

It's festival time – but not as we know it!

We will be providing weekly briefings on different subjects and themes during the C19 Crisis.

Welcome to issue #4.

Last night we would have launched our Edinburgh contribution to **the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival**. It's always a special evening where old friends meet up, new friendships are made and we all feel inspired and uplifted with the anticipation of experiencing the art created in all its multiple forms during the three week festival.

SMAF is a key and longstanding feature of **Our Sense of Belonging Arts Programme**. For every understandable reason we couldn't have our launch last night but we are delighted that the Festival is continuing albeit in a very different way. Gail and the national team have put together an online programme and there are still opportunities to be involved in this. We're also including information on a number of other arts events and opportunities which are happening.

As always thanks for all your ideas and input - please do continue to get in touch with your stories, materials and ideas – linda.irvinefitzpatrick@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

SMHAF - Online programme announcement

Gail Aldam, Arts and Events Manager for the Mental Health Foundation writes *"In this unprecedented and difficult time, it is more important than ever for us to continue to connect with our incredible festival community and bring entertainment and important mental health content to our audiences. While we were obviously disappointed not to be hosting our annual festival in its usual form this year, we are delighted to be able to showcase an online programme of events beginning in May, creating opportunities for engagement and conversation and supporting artists to create new work. In presenting the Festival in this way, we are also taking the opportunity to explore ways that we can use digital content to make our festival even more accessible in the future and reach a wider audience."*

<https://www.facebook.com/mentalhealtharts/>

<https://www.instagram.com/mhfestival/>

<https://www.mhfestival.com/news/584-smhaf-2020-online-programme>

Eat. Move. Sleep. Repeat

Is an online project curated by artists **Emma Jayne Park and Emily Furneaux**, exploring how we can better support ourselves and each other. Taking place over four weekly sessions, the project provides an opportunity for artists to come together in a safe and accessible environment to share in conversations around creative practice and strategies for survival during this period of isolation. Each session will focus on the work of an invited artist who explores either food, movement, sleep or ritual in their work. They will share an example of their work, lead a creative task and answer questions about their practice, leading to broader discussions with those in attendance.

One Mississippi

SMHAF is also supporting Bijli Productions to develop a film version of **One Mississippi**, a theatre show about how childhood trauma shapes men's adult lives, taking them to breaking point. One Mississippi was also to have toured Scotland as part of this year's festival.

Though This Be Madness - theatre show set in a lounge room

There will be an online version of "**Though this be Madness**" by **Skye Loneragan** which was to have toured Scotland as part of this year's SMHAF. **This** features a recovering mum who is attempting to tell you many tales of sisterhood struggles with mental health. The show is now undergoing an experimental re-framing - supported by SMHAF - to see how it can be shared with other lounge rooms, live online. Skye will be sharing quirky, questioning process-bites along the way via SMHAF's website.

'My experience of isolation', - five artists responses

SMHAF are commissioning five new artistic responses to the theme '**my experience of isolation**', which can be showcased online. In the midst of the coronavirus crisis, the SMHAF team want to amplify the creative voices of people who already understand isolation, in the interests of solidarity, empathy and the sharing of wisdom and experience. The successful proposals will be compellingly presented and have something insightful to say about the causes and effects of isolation and mental health.

SMHAF Online Exhibition

Several individual artists and organisations across the **SMHAF network** have been in touch mentioned they were planning exhibitions, and we are aware of artworks going up on social media as well. The national SMHAF Team will be adding a digital exhibition section to our website, creating a space where this work can be collated and showcased it to audiences across Scotland. Individual artists will be named on the work (if wanted) and there will be categories created so people can filter by specific exhibitions to give each its own identity.

If you want to participate in this – whether you have already suggested exhibitions or not – or would be happy to share a call for photographed or digital artworks among your networks. Please get in touch with SMHAF. This space will be available for artists and art groups who have contributed to SMHAF previously or would have been part of the festival this year.

Further highlights from SMHAF's online programme..

