



THE POWER OF PENN PERFORMING ARTS

2019-20 IMPACT REPORT



ANNENBERG
CENTER

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

“This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak; we write; we do language. That is how civilizations heal.”

TONI MORRISON

Dear friend,

What a remarkable, transformative year it has been, here at Penn and in Philadelphia, across the globe, and for the performing arts.

The Annenberg Center’s 19/20 season continued to advance the Power of Penn Performing Arts campaign priorities of creation, integration, inclusion, and transformation, and it was those last two priorities that became pivotal in the final few months of the season. When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged and our season was curtailed, we completely transformed our approach to sharing the performing arts with our community, migrating to a digital space that we continue to explore. And as our country grapples with its deep history of systemic racism, we have recommitted to what has long been a pillar of our mission—inclusive arts programming that promotes the telling of diverse stories and cross-cultural understanding through performance.

The following pages are a proud reflection on our season and all we accomplished, much of which was done while navigating great uncertainty and turmoil. Simultaneously, these stories set a foundation for us to look forward with optimism and hope. The near future of the Annenberg Center is filled with excitement, from the upcoming launch of our new brand and further integration with Penn, to the reveal of a new Master Plan for our building, to the celebration of our 50th anniversary in 2021.

Beyond these important milestones, we will continue finding creative ways to advance our mission of connecting our community with visionary artists and innovative ideas that result in transformative artistic experiences. In the 19/20 season, and in all seasons moving forward, our role is to support the artists who work to bring our stories to life, to build a forum for the Penn and Philadelphia community to explore and unpack the important issues of our time, and to provide a space where empathy is core to the experience of the performing arts. About the creating and sharing of art, we could not say it better than Toni Morrison—it is “how civilizations heal.”

With deep gratitude for your continued support of our work and the performing arts at Penn,



Chris

Christopher A. Gruits

OUR MISSION

As the University of Pennsylvania’s home for the performing arts, the Annenberg Center connects diverse audiences with visionary artists and innovative ideas, engaging both the University and the greater Philadelphia community in transformative artistic experiences.

OUR VISION

The Annenberg Center is the University of Pennsylvania’s home for the performing arts, serving the campus through curricular and extra-curricular support, linking great artists, performances, and facilities to enhance and support the Penn experience.

The Annenberg Center is Philadelphia’s premier curator of innovative and groundbreaking programs, a presenter of sought-after artists, and a champion of arts education, partnerships and collaborations at Penn, in Philadelphia, and the mid-Atlantic region.



HIGHLIGHTING DIVERSE ARTISTS

from across the globe, bringing international performances to Philadelphia that might otherwise not be seen in our city.

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Our dance series opened in September with **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal's *Dance Me***, a gorgeous tribute to Leonard Cohen and his music. Close to 200 friends and supporters attended our accompanying reception, including Philadelphia's Mayor, Jim Kenney, the Deputy Consul General of Canada, and the Québec Delegation.

Scotland's Gramophone Award-winning baroque ensemble **Dunedin Consort** joined us for its Philadelphia debut, under the direction of Bach scholar John Butt.

Four-time Grammy® Award-winner **Angeliqe Kidjo** rounded out a global season, creating a dance party in our sold-out Zellerbach Theatre with traditional sounds of her West African childhood blended with R&B, funk, and jazz.

Activating unconventional spaces
with the performing arts to

REACH NEW AUDIENCES

beyond our theatres.



OCTOBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

We kicked off the season and academic year by bringing dance/theatre company **Pilobolus** to Penn for pop-up events across campus and to Love Park in Center City Philadelphia. Dancing up and down Locust Walk among crowds of students, the whimsical and quirky ensemble brought performance outside the Annenberg Center and exposed new audiences to creative and engaging arts programming.

In conjunction with **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal's** season opening performance, we animated the outdoor plaza with a video installation entitled **REBO(U)ND**. Choreographed by Canadian artist Caroline Laurin-Beaucage, the ethereal video montage magnified dancers' bodies on the verge of escaping gravity, illuminating the night and drawing curious passersby from both Locust Walk and Walnut Street.

