



Clinton Central School District Newsletter

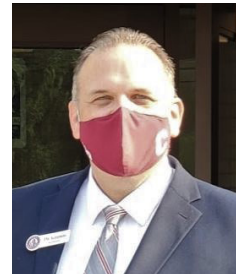
2021 WINTER EDITION

"ON A MISSION"

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Clinton School Community:

There are many wonderful things happening in and around the Clinton School community as you will see in this edition of our newsletter. We truly are the community's schools and we continue to benefit from the support received from so many community partners in so many ways, and we want to say thank you for that!



As always, our primary focus is on student learning opportunities and we are very excited about the implementation of new programs in K-8 Mathematics and K-9 English Language Arts. This multi-year process has been a "big lift" for our teachers and staff, and we thank them and admire their ability to do so much by taking on the challenge of these new programs -- we are already seeing many benefits for student learning.

I want you to know that our high performing Board of Education has been able to envision our strategic future through the development of the following plans: Vision 2025 Strategic Plan, 2021-2022 District Strategic Goals, District Comprehensive Education, Professional Learning Plan, District-wide Safety Plan, Middle School Comprehensive Improvement Plan; in addition to solid work in the areas of policy review and fiscal responsibility, and oversight and advisement related to the implementation the COVID-19 Reopening Plan. We thank them for their service as they continue to lead with intelligence, character and empathy.

We also thank you for your support and patience during the very challenging COVID-19 pandemic that continues to provide daily challenges for everyone. We appreciate those who have responded with kindness, understanding and collaboration that, instead of pulling us apart, have pulled us together as a school community.

At last year's high school graduation, I indicated that the pandemic caused us to go through a somewhat linear process of surviving, reviving and finally thriving. I was optimistic that by now we would all be back to thriving, however, what I am finding is that everyone is at different stages and working through all three domains simultaneously and at different rates and degrees. I challenge you to show patience and empathy with one another and our school personnel as we work together to provide the very best educational experience for all of the children in the Clinton School community during these most challenging times.

I wish you the best for a safe and healthy winter season!

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Grimm, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

Leah Borton has been declared a National Merit Semifinalist! Leah is one of 16,000 students, out of 1.6 million PSAT test takers, to earn this designation. Congratulations to Leah on this amazing academic accomplishment.



Educating

MISSION

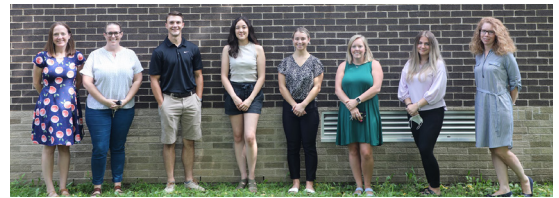
Clinton Central School proudly educates and empowers all students to realize their potential in becoming thoughtful, empathetic and contributing members of a global society.

VISION

Our students are prepared for the future through engaging, meaningful and challenging learning opportunities delivered by motivated and inspired professionals, and supported through collaborative partnerships with our community, businesses and organizations, and institutions of higher education.

NEW STAFF

Several new faces can be seen navigating the halls of CCS this year. New hires include teachers Elizabeth Ganey, Jacob Bialek, Bridget Ashford, Dylann McLaughlin, Sarah Spado and Amanda Wirene, and teacher assistant Baillie La Mariana. Former aides now serving as teacher assistants are Tina Bolos, Sarah Lomanto and Alicia Lusby, while Denise Wolanin and Alicia Castle have taken on the role of temporary teacher assistants in the elementary school. Former BOCES employees Micaela Honsinger and Miquel Grimm are now part of the CCS staff, while Jim Longo, Tom Meeker and Eric Mosher have taken on new roles in our custodial department. New aides Tori Wadsworth, Jamie Kirley Jennifer Matcham, Dana Donaldson and Laura Harvey, monitors Christina Sheldrick and Lisa Davies, and cleaner Jennifer Ryan have also been added to our staff.



Congratulations and best wishes to retirees Stephen Sanderson, Nancy Lillibridge, Lori Smith, Jon Merrill, Tom Willis and Bonnie Bentley! Thank you for your many years of service to the Clinton Community.

