



## IN THE LOOP!

This newsletter brings you the latest Playhouse news, developments and offerings. A bi-weekly update to help keep you In The Loop until we can welcome you back into the building.

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### INDUSTRY UPDATE

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The latest news by the Government to delay moving to Step Four in the roadmap is in response to the latest statistics and reports of a rise in the number of new reported cases of covid-19. In the great scheme of things a four weeks delay is not a long time.

However due to how the Theatre Industry works, the delay of four weeks is a disaster to those who had scheduled premieres to celebrate and welcome audiences back in early July.

The lead time required to schedule, cast, rehearse and market shows to the public in-order to be financially viable, means that the big West End producers are currently mid-process and heavily invested both creatively and financially.

Andrew Lloyd Webbers new musical *Cinderella* was preparing for a July premiere and full capacity re-opening. So the news of a delay comes too late to stop financial disaster for some of the largest West End producers. Andrew Lloyd Webber has insisted he will open his theatres without social distancing "come hell or high water" and says he is prepared to be arrested if the government tries to prevent him. It seems his approach may have succeeded in engaging the Government in discussions to make the production happen, we shall wait and see.

The financial implications are made worse due to no Government backed Insurance Scheme being signed off. Again theatre's have been calling for the scheme for some time and it is being reported **as in the pipeline** however it may be another case of too little too late for those who were at the forefront of bringing large scale theatre back in July.



What the delay means for the Playhouse.

**PHASE TWO** - will be the next phase of re-opening of the first floor, Playhouse Auditorium and Gallery.

Following the Government's announcement we shall go ahead with the following ;

**Summer July/ August programme**

July 9<sup>th</sup> will be the first performance back on the stage since our closure with *These Hills Are Ours*. The two hander show has been re-scheduled twice and it is going ahead on a socially-distanced basis with audience numbers as low as sixty five on a PAY WHAT YOU DECIDE format.

The following week was to be Alnwick Academy of Dance, demonstrations and although we have been in discussions to try and adapt to a socially-distanced format and a digital offer, unfortunately we have been unable to mitigate the high risks involved with the large numbers of non-professional performers in the building and on stage to a satisfactory level. This is a huge a disappointment for the Playhouse, Academy teachers, pupils and parents.

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** shall hopefully be good news from the Government and a move to Stage 4 on the road map.

**Film Programme**

We aim to run a reduced film programme on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays to start on Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The film titles have been booked and shall go on-sale before the end of June even if the news is not what we hope for, we are aiming to run the films at reduced capacity. So in small numbers or large we shall welcome you back with some great films in July.

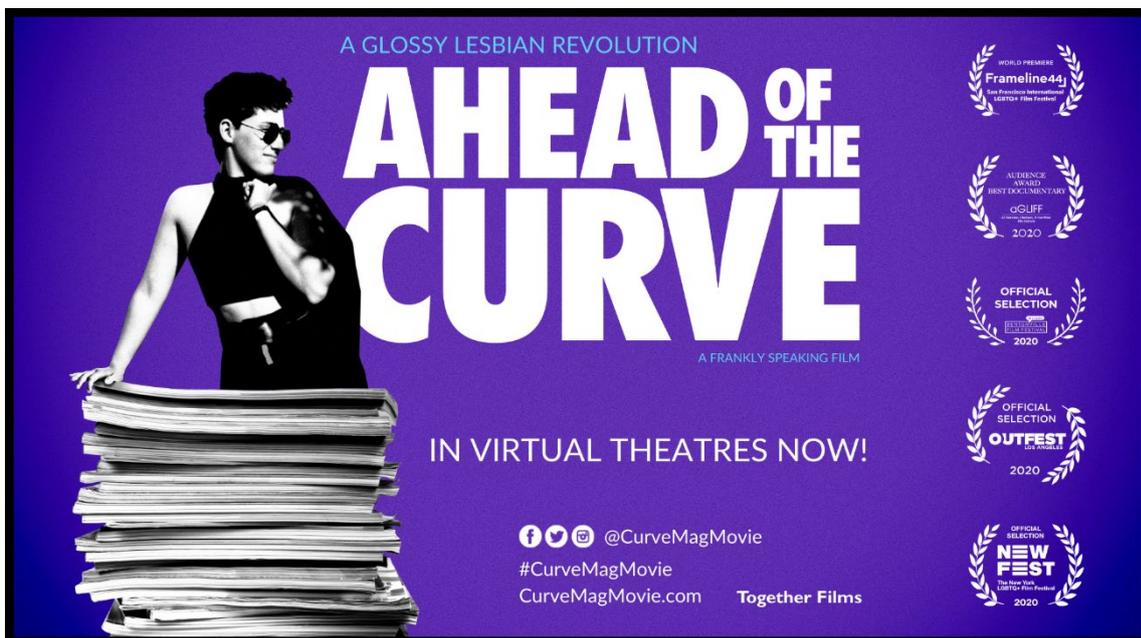
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## PLAYHOUSE AT HOME

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This month **PLAYHOUSE AT HOME** brings a brand new selection of fantastic films online for you to rent.

