

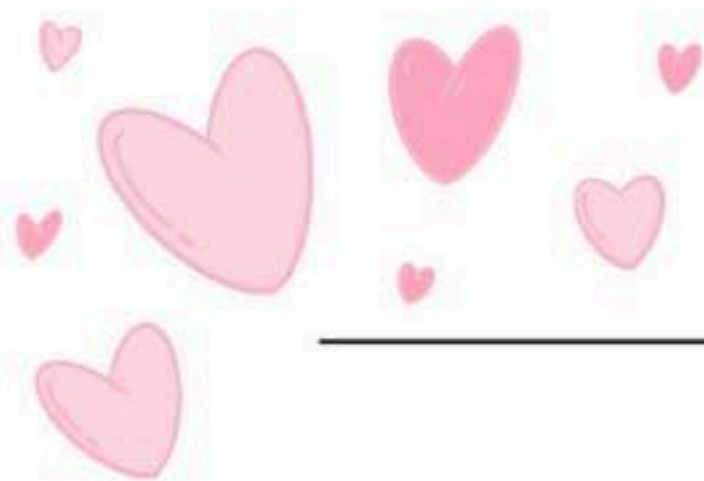


F E B R U A R Y

NEWSLETTER







V-DAY  
EDITION

# USITT at Pitt

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY  
2023

### *Love You More*

Ah, love. What a confusing concept, amirite? It's almost impossible to explain to people who've never felt it before, and when you do feel it for the first time, you question if that feeling is the correct match to that word. That doesn't even just apply to romantic love, either - I can remember being young and so overwhelmed by all the intense feelings I had for my mom and my grandparents and my dog and everyone else around me that I cared about so deeply and just . . . crying at the thought of something happening to them. Was some of that crippling anxiety? Yeah, but that anxiety was rooted in love!

One type of love that I've always struggled with, though, is the love I'm supposed to direct toward myself. Self-love and care are things that don't come naturally to me, and I often find myself defaulting to being hypercritical and unkind to myself, even when I can acknowledge positive things going on in my life and happening through my actions. I don't know why I am this way, but I think I have always been hard on myself since I can remember. Is that *also* linked to the crippling anxiety? Probably, but I think a larger culprit is media at large making us hold ourselves to



unrealistic standards.

This month, I wanna encourage everyone (including myself) to do more things in the name of self-love. Put down the phone and go for a walk. Write a list of things you like about yourself. Eat that piece of cake! Nobody expects perfection from you other than you, so don't hold yourself to unrealistic standards. We're here for such little time, so why not love ourselves more than anyone else?

By Lauren Holmes, Outreach Coordinator

### *A place of love, endings, and new beginnings*

Since discovering theatre in middle school, I've been on quite the journey. I've acted numerous times, jazz-squared my way through musicals, and have worked a variety of tech positions. Even as I face a non-theatre degree, I'm driven by the idea of combining my passions within and outside theatre.

Theatre is at the root of my hideous schedule, but it's also at the root of some of my most memorable friendships. Theatre is at the root of my sleep deprivation, but it's also at the root of many of my most cherished memories. As I've shared many times before, I first discovered theatre in middle school. It was easy for me to fall in love with theatre as I found a sense of purpose and community within this art form. Be it an unrealistic drama, a belly-dropping comedy, or a serious reflection on real life, everything felt intimate and personal.

There's a certain level of success one must feel when all their ducks are in a row; when all the lights are focused; when the last cue of the show is called; when the last costume is washed; or when the last door is locked. Though I may complain and groan when it feels like the brakes of this rollercoaster, I call the life of an active theatre kid, have broken off, the satisfaction of doing what I love and a successful

run make it all worth it.

The theater is a space of many pieces of not just a character's story but of ours too. It's a space where we often build relationships and where we often start or end a journey. My time in theatre has led me here, to my position on the USITT Board, surrounded by some extremely talented individuals. Though it can feel as though many sacrifices are made in exchange for my devotion to this line of art, it is truly worth the sweat and tears. The experiences and lessons I've gained from my time in theatre have heavily contributed to the technician, student, and overall human I am today. As we step into a time of love and recognition, I challenge you to think about what's brought you here. What love, endings, and new beginnings has theatre brought to you?

