Flickers of Light

The president sees light at the end of the tunnel; experts agree, even if they insist it is not so near: https://tinyurl.com/sdoozd6.

And another 6.6 million people have applied for unemployment for a pandemic total of 17 million: https://tinyurl.com/yxx-w8rec.

In New York, a flatter curve comes at a price: https://tinyurl.com/wvb6gp5.

Economic boost: Federal Reserve moves to inject $2.3 trillion in loans to support the economy: https://tinyurl.com/to6j4jp.
Not-so-Chinese virus: A new study shows that, in New York at least, most of the viral infections have come from Europe: [https://tinyurl.com/wxbxnd4](https://tinyurl.com/wxbxnd4).

Questions abound about the upcoming primaries and election, but one thing is for sure: The president doesn’t want you to vote by mail: [https://tinyurl.com/vo44y3r](https://tinyurl.com/vo44y3r).

With a foreshortened season, Broadway grossed much less this year: [https://tinyurl.com/u2wwcrn](https://tinyurl.com/u2wwcrn).

The Latest in Learning:

The German loudspeaker manufacturer d&b audiotechnik is offering a variety of webinars on the effective use of its products. Check out the education calendar at [https://tinyurl.com/t7tpulh](https://tinyurl.com/t7tpulh).

Sennheiser’s SoundAcademy has added two more events to its training calendar: On Tuesday, April 14, a virtual roundtable on “Mixing Live Sound -- Front of House” has Brandon Blackwell (Lizzo, ASAP Rocky, Camila Cabello), Brett “Scoop” Blanden (Lady Antebeellum), Snake Newton (Harry Styles, Supertramp, Robbie Williams), and Phillip J. Harvey (Lorde, My Bloody Valentine) as panelists. Thursday, April 16 will see a virtual “House of Worship Roundtable” in which guests Brian Gowing, Chris Huff, Chad Kirkpatrick, and Matt Sales will discuss topics such as virtual services and investment choices. Register for the first at [https://tinyurl.com/srsh3ad](https://tinyurl.com/srsh3ad) and for the second at [https://tinyurl.com/ud6vdu3](https://tinyurl.com/ud6vdu3).

Check out the latest webinar offerings from RCF Audio at [https://tinyurl.com/t65fdce](https://tinyurl.com/t65fdce).

Shure is hosting a webinar on how to improve your webinar audio, a topic of supreme interest these days. It takes place April at 11:00am. Register at [https://tinyurl.com/vyh9awq](https://tinyurl.com/vyh9awq).

More Mobilizing:

The actress Taraji P. Henson has created a free virtual therapy services for African Americans stressed out by the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/rbzcz9v](https://tinyurl.com/rbzcz9v).

Companies Continue to Check In:

ADAM Audio has a full lineup of webinars available at [https://tinyurl.com/rchghu7](https://tinyurl.com/rchghu7).

Bandit Lites recently surpassed more than 120,000 Facebook followers, 54,000 Instagram followers and 16,000 Twitter followers. According to Sharon Gross, the company’s media relations coordinator, “On any given week we’re seeing nearly one million people reached in the touring industry, from veterans to students to people who simply like to see the behind-the-scene looks of their favorite artists’ tours.” In addition to sharing the goings-on in shops and on tours and installations, Bandit’s team has made available tips and insights through the blog “Bandit Dimmer Beach.” Mark Steinwachs, the company’s general manager, has written more than 250 posts ranging from programming and design tips to debates on what films make up the best “bus movies,” and amassed more than 920,000 views: [http://www.banditdimmerbeach.com/](http://www.banditdimmerbeach.com/).

Robe was part of the stunning lighting display put on by several Benelux lighting companies on March 22, to honor those fighting on the front lines against the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/uggwge2](https://tinyurl.com/uggwge2).

Cancellations and Postponements:

The Broadway musical Beetlejuice has officially closed. Originally scheduled to run through June 6, having been evicted the landlord, the Shubert Organization to make room for the fall revival of The Music Man, starring Hugh Jackman. Rumors abounded, however, that the producers were looking for another theatre. The announcement leaves the door open for such a possibility, but on Broadway today everything is up in the air, so who knows? [https://tinyurl.com/teg2gop](https://tinyurl.com/teg2gop).

The 2020 Boston Pops spring season, which was to take place May 16 – June 13, has been canceled due to ongoing concerns over the spread of COVID-19. A near-unprecedented moment in the 135-year history of the Boston Pops, the cancellation of the upcoming season is the first time an entire season of the famed ensemble has been canceled since 1890; that year there were no Boston Pops concerts due to the fact that the managers at the time were unable to procure a liquor license. The BSO is in daily conversations to assess the advisability of proceeding with all its upcoming program-
ming over the next few months, including the 2020 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular and the 2020 Tanglewood season.

For your Entertainment:


“Your Favorite Actors, Their Favorite Shakespeare” is Alabama Shakespeare Festival’s virtual Shakespeare monologue project where ASF alumni perform their favorite Shakespeare monologues and share anecdotes of their experiences with the State Theatre. The project is part of ASF’s extensive “Play On!” initiative to provide theatre lovers of all ages with performance and educational content online.

“This crisis has affected so many of us, particularly theatre artists. Postings will begin on Friday, April 10, via ASF’s social media channels and will be available at ASF.net/PlayOn.

The Obie Award-winning Off Broadway theatre HERE announces additional free online programming designed to uplift audiences during these challenging times. These programs include #stillHERE, a weekly Livestream featuring a HERE artist who invites viewers to share in the creation of new work; and HERE@HOME, a weekly watch party that streams full-length productions previously presented at HERE; and #COVIDEO, a sequential, community-built work of video art that is led by HERE artists and staff, and that the public is invited to participate in. Find out more at https://tinyurl.com/s8klipyn.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts has launched a new website for its one-stop portal to all digital offerings from across its campus, Lincoln Center at Home (#LincolnCenterAtHome). Audiences around the globe can visit LincolnCenter.org to add a wealth of arts offerings to their family’s daily calendars. New videos are posted every day. The On Demand section offers content available at any time -- including links to digital archives, access to remote collections, Q+As with artists, workshops, performances, and more.

Off Broadway’s Metropolitan Playhouse will livestream a reading of Alice Gerstenberg’s 1917 one-act comedy Hearts on April 11, 2020 at 8:00pm EST. It is available via Zoom and YouTube. Go to: https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksjy. Information about the theater’s ARTISTS RELIEF FUND may be found at https://tinyurl.com/unoc6r4.

COVID-19 Update: April 8, 2020:
Critical Data Emerges

Out of the rush of events, patterns are beginning to emerge: The coronavirus is killing twice as many men as women (https://tinyurl.com/qrf3vrt), air pollution is linked to higher death rates (https://tinyurl.com/vvand6c), and black Americans are affected at an alarmingly high rate: https://tinyurl.com/tlufo6.

Back where it all began: Wuhan tentatively returns to life: https://tinyurl.com/sg6kkem.

Could the toll of the pandemic ultimately be less than feared?: https://tinyurl.com/w5dxq2g

But the pace of deaths in the US remains unabated: https://tinyurl.com/u7m5y5.

Broadway will remain shuttered until June 7: https://tinyurl.com/vv3zmun.

As Disney stock slips, Executive Chairman Bob Iger floats the idea of temperature checks at the theme parks: https://tinyurl.com/wjmet73.

In what will surely not be the last such case, Costa Cruises has been hit with a lawsuit over its handling of the coronavirus: https://tinyurl.com/srdy57d.
Indeed, the cruise industry is in rough waters: https://tinyurl.com/ue7k3um.

Survival tactics: Artistic directors of Southern California theatre companies discuss how they are weathering the crisis: https://tinyurl.com/ta9t8nz.

“The Ultimate Fighting Championship plans to hold a pay-per-view event on tribal land in Central California this month,” The New York Times reports, “an attempted end run around widespread federal and state guidelines against holding large gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic, according to three people familiar with the decision: https://tinyurl.com/wzv6lg2.

New York’s Drama Desk will announce its nominations on April 21, based on the assumption that the New York theatre season ended March 13. Plans are in place for a digital announcement of the winners on May 31, pending the situation in the city at the time: https://tinyurl.com/rq5j285.

The Obie Awards are going digital, too, and the money saved from producing the ceremony will go to artists: https://tinyurl.com/tsk9nf2.

Williamstown Theatre Festival teams up with Audible for a remarkably creative solution to the question of its upcoming summer season: https://tinyurl.com/vwt5e96.

Whatever else happens, the Cannes Film Festival will not be digital: https://tinyurl.com/rikxddw.


Sidebar: R. Kelly’s request for prison release, because he is at risk of contracting the coronavirus, has been denied: https://tinyurl.com/vxyvplh.

**Mobilization Continues:**

All Bandit Lites offices have made available to local governments and hospitals, power distribution systems, IT data distribution systems, and portable structures and lighting, completely free of charge. Bandit has also made available, free of charge, its Nashville rehearsal facility, Venue One, for use by any artist that needs a place to perform a live stream event during this critical time: https://tinyurl.com/vs32bkv.

In seven days, Lady Gaga has raised $35 million for World Health Organization’s COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund: https://tinyurl.com/w26blmx.

HireArtists.org is a new service designed activate and support the talents of artists currently in isolation. The commission-free marketplace allows accomplished, dedicated practitioners from across the arts to monetize their knowledge and offer services both creative and practical, including visual art and performances, classes and coaching, and assistance with everyday or professional tasks such as personal organizing, IT help, video editing, and more. For example, theater artist Sibyl Kempson offers “Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Plants” via FaceTime or Skype from Upstate New York, longtime Blue Man group member Peter Musante teaches no-equipment-needed “Drum Lessons for Beginners,” while seasoned stage and event manager Katherine Shelton (“Stage Manager For Your Brain”) draws from her fast-paced, detail-oriented training to create systems that individuals and businesses can use to nimbly navigate the new Zoom order. Nourishment in many forms abounds: “Cooking Class in English with a French Accent,” taught by beloved Brooklyn-based impresario Lucien Zayan (The Invisible Dog); private trauma and tension release sessions from New Orleans-based filmmaker and choreographer Meryl Murman; “Restorative Contact for Couples,” by the practice’s creator Gabrielle Revlock. Creative entertainment and education for children and their parents and caretakers is already well-represented -- with live animation lessons, puppet making, tele-therapeutic art classes, and more -- and sure to expand. https://hireartists.org/.

Twitter’s Jack Dorsey is donating $1 billion to coronavirus relief: https://tinyurl.com/v2ews2h.

**Educational Opportunities:**

Ashly Audio’s Ashly University, a series of training webinars available for free online, is now open for signups. Multiple
classes and training sessions will be available each week on a variety of subjects related to Ashly solutions and how they improve outcomes for end users across multiple verticals. Classes are available to everyone, and sign-ups are available now at https://tinyurl.com/ty65vbb.

Chauvet Professional has added a new Thursday Tech Talk Series to its extensive training library to help lighting designers and programmers acquire new skills and sharpen existing ones. The series will be streamed every Thursday at 2 pm EST (7 pm GMT) on Facebook Live, Instagram Live, YouTube Live and LinkedIn Live. Conducted by Chauvet Professional product managers, Thursday Tech Talks will feature “How To,” “New Tech,” and “Design Tip” formats covering a wide-range of lighting and video wall subjects. The recorded sessions will also be available anytime at https://tinyurl.com/rav8lz.

Harman’s next webinar, Line Array Calculators III Basics with Chris Gavin - Session One, will be held Thursday at 10am, CDT. Register at https://tinyurl.com/umgld7h. Register for Session Two at https://tinyurl.com/vu5d96x. A webinar on JBL Intellivox Loudspeakers - Beam Shaping Technology will take place Friday at 11am. Register at https://tinyurl.com/svy9gw9.

Martin by Harman is hosting P3 Training – Basic to Advanced on April 13 at 10am CDT. Register at https://tinyurl.com/w8smrho. A lighting programming workshop, hosted by lighting designer Susan Rose, takes place April 16 at 11am CDT. Register at https://tinyurl.com/wvxj7w5. Club Leve Touring, hosted by designer Eric Price, is set for April 24 at 1pm CDT. You can register at https://tinyurl.com/wamujnm.


News From Industry Companies:

DAS Audio reports it is hanging tough: “At DAS Audio, a family-run business, we have ruled out implementing a redundancy program for our more than 150 workers worldwide. The firm’s management team, chaired since its foundation in 1971 by Juan Alberola Calabuig, has announced that ‘We won’t lay off employees, we will get through this together.’ DAS Audio is in a position to face industry shutdowns due to the COVID-19 virus until at least June 30th, after which we will continue to take the necessary steps to protect the interests of our employees, collaborators, distributors and partners worldwide. The road to recovery will not be easy or immediate, but we will get there.”

Cancellations and Postponements:

The national tour of The Band’s Visit is on hiatus until July 26.

The national tour of The Book of Mormon is closing.

The Broadway revival of How I Learned to Drive, at Manhattan Theatre Club, is postponed until next season: https://tinyurl.com/rmw6zrq.

The announcement of the Pulitzer Prizes has been postponed until May 4: https://tinyurl.com/vdhu4yu.

Summer NAMM is off. C.F. Martin, NAMM chair, and Joe Lamond CEO, write. “After speaking with so many of you and closely following the latest news regarding the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Summer NAMM, scheduled for July 9 – 11 in Nashville. We sincerely recognize the importance of this annual mid-year gathering for our industry. However, the current circumstances make it impossible to hold the show or to undertake the many months of careful planning and preparation that are required to create a secure and organized event.”

More Entertainment:

The acclaimed, if short-lived Broadway musical Bandstand will be available for streaming April 10 – 17. The price is $6.99, with a portion of the proceeds going to The Actors Fund, in support of its coronavirus relief efforts: https://tinyurl.com/wf9crp6.
French speakers, take note: The Comédie Française is now streaming its productions: https://tinyurl.com/vow3bh8.

PBS is now streaming its Great Performances series for free: https://tinyurl.com/sfgny92.

Temple Emanuel Streicker Center will commemorate Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) with the PBS/WNET film of Jeff Cohen’s acclaimed drama The Soap Myth. The staged “concert reading,” starring seven-time Emmy Award and five-time Golden Globe Award winner Ed Asner and four-time Tony Award and two-time Emmy Award nominee Tovah Feldshuh, is available now to stream for free via WNET’s ALL ARTS platform.