- Selected screenings from the SMHAF international film programme, including an announcement of the winners of our **International Film Awards**.
- Filmed versions of theatre shows previously seen at SMHAF, including **Super Awesome World** by Amy Conway, **Electrolyte** by Wildcard Theatre, and **Hysteria** by Julia Taudevin, all showing online for a limited time.
- **SMHAF Socials**, a regular online gathering for artists to share coping strategies, hosted by the festival's associate artist Emma Jayne Park.
- Showcases of work from across our regional programmes, including a digital exhibition.
- An illustrated ebook and online showcase for our **Writing Awards**, in partnership with Bipolar Scotland.

Keep up to date...<https://www.mhfestival.com/news/584-smhaf-2020-online-programme>

2020 Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival goes ahead online

The 10th annual **Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival** will go ahead from Friday 1 to Sunday 3 May 2020 in a free online format. Although the public elements of the festival have had to be cancelled, organisers have worked to ensure that as much of the festival's content as possible can be delivered online. There will be three days of online streaming featuring work by artists and filmmakers from across the globe.

Highlights include:

Corporate Accountability (8pm – 9.15pm, 1 May) in which Argentinian filmmaker, Jonathan Perel, traces, records and confronts the companies that colluded in the repression and disappearance of 30,000 workers and union delegates during Argentina's military dictatorship (Spanish with English subtitles).

Phantom Ride (8pm – 9.15pm on 3 May) Canadian filmmaker, Stephen Broomer, has created an American road movie from home movies shot in the 1950s by Elwood F. Hoffmann, a hosiery mill owner in Pennsylvania.

72 TREES, (1 May) which follows the filmmakers Helena Doyle and Eduardo Cassina on their globe-trotting challenge to visit all 11 galleries exhibiting Damien Hirst's 'spot paintings' in only 12 days

South (2 May) Morgan Quaintance offers an expressionistic response to anti-racist and anti-authoritarian liberation movements in South London and Chicago's South Side; in

Autumn (3 May) Daria Elkonina presents a sparsely populated landscape in rural Russia which is haunted by memories of murder. The shorts, meanwhile, will be streamed in a number of one-hour slots spread across each day.

To see the full Alchemy Live programme visit: www.alchemyfilmandarts.org.uk/festival-2020

Outlook for you

The **Outlook Team** are currently producing newsletters for their adult learners including poems, facts, recipes and links to learning opportunities. These can be shared by email if anyone would find them of interest. Please contact Fiona or Alex on CLD.OP@edinburgh.gov.uk



Free Online Filmmaking Course for young people (up to age 18)

Your Take is Screen Education Edinburgh's new free online filmmaking course, suitable for young people (up to the age of 18) as well as family members, guardians, and anyone else that young people share their home with (in Edinburgh and the Lothians).

Your Take is also a great resource for teachers and their pupils working remotely, with all of our online materials curriculum linked, and devised in line with the British Film Institute's Film Education Framework, Curriculum for Excellence, and GTCS plans and priorities.

No matter your level of experience, Your Take develops your filmmaking skills and helps you produce a short film.

It's free and easy to register and you will gain access to Your Take's secure, private portal which houses a number of different online resources, including learning materials and training films covering all of the key aspects of filmmaking, such as storytelling, camera, film literacy, sound operation, and video editing. You will also benefit from support from the film delivery team through Q&As, video events, and scheduled feedback sessions.

All submitted films will be showcased on the Screen Education Edinburgh website. The Your Take Youth Advisory Panel will select films of note to be placed in our Special Mentions category.

Key Dates

Primary level course launches **Thursday 7th May**

Secondary level course launches **Thursday 14th May**

...and registration for both is open now!

Registration is quick and easy and can be done on the website **here**

Please contact **laura@screen-ed.org** for any inquiries.

For inspiration...

You can now download over 200 art books from the Guggenheim for free. The titles date back to 1936—over 20 years before the museum moved into its iconic Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home in 1959—and feature the biggest names in Modern and Contemporary. The archive is searchable by artist, year, medium and artistic style or movement. The materials can be downloaded in several formats, including Kindle and PDFs. **<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/news/>**

The Scottish Poetry Library have a weekly blog bringing you news of and links to an array of interesting things found online, from actors reading poems to online courses to virtual festivals. **<https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/blog/>**