

CTMP Mid-Semester Newsletter

April 1, 2023



Jack Cesarano dazzles as the QCC mascot.

CTMP at the Food Pantry Thanksgiving Distribution

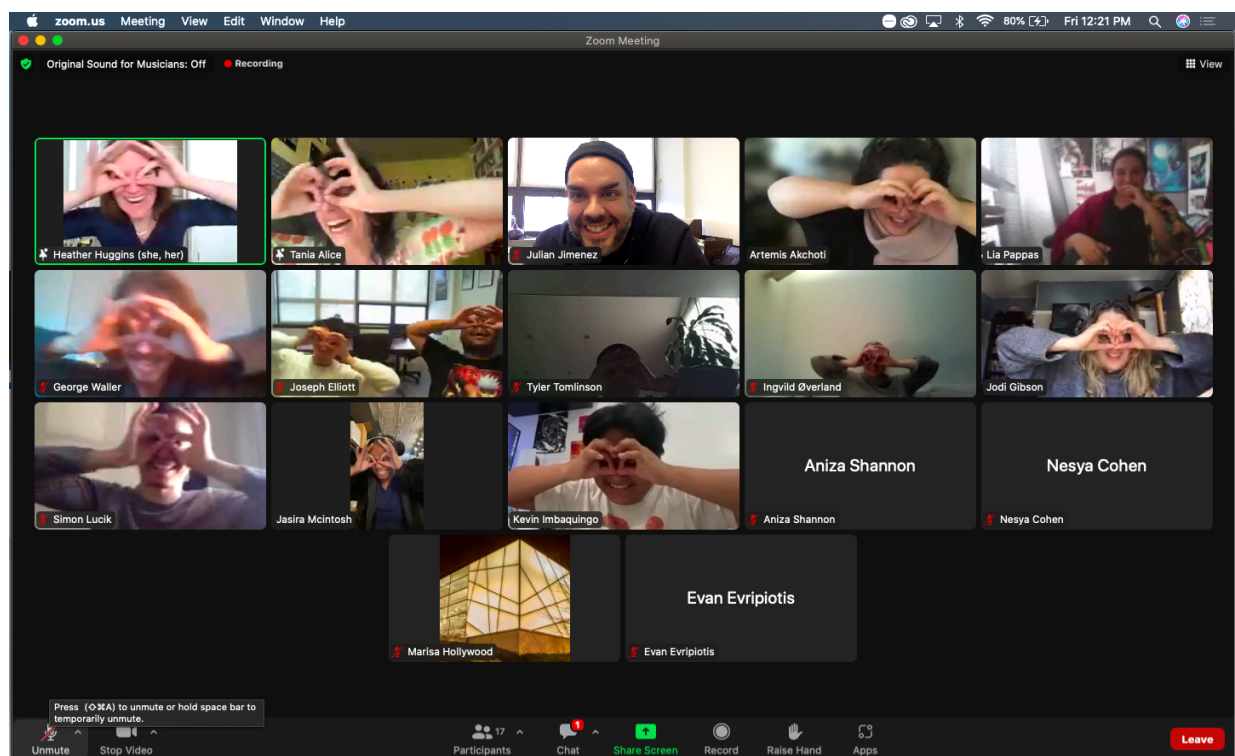


Ashlie Klepper represents CTMP at the Thanksgiving Food Distribution

Queensborough's midday Thanksgiving Food Distribution was part of the College's larger 2022 "Give Thanks, Give Back" annual #CUNYTuesday campaign to raise funds for students in need to ensure they can continue their studies and earn a college degree.

