WELCOME

Dear Friends:

We are thrilled to partner with the Pozen Center Human Rights Lab at the University of Chicago to host three forums presented as a prelude to DEATH BY LIFE, our new opera exploring mass incarceration and systemic racism which premieres in cyber space on May 20-25, 2021. This opera is White Snake Projects' response to the killing of George Floyd. It is timely as the trial of Derek Chauvin, the officer who knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck until he took his last breath, is scheduled to take place during this time frame.

As we developed DEATH BY LIFE with the help of experts on mass incarceration, we realized how little we know about the US carceral system. Because of this, we decided to build an ecosystem for this opera to give our audiences an opportunity to explore with us some of the major issues facing those impacted by the prison system.

You can read more about each event and register by following the links below. We are grateful for your participation as you join us on this journey towards a greater understanding of the intersection of racism and incarceration, and the areas of hope that advocacy groups are working in.

Be safe, be well,
Cerise Jacobs and all of us at White Snake Projects,
An Activist Opera Company
UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO MASS INCARCERATION
FORUM SERIES

Art as Transformation:
Music and Drama for Incarcerated Youth
March 30th, 7 PM ET
REGISTER HERE.

Art and Imagination Inside Prisons:
Featuring the artwork of Renaldo Hudson and others
April 6th, 7 PM ET
REGISTER HERE.

Freedom-Making in an Age of Mass Incarceration:
Panel Discussion
April 13th, 7 PM ET
REGISTER HERE.

PARTNERED WITH

HUMAN RIGHTS LAB
THE POZEN FAMILY CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

JUSTICE ARTS COALITION

Storytellers Theatre

fifth house ensemble

Prison+Neighborhood Arts/Education Project
Art as Transformation: Music and Drama for Incarcerated Youth

Join for this interactive Zoom forum, where we will explore art as a means of transformation for persons who have experienced or are experiencing incarceration. The event will include guided activities and a discussion about art making and community through music, drama, and creative writing while imprisoned.

March 30th, 7 PM ET, on Zoom
REGISTER HERE

Melissa Ngan, Fifth House Ensemble, Moderator

Melissa Ngan cultivates personal and organizational growth through creative acts and collaborative practices. She currently serves as President and CEO of the American Composer’s Orchestra. Melissa is also the founder of Fifth House Ensemble, whose projects promote social justice through civic practice and storytelling, engage young learners and at-risk populations through arts integration, and develop emerging arts leaders through partnerships with higher education institutions nationwide. She has consulted with major arts institutions as they develop bold new directions in emerging artist training, civic engagement, and arts-integrated educational programming. Recent partners include The Cleveland Orchestra and San Francisco Opera.

Mary Cohen, Oakdale Community Choir

Mary L. Cohen is an Associate Professor of Music Education at the University of Iowa. She researches music-making and well-being, songwriting, and collaborative communities. In 2009, she founded the Oakdale Prison Community Choir (http://oakdalechoir.lib.uiowa.edu/). In 2010 she began the Songwriting Workshop at Oakdale Prison. In the prison songwriting participants have written over 150 songs, and the Oakdale Choir has performed over 75 of these songs, many available using the Creative Commons License on the choir website. She is completing a book with co-author Stuart Paul Duncan titled Freeing Silenced Voices: Music-Making in Prisons.
Cristina Williams, Storycatchers Theatre

Cristina Williams is the Program Manager for Changing Voices at Storycatchers Theatre. Cristina has been with Storycatchers since 2017. Cristina received her bachelor’s from Loyola University Chicago and her master’s in special education from Capella University. Cristina was a high school special education teacher for 5 years before joining Storycatchers Theatre. Cristina is passionate about supporting youth and breaking down barriers and systems that adversely affect black and brown communities through advocacy, leadership, partnership, and innovation. Cristina is active in her community; always focusing on creating safe spaces for individuals to find their voice.

Tamara Drew, Storycatchers Theatre

A graduate from Millikin University with a degree in both Theatre and Sociology, Tamara is a performer, performance coach, curriculum developer, mentor, and social justice advocate. She is currently the Artistic Manager for Storycatchers Theatre’s Changing Voices program, as well as Artistic Manager of the Firewriters Ensemble at the Illinois Youth Center-Chicago. She is an elected member of the Ravenswood Elementary Local School Council, where she is also the Chair of the Fine Arts Magnet Education committee, and a founding member of the Ravenswood Elementary Eye on Equity team. Tamara has a passion for helping young people to recognize and develop the light and potential within themselves, and for building communities. She recognizes the value of human joy, and works to contribute to the development of an anti-racist and equitable society.

