Sunday, October 11, 2020: Online!

mixology

Freshly Made Shorts of All Sorts & Lively Discussions

a new series from undiscovered works
COMMUNITY & ARTIST ENGAGEMENT

At Undiscovered Works, we believe that stories impact change, that we better our world by coming together to learn about our shared and unique experiences. Our programming is dedicated to supporting artists as they develop plays, music, monologues, comedy, and film. Our ensemble-based Off and Off-Off Broadway productions bring to light the social issues of our times, all the while entertaining and inspiring dialogue.

ABOUT MIXOLOGY

Mixology is a new series from Undiscovered Works that explores the creative possibilities of presenting theatrical, cinematic, and performance pieces in virtual space. This month’s event features six new Shorts of All Sorts!

“We started off doing some exploring with Zoom as part of the Undiscovered Works monthly storytelling event. After discussions with other creators we know we decided to do some further experimentation with a spin-off on Sunday afternoon. In an attempt to push the boundaries of the online world we wanted to incorporate filmed content and live elements. Of course in experiments sometimes things explode… but there are a few sure fire elements that will keep things on track!”

- Jennifer Dean and Eric Rice
OUR PROGRAM

KURTIS ON ZOOM
(Live)
written by Julie Hays
performed by Mike Roche, Vivienne Leheny, Jennifer Dean & Eric Rice

KOKO’S LOVE: EPISODE 2
(Excerpt)
created, produced & performed by Yoshie Sakai

FLEETWOOD
(Live)
written & performed by Robert Pagnani
video collage by Jennifer Dean

ESCAPE
directed by Tom Gold

ANXEYETY
directed by Arden Barlow

LET’S TALK ABOUT... THE MYTH OF THE CONSTITUTION
(Live)
created by Jennifer Dean & Irene Meltzer Richard
live readings by Keith Overton and Leah Abrams

* Q&A with presenting artists follows our presentation. *

SPECIAL THANKS
to Vincent Gagliostro for designing the Mixology logo and banner.

Vincent Gagliostro is an artist, filmmaker, activist and an original member of the political AIDS activist group ACT UP. Gagliostro is preparing to direct his second feature film, Lumberville, which he has written in collaboration with Avram Finkelstein. In 2016 Gagliostro made his feature film writing and directing debut with After Louie, starring Alan Cumming, Zachary Booth and Sarita Choudhury. He was a contributing cinematographer for the Oscar nominated documentary, How To Survive a Plague. His graphic and fine art work is in the permanent collections of The Whitney, The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan, and Cooper-Hewitt. His art direction on three of Prince’s music videos — Cream, Diamonds and Pearls, and Kiss — prompted his move into video art and film. He has lectured at Yale on the subject of Art and Activism. On the web at gagliostro.com.
Leah S. Abrams (Let’s Talk About...) is founder and executive director of Undiscovered Works, a non-profit theatre production company. Leah produced the Off-Broadway premieres of Mother Night and Sam & Dede, or My Dinner with Andre the Giant (also directed) at 59E59 with Custom Made Theatre Co., which she co-founded and managed for 20 years. Other NYC credits include Sightlines (director/co-producer, Nancy Manocherian’s the cell); Hard Times, An American Musical (production manager, the cell); and McGoldrick’s Thread (general manager, Theatre 80-St. Marks). Leah’s favorite acting roles: Adventure in Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell, Jolly in Mamet’s The Old Neighborhood, and Lies & Legends: The Musical Stories of Harry Chapin.

Arden Barlow (Anxeyety) is a contract illustrator/animator living in Boston with his partner.

Jennifer Dean (Kurtis on Zoom; Let’s Talk About...) currently works as an editor and has worked as an actor, director, and producer in theatre and film - and wrote a thesis on women making movies in America, interviewing a ton of incredible people (the2ndSexandthe7thArt.com). She is always happy telling stories in whatever way she can. jenniferdean.biz

Tom Gold (Escape) Director and producer of touring company of 8-16 soloist and principal dancers recruited from the New York City Ballet. Tours throughout US and Europe. Repertoire showcases works from George Balanchine, Tom Gold and Twyla Tharp.

