

ARTS & CULTURE MENU 14

Performing Arts

In the current wintry weather – and with increasing concern about climate change - this five minute film [Antarctica: the First Dance](#) on Earth's last great wilderness, by Corey Baker Dance, may strike a chord (produced by Wellington Orbit's own Anne Beresford and featured on Channel 4).



Madeleine Graham in Antarctica, Photo by Jacob Bryant

You can also watch a recording of the live-streamed premiere of **Before Fiddler**, a musical about Scholem Alejchem (who was known as the “Jewish Mark Twain”), with Klezmer orchestra, filmed in Florence. [Click here for more information and booking \(£40 per household\)](#). **8-14 February**.

The **Royal Opera House** is continuing to stream a variety of opera and ballet, including:

- Massenet's [Cendrillon](#) (Cinderella) (2011), an exquisite fairytale opera, in Laurent Pelly's funny and touching staging with spectacular, storybook designs. Available to watch or share for £3 **until 21 February** (audio description version available).

- [Marguerite and Armand](#), Frederick Ashton's passionate ballet, set to Liszt's tempestuous Piano Sonata, available to watch or share for £3 **until Sunday 14 February**.
- Frederick Ashton's colourful ballet, [La Fille Mal Gardée](#), available to watch or share for £3 **from 29 January until 28 February**.

The [National Theatre](#) is continuing to stream its work, offering subscriptions or one-off rentals. The many works on offer include:

- fine Shakespeare, such as Tom Hiddlestone's [Coriolanus](#), and Adrian Lester's [Othello](#),
- [Dara](#) - Shahid Nadeem's epic tale of the dispute that shaped modern-day India and Pakistan,
- family viewing, such as [I Want My Hat Back](#). This is based on Jon Klassen's children's picture book classic, and features music by Arthur Darvill and a book and lyrics by Joel Horwood. It's suitable for children aged three years and older.

[Museums and Galleries](#)

You can browse the [exhibitions of young artists' work](#) at the **Royal Academy's** Young Artists' Summer Show 2020. Young artists could exhibit their work online and on-site. If you'd like to submit something for the **2021 Summer Show**, click [here](#) (parents, teachers or students themselves can submit work). It's a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 5 - 19 studying in the UK and British schools overseas. Artworks are judged by artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

[And More..](#)

[WEA Festival of Literature and Heritage](#) is offering a wide selection of short, fun, interactive online courses to keep you entertained during these cold, dark weeks in lockdown. There's something for everyone in our course lengths, times, day offerings and costs, such as:

- [Travels to Turkey from your Armchair](#) : a virtual visit across three archaeological sites in the south of Turkey to 'explore' the sites, asking questions relating to the importance of the sites and their development, layout and what we may see on a visit **4 February** (£10).
- [Superb Reads: Being Teenage](#): what do books about teenage years tell us about ourselves and our own teenagers? Explore these questions through six novels: Kes by Barry Hines Angus, Thongs, and Full-frontal Snogging by Louise Rennison The Wrong Boy by Billy Russell The Midnight Library by Matt Haigh Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky six sessions, **8 February – 15 March** (£28.80).
- [The Films of Martin Scorsese](#): each session will focus on one film, looking at its creation, its achievement as a movie and how it was received on its original release and in the years since. If you enjoy watching movies carefully and thinking about their connections to genre and filmmaking traditions, this

course will draw these approaches together. Three sessions, **29 January-12 February** (£22.50).

University of Wolverhampton's Artsfest Online:

- Join Dr Louise Fenton's illustrated online talk on **Edward Gorey**. Gorey is a twentieth century American author and illustrator. His creepy illustrations and darkly humorous stories located in Victorian and Edwardian settings have unsettling narratives. This talk will look at the life and work of this prolific creative whose work includes books, animated title sequences and set designs. Edward Gorey is familiar and yet arguably not widely known. **Tuesday 2 Feb 5pm**. [Click here for more information and free booking](#).