Kinh T. Vu, Boston University

Dr. Kinh T. Vu is an assistant professor of music at Boston University where he teaches music education and performance courses in general music methods, instrumental music, history, and philosophy. Focusing his teaching, learning, and research model on global citizenship and intercultural literacy, Kinh’s pedagogy is community-based with partnerships emerging in Boston and around the globe. Current research centers on exploring connections between music education and involuntary or forced human displacement in Sweden, Cambodia, and Kinh’s homeland Viet Nam where he was abandoned at the end of the American War. His co-edited book (with André de Quadros), My Body was Left on the Street: Music Education and Displacement, was published by Brill-Sense in 2020. Kinh serves as a Faculty-In-Residence at Boston University’s Kilachand Hall and coordinates the Writers Corridor (in memoriam Eugene O’Neill) in collaboration with Kilachand Honors College and Residence Life. Kinh enjoys travel, exercise, and has a strange obsession with all-things sparkle.

Fifth House Ensemble harnesses the collaborative spirit of chamber music to reach beyond the traditionally-perceived limits of classical music. Fifth House is in residence at sites serving at-risk youth and adults in the Chicago area.

fifth-house.com

Oakdale Community Choir provides choral singing experiences for men in the general population of the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (Oakdale Prison) and for outside singers in the community who have an interest in learning more about issues in the prison system locally, throughout Iowa, and across the nation.

oakdalechoir.lib.uiowa.edu

Storycatchers Theatre works with youth in the juvenile justice system, helping them tell their stories through musical theatre. By moving beyond their histories, the youth transform their own lives, communities, and people like you who are ready to listen.

storycatcherstheatre.org
Art and Imagination Inside Prisons: Featuring the artwork of Renaldo Hudson and others

This conversation will explore art-making inside the prison industrial complex as a practice of freedom by incarcerated artists. Panelists will discuss artworks crafted behind the prison wall and the creative processes involved in making, learning, and teaching art behind bars.

April 6th, 7 PM ET, on Zoom
REGISTER HERE

View the virtual art exhibit “To Breathe” HERE.

Alice Kim, Human Rights Lab, Moderator
Alice Kim is Director of Human Rights Practice at the University of Chicago’s Pozen Family Center for Human Rights. Through her work with the Prison+Neighborhood Arts/Education Project, Alice teaches writing and justice studies classes at Stateville Prison, a maximum-security prison in Joliet, Illinois, where she also facilitates a Justice, Politics and Culture Think Tank. She is also a co-founder of Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, an activist collective dedicated to seeking justice for survivors of Chicago police torture and documenting this history. Alice is co-editor of The Long Term: Resisting Life Sentences, Working Toward Freedom (Haymarket Books, 2018).

Renaldo Hudson, Lead Artist
Renaldo Hudson is an educator and a community organizer, and has focused his work on ending perpetual punishment in Illinois. After being sentenced to death row, he worked for 37 years while incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections to change the mindset of incarcerated people, as well as staff, regarding what rehabilitation should look like and how to focus attention on true rehabilitation. Renaldo is responsible for founding the groundbreaking Building Block Program, a transformational program run by incarcerated people within the Illinois Department of Corrections. Currently, he serves as education director for the Illinois Prison Project (IPP). Renaldo’s work has been in Beecher and media outlets throughout the state, and the subject of the documentary Stateville Calling.
Carole Alden, Featured Artist
Born 1960 in Orléans France. Mother of 5 children. Self-taught, with an extensive career in fiber art sculptures prior to being incarcerated in 2006. Prior to release in 2019, contact was made with Wendy Jason of The Justice Arts Coalition. This support opened up a new world of opportunity for Carole to take a visceral trauma and turn it into a vehicle for communication, hope and healing. Through the Justice Arts Coalition, Carole was able to began speaking and sharing her work for a variety of organizations within weeks of release, despite the constraints of parole. Carole recently purchased 80 acres of unincorporated land. The documentary film production team, “Unchained Stories” will be filming transition as she rebuilds her studio and her life in the high Utah desert.