From The Office of Curriculum & Instruction

MATH

Last school year, grades 3-5 piloted enVision Math. As a result, it was decided to expand our implementation of enVision Math and SuccessMaker Math to include grades K – 5 this school year. Middle School math teachers are into their 2nd year of enVision Math implementation. We now have a grades K-8 vertically-aligned math program for our students.

ELA

After a review of English curriculum resources last school year, our middle school English teachers chose Into Literature as our new English/Reading program for grades 6-9. Into Literature is the middle school/high school curriculum companion to grades K-5 Into Reading program. Both Into Reading and Into Literature include a softcover textbook so students have the ability to complete analysis of the text and make notes in the margins of the text that aid students' ability to deepen their comprehension.

STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS

Clinton Elementary is transitioning to grades K-5 Standards-Based Report Cards (SBRCs) that are in alignment with the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards. The new report card reflects a child's performance on specific standards and skills that students are expected to learn following instruction. Standards-based grading (SBG) helps ensure that student grades are meaningful, accurate, consistent, and supportive of learning.

Over the last three years, the Clinton Elementary Standards-based Report Card (SBRC) team participated in a review of SBRC templates, research of standards-based grading strategies, professional development, review draft and final versions of the K-5 SBRCs. Once finalized, the new SBRC were created in SchoolTool.

Mrs. Van Slyke shared an overview of the new report card, standards-based grading, a Parent/Family SBRC resource guide by grade level and a frequently asked questions document at the October 2021 Board of Education meeting. In addition, a ParentSquare post was shared with families early November and a hardcopy of the parent/family SBRC resource guide was sent home with students.

FIRE SAFETY

Members of the Clinton Fire Department filled the bus loop with trucks and equipment, engaging and informing students and staff about the importance of fire and general safety. Thank you to CCS staff members and firemen Mr. Jim Scoones and Mr. Eric Mosher for contributing to the organization of this event! Fire and lock-down drills frequently occur throughout the school year preparing students and staff for navigating potential threats to their safety.



STUDENT LEADERS

Student Madeline Stell was invited to attend the SkillsUSA conference in November, based on her performance in the Advertising Design Multimedia Productions program at the OHM BOCES, where she led training sessions. Fellow student Joseph Gogola, newly elected member, also attended.



SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

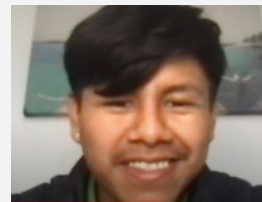
Special Guest Visitor

New Hartford graduate, practicing surgeon and author I. W. Gregorio visited with middle school students on Oct. 28. Her second novel, "This Is My Brain in Love" which explores mental health, race, and self-acceptance received the Schneider Family Book award in 2021.



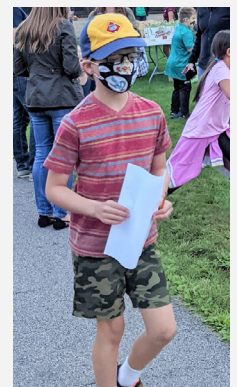
Schools in Guatemala

In the month of October, Miss Honsinger's Spanish classes partnered with Clinton alumnus Celso Vasquez to learn about, and raise money for, schools in Guatemala since education is a privilege that is unaffordable for many children in that country. Spanish classes connected with Guatemalan students, learned about their culture and joined Celso in making a difference.



ECO-CARNIVAL!

High school Leaders in Environmental Awareness and Protection (LEAP), educated younger students about environmental issues using carnival-like games and displays! Students from grades K-5 participated in "Energy Monopoly," "Recycling Race" and "Fishing Plastic out of the Ocean," raising awareness while having fun.



Creating

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

On Oct. 23, the 43rd Annual Science Fair was held involving sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students. Congratulations to all of the participants, award winners and students eligible to compete at the Regional Science Fair at Utica College in March of 2022. Thank you to advisors Mrs. Gemelli and Mrs. Boucher for their continuous support of students.



ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

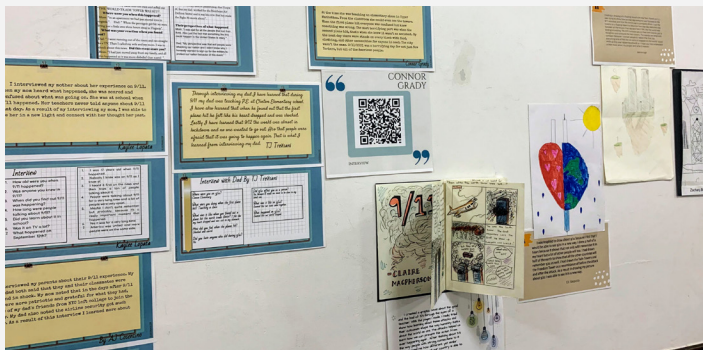
Thirty-six cast and crew members of the High School Drama Club performed "Anne of Green Gables" on Oct. 15 and 16, 2021. Club co-adviser and music teacher Jenna Wratten said, "We were thrilled to have sold more than 250 tickets for the show -- this is a record for our drama club! We hope to continue the tradition next year with an even bigger group of kids and a larger audience! We are SO SO proud of the students involved -- this was a tough show and they made it look easy! Bravo!"



Pausing & Reflecting

9/11 MEMORIAL

A well-attended and meaningful September 11 Remembrance Ceremony took place at the Brick Garden that included remarks by local dignitaries, a student music performance, the reading of a letter composed by Gordon Felt and the reading of the names of 40 victims. In the village, the sounding of fire horns and church bells marked the moments when the crashes occurred. This will likely become an annual event and donations received will fund an annual scholarship. Students in the middle school completed a related project displaying works of art, poetry and writing. Their work was featured at The Kirkland Town Library, a faithful and important community partner of CCS.



CHRYSANTHEMUM

First graders addressed social/emotional issues through projects and discussion inspired by the book "Chrysanthemum" by Kevin Henkes. The students created large paper hearts and learned how words and actions have the ability to negatively impact others, or "wrinkle your heart."



VOLCANOS

Fourth graders explored the features of the Earth by conducting an apple volcano experiment.



RUN FOR THE FALLEN

On June 11, the Run for the Fallen took place on school grounds at the Edward Felt Memorial. Beginning at 3:00 p.m., 4,000 names of those who have died as a result of the war on terror and on 9/11 were read by volunteers. A ceremony followed during which a flag was presented to a local family whose son was killed in the Middle East. Clinton graduates Edward P. Felt and Jon Bellona link the community to this organization, as well as Hamilton College student Michel Cleary, who also perished while in service. Students, over the few days preceding, planted 1,000 flags and 3,000 pinwheels to represent our fallen heroes.



LETTERS OF INTENT

Four Clinton Central School District seniors signed letters of intent to play at the Division I and Division II levels for field hockey and soccer beginning August 2022. Mesafint Elligson, Maddie Luke and Kate Stockwell proudly signed their letters of intent in the Atrium of the High School on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Although senior Riley Jones was unable to publically make the signing ceremony, she happily signed her letter at home during the time of the ceremony. All four students have exemplified outstanding success in the classroom and on the field during their academic and athletic chapter as Warrior students within the Clinton Central School District community.



NYSSMA

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the New York State School Music Association Ensemble Selections! Pictured are Margaret Bailey, Leah Borton, and Jason Rivera.



LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Congratulations to Karina Davis, Moein Nia, Jason Rivera and Katherine Stockwell who have qualified as National Merit Commended Students. Of the 1.6 million students who took the PSAT in the fall of 2020, these students scored in the top 50,000!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Forty-Eight Clinton High School students were inducted into The National Honor Society (NHS), elevating the school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These students were inducted into the National Honor Society in a virtual ceremony which is available on CCS TV for viewing: Alicia Amuso, Adelle Behara, Gabriel Bellamy, Jenna Bonomo, Angelina Borowiec, Sophie Boucek, Stephen Copperwheat, James Crowley, Sadie Davignon, Jack DeNoon, Francesca DePalma, Rosalee Dillon, Alexandra Doggett, Benjamin Dunikov, IKenna Duru, Trevor Forde, Joseph Frank, Grace Gentile, Grady Grimm, Kelsi Hebbard, Nicholas Heselton, Caden Hinderling, Kalen Kwangpo, Haily Keiser, James Klein, Callie Kozak, Celsea Lopata, Paige Luke, Cameron Maline, Isidor Marcus, Margaret Mawilong, Taylor Maxam, Abigail Mays, Isla McCullough, Elise Mozloom, Owen Pominville, Salyscia Pristera, Gleb Samoshuk, Boone Schaffer, Aubrey Shreppel, Olivia Spina, Landon Stilz, Kennedy Thompson, Oliver Walters, Megan Wameling, Rachel Ward, Aidan Wilcox, and Alison Wratten. Congratulations!





SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Varsity Cross-Country; Boys
16-2 Overall Record; 4-1 Divisional Record

Varsity Cross-Country; Girls
16-0 Overall Record; 3-0 Divisional Record; CSC Champions

Varsity Field Hockey
9-6 Overall Record; 4-4 Divisional Record; #4 Seed in Section 3 Class C

Varsity Football
2-6 Record; 0-5 Divisional Record

Varsity Soccer; Boys
11-4-1 Overall Record; 7-2-1 Divisional Record; #4 Seed in Section 3 Class B Playoffs

Varsity Soccer; Girls
15-0 Overall Record; 8-0 Divisional Record; #2 Seed in Section 3 Class B Playoffs

Varsity Tennis; Girls
10-3 Overall Record; 10-0 League Record; #3 Seed in Section 3 Class C Playoffs



Congratulations to the girls cross country team for finishing the season
UNDEFEATED WITH A RECORD OF 16-0!



Congratulations to the girls varsity team for finishing the season
UNDEFEATED WITH A RECORD OF 15-0!

WISHING FOR HEALTH IN SUDAN

Students in Mrs. Gaetano's seventh grade English Language Arts class were inspired to make the world a better place after reading "A Long Walk to Water" by Sue Parker and "Wishtree" by Katherine Applegate. Members of the class of 2026 were motivated to raise funds for the charity Water for South Sudan and create Clinton's very own version of a Wishtree, to include positive affirmations tied to the tree outside of the middle school. To learn more about Water for South Sudan, please visit waterforsouthsudan.org/our-mission.



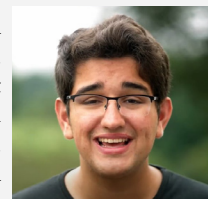
RISE AGAINST HUNGER

The National Junior Honor Society participated in the Rise Against Hunger event held on Oct. 2 in the high school gym. Students helped pack 30,000 meals to be sent overseas to feed children and their families who have limited access to food. We are so proud of the students, faculty and community members for supporting this worthy effort. A special thank you to Mrs. King for snapping photos and involving the National Junior Honor Society!



"WILL POWER"

A select group of nine Clinton students in grades 9-12, supported by Mrs. Gaetano and Ms. Lopiccolo, had the opportunity to be part of a Shakespearean video series known as "Will Power," a program generated from the talented professionals at the Theater at Woodhill and Allen Guy Wilcox. Students were given the opportunity to perform a couplet from Shakespeare's "As You Like It" expressing, through film, their love and appreciation of Shakespeare's works. The featured lines were read by Clinton students Alicia Amuso, Sophie Boucek, Karina Davis, Eva Gaetano, Callie Kozak, Izzy Marcus, Isla McCullough, Brielle Pearl and Jason Rivera.



FIRST GRADE WALK

A walk through the village of Clinton helped first graders to discover the meaning of community and citizenship tying in with social studies standards.



SCOOTERS

Third grade students worked together to learn about physical forces and motion using scooters to demonstrate push and pull.



SUPERINTENDENT HONORED

Dr. Stephen Grimm was the recipient the Distinguished Citizen Medal from the Oneida Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The award ceremony took place at their Annual Community Awards Banquet at Hart's Hill Inn on Nov. 4. Congratulations and thank you Dr. Grimm for your service to the Clinton community.