As a famous Redeye script once said,  
"It's about the friendships we made along the way."

By Ty'Mariya Moss, Secretary





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## *A love letter to Stage Management*

During my time here at Pitt, I have come to LOVE stage management. The organization, the leadership, the professionalism – it all comes together in a way that I made the transition from directing to stage management and never looked back. The satisfaction that comes with calling a cue right on time; or seeing the joy on the directors' face when they see the entire tech process come together. I fell in love with the craft.

However, with love comes struggle as well. Like a partner, sometimes you will fight with stage management. You guys will get into arguments about staying late to lock up doors, tirelessly creating paperwork, and always feeling like you are only staying one step ahead of everyone else during tech. But – you are in love with stage management – and this is the push and pull that comes with any relationship.

Therefore, this is a cautionary tale as to not giving up what you love just because you have a few bumps in the road.

In everything you do – within technical theatre especially – you will find the push and pull. Through the tough times, and hard jobs, and long days, you need just to remember – you are doing what you love. Our job is to make the magic happen behind the scenes; no matter what area of technical theatre you hold close to your heart. Once you find the area of technical theatre that you fall in love with, you will be happy for the rest of your days.

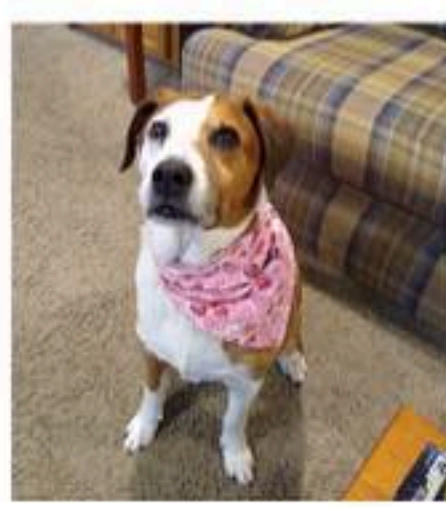
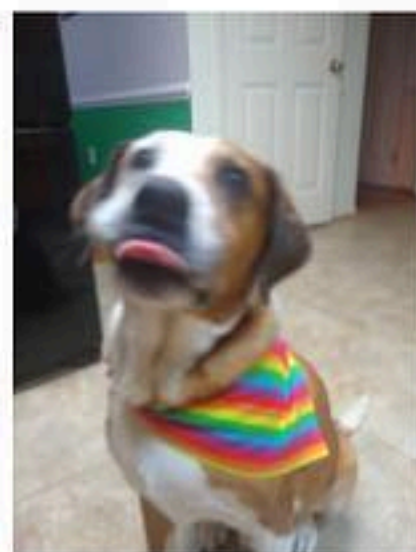
By Rachel Nolen, Vice Chair

*I love you*



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## *Bounder Sparkles Sinnott*



Bounder Sparkles Sinnott is my absolutely adorable 13 year old dog. He's always been extremely active and always up to running around or playing (even though almost all the pictures I have of him are of when he's asleep!). His middle name, Sparkles, comes from when he was a puppy and used to steal

my sparkly shoes and lay on them. Even now, he loves and chases anything sparkly or any kind of light– the moment there's a reflection of light from my phone or watch onto the wall he's up and ready to play.

The one thing funny thing about him that I've never understood is his aversion to cameras– the moment that I pull out my phone to get a quick picture of him, he immediately looks away and won't actually look into the camera unless I'm holding a treat right next to it– any photoshoots I try to do of him always require bribes so that he'll look into the camera! There's no flash or sound, so I've never understood quite why he will always look away as soon as I pull out my phone, but it means that unless he's asleep, all I can generally get is side profile shots!

I always miss him tons while I'm at school, so make sure to give your pets a snuggle this year for Valentines Day.

