

How to Birth a New American Theater

New York Times, 9/11/2020: “Six months dark. Thousands of artists out of work. Could this disaster have a surprise ending? Five critics on what must change, onstage and off.”

Independent movie theaters petition Cuomo for reopening guidelines

Ithaca Journal, 9/11/2020: “About 20 independent art house cinemas across the state have banded together to tell [New York] Gov. Andrew Cuomo they are ready to safely reopen. The group of independent movie theaters are petitioning Cuomo for a road map that would inform them of the necessary COVID-19 precautions they must take so they can once again open their doors to the public. Cuomo has not yet provided a timetable on theater reopenings and said in an August briefing that indoor theaters were less essential than other businesses and pose a greater risk during the pandemic.”

Streaming Continues to Gobble Up More of the Music Industry

The Motley Fool, 9/11/2020: “Streaming services accounted for just under 80% of all recorded music revenue in the U.S. in 2019, and that proportion has now grown even larger in the first half of 2020, according to new figures released by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). In addition to streaming representing a larger piece of the pie, the overall pie is growing, too. U.S. recorded music revenue increased 5.6% in the first half to \$5.7 billion.”

AMC’s CEO describes coronavirus precautions, including upgraded air filtration at reopened theaters

CNBC, 9/10/2020: “AMC Entertainment CEO Adam Aron told CNBC on Thursday that the company has been pleased with the reopening of its movie theaters following coronavirus-induced closures, citing positive reactions from attendees.”

[Ben Affleck movie sues insurer in dispute over COVID-19 insurance](#)

Los Angeles Times, 9/10/2020: “The Los Angeles-based production company behind a Ben Affleck heist movie sued its insurer after it refused to extend coverage without excluding losses linked to COVID-19. According to the suit alleging breach of contract and fraud filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles on Thursday, Chubb National Insurance, which provided Hoosegow Productions Inc. with a multimillion-dollar film producers risk policy, reneged on an agreement by refusing to extend coverage after the shoot was delayed.”

[Coastal Elites Is As Distanced As Its Subject](#)

Vulture, 9/10/2020: “One of the hundred reasons this short, horrifying coronavirus moment has felt so long culturally is that its artistic questions don’t seem to change or advance. What makes something filmed theater as opposed to digital performance? Should we call any performance on a screen “television”? We go around and around, wondering if definitions even matter. On the one hand, I spend hours thinking about categorization. On the other, I know fussing about genre is how critics have always entertained themselves. We have to argue about something. At least HBO’s foray into quarantine creation, *Coastal Elites*, offers the swift gift of clarity. This show is clearly theater, regardless of the delivery system.”

[Fauci: We won’t be able to sit in theaters without masks until a year after an effective coronavirus vaccine is created](#)

Business Insider, 9/10/2020: “Dr. Anthony Fauci, the US’s leading expert on COVID-19, said theaters and cinemas likely won’t be back to normal, welcoming a mask-less public, for at least another year.”

[For New York City Ballet, Another Digital Season](#)

New York Times, 9/10/2020: “Live performances in the theater are still on hold, but the company will present an online season, culminating in five new dances.”

[How superfans are surviving without live music](#)

Boston Globe, 9/10/2020: “Many music lovers feel burned out on all the online content created to fill the void until live events are safe again.”

[In Berlin Theaters, the Curtain Rises on a ‘Corona Season’](#)

New York Times, 9/10/2020: “Some of the city’s major playhouses are presenting pandemic-delayed premieres in sparsely populated auditoriums, with much of the seating removed.”

[It is not just artists who are starving: how the US can rebuild its creative industry post-Covid](#)

The Art Newspaper, 9/10/2020: “A proposal issued to both presidential campaigns by Americans for the Arts outlines a national strategy to put creative workers back to work.”

[Music agents and managers lean on Congress for small-business relief](#)

Boston Globe, 9/10/2020: “With Congress back in session, a lot of independent music venues, managers, agents, and producers find themselves in the same boat as hair salons and hardware stores. All are small businesses facing a coronavirus-induced existential crisis. All are hanging on hopes of a generous bill to replace the CARES Act relief package that expired July 31. For many small music venues, that means the Save Our Stages bill,

which would provide loans and other relief. But many are also looking to the broader bill dubbed RESTART, sponsored by senators Michael Bennet, a Colorado Democrat, and Todd Young, an Indiana Republican. RESTART offers generous relief to small (fewer than 500 employees) and mid-size (fewer than 5,000 employees) independent businesses.”

[New York’s Reopened Museums: Where to Go and What to See](#)

New York Times, 9/10/2020: “What you need to know before venturing back out to see art, from safety precautions to the exhibitions still on view.”

[Online Art Sales Are Rapidly Increasing Due to COVID-19, Study Shows](#)

Hypebeast, 9/10/2020: “Since the coronavirus outbreak six months ago, galleries and art fairs have been forced to move their offerings online — including all three editions of Art Basel which have been terminated this year because of the pandemic. Despite the cancellations, the art fair has released its first mid-year UBS Global Art Market Report in partnership with art economist Clare McAndrew. The survey gleaned data from 795 galleries and examined the collecting habits of 360 high-net-worth collectors across the United States, United Kingdom as well as countries in Asia. Galleries reported sales have dropped by 36 percent in the first half of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Despite the shortfalls in revenue, the study suggests that online art sales are booming due to COVID-19.”

