# V M P A NEWS

Visual, Media, and Performing Arts at Rutgers University-Camden

November – December 2024

#### The Student-Directed One-Act Play Festival to shine in December



Designed by Ari Lopez

The VMPA Theater program presents a festival of five student-directed, short, comic one-act plays, three of which are new student-written work. Admission is free.

Charlie Brach and Samantha Jacobs co-direct Brach's new play, *The Countdown*. In the heart of an isolated laboratory a mad scientist and his inept research assistants conduct psychological experiments on unknowing subjects, locking them together in a room with a knife, a hoagie and a ticking clock. Who will survive The Countdown?

Director Matt Tepfer presents *Game Theory*, by Mark Sagan. Two junior executives at a corporate training camp compete to convince one another to cross a line in a dark room. Best negotiator wins, but getting ahead in this situation isn't as easy as it seems.

Writer/director Andrew Matthews brings his new play, *Pizza Place* to the stage. Spencer shows up for his first day of work at Pizza Place, a chaotic take-out restaurant serving inflation, eccentricity and slices. Spencer has to find his way through increasingly bizarre circumstances to keep the job his not so sure he actually wants.

Director Andrew Merkle presents *Sad and Glad*, from *Almost Maine* by John Cariani. Jimmy is drowning his sorrows alone in a bar when his ex-girlfriend passes his table, dressed for a party. He hasn't seen or heard from her in months. He's about to find out why.

Writer/director Ethan Santi presents *Alumni Mortis*, a one-act adaptation of his original screenplay of the same name. Four soonto-be college dropouts find community together as they fight their way through a zombie outbreak in order to cancel their student loans before it's too late.

December 5 – 8, 2024 Thursday – Saturday at 7:30pm Sunday at 2:00pm Black Box Studio



### Visiting Artists explore textiles and deconstruct objects

Join us this fall as nationally and internationally acclaimed visual artists and art collectives visit Rutgers–Camden campus to present lectures about their work and professional practices. The main theme of this lecture series is *Textiles and Objects*.

All lectures are free and open to the public, and will be held from 12:45 pm to 1:45 pm (free period) in the Fine Arts Building, Room 110.



Artwork by Amy Boone-McCreesh

#### Thursday, November 14 - Amy Boone-McCreesh

Amy Boone-McCreesh, born on Loring Air Force Base in Maine, explores the intersection of aesthetics and socio-economic status. She earned her BFA from Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, an MFA from Towson University, and completed a Fellowship with Hamiltonian Artists in Washington D.C. shortly after. Based in Baltimore for the last fifteen years, her work has been exhibited nationally – at museums, universities, and galleries. Collections include the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey, Mexico, Facebook, and Capital One. Amy is a two-time Maryland State Arts Council awardee, a 2023 Joan Mitchell Fellowship Nominee, and a 2024 Sondheim Prize finalist. Amy has a committed relationship with arts education and community, teaching at Maryland Institute College of Art and Towson University as well as running the studio visit interview series, INERTIA.

### Lunchtime classical music series delights with free concerts



Photo of Mada and High Piano Duo

The fall Mallery Concert Series comes to a close on December 4. Under the direction of Prof. Joseph C. Schiavo, the series brings professional musicians to campus for free concerts each Wednesday during free period, 11:20 am - 12:20 pm in the Mallery Room on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building.

#### Dominick D'Alessandro, piano

November 13

Mada and Hugh Piano Duo November 20

Andrii Didorenko, violin Yuliya Basis, piano December 4

### Music students rock on in upcoming fall concert

The RU Project, under the direction of Prof. JoJo Streater, will present multiple mash-ups of pop tunes in their fall concert. Admission is free.

November 20 & 21 7:30 pm Walter K. Gordon Theater

#### Experience interactive art as ZoomOnArt features Emily Schleiner

When: November 18th, 11:30 am - 12:15 pm

Emily's academic work has focused on media theory and interactive art. Having taught 2D animation and presented at international conferences, Emily has pursued both academic and industry work. She supports community-driven art and technology projects by serving on the board of directors at Davis Makerspace in Davis, CA, and serving on the board of directors at A1labarts, a non-profit art gallery in Knoxville, TN.

For more information about upcoming lectures and the link to join the discussions, please visit our website at vmpa.rutgers.edu.

### Visit the opening reception of photographer Jacob Lechner's *Still*

Join us at the Campus Gallery for the opening reception of *Still*, a series of photos of abandoned buildings and sites that Jacob Lechner has visited over the past decade. Lechner's exhibition has been on view since early October.

**Exhibition:** October 1 - November 22, 2024 **Opening Reception:** Wednesday, November 13th, 5 - 7 pm

## Meet artist Alonzo Adams as we close out and celebrate his exhibit at the Stedman Gallery

The public is invited to meet Alonzo Adams for an artist talk followed by the closing reception for his exhibition in the Stedman Gallery, which is located off the lobby of the Gordon Theater in the Fine Arts complex.

Exhibition: September 3 – November 16, 2024

#### Closing Reception & Artist Talk

Friday, November 15th, 5 - 8 pm Artist Talk: 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Walter K. Gordon Theater Reception: 6:30 - 8 pm, Stedman Gallery

#### Celebration of Sound: A Holiday Concert Across Eras and Genres



Designed by Nariko Johnson '25

Performed by Rutgers Concert Choir and directed by Prof. Soyeon Bin, the ensemble presents an inspiring evening of music as we journey through time and genres, featuring compositions by Tchaikovsky from the 1800s, contemporary works by John Rutter, and uplifting Gospels and Carols to celebrate the holiday. Admission is free. Follow the link to reserve seating: vmpa.camden.rutgers.edu/music-program/concert-season/

#### December 10

12:45 pm & 6:30 pm Walter K. Gordon Theater