

FIRST KISS NEWSLETTER

A Q&A WITH OUR FILMMAKERS!

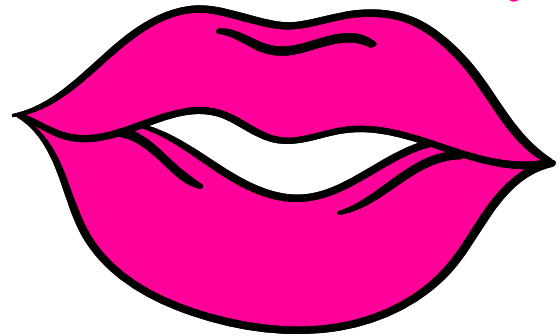
BY KENDRICK WEINGAST

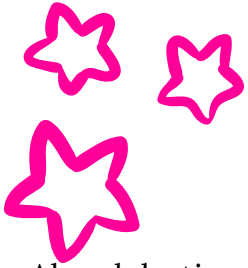
Hello subscribers! Welcome to First Kiss Theatre Company's seventh newsletter! Oh how time flies when you're having fun!

To kick things off; we hope you had a lovely Valentine's Day surrounded, virtually or otherwise, by the people you love. If you've logged on to Instagram or Facebook recently, you might have realized First Kiss took this holiday as a "working holiday"; if you love what you do, why stop!

This past month we recognized our new 2021 Artists in Residence. These nine artists will be led on a year of creating by Resident Coordinator Eliza Kuperschmid and Director of Education Outreach, Kendrick Weingast, gaining headway on individual projects and creating a network of support and constructive help. Some residents will even be debuting their new pieces throughout First Kiss' season (which you can check out on our website!). Follow along with Max, Lee, Cara, Terry, Emmy, Alice, Rebecca, Karen, and Casandra (with special guest star Ellie) as they venture far into the depth of creation, explore art that sparks joy, and find the FKT magic! .

Wait... you didn't forget a gift for Valentine's Day...did you?





Also debuting this month is our wonderful Artist Marketplace which, again, you can locate on our website. This marketplace is a one-stop shop for all your gifting needs! Support artists directly and give gifts to your loved ones at the same time! Come peruse Among Us plushies, handmade cards, book recommendations and more. If you wish to join our crew of creators, email us with information on gift ideas. Proceeds directly fund these artists during the pandemic.

Valentine's Day has come and gone and the First Kiss artistic team released videos giving gifts to each other and giving a taste of what's to come (with an added taste of alcohol of course ;). These drink ideas by Rebecca Schilsky will be perfectly paired with a St. Patrick's Day Drink-A-Long coming this March! Before St. Patty's day however, another reason to celebrate! First Kiss will be producing a Monologue Competition this March. Headed by Co-Managing Director Liliana Mastroianni, the competition is looking for YOU (yes you!) to sign up to perform a monologue to be judged by your peers! Monologues must be in Public Domain or written by yourself (or commissioned by the FKT team for \$15!)

This coming weekend, February 20th & 21st, Creative Producer Lee Harrison Daniel is heading a film festival featuring artists from all around the world. From seasoned filmmakers to first time creators, these artists have used their time in quarantine to create something full of magic, and we can't wait to celebrate that with you! The festivals begin both days at 8:00pm, livestreamed on Youtube. To order tickets, please follow the link on our website. There is a suggested donation of \$5 a night or \$8 for both nights, but we encourage you to pay what you can, and don't let money hold you back from this experience! Links to the livestream will be up for a few days after so that all viewers can watch in their own time. We interviewed our artists about their films and what went into making their art, and recorded their answers down below for you to peruse! This celebration of art and innovation comes as a wrap to a successful and jam-packed month; and we at First Kiss Theatre can't wait to see what March has in store! We can't wait to see you this weekend!

