

MCLA Institute *for the Arts
and Humanities*

SEASON
PREVIEW

FALL
2020





THE
ANDREW W.

MELLON
FOUNDATION

The MCLA Institute for the Arts
and Humanities is supported with
generous funding from the
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This summer, the MCLA Institute for the Arts and Humanities (MCLA-IAH) celebrated its first full year on campus. Since its launch, our team has worked diligently to establish grant-funded programming for faculty and students. We partnered with local and national thought leaders, and strengthened our relationships with area arts and humanities organizations to initiate connections with artists, writers, and thinkers across disciplines.

We held space for the MCLA community to share stories of vulnerability and integrate strategies for care. We participated in conversations on equity and justice, and remain engaged in [cultural competence programming through our partner Multicultural BRIDGE](#). All of this work, and more, unfolds to establish anti-racist education, dialogue, and action.

It is our goal to facilitate equity-centered change on campus and in the community. This year, we continue towards this goal by fostering culturally responsive teaching and learning, while expanding access to area resources and catalyzing opportunities for interdisciplinary engagements.

Moving forward, we acknowledge the need to be responsive to an unfolding landscape. The calls for racial justice and equity oblige us to dismantle systems of oppression and supremacy. In light of COVID-19, we are witnessing the intersection of these systems and the disproportionate effect the pandemic has on our vulnerable populations. From this, we recognize a moment that requires us to adapt the ways we learn, teach, and work together.

As we return to campus, we invite you to reflect on how you might increase connection with our community and provide meaningful experiences for our students. We encourage you to explore the resiliency of arts and culture, and their ability to challenge systemic biases and inequities. We ask you to tap into the richness of our surroundings and the opportunities they provide to catalyze change.

MCLA's campus, surrounded by a mecca of creative arts and cultural assets, reveals the potential for education to be radically different. We have the opportunity to increase our resilience by collaborating with colleagues and students. We believe it is our shared responsibility to guide students to connect with area resources that have cultivated a greater sense of belonging in the Berkshires.

We hope you will take a moment to both explore the cultural assets we highlight here and to investigate more fully how these offerings can be integrated into your classrooms and shared spaces.

We look forward to working with you,



LISA DONOVAN
INSTITUTE DIRECTOR



ERICA BARRETO
INSTITUTE COORDINATOR



WHO ARE WE?

The MCLA Institute for the Arts and Humanities (MCLA-IAH) is a public humanities initiative to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion through community engagement, experiential learning opportunities, and a summer institute. The Institute serves as an interdisciplinary catalyst to investigate and address contemporary and historical issues on campus and in the community through the employment of area arts and humanities resources.



@mcla.iah



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DECLAN MCDERMOTT
COMMUNICATIONS &
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DREW THOMAS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



DESTINY RIVERA
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ASST.

OUR TEAM

A photograph of two young people, a man and a woman, both wearing glasses and resting their chins on their hands, looking towards the left. They are in a classroom setting with yellow and blue horizontal stripes in the background.

FOR STUDENTS

MINI GRANTS

A photograph of a woman with grey hair, wearing a grey sweater and a teal scarf, smiling and holding a small object. She is standing in front of a whiteboard. To her left, a young man with dark curly hair is looking at her. To her right, two other students are visible, one with their hand to their face.

FOR FACULTY

FELLOWSHIPS

A photograph of a large, colorful mural on a wall. The mural features the words "Welcome to" in blue, "NORTH" in large white letters, and "ADAMS" in large white letters. The background of the mural is a dense, colorful pattern of small dots and lines.

FOR COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABS



FALL 2020
SEASON PREVIEW



At MCLA-IAH, we make it a personal priority to support the MCLA community by providing resources, arts and humanities opportunities, and IDEA education.

Students are a major focus for our team. Through our funding, we supply mini-grant opportunities for students to independently produce arts and humanities-based projects that advance the mission of IAH. We also provide resources, such as professionally facilitated arts and humanities workshops, our MCLA-IAH Resource Library, and announcements through our Facebook and Instagram accounts keeping students engaged both on and off-campus.