Over 1,000 patrons experienced our music presentations in distinctive spaces including **Jenny Lin** in the Penn Museum's Egypt Upper Gallery, **Vox Luminis** and **Dunedin Consort** at St. Mary's Church, and **The Crossing @ Christmas** in Rittenhouse Square's Church of the Holy Trinity.



SUPPORTING PENN STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

with priority access to a professional venue and all that comes with it.

NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

“Working at Annenberg— with a union crew, abiding by a specific budget, production schedule— that’s all tangible knowledge that I can take from Penn and apply to a job down the road.”

– Priscilla Felten, W’20

We are thrilled that over 200 students performed in 36 student shows on our three stages between September 2019 and March 2020. At least 23 additional student performances were anticipated prior to the University’s closure in mid-March.

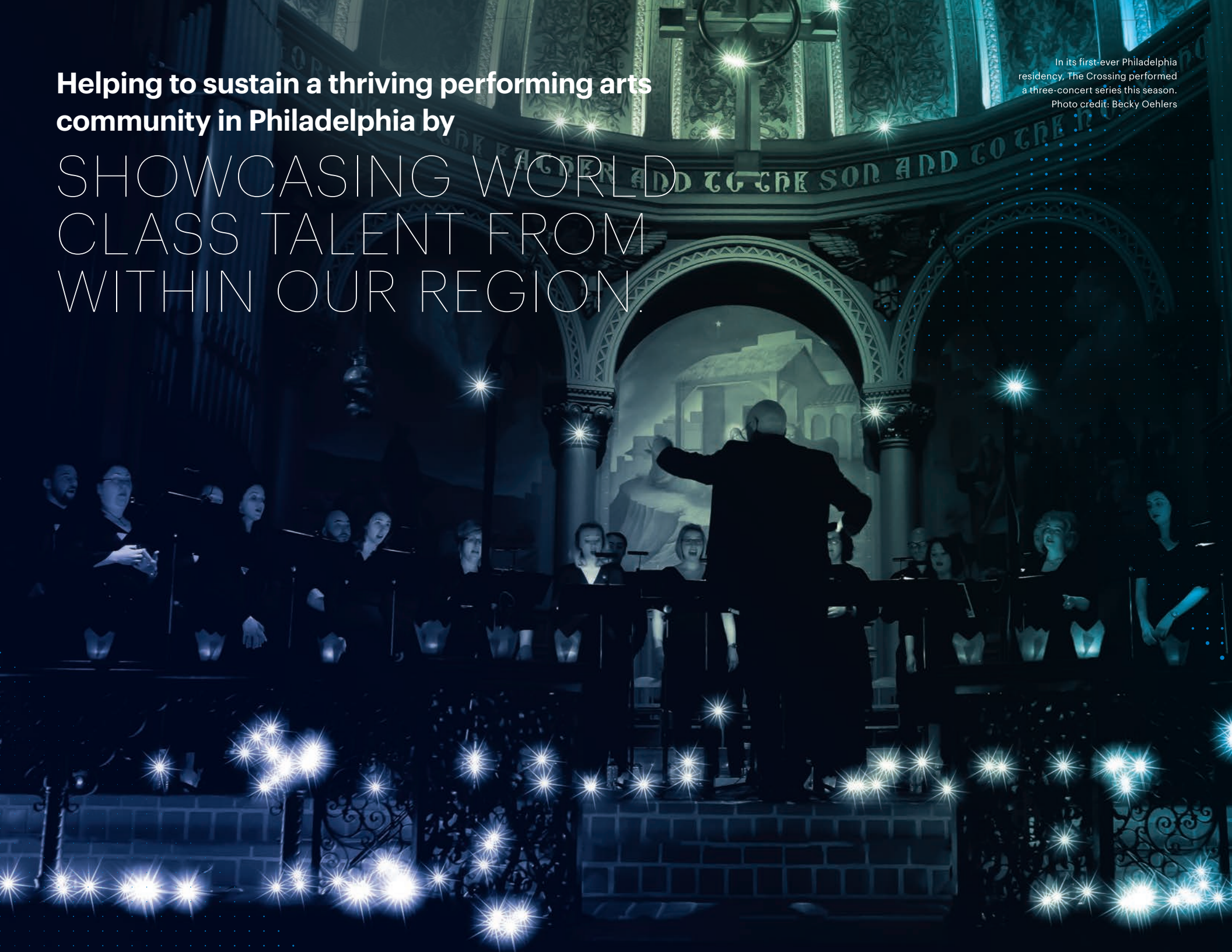
The **Mask and Wig Club**, the oldest all-male musical comedy troupe in the U.S., brought its production ***Frights of the Round Table*** to the Prince Theatre in November. Eight performances—twice what student groups typically present—saw an enthusiastic audience of 1,550.