[While members of Congress chew the scenery, the arts wait for scraps](#)

Washington Post, 9/10/2020: Peter Marks: “On Monday evening, 25 members of Congress — 19 Democrats, five Republicans and one independent — will take part in a good-humored tradition that brings politicians and theater people together for a worthy cause. In ‘Will on the Hill,’ a Shakespeare Theatre Company annual fundraiser, the lawmakers get to ham it up, this year in an original (digital) riff on ‘Romeo and Juliet,’ about a pair of congressional aides from opposing parties who fall in love. Cute, right? Productive, no? So why am I not smiling? Because this year, while the congresspeople are performing, legions of actors and other creative-economy workers across the country simply cannot.”

[Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Fender Guitar Sales Skyrocket](#)

mxdown.com, 9/9/2020: “In a year that has seen the music industry lose an estimated \$7 billion, guitar sales have skyrocketed. Fender, Gibson, Taylor and Martin have all seen an increase in revenue over the past few months, since the COVID-19 pandemic first began.”

[Pandemic Has Cut Modern and Contemporary Gallery Sales 36%, Report Says](#)

New York Times, 9/9/2020: “The survey, by Art Basel and UBS, analyzes the effect of the coronavirus on the world’s art dealers. Sales are down, but the wealthy are still buying.”

[After 6 Months Shuttered, The MFA Reopens On Sept. 26](#)

WBUR The Artery, 9/9/2020: “After being shuttered since mid-March, Boston’s largest museum — the Museum of Fine Arts — will reopen its doors to the public on Saturday, Sept. 26. Along with new safety protocols, the MFA will come back to life with advance-purchase timed tickets, reduced capacity and shortened hours Wednesday through Sunday. There will also be special morning slots for high-risk populations, and masks will be

required for all attendees. When the building first opens, visitors will be able to explore galleries in the museum's Art of the Americas wing. The rest of the building will open in stages as walking routes are redesigned to create adequate distancing measures. 'So it's a three-phased opening,' museum director Matthew Teitelbaum explained, 'because people have to walk through different spaces. And we will continue that process well into the spring.'"

[As COVID Dampens Art-History Job Prospects, Yale University Decides Not to Accept New Graduate Students to the Department in 2021](#)

artnet news, 9/9/2020: "In a sign of the struggles facing institutions of higher education and students alike, Yale University has announced that it will be accepting no new graduate students to its department of art history for fall 2021. 'In order to ensure that the department has resources to adequately support its students during the Covid-19 pandemic, we will hold off on bringing new students to the program until 2022,' reads a notice to prospective students on the program's website."

[BMI Announces Record Revenue Of \\$1.311 Billion](#)

Music Row, 9/9/2020: "Despite the unprecedented impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, BMI closed its fiscal year ended June 30 with \$1.311 billion in revenue, a \$28 million increase over the previous year. The company also distributed and administered \$1.233 billion to its affiliated songwriters, composers and publishers, 3% or \$37 million more than last year. For the fifth consecutive year, these results represent the highest reported public performance revenues and royalty distributions of any music rights organization in the world."

Empty Wang Theatre to host artists

Lowell Sun, 9/9/2020: “hough live concerts with a theater full of fans are unworkable during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Boch Center will host artists for performances before an empty audience at the historic Wang Theatre. The performance will be broadcast every other Friday night on NECN beginning Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Boch Center’s new Ghost Light Series.”

For Concerts During Covid, Unprecedented Legal Questions

Wall Street Journal, 9/9/2020: “Some musical performances are gearing up again, but promoters face uncertainty over liability and insurance that could make organizing a tour much trickier.”

Gallery Sales Drop, Online Sales Grow During Covid-19 Pandemic: Art Basel Report

ARTnews, 9/9/2020: “Although all three editions of Art Basel have been canceled this year because of the pandemic, the fair has released its first mid-year UBS Global Art Market Report. The report, written in partnership with art economist Clare McAndrew, suggests that Covid-19 has significantly impacted the market—though not always in negative ways. According to the report, sales have dropped overall across the global gallery sector since the pandemic began six months ago. But high net worth collectors that were surveyed for the report said they were more interested in collecting in spite of all this, and the online sector is growing as auction houses and galleries have moved their offerings digital.”

London’s first ever Mural Festival celebrates art and life amid Covid-19

South China Morning Post, 9/9/2020: “The first ever London Mural Festival takes place in the British capital even as the Covid-19 pandemic rages on. Over 150 artists from around the world will paint more than 60 large murals across the city.”

Museum of Fine Arts to reopen in phases with COVID-19 precautions and an aim for inclusiveness

Boston Globe, 9/9/2020: “At 150 years old, perhaps the Museum of Fine Arts can be forgiven for taking its time. While many of its peer institutions reopened in mid-July, the city’s flagship museum has remained stubbornly on lockdown, its relatively somber anniversary plans torpedoed by the coronavirus. ‘We had a whole program,’ said director Matthew Teitelbaum. ‘We basically lost six months.’ But now, after the longest closure in modern memory, the MFA will open its doors on Sept. 26, welcoming back a public buffeted by economic malaise, social unrest, and the ongoing health crisis.”

