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## May 2021 Livingston Alumni Association Update

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Livingston Alumni Association <volunteer@ruf.rutgers.edu>

Fri, May 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM

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PRESERVING THE HISTORY.  
ADVANCING THE LEGACY.



### Livi at 50 Celebrates Latino Studies and the Livingston Panthers

Our April 22 “Livi at 50” event celebrated the formation of the Latino Studies program and the history of the Livingston Panthers sports teams. Thank you to all of our panelists and participants for making it a memorable evening. [Click here](#) for a replay.

Do you have an idea for celebrating Livingston’s impact and legacy? Please [contact us](#) to share your thoughts. Livingston’s graduates have impacted lives throughout the world. Let’s continue to celebrate our Strength Through Diversity.

In Rutgers Spirit,

Jeff Armus LC '77  
President, Livingston Alumni Association



## **Register Now: June 8 Conversation with Vivian Salama SC&I '00 LC '00**

[Register now](#) for our June 8, 2021, 7 p.m. Eastern conversation with Vivian Salama SC&I '00 LC '00, who covers national security for the Wall Street Journal. Salama has covered U.S. foreign policy and national security issues for nearly two decades, reporting from more than 80 countries. A native of New York, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Rutgers University, a master's degree in Middle East politics from Columbia University and a law degree from Georgetown University. Salama previously covered the Trump White House and national security for the Wall Street Journal, CNN and NBC. Professor Steven Miller RC '79, Professor of Professional Practice and Director of Undergraduate Studies, will be hosting the conversation with Salama.

This event is jointly sponsored by the [Livingston Alumni Association](#) and [Rutgers School of Communication and Information Alumni Association](#).



## Livingston Theatre Company Hosts Behind the Scenes Discussion

By Debra O'Neal LC '87

I think it is safe to say we all miss live theater. The Livingston Theater Company (LTC) beat the odds, and pandemic restrictions, to complete two virtual shows this season - *The Addams Family* and *Spamalot*.

On May 2, the Livingston Alumni Association co-hosted a virtual All Alumni Theatre Afternoon "Behind the Scenes" discussion with several LTC cast members. The audience was treated to two clips from *The Addams Family* and *Spamalot*. Then, the cast took us behind the curtain and shared how they produced live theater in a virtual space.

Doing virtual theater had challenges. There were some issues getting the rights released for shows and there was some challenges recruiting actors. The LTC cast and directors did their very best to keep the company connected, via email and other social media chat platforms, because they were all over - in the dorms, in apartments, back at home. Despite the challenges, LTC made it work.

From the interviews, it was clear that these were live theater productions. There was coordination of sets, for example backgrounds for *The Adams Family* had to be sent to cast, selection of costumes, and scheduling time to rehearse and performing the scenes.

While the show was recorded for virtual viewing, the cast indicated they were doing live theater and not making a movie. It was different not having a theater full of people and the spontaneous reactions of an audience, however the student actors indicated that they had family and friends present during rehearsals and filming that helped it feel like a performance. Many times there was a director or another cast member feeding lines via Bluetooth headphone. Since everyone knew they were recording from home, real life was not edited out. In one example, one student actor's dog ran through the scene being recorded. Everyone laughed. Once the dog was out of the area, they began recording the scene again. The director reported how the actor was more relaxed and expressive in the scene. The interruption made the scene better.

Rutgers University, like many other schools, are working on their plans for the fall semester. It is not clear when theater, or other campus activities, will resume. LTC

is looking forward to another exciting year. They learned a lot about doing theater in a virtual medium. The Livingston Theater Company is hopeful to be back on stage very soon yet are prepared to do virtual theater if necessary. Please support the [Livingston Theater Company](#) by attending theater events and/or by making a donation.

## **Join the LAA Board**

Please consider joining the 2021-2022 LAA Board. We are seeking Board members and officers for the upcoming year. Special events for the upcoming year include the LAA Distinguished Alumni awards dinner, as well as virtual panel discussions on topics of interest to keep the Livingston Legacy alive! Please submit your interest to [laaemail@gmail.com](mailto:laaemail@gmail.com)

## **LAA Awards Dinner**

Our Livingston Distinguished Alumni award dinner is tentatively planned for Spring 2022. Please consider nominations of Livingston Alumni who are worthy of recognition based upon their life achievements. Please visit our [website](#) to read about previous award winners. Details to follow in future eblasts!

## **LAA's Redesigned Website**

Our Livingston Distinguished Alumni award dinner is tentatively planned for Spring 2022. Please consider nominations of Livingston Alumni who are worthy of recognition based upon their life achievements. Please visit our [website](#) to read about previous award winners. More to come!

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