Join an online talk: **Eating the elephant: tackling the Express & Star photograph archive** one bite at a time. With three representatives of the partnership which is digitising historic Black Country news photos for future generations: Heidi McIntosh Senior Archivist, Wolverhampton City Archives, Scott Knight Business Development Manager, University of Wolverhampton and Chris Leggett Director, Osborn Communications. Thursday 4 Feb 12pm. [Click here for more information and free booking](#).

University of Wolverhampton LGBT+ History Month online events:

- **Pronouns – 5 Top Tips**: learn about why pronouns are important, particularly to most trans and non-binary people. In this talk Chloe Foster will share with you her 5 top tips to help you feel more comfortable with how/when/whether to ask people their pronouns, and what to do if you make a mistake. You'll also learn about the gender-neutral pronoun 'they' and why it's important to increasing numbers of people. Chloe is a qualified counsellor who specialises primarily in gender and sexual diversity within the LGBTQ communities. **Tuesday 16 Feb 4pm**. [Click here for more information and free booking](#).
- **The Life of Edward Seel, remembering the forgotten LGBT + victims of the holocaust**. Andrea Carlo talks about one of the most tragic, yet overlooked episodes in queer history: the persecution and murder of thousands of LGBT+ people during the Third Reich. In this talk, journalist Andrea Carlo will look at the life of Pierre Seel, one of the few gay Holocaust survivors to speak openly about his experience, and his poignant testimony of life during and after imprisonment in a concentration camp. **Tuesday 16 Feb 6pm**. [Click here for more information and free booking](#).
- **The Louder We Get - an LGBT+ concert-lecture** Join the LGBTQ Performing Arts Research Project for an evening of songs, poems and discussion about LGBTQ representation in the performing arts. The event will include performances from Performing Arts students as well as mini-panels about a range of topics that project members have been researching over the past few months. This year's concert-lecture will be a pre-recorded live stream due to COVID-19

restrictions. **Tuesday 23 Feb 7pm.** [Click here for more information and free booking.](#)

- **Sexuality and Design:** an open workshop to discuss the influence of sexuality on design, opening our minds to the prejudices, stereotypes and lack of identity that 3D designs may incur through sexuality, culture, race and religion. Lecturers and students will have an input into the subject matter for the day, helping to make the school of art a more inclusive organisation. All are welcome to join the conversation! **Wednesday 24 Feb 2pm.** [Click here for more information and free booking.](#)
- **Coaches' Kitchen, Queer Kitchen Edition** is about gathering around in our virtual kitchens, crying over onions, exchanging stories, asking questions, and enjoying the company. Everyone is welcome to join in with the cooking if you feel up to it, or you can simply put your headphones in and pretend you're not alone in your house for a couple of hours. A delightfully bizarre attempt to unearth truths and create some delicious queer food. Please join us for some cooking chaos. **Thursday 25 Feb 12pm.** [Click here for more information and free booking.](#)
- **Reading Group with Gavin Rogers.** Led by artist and lecturer Gavin Rogers, this group will collectively read Johanna Hedva's, **Sick Woman Theory**. Come and join live reading, chats and conversations. **Thursday 25 Feb 3pm.** [Click here for more information and free booking.](#)

Art from Crisis offers subscribers a unique, premium-quality A5 art card every month. Each one comes with a compelling insight into how the artwork was created, from someone who is experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. Crisis is a charity offering support, education and training workshops to help people reconnect with the world. Through its arts programmes, people can discover a new joy and purpose in creativity, boosting resilience and rebuilding self-confidence. For just £8 a month you can subscribe to [Art from Crisis](#) and own a new, exclusive and inspiring work of art every month, helping to bring end to homelessness in Britain.

[Scholastic Chapter One](#) is a website that offers **free readings and home learning resources** from some of your favourite authors. You can hear them read one chapter from their books to help you keep children engaged and excited about reading. Where possible, they include links to free teaching resources to support lesson planning. Listen to **Julia Donaldson**, Axel Sheffler and others.

Do let us know what you would still like to hear about. Many of the links in earlier Culture Menus are still active (particularly Issues 12 and 13), so do check them out.