

Arts in the Time of Covid-19

Issue 1

April 2020

During these difficult times there is still plenty to enjoy in the wide world of Arts. Lots of performing organisations and art professionals have shown huge creativity to provide us with access to theatre, concert halls, galleries, live music etc via the wonders of the internet. This newsletter aims to give you a few pointers to things that you might enjoy. You can of course still enjoy reading books and watching films on-line so we have included some recommendations in these areas as well.

I hope to produce this on a fortnightly basis during the lockdown.

Paula Dove Newsletter editor and Groups Co-ordinator.

Introduction

Recommendations from Eileen Bravey, Galleries and Museums Convenor and Paula.



The National Gallery – see poster above - has lots of excellent resources on-line including virtual tours, great images of their collection and links to videos on their YouTube channel. Signup on their website - <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>

If you missed the recent Tate exhibitions of Andy Warhol and Audrey Beardsley then you can go on a tour with the curators on-line.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/andy-warhol/exhibition-guide>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition/aubrey-beardsley/exhibition-guide>

There is also an excellent section on Anni Albers on the Tate website and how to weave like her – a great challenge for lockdown. Her exhibition at Tate Modern about eighteen months ago was absolutely wonderful.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/anni-albers-3067/how-weave-anni-albers>

The galleries and museum group is also running popular virtual fortnightly visits to Galleries around the world.

So far around two dozen of us, have visited Musee D'Orsay in Paris, Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Kettle's Yard in Cambridge and Courtauld Gallery in London.

Next visit on 2nd May will be to the MOMA in New York. Contact quickly [Paula](#) if you are interested in finding out about how to sign up for the trip, or to get info about how to do these visits by yourself.

Art Galleries

Music recommendations from Paula.

Classical music is well-represented on-line - <https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/live-streamed-classical-music-concerts-coronavirus/> - gives a comprehensive list.

Highlights include quarantine sessions from Orchestra of the Enlightenment. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eumxIVBIG5k>.

Concerts from Berlin Philharmonic <https://www.berliner-philharmoniker.de/en/titelgeschichte/20192020/digital-concert-hall/>

London Symphony Orchestra has a huge range of clips and full concerts on its YouTube channel – [Youtube.com/user/Lso/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/Lso/videos). They also stream a full-length concert from their archive twice a week.

<https://lso.co.uk/whats-on/2019-20-season/alwaysplaying.html>

Live folk and acoustic music are also in abundance on-line. A great place to look for live folk music is the Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/UK-Folk-Music-Lockdown-113743590277156>

I am particularly enjoying Ciaran Algar's daily collaborations with other folk musicians <https://www.facebook.com/Ciaran-Algar-111990548820402/>

Virtual festivals are very popular – catch the highlights from the Folk on Foot Frontroom festival website - <https://www.folkonfoot.com/>

Please do consider donating to the musicians if you watch and enjoy a performance.

Music

Recommendations from Paula, self-confessed theatre addict.

The National at Home, <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home> continues to stream a high quality play every week. I am looking forward to watching Twelfth Night with Tamsin Grieg as Malvolia. The excellent production of Treasure Island is still available to stream until Thursday 24th April.

Another performance that I will be watching is Chichester Festival Theatre's production of Flowers for Mrs Harris a musical based on a story by Paul Gallico, available until 8th May. <https://www.cft.org.uk/flowers-for-mrs-harris-broadcast>

For Lloyd-Webber fans you can watch a different production each week on The Shows Must Go on YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdmPjhKMaXNNeCr1FjuMvag/featured>

For something a little different how about watching the Bath Theatre Royal/Curve Theatre Leicester production of Joe Orton's What the Butler saw.

https://www.theatreroyal.org.uk/online-theatre/?dm_i=524M,6X8K,IYY8L,QHDL,1

For Shakespeare fans look at what is being offered by Globe Theatre – where there is a rolling programme with a different production every two weeks.

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch/>

Please do consider donating to the theatres if you watch and enjoy a performance.

Theatre

Recommendations from Jeff Green, Afternoon Film Group Convenor

The first two recommendations are on Netflix, the final two are available on BBC iPlayer.

The Ballad of Buster Scruggs



A Coen brothers' six chapter grim reality/black comedy anthology from the "Old West".

Gorgeous cinematography, several semi cameo appearances – absolutely brilliant!

Read a review at:

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_ballad_of_buster_scruggs

My Brilliant Friend



Italian and Neapolitan language coming-of-age drama television series based on the first of four novels in the Neapolitan Novels series by Elena Ferrante. Set in Naples in the 1950s it follows the friendship of two young girls from a poor working class background.

Stunning cinematography & attention to detail.

Read a review at:

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/tv/my_brilliant_friend

Clouds of Sils Maria



The film follows an established middle-aged actress (Binoche) who is cast as the older lover in a romantic lesbian drama opposite an upstart young starlet (Moretz). She is overcome with personal insecurities and professional jealousies—all while sexual tension simmers between her and her personal assistant.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b060l93c/clouds-of-sils-maria>

Cold in July



The film takes place in 1980s Texas and is based on the novel Cold in July by author Joe R. Lansdale. Hall plays a man who kills a burglar, whose father (Shepard) subsequently seeks revenge. The plot is further complicated when a private investigator (Johnson) shows up.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b055d9q8/cold-in-july>

Recommendations from Margaret Cain, Books for Book-lovers group convenor

In our U3A book group, we always seem to enjoy novels with a strong sense of time and place, those that create their own world and draw us in.

Since coming together as a group last summer, we have travelled to:

- South-west Anatolia during the final years of the Ottoman Empire in 'Birds without Wings'
- California in the Great Depression in 'Of Mice & Men'
- A remote fishing community off the coast of Seattle after the Second World War in 'Snow Falling on Cedars'
- Victorian and Georgian Dorset in 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' and 'The Trumpet Major'
- Ireland in the early 1920s at the height of civil turmoil in 'The Story of Lucy Gault'
- 1970s suburban England in 'The Trouble with Goats and Sheep'
- 19th century Iceland in 'Burial Rites'

This month, we will be visiting the Channel Islands under German occupation and discussing 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' by email.

We certainly get around!

I would hesitate to claim that reading – or indeed any of the arts – is a panacea. But entering a different world can provide a much-needed distraction. After all, even Churchill had a comfort read. During a period of enforced R&R in 1943, the great man enjoyed 'Pride & Prejudice'.

Recommendations for what to read are usually given more enthusiastically than they are received. My tastes are not your tastes. However, if you are looking for a novel that will transport you, temporarily, out of your armchair, and give you a welcome respite from the news, may I suggest any of the above?

Watch this space for more absorbing reads next time...

Books

For queries regarding anything in this newsletter please contact **Paula Dove**
groupscoordinator@woodleyu3a.org.uk

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter then please contact Paula.
 Contributions on Classical music, Opera and Dance would be particular welcome.

For General Enquiries - Telephone the duty officer on **07565 585545**.

Contact