Other student groups performing at the Annenberg Center in the 2019-20 season include: African Rhythms, iNtuitons, Quaker Notes, The Pennchants, Penn Dhamaka, Penn Glee Club, Penn Players, Penn Singers, Penny Loafers, Simply Chaos, Sparks Dance Company, and Soundworks Tap Factory.

Helping to sustain a thriving performing arts community in Philadelphia by

SHOWCASING WORLD CLASS TALENT FROM WITHIN OUR REGION

In its first-ever Philadelphia residency, The Crossing performed a three-concert series this season. Photo credit: Becky Oehlers



DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

We celebrated the holidays with the return of **PHILADANCO's** joyful, family-friendly **Xmas Philes**, first commissioned and premiered by the Annenberg Center in 2000. Celebrating PHILADANCO's 50th anniversary, legendary company founder and Executive Director Joan Myers Brown was honored on stage and at an opening night reception.

Traditional West African dance and drumming ensemble **Kulu Mele** made its Annenberg Center debut in the world premiere, commissioned work, **Ogun & the People**. The performance celebrated Kulu Mele's 50th anniversary, and was so popular that a second show was added to the weekend's festivities.

In its first-ever Philadelphia residency, multiple Grammy® Award-winning new music choir **The Crossing** joined us for performances throughout the season, including its annual holiday concert, **The Crossing @ Christmas**, and sold-out shows as part of our **#GLASSFEST**.

Graduate composition students from the Penn Sound Collective collaborate on new works with Sō Percussion at the ensemble's Brooklyn studio.
Photo Claudia Hansen



CHAMPIONING THE PERFORMING ARTS AT PENN

we create connections and collaborations across professional performances, academic units, and University programs.

JANUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					

We hosted four Powell-Vandever Dance Masterclasses in the Annenberg Center Dance Studio this past season prior to our unanticipated closure in March. Led by **Ephrat Asherie Dance**, **Paul Taylor Dance Company**, **Stars of American Ballet's Daniel Ulbricht**, and **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal**, two-thirds of the participants were University of Pennsylvania students.

In conjunction with the **Dunedin Consort's** Philadelphia debut performance, and together with **Penn's Music Department**, we offered a Penn Music Colloquium and a masterclass for students of Penn Collegium Musicum with Dunedin Consort's Musical Director and preeminent Bach scholar, John Butt.

Five graduate composition students from the **Penn Sound Collective** workshopped new pieces with **Sō Percussion** at the ensemble's Brooklyn studio in October and February. These pieces were to receive a world premiere when Sō Percussion made its Annenberg Center debut in April 2020 but unfortunately the performance was cancelled.

Connecting our audiences with visionary artists and innovative ideas,

PRESENTING GROUNDBREAKING WORK

that challenges and expands notions of the performing arts.

FEBRUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

#GLASSFEST anchored our 19/20 season with a series of performances celebrating the renowned contemporary composer, **Philip Glass**.

