

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR USITT BOARD!

USITT BOARD'S 2020 GOALS

Josee: My goals for this year are to focus on health in terms of committing to jobs, as well as in personal relationships. I am also making it a goal to push myself in my styles and skills when it comes to design.

Derek: My goal for this year is to figure out how to better balance school and theatre and friendships. I also want to read more books!

Melina: I'm trying to drink more water and less coffee, I want to eat better in general, (meaning, less eating out and more cooking), and I'm making an effort to do yoga once or twice a week. It's all about taking care of yourself in the New Year!

Sophia: My New Year's resolution is to be more proactive about completing tasks, especially quick ones that will take 5-10 minutes. (Like writing this resolution!)

Kami: I have a goal this year about saying "no" more so I don't overwhelm myself and also not being afraid to ask for help. New Year's goals can seem intimidating, but you can also set a goal for yourself at any time during the year! Mess up and start again anytime - no new year needed! Also I want to bake bread, specifically a nice baguette with a good crust.

INTERVIEW WITH OUR FAVORITE CARPENTER - SOPHIA KOSOWSKY

Q: Do you remember when you first got interested in carpentry?

A: I was never the kind of kid that built birdhouses, and I actually didn't start to become interested in carpentry until high school. In fact, my sister was the one with a little tool kit and belt when we were younger. That changed when I attended a creative and performing arts high school. I majored in technical theater and for three hours every day, my time was split between carpentry, electrics, and design classes. The immersive environment really contributed to my developing enthusiasm for tech theatre in general, and carpentry in particular. Even so, it wasn't until my first semester of college, when I didn't do any carpentry work, that my interest solidified; I realized I missed working in a scene shop. I enrolled in Introduction to Stagecraft and completed way more hours than you had to. It was after that class that my interest solidified. I am happy to say that I have continued to work in Pitt's scene shop every semester as well as working professionally. *(continued on page 2)*



Sophia and her good friend Bob.

STAY UPDATED!



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Q: What is a new skill that you're excited to learn/ something that you're excited to build?

A: I'm very excited to practice welding and build the greenhouse windows for The Verge!

Q: Any advice for someone that may be intimidated to work in the shop/get into carpentry?

A: Your own self-doubt is the biggest obstacle to success. That may sound like something on a middle school book fair poster, but I think it holds true for carpentry. Don't feel like you have to master a tool or concept right away, and don't think that making mistakes or asking questions makes you bad at carpentry. Everyone at Pitt is here to learn, and even professionals are still gaining new knowledge and practicing their skills.

Lack of self confidence can be an even bigger detriment to womxn because the field is traditionally male-dominated. Dismantling ideas that men are inherently better at carpentry, math, finding things in Home Depot etc. is a crucial step in making carpentry less intimidating for all people.

Q: Favorite tool, or the most useful thing in the shop? (Once you're wearing PPE of course!)

A: I've always liked jigsaws a lot, but every tool has its day.

EVENTS THIS MONTH!

- PC Playwriting Festival - 1/12- This Sunday! - 7 pm
- Redeye Festival - 1/11 - This Saturday! - 8pm
- *Keep your eyes peeled for info about a board game night!*

POPPORTUNITIES!

- *Oblivion* is in need of: a **dramaturg, board ops,** and **run crew.** Email Melina (mmy18@pitt.edu) if interested!

SOPHIA'S TECH TIPS

Numbers can be misleading, especially when it comes to materials! Wooden stick materials (like 2x4's, 1x6's etc.) have a nominal measurement (what they are called) and an actual dimension (what you get if you measure it with a tape measure). Some common adjustments are listed below, but if you forget don't worry! Just use a tape measure to get the true dimensions of whatever material you are using.

- "1" is usually actually ¾ of an inch not 1 inch
- "2" is usually actually 1 ½ inches not 2 inches
- "4" is usually actually 3 ½ inches not 4 inches

The difference in measurements between nominal and actual sizes has to do with the way wood is manufactured and treated before it is available for purchase.



Q: On breaktime, what's your favorite snack?

A: Probably a granola bar/trail mix type thing.

PRODUCTIONS TO SEE THIS MONTH!

To See Across Pittsburgh:

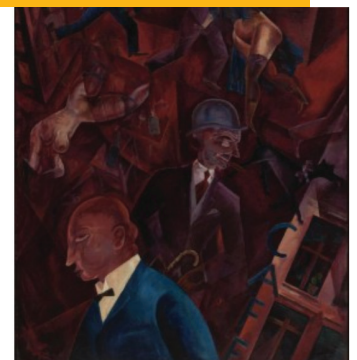
- Downstairs* - City Theatre - Sat Jan 11-Sun Feb 2
- Little Shop of Horrors* - PPT - Thu Jan 23 - Sun Feb 23
- Alicia* - Pittsburgh Opera - Jan 25,28,31, Feb 2

KAMI'S SPICY DESIGN CORNER

We've been taught in high school art classes that primary colors are the most important and that you can mix every color from those. Well that's a lie! Fun fact: a primary color that could get us every paint color doesn't exist and would be something beyond what we could create.

For now, if you wanna play around with mixing/choosing color pigmenThe most important elements of color are: **hue** (color name), **chroma /saturation** (intensity), and **value** (brightness vs. darkness). If you are looking for a color, and something isn't right about it, try changing one of those characteristics. For example, If a pink is looking too vibrant and cheery, you could play with the saturation and bring it down.

Struggling to find hues in the first place? Something that I've found helps for me is to pull colors from inspiration images. Especially if you find paintings that capture a mood that you want your design to portray. I like to use the color palette coordinator on [canva.com](https://www.canva.com), or color.adobe.com. Happy color mixing!



- Midnight Blue #0B1C29
- Dark Slate Gray #1F354B
- Black #28181A
- Rosy Brown #997261
- Dark Olive Green #653432