Pandemic Cuts Modern and Contemporary Gallery Sales by 36 Percent

New York Times, 9/9/2020: “The survey, by Art Basel and UBS, analyzes the effect of the coronavirus on the world’s art dealers. Sales are down, but the wealthy are still buying.”

Spain’s recorded music revenues growing despite Covid-19

music:)ally, 9/9/2020: “The latest national music body to reveal recorded music figures that include the initial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is Promusicae in Spain. Recorded revenues for the first half of 2020 grew by 4% year-on-year to €145.1m. That’s thanks to a 17% increase in audio-streaming subscription revenues to €90.2m; a 55.7% spike in ad-supported audio streaming revenues to €16.1m; and 14.9% growth in revenues from video

services to €16.3m. Streaming was thus 84.5% of the market in Spain, driving growth despite the pandemic.”

[Study claims Smash Mouth-featuring Sturgis Motorcycle Rally contributed to 260,000 new cases of coronavirus](#)

NME, 9/9/2020: “Researchers from the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies at San Diego State University have now published a study which investigated whether the 2020 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally was an example of a ‘superspreader’ event. The academics concluded that the Sturgis Rally added an estimated 263,708 cases of coronavirus — which equates to 19% of the total number of US cases between August 2 and September 2 — to the US total number of cases.”

[Why are iconic arts venues like the Royal Albert Hall facing closure?](#)

ClassicFM, 9/9/2020: “The Royal Albert Hall is a beacon of UK arts and music, hailed by the government as a ‘crown jewel’ venue. So why does it need £20m to survive?”

[You can finally buy tickets to the British Museum’s big autumn shows](#)

TimeOut London, 9/9/2020: “If you’re anything like us, you’ve been waiting anxiously, nervously, for the British Museum to finally announce that the tickets for its autumn exhibitions are going on sale. I mean, ‘Tantra: From Enlightenment to Revolution’ opens in just two weeks! How are normal, museum-loving people meant to get through their days without knowing for certain that they’ve got their exhibition access on lock, you know? Well, fret no more, fellow museum geeks, because it’s happening. You can now buy tickets for the Tantra show and ‘Arctic: Culture and Climate’ on the British Museum website.”

[YouTube Music Teams With NIVA to Support Independent Venues](#)

Rolling Stone, 9/9/2020: “As Congress stalls on relief packages, partnership will include ‘unique programming that will help bring live performances back into music venues safely.’”

[Andrew Lloyd Webber warns the arts are at ‘point of no return’](#)

BBC News, 9/8/2020: “The composer and theatre impresario told MPs it would be economically ‘impossible’ to run theatres with social distancing. ‘We simply have to get our arts sector back open and running,’ he told the House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee. ‘We are at the point of no return.’”

[Citing A COVID-19 Shortfall, DHS Increases Visa Fees For Touring Artists](#)

NPR, 9/8/2020: “While it’s still unknown when musicians and touring artists will again be able to perform in venues, those based abroad and hoping to tour the U.S. will face increased costs to do so legally. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or USCIS, part of the Department of Homeland Security, announced the change in the Federal Register on Thursday, just ahead of the Labor Day holiday weekend. It mandates that fees to obtain O and P visas, which cover individual artists and groups, respectively, and allow them to work for a period of time in the U.S., will be increased by around 50%.”

[COVID crisis: We need all hands on deck to save America’s arts and culture economy](#)

USA Today, 9/8/2020: Richard Florida and Michael Seman: “We can’t let this infrastructure fall apart. Arts, culture, design and entertainment are not luxuries. They power innovation and economic growth.”

[Houston Symphony Makes Emotional Concert Comeback — Musicians in Masks and a Very Limited Crowd](#)

Paper City, 9/8/2020: “It was a summer like no other for the Houston Symphony and the fall season, with its celebrated Opening Night Concert taking place this Saturday, will be out of the ordinary as well. Due to COVID-19, most musicians will be wearing masks. The live audience will be Lilliputian. Viewing the live-streamed concert, which in a typical year is open to as many as can fill Jones Hall’s 2,900 seats, will be limited to gala ticket holders.”

[How Amex Is Pumping \\$1 Million Back Into Aus Music, And How Artists Can Get A Cut](#)

musicfeeds, 9/8/2020: “Times are tougher than ever for the Australian artists, with that microbial douche COVID-19 taking a wrecking ball to the live music economy. To boot, mass confusion still abounds over the federal government’s \$250 million arts rescue package, the recently-released funding criteria for which is, to put it bluntly, a shitfight. ScoMo & co would do well to take some pointers from the folks at American Express, who are injecting \$1 million from their own wallets into the Aussie music biz via their 2020 Music Backers Fund. The funding program been sliced into three easy-to-understand application categories, with artists able to apply for a chunk of cash up to a game-changing \$50K.”

[Jazz Lives in Clubs. The Pandemic Is Threatening Its Future.](#)

New York Times, 9/8/2020: “The entire concert industry is struggling as the Covid-19 shutdown continues. But a genre rooted in live performance and in-the-moment dynamics is in particular peril.”