Communication

Imagining Possibilities: Social Practice as a Pedagogy of Care



- Prof. Heather Huggins facilitated "Imagining Possibilities: Social Practice as a Pedagogy of Care" on Friday, November 18th as part of the KHC-NEH 2022-2023 Colloquium. Jodi Van Der Horn-Gibson was one of three faculty members who conceptualized this year's KHC-NEH 2022-2023 Colloquium theme: Trauma, Remembrance, & Compassion. In this workshop, participants heard from artist-researchers Heather Huggins, Assistant Professor of Theatre at QCC and Dr. Tania Alice is a Professor of Performance Art at Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro who shared social practices at the intersection of performance and mindfulness,

along with concrete examples from their research applying these practices in their campus communities. Attendees were invited to experience these practices for themselves by engaging in embodied practice, reflection, and discussion. The event was organized by the KHC at Queensborough Community College and was co-sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL) at QCC.

Congratulations to Dr. Franca Ferrari - Bridgers on her promotion to Full Professor!!!



Makeup & Styling by Veronica Manoo

Communication Welcomes New Adjunct Faculty - Suzanne Jones



A pracademic in leadership management for over 25 years, Jones has specific skills in organizational development, program management, educational training, cross-cultural management and leadership. She is currently awaiting the release of her latest article, "Housing for Students with Disabilities" and is also following up on another article, "Leadership and the perception of women in higher education" which is an abridgement to the work she is currently producing. Prior to being employed with the City University of New York, the State University of New York and Research Foundation, Jones held Executive Leadership roles with the Southern Queens Park Association and South East Bronx Neighborhood Centers. There she implemented numerous programs for mid-career executives and was instrumental in the organization's fund development. A graduate of the Non-for-Profit School of Management at Columbia University, University of Phoenix, Mercy College, and Hunter College, Suzanne has extensive experience delivering programs on teamwork, corporate culture and performance management. She spent years working with the Bloomberg administration and the prison education and recidivism initiative and was recognized for her work in this field. Jones also served on the advisory board under the Obama administration addressing the college melt in community colleges. Her leadership in the Workforce Development arena has been

immense with portfolios to include the Young Adult Internship Program, the Fatherhood Initiative and the Summer Youth Employment Program. There she was responsible for securing employment, training, college and tertiary outcomes for over 3,700 students combined. She has received many accolades for her work in this field and for the last three years her focus has been working with students with disabilities. In 2022, she worked alongside the Real Estate Board of New York – an award winning initiative to provide internship opportunities for over 50 students with disabilities. As board members of the Nassau University Medical Center advisory committee, Astoria Film Festival and Future Scholars Inc., Suzanne works feverishly to represent the underserved. She received the Fanny Lou Hamer Award in Leadership from the Herring Piece Association, Educator of the Year from the Jackie Onassis School, the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities among many others. She recently received a citation from the Congressman for her contribution to the field of education.

Communication Welcomes New Adjunct Faculty - Deniz Khateri



Deniz is an Iranian theatre artist and educator based in New York. Her works experiment with form and they focus on memory, grief, immigration and the concept of home. Holding an MA in Theatre from City University of New York, Deniz's plays have been performed in several national and

international festivals including International Puppet Fringe Festival, Ice Factory 2022, Exponential Festival, Bostonia Bohemia, Our Voices Women Playwrights, Purely Political, The Tank Virtual Festival, CUNY Graduate Center Performed Knowledge festival and Hunter College. She has written and directed experimental librettos and music-theatre projects that challenge the status quo and current vernacular of the theatre and modern opera scene. Selected as a playwriting lab resident at NYC's New Perspective Theatre, she has also designed and directed international shows, video arts and shadow puppetry visuals for several contemporary classical composers and companies including OperFrankfurt, Guerilla Opera, Dinosaur Annex, and Long Beach Opera. Deniz is the recipient of the NYFA award for her Oscar-qualified documentary animated web series, "Diasporan", for which she is the writer, director, animator and singer and explores the daily struggles of immigrants. (www.denizkhateri.com)

Communication Faculty Spotlight - Gail Lewis



- Lecturer Gail Lewis hosted a free screening of the movie *Till* on March 16th on Zoom for the National Association of University Women. *Till* is the story of the lynching of Emmitt Till & his mother's fight for justice. Lecturer Lewis interviewed the screenwriter, Keith Beauchamp, after the movie. Many QCC students were in attendance.

