

**HOLYOKE**

# HCC spring play inspired by pandemic

Most theatrical productions begin with a script.

“In These Times” began with a concept: ask students at Holyoke Community College to write first-person accounts of their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic; audition student- and alumni-actors to perform those stories; and complement the monologues with music and art contributed by other members of the HCC community.

“It’s interesting putting something like this together,” said HCC theater professor Patricia Sandoval, the show’s director. “You don’t know what you’re going to get.”

What she got and how it all fit together she calls a “brilliant collage.”

Presented by the HCC Theater, Music and Visual Art departments, “In These Times” opens today at 7:30 p.m. The virtual show will be livestreamed on YouTube and performed again tomorrow and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. Saturday. The Friday night show will be ASL-interpreted.

Performances are free and open to all. The show channel



**Holyoke Community College student-actors Lauren Bailey, of Chicopee, and Mikey Perez, of Springfield.**

can be accessed through **hcc.edu/times-show**

The shows will not be recorded for later viewing.

The cast includes 18 student- and alumni-actors performing 40 different monologues that run one to four minutes apiece during the 90-minute show. Each actor will perform from their homes in front of their computers, with the video segments stitched together remotely in real time by streaming coach and HCC theater alumnus Corey Missildine.

“What’s beautiful about these monologues is that they represent the diversity of the college, whatever that can be defined as,” Sandoval said. “Age, race, ethnicity — we’ve got everything represented in this production

**IF YOU GO**

**Event:** ‘In These Times,’ a virtual play directed by HCC theater professor Patricia Sandoval

**Show times:** Tonight through Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Where:** Online, **hcc.edu/times-show**

because that’s what HCC is.”

Eight student and alumni musicians prerecorded performances for the show. That includes three original compositions: “Covid Suite,” a multimedia, electronic piece by student Jim Gipe; “Nero (Live in the Time of Corona),” by student Elena Ciampa (piano and vocals) and “When,” by HCC alumna Luci Mino ’18 (ukulele and vocals).

Approximately 45 students and alumni contributed artwork that will be used to bind each of the monologues together on screen.

# WE

Our office is open,

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Office hours  
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