Julie Hays (Kurtis on Zoom) grew up and lives in New York City. Her play Home Therapy Kit was produced at the Atlantic Theater and a finalist for the HBO Comedy festival. Carli Anne Songbyrd Baker was part of The Midtown International Theater Festival and nominated for best playwriting and directing. Years May Go By premiered at the Planet Connections Festival nominated for Best One Act Play and also produced in Westport CT. by Play With Your Food. Sort Of Like Julie... Only Worse premiered at the Midtown International Theater Festival nominated for best supporting actor. Her new play The Blockers was part of The Emerging Artists New Work Series. Julie was selected as a participating artist in the New Group Theater’s Writing Workshop. Julie is creating and writing for Zoom, but hopeful live performance will return. She is also an actress. JulieHays.com

Vivienne Leheny (Kurtis on Zoom) When not hiding out in her COVID-bunker, Vivienne works as an actor and audiobook narrator. Her most recent appearance on the big screen was as the “Snarky Wedding Guest” in After the Wedding, when she had the audacity to mock Julianne Moore. (Let it be said, Ms. Moore was exceedingly gracious.) In addition to Snarky Wedding Guests, Vivienne has portrayed romantic hero alien gladiators/warriors/
cyborgs as well as elves, orcs and dragons in her audiobook narrations. But playing Marta to the delightful Mike Roche’s inestimable Kurtis has been one of her great joys. And playtime with the fabulous director Jennifer Dean as we perform the glittering writing by the brilliant and generous Julie Hays, is why Viv’s able to crawl out of her bunker-based bed in the morning. For more non-essential nonsense: VivienneLeheny.com.

**Keith Overton (Let’s Talk About...)** is a New York-based 1st Assistant Editor currently works for Vice News Tonight. He specializes in non-scripted, short form and narrative post production work. Keith has edited a narrative feature length film, assisted on live to tape broadcast shows for MSNBC, Comedy Central, Youtube and Nickelodeon. In addition, he was an assistant editor for Global Citizen, Amnesty International Concert, and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Keith’s credits include producer and editor for the Jean Grae’s sitcom “Life with Jeannie,” and Online Editor for Seasons 1 and 2 of TV One’s “Celebrity Crime Files.”

**Robert Pagnani (Fleetwood)** is a classical singer, writer, teacher, philosopher and storyteller. He lives in New York City with his wife Mary and their two cats, Jersey and Marina. A philosopher by nature, he is always seeking the unique and often overlooked slant in any situation, and often finds thought provoking, fascinating and even humorous results. He is an avid traveler and enjoys visits throughout North America, Europe and any other location he is lucky enough to visit, and relishes the opportunity to share stories of his travels. [https://robsbigmouth.wordpress.com/](https://robsbigmouth.wordpress.com/)

**Eric Rice (Kurtis on Zoom)** NY credits include: *Mother Night* (dir. Brian Katz, 59E59); *Incendiary Agents* (dir. Peter Jensen, New Ohio Theatre); *Sort of Like Julie... Only Worse* (dir. Kelly Hutchinson, Abingdon Theatre); *Orson’s Shadow* (dir. Lauren Reinhard, Theatre Row); *Riverside Symphony* (dir. Hondo Weiss-Richmond, Robert Moss Theatre); *Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2* (dir. Elyzabeth Gorman) and *Henry V* (dir. Melisa Annis) - RST/Prospect Park Alliance. Film: *In-Between* (dir. Kanchalee Wijakpaisarn); *Stanley’s Thanksgiving* (dir. Micah Paisner); *To Live Forever* and *Fear of Heights* (dir. Jennifer Dean); *Just Love* (dir. Charles Peirce); *Peeling Apples on Your Own* (dir. Nisan Dağ); *Game Night* (dir. David Ketterer). BA, Applied Arts & Sciences, Drama, Emphasis in Acting, SDSU (US Army GI Bill). AEA, SAG-AFTRA. Social: @riceunderwater. More info: [www.riceunderwater.com](http://www.riceunderwater.com).

