Sunday, June 27, 2021: 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

THE INFORMER (live)
a selection from the Bertolt Brecht play
performed by Dean Conroy & Kate Fuglei

DON’T BE ON THE OUTSIDE (live)
song by Watts, Wyche and Kelly
performed by Dexter Porter

MIMI’S SUITCASE (recorded)
selections from the one-woman show
created by Ana Bayat

THE HINDU THREAD (film)
created by Jennifer Higgins

JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN (live)
from Henrik Ibsen’s play
monologue performed by Kae Fujisawa

KURTIS ON ZOOM: “THE SISTER” (episode)
written and produced by Julie Hays
directed & edited by Jennifer Dean
original music & theme by Tom Ashton
cast: Mike Roche, Vivienne Leheny & Julie Hays

* 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.
Ana Bayat (Creator, *Mimi’s Suitcase*) is a polyglot actor passionate about using her languages and world experience in the characters she creates and the classes she teaches. She grew up amongst natural-born storytellers who painted scenes as they recounted anecdotes, recreated voices and became the characters they described. She thinks it was inevitable that she, too, would become a storyteller – a multilingual one. Following in her father’s footsteps, she trained in the Stanislavski system with direct students of the master himself. Also, she completed a post-graduate conservatory training program at Birmingham School of Speech and Dramatic Arts in the UK. She has traveled extensively and lived in Barcelona, Tehran and London before settling down in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to UK and US English, she is fluent in Spanish, Persian and French and proficient in German, Italian and Catalan. She is currently working on her one-woman show, *Mimi’s Suitcase*, accepting invitations to tour within the U.S. and internationally. An autobiographical journey through identity, immigration, women’s rights and involuntary displacement, the story is based on her family’s experience returning to Iran, post-revolution, in the 1980s. However, above all, it is a universal story of adolescence, displacement, adaptability, resilience and, ultimately, of hope. She hopes you will join her on this exciting creative journey. More information: [anabayat.com](http://anabayat.com).

Dean Conroy (Husband, *The Informer*) It ain’t easy, babe. Email: westvilleoaks1@outlook.com.

Jennifer Dean (Co-curator; Director, Editor, *Kurtis on Zoom*) 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. More info: [jenniferdean.biz](http://jenniferdean.biz).

Kate Fuglei (Wife, *The Informer*) has performed leading roles at the Guthrie Theater, where she got her professional start, the Mixed Blood Theater (*Autonomy*), the Rubicon (*My Antonia*), La Jolla Playhouse (*Our Town*), Utah Shakespeare (*A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Flea in Her Ear*), Arena Stage (*Crime and Punishment*), Portland Stage (*A Man’s a Man*), A Contemporary Theater (*The Red and the Black*), and the New York Shakespeare Festival (*Love’s Labour’s Lost*), among others. She co-founded the DearKnows Theater Company which worked out of the Home For Contemporary Theater and Art and created original theater pieces based on James Joyce’s *Dubliners* as well as *Beautiful Soup*, based Victorian Children’s literature. She toured the country in the first national Broadway tour of the musical *Spring Awakening*. Kate has worked in over forty episodes of television, including, *Picard*, the latest in the *Star Trek* series. Most recently she played the lead in a short film based on a work by Dorothy Parker entitled *I Live On Your Visits*. Kate developed and toured a one woman musical. Based on the memoir of a Jewish homesteader
on the Northern plains, Rachel Calof (rachelcalof.com) was adapted for the stage by Ken LaZebnik with composer/lyricist Leslie Steinweiss. Directed by Ellen S Pressman, it won the Best Musical prize at the United Solo Festival in NYC. She is currently writing an autobiographical piece, In the Blink of an Eye, about breaking cycles of domestic violence, with composer/lyricist Leslie Steinweiss. In September 2021, she will be performing in Animate, a site specific play about the efficacy of modern zoos, at the Como Zoo in St. Paul, Minnesota. She hopes not to be upstaged by Pandeka the gorilla. Kate is a published author whose books can be found at The Mentoris Project. She has written two biographical novels, one about the life of Enrico Fermi and the other about Maria Montessori. A third, about the life of Frank Capra, will be published in October, 2021. A fourth, about Federico Fellini, will be published in 2022. Kate is a regular columnist for InsideWink, a web-site dedicated to finding the good things in life and celebrating them.

Kae Fujisawa (Ella, John Gabriel Borkman), originally from Japan, is an award-winning director, actor, singer, and playwright who is active in New York City. She most recently directed The American Dream by Edward Albee (Merciful Delusion’s Zoom production, June 2021). Her other directorial works include A Delicate Balance by Albee (Merciful Delusion’s Zoom production), Falling Awake by Matthew Davis (Theatre Borderless’ Zoom production), The Sketches of Happiness (Crossways Theatre, Zoom production), 7 Shitty Hombres by Ellen DeLisle (HB Playwrights Theatre), Therapy by Susan Jane McDonald (John Cullum Theatre at ATA), and Fix by John Patrick Bray (Bernie Wohl Theatre at Coddard Riverside Center), among others. Her first short film, Lullaby, which she adapted with Nicole Gut from Nicole’s short play, Lullaby, won Best Short-Suspense Award at the Culver City Film Festival in L.A. (December 2019). Kae recently appeared as an actor in The American Dream (Mrs. Barker), A Delicate Balance (Edna), and The Sketches of Happiness (Yoko). As a singer she has appeared in many concerts in Tokyo and NYC. Her song, “I Could Always Fly In My Dreams,” will premiere in September in NYC (venue TBA). She studied full-time at HB Studio from 2017 to 2020. She also studied classical singing with Stephany Scourby, Ellen Alexander, and William Woodlof. She received a PhD in Musicology from CUNY Graduate Center, where she focused on dramatic and musical analysis of operas, and taught Music History at Hunter College. Kae’s passion is to create theater/film/song in collaboration. To connect, please email her at theatreborderless@gmail.com.