[New York City can't rebound without Broadway. And Broadway's road back is uncertain.](#)

Washington Post, 9/8/2020: “For months now, Thomas Schumacher’s dining room table has been taken over by a master list of every Broadway show that’s seeking to reopen or schedule an opening night — from the established ‘The Lion King’ to the new ‘Diana: A True Musical Story.’ Since the pandemic-related shutdowns, the Disney Theatrical Group president and his colleagues have been working through various scenarios to get New York theater back on its feet. But a half-year into an ongoing human tragedy and economic calamity that has drained the cultural lifeblood of the city, neither Schumacher — who is also chairman of the Broadway League trade group — nor anyone else knows for sure when the nation’s premier performing arts district will start up again. The earliest estimates for some of New York’s concert halls and theaters to resume are spring 2021; a few new productions, such as ‘The Music Man’ with Hugh Jackman and ‘Plaza Suite’ with Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker, have announced early spring beginnings on Broadway. Even so, those involved in the planning say privately that it could be autumn 2021 before venues reopen.”

[Sen Schumer calling for assistance to arts and music venues, shut down due to COVID-19](#)

WRGB Albany, 9/8/2020: “Senator Chuck Schumer was in Albany, pushing to “save our stages” as music and theater venues have been shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schumer is pushing for bipartisan legislation to prevent venues around the Capital District from shutting their doors. ‘Independent venues, like theaters and concert halls, are the beating heart of New York’s cultural life and a driving force in the Capital Region’s

economy. These local businesses were among the first to shut down at the start of the pandemic, are struggling to stay afloat, and will be among the last to reopen,' said Senator Schumer. 'That's why it's so important to provide dedicated federal assistance to independent venues so when it is safe, we can gather again for music, comedy, theater and other live performances in venues that have been around for generations. I'm proud to cosponsor the Save Our Stages Act, and I'll fight to include federal funding for independent venues in coronavirus relief legislation.'"

What Will Happen to Nashville's Iconic Music Venues Post 2020?

thrillist, 9/8/2020: "In a city like Nashville, the lack of live music has been especially devastating. Known as the capital of country music and steeped in musical history thanks to the traveling Fisk Jubilee Singers, the city has sheet music in its DNA. It is the reason people come — and it is the reason they stay. According to a 2020 report from the Recording Industry Association of America, Nashville's music industry supports more than \$3.2 billion of labor income annually while contributing \$5.5 billion to the local economy. That \$9.7 billion in total economic output snakes its way through the hands of songwriters, musicians, and venues. Not to mention the fact that some of the most iconic country music venues in the world — including the cathedral-like Ryman Auditorium and intimate and historical Bluebird Café — are located here. When the music stopped in the earliest days of the pandemic, these venues, large and small, were among the earliest sites of COVID-19's financial carnage. There were no more ticket sales, no more drunken concertgoers downing shots at the bar. And overnight, as Nashvillians stocked up on pasta and toilet paper before hunkering down in their homes, the owners of those venues were forced to pivot."

Broadway performer Nick Cordero, who died of Covid-19, is remembered with music-filled memorial

CNN, 9/7/2020: “Friends and family gathered virtually to pay tribute to theater performer Nick Cordero in a memorial streamed Sunday on Broadway on Demand. The Tony-nominated actor and singer died in July at 41 after a months-long battle with Covid-19.”

Covid-19 Hits the Performing Arts Industry

Bloomberg, 9/7/2020: “Ticketmaster and Live Nation saw a new round of furloughs according to Variety. It’s just the latest news to hit the live performance industry. In fact fine and performing arts industries have seen estimated losses of nearly 1.4 million jobs and \$42.5 billion in sales according to a Brookings Study. Bloomberg’s Vonnie Quinn spoke with Len Egert, national executive director of the American Guild of Musical Artists, a labor union that represents artists, dancers and production staff across the country, on ‘Bloomberg Markets.’”

Knight Foundation Creates \$500K Fund To Support Miami Artists

CBS 4 Miami, 9/7/2020: “There is no question that the arts been have been upended by the coronavirus pandemic. The Knight Foundation recognizes that and is stepping up to help out. They have created a fund called Knight New Work 2020. The idea was inspired by all of the creative things artists have been doing lately to keep people engaged. The fund will provide up to \$500,000 to support Miami-area artists in developing groundbreaking art that reimagines how the performing arts are created and experienced during these tough times. ‘It’s an open call for submissions from artists from organizations to create new work in the performing arts. So, the open call will result in approximately 15 to 20 artists and organizations receiving \$10,000 each to support them in creating a new work of performing arts,’ said Priya Sircar, Director of Arts at the Knight Foundation.”

Local Artists Rally In Times Square For Coronavirus Relief From Congress: 'It's Just Not Enough'

WLNY New York, 9/7/2020: "One hundred New York City-based art professionals are calling on Congress for additional pandemic relief, saying their industry has been hit hard by the coronavirus. Performing 'Will I?' from 'RENT' and clutching signs listing their professions, dozens of local artists rallied to save the city's art community Monday in Times Square."

