



## NEWSLETTER

January/February 2022

### SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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#### POPPORTUNITIES

- In search of a spotlight operator for Emilia!
- For summer work, please refer to our website, or email Annmarie Duggan (duggan@pitt.edu)!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, February 25th: Special guest coming to our workshop!  
Stay tuned for more information!
- Saturday, February 26th: Tech Olymics!  
Come learn some fun tech skills with us in the Studio Theater

#### UPCOMING SHOWS

**A New Brain**  
Directed by Tru Verret-Fleming  
Stage Manager: Gabriella Walko  
February 23rd-27th, 2022

**Why We Have a Body**  
Directed by Julia Kreutzer  
Stage Manager: Emily Neidbala  
April 1st-10th, 2022

**Emilia**  
Directed by Bria Walker  
Stage Manager: Shamus Bonner  
April 8th-16th, 2022

WE HOPE YOU'RE ALL PUMPED

AND READY FOR A FUN SPRING

STAY UPDATED!

@usitt\_at\_pitt

USITT at the University of Pittsburgh



## A HOPEFUL SPRING SEMESTER

After a great fall semester marked by the return to in-person classes and productions (including live audiences!) COVID has decided to throw us in theater another curveball with omicron. While online classes and socially distanced rehearsals were not what anyone was hoping for coming back in the spring, there is still plenty to look forward to on the other side of our shelter-in-place. We're persevering producing A New Brain and Mamma Mia through COVID restrictions, then Why We Have a Body and Emilia later in the year, producing the most shows in a semester since pre-COVID times.

These challenges aside, there is still a lot to look forward to, first and foremost being the first in-person USITT Conference in 3 years! Not to mention our workshops and tons of production work to get done. We on the USITT board are all looking forward to this exciting semester and hope you are as well!

By Shamus

## MEET ASHTON AND OREO!

Meet Ashton and Oreo!

My family adopted these two brothers in August of 2020, making them true pandemic cats. Both are extremely playful and lovable, and they are constantly keeping us on our toes

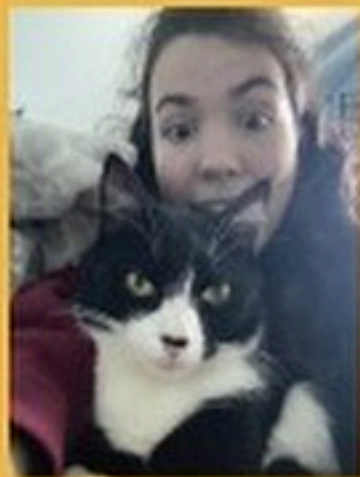
Oreo is the crazy one of the two. Sometimes he'll look at you like he has seen a ghost, but you get used to it after a little while. Other shanigans of Oreo include absolutely destroying paper towel rolls. He will jump up onto the counter and have the time of his life shredding it. Oreo is also quite receptive to catnip, he always rolls around in it and flips from one side to another repeatedly. However, there are some downsides to how playful he is. The first is that he likes to try to play with all the other cats, even if they don't want to play. He generally gets bapped by the other cats for his attempts, but he does interpret this as playing so he does not mind. The other downside is that his favorite time to play is between the hours of 11pm and 2am. This means he will run into our rooms while we are relaxing or even sleeping, and then will loudly have the zoomies.

Ashton, on the other hand is much more calm. When he was a kitten he was as playful as Oreo, but in his ripe old age of 2 he has calmed down a lot, now preferring to sleep next to us or play lightly on his own time. Ashton's favorite past time is to chew on random objects that are indeed not food. I have several fake plants with teeth holes in them, a belt that has been chewed, and I cannot leave plastic bags around because he will try to chew on it. The best one, however, was when Ashton tried to bite my computer one time while I was on zoom. He would often come into my zoom classes, and sometimes would even make an on screen appearance, but trying to bite my laptop was by far his funniest appearance. Ashton is also not the most intelligent. Most of the time when you look at him, you can tell there is simply nothing going on in his tiny brain. However, he always has the cutest little look on his face and we love both him and his brother so dearly, little quirks and all.

By Megan



Oreo!



Ashton!



## WHAT IS UV?

As I traverse through my last lighting design at Pitt, A New Brain, I have dived into a world I had never explored before in lighting, Ultra Violet / Blacklight. While I thought it would be a simple process to make things glow in the dark, I found out that it is quite finicky. To start off on my path I began by researching what UV light entailed and why it made things glow. UV is roughly any wavelength between 100nm and 400nm. This can be split up into 3 subsections of UVA (315-400nm), UVB (280-315nm) and UVC (100-280nm). UVB and UVC rays can be dangerous as they are radiation, but the UV we are concerned with exists in the upper layer of the UVA scale. Most blacklights exist somewhere between 350-400nm with the absolute best wavelength for making things glow existing at exactly 365nm. Anything higher than 400nm becomes visible light. When this frequency of UV light hits a phosphorus material it causes the electrons to get excited and stray further from the nucleus. When the electrons return to their place, some of the energy is transferred into heat energy. The wavelength reflected back to our eyes thus has less energy and thus a longer wavelength, in turn reflecting visible light back at us. Fluorescent lights used to be the standard for UV fixtures, but LED sources have been found to be twice as efficient. In theater, a typical Source 4 will not emit much, if any UV light. In order for a Source 4 to produce the desired effect, all visible light would have to be blocked out of the light while not blocking out the UV light, which for me, has proven to be a challenge. Come see A New Brain to see how I used UV lighting, as well as to see how I solved this problem!