Julie Hays (Joni; Writer, Producer, Kurtis on Zoom) is an actor, writer, and voice over artist who grew up in and lives in New York City. Her first life was as a dancer in the New York City Ballet, performing at Lincoln Center and across Europe, before she transitioned into acting and writing. She has been in many, many plays, and is particularly proud of the roles she has originated. You can see her on the big and small screen, most recently in The Blacklist, Motherless Brooklyn, Little Boxes and Gotham. Julie’s writing life includes the play Home Therapy Kit (which she also acted in), produced at the Atlantic Theater and a
finalist for the HBO Comedy Festival; Carli Anne Songbyrd Baker, part of The Midtown International Theater Festival and nominated for Best Playwriting and Directing; Years May Go, produced in Westport CT; and Sort of Like Julie... Only Worse, which premiered at the Midtown International Theater Festival. Julie was selected as a participating artist in the New Group Theater’s Writing Workshop. Her recent play, Everything Dark in This World, had a live Zoom reading at Theater for the New City’s On Air series and during the pandemic she wrote the comedy webseries Kurtis on Zoom. Follow Julie on Instagram (@the_real_jumeha) and Twitter (@jumeha). Her IMDb link: imdb.me/juliehays.

Jennifer Higgins (Creator, The Hindu Thread) is a filmmaker and animator from Milwaukee, WI. She focuses on storytelling as an important part of human culture, primarily through stop motion animation. Her first short, The Hindu Thread, appeared at 16 film festivals around the world, with a win for Best First-time director at The Blackbird Film Festival. She has also been known to be, occasionally, the Queen of England in Southern Wisconsin.

Vivienne Leheny (Marta, 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 producer 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.

Dexter Porter (Singer, Don’t Be on the Outside) is a jazz standards vocalist originally from Eatonton, GA and is presently living in Weehawken, NJ. At the urging of friends, Porter changed his focus from a career in musical theatre and television in the great city of New York to a career as a jazz vocalist. Dexter began with pianist, David Marck, to develop a repertoire of standards to perform in such notable nightclubs as: Windows on the World, Birdland Jazz Club, The Triad and more recently Nell’s. Porter has performed privately for Barbara Walters, Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Liz Smith, Regis Philbin, Starr Jones, and many other celebrities. Dexter participated in the Savannah Music Festival in Savannah, GA and plans to continue performing jazz wherever he can. Most recently, Porter has performed Jazz Tuesdays at Ashford and Simpson’s “Sugar Bar Restaurant and Lounge.” Porter believes it is important to keep a truly American form of music, Jazz, alive. Off-stage, he has enjoyed baking buttermilk biscuits for family, friends and neighbors-using only the best ingredients-and now they are available through his Southern Goodness Bakery. His album Crazy She Calls Me is available on Apple Music. More information: dexterporter.com.


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**THE INFORMER** *(live)*
*a selection from the Bertolt Brecht play starring Dean Conroy & Kate Fuglei*

A couple at home on a Sunday afternoon in late 1930s Germany question whether their son, a member of the Hitler Youth, or their maid will potentially inform on them. Brecht described his play as “a dramatic sketch of family life as it is today in the new Hitler’s Germany.”

**DON’T BE ON THE OUTSIDE** *(live)*
*song performed by Dexter Porter*

Grammy short-listed Jazz Vocalist

Dexter Porter presents a song by Watts, Wyche and Kelly.
MIMI’S SUITCASE (recorded)
created by Ana Bayat
9 min, 18 sec
A selection of scenes from the critically acclaimed one-woman show, an autobiographical journey about identity, immigration, women’s rights and involuntary displacement.

THE HINDU THREAD (film)
created by Jennifer Higgins
2016 | USA | 3 min
One of the things that makes us human is our ability to tell stories. In the Hindu creation myth Brahma creates, Vishnu sustains, and Shiva destroys – but that is not the end. Stop motion animation and paper on fabric. Inspired by shadow puppetry to tell the Hindu Creation Story.

JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN (live)
monologue performed by Kae Fujisawa from Henrik Ibsen’s play
Ella confronts disgraced businessman Borkman for marrying her sister and killing the love they shared for one another in days gone by.

KURTIS ON ZOOM:
“The Sister” (episode)
written & produced by Julie Hays
directed & edited by Jennifer Dean
original music & theme by Tom Ashton
2021 | USA | 5 min, 42 sec
Last year during Mixology we watched Kurtis navigate lockdown live. Now Kurtis is being filmed on Zoom. This latest episode introduces Kurtis’ sister Joni – starring Mike Roche (as Kurtis), Vivienne Leheny (as Marta), and Julie Hays (as Joni).
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.

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.

Our Next
MONTHLY STORYTELLING EVENT
Monday, August 9, 2021
@ 7:30 PM EDT on ZOOM!
August programming is underway - contact us if you’d like to be considered for a slot! Be sure to follow us on social media and sign our mailing list at undiscoveredworks.org to get all the updates!

Our Next
MIXOLOGY
Sunday, September 26
@ 5:00 PM EDT on ZOOM!

ENJOYING THE WORK? FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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