Stepping Up: How the Dance Community Has Given Back During COVID-19

Dance Magazine, 9/7/2020: "The dance field is facing an existential crisis right now, with COVID-19 making most of our normal ways of operating unsafe. Performances have been canceled; classes have had to be reimagined. Yet rather than simply going into survival mode, our community has displayed characteristic grit, creativity and determination, finding multiple ways to help out others in need. Dancers know that the only way to get through something as challenging as a pandemic is to do it together."

The Impact of Covid-19 on the Arts in South Africa

Zam Magazine, 9/7/2020: Palesa Motsumi & Tariro Mudzamiri: "We have become more of who we are because governments all around the world are showing us exactly who they are'.—Chuma Sopotela (Performance Artist & Theatre Practitioner) Since the fall of Apartheid in 1990, South Africa's arts sector has been recognized worldwide for its vast and revolutionary talent, fueled with a well-pronounced history of activism to fight the many inequalities in its society. South Africa, and more specifically, Johannesburg, is the African continent's economic hub. It is also an entertainment and cultural home to many, from various parts of the country. This year, when Covid-19 spread quicker than wildfire,

artists and cultural workers found themselves destitute, stranded, and rejected by the very government that claimed to support them.”

[Thousands gather for Christian music concert at California Capitol, breaking COVID-19 rules](#)

Sacramento Bee, 9/7/2020: “Neither coronavirus restrictions nor record-smashing heat could stop a large crowd from assembling outside the Capitol in Sacramento for a Christian music concert Sunday evening. Almost none of the thousands attending wore a mask during the hours-long event, and spectators were packed in about as tight as could be, photos and video from the concert/protest demonstration show. That prompts concern amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has infected close to 20,000 people in Sacramento County and killed over 330 residents, including 190 deaths in the capital city.”

[In a Big Box-Office Test, ‘Tenet’ Grosses \\$20 Million](#)

New York Times, 9/6/2020: “Normally, a Christopher Nolan film would bring in \$50 million in North America during an opening weekend. But moviegoing is not normal these days.”

[Live theatre ventures back into the spotlight this fall in Montreal](#)

Montreal Gazette, 9/5/2020: “Companies are finding ways to navigate around pandemic restrictions, including a partial return to the great indoors and scaled-back audiences.”

Venice Film Festival Opens, Defiant but Socially Distanced

New York Times, 9/5/2020: "Strict measures are in place at the first major international movie event since the coronavirus pandemic began."

Bailout fail? Fewer than half of museums in England apply for government's £1.57bn rescue package

The Art Newspaper, 9/4/2020: "Survey by The Art Newspaper also reveals that the Serpentine and Barbican have been left in limbo while the Southbank Centre is already £20m in debt."

Bringing the Theater Back to Life

New York Times, 9/4/2020: "When the pandemic hit, shows across America went dark. A regional theater in New England thinks it has found a way back." Podcast focusing on Berkshire Theater Group's production of *Godspell*.

Queen Elizabeth is turning her Sandringham estate into drive-in movie theater amid COVID-19 crisis

New York Daily News, 9/4/2020: "Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Queen Elizabeth II has announced that Sandringham Country Park, located on her lavish 20,000-acre Sandringham estate in Norfolk, England, will feature drive-in movies later this month. The 94-year-old royal matriarch's countryside retreat will host a makeshift drive-in theater for one weekend in September, with screenings of a variety of films ranging from 2018's 'A Star is Born' to last year's World War I epic '1917.' . . . The drive-in screenings will take place on the estate from Sept. 25-27, with three daily showtimes. Tickets are about \$40."

While Berghain Is Closed, There's Art on the Dance Floor

New York Times, 9/4/2020: "The famous Berlin techno club has been repurposed as an exhibition space during the pandemic. It's a mixing of club culture and visual art reminiscent of the golden days of the 1990s."

After years of growth, Indigenous art sales have been hit hard by COVID-19

Sydney Morning Herald, 9/2/2020: "Indigenous art centres have been hit hard by COVID-19 travel shutdowns, with art sales falling by more than 50 per cent in some locations and communities, a report has found. Before the pandemic, Indigenous art centre sales had been growing for almost a decade. But since March, sales of artworks across the Northern Territory, South Australia, and Western Australia have slumped by between 46 and 52 per cent, according to the report by Desart, the peak body for Central Australian Aboriginal arts and crafts centres."

How global issues are driving a new cultural agenda

Arts Professional, 9/2/2020: "Maintaining an international perspective and collaborating with global partners will be key to rebuilding the UK's cultural sector and securing the post-pandemic future, say Ben Walmsley and Franco Bianchini."

Online formats and the GLAM sector in the time of COVID-19

Europeana, 9/2/2020: "In June, Europeana brought together 60 cultural heritage professionals from across Europe for a special series of peer-to-peer workshops on 'Digital transformation in the time of COVID-19'. In this post, participant Graham Bell reflects on

how the GLAM sector can work with online communications channels and explores how the Cultura Trust has adapted to this ‘new normal’.”

[The UN warns of the pandemic’s lasting impacts on tourism](#)

UNESCO, 9/2/2020: “With the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) projecting a 60-80% decline in international arrivals for 2020, the UN Secretary-General has published a Policy Brief on the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on tourism, including on the millions of livelihoods it sustains. It highlights the role tourism plays in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, including its relationship with environmental goals and culture. UNESCO has a rich experience in tourism, particularly as relates to its Culture Conventions, and contributed experiences and statistics to the Report, for example on World Heritage sites, among others.”

