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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV  
[www.macicehouse.org](http://www.macicehouse.org) -- 304-258-2300  
Press contact: Brice Williams -- [brewilli@gmail.com](mailto:brewilli@gmail.com) 304-258-5222

## PANDEMIC RADIO THEATER DEBUTS IN BERKELEY SPRINGS

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV — The Morgan Arts Council (MAC) stages a virtual premier of Pandemic Radio Theater, an innovative Ice House Theater project for the current times, on May 29 at 8pm.

Sixteen actors from around the country worked with Berkeley Springs playwright and director Brice Williams to create an old-timey radio drama series complete with music and sound effects. The first two episodes of Pandemic Radio are being released during the premier with one more episode released each Friday in June. The “opening night” audience also gets a video peak back stage at the recording process and meets the cast before moving into radio mode.

Pandemic Radio is a modern take on the detective noir stories. It features Fredrick the private investigator who goes by Fredrick P.I. and his assistant Philly. In episode 4, the duo ends up in Berkeley Springs and the entire episode showcases favorite businesses and organizations in the area – all past MAC supporters.

For Williams, a longtime theater professional, there was no way a mere pandemic was going to stop theater in Berkeley Springs even with the Ice House closed for safety reasons. He turned to the Internet, auditioned actors online then sent them their scripts which they recorded at home and emailed back to Williams. He then assembled it all into a series of six short episodes.

“It took some creative thinking and a lot of talented and cooperative actors,” said Williams, “but we’re showing that theater can continue even in the COVID 19 crisis.”

Audience is directed to [macicehouse.org](http://macicehouse.org) to be part of the Pandemic Radio action for opening night and each of the subsequent episodes. The introductory video and all six episodes will be stored online for future viewing.

Although there is no official paywall set up for admission, MAC Executive Director Thom Rubel invites audience members to donate to MAC through payment connection available on the website. “We’re looking forward to the future,” said Rubel, “when we’ll have theater performances and audiences back in the Ice House. A major part of our planned completion of Ice House renovation starting this Fall is moving theater to a permanent home on the second floor.”

Funding for this production comes in part from special stimulus grants for the arts from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts as well as MAC’s traditional arts grants and local hotel tax revenues.

## PHOTO ID

Brice Williams practices a new way of directing with the Pandemic Radio Theater play. He digitally wove together voice performances from 16 actors he never saw and never rehearsed in person.