The streaming service STAGE is now offering some titles for free: https://tinyurl.com/vyzwob9.

###

**COVID-19 Update: April 7, 2020:**

Is That a Plateau in View?


The country’s most influential virus model has revised its efforts downward. Of course, not everyone agrees: https://tinyurl.com/ue4ssg6.

For the first time, China reports no new COVID-19 cases. Great news, if it is to be believed: https://tinyurl.com/ssxbnjh.

Both of the above stories have sparked a good mood on Wall Street: https://tinyurl.com/stcyly2.

There is cautious optimism in New York that a plateau is in sight: https://tinyurl.com/tv333j6.

Elsewhere, in Florida, infections are surging: https://tinyurl.com/urmmd75.

New Zealand has had remarkable success in flattening the curve: https://tinyurl.com/tsxzdww.

From the 1918 epidemic, evidence that extreme social distancing allows economies to bounce back faster: https://tinyurl.com/ty6zzz4.

But economist Paul Krugman argues that the government needs to respond more strongly and more efficiently: https://tinyurl.com/s77kzf4.

Experts weigh in on the all-important question for this industry: When will we know it is time to reopen the nation? https://tinyurl.com/yx69c43r.

In the Washington Post, Jennifer Rubin argues that much more testing and tracking are needed before we can all go out of doors again: https://tinyurl.com/rj8pnrt.

Major League Baseball is floating all sorts of ideas to facilitate a season: https://tinyurl.com/vy82e6w.

The CBS Series All Rise will film what is surely the first COVID-19-themed television episode. It will be shot using social distancing techniques: https://tinyurl.com/s8lts39.

Mobilizing and Raising Money:

Billboard has published this excellent, state-by-state guide to relief for music industry workers in need: https://tinyurl.com/wd6tomx.
Global Citizen and World Health Organization are teaming up to produce One World: Together at Home, to be seen on broadcast, cable, and online platforms on April 18, 8:00pm ET. The lineup includes Lady Gaga, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Billie Eilish and Finneas, Lizzo, Stevie Wonder, John Legend, Chris Martin, Eddie Veddeger, Kacey Musgraves, J Balvin, Keith Urban, Alanis Morissette, Lang Lang, Andrea Bocelli, Billie Joe Armstrong, Bura Boy, and Maluma. The plan is to raise money ahead of time and use the event as a celebration. Variety has much more: https://tinyurl.com/sdorgc6. Production 4 Health has been organized to bridge the gap between the infrastructural challenges that the healthcare community is now facing: https://production4health.com/.

Learning Opportunities:
Bose Professional has released its latest podcast episode, “Being the Church During the COVID-19 Emergency.” This episode hosts lead pastors Clint Nolder of Foundation Church in Newnan, Georgia, and Dr. Fayez Ayoub of North Florida Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida; and the resident of The NewGround Group, Don Allensworth. Together they explore how audio and technology within houses of worship can be adapted during the current health crisis and enable congregations to stay connected. The podcast is part of a series offered by Bose Professional in its ongoing efforts to provide educational information, voices of strength, and inspiration for the markets it serves: https://tinyurl.com/tzyhn9t.

CAST is offering training on WYSIWYG essentials (register at https://tinyurl.com/r6hg2wq) and BlackTrax (https://tinyurl.com/ucfsstg). The next webinar, “How to Optimize Your WYSIWYG File to Improve Performance,” is April 15 at 2:00pm ET: https://tinyurl.com/v8lw6k8.

Chauvet DJ and Electro-Voice’s road show has gone digital. You can learn about the companies’ new gear on Friday, April 10 at 2:00pm EDT. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/v6yy5f3.

K-array is holding webinars on control software Wednesday and Friday (register at https://tinyurl.com/v4dru7e) and live sound (register at https://tinyurl.com/wm5raff).

Pangolin is hosting a livestream event on Thursday at 2:00pm, EST. Hosted by Lyra Letourneau, the company’s creative director, it will cover “zone offset effects” inside the company’s BEYOND software. A short Q&A will follow. Catch it at https://tinyurl.com/uq3pz5j.

Cancellations and Postponements:
The national tour of the musical Beautiful: The Carole King Musical is on pause until the fall: https://tinyurl.com/spcfzgc. The North American Theatre Engineering and Architecture Conference -- an important event in the architecture/theatre consulting world -- has been postponed. Instead, NATEAC will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City on July 18 and 19, 2021.

New York’s Public Theater is closed until May 17; performances at Joe’s Pub, its cabaret space, are off until May 30: https://tinyurl.com/u3p46o2.

The Shaw Festival is extending the cancellation of all public events and performances through June 30. This decision has been made in response to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s declaration of a state of emergency and cancellation of all in-person events, meetings, and programming through to the same date. Also, Why Not Theatre and the Shaw Festival report that the 2020 production of Mahabharata is impossible to realize in the current circumstances and must therefore be postponed. Why Not Theatre and The Shaw are committed to bringing Mahabharata to a future festival season and are exploring a number of scheduling options.

Entertainment and the Arts:
New York’s Untitled Theatre Company #61 is offering online versions of its unique presentation, Theatre for One. It is just what it sounds like and you have to reserve. Find out more at https://tinyurl.com/se65ln.t.

The Wooster Group has put online one of its most famous productions, BRACE UP, based on Chekhov’s Three Sisters, with a cast that includes Willem Dafoe, Kate Valk, and Gary Wilmes: https://tinyurl.com/yx7pro82.

###
COVID-19 Update: April 6, 2020:
The Long Week Ahead

Good morning. The Surgeon General warns us about the long week ahead: [cnn.it/3dZk9l3](https://cnn.it/3dZk9l3). The president continues to tout, without evidence, the wonders of hydroxychloroquine: [cnn.it/3c0fcpq](https://cnn.it/3c0fcpq). Boris Johnson is in the hospital, reportedly on oxygen: [wapo.st/2UM8nmm](https://wapo.st/2UM8nmm). And, in New Jersey, the Meadowlands is being made into a field hospital: [https://7ny.tv/2Xfhggq](https://7ny.tv/2Xfhggq).

A government-appointed watchdog finds the nation’s hospital critically lacking gear and lumbered by confusing and ever-shifting government guidelines: [https://nbcnews.to/2XaD32p](https://nbcnews.to/2XaD32p).

Hope on the horizon: “European nations most ravaged by the new coronavirus have reported encouraging signs in their fight against the deadly pandemic, as the United States braced for what may be its ‘hardest’ week:” [https://bit.ly/3aNb8cX](https://bit.ly/3aNb8cX).

In the UK, the Queen shows world politicians how it is done: [https://tinyurl.com/tnttq5h](https://tinyurl.com/tnttq5h).

Meanwhile:

The Kennedy Center comes in for criticism for accepting $25 million from the government -- and furloughing hundreds of employees: [https://wapo.st/2JKCHrq](https://wapo.st/2JKCHrq).

In a possible preview of legal actions to come, an investigation is being launched in Australia into Carnival Cruise Lines’ handling of the Ruby Princess, which disembarked in Sydney, releasing many infected passengers into the general population: [https://bit.ly/2xVTBQV](https://bit.ly/2xVTBQV).


Joe Tsai, the billionaire co-founder of Chinese ecommerce giant Alibaba (and owner of the Brooklyn Nets), and his wife Clara Wu Tsai, have donated 2.6 million masks, 170,000 goggles and 2,000 ventilators to New York: [https://cnn.it/2JHU4Jt](https://cnn.it/2JHU4Jt).

Come September: The Venice Film Festival will not be digital: [https://tinyurl.com/wvx9oxu](https://tinyurl.com/wvx9oxu).


Brittany Bronson, a Las Vegas-based writer wonders what is next for her city: [https://nyti.ms/2UNgoYv](https://nyti.ms/2UNgoYv).

On the Mobilization Front:

The Activity, which provides production and design services for the entertainment industry, has put together an extended list of relief resources for touring personnel. It may be the most complete that we’ve seen: [http://the-activity.com/](http://the-activity.com/).


Master FX will be donating 100% of the profits for every “The Show Must Go On” shirt sold to the Crew Nation Fund from
now until May 1st. The Crew Nation Fund helps support live music crews who have been directly impacted by economic hardships. Proceeds will benefit all the backstage staff that help bring concerts to life including tour managers, production managers, riggers, sound engineers, backline techs, lighting directors/designers, special effects teams, carpenters, and more. To purchase a T-shirt, go to https://bit.ly/2xV3cYg.

The Max's Kansas City Project, a 501c3 nonprofit established in 2001, which provides grants to distressed artists, reports being overwhelmed by requests, You can learn more and give, at http://www.maxskansascity.org.

Broadway stars Gideon Glick and Celia Keenan-Bolger cook up a way to help feed the staff at Bellevue Hospital: https://bit.ly/2RgFpZN.

The cast of Hamilton gets together to salute a nine-year-old superfan with an online birthday tribute: https://bit.ly/2XgfEMW.

The Latest from the Industry:

Peavey, which is based in Mississippi -- one of the last states to go on lockdown -- reports: “This week Governor Tate Reeves issued a stay at home edict through April 20 for non-essential businesses in the state of Mississippi, where Peavey is located. While we believe that music and sound are an essential component of all of our lives, we too are doing our part to slow the spread of this coronavirus. Peavey will remain at your service for sales orders and customer service questions, and our warehouse will make shipments two days a week. We hope that everyone takes this time to practice and play an instrument and to rekindle the passion we all have for music. Everyone at Peavey wishes you strength, courage, and endurance as we all go through this unusual time -- together.”

Learning Opportunities:

Martin Audio reports that its training program is off to a record-breaking start. Check it out at https://bit.ly/2RhXjLF.

RCF Audio announces its online training lineup: https://bit.ly/3aLRNZq.

Shure is hosting a webinar titled “Best Practices for Home Conference,” and who couldn’t use that right now? It will be held April 8 at 11:00am CDT. Register at https://bit.ly/3dSsqai.

Cancellations / Postponements / Possible Reopenings:

The website NY Tix reports that Broadway is likely to reopen sometime between June 1 and July 1: https://bit.ly/3bVmcof. London’s West End Theatres will be closed until the beginning of June: https://bit.ly/2xaM5Sr.

The Long Reach Long Riders charity ride has been postponed until 2021. The current plan is to ride the same route that was originally planned for this year. Plans are being developed for an alternate ride for 2020 which will potentially involve a relay from west coast to east coast. The relay concept will call for short one- or two-day day rides for individuals or small groups. It’s currently planned to start on the west coast and finish in Maine. The start date for the relay ride is tentatively scheduled for June 20. Keep up with the latest at http://lrlr.org/.

Mirvish Productions is keeping its four Toronto theatres closed until June 30: https://bit.ly/2UL5hiw.

Colorado’s Theatre Aspen reports, “In adjusting to these extraordinary circumstances, the 2020 summer season will now begin July 6, 2020 and will include two, previously announced, musicals, the Tony-nominated Rock of Ages (July 6 – August 1) by Chris D’Arienzo and the Fred Ebb, Bob Fosse and John Kander Tony Award and Drama Desk Award-winning Chicago (August 6 – August 22). The previously announced Neil Simon comedy The Sunshine Boys will be postponed until the 2021 season.”

Off Broadway’s Clubbed Thumb reports it will postpone the 25th edition of Summerworks, its annual festival of new plays.

More Entertainment and Spiritual Offerings:

Here’s a great list of theatre productions available online: https://bit.ly/2xOdLwI.
On Sunday, April 12, at 2:00pm, a consortium of Jewish cultural organizations will present a “Third Seder,” an unprecedented online international Yiddish cultural celebration featuring leading contemporary performers of the Yiddish and Klezmer stage. The “Third Seder” is produced by Rabbi Avram Mlotek, co-founder of Base Hillel, and Moishe Rosenfeld, founder and president of Golden Land Concerts & Connections. The celebration of Yiddish culture, song, and dance will be livestreamed on April 12, from 2:00 - 4:00pm, on Avram’s Mlotek Facebook, https://bit.ly/2xQIiSY, or http://www.rebrand.ly/thirdseder. Details about the event can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/events/1141566199523498/.

And Last, but Certainly Not Least:

The unflappable and reliably amusing Durham Marenghi has posted another memoir, this one about a rather bizarre live event starring the composer Isao Tomita and a giant Perspex pyramid. Enjoy: https://durhamld.com/category/durhams-digest/.

###

COVID-19 Update: April 3, 2020:
Get Out Your Masks

Greetings. The numbers of the infected are going up. The stock market is going down. But a lot more is happening. Read on.

The White House is expected to urge Americans to wear face masks -- although by the time you read this, it may be another proclamation that went by the boards: https://tinyurl.com/qnnkylc.

Light in the tunnel? The Chinese film and TV industries are starting to gear up again: https://tinyurl.com/v44kcda.

More light? In Spain, the curve is flattening: https://tinyurl.com/s5b5hws.

How they do it in Korea: “The Seoul City government on Friday announced that it will monitor all the 8,578 people who watched The Phantom of the Opera at Blue Square in Yongsan-gu, Seoul. On Tuesday, a Canadian female ballet dancer of the show was confirmed with novel coronavirus infection and another American actor in the ensemble was tested positive on Thursday. ‘We have the list of all the audiences and will send out text messages, Na Baek-joo, director of Seoul City’s public health care management division said during a regular online briefing on Friday at 11:00am.’": https://tinyurl.com/w7yn83k.

New York’s Javits Center begins accepting patients: https://tinyurl.com/raqv3uv.

Bucky Pizzarelli, one of the great contemporary jazz guitarists, passes away: https://tinyurl.com/tapb982.

Singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles was diagnosed with COVID-19, but is now fully recovered: https://tinyurl.com/tjgzeuw.

The Latest Mobilizations:

COVID-19 Entertainment Industry Response, organized by Gallagher Staging and Productions, Silent House, Joe Lewis Company, All Access Inc., and Go For Site Management, is a collective of entertainment professionals based in Southern California with resources, supplies, and crew to aid local governments in the fight against the novel coronavirus. It is dedicated to providing structures for drive-through test facilities, tent hospitals and compounds, cold rooms, and existing facility build-outs: https://www.eir.team/.

Guy Fieri has announced a relief fund for restaurant workers: https://tinyurl.com/rw97lp5.

