

## **Penn Live Arts Announces November-December Film Screenings First In-Person Screenings Begin in December**

[View Penn Live Arts' health and safety policies](#)

(Philadelphia – November 8, 2021) — [Penn Live Arts](#) has announced its November-December film screenings. While November screenings are virtual, December screenings will be available both in person and virtual. All audience members must be vaccinated and wear a mask. Further health and safety requirements for in-person audiences can be accessed at [PennLiveArts.org/safety](https://PennLiveArts.org/safety).

The series leads off with [\*Poly Styrene: I am a Cliché\*](#) (November 26-December 2). A documentary, the film follows Celeste Bell as she examines the unopened artistic archive of her mother, Poly Styrene, who was the first woman of color in the UK to front a successful rock band. All screenings of *Poly Styrene: I am a Cliché* are virtual.

[\*No Ordinary Man\*](#) (December 2-8) tells the story of the life of American jazz musician **Billy Tipton**, as reimagined by trans artists who celebrate him as a trans culture icon and unlikely hero. [\*The Conductor\*](#) (December 9-15) showcases renowned conductor **Marin Alsop**, who smashed the glass ceiling as the first woman to serve as music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra. Screenings of *No Ordinary Man* and *The Conductor* are both in-person and virtual.

For more information and to purchase access, please visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://PennLiveArts.org). Visit Penn Live Arts' [FAQs page](#) for additional details.

With a long history of presenting film starting in the 1970s, Penn Live Arts returns this important art form to its regular line-up to broaden its inclusive arts programming while also supporting independent film at Penn and in Philadelphia. The Penn Live Arts film series is created by Curator-at-Large for Film, Maori Karmael Holmes, who is also Artistic Director and CEO of BlackStar Projects, and Executive and Artistic Director Christopher Gruits to present films that complement and amplify Penn Live Arts' season programming across all disciplines.

### **About Penn Live Arts**

The 2021-22 season marks the first for Penn Live Arts. This new identity heralds a wider variety of programming for audiences, as well as presentations outside the physical Annenberg Center space, and a deeper integration with the University of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia communities. Audiences will begin to experience the expanded benefits under Penn Live Arts in the upcoming 2021/22 season including more innovative performances hosted outside the Annenberg Center walls including Alarm Will Sound at Morris Arboretum in Chestnut Hill and The Crossing at Church of the Holy Trinity in Rittenhouse, along with a broad range of beloved dance companies, jazz greats, a brand-new, family-friendly cirque series and a season-long film line-up.

Headquartered at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Penn Live Arts is the leading presenter of innovative and transformative performing arts experiences in Philadelphia, bringing world-class music, dance, theatre and film to an annual audience of over 80,000 on the University of Pennsylvania campus and at venues throughout the city. Penn Live Arts is an artistic crossroads joining Penn and the greater Philadelphia region. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, Penn Live Arts emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence and diversity in its offerings; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference and meeting facilities; and boasts comprehensive event planning, production support and customer service. Penn Live Arts is a key asset for the University's students and faculty, enhancing curriculum through connections with master artists, hosting student productions on professional stages, providing career development opportunities and being a true advocate for student performing arts. Penn Live Arts broadens arts access by actively engaging a wide range of school audiences and inclusive communities from campus, the West Philadelphia neighborhood and the surrounding region. Visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://PennLiveArts.org).

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## **CALENDAR LISTINGS**

### **FILM**

#### ***Poly Styrene: I am a Cliché***

Viewing window is November 26 at 7 PM through December 2.

Featuring unseen archive material and rare diary entries narrated by Oscar®-nominee Ruth Negga, this documentary follows Celeste Bell as she examines the unopened artistic archive of her mother, Poly Styrene, who was the first woman of color in the UK to front a successful rock band, and traverses three continents to better understand Poly the icon and Poly the mother.

Directed by Paul Sng & Celeste Bell, 2021, UK, 89 min., documentary, English.

This film showing is virtual. For more information and to purchase access please visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://PennLiveArts.org). Visit Penn Live Arts' [FAQs page](#) for additional details.

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### **FILM**

#### ***No Ordinary Man***

The life of American jazz musician Billy Tipton has been framed as the story of an ambitious woman passing as a man in pursuit of a music career, but in *No Ordinary Man*, Tipton's story is re-imagined and performed by trans artists who celebrate Tipton as a musician living his life according to his own terms, painting a portrait of a trans culture icon and unlikely hero. Directed by Aisling Chin-Yee & Chase Joynt, 2020, Canada, 84 min., documentary, English.

This film showing is both in-person and virtual.

#### **Viewing Options:**

- December 2, 7 PM: In-person screening, Montgomery Theatre ([See health and safety information](#))
- December 2, 7 PM – December 8: On-demand virtual screening

One ticket grants digital access for an entire household and one entry to the in-person screening. For more in-person attendees, purchase additional tickets for each individual. Access information will be provided in advance. You can also visit our [FAQs page](#) for additional details.

For more information and to purchase access, please visit [PennLiveArts.org](https://PennLiveArts.org).

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**FILM**

***The Conductor***

This exhilarating documentary grants a backstage pass to the artistry and energy that rewards the audiences of internationally renowned conductor Marin Alsop – the first woman to serve as music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra – and inspires her students today. Directed by Bernadette Wegenstein, 2021, U.S., 90 min., documentary, English.

This film showing is both in-person and virtual.

**Viewing Options:**

- December 9, 7 PM: In-person screening, Montgomery Theatre ([See health and safety information](#))
- December 9, 7 PM – December 15: On-demand virtual screening

One ticket grants digital access for an entire household and one entry to the in-person screening. For more in-person attendees, purchase additional tickets for each individual. Access information will be provided in advance. You can also visit our [FAQs page](#) for additional details.

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