**Irene Meltzer Richard (Let’s Talk About...)** When she’s not making stuff and spouting off on social media, Irene is a freelance consultant in the areas of audience engagement, event management, and partnership development. She has collaborated on campaigns for film and multi-cultural projects at a wide-range of profit and non-profit companies. Irene was born in the Bronx and has always called NYC home even when she’s residing somewhere else. She believes in epistemological modesty and living by the 5W1H: “Who, what, and where, by what helpe, and by whose ~ Why, how, and when, doe

Facebook: @irene.richard.77 - Instagram: @irene_ruthless
Twitter: @petitesoeur

Mike Roche (Kurtis on Zoom) Kurtis (by Julie Hays, dir. Jennifer Dean), Night Over Taos (INTAR/dir. Estelle Parsons), Doubt (T. Schreiber Theatre/Peter Jensen), The Father (reading w/ Al Pacino), Room Service (Actors Studio/Arthur Storch), A Clockwork Orange (59E59, EST, Edinburgh Festival/Joe Tantalo), cul-de-sac (Unquowa Rep/John Cariani), Billy the Kid (Flea Theatre/Jim Simpson), Psycho (dir. Thomas G. Waites), Salome (Two River Theatre), Johnny Johnson Dream Show (dir. John Strasberg), Salome (PA: Barrymore Theatre/Broadway dir. Estelle Parsons). Member: Godlight Theatre Company (2010 Drama Desk Award), SAG-AFTRA, AEA.
Special Thanks: Julie, Jennifer, Vivienne, Eric, Leah and Holly O’Brien.
www.mikeroche.net

Yoshie Sakai (KOKO’s Love) is a multidisciplinary artist, working in video, installation, performance, and sculpture. She received her BFA from California State University Long Beach and her MFA from Claremont Graduate University. Recent solo exhibitions include California State University Dominguez Hills in Carson as the 2018-2019 PRAXIS Artist in Residence (2019), Verge Center for the Arts in Sacramento (2018), Groundspace Project in Los Angeles (2017), and Antenna in New Orleans (2016). She attended the Vermont Studio Center Residency (2019), the ACRE Residency Program (2016), the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2014), and received the 2012 California Community Foundation for Visual Artists Emerging Artist Fellowship. Her work has been shown throughout the United States in film festivals and art exhibitions from Los Angeles to Miami, as well as internationally in Cambodia, Canada, Germany, and Japan. Her practice originates from her interest and understanding of the quotidian and the narrative. The soap opera fascinates her, not only for its outrageous characters and scenarios, but also for how it touches upon the most fundamental emotions and at times spews familiar life lessons and moral clichés that are highly accessible, or as her 86-year-old, first generation Japanese mother would say it is “what she lives for.” Her past and present work has always dealt with perceptions and the inability to fulfill others’ expectations whether it be the mass media or those of her Japanese American family. www.yoshiesakai.com
his therapy on Zoom! The third in a five-part series of KURTIS ON ZOOM, actors Mike Roche (as Kurtis) and Vivienne Leheny (as Marta) reprise their roles for this online adventure - and a few new characters invade their world with Eric Rice as “Marvin Marvel” and Jennifer Dean as Kendra.

“model minority” and reveal the guise of superficial “perfection” of being both Asian-American and a woman. It is about a Japanese-American family, whose patriarch, Hiroshi, is a liquor store owner in South Los Angeles that annoyingly insists on the importance of having a male inherit the family business and not a female, his only child, a daughter named Yuki. Loosely autobiographical, Sakai felt it was important to write, produce, direct, and act out all the characters of this dark dramedy. KOKO's Love is a stage for the everyday doubts, anxieties, hopes, and daydreams that come from living while challenging the notion of fictitious and non-fictitious storytelling. She uses greenscreen technology to act out all of the characters in this dark dramedy. In the first part of Episode Two Yuki was kidnapped and found herself in a New Orleans reverie... what will she learn in her Bayou adventure?

As a 16-year-old community college student Robert went in search of part-time work... which wasn’t as easy as he had hoped. Robert reads the third part of his adventures as a goat-herder with some accompanying visuals inspired by the piece!
ESCAPE
Directed by Tom Gold
2020 | USA | 4 min, 6 sec
ESCAPE is the east coast response to LALALand, when someone has been in quarantine for too long, closes their eyes and wakes up immersed in song and dance. Tom Gold dances and creates the world of this dance piece on film.

ANXEYETY
Directed by Arden Barlow
2015 | USA | 5 min, 2 sec
Six individuals from various cultural backgrounds, gender identities, ages, professions, and levels of social anxiety/disorders are interviewed about their relationships with eye contact - director Arden Barlow animates the interviews for this short film.

LET’S TALK ABOUT...
THE MYTH OF THE CONSTITUTION
created by Jennifer Dean & Irene Meltzer Richard
2020 | USA | 4 min
In this “Let’s Talk About...” we explore the ways in which, in addition to being the legal document delineating our national frame of government, the Constitution has become a powerful myth inspiring us to broaden and more fully realize the five basic principles set forth in its Preamble. And we ask: How can we continue to do so?