Michelle Daniel (Jones), Featured Artist
Scholar and activist Michelle Jones is a fifth-year doctoral student in New York University’s American Studies program. Her work excavates the collateral consequences of criminal convictions for people directly impacted by mass incarceration. She published and presented her research findings during the twenty years she was incarcerated, disrupting assumptions about the reach and intellectual capacity of justice-involved women. While incarcerated, she presented legislative testimony on a reentry alternative she created for people incarcerated long-term, which was approved by the Indiana State Interim Committee on the Criminal Code. She sits on the advisory boards of the Lumina Foundation and the Urban Institute and is currently under contract with The New Press to publish the history of Indiana’s carceral institutions for women, in collaboration with fellow incarcerated and formerly incarcerated scholars.

Jesse Krimes, Featured Artist
Jesse Krimes is a Philadelphia-based artist and curator whose work focuses on criminal and racial justice. While serving a six-year prison sentence he produced and smuggled out numerous bodies of work. After his release, he co-founded Right or Return USA, the first national fellowship dedicated to supporting formerly incarcerated artists. His work has been exhibited at venues including MoMA PS1, Palais de Tokyo, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the International Red Cross Museum. Krimes was awarded fellowships from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Independence Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, Art For Justice Fund, Captiva Residency, and Creative Capital.

Damon Locks, Featured Teaching Artist
Damon Locks is a Chicago-based visual artist, educator, vocalist/musician. He teaches art with Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project at Stateville Correctional Center. He is a recipient of the Helen Coburn Meier and Tim Meier Achievement Award in the Arts as well as a 3Arts Awardee. He is a Soros Justice Media Fellow. He is the primary vocalist in Rob Mazurek’s Exploding Star Orchestra. Damon leads the group Damon Locks Black Monument Ensemble and is a founding member of the group The Eternals. Damon is an artist in residence in the high school Sarah E. Goode as a part of the Museum of Contemporary Art program S.P.A.C.E. (School Partnership for Art and Civic Engagement).
Chad Merrill, Contributing Artist

“\nI am still in a state of disbelief at how people respond to my art. Whenever I sit down to paint with my junky paintbrush and pen ink I’m transported out of this cell and am totally consumed with filling that piece of paper full of my emotions, my stress, anxiety, fear, love, etc. I’m able to let it all out with each little stroke and it never fails to surprise me when I’m finished at how cool it comes out. I’m completely in love with painting. Thank you for allowing me to “set free” each portrait I do. It’s stupid but I like to think that just because I’m in here it doesn’t mean they have to be as well.”

Brian Hindson, Contributing Artist

Brian Hindson’s story and his collaborative work with other incarcerated artists exemplify this exceptional power of art. His creative story begins twenty-two years after leaving art school. Although Brian attended art school for a couple of years after graduating high school, he didn’t reconnect with art until he was in prison, more than two decades later. While inside, he “found a voice, a re-discovered talent, and more so peace” from artmaking. “There is a LOT of negativity in prison,” he writes, “Everything’s bad…I try to see the positive things – the good things.” Relating art to character, he concludes that his way of looking for the good is how he hopes others will look at him, “as a person.” Brian’s work was recently featured in MoMA’s PSI “Marking Time: Art in the Age of Incarceration” exhibit.

William B. Livingston, Contributing Artist

W.B. Livingston III (Will) is a musician and visual artist who is in prison in Oklahoma. Will creates originals and prints, and donates pieces to nonprofits for fundraisers. He also does commission work. “I have now been incarcerated for more than eight years and continue to make art in many different media. I have also spent countless days working on paintings and other projects for charitable causes, such as the Special Olympics, Employment for the Disabled, the Messages Project and the Outsiders House Renovation, to raise operating funds. Over the last year, I decided to combine both of my passions. I started designing and hand-printing concert posters for the bands I like and follow. These posters are created and produced in the Joseph Harp Correctional Institute. I love doing this concert poster project and the charity commissions because it is a way for me to be a part of the world – and to give back to a community and society from which I feel as if I have taken so much.”

