

After COVID-19 caused a world-wide shut down of concerts, movie theatres and major artistic outlets like Broadway, many in the CBU theatre department wondered how they would continue performing.

In light of these concerns, the theatre department indefinitely postponed the Spring 2020 musical, *Beauty and the Beast*. However, after a summer of brainstorming, the CBU theatre department decided to perform a virtual production of the Shakespearean pastoral comedy *Love's Labours Lost*, a light-hearted play about a group of New York socialites, using social distancing, protective masks, and remote filming.

Frank Mihelich, associate professor of theatre and director of *Love's Labours Lost*, explained the production would be filmed with a three-camera system, then the footage would be given to editor Patrick Snitchler and the final product would be streamed online for a small ticket fee.

"We are the only university I know of on the West Coast that is still producing shows," Mihelich said.

A majority of the cast, including Joy Bennett, junior theatre major, agrees that the ability to put on a show during this stressful year has been a source of hope.

"This is a really discouraging time and it's nice to have something artistically sound and something to look forward to, for us and for the community," said Bennett.

Mihelich explained that COVID-19 may even turn out to be beneficial for the future of theatre because, since theatre has to be socially distanced, performers now have the space to innovate.

“We get to make theatre the way we’ve always wanted it to be,” Mihelich continued. “It’s going to be the art form of the new generation. If a young person is just interested in being an actor, this is probably not a good time, but if you’re interested in being an innovator, entrepreneur, and artist, actor, this might be the best time in the last couple hundred years, because the building has been levelled and you get to build it back up the way you want it to be.”

Theatre is only one of many artistic communities who have had to learn to adapt in unprecedented circumstances. However, through filming *Love’s Labours Lost*, the CBU theatre department has demonstrated art’s ability to persevere even through uncertain times.