



# Newsletter

May 2020



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## FROM THE EDITORS

What a difference a few months can make.

As we look back to our previous issue released in February and consider how life was then, that few-months' difference is staggering. Though we will eventually return to "normal," it will be a new normal, whatever that means, and it doesn't negate the daily challenges we feel in the present that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our feet and dropped there like a dead rat.

For some of us, those challenges are ones of inconvenience. For others, loss of income, loss of health, loss of human connection, and loss of mental stability are the villains we wish we could kill off as we would in our writing projects.

But we can't. What we can do, however, is to remember that our community of women playwrights has had to adapt to shoddy circumstances before. We carve new paths to get to where we need to go. We tunnel through muck when the path gives out. The destination is still far off, but we're closer than we were 30 days ago. In the meantime, keep breathing, keep writing.

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## THE SHOW MUST GO ONLINE: Theaters Closed By the Pandemic Get Creative



When states and municipalities across the United States began banning large gatherings, theaters — from regional stages to Broadway — shut down.

Enter the video performance.

In March, the American Conservatory Theater, or A.C.T., in San Francisco had a new play on its main stage called *TONI STONE* about a female ballplayer in the Negro Leagues. A day after it opened, COVID-19 shut the theater's doors. So executive director Jennifer Bielstein took the archived performance online. Read the full story [here](#).

In the Bay Area of California, The Marin Theatre Company is now streaming a show called "Love," a modern production about sexual harassment that had just opened to great reviews where theaters were shut down. Read the full story [here](#).

## Mostly FREE Streaming Shows Now Playing

“The Afterlife” – Gary Soto – [S.F. Youth Theatre](#)

“Radical” & “Scotus Gay” – John Fisher – [therhino.org](#)

“Pride & Prejudice: Musical” – #RomCom – [TheatreWorks.com](#) – \$4.99

“The Habit of Art” – #GayArtists – U.K. – [originaltheatre.org](#) – \$3.00

“Gold: The Midas Musical” – #KidsGreekMyth – [MinKahng.com](#) – to May 25

“Song of the Nightingale” – #KidsFolkMusical – [TownHallTheatre.com](#)

“Kill the Debbie Downers!” – #RockingChekhov – [ShotgunPlayers.org](#)

“Cyprus Avenue” – #IrishDramedy #StephenRea – [RoyalCourt.com](#)

“Much Ado about Nothing” – N.Y. Public Theater – [PBS.org](#) – to May 26

“Red” – #Mark Rothko #Modern Art – [PBS.org](#) – to May 26

“Natural Shocks” – Gunderson – #WomanTornado – [MarinTheatre.com](#) –  
AudioPlay

“Truce: A Christmas Wish from the Great War” – #WWImusic – [citylights.com](#)

“Pirates of Penzance” – Gilbert & Sullivan – #ComicOpera –  
[rossvalleyplayers.com](#)

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## FEMINISM UNDER THREAT



Helen Lewis, writer for *The Atlantic*, chronicles how pandemics affect women and men differently. She writes,

"Enough already. When people try to be cheerful about social distancing and working from home, noting that William Shakespeare and Isaac Newton did some of their best work while England was ravaged by the plague, there is an obvious response: *Neither of them had child-care responsibilities.*"

Read the full article [here](#) in *The Atlantic*.

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## COPING with COVID-19

This quarter, we asked members to submit stories, musings, and photos depicting their experience with the pandemic. Here is one of those contributions.

From **Judith Pratt**

Not panicking.

Not letting my husband panic.

We are comfortably off. Our parents are gone, so we don't have to worry about them. However, we have no kids, so we are updating our wills accordingly. That includes health care directives: Do you want to be on a ventilator until you die, or should they pull the plug?

I'm panicking.

What I really want to do is clean and organize everything, trying to control \*something.\* But I also want to write down all the stories in my head, immediately.

It's hard not to run around in circles.

On the other hand, my ex-stage-manager husband has created a detailed Cleaning Schedule. It includes a lot of diluted bleach. We have never been so clean. I like that.

So I'm going to go write a story and clean my desk.

Then I'll run around in circles.

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The **ICWP Board** is excited about the successful participation of the Zoom programs. Please join us if you haven't already.

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## THE LATEST IN BLOGS

If you have advice for our members or would like to write on a burning issue for a blog posting, please contact ICWP at [admin@womenplaywrights.org](mailto:admin@womenplaywrights.org).

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

**Tita Anntares**  
**Catalina Florescu**  
**Dorothy Harris**  
**Diana Howie**  
**Annie Lanzillotto**  
**Nina Mathews**  
**Carol Pranschke**  
**Mary Reinhardt**

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## 3-MINUTE PLAY CONTEST WINNERS



Here are the winners of the April 2020 contest in alphabetical order.

Congratulations!

*Speed Dating* by **Teresa Fogel**

*Happy Anniversary* by **Jean Klein**

*Forgiving Mary* by **Laura Pfizenmayer**

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## GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

### **From ICWP Member Joni Ravenna**

2019 was a big year for me with four of my plays being produced somewhere around the country. Currently, I have a play closing after a month-long festival run in New York, and I had a special reading last week of another play in San Diego.

As a board member of the Palm Springs Women's Club and a previous board member of the National Charity League (comprised of mothers and daughters) and the mother of two girls myself, I've always been interested in women's issues as the subject of my writing. My 45-minute-one act play *Tucked Away* about human trafficking (which came in runner up to the winning play in March 2019 at the Hollywood Hudson Theatre as part of Ink Fest) is being developed into a full-length play with the help of New Match Collective, a new group of all young women theatre artists in San Diego California.

After researching the harrowing statistics and stories of so many young women who find themselves trapped by traffickers, I met with Polaris, an organization based in Washington D.C. that seeks to help victims of human trafficking.

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**ICWP is a 501-c-3 Non Profit Organization, incorporated in the State of Ohio, USA**

For general questions, contact Margaret McSeveney, Communications Manager:

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