[‘Deep Concerns’ Abound As Denver Arts And Venues Announces Furloughs, Closes Performance Spaces](#)

CBS 4 Denver, 9/4/2020: “Denver Arts and Venues announced it will be closing all venues, including Red Rocks Amphitheatre and the Denver Performing Arts Complex, due to coronavirus-related budget concerns. Part-time and full-time employees will also be furloughed. Denver Arts and Venues says they cut 46% of expenses, but even that wasn’t enough to keep operations running. Changes will go into effect at the end of September and last through the beginning of 2021.”

[Art Basel Miami Beach Is Canceled](#)

New York Times, 9/4/2020: “Organizers, concerned at the state of the pandemic in South Florida, put off the event until next year.”

At In-Person Choir Rehearsals, a Balance Between Joyful and Careful

New York Times, 9/4/2020: “With the coronavirus still spreading, many choirs are gathering only online. But one London group is cautiously attempting a way forward.”

COVID-19 Has Shown Us What a More Equitable Field for Dancers With Disabilities Could Look Like

Dance Magazine, 9/4/2020: “For many people, the isolation and heightened attention to contagion of the past several months has been a shocking detour from their routines. For some of us with disabilities or chronic illnesses (CI), however, the able-bodied world is beginning to meet us where we are. Although many disabled communities were previously finding social interaction online, in recent months our able-bodied peers have joined in. As a result, more dance resources have gone virtual, with classes streaming daily. This recent shift towards dance through digital formats has offered a great deal to the disabled/CI dance community.”

First coronavirus death linked to Smash Mouth concert reported

NME, 9/4/2020: “The first coronavirus-related death linked to a recent festival that Smash Mouth performed at has now been reported. Thousands gathered at Smash Mouth’s concert on August 9 where they performed as part of Sturgis Motorcycle Rally’s 10-day event. Despite ongoing the coronavirus pandemic, it was reported that social distance-procedures and mask-wearing were virtually ignored during the band’s set.”

[From Venice, a plea to reopen movie theaters shut by coronavirus](#)

Chicago Tribune, 9/4/2020: “Spanish director Pedro Almodovar has joined a chorus of voices at the Venice Film Festival urging the reopening of movie theaters and a return to cinema normality after coronavirus lockdowns, saying films are meant to be seen on the big screen, not at home.”

[How the American Drive-In Staged a Comeback](#)

Bloomberg, 9/4/2020: “Designed for the suburbs of 1950s America, the drive-in theater found a new role in the summer of 2020, as a Covid-safe site for collective entertainment.”

[Live From... My Attic: How Bands Make Music During a Pandemic](#)

Daily Beast, 9/4/2020: “Lockdown means songwriting sessions on Zoom, live shows on YouTube, jam sessions uploaded to SoundCloud—and some odd jobs.”

[She Gave Up a Lot to Play Othello](#)

New York Times, 9/4/2020: “Thrilled for the role, needing a paycheck and confident that the theater was safe, Jessika D. Williams left the actors’ union to take the part.”

[The Philadelphia Museum of Art is open to visitors after a 6-month pause](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/4/2020: “The new Philadelphia Museum of Art user experience: Temperature scans and face masks. Just a few art lovers in a gallery at once, please. And you might want to eat before you come.”

The Shows Must Go On. But They Aren't the Same Without You.

New York Times, 9/4/2020: "The sudden absence of live audiences has upended the worlds of sports, comedy and politics. What do we lose when the crowd doesn't show?"

Boston arts organizations get grants to help with reopening

WHDH, 9/3/2020: "Nearly 150 Boston arts and cultural organizations are sharing in \$815,000 worth of grants from the city's Arts and Culture COVID-19 Fund, the city announced Thursday. The fund was established this summer with federal stimulus money to support small and mid-sized nonprofits to help them adapt their programs, spaces, and operating models to comply with coronavirus regulations. . . . The funding will help with the costs of finding safe spaces for performance and rehearsal, and adapting existing facilities to comply with public health standards.

Colorado Ballet has furloughed all of its dancers

Denverite, 9/3/2020: "After a hiatus of several months, it looked like Colorado Ballet was finally ready to jump back into rehearsals. The dancers met over Zoom, learning choreography for their 2021 shows from their own bedrooms, living rooms, garages and basements. Yosvani Ramos, a dancer at the Ballet, even bought a piece of shower pan liner to put on his floor to keep himself from slipping while he rehearsed. These virtual rehearsals had been running for five weeks when Ramos got the news: Colorado Ballet's PPP loan had run out, and he and the rest of Colorado Ballet's dancers were being furloughed."

Exhibitions during Covid-19: museums turn to ‘virtual couriers’ to protect unchaperoned art

The Art Newspaper, 9/3/2020: “To overcome travel restrictions, registrars are using Zoom and other technologies to monitor works on loan remotely.”

How Do You Open an Interactive Museum in a Pandemic? Very Carefully

New York Times, 9/3/2020: “Curators of the new Makeup Museum had to completely rethink their first exhibition.”