FOR
STUDENTS

FALL 2020
SEASON PREVIEW



MCLA-IAH also aims to serve the MCLA and Berkshires community. Through our programming designed to increase diversity, equity, inclusion and access, we provide educational opportunities to community members in the region, as well as networking opportunities through our community partnerships.

FOR
COMMUNITY

FALL 2020
SEASON PREVIEW



MCLA-IAH provides resources and support for MCLA faculty through fellowships, professional development, and increased access to area cultural resources.

FOR
FACULTY



COMMUNITY FEATURES

**FALL
2020**

Barrington Stage Company

Berkshire Museum

Common Folk

Jacob's Pillow Dance

MASS MoCA

Norman Rockwell Museum

The Mastheads

WAM Theatre

Williams College Museum of Art

Williamstown Theatre Festival



Barrington Stage Company

BARRINGTON
STAGE COMPANY

MISSION

Barrington Stage Company (BSC) is a not-for-profit professional theatre company in the Berkshires (MA) with a three-fold mission: to produce top-notch, compelling work; to develop new plays and musicals; and to engage our community with vibrant, inclusive educational outreach programs.

VISION

Barrington Stage creates theatre experiences that engage and excite our audiences by entertaining as well as challenging them with the most dynamic and provocative productions possible. BSC creates a platform for new voices and diverse perspectives that drives all of our work: our productions, our educational programming and our community engagement.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- In our Mainstage theatre, we will be reducing capacity to a third of the available 520 seats to accommodate social distancing seating
- Outdoor performances will also employ all social distancing practices
- The front row of seats under the tent will be no closer to the stage than 15 feet for Harry Clarke, and no closer to the stage than 25 feet for The Hills Are Alive with Rodgers & Hammerstein.
- All patrons are required to wear masks. Masks will not be supplied at the theatre. Masks must remain on the entire time.

[Click here to view other protocols](#)

CONTACTS



info@barringtonstageco.org



[View Instagram](#)



[View website](#)



[View Facebook](#)



Berkshire Museum

Berkshire
museum

The Berkshire Museum combines art, science, and history to create thought-provoking experiences for visitors of all ages.

Founded in 1903 by Zenas Crane, owner of Crane & Company in nearby Dalton, the museum was created to provide a “window on the world” for the people of Berkshire county through a broad and varied collection of fine art, natural science specimens, and historical artifacts from around the world which has grown to include more than 40,000 objects.

Today, the Berkshire Museum brings this diverse collection to life through interactive programs and interdisciplinary exhibitions designed to spark curiosity and innovative thinking in all who enjoy them.

MISSION

The Berkshire Museum is dedicated to bringing people together for experiences that spark creativity and innovative thought by inspiring educational connections among art, history, and natural science.

CONTACTS



info@berkshiremuseum.org



[View Instagram](#)



[View website](#)



[View Facebook](#)

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

- In order to maintain safe social distancing we are limiting the number of visitors in the museum.
- All visitors age 2 and over will be required to wear a mask. Masks will not be provided by the museum. All visitors are required to follow our COVID-19 Code of Conduct.
- Safety guidelines are posted in the museum, and markers are on the floors to help you maintain safe distancing in the galleries.