Danny Ashton, Contributing Artist

“Danny has told me that when he starts a new project, before he puts pen to paper, he already pictures himself in the picture. Most of his pieces are family vacation type getaways. As a child, his family traveled a lot. So, ideas like the parking lot of a Holiday Inn or a touristy spot on the side of the road, are memories he loves to revisit. Also, in college he majored in Art History. It is fun for him to do his research to be sure the fashions, cars and historical items in a picture are as true to the era as he can get. In prison, he does not have access to the internet. He relies on his loyal assistant, his wife to get pictures to him. He has always made up stories to go with the pictures. Recently, he has started writing long poems. He tells me that he has got pages of ideas for paintings when he gets out. My prayer is that he will eventually get out and not have so many constraints on him that he will not be able to continue his work. Danny Ashton hopes you do enjoy his work as much as he enjoyed the journey he took to create it.” -As discussed with Danny Ashton and transcribed by his wife.
Raul Dorado, Contributing Artist
Raul Dorado is an incarcerated writer and criminal legal reform advocate. He earned a B.A. in justice policy advocacy from Northeastern Illinois University’s University Without Walls bachelor’s degree program. He is a co-founder of Parole Illinois, a movement to bring a comprehensive and retroactive parole system to Illinois.

Joe Dole, Contributing Artist
Joseph Dole is currently serving a Life-Without-Parole sentence for a crime he did not commit. He is a published writer, artist, and activist, has been incarcerated for over 22 years, and spent a decade in the notorious TAMMS supermax prison. He recently received his bachelor’s degree from Northeastern Illinois University’s University Without Walls program focusing on Critical Carceral-Legal Studies. He is co-founder and policy director of Parole Illinois, an organization dedicated to abolishing long-term prison sentences.

Devon K. Terrell, Contributing Artist
Devon K. Terrell was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and grew up on hip-hop. He is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University’s University Without Walls bachelor’s degree program. His depth area was poetic justice in black culture, which focuses on the use of poetry and art to transform youth culture and society.

The Justice Arts Coalition (JAC) unites teaching artists, arts advocates, currently and formerly incarcerated artists, and allies, harnessing the transformative power of the arts to reimagine justice.

thejusticeartscoalition.org

Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project (PNAP) is a visual arts and education project that connects teaching artists and scholars to incarcerated students at Stateville Maximum Security Prison through classes, workshops, a policy think tank, and guest lectures.

p-nap.org
Freedom-Making in an Age of Mass Incarceration: Panel Discussion

Join the Pozen Center Human Rights Lab and White Snake Projects for a panel discussion about what freedom-making means within the deeply carceral context of contemporary America. A Q&A will follow the moderated conversation.

April 13th, 7 PM ET, on Zoom
REGISTER HERE

Alice Kim, Human Rights Lab, Moderator

Alice Kim is Director of Human Rights Practice at the University of Chicago’s Pozen Family Center for Human Rights. Through her work with the Prison+Neighborhood Arts/Education Project, Alice teaches writing and justice studies classes at Stateville Prison, a maximum-security prison in Joliet, Illinois, where she also facilitates a Justice, Politics and Culture Think Tank. She is also a co-founder of Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, an activist collective dedicated to seeking justice for survivors of Chicago police torture and documenting this history. Alice is co-editor of The Long Term: Resisting Life Sentences, Working Toward Freedom (Haymarket Books, 2018).

Norris Henderson, Executive Director, Voice of the Experienced

Norris Henderson, a former OSI Soros Justice Fellow, has had tremendous success in his work impacting public policy and public discourse about police accountability, public defense for poor and indigent people, and reforming the notorious Orleans Parish Prison (OPP). As someone who was wrongfully incarcerated for 27 years, Norris shares firsthand experience of racism and brutality of the criminal justice system with communities of Color across Louisiana. Norris is a frequent contributor to public discourse, regularly speaking publicly in support of underprivileged communities in New Orleans, and acting as a general liaison to other community organizations in the city. Since his release in 2003 Norris has applied his 27 years of self-taught legal expertise and community organizing skills to a number of leadership positions, including Co-Director of Safe Streets/Strong Communities and Community Outreach Coordinator of the Louisiana Justice Coalition. Norris serves on a number of organizations’ Board of Directors including Forward Justice, Family & Friends of Louisiana’s Incarcerated Children, Common Justice and CURYJ.
Romarilyn Ralston