The latest on theatre workers mobilizing to make face masks, hospital gowns, and other crucial medical gear: https://tinyurl.com/tiyvdh3x. (If you can sew, you can join it; check out the list of links that direct you how to take part.)

N/A Collective, a creative agency meets production house, has issued a call to action for the events industry, both com-
panies and individuals with expertise in this field to use their knowledge and ability for good during the COVID-19 crisis. The experiential community is accustomed to situations where it is important to improvise and to pivot quickly, drawing a parallel to successfully dealing with a crisis such as this. “As the virus spreads exponentially throughout the United States, there has been a surge in hospital patients. In turn, healthcare centers are in dire need of supplies to ensure the health of patients remains paramount and that the healthcare system doesn’t become overwhelmed,” said Chiara Adin Moore, co-founder and chief creative officer at N/A Collective. “There is an entire industry of skilled professionals with untapped knowledge in logistics and event operations who are out of work due to the cancellation of conferences, festivals, trade shows, and we know the entire experiential marketing community will see this as an opportunity to step in to help.” Volunteers are being registered at http://www.canhelpneedshelp.com/.

From the UK, Rob Halliday writes about People Powered, “a team to provide support to the NHS, including in ITUs (intensive treatment units) where need is greatest, to relieve pressure on the health service and assist with flattening the curve. People Powered UK has 915 members and counting from across the entertainment and live event industries. People who usually work at venues like the London Roundhouse and provide production services to festivals are working together across the entire UK. They’re using skills and ingenuity honed building festival infrastructure to provide structures quickly and effectively, and sourcing equipment from outside the NHS’s usual supply chain to provide solutions to challenges hospitals are currently experiencing. Production people already work with emergency services and local authorities at SAGs, on health and safety, and at planning meetings, so already speak the same language.” The group has already completed several much-needed medical structures, created a pop-up grocery for medical workers, and secured thousands of walkie-talkies for hospitals: http://peoplepowereduk.org/.

The Latest Company News:

iWEISS reports, “In consideration of new restrictions imposed by local governments that affect both our Missouri and New Jersey facilities, in conjunction with any construction halts, iWEISS has had to further reduce our fabrication capabilities. At this time, we are no longer producing any materials that require fabrication of any kind. We all hope that we can get back to work as quickly as possible. In the meantime, our full sales, project management, and engineering staff are fully operating in order to keep things moving forward.” The company adds that its teams in both staffs are busy making masks, having donated more than 100 of them to local hospitals.

Keep Learning During This Imposed Downtime:

AVNation, the audio visual industry podcasting, blogging, and social media content provider for professionals, invites dealers, integrators, technicians, and industry professionals in the custom installation space to its first Residential Learn From Home Virtual Event. The virtual event was created to continue education, trainings, and networking as the industry has transitioned to remote work. On April 7 and 8, online sessions, morning, noon, and evening, offer dealers and integrators the opportunity to learn, network, and stay up to date on the best practices and strategies through webinars, video conference panels, and keynotes. Register at https://tinyurl.com/t2k82r6.

Chroma-Q is offering free Vista by Chroma-Q lighting and media control training. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/uhnhced. USITT is announcing an online learning program. Beginning Monday, April 6, USITT will be offering free weekly online learning sessions in the form of two different segments titled “New @ Noon” and “Forum @ Four.” These sessions will take place Monday through Thursday at 12:00pm and at 4:00pm EDT, respectively, via the popular online conference application, Zoom. Schedules and registration at https://tinyurl.com/wjq9xsc.

More Cancellations and Postponements:

In New York, Carnegie Hall has cancelled the remainder of its 2019 – 2020 season, which means all events through July 25 are no longer happening.

Mint Theatre Company, an Off-Broadway mainstay, has cancelled its summer productions, Chains and Partnership, both by Elizabeth Baker.

Orchestra of St. Luke’s (OSL) has cancelled the 2020 OSL Bach Festival scheduled for June 9 – 30, 2020. Canceled events include three orchestral concerts at Zankel Hall presented in association with Carnegie Hall, in addition to concerts, events, and masterclasses at The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, Manhattan School of Music’s Neidorff-Karpati Hall, and Temple Emanu-El’s Streicker Center. OSL musicians will be paid in full for these cancelled programs. The
festival has been reconceived as a curated online series, Bach at Home 2020, and will be released on OSLmusic.org in June.

Off Broadway’s Vineyard theatre has cancelled its spring show, the world premiere of Antoinette Nwandu’s Tuvalu, or the Saddest Song.

And Keep Yourself Up to Date with the Latest Online Entertainment:

Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musicals are going online: https://tinyurl.com/vvkq5wd.

Bindlestiff Open Stage Variety Show: Quarantine Edition, presented by the troupe Bindlestiff Family Cirkys, features the best in both established and up-and-coming variety artists, with a cast that might include a heavy metal magician, kung fu jugglers, trained rats, clown bands, aerial artists, wire walkers, sideshow performers, stripping clowns, living cartoons, physical comedy, contortionists, emerging burlesque starlets, and more. Hosted by Keith “Bindlestiff” Nelson, the show celebrates works in progress, emerging artists, and professionals trying something new – this night promises many surprises. It takes place April 6, at 7:30pm EST. Donations are welcome but not required. RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/st3xut7. From Cirque du Soleil: “Our Cirque du Soleil shows offer an escape from everyday life through delight and whimsy. Announcing #CirqueConnect, your home for Cirque du Soleil content: exercise the #CirqueWay, learn new makeup techniques, dive into VR, or entertain your kids.” https://tinyurl.com/qsvuhqx.

Off Broadway’s Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre announces a series of free weekly online programs designed to connect audiences with new ideas and artistic expressions. On Tuesdays, beginning April 7, the Virtual Salon Series will explore the coronavirus pandemic through in-depth conversations between an artist and a leading expert. On April 7 at 3:00pm EST, Tony Award-nominated and four-time Obie-winning actress Kathleen Chalfant joins medical epidemiologist and pandemic preparedness expert Dr. Steven C. Phillips in conversation. Online reservations are required: https://tinyurl.com/tppqwvm.

Roland Corporation is sponsoring the launch of “We Are Hear: On The Air,” a free multi-platform streaming network set to debut on YouTube that will entertain, educate, and raise funds for entertainers, crew members, and creatives who have been impacted by the current coronavirus pandemic. It is live now. “We Are Hear: On The Air” will bring music, educational discussions, and community entertainment directly to viewer’s homes. Each video on YouTube will feature a “Donate” button linked the MusiCares COVID-19 Relief Fund, which provides relief to members of the music community affected by the coronavirus pandemic, as well as a direct PayPal.me link to support those who might need it during these turbulent times. The first slate of scheduled programming includes “What’s Up with Linda Perry,” “Raise Your Horns with Lzzy Hale,” a performance by Laura Jane Grace of Against Me!, Donita Sparks of L7 Hi-Low Variety Show, “Jesse Malin: The Art of Social Distancing,” “In A Lonely Place with Matt Pinfield,” Tom Green live podcast recording, “Life of Kii Arens – Pop Art, Interviews, and Music,” Live with Macy Gray, DJ Adam 12 Bravin sets, The Top Floor Interactive Dance Party, Frank Turner, and Natasha Bedingfield, and more. New acts will be updated daily: YouTube.com/WeAreHear.

COVID-19 Update: April 2, 2020:
Unemployment and Odd Signs of Hope

Sobering news. More than six million people applied for unemployment last week: https://tinyurl.com/uusxmnp.

Although, oddly, jobless claims dropped in Nevada: https://tinyurl.com/w9gv2gk.

Not to panic you, but: Andrew Cuomo says New York has enough ventilators for six days: https://tinyurl.com/qw2v9bf.

On a brighter note, the evidence shows that social distancing works: https://tinyurl.com/rf83azd.

Sign of the Times: The Democratic National Convention has been postponed: https://tinyurl.com/tx6ka9k.

The Holland America Zandaam, which has roamed the oceans, has is finally being allowed to dock: https://tinyurl.com/wceagcu.
Meaningful action -- like building a hospital in a week -- lifts our spirits. The ExCel Center, formed home of the PLASA Show, is the venue: [https://tinyurl.com/rodfacp](https://tinyurl.com/rodfacp).

Live Nation announces a $10 million fund to support concert crews: [https://tinyurl.com/v2jfmlg](https://tinyurl.com/v2jfmlg).

And here's an Off Broadway company that isn't taking the crisis lying down: [https://tinyurl.com/grnjy4q](https://tinyurl.com/grnjy4q).


In a refreshing move, the UK government has called for businesses to support the fight against the pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/qo82f7c](https://tinyurl.com/qo82f7c).

More losses: Adam Schlesinger, founder of the band Fountain of Waynes, co-songwriter for the Broadway musical Cry-Baby, and contributor of songs to the TV series Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, is dead at 52: [https://tinyurl.com/rzg48ud](https://tinyurl.com/rzg48ud). Jazz pianist Ellis Marsalis, Sr., dies at 85: [https://tinyurl.com/vqjjmgp](https://tinyurl.com/vqjjmgp).

Japan’s entertainment and technology giant Sony has unveiled a $100 million fund to support people around the world: [https://tinyurl.com/v99dj76](https://tinyurl.com/v99dj76).

Dolly Parton pledges $1 million for coronavirus vaccine research: [https://tinyurl.com/r34g39x](https://tinyurl.com/r34g39x).

Brad Paisley, Amy Grant, Jewel, and others launch Gratitunes, a consumer-generated music platform to celebrate and thank members of the VUMC family through the power of music during the COVID-19 pandemic: [https://tinyurl.com/172lno](https://tinyurl.com/172lno).

A slew of Broadway stars are donating their fees from Cameo, an app used to request and receive personalized videos from celebrities and artists, to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS to help raise money for COVID-19 relief: [https://tinyurl.com/r8v83qn](https://tinyurl.com/r8v83qn).

Hope is the thing in Vegas: Hotels on the Strip send a light-up message: [https://tinyurl.com/qogopfs](https://tinyurl.com/qogopfs).

Hone Your Skills in Your Downtime:

The ARRI Academy is pleased to announce the launch of a new course designed for all levels of lighting and video production professionals. “Lighting Systems Control with Richard Cadena” is an 11-part video course that serves as the ultimate guide to get you up and running with digital lighting control, using DMX, RDM, Wireless DMX, and ethernet-based networks: [https://tinyurl.com/vslo7ey](https://tinyurl.com/vslo7ey).

Blackmagic Design will hold a live stream on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 10:00am PDT to provide new developments in its live production and cameras. Held by CEO and cofounder Grant Petty, the stream will be available from Blackmagic Design’s website, as well as on the company’s YouTube and Facebook pages: [https://www.blackmagicdesign.com/](https://www.blackmagicdesign.com/).

Learning and career development continue to move forward at the ChamSys Training Academy. The lighting console maker has been actively expanding its online education resources with new courses, tutorials and appointment opportunities being added on a continuous basis. In addition to providing programmers with the chance to sharpen their skills (and develop new ones), the academy is serving as a platform for them to remain connected to the industry in the wake of the closings and cancelations that have taken place. Open to anyone, the academy offers daily online webinar training sessions. Conducted by active lighting designers and programmers, like Philip Watson, Brett Lorins, and Charles Courser, these sessions cover a range of basic, intermediate and advanced topics. For more information visit the “Training” section of the ChamSys website: [https://tinyurl.com/t4plswj](https://tinyurl.com/t4plswj).

Companies Take Action:

Adam Hall, offering the inspirational message. "We will get through this together," has made available for streaming its online seminar about the industry’s response to the current crisis. Taking part are luminaires from Adam Hall, NAMM, Claypaky, Powersoft, and other companies and organizations: [https://tinyurl.com/v2amoy4](https://tinyurl.com/v2amoy4).
Earl Girls reports that emergency temporary hospital support equipment is available. These include temporary structures, power distribution, communications, lighting, emergency lighting, labor, project management, public address systems, etc. The company reports. “Although operating with limited personnel EGI is remaining open and responsive to our customer’s needs and are continuing to operate with video walls, lighting, staging, rigging and special effects in sales, rentals and installations.” Email don@egipro.com.

PRG leveraging its know-how to help patients and health workers in Berlin and New York by crafting face shields and building a temporary hospital. “We are responding to the rapidly changing needs of our customers during this emergency, and, with projects like these taking shape around the globe, we are actively at work in the fight against the coronavirus. PRG has resources with direct applicability to this important cause, and we take great pride in playing a role,” said Jere Harris, PRG chairman and CEO.

Send in the Gowns: Music Theatre International has partnered with the American Senior Housing Association and Juniper Communities, leaders in seniors housing is launching an initiative to inspire the public to help make or gather Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and donate it to a local senior living community: https://tinyurl.com/u98gxe.

**Companies Continue to Report in:**

From PR Lighting: “Chinese industry is now back to work following the Covid-10 (coronavirus) crisis and Guangzhou-based PR Lighting marked the start of a new month by putting out a statement reassuring their global reseller and customer base that it is once again business as usual. China was the first country to register the outbreak of the coronavirus (on December 31, 2019) and while production remained temporarily idle throughout the country during lockdown, PR Lighting used the first quarter of the new year not only to fine-tune new products already under development but to make some strategic changes to their global sales infrastructure, “PR Lighting is back running 100% as normal,” confirmed company president Dave Liang. “Our technical and marketing departments are fully operational, and production and shipment are back on schedule. We would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.” [www.pr-lighting.com](http://www.pr-lighting.com)

**Cancellations and Postponements:**

The Chita Rivera Awards are postponed until later in the year.

The New York cabaret Feinsteins/54 Below will remain closed until May 12.

The previously postponed Lightfair has been cancelled: “The next LightFair will be in May 2021 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York during NYCxDESIGN – New York Design Week. LightFair returns to the Las Vegas Convention Center in June 2022.”

Lyric Opera of Chicago postpones the remainder of the season: “This includes the musical 42nd Street, the new chamber opera Blue, Family Day at the Lyric Opera House, and all backstage tours, in order to heed social distancing recommendations and continue to support the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois in controlling the spread of COVID-19. This announcement signals the end of public performances and activities through June 30, 2020 – the end of Lyric’s current fiscal year.”