Berkshire Museum FEATURED EXHIBITS

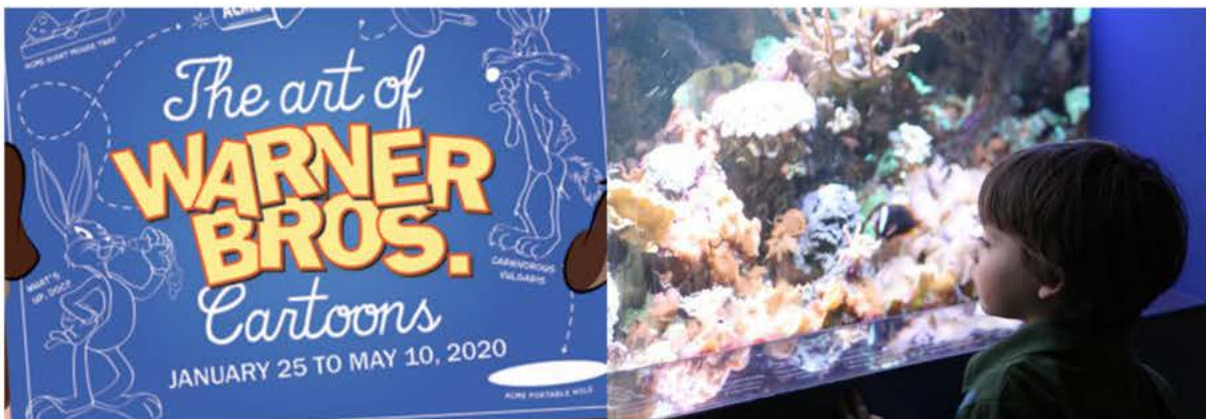
The Art of Warner Bros. Cartoons

Animation fans of all ages will enjoy this special exhibition featuring production artwork including drawings, paintings, and transparent celluloids (a.k.a. "cels") used to create some of Warner Studios' classic cartoon shorts from their 1930 debut through the early 1960s. Explore the history of the legendary Hollywood animation studio, uncover the creative process behind the scenes of each cartoon, trace the development of each iconic animated star, and learn step-by-step the techniques through which these classic toons were made.

Alongside more than 160 art objects used to make Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies shorts you'll find natural science specimens and historical objects from the Museum's collection to provide real-world context to your favorite schticks, including rabbits, ducks, and coyotes, plus cast iron frying pans, dynamite, six shooters, and unique helmets.

The Aquarium

Berkshire Museum's Aquarium brings visitors face-to-face with reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects from around the world. From colorful coral and poison dart frogs, to menacing piranha and glowing scorpions, the Aquarium delights and inspires adults and children alike while teaching important lessons about native wildlife, animal adaptations, global ecosystems, and environmental science.





Common Folk



SHOP

Consignment clothing, artwork and handmade jewelry & crafts by the members who are also local artists and professionals.

MAKE

Use the resources in the studio to explore your creativity – art supplies, fabric, screen printing room, sewing supplies and more.

MISSION

Common Folk Artist Collective is a group of local and emerging creators who share and utilize resources to explore and thrive in the creative endeavors.

CONTACTS



info@commonfolk.org



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COVID-19 STATUS

All events are currently on hold, but all of the ones held at the store, Bright Ideas, HiLo, etc, are open to everyone, of course. They contribute to our communities by providing a safe space for community gatherings, generating revenue for low-income creators, and hosting accessible creative events. Events such as open mic nights, concerts, art shows, workshops, and more are going to be started again soon!

They pride ourselves on their ability to adapt to new surroundings. They are always interested in exploring a project with other folks, whether big or small. They believe that collaboration is the key to success. We can accomplish more together than as individual artists.



Jacob's Pillow

JACOB'S
PILLOW

Jacob's Pillow is lauded worldwide as a "hub and mecca of dancing" (TIME Magazine). Each year thousands of people from across the U.S. and around the globe visit the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts to experience the Festival with more than 50 dance companies and 500 free performances, talks, and events.

MISSION

To support dance creation, presentation, education, and preservation; and to engage and deepen public appreciation and support for dance.

VALUES

Jacob's Pillow takes great pride in its role as a presenter, educator, engager, and chronicler of dance. The Board and Staff share a level of passion, enthusiasm, and dedication to our mission, the Pillow's history, the dance field, and those within it. Inclusion, leadership, integrity, flexibility, partnership, and sustainability are values that drive our work.

CONTACTS



info@jacobspillow.org



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COVID-19 STATEMENT

Before you visit, please review the Frequently Asked Questions on our site:
[Click here to review the FAQ](#)

Face masks are required at all times when on site, and social distancing is encouraged.

Download a [self-guided tour map](#) and discover the history and legends of the Pillow's beautiful and historic grounds.



Jacob's Pillow

FEATURED RESOURCES

PILLOWVOICES

A DANCE THROUGH TIME

PillowVoices brings listeners closer to notable dance artists connected with Jacob's Pillow, from 1933 to today. Each piece exemplifies Jacob's Pillow's mission to 'support dance creation, presentation, education, and preservation; and to engage and deepen public appreciation and support for dance' by utilizing archival recordings brought to life in the personal stories and narration of current thought-leaders and scholars.