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- Queens children's book author Aletta Seales discussed the process of writing her new children's book, *Annie and Juneteenth*, live online on Saturday, March 25. The author along with book illustrator, Artkina Celestin, was interviewed by Professor Gail Lewis. The free author talk was brought to the community by Queens Public Library.

Communication Faculty Spotlight - Christi Saindon



- Dr. Christi Saindon has been selected as a QCC Career Success Fellows by the Office of Transformation for CUNY along with Punita Bhansali, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences & Geology, and Kat Griefen, Lecturer, Art and Design
- Career Success Fellows are chosen for their experience, motivation, and their potential to be campus and CUNY-wide leaders of this important initiative. Supporting our CUNY students in their lives beyond CUNY is one of the Chancellor's key goals and is also a major part of the new strategic plan. We appreciate all that you will do at your college to acknowledge and empower your Fellows as our important work together continues.

Communication Faculty Spotlight - Franca Ferrari-Bridgers, Jodi Van Der Horn-Gibson, & Christi Saindon



Three CTMP faculty attended the Eastern Communication Association convention—Franca Ferrari-Bridgers, Jodi Van Der Horn-Gibson, and Christi Saindon.

- Communication faculty Franca Ferrari-Bridgers and Christi Saindon teamed up to discuss the Hyflex teaching experience at QCC, a preliminary discussion that they hope will lead to a publication down the road. The discussion was included on a research panel focused on engaging the 21st century student.
- Communication faculty Jodi Van Der Horn-Gibson was a discussant on a panel about the high cost of college education, with colleagues from Prairie View A&M University, Randolph-Macon College, Prince George's Community College, and Delaware County Community College. Some of the conversations in the panel focused on financial literacy, carrying student debt as an adult, access to free education, and the challenges for parents supporting college-aged children.
- Communication faculty Christi Saindon attended the Eastern Communication Association convention in Baltimore, MD this Spring semester. In addition to planning programming for two Interest Groups at the convention – Community College and Interpretation & Performance Studies – she served as Chair, Discussant, and Respondent for multiple panels on topics such as Interpersonal Communication, Voices of Diversity, Storytelling, and the Future of Communication Conferences. All in, with leadership obligations, Christi participated in 11 meetings, discussion panels, and paper panels.

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Undergraduate Research Day



Last semester CTMP Theatre participated in Undergraduate Research Day in a collaboration with Dance. Both concentrations in Theatre (Acting & Tech) were represented with five students presenting for the first time.

- Sade Alleyne, mentored by Jonathan Kilom, shared their design and construction of a prototype for a scenic model inspired by Audrey II (Twoey) puppet from *Little Shop of Horrors*. They described their research process which includes drawing by hand, constructing, and painting. They also shared their design and plans for scaling the prototype.
- Marisa Marin, mentored by Josh Rothenberg, shared about Stagecraft II projects in prop design and construction, demonstrating how she learned to conduct visual research, to design a model in VectorWorks (industry standard software), and to build a prop to scale.
- Kevin Imbaquingo Kuish and Giancarlo Rodas, mentored by Liisa Yonker and Heather Huggins, performed monologues from the Fall 2022 Production *Small Mouth Sounds*. They applied their performance skills to investigate the given circumstances, to create a character, and to exist believably in the world of the play.

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- Jazmin Rodriguez, mentored by Heather Huggins, performed selections from her coursework in Th153 - Voice & Speech for the Actor where theatre majors learn how to interpret text through cycles of action research. Interpretation is the creative practice of transforming written communication (for example, a contemporary script or poetry) into relaxed, flexible, and intentional vocal performance. Action research cycles generate knowledge in three distinct ways. Students research across modes of knowing: 'know-that,' learning theory on breath, voice, and speech; 'know-how,' cultivating embodied knowledge through sensory practices which integrate mind and body; and 'know-what,' engaging in critical reflection.

