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## A Focus on Film

Leyla Shokoohi

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CINCINNATI BUSINESS COURIER

### ARTS FRONT

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#### CLASSICAL MUSIC



Janelle Gelfand covers the arts for the *Courier*. Visit her blog, *Janelle's Notes*, at [WGUC.org](http://WGUC.org). Email [janellesnotes@yahoo.com](mailto:janellesnotes@yahoo.com).

### CSO extends contract of maestro Langrée

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra took the occasion of the orchestra's 125th anniversary gala to announce that it extended the contract of music director Louis Langrée.

Rob McDonald, board chair and partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, announced Jan. 11 in Music Hall that the orchestra has extended Langrée's contract through the 2023-24 season. Langrée, who conducted concerts featuring superstar soprano Renée Fleming and also celebrated his 59th birthday over the weekend, is in his seventh season with the CSO.

"It is a blessing for me to be here," Langrée said the next day. "When I first accepted the offer from (former president) Trey Devey to be music director in 2012, it was eight years ago. I didn't imagine that it would be such a strong, powerful and meaningful chapter of my life. Because now, really, Cincinnati is home. Living here, it changes the role. It's not only thinking about music, it's thinking about the role of music in the community."

"I'm eager to continue the voyage." The announcement comes as Langrée waits to see whether he and the orchestra will win a Grammy Award for "Best Orchestral Performance" for "Transatlantic," an album featuring the first recording of a new critical edition of Gershwin's "An American in Paris," the original version of Varèse's "Amérique" and Stravinsky's Symphony in C.

Langrée said he plans to attend with "fingers crossed" the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, airing Jan. 26 on CBS. It is the music director's second Grammy nomination with the orchestra.

In addition to his Cincinnati post, he has been music director of the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center in New York City since 2003.

It is the third contract extension for Langrée, who began his tenure in 2013.



Filmmaker Miranda July, left, spoke at FotoFocus in 2018.

FOTOFOCUS

### BIENNIAL FESTIVAL HOPES TO CREATE NEW COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES VIA SCREENINGS

BY LEYLA SHOKOOHI  
*Courier contributor*

FotoFocus is marking its 10th anniversary this year with the expansion of its film offerings through "Second Screens," a free monthly series.

FotoFocus, a biennial festival celebrating lens-based art, brought on C. Jacqueline Wood, a Cincinnati-based filmmaker and artist, as film curator at large to focus on film and video programming both prior to and during the festival.

"(FotoFocus) decided to introduce some new initiatives, and this is one of them," said Wood, who is most familiar to



Wood

local audiences for the Mini Microcinema, her People's Liberty-spawned art film house located on Main Street in Over-the-Rhine.

The physical location of the Mini recently closed after three years of operation. Wood, who has contributed curatorially to FotoFocus in more lim-

ited capacities, is eager to build on the appreciation for film demonstrated by Cincinnati audiences.

"Personally, it aligns with a nice change in my life because the end of the Mini signifies the end of a chapter," Wood said. "What's really lovely about FotoFocus is they support research and travel, so I will be visiting a lot of film festivals this year. I'm going to be bringing back really fantastic work to Cincinnati in a way I was never able to do."

Wood's relationship with FotoFocus began in 2018, when the organization featured the Mini and Wood's curatorial vision as one of its prominent programming components. She implemented "Cinema and the Archive," a month-long screening series at the Mini, and was also given the opportunity to curate one of the biennial's keynote speakers, bringing in Miranda July, a well-known filmmaker, artist and author.

"We'd been wanting to work more deeply with film," said Mary Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus executive director. "We've got opportunities with each month's presentation to really highlight an important film or filmmaker, but it's also an opportunity to say, 'Yes, FotoFocus is presenting this.' We're moving



JACOB DRARIK

"We're moving around the city to show off many interesting, significant venues that we're lucky to have here."

MARY ELLEN GOEKE, executive director, FotoFocus

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Over-the-Rhine-based FotoFocus is the largest photography and lens-based biennial in the U.S. The organization was founded in 2010, celebrating its medium with a festival every two years, held in October, and a symposium in the non-biennial years. More than 60,000 visitors attended the first biennial in

2012, and more than 200,000 attended the 2018 iteration.

In addition to core programming and keynote speakers, FotoFocus provides grants and financial support to several organizations and artists. To date, the non-profit organization has given away nearly \$5 million.

"The vision is to inspire conversations about the world through the art of photography and lens-based practices," said Carissa Barnard, FotoFocus deputy director of exhibitions and programming.

"You can talk about the state and the history of the world through the art of photography," she said. "If you look at the biennial offerings, we support conversations, artistic practices that give us this full gamut of appreciation of the world. It's very much democratic, the camera, the ability to take a photograph."

Second Screens takes place on the second Tuesday of the month in different venues across the city, and Wood's take on her task is very intentional.

"My vision for Second Screens is an eclectic mix of important work that will bring in different demographics and highlight important voices," Wood said.