PILLOW TOOLS

Curious about how best to engage with Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive and other free online resources for you and your students? Join Norton Owen, Director of Preservation; Patsy Gay, Associate Archivist; and Thasia Giles, Director of Community Engagement for a 45-minute webinar exploring all the digital materials available through Jacob's Pillow.

[Click here to watch the video](#)





MASS MoCA

Massachusetts Museum of
Contemporary Art



MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest centers for making and enjoying today's most evocative art. With vast galleries and a stunning collection of indoor and outdoor performing arts venues, MASS MoCA is able to embrace all forms of art: music, sculpture, dance, film, painting, photography, theater, and new, boundary-crossing works of art that defy easy classification.

MISSION

Through innovative collaborations, MASS MoCA helps artists and their supporters create and show important new work, bringing to our visitors bold visual and performing art in all stages of production, while also creating a stimulating center of creativity and commerce that brings life and economic vibrancy to its hometown.

CONTACTS

To plan how to make connections to museum exhibitions, and to use the museum to create video components for your class, contact:



education@massmoca.org



[View Instagram](#)



[View website](#)



[View Facebook](#)

Laura Thompson, Director of Education + Curator of Kidspace
lthompson@massmoca.org

Amanda Tobin, Associate Director of Education
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COVID-19 PROTOCOL

All museum visitors over 2 years old are required to wear a mask.
Please practice social distancing — keep 6 ft. between you and others who are not in your party. Advance, timed tickets are now required for all museum visits.



MASS MoCA FEATURED EXHIBITS

WENDY RED STAR

APSÁALOOKE: CHILDREN OF
THE LARGE-BEAKED BIRD

Multi-media artist Wendy Red Star, a member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) tribe, offers accounts of American history that rectify the frequently flawed narratives about Native people. An avid researcher, Red Star re-examines cultural artifacts and primary source historic imagery, and uses them as the foundation for her beautifully annotated photographs and installations. The Children of the Large-Beaked Bird exhibition provides an opportunity for adults and children to look at history and representation with fresh eye

ERRE: THEM AND US

ELLOS Y NOSOTROS

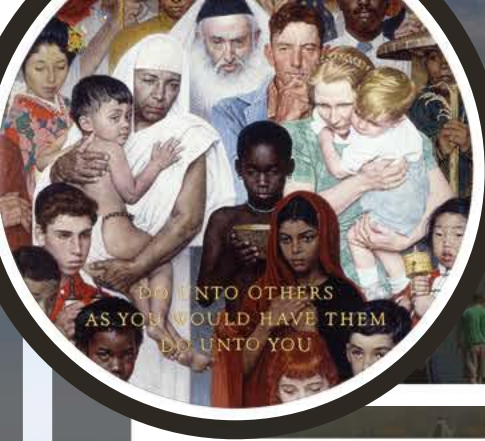
For those of us who live far from its realities, ERRE brings to MASS MoCA a palpable image of the border wall with the installation of Of Fence (2017), a sculptural recreation of the weathered metal barricade that the artist knows well. This formidable architectural obstruction is – and has been for a long time – a powerful physical and psychological fact in Tijuana, where houses, restaurants, and beaches butt up against the imposing barrier.



WENDY RED STAR



ERRE: THEM AND US



Norman Rockwell Museum



Norman Rockwell, The Golden Rule, Saturday Evening Post cover, April 1, 1961 ©1961 SEPS: Licensed by Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, IN, Norman Rockwell Museum Collection

MUSEUM HISTORY

Founded in 1969 by Stockbridge community members with the help of Norman and Molly Rockwell, Norman Rockwell Museum is dedicated to the enjoyment and study of Rockwell's work and American Illustration Art; and the contributions to society, popular culture, and social commentary. The Museum, which is accredited by the American Association of Museums, is one of the most popular year-round cultural attractions in the Berkshires.

The Museum houses the world's largest and most significant collection of Rockwell's work, including 998 original paintings and drawings, together with over 17,500 artworks by the best illustrators in America. A continuing digitization project gives public access to the art and archives, over 200,000 items, through collection.nrm.org.

Rockwell lived in Stockbridge for the last 25 years of his life, entrusting a collection of his work including his actual Stockbridge studio to the Museum. The studio was relocated from the Rockwell's former backyard, to the Museum's 36-acre campus site.