Romarilyn Ralston is program director of Project Rebound at California State University Fullerton and also serves as the Co-chair of the CSU Project Rebound Policy and Advocacy Committee. Project Rebound supports the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated with a vision that higher education disrupts the revolving door practices of mass incarceration. Romarilyn is a black feminist prison abolitionist scholar working to interrupt criminalization at the intersections of race, gender, and education. Romarilyn earned a Master in Arts degree in Liberal Arts at Washington University in St. Louis and Bachelor in Arts degree in Gender & Feminist Studies at Pitzer College. She has received several honors and awards for her work over the years including being named Pitzer College's 2020 Distinguished Alumni Honoree, California Senator Ling Ling Chang's 2020 Woman of Distinction Social Justice Champion awardee, and National Council of 100 Black Women (Orange County Chapter), 2018 Civil Rights and Advocacy recipient. Romarilyn is a 2017-2018 Women's Foundation of California Women's Policy Institute alumnus where she served as an integral member of the criminal justice reform team and helped to pass several pieces of legislation in law. As a statewide organizer and advocate with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, she advocates, monitors, and challenges the abusive conditions inside California women's prisons fighting for the release of women, gender non-conforming, and trans people.

Toussaint Losier

Dr. Toussaint Losier is an Assistant Professor in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at University of Massachusetts-Amherst. As a scholar, he focuses on 20th century African American history, Social Movement Politics, and Criminal Justice policy. The recipient of numerous awards, he has served as a visiting scholar at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University and a Woodrow Wilson National Foundation Career Enhancement Fellow. He is co-author of Rethinking the American Prison Movement (Routledge, 2017) with Dan Berger and is currently preparing a book manuscript on the history of mass incarceration and social movements in Chicago tentatively titled, War for the City: Black Liberation and the Consolidation of the Carceral State. In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Losier is the former Vice Chairman of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign, coordinating the Campaign’s direct outreach to homes in foreclosure and the legal defense of families at risk of eviction. He also has also served as an organizer and board member with Southside Together Organizing for Power, supporting its efforts to prevent the closure of public mental health centers, fight the mass incarceration of Black youth, and demand the reopening of an adult trauma care unit on Chicago’s Southside.

Beth Richie

Beth E. Richie is Head of the Department of Criminology, Law and Justice and Professor of African American Studies at The University of Illinois at Chicago. The emphasis of her scholarly and activist work has been on the ways that race/ethnicity and social position affect women’s experience of violence and incarceration, focusing on the experiences of African American battered women and sexual assault survivors. Dr. Richie is the author of Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America’s Prison Nation (NYU Press, 2012) which chronicles the evolution of the contemporary anti-violence movement during the time of mass incarceration in the United States and numerous articles concerning Black feminism and gender violence, race and criminal justice policy, and the social dynamics around issues of sexuality, prison
Beth Richie (continued)

abortion, and grassroots organizations in African American Communities. Her earlier book *Compelled to Crime: the Gender Entrapment of Black Battered Women*, is taught in many college courses and is cited in the popular press for its original arguments concerning race, gender and crime. Dr. Richie is a board member of The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African Community, The National Network for Women in Prison, A Call To Men and a founding member of INCITE!: Women of Color Against Violence. In 2013 she was awarded an Honorary Degree from the City University of New York Law School and in 2014 she was appointed as a Sr. Advisor to the NFL to work on their domestic violence and sexual assault prevention program.

**Erica Meiners**

Writer, educator and organizer, Erica R. Meiners’ current work includes a co-edited anthology *The Long Term: Resisting Life Sentences, Working Towards Freedom* (Haymarket Press 2018) and *For the Children? Protecting Innocence in a Carceral State* (University of Minnesota 2016). A Distinguished Visiting Scholar at a range of universities and centers -- including University of Pittsburgh, Trent University, CUNY Graduate Center, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, and Chicago’s Leather Archives and Museum, her work has been supported by the Illinois Humanities Council, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and a Soros Justice Fellowship. The Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor at Northeastern Illinois University, Erica is a member of her labor union, University Professionals of Illinois, and she teaches classes in justice studies, education, and gender and sexuality studies. Most importantly, Erica has collaboratively started and works alongside a range of ongoing mobilizations for liberation, particularly movements that involve access to free public education for all, including people during and after incarceration, and other queer abolitionist struggles. A member of Critical Resistance, the Illinois Death in Custody Project, the Prison + Neighborhood Arts / Education Project, and the Education for Liberation Network, she is a sci-fi fan, an avid runner, and a lover of bees and cats.

**ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS LAB**

The Human Rights Lab actively engages University of Chicago students and community members in solutions to human rights problems, advancing new questions around human rights theory and practice through the lens of deep research, experiential learning, and critical community-building. In its first five years, under the leadership of Director of Human Rights Practice Alice Kim, the Lab is addressing the intersecting human rights crises of racialized policing and mass incarceration in the United States.
UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO MASS INCARCERATION
Forum Series

Presented by White Snake Projects
in partnership with
the Pozen Center Human Rights Lab
at the University of Chicago

Curator and website design: Noelle Petrowski
Curatorial assistant: Madeline Wright
Organizational support: Michael Fischer and Sarah Rogers
Creative advisors: Cerise Jacobs and Alice Kim

Key art based on "Freedom Cost,"
used by permission of artist

ARTIST STATEMENT

I was sitting in the cell watching the news, listening to people going off about crime. And why they should throw the keys away on all of us. I heard these words "FREEDOM COST". I remember listening as the officers came down the gallery to take one of the brothers to execute him. The words were screaming in my head. FREEDOM COST! And don't you forget it. [The man I painted] is trying to breathe, way before G.F. was killed by the cop that stood on his neck until he died. We were trying to breathe through the fog of racist stuff, and his hair being connected to the bars is simply the link of imprisonment that will follow you for the course of your life. Always trying to pull you back into a cell. Our hair is able to carry our strength.

“Freedom Cost”
by Renaldo Hudson
ABOUT WHITE SNAKE PROJECTS

White Snake Projects is an activist opera company founded and led by an immigrant woman of color. We integrate social activism with original opera of the highest production values, partnering with other activists to cross-promote important social issues and opera, and redefining how opera is made by involving young people from our community. Inspired by the legendary White Snake demon who becomes human to experience the intense and transformational power of human life, we’re investing in American composers adept at telling the myth-based stories that live in our collective imaginations through music. We believe in making art accessible to all and commit one-third of all seats to underserved communities.

OUR WORLD PREMIERE OPERAS

2016: Ouroboros Trilogy, a multicultural trio of grand operas described as “bingeworthy” (The Boston Musical Intelligencer), premiered to great acclaim in September 2016. It comprised the world premieres of Naga (Scott Wheeler) and Gilgamesh (Paola Prestini), and a remount of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Madame White Snake (Zhou Long). As WBUR raved, “Boston opera hasn’t seen an event like this in a long while—if ever.”

2017: REV. 23 is biting satire composed by Julian Wachner set in Heaven, Hell, and everywhere in between. As the Archangel Michael and Lucifer face off in the battle for our souls, the opera asks whether the existence of evil is necessary for human beings to fully realize their humanity.

2018: PermaDeath is a videogame opera by Composer Dan Visconti centered on a female video game champion who has ALS and now uses a wheelchair. Through the metaphor of digital avatars in an epic fight to the death, it confronts the ultimate mystery facing us all — our own deaths.

2019: I Am A Dreamer Who No Longer Dreams is an immigrant opera by composer Jorge Sosa. It explores the different, yet starkly similar, journeys two women take to get to America, their attempts to remake themselves in the American mold, and their realization of solidarity in their fight against the separation of children from their parents.

2020: Alice in the Pandemic takes us on a deep dive down the rabbit hole as we experience the elasticity of time, the dislocation of losing familiar anchors, and the uncertainty of death and depression.

2021: Death By Life, a virtual opera which explores the intersection of systemic racism and mass incarceration through the words of incarcerated writers. The stories that emerge show the humanity of those experiencing incarceration, to forge new bonds, to reconcile with their actions, to move beyond mere survival to redefine what it means to live life fully—all within the constraints of the US penal system.

2022: Cosmic Cowboy, a space opera by Elena Ruehr, explores the origins of the universe, traversing the mystery of time and space through wormholes, black holes and alternate universes until it comes full circle to the ultimate mystery — the darkness of the human heart.
DEATH BY LIFE

MAY 20, 22, AND 25
LIVE FROM CYBERSPACE
VISIT WHITESTRAKEPROJECTS.ORG FOR TICKETS