The festival kicked off in February with sold-out performances of ***Knee Plays*** performed by Philadelphia's own Grammy® Award-winning choir, **The Crossing**. The **Philip Glass Ensemble** performed the Philadelphia premiere of Glass' five-hour marathon piece, ***Music in Twelve Parts***—"a superhuman act of concentration" according to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Next, **Jenny Lin's** spellbinding solo piano performance at the Penn Museum juxtaposed Glass works with pieces by other composers.

The final #GLASSFEST program was the world premiere of Philadelphia-based playwright **Nikki Appino's *The White Lama: The Improbable Legacy of Theos Bernard***, featuring Philip Glass performing his original score. Unfortunately, *The White Lama* was canceled just as COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. Despite this abrupt change, an intimate audience was able to attend the final dress rehearsal for a powerful and heightened experience of the piece.

SERVING AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN PENN AND OUR SURROUNDING COMMUNITY, the Annenberg Center welcomes our youngest neighbors to experience dance, music and theatre—providing many with their first exposure to professional performing arts.



Photo credit: Mark Garvin

MARCH 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

From September 2019 through February 2020, we presented five Student Discovery Series matinees by four artists—**Mexico Beyond Mariachi**, **Joel Ross**, **PHILADANCO**, and **Ephrat Asherie Dance**. 1,783 children and their chaperones experienced the magic of the performing arts through this series.

The **Student Discovery Series** served 31 schools across the greater Philadelphia region, seven of which are Penn University-Assisted Community Schools (UACS) in West Philadelphia. All 272 UACS student attendees received free tickets and bus transportation, courtesy of the Annenberg Center’s second year of collaboration with Penn’s **Netter Center for Community Partnerships**.

Members of the Penn Glee Club Band perform in our inaugural Band Slam event for students.

Providing meaningful exposure to the professional performing arts for students across campus through IMMERSIVE INITIATIVES AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES.

APRIL 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

The Annenberg Center's Executive & Artistic Director's Student Advisory Council more than doubled in size in its second year, welcoming 13 new students for a total of 23 members. The council represents a wide range of majors and backgrounds and serves as a direct line between students and Annenberg Center staff.

Over 80 students attended the Annenberg Center's first annual Band Slam in September—an event conceived by the Student Advisory Council and curated by students, for students, and featuring performances by the student bands **Enohem**, **Penn Glee Club Band**, and **Bloomers Band**.

In the 19/20 season, 47 student workers held administrative and production positions at the Annenberg Center, far outnumbering full-time staff and representing a 24% increase over last year. Student workers are placed in positions that provide an inside perspective on the operations of a professional arts organization, and are considered valued, contributing members of the staff.

The Pennsylvania Players performed at our event celebrating Hal Prince. The group included (from left) Ayaka Shimada, C'21, Sydney Ellman, ENG'23, Clara Phillips, C'20, and Tias Volker, C'21.
Photo credit: Melanie Einzig

IN THE COMPANY OF HAROLD PRINCE

BROADWAY PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, COLLABORATOR
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2020



ENGAGING ALUMNI
in the rich tapestry of performing arts at Penn, whether you're a recent graduate or celebrating your 50th reunion.

MAY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

Throughout the 19/20 season, the Annenberg Center planned, hosted, and participated in alumni engagement activities ranging from intimate dinners to largescale performances and after-parties, engaging over 500 alumni and friends.

In collaboration with the **Penn Performing Arts Regional Council** of New York and **Penn Libraries**, we hosted an outreach event at the NY Public Library for the Performing Arts in March, celebrating the legacy of Harold (Hal) Prince, C'48. Former Annenberg Center Overseer and namesake of our Prince Theatre, Hal earned more Tony Awards than any other director or producer in the history of Broadway with iconic productions such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Follies*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*, *Damn Yankees*, *Sweeney Todd*, and many more.