**New Entertainment Opportunities:**

Bleeding Love is a new musical presented by the Broadway Podcast Network, with a starry cast of Broadway veterans, including Annie Golden, Rebecca Naomi Jones, Marc Kudisch, Sarah Stiles, Taylor Trensch, and Tony Vincent. It is available on Apple/iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, iHeart, Tuneln, Deezer, Player.FM, Pocket Cast, Podcast Addict and elsewhere. [https://tinyurl.com/vl23muh](https://tinyurl.com/vl23muh).

Boston Symphony Orchestra is offering a series of online videos featuring interviews, archival audio, and -the-scenes videos: [http://www.bso.org/athome](http://www.bso.org/athome).

Since we’re all conferencing these days, you might be interested in a white paper titled “How Dante AV-over-IP Delivers Better Quality, Centrally Managed Conferencing:” [https://tinyurl.com/uo2786h](https://tinyurl.com/uo2786h).
Florida Grand Opera will present musical offerings at [http://www.FGO.org](http://www.FGO.org).

The Goodman Theatre’s production of Mean Girls; Or The African School Girls’ Play, can be streamed at; GoodmanTheatre.org/StreamSchoolGirls.

Obie Award winner Metropolitan Playhouse will present a “screened” reading of Eugene O’Neill’s 1918 one-act, THE ROPE, via live stream video on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at 8:00pm, EST. Available by Zoom, YouTube, and most web browsers, viewers will find instructions at; [https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksjy](https://tinyurl.com/sn7ksjy).

Baltimore Center Stage, Long Wharf Theatre, The Public, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company announce PLAY AT HOME, a series of micro-commissioned short plays. The first of the commissioned plays will be available beginning Friday, March 2, for the public to download, read and perform at home for free at playathome.org. The program includes works by Jacklyn Backhaus, Donnetta Lavinia Grays, Aleshea Harris, Michael R. Jackson, Hansol Jung, MJ Kaufman, Mike Lew, Ethan Lipton, Mona Mansour, Diana Oh, Lloyd Suh, Regina Taylor, and Lauren Yee. Streaming Musicals ([streamingmusicals.com](http://streamingmusicals.com)) is pleased to announce a special free live streaming event: on Friday, April 10, the site will host a “virtual opening night” for the debut of Pride and Prejudice, in a new musical adaptation by Tony Award nominee Paul Gordon (Broadway’s Jane Eyre). Gordon is also represented on Streaming Musicals with his popular musical adaptation of Jane Austen’s Emma.

More of The 24-Hour Monologues are available online. This week’s lineup includes Derrick Baskin, Quincy Tyler Bernstine, Ato Blankson-Wood, Hugh Dancy, Lora Lee Gayer, Francis Jue, T.R. Knight, Elizabeth Marvel, Sienna Miller, Debra Monk, Tamara Tunie, Alison Wright, Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen, Lydia Diamond, David Lindsay-Abaire, Donald Margulies, Max Posner, Howard Sherman, and Zhu Yi. Catch them at [https://tinyurl.com/rbomnkvy](https://tinyurl.com/rbomnkvy) or IGTV @24hourplays.

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**COVID-19 Update: April 1, 2020:**

**Hanging Tough**

The short-term news is tough: [https://wapo.st/2X1qHcW](https://wapo.st/2X1qHcW).

But there are signs that sheltering at home works: [https://tinyurl.com/rf3au9](https://tinyurl.com/rf3au9).

In New York, Arthur Ashe Stadium is being converted into a hospital: [https://tinyurl.com/wr87t5z](https://tinyurl.com/wr87t5z).

Questions abound about how quickly audiences will bounce back: [https://tinyurl.com/qmbkh7n](https://tinyurl.com/qmbkh7n).

Work has halted on the MSG Sphere project in Las Vegas: [https://tinyurl.com/yx4y66wc](https://tinyurl.com/yx4y66wc).

Broadway national tours remain in limbo: [https://tinyurl.com/vuypp8cj](https://tinyurl.com/vuypp8cj).

The Kennedy Center, in Washington, DC, has furloughed half its administrative staff: [https://tinyurl.com/bxkvgxu](https://tinyurl.com/bxkvgxu).

Despite the fact that the Kennedy Center provides hundreds of jobs in the DC area, some members of Congress think this is the ideal time to strip it of funding: [https://tinyurl.com/vqobfxj](https://tinyurl.com/vqobfxj).

While New York’s art groups struggle to see the way forward: [https://tinyurl.com/tsresze](https://tinyurl.com/tsresze).

Off Broadway’s Lucille Lortel Awards will continue on a revised schedule: [https://tinyurl.com/vrfls6u](https://tinyurl.com/vrfls6u).

New York film and theatre critic William Wolf has passed away: [https://tinyurl.com/r46jyjz](https://tinyurl.com/r46jyjz).

**New Mobilizations:**

Las Vegas Sands Corp. is providing a second substantial wave of medical equipment donations to protect health care professionals and first responders. The resort company announced Tuesday that Nevada and New York will receive 1 million
surgical masks each and that Nevada’s health care industry also will get 20,000 protective suits: https://bit.ly/2UAObDO.

Companies Continue to Help Customers Hone their Skills:

ADJ is hosting a series of “Stay Connected” educational live videos: https://bit.ly/2WWdYYZ.

Adamson has launched a biweekly webinar series: https://tinyurl.com/udj3px4.

Ayrton introduces its “boredom buster” plan: https://bit.ly/2xIFgHr.

d&b audioteknik global segment manager for live and entertainment venues Michael Kinzel will be chatting to DJ and composer Paul Nolan on Instagram Live at 16:00 GMT [11:00am ET] Thursday, April 2. Kinzel and Nolan will discuss everything from how d&b Soundscape is changing DJing and live performance, and how artists can interact with Soundscape directly on stage. There will also be an opportunity for viewers to ask their audio questions. Join in by following @dbaudiotechnik_gmbh.

Fulcum Acoustics notes that this is the ideal time to learn EASE Focus 3, the acoustic simulation program used for 3D modeling to set up a sound system. It is free to download at https://bit.ly/2V6ocn9. Fulcrum Acoustic has made all of the GLL files for its loudspeakers available on the support page of its website: https://bit.ly/3bGgTJb. The EASE Focus 3 features web page offers a step-by-step process to help you started using the program: https://bit.ly/341Zyb1.

The Illuminating Engineering Society has released a video interview titled The Impact of COVID-19 on Lighting Professionals: https://tinyurl.com/to8u99h.

JBL’s next seminar, Audio Challenges in Esports, will take place April 9: https://bit.ly/3aGfiDq.

Martin Audio has a series of weekly seminars planned: https://martin-audio.com/training.

Martin by Harman will launch a new product on April 15: https://bit.ly/2xB0gjv.

Powersoft is offering additional training: https://tinyurl.com/rex4zo7.

Cancellations and Postponements:

Berkshire Theatre Group will start its season in August: https://tinyurl.com/ukanbwx.

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival has been cancelled: https://tinyurl.com/qltfrua.

The rest of Hamilton’s San Francisco run has been cancelled: https://tinyurl.com/smw8skk.

Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival has cancelled its season: https://tinyurl.com/uukzns9.

ZACH Theatre in Austin, Texas has been forced to furlough 75% of employees to temper the loss in revenue. Furloughed employees will continue to receive 100% of their current health benefits from the organization. Remaining staff will work on reduced salaries with leadership taking the largest cut, preparing for the return of programming this summer and producing virtual content to connect with the community until performances resume.

And Justin Bieber has cancelled his 2020 dates: https://tinyurl.com/txfwbrc.

And for Your Entertainment Pleasure:

Broadway.com, with producers Eric Kuhn and Justin Mikita, will present a live reading of Terrence McNally’s Lips Together, Teeth Apart on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 8:00pm EDT. Benefitting the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS’ COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund, the livestream will be dedicated to McNally, who passed away on March 24, due to coronavirus complications. Viewers can watch on https://www.broadway.com/ and its Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Broadway/ and https://www.youtube.com/user/Broadwaycom channels: http://shorturl.at/djxy1.
The GRAMMY Museum announces its next round of free digital content from its archive. The Public Programs digital series features interviews with artists and musicians. To be added through the month are interviews with Billie Eilish and Finneas, Kool and the Gang, Andrea Bocelli, Tanya Tucker, Common, Richard Marx, and many more. The museum also offers digital education content and lesson plans along with daily playlists: http://www.grammymuseum.org.

JK Rowling has launched Harry Potter at Home, a digital hub designed to keep your kids amused: https://tinyurl.com/tbgn-br9.

Opera America has an excellent list of streaming performances: https://tinyurl.com/wnfbfdh.

The Show Must Go On….Show debuts today at 7:00pm on YouTube. Hosted by co-creators Howie Michael Smith and Andy Truschinski, each episode will feature a musical performance and talks with experts and artists about coping with the coronavirus pandemic through creativity. The first episode will feature Brian Stokes Mitchell (Tony Award winner Kiss Me Kate), Dr. Anthony Weiner MD, artists and curators Bob and Jill Whitney Armstrong, and meditation expert Minita Gandhi. Each episode will feature a charity and provide information on where to donate. The April 7th episode will feature The Actors Fund. Each episode will be 15 minutes: https://showmustgoonshow.com/

COVID-19 Update: March 31, 2020:
Reporting from Lockdown

Greetings: As of today, 75% of the country is sheltering at home. The president says that face masks and ventilators are plentiful; most governors disagree. And it looks like the apex of the pandemic is some time off.

A hopeful sign: New data suggests that social distancing works to limit the number of infections: https://nyti.ms/3bGo6cu.

But times are tough. As many as 95% of IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) below-the-line crafts workers are currently out of work: https://bit.ly/2JpSTy7.


Adam Schlesinger, member of the band Fountains of Wayne and songwriter for the TV series Crazy Ex-Girlfriend and the Broadway musical Cry-Baby, has been hospitalized: https://bit.ly/3aturHU.


Companies Continue to Mobilize:


Astera Academy launches: https://bit.ly/2UP6R1M.

British Music Academy moves its showcase online with assistance from Allen & Heath: https://bit.ly/2R0WM0C.

Clair Global partners with Mountain Productions on connectivity and communications for disaster relief: https://bit.ly/2JqCHMP.


Harman University hosts a seminar on Microphone Applications for Stage and Sound, on April 1: Register at: https://bit.
Innovox, the loudspeaker manufacturer, reports that it is building face shields for local senior living communities around the greater Minneapolis - St. Paul, Minnesota area. “Today I picked up an order of face shields for Walker Methodist -- 750 shields crafted to protect the health care teams serving our seniors,” said Mary Ryan, corporate director at Walker Methodist Senior Living Facility. “I couldn’t hug them, but I will when this whole crisis is over. Bless you Chris and Arnaud of Innovox Systems. Your hands have created a guard to keep our people safe. I am forever grateful and honored to know you. Look for the Helpers. They are Here.” Due to material shortages, the team is still determining how many face shields they can assemble but will continue as long as the need and supplies are there.

Martin Professional University is hosting a seminar on Lighting for Churches: Live and Video. Register at: https://bit.ly/3axkJED.

As a way of helping to enhance microphone hygiene, Point Source Audio has added extra windshields into every microphone it sells: https://bit.ly/2UuwPE.

TLS Productions shares a fabulous list of online training opportunities: https://bit.ly/3azRUX.

Companies Continue to Check-in:

Ashly Audio has closed its main office. but the company’s support team remains available via phone and email, in addition to the new chat option on the website, and at the new toll-free 800 number: 1-800-705-2101. Ashly is shipping all in-stock products for immediate delivery, and many custom configured products will still be available with minor delays. The customer support team is available Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 5:00pm Eastern via email at service@ashly.com or at the number above. for further details. Ashly University will be kicking off soon. Multiple classes and training sessions will be available each week on a variety of subjects. Classes are available to everyone. Sign-ups will be available on http://www.ashly.com.

DAS Audio writes “Our operations in Spain are suspended effective immediately from March 30, 2020 until April 14, 2020 (by law). At DAS Audio we have already adopted all the necessary measures so that our colleagues, distributors, suppliers, and family can continue with their lives and agendas without putting your health and ours at risk. You can reach us by phone, email, and video-call platforms, so we can keep in touch and share our passion for this industry.”

The Latest Cancellations and Postponements:

AES’ Vienna convention, scheduled for May, is off.

Baltimore Center Stage has put off its production of Bakkhai until next season.

The entire Brits Off Broadway season at New York’s 59E59 has been cancelled.

Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles has cancelled the rest of its spring season: Diane Paulus-helmed revival of 1776 at the Ahmanson, a revival of Aasif Mandvi’s solo show Sakina’s Restaurant at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, and Rajiv Joseph’s LeBron James play King James at the Mark Taper Forum. The revival of 1776 was set to come from ART in Cambridge, Massachusetts; that production has been put off, too.

New York’s City Center has cancelled its summer Encores! Off Center season, which presented concert productions of Off Broadway musicals: https://bit.ly/2JvCEQa.

The newspaper The Guardian will begin streaming productions from London’s Hampstead Theatre: https://bit.ly/3aw9ZWQ.

Manhattan Theatre Club has cancelled its two spring Off Broadway productions: Qui Nguyen’s Poor Yella Rednecks and Emily Feldman’s The Best We Could (a family tragedy). Both were scheduled to begin performances in May.

The 2020 Michael Merritt Awards and Design Exposition at the Columbia College Chicago’s Getz Theatre Center, scheduled for May 18, have been cancelled.
New York’s Repertorio Espanol is closed through April 30.

**New Entertainment Opportunities:**

The UK’s Original Theatre Company is streaming two of its production -- The Croft, by Aline Milles, and The Habit of Art, by Alan Bennett -- for a minimal contribution at [https://bit.ly/2WXyd8p](https://bit.ly/2WXyd8p). The company’s production of The Habit of Art was scheduled to be seen in New York this spring at 59E59.

Comedian Mike Birbiglia is posting a series of videos with himself and top colleagues, including John Mulraney, to raise money for unemployed bar and club workers at [https://www.tipyourwaitstaff.com/](https://www.tipyourwaitstaff.com/).

**Not to be Missed:**

Durham Marenghi, lighting designer of countless large-scale events and a delightful raconteur, contributes the first of a series of reminiscences. This one, involving a Concorde flyover, a gaggle of soggy VL1s, and gels covered with pigeon guano, is a pip: [https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/story-british-airways-impact-day-durham-marenghi/](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/story-british-airways-impact-day-durham-marenghi/).

Hang in there, everybody.

