

Monday, November 9, 2020: Online!

# Monthly Storytelling on Zoom



Monthly Storytelling Series





## ABOUT THE STORYTELLING SERIES

Our monthly storytelling series is all about community engagement. We believe that stories impact change, that we better our world by coming together to learn about our shared and unique experiences. While we may be forced physically apart for some time to come, we are very much together in spirit.

As you can imagine, many of our artists and theatres are struggling right now. If you are in a position to help, please consider “tipping” our presenting artists and others you may know through their **Venmo** and **Pay-Pal** accounts, along with donating to your favorite local theatres and arts organizations. So many of our colleagues are creating virtual programming, maintaining salaries and benefits with no earned revenue feasible for months. Please, help us help them open the doors on the other side of this!

### TONIGHT'S LINE-UP

#### **BLESS THIS MESS**

*a novel-in-progress by Reed Seifer  
read by Adam Strauss*

It's 1980's suburbia and an upwardly-mobile Jewish family strives for perfection, while kvetching about everything else.

#### **THE PRINCESS AND THE WITCH BOY**

*Sienna Aczon and Aaron Banes present  
works from their upcoming 4-song visual EP*

The entire project was created with homemade magic – everything recorded and filmed at home during quarantine, relying on items on-hand for props and set pieces, including creating a bedding fort to sound-proof the closet for recording!

*\* Q&A with available artists follows our presentation. \**

## TONIGHT'S STORYTELLERS

(in order of work being presented)

**Reed Seifer** is a multi-dimensional artist whose work spans from the colossal to the inconspicuous. His work appears in unexpected places and interacts with the audience in unanticipated intimate ways. Reed's most widely experienced work is the "optimism Metrocard" — in which 14 million Metrocards were circulated with a single word, "optimism," on the reverse. His first book, *8 Days of Yiddishkeit*, was published in 2017.

**Adam Strauss** is a comedian, writer and performer based in NYC. *The New York Times* said his autobiographical monologue *The Mushroom Cure* "mines a great deal of laughter from disabling pain," *The Chicago Tribune* called it "arrestingly honest and howlingly funny" and gave it 3.5 (out of 4) stars, and *Time Out New York* called it "a true-life tour de force" and named it a Critics' Pick. Adam won the New York Fringe Festival's Overall Excellence Award for Solo Performance, The Eddy Award for Best Solo Show in San Francisco, and the Leffe Beer Craft Your Character Storytelling Competition. He's lost too many things to mention here. He can be conveniently stalked (or blocked) at [@atomstrauss](#).

**Sienna Aczon** is a Filipina-American actor, singer, and writer born and raised in Honolulu, and currently based in New York City. Her portrayal as Mia in the all-new rom-com web-series *Stuck* earned her a nomination for Best Comedic Actress in Shift Drinks' All the Laughs Comedy Awards 2020. This Aries non-canon fairytale Princess has been collaborating with Aaron Banes, aka The Witch Boy, on their current project *The Princess and the Witch Boy* for what feels like a lifetime. This is its current iteration.

**Aaron Banes** is a Filipino-American actor, singer, musician, and writer based in New York City. Credits include *The Big One Oh!* (Atlantic Theater), *PJ Masks Live* (National Tour), *Balibayan* (Playwrights Realm), *Model Citizens* (Musical Theatre Factory/Broad Views on Broadway). [@aaron.banes](#). Aaron is also a Cancer Sun, coffee fiend, tarot reader, and newfound Witch Boy, [@misterwitchby](#). He's been collaborating with Sienna Aczon, aka The Princess, on their current project, *The Princess and The Witch Boy*, for what feels like a lifetime. This is its current iteration.

### HELP SUPPORT OUR COLLEAGUES

If you're able, please consider tipping our participating artists via their **Venmo** accounts:

- Sienna Aczon: **Venmo @sienna-aczon**
- Aaron Banes: **Venmo @Aaron-Banes**
- Reed Seifer: **Venmo @Reed-Seifer**

## 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](mailto:leaha@undiscoveredworks.org).

Undiscovered Works is dedicated to supporting artists as they develop plays, music, monologues, comedy, and film. Our monthly storytelling series presents work in all stages of development, bringing together voices from across our community. 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.

### THIS MONTH'S NON-PROFIT PARTNER

#### THE JEAN MOYE DARK FUND FOR BLACK WOMEN/FEMMES + TGNC ARTISTS

A portion of tonight's proceeds will go to **The Jean Moyer Dark Fund For Black Women/Femmes, + TGNC Artists**: A fund that seeks to create a collectively-imagined residency space that centers Black Women (Cis and Trans), Non-Binary Folks, and other Transfolks to be artists, world-makers, healers, and visionaries as well as providing safety net funds. Please visit and consider supporting / spreading the word about their recently launched Indiegogo campaign:

[https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-jean-moye-dark-fund#/  
/](https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-jean-moye-dark-fund#/)

### Our Next MONTHLY STORYTELLING EVENT

Monday, December 14, 2020  
@ 7:30 PM EDT on ZOOM

December features another educational partnership; this time, with Clark University. Join us for a reading of student playwright Brett Iarrobino's *Poor Connection*, read by the original cast members.

Be sure to follow us on social media and sign our mailing list at [www.undiscoveredworks.org](http://www.undiscoveredworks.org) to get all the updates!



Our Next  
**MIXOLOGY**  
Sunday, December 13, 2020  
@ 3:00 PM EDT on ZOOM

## ENJOYING THE WORK? FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



[undiscoveredworks.org](http://undiscoveredworks.org)



[facebook.com/undiscoveredworks](https://facebook.com/undiscoveredworks)



[@undiscoveredworksny](https://instagram.com/@undiscoveredworksny)



While we are not able to gather together in person tonight, New York's arts community remains committed to being a source of support for all of us as we navigate a new reality we'd hoped we'd only ever know through novels and history books. We normally gather at Dixon Place's lounge, a staple of the downtown theatre scene for over three decades, where we remind you to stay hydrated and know that every dollar you spend at the lounge goes directly back into supporting the thousands of artists Dixon Place hosts every year. Well, it's more important than ever to stay hydrated and Dixon Place needs our support more than ever to open its doors to all of us as soon as it becomes safe to gather again.

**Please, if you're able, consider making a donation - perhaps the cost of that drink at:**

<https://shop.vendini.com/dixonplace/product-details/donation/054d-4ca95ace388c1932e38137522652>