

As seen in the Vermont Standard – May 20, 2021

Climbing Out of COVID

This time last year I reflected on the need for patience and perspective as end of school year ceremonies and celebrations went virtual or were socially distanced without family and friends present. And now, here we are with the Governor opening the spigot so fast it makes my end spin.

Just last week students at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School were for the first time in over a year permitted to assemble outside to hear and engage with poet and teaching artist Rajnii Eddins. There was a wonderful energy between the students and Rajnii even as he read and sang about the brutal reality of white supremacy, the dark history of slavery, and their repetition of the names of victims of unchecked police violence. His recitations with a deep and powerful voice, was interspersed with questions and observations posed in gentle tones. He demonstrated an uncanny ability to engage with the students grade 4 – 12 with seamless transitions between both. After each assembly students gathered around him to give thanks, to ask questions, and to commend him on his free style, where within mere seconds he had created a rap using words thrown out by them.

For two days I had the privilege of getting to know Rajnii. We shared observations of state of the world, his experiences working with youth in Burlington, our own personal stories and reflections on the power of youth as agents of change. My heart was full and grateful for this in person opportunity. Zoom made possible our virtual speakers' series, Dream Job in the Arts, connecting students with panels of professional musicians, authors and artists, something we could not afford to do in person. Having said that, there is no substitute for the magic and energy created with face-to-face engagements.

Movie News

If the spigot remains wide open movies will return to the Town Hall Theatre in July! Screenings will include popular films released earlier in the year and new releases. Stay tuned for an official reopening date.

Out and About

There is still space available in our Performing Arts Camp!

Sharon Groblicki returns to direct the camp that runs from July 26 -30 with a final performance on July 31. This year's program features songs and scenes from Broadway Musicals and will continue to focus on vocal technique and presentation, drama, improvisational theater, singing, and choreography. The camp is open for children ages 8-16. Activities are indoors and outdoors. In addition, campers will be able to swim at the Woodstock Recreation Center - weather permitting. To register please go to <https://pentanglearts.org/event/performing-arts-camp/all/#content>

On the Virtual Screen

Pentangle Arts collaborates with Sustainable Woodstock to host monthly virtual screenings of films and documentaries focused on Climate Change and Sustainability. This month there is screening of two short films, Homesick and Lowland Kids featuring stories of human displacement. Screenings of both films open May 25, 2021, 6:00 am – 11:30 pm. There will be a live Q and A with the producer of Lowland Kids at 7:00 pm. These are free screenings. Please register for both films at www.homesick_lowlandkids.eventbrite.com

Homesick, is the fictional story of a father willing to enter the Fukushima disaster no-go-zone to spend time with his eight-year-old son. Directed by Koya Kamura, who is a half French half Japanese, the film is in Japanese with English subtitles.

Lowland Kids, is a documentary that tells the story of the last teenagers on the Isle de Jean Charles, a sinking island off the coast of Louisiana. For the two siblings, this place has always been home. After losing their parents, their uncle has raised them on this island, passing on his love and appreciation for the land. But the island is running out of time. Due to rising sea levels and hurricanes, the Brunet family finds themselves forced to leave Isle de Jean Charles, and saying goodbye is not easy.