The Artist Marketplace



By First Kiss Theatre <3

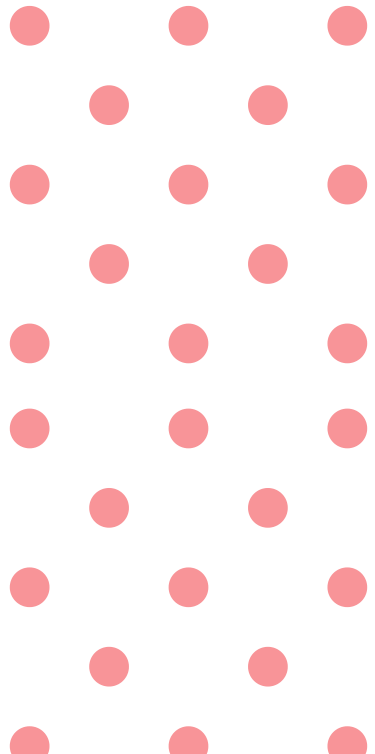


What inspired you to create this piece?
Charles Menut, creator of CHWEUERLE.
FRAGMENTS OF A CHRONOLOGY OF
RANDOM. FRAGMENT 7: I was in full
confinement in France in April 2020. I was
working on the set and the props for the
scene of a film. I filmed, took pictures of
my work daily. Then one day the phone
memory was full. There were location
photos from the film, prints, lots of stuff. I
told myself that rather than transferring
them elsewhere, I could use this material
to tell what I was doing on this film. I was
wondering what I could say about video
editing. Little by little, the stories fell into
place. And by fragment I told by the
images what I lived with this film.



Could you speak on who or what influenced you in this video's
creation?

Jackson Wai Chung Tse, creator of BREAKING THE SILENCE: As I
was asking Paul more questions about himself, I realized how
he really had to fight for himself his whole life; he had even
greater difficulties and circumstances than I did, growing up in
the 60s and the 70s. He's very good at talking about what he
does and intellectualizing the conversation, but I was really
interested in learning more about how he felt during some of
those times. Because feelings are something that we can all
relate to. It's all about connection for me. It's all about bridging
the gap, about humanizing those stories and allowing people to
feel connected with people that they feel at odds with, that
they feel different from, maybe a little bit afraid of as well. How
can I open hearts and open minds so that an audience
member can feel connected, feel less alone?

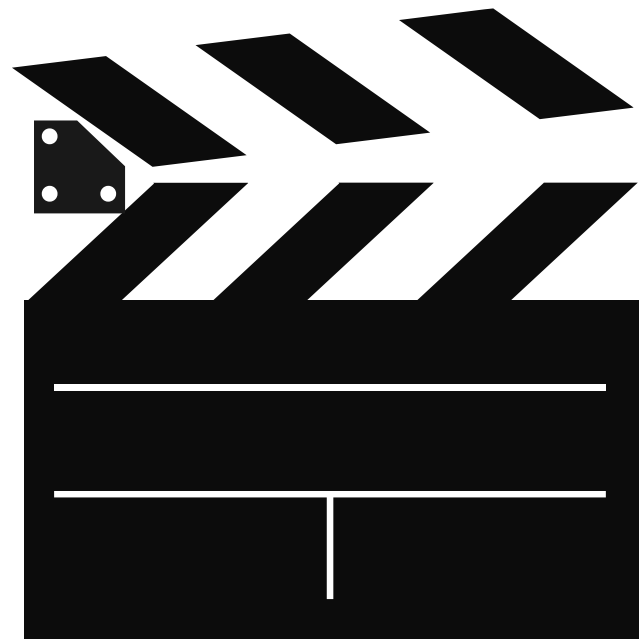


What other artists or art forms do you admire or look up to?

Aliaksandra Markava, creator of JANKA KUPALA THEATRE: My favorite documentary film director is Viktor Kosakovsky. Favourite actor of all time sir Anthony Hopkins. By the way, he wrote a beautiful waltz! Favorite painters-Rene Magritte, Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Aivazovsky.