In early 2020, the Penn Performing Arts Initiative (PPAI) launched a new regional council in Los Angeles, welcoming six inaugural members and making the cross-campus collaboration a coast-to-coast venture. PPAI also supported the **Platt Student Performing Arts House's** student showcase at Carnegie Hall in December, an event which attracted hundreds of alumni, family and friends.



Offering our
PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE,
SUPPORT, AND HOSPITALITY
to guest clients from Penn, Philadelphia, and beyond.

JUNE 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Through our role as a central hub for the Penn community, we welcomed some notable celebrities (one a Penn alum!) to the Annenberg Center stages this past season, including:

- Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson & Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter
- Saturday Night Live cast members Vanessa Bayer, C’04, Melissa Villaseñor, Mikey Day, Alex Moffat, and Ego Nwodim
- Spike Lee and Tarana Burke
- Patti Smith
- Cast and creator of Netflix’s *Shtisel*
- Bob Iger (Chairman & CEO of Walt Disney Company)

We also opened our space to eight new guest organizations: Episcopal Community Services, Transform Church Philly, BlackStar Film Festival, Friends of Hatzalah of Israel, Pennsylvania Ballet, Free Library of Philadelphia, Fellowship for the Performing Arts, and International Performing Arts for Youth.

For the first time, the **Rock School for Dance Education** brought its **Nutcracker 1776** engagement to the Annenberg Center in December 2019. Along with three public performances, we worked with the Rock School to offer a Rock Reach Educational Dress Rehearsal and a sensory-friendly performance in partnership with Art-Reach.



Pivoting to a digital platform to continue to

UPHOLD THE ARTS

during extraordinary times.

JULY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

The University of Pennsylvania's 2019-20 academic year and the Annenberg Center's performance season were upended as the entire world responded to the coronavirus pandemic. From home offices, we considered how to continue carrying out our mission of connecting our Penn and Philadelphia community with visionary artists and innovative ideas, while unable to gather in our theatres.

Our response was to launch the Annenberg Center @ Home blog, where we have been curating a collection of rich artistic content since the beginning of April. Weekly offerings have included masterclasses, performances, videos, music, and conversations with many of the artists who have graced our stages, faculty who teach in the arts at Penn, as well as fun activities for children and families.

While we are eager to return to our theatres for live performances, we are also excited to experiment in this new digital space. The fall 2020 season will include a series of **exclusive livestream performances** across dance and music along with the new addition of film. Until it is safe to come together in person, we are committed to offering virtual experiences with the same artistic caliber and level of curation that has become the hallmark of the Annenberg Center.

Kulu Mele made its Annenberg Center debut with the world premiere of *Ogun & The People*
Photo credit: Jaci Downs



COUNTING ON THE ARTS

AUGUST 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

19/20 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

27
professional premiere and debut performances

36
Penn student performances

7,056
Penn students attended performances

42,000+
tickets sold

47
Penn student workers
(24% increase over FY19)

51
posts of curated digital content on Annenberg Center @ Home blog between 4/7/20 and 6/30/20

13,000+
page views of curated digital content



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CELEBRATING NEWLY NAMED SPACES

at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts



JULIA LANG MALLY, W'83 STAGE

On January 31, 2020 Annenberg Center Overseer, Edward P. Mally, W'83 brought together family and friends to drink a birthday toast and dedicate the stage of the Zellerbach Theatre in honor and memory of his wife, Julia Lang Mally, W'83. Julia's twin passions for the theatre and performing arts and her alma mater and education make this the quintessential tribute to her life and legacy.

Pictured above: Ed Mally, W'83 and sons, David Mally, ENG'15, GEN'16 (center) and Adam Mally ENG'13, GEN'14, GR'25 (right), unveil the Julia Lang Mally W'83 Stage memorial plaque.