By Isabel Sinnott, Junior Member



## Board Quotes Out of Context

By Elizabeth Amstutz, Business Manager

Sometimes the board gets a little silly, goofy in our board chat, so here are some of my favorite quotes pulled out of contex . . .

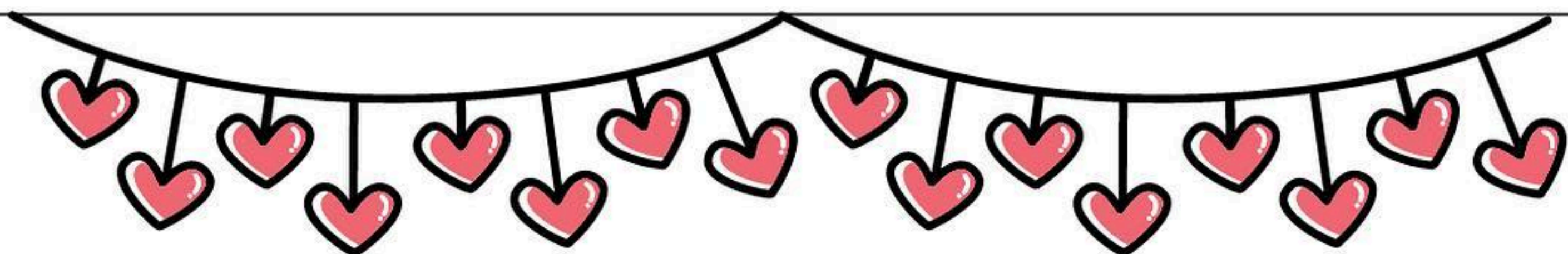


## Live, Love, Frozen Jr.

A stage manager will be faced with many challenges over the course of their career. While I am early in my career, I definitely have faced some challenges already. By far, my biggest has been helping execute the 24-hour musical Frozen Jr. This show was both a huge collaborative effort and a huge undertaking. We were managing a combination of all three student clubs on campus which culminated in a cast of approximately 70 and a crew and production team of approximately 25. This was, by far, the largest team I have ever worked with. On top of a massive team, we had to figure out how to teach the entire cast all the music, choreography, and blocking and help facilitate each crew area in their preparations in the span of 24 hours. This was an experience filled with teamwork, stress, learning, caffeine, pure dedication, and a ton of fun. Frozen Jr absolutely exemplified the importance of teamwork and flexibility, as we were constantly working to fit in as much as possible and organize the schedule, so people were working most efficiently.

For most of the weekend we had 2-3 rehearsal rooms running and everyone was dedicated to learning everything they could in such a short amount of time. For me personally, this also became a stressful ordeal, as all my typical jobs as a stage manager got condensed into significantly less time with significantly more people involved. I had to be able to lead a room of nearly 100 when it came time for our dress rehearsal, and I had to call the show without a tech process like I have become accustomed to. All that said, the show came together beautifully, with the whole team working together through all the rehearsals, runs, and all the way through strike. I am grateful to have had this absolutely crazy whirlwind of an experience for everyone I got to work alongside with and for all the crazy things I learned through it.

By Megan Franco, Chair





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## Popportunities

- City Theatre is looking looking for a light board op
  - email us for more info
  - apply asap!

## Announcements

- Finalized conference details to come
- Light Lab workshop coming up - keep an eye out on Instagram
- Keep an eye on your emails for:
  - t-shirt pickups
  - future workshop announcements & details
  - fundraising announcements/updates!
  - Conference updates
  - any incoming popportunities

## What We've Been Up To

- planning USITT 23 Conference details
- planning fundraising!
  - USITT overalls sale was a success
  - t-shirt sales were a success
  - concessions are going well
  - postcards are still for sale!
  - still to come:
    - headshots
    - more concessions
    - *Abduction* merch!
- Props/puppet workshop
  - special thanks to MK
- Job/summerstock workshop
  - special thanks to Gianni, Annmarie and Ashley for helping!
- planning the rest of the workshops for this year
  - stay tuned :)