MISSION

The Norman Rockwell Museum illuminates the power of American illustration art to reflect and shape society, and advances the enduring values of kindness, respect, and social equity portrayed by Norman Rockwell.

Education is a major focus of the Museum's daily work; and they actively collaborate with schools and colleges in the region and nationally, including MCLA. In 2009 the Rockwell Center for Visual studies was formed, partnering with national and international arts and educational organizations. This scholarly research arm of the Museum offers symposiums, fellowships, and internships annually; [more info here](#).

CONTACTS



info@nrm.org



[View website](#)



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The Mastheads



"We must add to our heritage or lose it". -George Orwell

MISSION

The Mastheads is a public humanities project in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. They seek to connect residents to the literary history of the region, create a forum for thinking about place, and support the production of new creative work. Founded in 2016 upon the legacy of five American Renaissance authors who wrote in Pittsfield, The Mastheads is at once an urban architectural experiment, a literary research initiative, a writers' residency, and an educational program.

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIOS

The physical spaces of The Mastheads are five writing studios on wheels, each an architectural interpretation of the original structures from which five American Renaissance authors worked while in Pittsfield: Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., and Henry David Thoreau.

WRITER'S RESIDENCIES

Every July, they host a month-long residency that brings five emerging writers from across the country to live and work in Pittsfield. Residents receive exclusive use of one of the Mastheads studios, a \$900 prize, travel reimbursement, and a private room in a house shared with the other residents.

In the fall and spring seasons, the Mastheads studios can be reserved for "day-residencies" on the grounds of Herman Melville's Arrowhead. [Click here to book a day-residency.](#)

CONTACTS



info@themastheads.org



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The Mastheads FEATURED PROGRAMS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

During the school year, The Mastheads operates its poetry-in-schools program, Fireside, in Pittsfield's Public Schools. Students compose original poetry, and each ten-week course culminates in an anthology of student work and a community reading. They have also added a free Virtual Poetry School to their site! [Click here to view site.](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND DESIGN

Each summer, we produce The Mastheads x The Berkshire Eagle Folds, a series of broadsheet folds inserted into the local newspaper that reach 30,000 doorsteps each issue. They design text-based public art installations each summer that have animated billboards, grocery stores, vacant storefronts, hardware stores throughout Pittsfield.





WAM Theatre

Where Arts and Activism Meet



WAM Theatre is a professional theatre company based in Berkshire County, MA, USA, that operates at the intersection of arts and activism. WAM creates theatre for gender equity and has a vision of theatre as philanthropy.

MISSION

Every time an audience comes together for a theatrical event, a community is formed. WAM Theatre engages that community by

- producing theatrical events for everyone, with a focus on women theatre artists and/or stories of women and girls
- donating a portion of proceeds from those theatrical events to organizations that work to benefit the lives of women and girls in our communities and worldwide.

CONTACTS



info@wamtheatre.com



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THE SUFFRAGE PROJECT

This Spring, WAM Theatre centered our Community Engagement work around the theme of suffrage and citizenship. This year marks 100 years since the passage of the nineteenth amendment to the constitution, which officially extended the right to vote to women across the United States. As a theatre company centered on gender equity and intersectional feminism, while we mark this anniversary, we also amplify the complex history of politics, power and marginalized groups in this country who are still fighting for full and unwavering citizenship, including people of color and migrant peoples.

VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

[Click here to view the exhibit](#)

These pieces were created by WAM ensemble members while in social isolation all over our region. Collectively, they speak to the multifaceted dimensions of citizenship and hold space for a continued artistic dialogue.



WAM Theatre

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS



ROE

by Lisa Loomer, directed by Kristen van Ginhoven
Online performance October 17-20, 2020

ROE is a historically sweeping play with a diverse ensemble cast that illuminates the history of one of the most polarizing social issues of the modern era, the Roe v. Wade, U.S. Supreme Court ruling that established a woman's right to an abortion. The play provides a reminder of the human stories behind the debates and how hard we have to work to compassionately communicate with people with whom we may disagree. Audience members will have access to the online regional premiere performance as well as additional materials, including a live conversation with Scholar-In-Residence Dr. Laura Briggs who puts the play into the context of reproductive justice today.



THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

by Larissa FastHorse, directed by Talya Kingston
Online performance, November 19-22

The Thanksgiving Play is a scathingly funny satire where we witness a group of “woke” white teaching artists scrambling to create a pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage Month.

The dynamic online performance will be accompanied by opportunities for our community to deepen local knowledge and connection to the Mohican Tribe, who are the traditional stewards of the land now known as the Berkshires.





WCMA

Williams College Museum of Art

WILLIAMS
COLLEGE
MUSEUM
OF ART

WCMA is a vibrant hub for learning and participation. We believe in taking risks and testing creative, future forms of scholarship and teaching. We leverage our intimate size, college setting, and interdisciplinary context to generate experimental, hands-on learning experiences. Professional development programs for new generations of aspiring theatre artists and administrators.

MISSION

The Williams College Museum of Art makes dynamic art experiences to incite new thinking about art, museums, and the world.

VISION

The Williams College Museum of Art is a vibrant center for the arts at Williams that embodies the potential for the liberal arts to catalyze our ability to think creatively and critically. It is a vital hub for deep student learning and participation; for taking risks and testing creative, future forms of scholarship and teaching; and for boldly affirming the relevance of the history of art and the arts broadly. Partnering closely with art department faculty and others, we aim not just to sustain but to revitalize the college's world class legacy in the visual arts for generations to come.

CONTACTS



[View website](#)



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FALL 2020 PLANS

The museum will be open to Williams College students, faculty, and staff, for class use and by appointment. The museum is not open to the public at this time.

[Click here to explore the collection online and learn more about WCMA's virtual programs.](#)



Williamstown Theatre Festival

WILLIAMSTOWN
THEATRE FESTIVAL

Since 1955, Williamstown Theatre Festival has brought America's finest actors, directors, designers, and playwrights to the Berkshires, engaging a loyal audience of both residents and summer visitors. Each WTF season is designed to present unique opportunities for artists and audience alike, revisiting classic plays with innovative productions, developing and nurturing bold new plays and musicals, and offering a rich array of accompanying cultural events including COMMUNITY WORKS, Late-Night Cabarets, readings, workshops, and educational programs. While best known for acclaimed productions, WTF is also home to one of the nation's top training and professional development programs for new generations of aspiring theatre artists and administrators. WTF was honored with the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 2002 and the Commonwealth Award for Achievement in 2011.

MISSION

- To produce classic and new plays with distinction and verve, and to present artists with production opportunities and challenges seldom available elsewhere.
- To provide a training program in which emerging theater talents collaborate with accomplished mentors in a vital, professional, and educational atmosphere.
- To create and present programs that serve and engage a diverse community.

CONTACTS



wtfinfo@wtfestival.org



[View website](#)



[\(413\) 458-3200](tel:(413)458-3200)



[View Instagram](#)



[View Facebook](#)



Williamstown Theatre Festival FEATURED PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY WORKS

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED THEATRE THAT WORKS!

Williamstown Theatre Festival's year-round community-engaged theatre program that brings together hundreds of Berkshire area residents from all walks of life. These diverse constituencies are connected with professional theatre artists and with each other through workshops, rehearsals, and a professional-caliber production on the Main Stage at the Festival, presented free of charge for more than 2,000 locals. [Click here to learn more about COMMUNITY WORKS and upcoming workshops.](#)

WTF SEASON ON AUDIBLE

In an innovative collaboration devised to meet the challenges posed by the global health pandemic, the 2020 season will be the first-ever complete theatre season released by Audible, the world's largest producer and provider of original spoken-word entertainment and audiobooks. The 2020 WTF Season on Audible will be produced in an audio-only format safe to elevate, entertain, and transform audiences from the comfort of their homes. [Click here to learn more about our productions, and stay tuned for exciting updates.](#)





WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Contact Erica Barreto or Declan McDermott for more information about our community partners and featured programming. Inquire about additional resources or schedule a meeting to discuss various possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

**Erica Barreto (erica.barreto@mcla.edu)
Declan McDermott (dm0849@mcla.edu)**