

THE 15TH ANNUAL LIVING NEWSPAPER FESTIVAL



SEPTEMBER 12 - 16, 2024 | THE ARMORY (5917 N. BROADWAY)

JACKALOPE THEATRE COMPANY IS PROUD TO PRESENT FIVE WORLD
PREMIERE 10-MINUTE PLAYS INSPIRED BY RECENT HEADLINES

In memory of Lynne S. McEvoy, who liked a good story well told.

HOW TO MAKE A LIVING NEWSPAPER

CHICAGO — Pick and prod through current events from around the country, choose five. Pair stellar playwrights and directors and assign each pairing an article. Let sit for a bit, let a 10-minute play bake. Cast from Chicago's talented actor pool. Rehearse for a smidge. Meet at The Armory to share our stories.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

By Rammel Chan
Directed by Wendy Mateo

Featuring: Sonya Madrigal,
Marcopolo Soto, and Alex Hand

THE DEPTHS

By Paloma Nozicka*
Directed by Gus Menary*

Featuring: Christina Gorman &
Claudia Quesada

INTO THE BREACH

By Madhuri Shekar
Directed by Wendy Mateo

Featuring: Sonya Madrigal,
Claudia Quesada, and Laura Quiñones

A DROP IN THE BUCKET

By Ireon Roach
Directed by Sydney Charles

Featuring: Ashli Funches,
DeVaughn Loman, and John-Payne

THE BEST OF US

By Ike Holter
Directed by Gus Menary*

Featuring: Niko Kourtis & Liz Sharpe*

CO-PRODUCER

Ike Holter

CASTING ASSOCIATE

Paloma Nozicka*

ARTICLE CURATOR

Jonathan Cohen*

STAGE MANAGER

Amal Salem

SCENIC DESIGNER

Ryan Emens*

TECHNICAL DIRECTORS

Andrew Swanson* and Adam Schulmerch

SOUND DESIGNER

Anna Jackson

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Claire Sangster*

SHOW IMAGE ART

Mary Williamson

VIDEO DESIGNER

Tony Santiago

PROGRAM DESIGNER

Michelle Maurer

SPECIAL THANKS

Stephanie Diaz
Jeffrey Luke Baker

**Jackalope Company Member*



OUT OF THIS WORLD

*Farewell, Chuck E. Cheese
Animatronic Band*

MAY 11, 2024

NEW YORK TIMES

For decades, Munch's Make Believe Band at Chuck E. Cheese has performed for countless birthdays, end-of-season Little League parties and other celebrations. There's been Chuck E. Cheese and Helen Henny on vocals, Mr. Munch on keys, Jasper T. Jowls on guitar, and Pasqually on drums.

The band of robot puppets has been a mainstay at the colorful pizzeria-arcade chain where children run amok and play games for prizes in between bites of pizza slices.

Their final curtain call is coming soon.

By the end of 2024, the animatronic performances — endearing and nostalgia-inducing, if perhaps slightly creepy to their audiences — will be phased out at all but two of the chain's more than 400 locations in the United States: one in Los Angeles and another in Nanuet, NY. The departure of the band comes as Chuck E. Cheese undergoes what its chief executive, David McKillips, recently described as its largest and "most aggressive transformation."

THE DEPTHS

*Frightening Log From Titan
Submersible's Fatal Dive
Declared a Fake*

JUNE 10, 2024

NEW YORK TIMES

Last year, a purported transcript of communications between the Titan submersible and its mother ship circulated widely on the internet. Viewed millions of times, the so-called log suggested that a series of alarms had turned a dive to the resting place of the Titanic into a heart-pounding crisis in which the five voyagers struggled in vain to return to the surface.

But the head of the U.S. federal government team investigating the disaster said that the entire transcript is a fiction. After nearly a year of investigation, his group has found no signs that the five voyagers aboard the Titan had any warning of the catastrophic implosion that was to take their lives. Two miles down, where seawater exerts vast pressures, an implosion would have made the violent collapse of the vehicle's hull instantaneous.

"I'm confident it's a false transcript," said Capt. Jason D. Neubauer, who

retired from the U.S. Coast Guard and serves as chairman of the Marine Board of Investigation, the agency's highest level of inquiry. "It was made up." Its authorship is not known.

INTO THE BREECH

*Rural hospitals are closing
maternity wards. People are
seeking options to give birth
closer to home.*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

AP NEWS

Alisha Alderson placed her folded clothes and everything she needed for the last month of her pregnancy in various suitcases. She never imagined she would have to leave the comfort of her home in rural eastern Oregon just weeks before her due date. But following the abrupt closure in August of the only maternity ward within 40 miles, she decided to stay at her brother's house near Boise, Idaho — a two-hour drive through a mountain pass — to be closer to a hospital.

"We don't feel safe being so far away from a birthing center," said Alderson, noting her advanced maternal age of 45. "I was sitting in a hair salon a few days ago and some people started joking about me giving birth on the side of the road. And in that moment, I just pictured all the things that could go wrong with my baby and broke down in tears in front of strangers."

A DROP IN THE BUCKET

*A tribe in Maine is using
opioid settlement funds on a
sweat lodge to treat addiction*

MAY 12, 2024

NPR NEWS

PRESQUE ISLE, Maine — Outside the Mi'kmaq Nation's health department sits a dome-shaped tent, built by hand from saplings and covered in black canvas. It's one of several sweat lodges on the tribe's land, but this one is dedicated to helping people recover from addiction.

Up to 10 people enter the lodge at once. Fire-heated stones — called grandmothers and grandfathers, for the spirits they represent — are brought inside. Water is splashed on the stones, and the lodge fills with steam. It feels like a sauna, but hotter. The air is thicker, and it's dark. People pray and sing songs. When they leave the lodge, it is said, they reemerge from the mother's womb. Cleansed. Reborn.

THE BEST OF US

*America's premier
pronatalists on having
'tons of kids' to save the
world: 'There are going to
be countries of old people
starving to death'*

MAY 25, 2024

THE GUARDIAN

The Collines didn't tell me Simone was eight months pregnant when we were making plans for me to spend a Saturday with them at home in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, but I guess it shouldn't have come as a surprise. They are the poster children of the pronatalist movement, on a mission to save humanity by having as many babies as possible.

Malcolm, 37, answers the door of their 18th-century farmhouse with four-year-old Octavian George, who is thrilled to have a visitor, bringing toy after toy to show me like an overexcited golden retriever. His little brother, two-year-old Torsten Savage, is on his iPad somewhere upstairs. Simone, 36, in an apron that strains across her belly, has her daughter, 16-month-old Titan Invictus, strapped to her back. The imminent arrival of their fourth child, a girl they plan to name Industry Americus Collins, turns out to be only the first in a string of surprises — and one really shocking thing — that I will encounter during my day with the pronatalists.

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