

Critical Studies in Improvisation Études critiques en improvisation



moojigizi

Olivia Shortt

Volume 14, Number 1, 2021

Improvisation, Musical Communities, and the COVID-19 Pandemic

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1076303ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21083/csieci.v14i1.6308>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

University of Guelph College of Arts

ISSN

1712-0624 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

Shortt, O. (2021). moojigizi. *Critical Studies in Improvisation / Études critiques en improvisation*, 14(1). <https://doi.org/10.21083/csieci.v14i1.6308>

Article abstract

Olivia Shortt is a Tkarón:to-based multi-disciplinary performing artist. This video contribution explores how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing precarities for artists and musical communities but also generated a new activism.

moojigizi

Olivia Shortt

This is a video contribution. Click the video screenshot below to watch the video.



Video Transcript

So many of us really got to encounter what privilege looks like because of the pandemic. Many lost financial stability, many lost a sense of safety, many lost a way to express themselves and keep themselves alive. Many lost access.

Who has access to power?
Who gets to have financial stability when the world is falling apart around us?
What happens to artists when we don't take care of them?
What happens when we just don't take care of the people around us?
What happens when we don't take care of community?

I am grateful for the communities that I'm a part of and for the organizations that have been able to support me.

There was a period where I was always hearing folks say, "This is the new normal," as if this would be temporary. The fact is: it's not. It's been going on for a while.

We're adjusting,
we're constantly figuring out,
"How do we approach the next stage?"
What do we do to keep going?
To keep finding ways to take care of ourselves and to find joy?

I've been so privileged that I've been able to take moments to find joy.
Without framing the pandemic as something good,
I've been trying to find what are the moments of joy that I can take away from this time.

There's been so much sadness with the many deaths
and murders
of indigenous and black people
on either side of this imaginary border.

I look out at the street and the flourish of life that is coming.
The people: living, existing in this moment.
This isn't the new normal.
This is life.
This is life with privilege.

Not everyone has the same level of privilege,
the same level of access,
the same level of power.
But I hope that artists are able to take the time that they need to slow down.

Every person who is saying that 2020 is a dumpster fire isn't wrong.
I totally agree.
There is a dumpster fire element to this year for sure.
But also, I think this is our chance to take back 2020.
People are speaking up.
People are using their voices.
People are amplifying each other,
amplifying each other's works.
I hope that we're able to take care of each other and uplift each other.

August 1, 2020