What is the history of this piece? Is First Kiss your first film festival with it?

Sy Bedrick, creator of COMPERSION: This is one of the first shorts I've made. It's been over a year since I finished it and I don't hate it yet! It's pretty, flirty, and queer, how could I?



What are your plans for the future with this piece?

Marcel Romeijn & Nataliya Trusova Romeijn, creators of THE BIG PART: This episode is doing well on festivals we hope this continues into 2021. We just finished the script for webisode 7 and got an actor in India to play in this one. He will shoot his part there and we will shoot our part in Holland and later combine the 2.

How was this produced? Literally - what technique, equipment, personnel did you use?

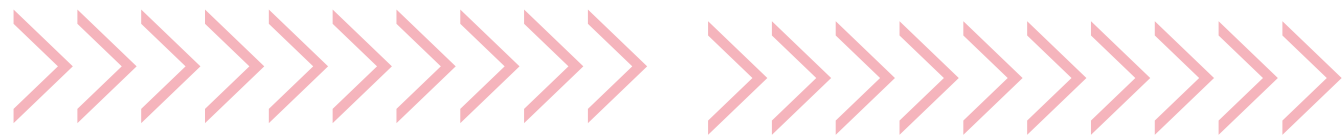
Emma S. Kimball, creator of DANDELION: I filmed dandelion in my backyard on my iPhone 6s and edited it using iMovie. It was a small rag-tag team: my roommate helped move my bed into the backyard, my friend Chad filmed test shots with me, Charlie acted as one set of disembodied hands, Hilary wrote the score remotely off a rough cut of the film, and Frances my badass performer & co-choreographer filmed in the hot sun wearing a black dress for 4 hours on a summer day. Basically, I'm blessed to have good friends who love to help with an experimental project.

David AJ Dunnington, creator of WHAT IS YOU LAUGHIN' FOR?: I didn't write a script first. I just filmed scenarios with the charismatic acting-friends until I drafted a scene up for us. The themes of the film were always supposed to be a dissection of black masculinity but the other themes such as friendship and COVID came into the story later in the process. It was an interesting way of working but it flowed well with my hectic school/work schedule.

What are your plans for the future with filmmaking?

Wenfeng, creator of LAST DREAM ABOUT GODOT: If I can find enough financial support, I will make more shorts and a feature film, since I have written a feature film script that has won a script prize in a film festival in 2020.

Abhishek Rout, creator of HISTORY OF LIFE BY THE ARGOYLES: The future of filmmaking is changing at a fast pace. Emergence of OTT platforms, evolving technology, worldwide lockdown and shifting demographics has led to innovative thinking to create content and reach wider audiences worldwide. I love period dramas and science fiction. I would love to create movies that will give a glimpse into the future and will enable viewers to imagine space and time like never before. At the same time, I want viewers to feel an era, and experience time period through my movies.



Do you have any words of wisdom for emerging filmmakers you would like to share now?

Clark Pavlik, creator of *DEATH OF A SALESWOMAN*: If I could give any advice to emerging filmmakers, it would be to get out there right now and make something. My dad would always say, "You have every capability to make something beautiful right now". I think we get in our heads so much about waiting for the opportune circumstances to arise but the hard truth is that they will probably never come.

Abhishek Rout, creator of *HISTORY OF LIFE BY THE ARGOYLES*: My suggestion to emerging artists is that if you want to make a movie, not matter where you are, just go ahead and do it. I created "The brief history of life by the Argoyles" using one camera, a tripod and a mike. That's all. So, if I can create a movie with all the limitations I had, I am confident, you can too. And, just like my movie got acknowledged by First Kiss, there will always be someone or some platform that will notice you and your craft. Just take the first step. First Kiss is offering a platform to so many filmmakers from across the world to showcase their talent and I hope each one of us is able to contribute to the success of this festival.

Marcel Romeijn & Nataliya Trusova Romeijn, creators of *THE BIG PART*: Keep it simple and enjoy what you do.