###

**COVID-19 Update: March 30, 2020:**

**Easter at Home Edition**

Greetings from New York, where the Javits Center is now an ICU unit, a field hospital has been set up in Central Park, and your correspondent has just seen the Navy hospital ship traveling up the Hudson River.

To the surprise of no one, the White House is directing that social distancing continue through April 30: [https://wapo.st/2QXB4KW](https://wapo.st/2QXB4KW).

The next time that someone -- like, say, Nikki Haley -- complains about stimulus money going to performing arts organizations, don’t forget how this industry drives the economy: [https://wapo.st/33UBqHo](https://wapo.st/33UBqHo).

And consider what other countries, such as Germany, are doing to support its artists: [https://bit.ly/2WUsaSj](https://bit.ly/2WUsaSj).


And, just like the Javits Center, mentioned above, the LA Convention Center is also becoming a field hospital: [https://bit.ly/2xEYqOr](https://bit.ly/2xEYqOr).


Country singer Joe Diffie has died from complications due to COVID-19: [https://cnn.it/2UHvptu](https://cnn.it/2UHvptu).

Singer-songwriter John Prine is critically ill: [https://cnn.it/39vGALg](https://cnn.it/39vGALg).

Opera legend Plácido Domingo has been hospitalized: [https://lat.ms/2Rcl1Jt](https://lat.ms/2Rcl1Jt).

The Wimbledon Tennis Championship is set to be cancelled for the first time since World War II: [https://bit.ly/3bzokSz](https://bit.ly/3bzokSz).

**The Mobilizing Continues:**

Elton John, Billie Eilish, and Mariah Carey were part of an online telethon put on by IHeartRadio, in lieu of its annual awards. Others taking part included Backstreet Boys, Foo Fighters’ Dave Grohl, Billie Joe Armstrong of Green Day, Tim McGraw, Sam Smith, Demi Lovato, and H.E.R.: [https://lat.ms/2JpjoDF](https://lat.ms/2JpjoDF).
Variety announced Friday that it is setting up a COVID-19 relief fund to support entertainment industry organizations that provide assistance to the neediest: https://bit.ly/2xzDwAm.

Rihanna and her nonprofit organization, the Clara Lionel Foundation, have donated much needed personal protective equipment to New York City hospitals: https://cbsn.ws/2WW7b19.

Facebook is investing $100 million to support local news organizations during the pandemic, in addition to its previous commitment to spend $300 million over a three-year period: https://bit.ly/33WcFuj.


So Do the Closings:

Disneyland and Walt Disney World are now closed indefinitely: https://bit.ly/33WkhwY


London’s National Theatre will remain closed through June: https://bit.ly/3dHqtNO

California Shakespeare Theater is canceling its summer season.


And for the Stir-Crazy Among Us, and Who is Not at this Point:

PBS has unlocked past episodes of Great Performances and Live from Lincoln Center for unlimited streaming. More will be added through the month. The free streams continue through May 27: https://bit.ly/2QQX2iH.

###

COVID-19 Update: March 27, 2020:

After a delay caused by Representative Thomas Massie, Republican, of Kentucky, the stimulus bill has passed the House. President Trump has now signed the stimulus bill: https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2020/03/27/congress-coronavirus-house-vote/.

Now that the bill is passed, what will you get out of it? https://bit.ly/2wljfsb.

If you’re wondering when your tour or live production might resume, the film industry has all the same questions: https://bit.ly/3apRseK.

Bruno Mars has donated $1 million to the MGM Resorts assistance fund: https://bit.ly/2WMSEoH.


Meanwhile, the Broadway community moves to make needed supplies, including sewers who are making protective gear for doctors: https://bit.ly/33PclrW. It’s part of the Broadway Relief Project, which also works to connect manufacturers with government agencies to make supplies: https://www.openjarstudios.com/broadwayrelief.

PixMob has joined the mobilization effort: First, the team created the SafeWatch wristband, which assists in protecting essential services workers by helping reduce the spread of viruses in the workplace. It will be offered as of Friday, March 27 for all companies providing an essential service to the population. The first deliveries are scheduled for April 6. Second, the PixMob team is developing Triago, a solution that uses connected objects to quickly locate patients, caregivers, and equipment in hospitals. This solution is based on the existing platform behind klik, a technology that has already been proven in more than 300 global corporate events and is therefore ready to deploy immediately. Finally, thanks to expertise
in the mass production of several types of products, PixMob has converted its supply and assembly lines to develop and produce equipment to protect medical personnel. The first piece of equipment resulting from this initiative is a protective face shield. Nearly 20,000 protective face shields are already available and in the next week, PixMob foresees a production capacity of 5,000 to 10,000 units per day. Other types of protective equipment may also be produced in the coming weeks.

Sadly, the coronavirus claims another prominent member of the New York theatre community. Actor Mark Blum was 69: https://bit.ly/33Py0FT.

The Latest from Industry Companies:


NAMM and Gantom Lighting have created an online event to help attraction professionals navigate these uncertain times. The first virtual attractions conference is this weekend, March 28 and 29 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 and network with fellow industry professionals. The goals of this free, virtual conference include:

"* To bring conversation about COVID-19 into the forefront. These are conversations we need to have about our community.

"* To show people they are not alone.

"* To combat the growing panic by connecting people in a constructive way."

Visit Virtually Prepared: A FREE Conference for Attraction Professionals at https://www.namm.org/covid-19/articles/virtually-prepared-free-conference-attraction to see the agenda, learn more about the speakers, and register.

Pangolin is presenting a series of "quick hint" videos, offering tips on how to best use its products: https://bit.ly/3dJ6HBM. The company is also offering live streams on its Facebook page biweekly on Thursdays at 2:00pm EST.


Sennheiser is presenting a series of free webinars at https://www.sennheiser.com/webinars.

Of course, the Cancellations Continue:

New York City Ballet has cancelled its spring season: https://bit.ly/39pyuDV.

New York’s Café Carlyle, top cabaret venue, is closed through June 20: https://bit.ly/3btofzM.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival is closing until September and laying off 80% of its staff. According to a press release, “The effect on the organization’s finances has forced OSF to lay off approximately 80% of its full time-staff, artists, and seasonal workers in order to mitigate additional losses. All laid-off company members with current OSF health benefits will have them fully paid for two additional months, with many expected to return to OSF when programming resumes.”

More Entertainment Opportunities:

3 Legged Dog, the downtown presenter/producer with an emphasis on technological innovation, is streaming a full-length dance piece by the Taiwanese artist Huang Yi at https://vimeo.com/139965638.

The organization Global Citizen is presenting many performances by top music artists as part of its Together at Home series. The lineup includes Chris Martin, Hozier, Common, and John Legend. Scroll down to the bottom of this story to find links to performances: https://bit.ly/3dvhNKq.

Feinstein’s/54 Below, another of New York’s top cabaret venues, is offering streams of some of the many acts that have played there: https://www.youtube.com/54Below.
Ailey All Access, a new service from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, will offer streamed performances: https://www.alvinstitute.org/ailey-all-access.

Fresh off the success of The Actors Fund’s partnership with Rosie O’Donnell that raised over $600,000, The Actors Fund is teaming up with Schitt’s Creek star Emily Hampshire for a new weekly live-streamed talk-show Humpday with Hampshire. It debuts on the fund’s YouTube channel on April 1: https://bit.ly/2WMycnL. Go there now and see performances from the series Stars in the House.

COVID-19 Update: March 26, 2020:
Stimulus Edition

Good news: The stimulus bill passes the Senate. Next stop: The House, tomorrow morning, followed by a quick signing by the president. As noted, however, New York may need more help: https://bit.ly/39kvoAU.

Even better news: The package includes provisions for unemployed freelancers: https://bit.ly/3duB1zO.

This is welcome, because the Broadway shutdown has rippled through the city, as Huntly Christie and others note: https://bit.ly/2UDdpQP.

Fortunately, many arts groups will benefit. (Take note of Rep. Bill Johnson’s astonishingly blinkered comment that The Kennedy Center is “a nice place” but not worthy of fiscal aid): https://nyti.ms/39n2FLZ.


Worrying news: The rising number of coronavirus cases in Louisiana were mostly likely facilitated by Mardi Gras: https://nyti.ms/33LeCtJ.

Meanwhile, a number of late-night talk shows are planning to return, in limited formats, next week: https://bit.ly/39kgLOe.

New Reports from Industry Companies:

All Access Staging joins the chorus of companies offering to fight the coronavirus by manufacturing much needed products: “While many businesses have been mandated to temporarily close their doors, All Access Staging & Productions is working diligently to provide temporary structures at the city, state, and federal level, to aid the medical community’s efforts in combating COVID-19. We believe our 30 years of experience in creating rapid deployment structures for television, concert touring, festivals, and sporting events can be refocused on creating support for the community wherever it is needed. We have the design capabilities and equipment necessary to take the needs of our local communities and supply them with the temporary facilities for medical care, testing stations, disability access ramps and lifts, temporary access barriers, and any associated medical temporary infrastructure.”

From Brompton Technology: “In view of the current UK government guidance for people to stay at home, Brompton Technology is going to operate greatly reduced opening hours at its London office from Friday, March 27 for at least two weeks. We will continue to keep this under review, based on the latest government guidance. We would like to reassure all our customers that our staff are working as normal from home, and we are available at any time to provide technical support or to discuss your future projects. We are able to take orders and have most products available from stock -- though we recommend allowing a bit more time than usual for us to arrange shipping to you and appreciate your understanding.”

EM Acoustics, based in the UK, has an important update: “In light of the current national and global crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus, we have taken the very difficult decision to close the factory and suspend day-to-day business as of 6:00pm on Friday, March 27. Without wanting to cast aside the value of our country’s economy, the health and well-being of our staff and customers has to take priority, as well as a social responsibility to do our part to halt the spread of the virus in these difficult times. Whilst the factory is closed and we will not be dispatching any orders after Friday, our phone lines are diverted, and emails will be still be monitored to urgent communication can still get through to us -- both for commer-
cial matters and for technical support. We will endeavor to reopen the factory as soon as possible, once it is deemed safe to do -- we will continue to follow government and health professionals’ advice on this matter and advise as events develop."

Solotech “remains available via email, phone, and web conferencing,” notes a company statement. “Also, please note that our sales and systems integration division, which offers telecommunications services to its customers -- currently essential to support core services and priority activities -- will maintain its active operations, in compliance with guidelines provided by local authorities. Among other things, Solotech is a certified distributor and integrator of Zoom communications solutions dedicated to remote work and videoconferencing ... We are making sure our service delivery model and are updating our business continuity plan on an ongoing basis.”

Looking for advice on conducting online training? This just in from AES: “Jill Courtney (AES Nashville Section executive committee member, doctoral student in instructional design leadership at Franklin University, former college audio instructor, and teacher in performance arts) and Michael Hanson (AES Nashville chair, veteran audio engineer, and assistant professor of audio production at Middle Tennessee State University) ... are offering the results of their own investigation of the application of readily available technologies to meet the challenge. In a self-published PDF document titled Redesigning Audio Learning Spaces Quickly for Online Teaching, Hanson and Courtney outline their goals and experimentation and share the solution they are implementing. “This solution can help a lot of people migrate numerous audio classes to an online format with quality audio held sacred to its core mission,” Courtney concludes in the document. Download it here: https://bit.ly/3byRDVv.

Cancellations and Postponements Continue to Roll In:

All Pittsburgh Cultural Trust performances, exhibitions, films, and events through May 10 have been cancelled or postponed.

Keeping Yourself Entertained:


Joe’s Pub, the eclectic, cutting-edge cabaret at New York’s Public Theatre, is offering a variety of online performances drawn from its archives: https://bit.ly/2QNrWbQ.

In news that should excite any theatre fan, London’s National Theatre is offering free streaming of some of its productions: https://bit.ly/2JhOhtM.

New York’s Battery Dance announces the creation of Battery Dance TV, launching on Friday, March 27 at https://batterydance.org/dancetv/ to provide free live dance classes and programming for the general public by Battery Dance and affiliated artists through a regularly scheduled program.

Baltimore Center Stage will make available video and audio recordings of Where We Stand, a world premiere co-production with New York’s WP Theater, originally announced as the fifth Mainstage production of the 2020/21 season. The play will now be offered via the Vimeo streaming platform beginning April 2, the date live performances were scheduled to begin. The theater will also offer originally scheduled pre- and post- show programming in a virtual format. Current ticketholders will receive an email with instructions on how to access the production and new ticket buyers will have the ability to purchase tickets on Baltimore Center Stage’s website: http://www.centerstage.org.

###

COVID-19 Update: March 25, 2020:
Legislative Breakthroughs, More Fundraising, and the Industry Joins the Fight
The big news of the day: The Congressional stimulus package is almost certain to pass the Senate, after which it only needs the president’s signature before becoming law. As this breakdown notes, it provides relief for freelancers and gig workers: https://nyti.ms/2vSJ2xE. In fact, some critics worry that the bill will lead to increased layoffs: https://cnb.cx/33JEKVT. Canada has passed a stimulus bill, too: https://bit.ly/2xoSXeN.


In news that surprises nobody, The Tony Awards have been postponed. According to the statement, “The 74th Annual Tony Awards, scheduled to air live on the CBS Television Network on Sunday, June 7th from Radio City Music Hall in New York City, will be postponed and rescheduled at a later date, in coordination with our broadcast partner. The health and safety of the Broadway community, artists, and fans is of the utmost importance to us. We will announce new dates and additional information once Broadway opens again.”

On a more uplifting note, Robe joined forces with Dutch lighting companies to honor health care workers: https://bit.ly/2UjaRZi.

And, taking action, The Live Events Coalition, a new national coalition of live event and entertainment businesses, their employees, and independent contractors are calling on the Trump Administration and Congress to establish a special task force to rescue their industry in the face of total collapse as a result of COVID-19: http://www.lightingandsoundamerica.com/news/story.asp?ID=MKYU5C.


And here’s some inside info on the shutdown of the Olympics: https://wapo.st/2vPzIur.

James Taylor and his wife, Kim, have donated $1 million to Massachusetts General Hospital: https://bit.ly/2Jh4Ohq.

If You Want to Feel Proud of Your Industry:

Here’s more on Upstaging’s conversion to making medical devices: https://bit.ly/3amVCUE.