India’s Kalbelia tribe takes its traditional dance online amid Covid-19 pandemic

South China Morning Post, 9/3/2020: “Some performers from India’s Kalbelia tribe have been struggling to survive as the Covid-19 pandemic has deprived them of their usual source of income – from performing the Kalbelian dance. However, they are managing to continue earning a living by teaching the traditional dance online, after a Kalbelian dance group helped the performers install Wi-fi at home. “

Pittsburgh Symphony announces more salary cuts, furloughs and layoffs

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 9/3/2020: “While COVID-19 has affected all aspects of life around the globe, the arts and entertainment sectors have been particularly vulnerable due to restrictions on gatherings and events. On Thursday, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra announced additional cost-saving measures, including pay cuts for musicians and salary reductions, furloughs and layoffs for 30% of its full-time administrative staff. The orchestra

has canceled 115 concerts and events since March and estimates a \$5.6 million shortfall in earned revenue. Live concerts are canceled until at least the end of the year.”

[Robert Pattinson Tests Positive for Coronavirus, Halting ‘Batman’ Production](#)

New York Times, 9/3/2020: “Work on the film first shut down in March because of the pandemic, which has staggered the entertainment industry.”

[Somerville green-lights gyms, other businesses for Phase 3 coronavirus reopening](#)

Boston Herald, 9/3/2020: “Mayor Joseph Curtatone announced Thursday that fitness centers; martial arts and dance facilities; motion picture and television streaming productions; and art, music, language and other instructional classes can resume on Tuesday.”

[The Joy of Just Good Enough Theater](#)

New York Times, 9/3/2020: “Most plays aren’t masterpieces. As audiences in Paris emerge from lockdown and return to normal, there’s comfort in seeing a show that may not be great, but isn’t bad, either.”

[Town Council votes to close, sell Pittsfield Community Theatre](#)

CentralMaine.com, 9/3/2020: “The Pittsfield Community Theatre Committee had a busy schedule planned for 2020. After the COVID-19 pandemic forced the town to close the venue in March, the Town Council decided to keep it closed and sell the building.”

Wadsworth Atheneum reopening Labor Day weekend after coronavirus closure

Hartford Courant, 9/3/2020: “The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, the oldest continually operating public art museum in the United States, is reopening on Labor Day weekend after being closed for 5½ months as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.”

Wisconsin creates \$5 million program for grants to arts, cultural groups hurt by pandemic

Milwaukee Business Journal, 9/3/2020: “Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers announced a \$5 million grant program to assist cultural organizations that have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.”

‘Sleepless’ Revives London’s Pandemic Musical Scene, if Only Just

New York Times, 9/2/2020: “Based on the hit 1993 hit film ‘Sleepless in Seattle,’ the production is London’s first fully staged indoor musical in months. Applause for that, at least.”

Best Balcony In The House: Two Entrepreneurs Look to Reimagine Hotels As Concert Venues During COVID-19

Billboard, 9/2/2020: “Hospitality veterans Rob DelliBovi and Elana Leaf envision the hotel concerts as immersive high-end experiences.”

Coronavirus has caused online physical music sales to soar

Tone Deaf, 9/2/2020: “Discogs has released its mid-year report for 2020 — and it offers an interesting insight into how music listeners consumption habits have changed amid the pandemic. The online marketplace for physical music sales (which feels like an oxymoron) has surged dramatically. Sales for vinyl, cassette, CDS and digital downloads all saw a drastic increase during the lockdown period. According to the report, overall physical music sales on the Discogs Marketplace rose 29.69 per cent – 4,228,270 orders – between January and June this year, when compared to the same period last year. The report illuminates that the spike began from around April, around the time the coronavirus pandemic forced us all into lockdown.”

Don't expect theater to return to Philly Sept. 8 just because city says it can

Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/2/2020: “Live, indoor theater is included in the list of activities that can resume in Philadelphia on Tuesday, but that doesn't mean the shows must go on. The accompanying restrictions, meant to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus, make it unlikely that we'll see curtains rising here anytime soon.”

First You Clean the Dinosaur's Teeth. Then You Open the Museum.

New York Times, 9/2/2020: “The American Museum of Natural History is going for an intimate experience — allowing hundreds, not thousands, of visitors in per hour — when it reopens on Sept. 9.”

[In Pictures: Can Japan's ancient Noh theatre survive coronavirus?](#)

Aljazeera, 9/2/2020: "Pandemic has shuttered theatres across Japan, making it difficult for Noh which depends heavily on staging shows."

[Initial Unemployment Claims Plummet To Lowest Levels Since Start Of Pandemic For Californians In Arts, Entertainment & Recreation Sector](#)

Deadline, 9/2/2020: "The pace of initial unemployment claims for Californians previously working in the state's arts, entertainment and recreation sector has slowed dramatically in recent weeks, falling for three consecutive weeks to the lowest levels since the coronavirus pandemic shut down venues across the state and the country in mid-March. The steady decline of initial claims in August also coincides with the termination of the \$600-a-week federal unemployment benefit that ended at the end of July."