Throughout June we are celebrating diversity and inclusivity and wishing everyone a Happy Pride Month. As part of our Pride 2021 celebrations this month's selection features **AHEAD OF THE CURVE**. With a fist full of credit cards, a lucky run at the horse track and chutzpah for days, Franco Stevens launched Curve, the best-selling lesbian lifestyle magazine ever published. **AHEAD OF THE CURVE** traces the power of lesbian visibility and community from the early '90s to the present day through the story of Franco's founding of Curve magazine. Decades later, as her legacy faces extinction and she reassesses her life after a disabling injury, she sets out to understand work being led by queer Women of Color today.



Every time you watch a film from the comfort of your own home the rental fee goes direct to supporting the Playhouse and the independent film makers. Please note when booking you will be redirected to purchase tickets.

This month's selection, **available until Thursday 1st July**, includes:

- The 8th
- Ahead Of The Curve
- Sisters With Transistors
- The Bike Thief
- Cowboys

We hope you enjoy our selection!

[Find out more and book your tickets here.](#)

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# PLAYHOUSE GALLERY ONLINE

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## Graduate Spotlight Exhibition

### Luke McTaggart

Landscape Painter

*'A Question of Place'*

*8th June – 12th July*

Luke McTaggart is a Landscape Painter currently studying for his BA in Fine Art at Northumbria University, Newcastle. His work deals with his immediate surroundings of his home town of Amble. Working foremostly in Acrylic he seeks to create work steeped in a sense of place, with deep regard for the seasons, elements and nature's processes. Luke is known for working on location and can be found outside in all weathers.

*"I paint places and views that are disregarded by most. Again and again I am drawn back to the edgelands around my home-town of Amble. These rolling fields, quiet woods and open skies offer up the most spectacular of vistas. But these vistas do not conform to the traditional conception of the English countryside. These vistas were once open cast coal mines, land that has been continually shaped by man. Yet, it is in these places that I have found such an exceedingly rich sense of place.*

*As Amble becomes ever more popular, housing developers seek to spread outwards onto these fields, concreting over these views. So, to some extent my work is of an archival nature, documenting and preserving these views before the inevitable occurs. Yet the work is also a very personal documentation of my relationship with nature and the elements, I never cease to be amazed by how much, the seasons, the sun and the moon, the tides and the weather can move the soul. But at the root of my work is a desire to convey beauty where at first others are unable to see it. If my work can go some way towards making people value this kind of landscape then I will be able to say with conviction that my work has succeeded."*

*Winner of the Alnmouth 2020 Arts Festival Poster Competition*



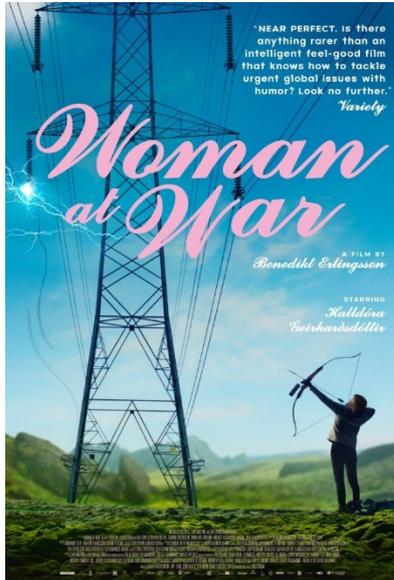
[Click here to browse the gallery online.](#)

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## THIS WEEK'S WATCHLIST

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After the popularity of our earlier watchlists here is another selection of great films currently streaming online on Netflix, Amazon Prime, All4 and BBC iPlayer for you to explore over the next two weeks.



This weeks watchlist features Woman At War.

Original, subversive and strikingly quirky, Iceland's Woman At War is the story of Halla (Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir), a 50-year-old choir teacher by day and ninja-like environmental activist by night. Her mission is to mount a crusade against the local aluminium factory in Iceland and protect the country from the ravages of the industry. As Halla's actions grow bolder, her life changes instantly as she faces a new challenge – to adopt a child from the Ukraine...

[Click here to view this weeks Watchlist.](#)

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## THANK YOU

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Our thanks to everyone for their continued messages of support. Your continued support for the Playhouse during this crisis is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for reading In The Loop.



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