By TJ

## GO-TO BUBBLE TEA ORDERS

To celebrate Pitt's API month in January, I am giving my professional opinion as to what your bubble tea order is based on your tech area. (Or what your tech area should be based on your bubble tea order)

Scenic = Strawberry Tea w/ Strawberry Popping Boba

Lighting = Jasmine Green Tea w/ Agar Boba

Sound = Iced Taro Tea w/ Red Bean

Costumes = Matcha Tea w/ Grass Jelly

Props = Mango Smoothie w/ Mango Cubes

Tech Direction = Black Milk Tea w/ Tapioca Pearls

Electrics = Lychee Oolong Tea w/ Lychee Jelly

Stage Management = Thai Iced Tea w/ Pudding

Run Crew = Vanilla Chai Tea w/ Brown Sugar Jelly

By Elizabeth

## HARRY POTTER REUNION

Harry Potter reunion. I was expecting sad. I was not expecting that.

I learned recently that there is no biological difference between physical pain and emotional pain. Your brain interprets the "pain chemicals" as the same thing. That meaning, your body is capable of grieving for a book or tv show ending as it is losing a loved one or a pet. They feel the same.

When I eventually re-watch the entire Harry Potter series monthly, and I finish the last movie, I always feel a loss. Even though I can always re-watch the movies, it feels like the journey I took with them has ended. It always sucks.

Take that feeling and multiply by x100000. That is how the cast of Harry Potter described their roles ending. I had not considered that the actors truly grew up together, with the other actors being some of their only friends. There were relationships, heartbreak, high emotions, but no malice. There was no hate, there were no enemies, it was only love between them. Every director described the set as magic.

All the actors who were interviewed had nothing less than their life's appreciation for the movies and for their fellow actors. I cannot imagine a more perfect set. Combining Rupert, Emma, and Daniel's pseudo-lives ending with my most beloved fantasy world was crushing. I sobbed many times. It also assured me that it never truly ended, because their friendships will always be alive and well. The magic of Harry Potter lives on with them.

By Anabel



## ZODIAC SIGNS AS TOOLS

**Aries (March 21 – April 19): Bosch PROFACTOR 5-in 18-Volt Paddle Switch Brushless Cordless Angle Grinder**

Just like when this angle grinder hits metal, you make sparks fly. You're always the life of the party and aren't afraid of sparking up new relationships.



**Taurus (April 20 – May 20): CRAFTSMAN 6-Amp Variable Speed Keyed Corded Jigsaw**

Just like the Jigsaw you are LOUD and control the room! If you're not already a stage manager, get involved! You have the qualities and respect from your peers to be the head of the production!



**Gemini (May 21 – June 20): 7-1/4-in 20-Volt Max Single Bevel Sliding Compound Cordless Miter Saw**  
Precision precision precision! You and the miter saw are reliable and accurate. Friends are always asking you to write things for them because your handwriting is so nice and neat.



**Cancer (June 21 – July 22): 16-oz Smoothed Face Steel Head Fiberglass Claw Hammer**

Similar to a hammer, you are constantly being used in the wrong way. Whether people are trying to pull out screws from wood with a hammer, or pushing you around, both of you need to know your worth.



**Leo (July 23 – August 22): CRAFTSMAN V20 16-Gauge 20-Volt Max Cordless Finish Nailer**

You are very impulsive and have issues seeing eye to eye with other people. Often people are nervous around you, like they are a nail gun. But, once they get to know you, they understand how kind you really are!



**Virgo (August 23 – September 22): 9-in Magnetic Torpedo Level**

You are one level headed theatre major. You have all your ducks in a line and you probably use a huge planner or have a google calendar that looks as full as Ashley's.



**Libra (September 23 – October 22): Kobalt 3-Piece Chrome Vanadium Steel Adjustable Wrench Set**

You are an electrician's best friend; always there right by their side to help whenever needed! People can always count on you to get them out of tight situations and give them balance.



**Scorpio (October 23 – November 21): 24-oz Smooth Face Rubber Head Rubber Mallet**

You and the mallet, mean destruction. Think about reigning it in this new year and focus on creative outlets like design and arts and crafts.



**Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21): Kobalt 9-key Standard (Sae) Folding Hex Key Set**

Just like the Hex Key Set, you are small but mighty! People often underestimate you but you constantly show them up and let the world know just how much of a team player you are.



**Capricorn (December 22 – January 19): Tool Free Heavy Duty Manual Staple Gun**

EASY BREEZY BEAUTIFUL! You ever used a staple gun? Exacty. So easy, manageable. Just like you! You are so easy to get along with and are a great friend. Keep it up!



**Aquarius (January 20 – February 18): V20 20-volt Max 1/2-in Cordless Drill**

Mr. Popular over here! You are known by everyone and for good reason. Just like the drill you have star qualities that everyone appreciates and wishes they could work with you more!



**Pisces (February 19 – March 20): Dremel Engraver 3-Piece 1-Speed Corded Multipurpose Rotary Tool**

It's all in the detail! Just like a Dremel you are detail oriented and organized. Nothing slides by you and you're always ready to get down to the nitty gritty of situations.