[L.A.'s dance crisis: Studios fight to survive the pandemic](#)

Los Angeles Times, 9/2/2020: "The flurry of goodbye-for-now messages, combined with desperate pleas for support across social media and GoFundMe, paint a picture of a dance landscape in crisis. Without dance studios, professionals lose their places to train or work out new art before it appears to the masses. And amateurs lose their go-to outlet for creative expression or alternative to boring workouts."

[NYS Council of the Arts announces art venues cleared to reopen across the state and in WNY](#)

WGRZ, 9/2/2020: "The New York State Council on the Arts announced Wednesday that dozens of venues across the state and here in Western New York have been approved to

reopen at limited capacity. Organizations were forced to close their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All venues will have to operate at 25-percent capacity and visitors are required to wear masks and practice social distancing.”

Philly arts venues to go red for live events workers

WHYY, 9/2/2020: “South Broad Street in Philadelphia became a red-light district Tuesday night. The labor union that represents stagehands coordinated theaters along the Avenue of Arts to light their buildings red, along with icons like the LOVE sculpture and the Rocky statue, in order to raise awareness of the plight of out-of-work stage crews. It’s called Red Alert, and it’s not just Philadelphia. People who work in theaters, convention centers, and live events around the world have been out of work for nearly six months due to the coronavirus. Red Alert is an international effort to push for awareness and legislation to help millions of people not able to earn a paycheck.”

Playing for time: R.I.’s many music venues still feeling the brunt of COVID-19

Providence Journal, 9/2/2020: “Struggling to survive amid COVID restrictions, venues from Providence to Westerly are finding creative ways to bring in cash, and hoping for a lifeline from Congress. The Ocean State’s vibrant music scene is legendary, with a history that spans decades since The Celebrity Club in Providence hosted the likes of Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, Erroll Garner and many others during the 1950s. The COVID-19 pandemic changed all that in March. Six months later, the majority of venues remain shuttered, but a handful are offering live music in socially distanced outdoor settings or improvising other ways to pay expenses.”

Venice Film Festival: What’s been rescued despite COVID-19

DW, 9/2/2020: “The Venice Film Festival has been marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. The result is an astonishing diversity of films in the competition, including a German one.”

[‘The stakes could not be higher’ for the film industry this Labor Day weekend](#)

CNBC, 9/1/2020: “This weekend will indicate if consumers have confidence in returning to movie theaters.”

[Arts organizations and more will light up tonight for Red Alert RESTART](#)

(Albany) Daily Gazette, 9/1/2020: “Many performing arts organizations across the Capital Region and beyond will be lit up in red tonight to highlight how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the live events industry. Called Red Alert RESTART, the nationwide event is organized by We Make Events, a recently formed coalition of trade bodies, businesses, unions and live events workers that advocates for the live events sector in light of COVID-19. “

[Crew death renews concerns over film set safety amid COVID-19](#)

Los Angeles Times, 9/1/2020: “The death of a 51-year-old assistant director who lost a battle with COVID-19 last week after returning to work on a commercial shoot has heightened concerns about the safety of film sets.”

Determined to Salvage the Fall, Cabaret Plots Its (Outdoor, Online) Return

New York Times, 9/1/2020: “Making performances more accessible to audiences is part of the mission. Presenting shows that reflect the moment is another.”

Entertainment and events industry lights venues in ‘Red Alert’ for business hard hit by coronavirus

MASS Live, 9/1/2020: “Production companies and stagehands who normally put on shows and events will light up their venues in red Tuesday as a “red alert” meant to draw attention to the financial predicament they are in due to the coronavirus pandemic. . . . Venues will be lighted up red from 9 p.m. to midnight. It’s the local manifestation of the national #WeMakeEvents movement, which aims to let the public know how the industry is suffering and push for the reinstatement of the additional \$600-a-week unemployment benefit, which expired in July. “

Graham Company to Draw on Deep Archives for Its Coming Season

New York Times, 9/1/2020: “The modern dance troupe has been sharing content online since the pandemic began but now will organize programs thematically.”

Roger Gastman’s New Venture: A Digital Art Fair

New York Times, 9/1/2020: “The curator’s follow up to the traveling street art exhibition ‘Beyond the Streets’ is a virtual showcase created in a partnership with NTRWK, a shopping platform.”

Scammers target UK music festivals forced online by coronavirus

The Guardian, 9/1/2020: “Facebook phishing schemes charge fans to view events’ free live streams.”

Theaters Seek Compensation for Lost Revenue Due to COVID-19 Closings

My News LA, 9/1/2020: “Two theater chains sued an insurance company and a broker Tuesday, seeking compensation for losses incurred after being forced to temporarily close because of the coronavirus. Starlight Cinemas Inc. and Akarakian Theaters Inc. brought the complaint in Santa Monica Superior Court against Massachusetts Bay Insurance Co. and Maroevich, O’Shea & Coughlan Insurance Services Inc., alleging breach of the duty to pay a covered insurance claim and breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing by Massachusetts Bay and negligence by Maroevich, O’Shea.”

There’ll Be a Theater Season. But How and Where and When?

New York Times, 9/1/2020: “Announcing stage productions, and timing, has become a matter of wishful thinking, guesswork and experimentation. Case in point: the no-show plan.”