Featuring archival clips of Justice Thurgood Marshall and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton as well as live readings by Keith Overton and Leah Abrams. Created by Jennifer Dean and Irene Richard as the second entry in their ‘Let’s Talk About...” short collage documentary mini-series.

FOOTNOTES

[1] The Constitution of the United States is 231 years old and counting. It came into force in 1789 as the legal document delineating our national frame of government. It is the supreme law of the United States of America, but it has not been static. The Constitution has been amended 27 times, including one amendment that repealed a previous one.

[2] “We the People” of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of
Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

SOURCES

_The Bicentennial Speech_
In 1987 Justice Thurgood Marshall gave a speech as part of the constitutional bicentennial celebration. Politicians and Judges around the country were praising the “founding Fathers” for their genius at writing a document that established the guiding legal principles of the republic for generations. But Marshall was one of the few voices pointing out that the original constitution required numerous amendments and came to a crisis that required a Civil War to solve. In a time of flag waving and patriotic rhetoric, Marshall’s comments surprised many and created Front-page headlines.
http://thurgoodmarshall.com/the-bicentennial-speech/

_The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription_
Ratified June 21, 1788 | Date effective March 4, 1789
A transcription of the Constitution as it was inscribed by Jacob Shallus on parchment (the document on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum.) The spelling and punctuation reflect the original.
https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript

_George Washington’s Farewell Address_
Washington did not publicly deliver his Farewell Address. It first appeared in print on September 19, 1796, in the Philadelphia Daily American Advertiser and then in papers around the country. This version of the address is taken from the original of the final manuscript in the New York Public Library provided courtesy of The Papers of George Washington. The only changes made were a modernization of the spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/pdf/Washingtons_Farewell_Address.pdf

_Retreat from Equality_
Sag Harbor Initiative | October 11, 1987
In 1987 over that year’s Columbus Day weekend, a group of concerned citizens, including William Pickens, Betty Friedan, E. L. Doctorow, Kurt Vonnegut, and Eleanor Holmes Norton, participated in a 3-day event designed to bring together “black and white thinkers and activists, women and men asking new questions about our eroding American values of equality, freedom and community that has aroused intense and new commitment.” In this session of the Sag Harbor Initiative, panelists discussed the issue of minority rights.
https://www.c-span.org/video/?528-1/retreat-equality
The 2020 United States elections are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3rd.

Exercising your right to vote has never been more important for the future of this country! All 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives, 35 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate, and the office of President of the United States will be contested. Thirteen state and territorial governorships, as well as numerous other state and local elections, will also be contested.

Early voting is critical in this year’s election. In the midst of the COVID-19, many states are making it easier to avoid long lines on election day by casting your vote early.

It is up to you to register to vote and encourage your friends, and family, to do the same. On the National Urban League’s website you can find this information: Ballot Breakdown State-by-State, Your Polling Place, Voter ID Laws State-by-State, and a Voting by Mail FAQ.

The National Urban League is a historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization with 90 affiliates serving 300 communities, providing direct services that impact and improve the lives of more than two million people nationwide. Founded in 1910 and headquartered in New York City, the Urban League collaborates at the national and local levels with community leaders, policymakers, and corporate partners to elevate the standards of living for African Americans and other historically underserved groups. The Urban League is dedicated to economic empowerment, equality, and social justice.
UNDISCOVERED WORKS NEEDS YOUR STORIES!

Are you a creative artist looking for an opportunity to share new work? We’d love to consider including you in our monthly series! Please contact us at leaha@undiscoveredworks.org.

Our Next MONTHLY STORYTELLING EVENT

TOMORROW!
Monday, October 12, 2020 @ 7:30 PM EDT

Writer/actor Hayward Leach reads his short story, *Bobcats*, following one observant Little League baseball player’s coming of age from the outfield, as he contends with illness, family, and desire.

Tjaša Ferme of Transforma Theatre presents her work-in-progress: *Two Lovers and a Bear*, an occult comedy about soul mates and the roles we play.

Be sure to sign our mailing list and visit us at www.undiscoveredworks.org for all the 411 on our monthly storytelling series and upcoming productions.

Our Next MIXOLOGY

Sunday, November 8, 2020 @ 3:00 PM EDT