Self-Care Workshop

- In Partnership with CETL - Common Read, Prof. Heather Huggins, Adjunct Lecturer Jess Kreisler, and College Assistant Geovanny Guzman facilitated a Self -Care Workshop on March 20th. The 75-minute workshop was followed by a discussion on the workshop.


VAPA High School Counselor Event

- Prof. Georgia McGill will represent the Theatre Unit at this event, providing information and giving a tour of the theatre facilities on Wednesday, April 19th.

Partnership with the KHC

- The Theatre Unit is partnering with the Kupferberg Holocaust Center to present The Anne Frank Center's play *Letters from Anne and Martin*
- The play will be performed on Wednesday, May 3rd @ 10:15AM & 2:15PM in the Shadowbox Theater.

Goddesses Set Sail Again

- Students in SP-321, Oral Performance for the Actor and Speaker, are collaborating with College Now to present *Sailing with Goddesses, an adaptation of Homer's The Odyssey*, to high school students this May.
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- This is part of a new initiative by the Theatre program to offer additional performance opportunities to our students while opening our doors to local high schools once again. We are thankful for our long collaboration with College Now and their support for this program.
 - The presentation will be in the Shadowbox Theater on Mondays, May 1st and 8th from 11:00AM to 12:30PM with a discussion following. There may be seats available if you wish to attend or have students attend. Contact Georgia McGill - gmcgill@qcc.cuny.edu

Spring Student Symposium - Thurs. May 4, 2023

- Prof. Heather Huggins is collaborating with the Research Committee and CETL to host a live arts event as a part of the Spring Student Symposium. It will include student projects from dance, film and media production, and theatre. It will be on Thurs May 4th in the Shadowbox Theater, Z-104 - doors at 6:00pm, event at 6:30pm.

The 10th Annual Theatre Soirée

- The Theatre program will hold its 10th Annual Theatre Soirée on Thursday, May 11th from 6:00PM - 9:00PM.

Theatre Alumni Spotlight - Trey Adams



- Trey Adams will be directing their adaptation of Hansel & Gretel for The New York Black Arts Festival Travelling Arts in Education spring program.

<https://www.newyorkblackartsfestival.org/>

Theatre Alumni Spotlight - Chris Aldea



- Chris Aldea was accepted into the Unit52 company of INTAR Theatre.
- Unit52 was created as a response to the shortage of Latinx actors in Actors Equity Association (AEA), and offers a space for talented, emerging actors of color to play, create community, and hone their skills under the mentorship of experienced INTAR artists for no cost.

Theatre Alumni Spotlight - Joseph Distl



- Joseph Distl was the Assistant Stage Manager for the Off-Broadway show, *Truckers* by Mariana Correño-King at INTAR Theatre in March 2023.

Theatre Alumni Spotlight - Gabriel Rodriguez



- Gabriel Rodriguez is the Box Office Supervisor at Queens Theatre.

Theatre Alumni Spotlight - George Wilson Waller



- George Wilson Waller was named 1 of 3 Stage Managers for New Dramatists's "PlayTime," an annual 2-week development laboratory/retreat for New Dramatists playwrights.

Theatre Faculty Spotlight - Arthur Adair



- Prof. Arthur Adair will direct a reading of H.M. Koutoukas' *Medea Of The Laundromat Or The Stars May Understand* as part of the Experiments Play Reading Series at La MaMa, NYC in May. The play premiered in 1965 with a consecutive run at multiple venues: Caffe La MaMa; Caffe Cino; & Theatre Genesis. <https://www.lamama.org/>
- Prof. Arthur Adair will be returning to the CTMP department in fall 2023 after serving for two years as Queensborough's Faculty Fellow for Student Success.

Theatre Faculty Spotlight - C. Julian Jiménez



- Prof. C. Julian Jiménez was an invited panelist for the "Contemporizing the Canon" talkback by MTC Theatre at New York City Center after a performance of *The Best We Could* by Emily Feldman this past February. (Off-Broadway)
- Prof. C. Julian Jiménez was a vocalist at The Cutting Room NYC in January for a Christine McVie/Fleetwood Mac tribute concert along with John Gallagher Jr and Joanna Chay.