ModTruss has joined the fight against the coronavirus: “We are industry experts in temporary and modular building structures. Teamed with local EMS and medical professionals, ModTruss has developed solutions to the cross-contamination epidemic that is occurring in and throughout our nation. In response, we’ve created a Bio Containment Unit (BCU) to host COVID-19 individuals as well as a Common Area Barrier (CAB) to separate patients from each other while they are on site in close proximity. Furthermore, our nation-wide dealer network and team are poised and ready to build temporary exterior structures to augment the overflowing volume of individuals needing care.”

And, as you can read below, ETC is manufacturing face masks for those fighting the coronavirus.

Companies Continue to Weigh In:

4Wall Entertainment has published this extremely useful list of online resources: https://bit.ly/2JhC2gW.

Adam Hall hosts an online industry talk via livestream on March 31, offering one-hour rounds of moderated discussions between experts, the Adam Hall Group is reacting to the international developments of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). After, the global event technology provider will present its 2020 product highlights in a virtual trade show. The livestream of the Adam Hall Industry Talk starts on March 31, 2020 at 10:00am Central European Time, at www.event.tech. The panel includes Marcel Courth (moderator, editor in chief, Production Partner; Nico Ubenauf, CEO, satis&fy; Joe Lamond: President and CEO, NAMM; Luca Lastrucci: CEO/co-founder, Powersoft; Marcus Graser, CEO, Claypaky; Simon Kropp, editor in chief, Event Rookie; Alexander Pietschmann (host), CEO, Adam Hall Group.

From Clearwing: “Our teams in Milwaukee, Phoenix, and Denver continue to monitor the COVID-10 crisis and have adjusted our business operations to comply with existing and potential state guidelines on closures. We continue to accept and process quotes, orders, service needs, and other requests. In addition, arrangements can be made for delivery/pickup/shipping of equipment or products. Our operating hours are still in effect (8:30am – 5:00pm in Milwaukee, 9:00am – 5:00pm in Phoenix and Denver). All of our existing phone numbers will route you to the appropriate on-site and remote contacts within the company. We kindly request that any visits to one of our shops be scheduled in advance. As this every-changing situation continues, our team will continue to monitor and provide updates via email, social media, and our blog.”

Digital Projection says, “Although our production capacity was reduced in February and March, we expect to be back to full production by the end of April. Even so, DP Inc., currently holds inventory of most projector models, and those that are not in stock will be back in stock by the end of April. Full engineering support is still available to us as well. Here in the US, much of our staff is working at home as instructed by municipal and state authorities. However, employees in essential roles are still working hard in our Kennesaw offices to provide our partners and customers with the best service possible. Members of our customer service, technical support and application support teams have said they will continue to work in our offices for as long as is allowed. We are receiving weekly shipments from our factories and we continue to fulfill and ship orders here in the US.”

ETC is moving all employees to a reduced work schedule. David Lincecum, VP of marketing says, “The action that we’ve taken today preserves our ability to continue to pay everyone, during a time when we don’t know if everyone can come to work. We’re doing this to protect the company and all our employees, who are our number one priority.” Lincecum reiterated that ETC will remain open during the course of the pandemic, providing technical support to all their customers, including critical government, health, and broadcast institutions. Additionally, ETC mobilized to design and produce personal protection equipment for medical personnel. ETC has also taken extreme protective measures to ensure the safety of their workers in manufacturing and will continue to ship its core lighting, lighting and power controls, and rigging equipment to the best of their ability, pending restrictions in the global supply chain. ETC will continue its education and outreach activities. The company is also currently manufacturing face masks for those fighting the COVID-19 outbreak.

From URTA, executive director Tony Hagopian writes, “URTA is collecting information and resources on a special page of our website. I hope it can provide some help and hope for those seeking it. This page will be revised regularly, as new resources come to our attention. Please let us know if you have something to share, whether it be a theatrical commons, information on health, safety, or support for artists, a new artistic platform or project, or other information that could be useful to someone in our community. We’ll do our part to boost the signal.”

And to Keep You Busy on Those Long Nights at Home:

Thirdwing, a digital theater company designed to develop plays directly for streaming as well as for the live stage, faced the cancellation of its first stage offering, Rachel Carey’s The Female Genius, at Off Off Broadway’s The Wild Project. Now, Thirdwing is partnering with The Wild Project to release one episode each night of their scheduled run starting on April 14. Half of all yearly streaming memberships will go directly to support The Wild Project. Those using the discount code WILD will get 10% off monthly subscriptions ($36 a year or $3.59/month) with all proceeds going to The Wild Project for six months. Audiences can visit www.thirdwing.watch for more information and sign up for the streaming subscription. Episodically written, The Female Genius runs just over an hour in one evening of theater. The play was specially designed to work well for home viewing and stage viewing and filmed in different styles reminiscent of the teleplays of the ‘50s and ‘60s.


Sennheiser has more performances lined up on its Instagram site: https://www.instagram.com/sennheiser/?hl=en. On Thursday, the attractions include Ibiza-based producer and DJ Davina Moss (10:00am); American post-punk rockers Heart Attack Man (3:00pm), French DJ and producer Shiba San (6:00pm), on March 30, American alt-rocker Mat Kerekes of CITIZEN (3:00pm).

Off Broadway’s Vineyard Theatre is raising money by presenting an online staged reading of Lucas Hnath’s award-winning A Doll’s House, Part II: https://bit.ly/2Um3dgV.

Off Broadway’s Red Bull Theatre will present an online staged reading of John Ford’s ‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore, which the

Again, check out this list of available streaming performances from Stages: https://bit.ly/33Rxfft. (Hat tip to Gary Fails.)

###

**COVID-19 Update: March 24, 2020:**

**Fighting Back, Holding the Fort, and a Life Claimed**

As we’ve seen the last few days, events surrounding the coronavirus pandemic are moving quickly. As I write, the Congressional stimulus package, which has been voted down twice, causing plenty of ire on all sides, appears to be a done deal. Stay tuned.

On the other hand, the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed until 2021: https://bit.ly/33lw4yL. So, no big opening and closing ceremonies with all the gear that they entail.


The mood in the UK theatre regarding the government’s handling of the pandemic is not upbeat: https://bit.ly/3brw9Ka.

In part because of the president’s identification of the coronavirus as “the Chinese virus,” Asian-Americans are facing an ugly national backlash: https://nyti.ms/39bU3aJ. As a result, a number of Asian-American theatre artists are standing up to racism: https://bit.ly/3bp38yG.

And the pandemic takes a human toll, claiming Terrence McNally, one of America’s greatest contemporary playwrights: https://bit.ly/2wz4Sqb. Your correspondent freely admits to being broken up about this one. His is an irreplaceable loss.

**In Other News:**

Rosie O’Donnell’s one-night-only online version of her former TV talk show raised $600,000 for the Actor’s Fund, money much needed at this time. To donate to the Actor’s Fund, which provides a host of social services to members of the entertainment industry, go to give.actorsfund.org/Rosie.

The concert-touring organization Danny Wimmer Presents has announced that the following festivals are off: Epicenter, May 1 – 3, Concord, North Carolina; Welcome to Rockville, May 8 – 10, Daytona Beach, Florida; and Sonic Temple Art + Music Festival, May 15 – 17, Columbus, Ohio. On a brighter note, Louder Than Life, in Louisville, will expand to four days. The dates are September 17 – 20, with Metallica headlining on the opening night.

In Vegas, where the strip has shuttered, MGM Resorts is donating $1 million to an employee relief fund: https://bit.ly/2QIx1lI.

NAMM today presented an online update that includes discussion of the Federal Coronavirus Emergency Aid Package (funds family leave, free testing and treatment, paid sick leave, expanded unemployment assistance, and more), SBA disaster relief loans, and employee/employer financial support. A recording of the webinar will be available after the session, so check www.namm.org for more.

ART in Cambridge, Massachusetts has moved its spring productions, Macbeth In Stride and 1776, to the 2020-2021 season. More than 20 Broadway producers are offering a $1 million challenge match to double the impact of donations to Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS’ COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund at broadwaycares.org/help2020. The emergency assistance fund, administered by The Actors Fund, is helping those onstage, backstage, and behind the scenes impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and work shutdown.

In Washington, DC, the Kennedy Center is now closed through May 10. Arena Stage has closed through the end of its season, postponing several productions until then. The National Theatre has postponed its upcoming engagement of The Last Ship, as well as the D.C. stop of the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory tour. Ford’s Theatre has postponed its
production of Guys and Dolls to next spring. The historic site (including the museum exhibits and tours) will remain closed through May 17. Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland, has postponed its upcoming Cost of Living the production is now slated to play in September 2021. The remainder of the current season is still expected to run as scheduled. Arlington, Virginia’s Signature Theatre has canceled performances through the beginning of June.

Lincoln Center Theater is rolling over its productions of Intimate Apparel and Flying Over Sunset to the Fall. Intimate Apparel was in previews and Flying Over Sunset was about to start performances when the city shut down.

The Broadway Cares Easter Bonnet competition, scheduled for April 20 and 21, has been canceled.

The ticketing service Goldstar has started a donations fund for the live entertainment industry: https://bit.ly/2WGF6Lt.

Milwaukee’s Summerfest music festival has rescheduled to September 3 – 5, 10 – 12, and 17 – 19, 2020.

The Opera America Conference, scheduled for Seattle May 13 – 16, will not take place as planned.

New York’s Target Margin Theatre has suspended the rest of its season.

New York’s Theatre for a New Audience has postponed its upcoming production of Waiting for Godot.

The Knight of Illuminations Awards, set for September 6 in London, have been postponed. Co-founders Durham and Jennie Marenghi announced, “The event will be held as a celebration of our industry and to bring people together, once the current situation has been resolved and it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, we will continue to appraise the work already submitted and we ask designers to please continue to nominate via the KOI website. We are all watching more TV than usual, so please submit anything outstanding that catches your eye, and to those Concert and Events lighting designers and video content creators now stuck at home, we invite you to submit your finest work this year before the closing date of June 30, 2020 and if you have videos/photos to review. Further announcements on the Awards ceremony will follow in the coming months as the situation hopefully improves. Stay safe and we will come together once more as Knights of Illumination once this worldwide battle has been fought and won.”

The News Continues to Pour in From Companies in the Industry:

The ADJ Group of Companies (which includes Elation Professional) reports that it has taken all possible precautions, including “full restrictions on travel, deep cleaning of our facilities each evening, promoting personal hygiene and social distancing awareness amongst our staff, as well as implementing other hygiene measures such as installing extra sanitizing dispensers throughout our buildings. In additions, it is temporarily adjusting operations to Monday through Thursday, with Friday closed until further notice. Elation’s European facility in Kerkrade, The Netherlands, is still operating on a Monday through Friday schedule.” The company notes that it “supplies products to essential businesses in the construction and commercial sectors, as well as to the fire and rescue industry for training purposes. Therefore, we are keeping our facilities open during these uncertain times, working as long as we are allowed, in order to give businesses access to urgently needed items for open projects. However, we will be halting all customer and vendor visits including customer will calls for the time being while still connecting with customers through free online trainings and product demo webinars. We can confirm that our supply chain remains strong and most of our friends and partners in China are reporting progress with operations almost back to normal. They expect to resume community events next month as well, which is great news. So there is light at the end of the tunnel and a blueprint to get to where we all want to be.”

Also, Elation is debuting a new video on Rayzor 760 and weatherproof Proteus Rayzor 760, to show how its unique SparkLED effect can transform a stage. https://vimeo.com/400167660.

Acclaim Lighting writes, that it is “is still fully operational and delivering orders. We will be temporarily adjusting our operations to Monday through Thursday, with Friday closed until further notice. In addition, while global trade shows and product showcases at your facilities would have provided an opportunity to learn more about Acclaim’s latest product developments, we have taken steps to provide alternatives that still serve your needs. That’s why we have invested in new cutting-edge web conference technology which allows us to showcase our products to you in the next best fashion with personalized one-on-one presentations designed to provide the most pertinent information professionally and efficiently.” The company plans to update its status weekly.
ADAM Audio announces the premiere of the ADAM Academy, an informative video series on the company’s YouTube channel which provides all viewers from entry level audio students to skilled working professionals with valuable information, tips and tools that they can use to get the best performance from their loudspeaker monitor systems. The ADAM Academy video content includes information and instruction from ADAM Audio company personnel as well as valuable tutorials on specific subjects from ADAM Audio customers who are celebrated in their respective fields. Check out the videos at https://bit.ly/33J0tNu.

Barbizon Lighting writes that it “is open and shipping. However, some locations have temporarily converted to only shipping and/or pick-up orders because of social distancing and stay at home orders per local authorities and the CDC. Many of our offices fall into the ‘essential business’ category will continue to provide shipping and pick-up services. Further, our systems integrators, project managers, and field service technicians are also available via email and phone. The entire systems team continues frequent outreach to our customers for updates and further collaboration on all projects, orders, and quotes. As an essential business, we’re committed to making things run smoothly for our customers and partners while following CDC guidance for the safety of our employees and their families. We continue to monitor the situation and take action to provide the safest experience for our staff and customers. To see the status and contact information of our regional offices, please visit https://bit.ly/barbizon-status. We are still here for you when you need us.”

Calzone Cases writes that its production facilities in Connecticut, Texas, and California have been classified as essential businesses because of its participation in the packaging, manufacturing, and logistical areas. “We are helping out first responders, medical, and emergency relief staff in protecting their live-saving equipment while also providing mobile work stations and many other cases for all applications,” says co-founder and president Joe Calzone. “We are currently manufacturing cases for a number of medical and emergency response requirements and will continue to provide our cases as a priority one, all-hands-on-deck process.”

ChamSys is keeping programmers busy with a new competition running between now and April 10. It also offers a chance to win a new MagicQ MQ70 console. The first 25 entries in the contest will also receive a MagicDMX Test Kit, while the three top runners up will earn a premium swag bag. To participate, entrants have to download the Vis/Base show file of the Chauvet Professional Prolight + Sound 2020 rig, select a one-to-three minute song of their choice, and then program the lights using MagicQ with MagicVis visualization. Once they do that, entrants have to record their entries via screen capture, and submit them, along with the show file to competition@chamsyslighting.com by 11:59pm Eastern Time (US) on April 10. The entrant's name, location, and mailing address must be included in all submissions. The judges evaluating each submission are Max Koehler and Ryan Warffuel of Antic Studios, Phil Watson and James Harrison of ChamSys, and Michael Graham of Chauvet Professional. For complete contest rules visit https://cutt.ly/Dtl7HQa.