PROM 2022

The Class of 2022 Prom, rescheduled from last spring, was held on Sept. 25th at Bean Acres Wedding Venue. Students enjoyed their special evening.



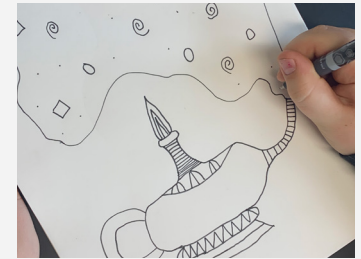
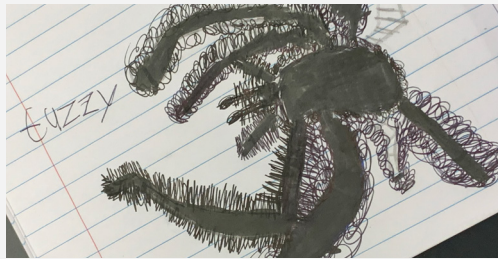
TRIVIA NIGHT

In order to provide safe opportunities for middle school students to socialize, fun activities such as a Trivia Night, a Movie Night and a Costume Contest were offered as alternatives to dances.



INKTOBER

Students in the elementary school worked alongside art teacher Mrs. Lynn Hall on a worldwide group endeavor known as INKtober! INKtober's purpose is to encourage artists to develop the daily habit of drawing through the use of word prompts! Pictured is a student drawing inspired by the word "fuzzy!"



DOT DAY

Inspired by author and illustrator Peter H. Reynolds, elementary students celebrated Dot Week in September. During Dot Week, Mrs. Tickle, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Hall worked together to create a Dot Day story-walk for all students to enjoy! Featured below are the organizing teachers and Mrs. Landry's students.



SPIRIT WEEK

Across all three buildings, the Warriors enjoyed celebrating Spirit Week! Whether it was Texas Tuesday, Champions Day or Anything but a Backpack Day, spirits were high involving faculty, students and staff!



EAGLE SCOUTS

Pictured are before and after photos of the Foundation Fields storage barn, restored by student Jakob Sipe as his Eagle Scout project. Thank you, Jakob!



SUPPORTING OUR STAFF MEMBERS

Thirty-seven students participated in a Breast Cancer Walk in honor of faculty members who are fighting that battle.

The CCS varsity field hockey team also showed their support of staff members who are battling cancer. The girls played two games in their annual effort to raise awareness and community support in memory of beloved field hockey coach Jean Vicks. All proceeds from the basket raffle were donated to faculty member Darcey Cross.



COAT DRIVE

Students in National Honor Society collected gently worn winter coats, hats and mittens from community members to be distributed to the Refugee Center and other local organizations. Special thank you to Coldwell Banker Sexton for opening their doors as a collection site and delivering the winter apparel to the school for distribution. NHS is advised by high school math teacher Michele Dunn.



COIN DRIVE

Students in the middle school raised \$560 during the annual coin drive to help local families in need with Christmas gift purchases.



HAT DAY

During the week of Veteran's Day, middle school students participated in "Hat Day." A donation of \$1 permitted them to wear a hat of their choice. "Hat Day" raised a total of \$90.00 for our local veterans!



Community

WITH GRATITUDE

The Clinton Central School District Foundation has been in existence for more than 20 years and has donated more than \$950,000 to the District to fund instructional purchases that would not otherwise be affordable. This year, the Foundation has so far funded smart TV's for the elementary school PE department, new equipment for the elementary trout program and a Makerspace Cart. Additional proposals are under review. Thank you for your continued support!

The Clinton Central School District was also fortunate, this year, to receive funding from Town-Gown Fund Committee in the amount of \$23,550 to update high school science presentation technology and to purchase equipment to initiate an e-sports club.

HAMILTON COLLEGE

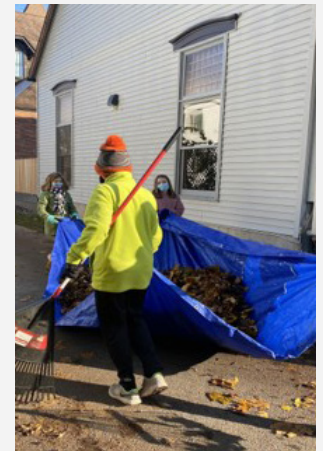
The District is grateful to this important community partner for the many services and opportunities provided to CCS students. Pictured are Hamilton College student volunteers providing supervised tutoring to high school students.



Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and members of the Clinton Community who support our students through sponsorships.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

On Nov. 6, members of the student council volunteered their time to help the Kirkland Town Library rake leaves. With a focus on kindness, Council members raked leaves at the library and along College Street. Middle School Student Council is advised by teachers Natalie Bock and Michelle Taranto.



PAJAMA DRIVE

Sponsored by Scholastic Books, a pajama collection is underway to help local families in need. Each donation will be paired with a book compliments of Scholastic.

So far, 64 sets have been collected. Second graders sorted PJ's while third-graders created signs to post in the hallways advertising the event.



IN APPRECIATION

As always, thank you to our 12-month staff who shift into high gear after school closes for the summer. Thank you to our custodians, office staff, administrators, board members, counselors, nurses and coaches who work so hard to get ready for the next school year. Meanwhile, teachers worked on curriculum development and training on new instructional materials. Thank you everyone for your contributions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 6

CCSD Foundation Meeting
6:30pm via Zoom

DECEMBER 7

Sports Boosters Meeting
7:00 p.m. at the High School Cafeteria

DECEMBER 9

Middle School Winter Concert*
7:00 p.m. | Theater

DECEMBER 10

Middle School Career Day

DECEMBER 14

Board of Education Meeting
5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 16

High School Winter Concert*
7:00 p.m. in the Theater

DECEMBER 17

High School Science Fair

DECEMBER 23 – JANUARY 2

Winter Recess

JANUARY 27

Elementary Band Concert*
7:00 p.m. in the Theater

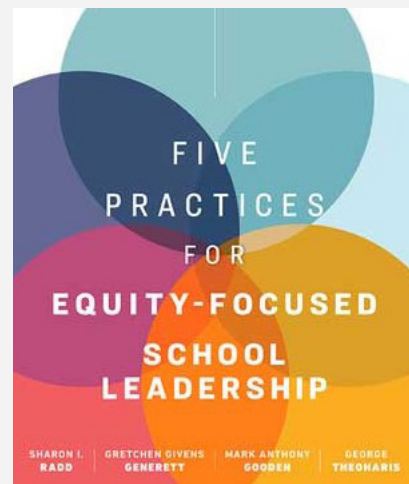
**Limited seating*

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The final phase of Capital Project 2021 is near completion. The repair of fencing and a retaining wall, high school hallway lights, middle school stairway repair and hardwiring of CO2 detectors are the last items to be completed, pending state approval. A new Capital Project 2024 is in the planning stages and will hopefully be put before voters in December of 2022.

ALWAYS LEARNING

In a continual effort to learn and improve, the CCS Leadership Team is participating in a book study of "Five Practices for Equity-Focused School Leadership," led by the author. A future study group will likely be created for board members.



AWARD-WINNING SOCIAL MEDIA

The CCS Facebook page was designated as a recipient of the 2021 National School Public Relations Associations Publications and Digital Media Award, due to the efforts of Alyssa Sacco, PR Assistant. The page also received the Award of Honor for our Social Media Management, chosen from 403 entries. Congratulations, Alyssa!



CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

75 Chenango Avenue
Clinton, New York 13323

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Stephen L. Grimm

Clinton Board of Education

Ms. Melinda Leising, President

Ms. Mary Lou Lauchert, Vice President

Board Members

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Ms. Megan Burdick

Mr. Kevin Magdon

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Ms. Erica Shaw

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MATILDA, JR.

On Nov. 12 and 13, 65 talented middle school cast and crew members, along with the assistance of 11 high school volunteers, presented the musical "Matilda, Jr." Thank you to music faculty members Hilary Lopata, Lisa Jones, and Janelle Conklin, and theater manager Keith DeStefanis for mounting a successful production which was performed live with limited seating, observing safety guidelines. Bravo!