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- Prof. C. Julian Jiménez' play *Ronald Reagan Murdered My Mentors* opened to rave reviews at Fuse Theatre Ensemble/Blaq Out Theatre this past February. [Read review here:](#)
 - Prof. C. Julian Jiménez' play *Locusts Have No King* will have its West Coast Premiere at New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco in April 2023. [Read press release here:](#)
 - Prof. C. Julian Jiménez will be a panelist for a talkback after a performance of *Día Y Noche*, written by David Anzuelo, for LAByrinth Theater Company. The talkback will be on April 11th and the topic of conversation will be "Creating Safe Spaces and Building Bridges Across Communities."
 - Prof. C. Julian Jiménez will perform at The Public Theater's Joe's Pub in June 2023 along with Alynda Mariposa Segarra from the indie-rock band *Hurray for the Riff Raff* in a showing of her musical, *The Navigator* in which Julian wrote the book.
 - Prof. C. Julian Jiménez' life-writing essay "Playground Musk" was accepted by Divagations Literary Magazine for a Spring 2023 publication.
 - Prof. C. Julian Jiménez was awarded the 2023 Delaware Valley Arts Alliance Individual Artist Fellowship in Literary Arts. The award will be given at a ceremony in April.

Theatre Faculty Spotlight - Georgia McGill



- Prof. Georgia McGill attended the NAST (National Association of Schools of Theatre) Conference in St. Louis in March. She and Prof. C. Julian Jiménez will be collaborating on writing the self-study for QCC's theatre re-accreditation.
- Prof. Georgia McGill will be presenting a paper at the 14th Annual International Conference on Visual and Performing Arts in Athens, Greece this June.
- The presentation is titled "To Mask or Unmask; 21st Century A.D. Theatrical Direction of Dramaturgy from the 5th Century B.C." <https://www.atiner.gr/arts>

Wunderkammer - Spring Production



The Theatre program's spring show was **WUNDERKAMMER** written by Francesca Pazniokas. The production was directed by C. Julian Jiménez. **WUNDERKAMMER** is about a taxidermist who faces an extraordinary uprising when his new assistant brings his taxidermy animals back to life. "Wunderkammer" is a play about identity and tribalism, blurring the line between human and animal and life and death.

WUNDERKAMMER cast included the following students: Sade Alleyne, Alejandro Allende, Hana Boachie, Christopher Cortes, Luca Calomarde, Charissa Davis, Jesse Guzman, Stacie Miller, Logan Rodriguez, and Jessica Villalva. The cast consisted of both theatre and non-theatre majors.

Featured Actor: Professor Michael Cesarano, Featured Musician: Jonathan Kilom, Stage Manager: Rosa Gonzalez, Assistant Stage Manager: Victor De La Vega, Voice & Movement Coach: Heather Huggins, Technical Director: Josh Rothenberg. Crew included Freddy Bravo, Evan Evripiotis, Brittni Galindo, Kristina Gomez-Shnorhoian, Avery Hamilton, Derrick Konan, Evangelia Pappas, and Jazmin Rodriguez.

- Yizhu Pan - <https://www.yizhu.art/>
- Dan Wang - <https://danwang.work/>
- Christopher Wong - <https://www.christopherwongld.com/>

Theatre Guest Artist Spotlight - Francesca Pazniokas



- Francesca Pazniokas (playwright, composer, and musical director for *WUNDERKAMMER*) is a playwright and filmmaker whose work explores memory and fable, trauma and identity, obsession and the occult. Her plays have been produced in London, Toronto and Melbourne, as well as across the United States. She recently received Clubbed Thumb's 2020 Biennial Commission, and was a two-time finalist for the Heideman Award at Actors Theatre of Louisville, a two-time finalist for Buran Theatre's CartHorse Fellowship, a two-time semi-finalist for Theatre503's Playwriting Award, and a semi-finalist for The Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep and Clubbed Thumb's 2015 Biennial Commission. She's a recent member of Project Y's Playwrights Group, Pipeline Theatre Company's PlayLab, Exquisite Corpse Company's Writers Lab, and Access Theater's residency program. Francesca holds a B.A. from Georgetown University in Art History with a minor in Performing Arts, and a Master's in Playwriting from Royal Holloway (University of London).