Drape Kings writes, “We will be operating in compliance with the New Jersey, Illinois, and Maryland Governors’ ‘Shelter at Home’ orders as our country strives to keep our fellow citizens alive and enables our healthcare workers to best combat COVID-19. We’ve notified various governmental authorities of our capabilities with drapes, stanchions, and our New Jersey sewing capabilities for medical supplies and government facilities that need to be created. In all three locations – New Jersey, Chicago Metro, and DC Metro, we will have essential staff working from home until further notice and are prepared for full movement of goods as required. In fact, today we’re working with the City of Chicago.”

Gallagher Staging and Productions is now offering disaster relief structures at no cost, other than trucking and labor: https://www.gallagherstaging.com/.

Madrix is planning a series of live streams across the month, including a March 2020 update, Madrix RADAR: Unleash the Full Potential of RDM; Madrix Hardware: New Product Announcement, and Madrix 5: What’s New in the Next 5.3 Software Update. Subscribe to the MADRIX YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/MADRIX_Team?sub_confirmation=1.

The news from Nicolaudie is: “Most of our employees are now working at home and all necessary measures have been taken for those who continue working from our offices worldwide. Make sure we are all working hard to stay as efficient as possible. Technical and sales support are working as usual so feel free to contact us anytime! The production can be a bit delayed, but we are doing our best to ship orders as fast as possible. We are taking this challenging time as an opportunity to reinforce our software/hardware testing and our R&D is fully operational. Because you might be stuck at home as we are we have decided to launch online training sessions on our software. We will be starting with our new ESA Pro 2 software within a few days. We will continue providing regular updates on the situation. In the meantime, we wish you the very best and don’t forget to follow the recommendations of your local authorities.”
Out Board has announced a spring season of “One-on-One-for-One,” its online training sessions with TiMax specialists in the UK and US. Sessions are open to all sound designers, sound engineers, and production sound techs on a first-come, first-served basis. Simply register to download TiMax SoundHub software (Mac or Windows) from outboard.co.uk and enter “1on1” into the About You section. Alternatively, contact Out Board direct at software@outboard.co.uk. Out Board will respond with an invitation to select an available time and date for a personal, one-on-one, one-hour Skype screen-share training session with Dave Haydon or Robin Whittaker in the UK or Duncan Crundwell in the US. The session will cover standard TiMax DSP functions of mixer, matrix, EQ, delay, source/zone groups, and snapshots, as well as advanced task-based spatial rendering and immersive show-control programming tools in the TiMax PanSpace and cue-driven TimeLine workflows. The session will also introduce the new TiMax TrackerD4 precision stage-tracking interface, which controls TiMax SoundHub via OSC. Also featured is a look at programming touch-screen OSC control of levels, cue/snapshot recall and spatialization processes on generic table apps such as TouchOSC and Lemur.

PRG reminds the industry that “when immediate response is critical, PRG and VER offer support and equipment from 31 depots in all major cities across the country. Emergency response scenarios demand reliable equipment and technical support that can perform in any environment. We have team members readily available to help you address ever-changing needs to convert any space into emergency treatment, shelter, and communication areas.”


PrimeTime Lighting writes, “The state of Texas is not yet a lock down state. However, PrimeTime is located in Dallas County, which is under shelter-in-place. Of course, this does not include essential services. The Dallas county exception list includes broadcast news organizations as well as companies that supply and service them. As an essential services company, PrimeTime remains open. We sent a previous notice that we are on minimal staff and taking all precautions possible to keep all employees safe. Anyone who can work from home is doing so. This won’t affect your ability to reach us if you need anything from us. Calls to PrimeTime office numbers are being forwarded to cell phones of our work-at-home staffers. Just know that we are open and here to serve our partners and customers as always.”

Schertler has issued a challenge to its clients: “We decided to launch an initiative in order to promote music and cohesion, because the only cure we have now is sharing. If you are a Schertler artist, a client, or if you play any instrument and are happy to be a part of this. Please share a video where you play on any social media, use the hashtag #stayathomewith-schertler and tag us! Instagram: @schertlergroup / FaceBook: @Schertler.sa”

Shure is offering a webinar on how to find online training in its products. It is scheduled for Wednesday at 11:00am CDT. Sign up at https://bit.ly/33J73Ud.

Upstaging, based in Northern Illinois, normally supplies concerts and other events, but it is letting the world know that it is available for emergency response work. The company can provide portable and rapidly deployable hard-wall and portable room dividers, including power distribution lighting with transportation; set up and tear down of temporary treatment facilities; existing temporary structures that can be used for patient housing, treatment, and care; and existing 250,000-sq.-ft. facilities suited for light manufacturing, assembly, packing, and distribution of emergency supplies with socially distanced work areas. The company also as the ability to convert any existing space into emergency treatment areas and shelter and equip with network communication, video, temporary lighting and PA systems; temporary IT distribution and infrastructure ready to be deployed. It has a staff of more than 150 and 100 semi-trucks, all ready to respond.

And, to keep yourself amused, diverted, and up on what is happening in the world of live performance.

The New York-based theatre company Untitled Theatre is presenting a number of streaming performances of its piece Performance for One and The Last Cyclist. http://www.untitledtheater.com/.

The Trickle Up is a new online showcase for New York City-based theatre artists. It aims to engage 10,000 subscribers paying $10 a month—and thereby get $10,000 each to 120 different artists in need (starting ASAP, and through the year). If this goal is surpassed, more people get help. Among the artists who have signed on to participate by making three videos each are Penny Arcade, Annie Baker, Rachel Chavkin, Lisa D’Amour, Machine Dazzle, Lear DeBessonnett, Andre De Shields, Kristoffer Diaz, Bridget Everett, Lucas Hnath, Mia Katigbak, Lisa Kron, Taylor Mac, Ellen Maddow, Kristin Marting, Lynn Nottage, Diana Oh, Suzan-Lori Parks, Annie-B Parson, Clint Ramos, Sarah Ruhl, Peggy Shaw, Niegel Smith, Lloyd Suh, Liesl Tommy, Basil Twist, Paula Vogel, Anne Washburn, Lois Weaver, and Paul Zmet. It’s a galaxy of downtown theatre greats and you can check it out at https://trickleup.uscreen.io.
On the heels of the overwhelming success of the first-ever edition, The 24 Hour Plays will release a new set of Viral Monologues tonight on IGTV @24hourplays and at https://24hourplays.com/viral-monologues/. Twenty-four actors have been paired with theatre’s top writers, who have crafted unique pieces especially for their actors. From 6:00pm until midnight, the new monologues will be published, one every 15 minutes.

###

**COVID-19 Update: March 23, 2020:**

**Battening Down, Mobilizing, Helping Out**

Here’s our latest update of events related to the coronavirus. Nations continue to move, if not quickly or totally effectively, to deal with the disease and provide relief for workers. The entertainment industry is mobilizing on several fronts, raising money and petitioning the government for help.

In the US Congress, wrangling continues over an economic stimulus bill, which, Democrats say, provides plenty of relief for businesses and not nearly enough for workers: https://wapo.st/33D2quY.

In the UK, Variety reports, “The government will pay up to 80% of people’s wages, with a maximum of £2,500 ($2,930) per month, slightly above the national median wage. There is no upper limit to the funds the government is spending on this and payments will be backdated to March 1.” https://bit.ly/3bltAJr. At the same time, there’s concern about what it will mean for the self-employed. Check out this petition posted by UK industry member Stephanie Dell: https://bit.ly/33DVfTn. Variety also reports that corporate bailouts for the entertainment industry as a whole aren’t looking likely: https://bit.ly/2UoiI6w.

A newly created public Facebook group aims to connect audio and video professionals with resources to help each other through the pandemic: https://www.facebook.com/groups/844955695999581/.

Lincoln Center has now canceled all performances through May 17.

On Broadway, two shows, in preview when New York shut down, have shuttered: Hangmen, Martin McDonagh’s black comedy, starring Dan Stevens and Tracey Bennett, and a revival of Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, starring Laurie Metcalf, Rupert Everett, Patsy Ferran, and Russell Tovey.

Meanwhile, The Broadway League, has reached an emergency relief agreement, which provide Broadway employees with pay and health insurance during the current suspension of all Broadway shows due to the COVID-19 crisis. Details can be found here: https://nyti.ms/2WJo6nT.

And Variety reports, “The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, which represents more than 180,000 members, has sent 80,000 letters to Congress appealing for lawmakers to include displaced entertainment workers in a federal aid package.” More here: https://bit.ly/3bn4ObE.

IATSE is also working with a coalition of entertainment unions: https://bit.ly/2QEZ226.

Also: Netflix has created a $100 million relief fund to help members of the creative community who have been left unemployed and without a way to earn an income during the coronavirus crisis. The streaming giant said the bulk of the funds will go toward supporting laid-off crew members: https://bit.ly/3aicdsQ.

The Recording Academy is inviting its members to take action: “During these unprecedented times, Congress is actively working on relief packages to support Americans, our health, and our economic well-being. It is critical that self-employed, freelance, and independent music makers have access to relief funding to help alleviate any of the financial burdens inflicted by canceled tours and gigs, studio sessions, and other employment opportunities. Contact Congress today and urge lawmakers to include the artistic community in any relief package. Music makers need all of our help.” The petition is at https://www.grammy.com/advocacy/act#/45.

The Summer Olympics is looking increasingly less likely, now that Australia and Canada have pulled out: https://cnn.it/33LKoqn.
The Entertainment Industry Fund was launched a COVID-19 response fund to help workers: https://bit.ly/2xkXkXY.

Meanwhile, Companies and Associates are Responding with Updates and Creative Solutions:

Audio Engineering Society has a message for its members: “Now, more than ever, AES members are encouraged to utilize their free virtual access to AES’s exclusive resources, including thousands of searchable articles in the AES E-Library, the Journal of the Audio Engineering Society, AES Live: Videos, Section News and Reports, Social Media, and much more. AES members are further encouraged to take the time to create or update their member profile and make it searchable to further enable the audio community to come together and share knowledge and resources.”

The team at Avolites writes: “These are unprecedented times we find ourselves in, so at Avolites we are dedicating our time to support you for the duration of this pandemic. Over the coming weeks we will be hosting a serious of online learning sessions and talks with industry professionals as well as updating our online resources for you to practice and improve your skills. The full schedule and resources can be found on our dedicated webpage. The office will be open as usual and our PC based products, the T1, T2, Titan Mobiles and AvoKeys are still available should you wish to have all the latest features ready to go when our industry bounces back. Finally, our support and servicing teams are on hand for you to contact with any question or query you may have, so contact us directly or fill out the contact us form on our website. www.avolites.com and www.avolites.us.

DTS, the Italian lighting manufacturer, has announced, “Following the new COVID-19 virus containment measures which came into force on March the 21st, we communicate that DTS Illuminazione s.r.l. will comply with the suspension of all activities until April the 3rd. Sales managers will be still available at their mobile phones.”

From Gerriets comes the following statement: “Gerriets International is taking every possible measure to ensure the safety of our employees, clients, and customers. We are following all CDC guidelines for health and safety in the workplace. Most of our staff have the ability to work remotely and still be very effective at answering your questions should you wish to reach out to us. We are still open during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm EST. Our custom sewing workshop and warehouse is functioning as normal. We will keep you informed if circumstances change, many of which will be out of our control.”

Inner Circle Distribution has announced: “To do our part to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 Virus, Inner Circle Distribution’s offices will be closed starting Monday March 23. All non-essential businesses have been ordered closed by the Mayor of Broward County Florida. We are closely monitoring the situation and our team is working remotely to serve and support our customers.”

K-array, based in Italy, announces, “We have already been taking necessary steps to adapt our operations while remaining committed to driving business by enacting remote smart working for those who can, which has enabled used to interact with your customers and suppliers in a more safe and active way than before. Our next action, in respect to the latest restrictions imposed by the Italian Government on March 22, is to suspend all activity within the factory. Effective immediately, K-array will remain engaged and available for support Monday through Thursday through April 3.”

Lytehouse Studios in Brooklyn says in a statement: “To support creators, attendees, the health and well-being of the general public, we want to help move your event to a live streaming platform such as Facebook. Instagram, Vimeo, Zoom, and most other streaming platforms. We can assure you we are doing everything we can to keep our studios a healthy and sterile work environment. We are providing hand sanitizers, masks, and booties to all of our clients. Everything is being cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day following the CDC’s most recent recommendations.”

Magnum, the Atlanta, Georgia-based rental house, has put together a number of helpful informational guides. These include A Social Distancing Gig Guide: Tips for the COVID-19 Downtime: https://bit.ly/3bhVN3N; a detailed list of online training opportunities: https://bit.ly/2wmCHuI; and a list of streaming concerts: https://bit.ly/2UdHJCT.

Martin Audio is planning a series of webinars: https://martin-audio.com/training.

Mountain Productions has come up with a timely and innovative offer, creating “a series of innovative emergency response structures from existing equipment to produce customizable large-scale mobile hospitals and emergency response structures that accommodate up to 30,000-sq.-ft. along with smaller mobile testing centers and temporary living quarters.” With a large global engineering and design team, the company can also tailor smaller structures and provide
bespoke solutions for health care systems with limited space. The company, with a staff of more than 150 and facilities in Pennsylvania, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Dublin, Ireland, is available to deploy these structures around the country and globally on an immediate basis with a build time of three days. “This is a time where our company’s innovation can meet our nation’s need with incredibly unique solutions. We are ready and able to do so and deploy our equipment immediately to support America and those across the world,” says Ricky Rose, CEO Mountain Productions Inc. In this time of crisis, the Mountain Production’s team is ready to band together to address needs across local, state, and federal level to help ease the strain on medical facilities nationally. If you, your company, or someone you know has structures or equipment that might aid in these efforts, we are inviting you to participate. We are all in this together and if you have the resources, our team will step up to ensure they are deployed to address this crisis. Learn more at: mtnemergencyservices.com.

Radio Active Designs reports, “You should be aware that our friends at T-Mobile have entered into agreements with owners of the 600MHz spectrum that will allow T-Mobile to use those blocks for 60 days in response to increased demand for internet access. Therefore, blocks you could usually count on not being used by a licensee (for instance Dish) are going to be put into use by T-Mobile as quickly as possible. With most major events canceled this may not cause any issues but we wanted to make sure that our industry friends were aware of T-Mobile’s plans in case it has an impact on systems you currently use.”