FEINTUCH FAMILY LOBBY

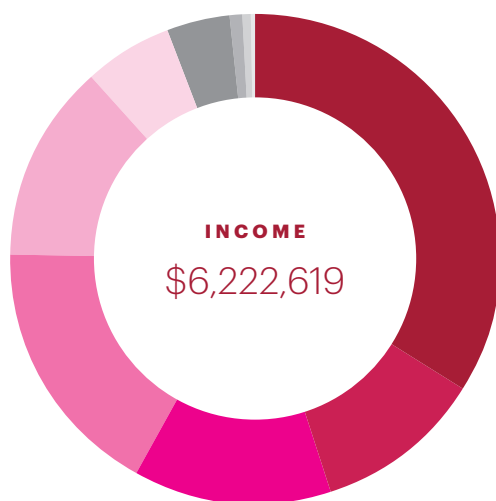
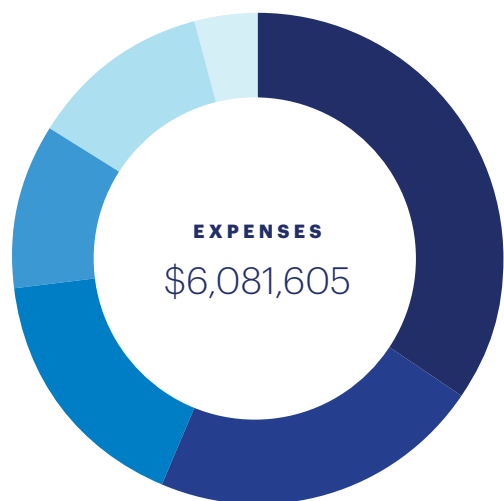
Overseer, Richard D. Feintuch, W'74 and his wife Merry Henig Feintuch, W'74 had their first date as Penn undergraduates at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. After 40 years of marriage and in honor of their 45th class reunion, Rick and Merry have compounded their generous support of the performing arts at Penn by naming the main lobby at the Annenberg Center. Although the planned dedication over Alumni Weekend was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, we look forward to inaugurating the Feintuch Family Lobby with Rick, Merry, and their sons Jason Feintuch, W'05 and Jonathan Feintuch, W'08 when we can all safely return to campus.

CLASS OF 1994 STUDIO LOUNGE

In honor of their 25th Reunion, the Class of 1994 pooled resources to support the renovation and naming of the lobby adjacent to the Bruce Montgomery Theatre. This popular alcove, which is regularly used for pre-show lectures and post-show receptions, was outfitted with modern, comfortable furniture and upgraded technology and was equipped to display art work. With space in high demand on campus, it is providing a much needed resource for undergraduates and emerging artists at Penn. The Class of 1994 Studio Lounge was dedicated over Homecoming Weekend 2019 with a cocktail party including entertainment by a student jazz trio.

FINANCIALS

The Annenberg Center sustains the performing arts at Penn through a mix of contributed and earned income. We count on your support to make the performing arts accessible to all in our community.



EXPENSES

- **35% University Facilities & Fees**
\$2,125,124
- **22% Programming**
\$1,345,732
- **17% Production**
\$1,003,640
- **11% Marketing**
\$660,429
- **12% Administration**
\$726,990
- **4% Fundraising**
\$213,691

INCOME

- **34% University Facilities Advance**
\$2,125,124
- **11% Guest Rentals**
\$663,092
- **13% Ticket Revenue**
\$807,626
- **17% Individual Giving**
\$1,050,084
- **13% University Support**
\$835,321
- **6% Other Income**
\$394,224
- **4% Foundation & Government**
\$267,154
- **1% Endowment Distribution**
\$44,444
- **0.33% Corporate**
\$20,550
- **0.24% In-Kind**
\$15,000

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Annenberg Center wishes to recognize the following individuals and institutions for their vital support. In the best of times, ticketing revenues cover only a fraction of the cost of operating a performing arts center. In these extraordinary times, we rely even more on the support of our generous donors. Thank you for upholding the arts in our community.

This list recognizes gifts received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
*Indicates a member of the Annenberg Center Board of Overseers
**Indicates an emeritus member of the Annenberg Center Board of Overseers

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