Media Production



Student Film Festival - *Youth Reel*

On December 14th, Media Production held its first Student Film Festival titled “Youth Reel,” organized by Media Production student, Kevin Bodeya, under the mentorship of Kahlil Garner & Daniel McKleinfeld. Contributing students included, Ajant Hunt, Kevin Imbaquingo, Steven Lizardo, Anisa Napier, Juan Ignacio Ramirez, Luke Travers, Valerie Valdez, George Wilson Waller, Max Aurich, Jackie Bayer, Kevin Bodeya, Naveed, Bhuiyan, Adrian Casado, Usman Chohan, Jenica Franz Dela Cruz, Michael Ewen, and Manoli Figetakis. The event was a celebration of student work. Light refreshments were served and a wonderful afternoon of compelling film-making was enjoyed by all who attended! Media Production is currently working on a festival for this spring semester. Details to be announced soon!

WABC Studio Tour



Emanuel (Manoli) Figetakis arranged for students in Television Studio Production (FMP 342) along with Prof. Kahlil Garner to tour WABC's studio. Students in attendance included Naveed Bhuiyan, Jason Cayambe, Malachi Celestine, Jenica Franz Dela Cruz, Emanuel (Manoli) Figetakis, Ajani Hunt, Dave Oscar, and Kyle Pickersgill.

Students enjoyed the trip and learned from Rolando Pujol who is currently working at EP, digital content/strategy/innovation @abc7ny

Media Production Alumni Spotlight - Nevada Caldwell- Nevada Caldwell



- Nevada Caldwell received a New York Women in Film (NYWIF) scholarship at Brooklyn College.

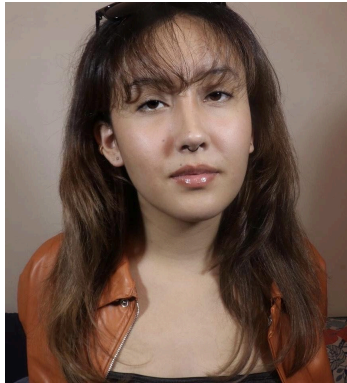
Media Production Alumni Spotlight - Ajani Hunt



- Ajani Hunt worked with *buildOn*, a non-profit organization whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy through service and education. This is focused through high school students doing community service while also having opportunities to build up leadership skills and service-learning methods. Ajani graduated in 2020 with more than 1,150 hours of service, did two immersions, assisted in the completion of two schools, and led many leadership

teams in school, the region of the Bronx, and nationwide for a youth conference. Ajani was buildOn New York region's inaugural Constructive Leadership Award recipient. With this organization, Ajani spent two weeks in Nepal building a school. Valerie Ordonez was accepted into the Made in NY PA program after successfully completing the internship program with Media Mkrs

Media Production Alumni Spotlight - Valerie Valdez Ordonez



- Valerie Valdez Ordonez, Media Production Graduate, was accepted into the Made in New York Production Assistants training program. The Made In New York Mission Statement is to provide individuals from diverse communities with training for entry-level positions in film production and access to employers in New York City's production industry, and to teach production assistants how to work collaboratively with local communities when they shoot on location throughout the five boroughs.

Media Production Faculty Spotlight - Eileen White



- Prof. Eileen White is screening a work in progress on April 1st about the closing of AB Studios, a music venue and recording facility in Rockaway Beach due to gentrification. It was the only venue specializing in punk and metal on the peninsula. The film chronicles the last marathon show as well as the aftermath of dismantling the space that included a substantial amount of original art. <https://www.eventable.nyc/products/abfoolsday>