"I always like to mix serious work with fun work. I like to mix political with storytelling, with narrative, with avant-garde, with classic Hollywood cinema, with the most extreme art films. How do you look at that mix and make sense of it?"

The first Second Screens took place Jan. 14 at the Woodward Theater, with a screening of "Varda by Agnès," a documentary by the late French New Wave filmmaker Agnes Varda about her own life and career.

On Feb. 11, Terrence Malick's "Days of Heaven" will screen at the Newsreel Theater in the Cincinnati Museum Center.

On March 10, "United Skates," a documentary about the underground subculture of African American roller skate communities, will screen at Rhinegeist in Over-the-Rhine.

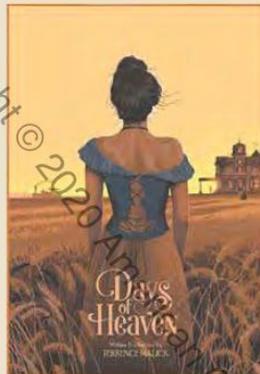
► IF YOU GO

**What:** "Second Screens," a free, monthly film screening curated by C. Jacqueline Wood

**When:** Second Tuesdays in 2020

**Where:** Locations across the city

**Information:** www.fotofocus.org



PARAMOUNT PICTURES  
Second Screens will show the Terrence Malick film on Feb. 11.

"We're going to be doing a roller-skating demo," said Wood of that screening. "It's bringing cinema to unexpected places in the city. We're going to be engaging new and different audiences while also catering to our FotoFocus fan base."

Films are set through June. The second half of the year's programming will be announced this spring.

"My hope is to reach not only film lovers, but new, younger audiences that are hungry to go to an event and watch a film with a community. Since streaming is such a huge part of our culture now, actually going to a theater and watching a film communally is rare," Wood said.

"It's about creating a new experience, an offering in this city that doesn't exist," she said.

► THEATER

NKU ANNOUNCES 2020-21 THEATER-DANCE SEASON

Northern Kentucky University's School of the Arts has unveiled its lineup for the 2020-21 theater-dance season. The schedule, which includes collaborations and guest artists, will be released in August.

The lineup:

**"Noise Off"** by Michael Frayn; directed by Ken Jones. Sept. 24-Oct. 4, NKU Corbett Theatre

"Noise Off" takes a fond look at the follies of theater folk, whose susceptibility to out-of-control egos, memory loss and passionate affairs turn every performance into a high-risk adventure.

**"Zanna, Don't!"** Book, music, and lyrics by Tim Acito; directed by Michael Hatton. Oct. 22-Nov. 1, NKU Stauss Theatre

Heartsville High is set in a world where everyone is gay – well, almost everyone. The students write a show called "Don't Tell" about straight people in the military, which becomes the catalyst for a young man and woman to fall in love. Enter Zanna, a musical fairy who, with a wave of his wand, brings true love to one and all.

**"Floyd Collins,"** book by Tina Landau; music and lyrics by Adam Guettel; directed by Jason Daniele. Nov. 13-22, NKU Corbett Theatre

Based on a true story, in 1925, after turning a Kentucky cave into a tourist attraction, Floyd Collins becomes the attraction when he gets trapped 200 feet underground. Collins fought for his sanity and ultimately his life as the rescue effort above exploded into the first genuine media circus.

**"9 to 5: The Musical,"** music and lyrics by Dolly Parton; book by Patricia Resnick; directed by Corrie Daniele; music directed by Jamey Strawn. Feb. 19-28, 2021, NKU Corbett Theatre

Set in the late 1970s, this story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even romantic. Three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist bigot they call their boss – Franklin Hart. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee give their boss the boot.

**"The Y.E.S. Festival of New Plays – 20th Anniversary,"** directed by Mike King, Nicole Perrone, Charlie Roetting and Brian Robertson, April 8-18, 2021, NKU Corbett and Stauss Theatres and the Carnegie

Four world-premiere plays, including a first-of-its-kind regional collaboration. The Carnegie and NKU School of the Arts will work together to produce a new play by Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati's producing artistic director D. Lynn Meyers.

Tickets will go on sale in September. For information, call the box office at 859-572-5464 or go to tickets.vendini.com

► AWARDS

CINCINNATI FOUNDATION WINS GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR THE ARTS

A Cincinnati foundation is among eight winners of the 2020 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio. The Ohio Arts Council announced the winners Jan. 9.

The Charles H. Dater Foundation was the winner in the Arts Patron category. The foundation preserves the memory and philanthropic commitment of Charles H. Dater (1912-93) and his ancestors.

It was founded in 1985 to make grants to organizations in Greater Cincinnati that

carry out projects to benefit young people in arts and culture, education, health care, social services and other community needs. Since then, the foundation has awarded more than 3,100 grants totaling \$51 million.

The Governor's Awards, founded in 1971, showcase exceptional Ohio artists, arts organizations, arts leaders and patrons, and business support of the arts.

- Bill Cieslewicz

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