From Stage Research, owner Carlton Guc writes, “During this time of idle theaters and postponed projects, Stage Research is offering any of our software programs for free. Use it for what you want – learn something new, coordinate frequencies, create that highly complex sound design, upgrade your personal equipment to the latest version of our software or upgrade your professional equipment at the shop, in school, or your theatre. For free. It’s on us. Hoping to ease the challenges we are all dealing with at this time. There is no deadline other than sometime after theatre resumes. Order from our store the normal way and use this code: SUPPORTARTS to get your 100% discount. Please tell your friends. We’re here to help support the arts.”

Starlite, the Moorestown, New Jersey rental house, says, "We are taking strong measures to ensure that staff members and our community remain safe, and that our company emerges strong. We will continue to monitor the situation and will abide by any interim guidance provided by the CDC or other authorities. Many of our staff members have already been working remotely and we are confident that we will be able to continue to assist our clients and partners during this trying time. We will continue to inform you of any changes and most importantly, our thoughts are with you, your team and your families at this challenging time."

And, if you’re looking for some entertainment at the end of the day, here are some additional options:
Abrons Art Center, located on New York’s Lower East Side, is making a number of performances available for streaming: https://vimeo.com/abronsartsctr.

Theatreworks, the Montain View, California-based theatre company is selling tickets to a streaming version of its recently cancelled production, They Promised Her the Moon: https://www.theatreworks.org/201920-season/moon-livestream/.

The website Opera Wire offers a comprehensive list of companies streaming performances: https://operawire.com/a-comprehensive-list-of-all-opera-companies-offering-free-streaming-services-right-now/.

COVID-19 Update: March 20, 2020:
Big Shocks, Strong Responses, and the Industry Soldiers On

The impact of the coronavirus continues to be felt globally and the entertainment industry continues to feel one shockwave after another. The Metropolitan Opera has cancelled its season, and Carnegie Hall has extended its shutdown to May 10. The Vegas Strip is shut down for at least a couple of weeks. And the website Deadline.com is reporting that Cirque du Soleil is laying off 95% of its employees. In Canada, the Shaw Festival has canceled all public events until April 30, and the Stratford Festival is now shuttered through May. In the UK, West End theatres are closed, and the Glastonbury Festival has been canceled. In a continent-wide development, the Eurovision Song Contest will not happen this year. Here’s fast update of stories you might have missed.

In the latest update: NAB has announced that it is not rescheduling its 2020 show: https://bit.ly/3a8VJmT.
Various companies, associations, and political figures have jumped into the fray, seeking positive change: TLS has spread awareness of a petition on Change.org, asking for a Federal aid package for the events industry. You can sign it at https://bit.ly/2WxU9a2. (The company is also canceling its CM Hoist training session, scheduled for the end of the month. New dates will be announced.)

The Recording Academy and its affiliated charitable foundation MusiCares have established the COVID-19 Relief Fund to help people in the music industry affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak and subsequent cancellation of multiple music events. To establish the fund, both the Recording Academy and MusiCares have contributed an initial donation of $1 million each, totaling $2 million. Additionally, all Recording Academy Chapters have committed to fundraising in their local communities. Further updates and announcements will be made in the coming days. To contribute to the fund, go to https://bit.ly/2U831Bu. If you are a member of the music industry in need of assistance, visit: musicares.org.

The Nevada Congressional delegation has urged Congress to provide relief to the state’s tourism industry: https://bit.ly/2UnBBql.

Variety is reporting that as many as 120,000 crew jobs across all markets have been lost, thanks to the coronavirus: https://bit.ly/2JfujA1.

Congressman Adam Schiff is staking out a lead position on getting government help for entertainment workers: https://bit.ly/2J1Q3iH.

Nearly 40 members of Congress have written letters to Nancy Pelosi and Kevin McCarthy urging inclusion of theatre and other entertainment workers in any relief packages: https://bit.ly/33AKocL.

Lightwright, distributed by City Theatrical, is making available a special emergency license for students: https://bit.ly/2UmNTzo.

**Companies From Around the World Have Checked In, Offering Updates on Their Status:**

Artistic Licence reports: “As a small company, Artistic Licence is keen to reassure all our customers that we are open for business as usual. Our sales and production departments are operating normally, and we have good levels of stock available for immediate delivery. As a precaution, the decision has been made that staff who can work from home will do so from today onwards, until further notice. Email and telephone details will remain the same and all staff can be contacted as normal.”

Christie Lites laid off 200 staff members around the world. CEO Huntly Christie, noting that the decision had been made with great regret and no small amount of pain, said, about his decision to speak out. “In my opinion we have some leaders and politicians failing to use pragmatism and science to guide their communication and decision making and I did not want to watch 200 Christie Lites staff lose their jobs quietly and without a voice…I would like to reassure everyone that we are extremely stable and rest assured that Christie Lites will be here for our clients when they begin to return. Christie Lites has positioned itself to be able to endure a very long dry spell. I have no idea how long the work disruption will last, but we are taking a worst-case scenario approach, and have structured our business to continue to operate (at the same Christie standard) for the balance of the year under the present situation. These measures mean Christie Lites can look forward to being able to re-hire staff we laid off once we get out the other side of the effects this virus has had on our industry.”

DWB Live, in Nashville, has announced, “We remain operational. Our offices and phone lines are open, and we are available to discuss new business opportunities, support rental needs, and help with any design and consultation as we prepare to get back to work at the end of this period. We also have event space and technical support available for public use and streaming capabilities.”

Danley Sound Labs: “At Danley, our priority has always been to create and supply the most unique loudspeakers coupled with dedicated and honest customer support and service,” said Jeff Pulliam, general manager. “We have now implemented measures to ensure the health and welfare of all our employees. However, as Danley builds its products in low-density production facilities in Georgia and North Carolina, we have the capability of providing many of our products during this unprecedented time. Our OS, GO2, and Nano lines are readily available. Wooden products will take a little longer. As many members of our team, including our engineers are working from home, there may be little delay in returning messages. Email is a sure bet, as everyone at Danley remains connected at home and at the production facilities. Like every-
one, we are dearly looking forward to returning to normal!"

Drape Kings says, “Our customer service specialists in the NY Metro, DC Metro, and Chicago areas are working with our customers on changes and the virtual event planning that is now occurring. We are currently open during normal business hours and will continue our after-hours emergency line support while striving to keep our employees and their families safe. We will inform you of any changes to our plans as there are still many unknowns.”

EM Acoustics notes that very few of its components are made in China, limiting the company’s exposure to supply-chain issues. It adds, “We do have considerable reserves stocks of components that will allow us to complete current production schedules without disruption.”

Fisher Dachs staffers are working at home but are reachable but phone, email, and conferencing.

iWeiss remains open, having taken steps to protect the health of its staff. “Our staff is at work, ready to accept your quotes and orders. We have inventory in place to manufacture your orders and we are shipping products as requested.”

L-Acoustics, based in France, has decided to suspend on-site operations there and in Wenden, Germany; London; and Singapore. The company adds that it “is in a solid financial position and, for the foreseeable future, will maintain our entire workforce’s full employment and salaries.”

Martin Audio reports that is Chinese suppliers are returning “to some sort of normality” and regular shipments are on track. “As a consequence, we have good stocks in our European and US hubs of ADORN on-wall loudspeakers, BlacklineX, BlacklineX Powered, and our existing ceiling range. That being said, we have seen a recent spike in demand, with Blackline X8 in particular coming under supply pressure. In terms of new products: “The China only S. Series is now shipping from April. The new Blackline X218 subwoofer will be available from European and US hubs from May. The new Blackline XH15 (Asia only) will ship from China in May. The new ADORN ceiling speakers will ship from US and European hubs from June with the ADORN pendant a month later.”

Bill Sapsis reports that the NATEAC Conference, scheduled for late July, is still on, with a final decision to come in mid-April: www.lightingandsoundamerica.com/news/story.asp?ID=TRUW2H.

RC4 staffers are working at home. However, the company says, “If you need RC4 technical support, please use our online ticket system at https://rc4.freshdesk.com/support/tickets/new, or send email to support@rc4wireless.com.”

RCF reports, “We are working to continue producing regularly and meet our orders and project requirements. However, some delays might be expected, due to the difficulties in the logistics and transports as the situation evolves in different areas. We have suspended all RCF in-house training and travels for all employees at this time. We have also suspended customers and supplier visits to RCF premises as well as gatherings.” Office personnel are working remotely and are reachable by phone.

TAF USA reports that it is limiting the number of walk-in customers. However, the company continues to welcome quotes and orders via phone or email.

TMB says, “We are planning to be here for you throughout the pandemic, continuing with appropriately scaled services and operations from our LA and London locations, while still providing the fastest possible response. We are here for you! As such, TMB is making all recommended and necessary modifications to operations while still actively processing quotes and shipping orders. TMB will continue to offer technical support, innovative technology, a global presence, and as always, people for whom entertainment production and architectural lighting are more than just a job. We are planning on getting back to normal as soon as we safely can.”

Times Square Lighting says, “Currently, we plan to remain open to the best of our ability. Our sales team is working remotely and is equipped to take any inquiries via email and phone. Thankfully, the advent of new business technologies has enabled us to continue operations with minimal disruptions.

Vectorworks’ Design Summit has been canceled. The company announced, “Vectorworks will automatically refund full registration fees to the original form of payment and no action is needed on your part.”
And Anyone Looking for Diversion While Sheltering at Home Can Try Out These Streaming Possibilities:

New York’s Off Off Broadway presenter HERE is offering a variety of online opportunities: https://here.org/programs/online-programming/, as is New York’s La MaMa: http://lamama.org/.


New York’s Metropolitan Opera is offering free streaming of performance: https://www.metopera.org/.

Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre is selling tickets for the online streaming of its most recent production, The Siblings Play: https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/10530561.

A special, one-performance-only version of the Rosie O’Donnell Show, featuring a galaxy of Broadway luminaries, will broadcast on Sunday, March 22 at 7:00pm ET on Broadway.com.

Sennheiser is initiating a series of exclusive streaming concerts on the company’s Instagram account, which will be broadcast via IGTV (Instagram TV): https://www.instagram.com/Sennheiser/. Keep up announcements on http://www.sennheiser.com/anniversary. Beyond announcements of dates, the website contains numerous music videos with immersive recordings from jazz clubs, electro sets in a living room atmosphere as well as live recordings from recording studios. Just put on your headphones or turn up the speakers and dive into the music.


The 24-Hour Plays, an annual competition held in New York, has released as series of monologues featuring Hugh Dancy, Rachel Dratch, and others: https://24hourplays.com/viral-monologues/.

Events are moving fast, and some of this information may be out of date by the time you read it. We’ll keep you up to date as news comes in. Stay safe. Sanitize.

###

**COVID-19 Update: March 16, 2020:**
**Worldwide Sweep of Coronavirus Puts World on Hold**

As the spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 swept the globe in early March, the entertainment technology industry has faced major interruptions in business activity that are certain to last at least for some weeks to come. Following the earlier postponements of Prolight + Sound Guangzhou and MIR Tech came the news, on March 3, that Prolight + Sound Frankfurt would not take place March 31 – April 3 as scheduled. The decision came after several major exhibitors withdrew. The show was rescheduled for May 26 – 29, but later was canceled.

On March 11, NAB announced that it would not take place in April. The USITT Conference and Stage Expo, scheduled for April 1 – 4, in Houston, was the next domino to fall, following an announcement on March 12. As we go to press, Lightfair has also postponed to unspecified dates later in the year.

By this point, the United States was faced with a growing challenge. (As of this writing, 3,771 cases have been diagnosed here, a number that more than doubled over the weekend.) Because of the shortage of testing kits in the US, the lack of effective treatment options, and fears that hospitals do not have enough ventilators to handle a pandemic outbreak -- and in lieu of a strong Federal response -- state and local governments have moved to put in place measures to ensure social distancing -- which, along with frequent hand-washing, appears to be the key defense against the disease. On March 12, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued a ban on large gatherings, causing the Broadway League to suspend all performances until the week of April 13. Other institutions -- including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Park Avenue Armory, and the Shed -- followed suit, although some are only closed until the end of March. Virtually every Off and Off Off Broadway company has followed suit. Across the country, institutions large and small, including the Kennedy Center, Goodman Theatre in Chicago, and Old Globe in San Diego, have closed for three to four weeks. Canada’s Stratford Festival has canceled performances between April 11 and May 2.
Symphonies from Boston to Los Angeles are also closing temporarily. The Disney Parks and cruise line, as well as Universal Studios’ theme parks, Knott’s Berry Farm, and Six Flags America, are suspending operations. The NBA has canceled the rest of the season and Major League Baseball has delayed opening for at least two weeks. Also affected are collegiate sports events such as March Madness.

Perhaps most problematic for this industry is the effect on music and concert touring. The Ultra Music Festival in Miami was canceled, and the festivals Coachella and Stagecoach have been postponed. The former is now set for October 9 – 11 and 16 – 18; the latter will take place October 23 – 25. On March 11, Variety reported that concert touring producers AEG and Live Nation were suspending tours for the rest of March: Among the acts put on hold are Billie Eilish, Tame Impala, The Strokes, Post Malone, Michael Bublé, Maluma, Cher, Kenny Chesney, Zac Brown Band, Trippie Redd, and Young M.A.

UPDATE: Since this story was written on Friday, March 13, New York City has announced the closure all restaurants, nightclubs, and small theatres. (Restaurants are allowed to handle take-out orders.) Cinemas in New York and Los Angeles have also been closed. In Las Vegas, the casinos owned by MGM Resorts International are closing as of Tuesday. These include the Bellagio, MGM Grand, Mandalay Bay, The Mirage, Luxor, New York-New York, Excalibur, Park MGM, and CityCenter. These closings are until further notice. The two Wynn-named properties are closing for two weeks, at which time a re-evaluation will be made. According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Caesars Entertainment Corp., Las Vegas Sands Corp., and Boyd Gaming Corp. have no plans to close casinos based in Nevada.

The CDC is now advising against meetings of groups of more than 50 people for the next eight weeks.

Obviously, this is a developing situation and these restrictions may very well lead to a faster resolution of the pandemic, but the consequences will play out over time. Check www.lightingandsoundamerica.com for further updates.

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