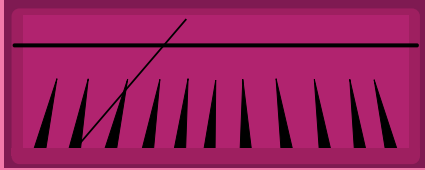
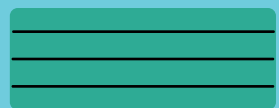
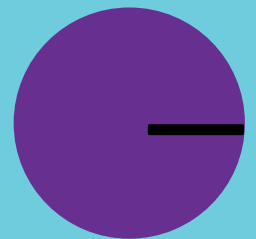
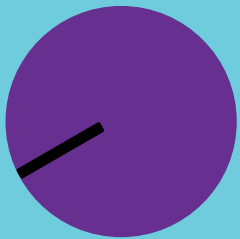
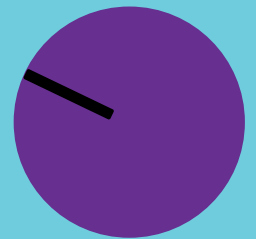
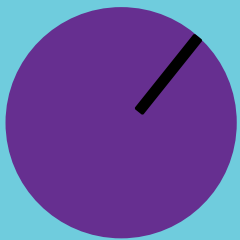
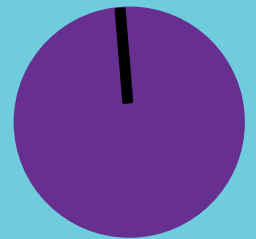
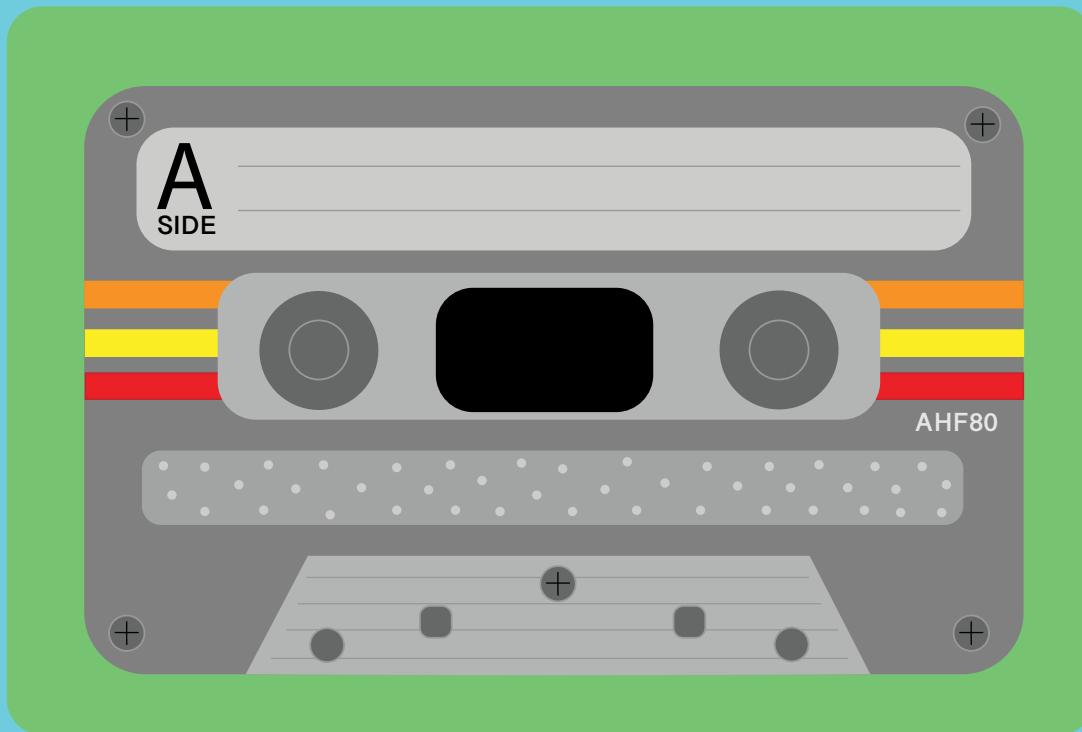
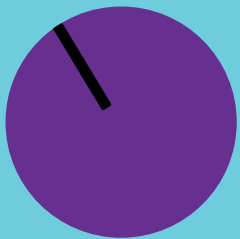
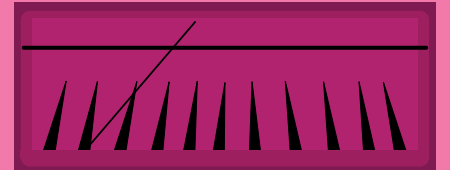


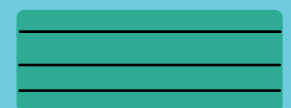
Entertainment Guide



● **SPRING 2022** ●



The Oracle



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BRITISH INTERNATIONAL THEATRE PROGRAM WORKSHOP SHOWCASE

STAGED READINGS

ORDINARY DAYS



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
 College of The Arts
 School of Theatre & Dance

British International Theatre Workshop Showcase
 Jema Hewitt and Helen Tennison,
 Guest Artists in Residence
 Feb 25, 7:30pm | Feb 27, 3PM
 TAR 120

Staged Readings
 Everybody by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins
 March 7, 6:00PM
 TAR 120

House of Desires by Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz,
 translated by Catherine Boyle
 April 12, 6:00PM
 TAR 120

Spring Dance Concert
 Marc Brew, Guest Artist
 in Residence
 March 3-5, 7:30PM
 March 6, 3PM
 Theatre 1

Ordinary Days
 Music and Lyrics
 by Adam Gwon
 April 7-9
 & 14-15, 7:30PM
 April 10 & 16, 3PM
 Theatre 2

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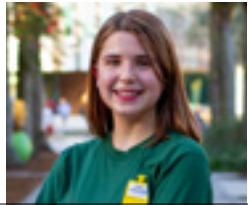
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New additions come to Florida theme parks after brief delays in some projects



Kellie Murray

STAFF WRITER

Theme parks around Florida are continuing with projects, ranging from new attractions to new lands, that were delayed due to the pandemic.

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay is opening a new roller coaster, while Universal Studios Florida recently opened Jurassic World VelociCoaster and is constructing a new theme park. Walt Disney World has many projects in progress that were originally set to open in time for the 50th anniversary celebration, but some were delayed due to the effects of the pandemic.

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay opened March 31, 1959 and now has over 50 rides throughout the parks, and will be adding another this spring.

On March 11, Iron Gwazi is set to open for all Busch Gardens guests. Pass member previews will begin starting Feb. 13, according to the Busch Gardens website.

The roller coaster was originally set to open in spring of 2020, but the initial opening was delayed due to the pandemic.

“Iron Gwazi, North America’s tallest, fastest and steepest hybrid roller coaster in the world, takes thrills to new heights, plunging riders from a 206 foot-tall peak into a 91-degree drop and reaching top speeds of 76 miles



Universal Studios Florida recently opened Jurassic World VelociCoaster and is resuming construction on Epic Universe, a new theme park, after a yearlong hiatus caused by the pandemic. CREATIVE COMMONS/BOB LINSDELL

per hour,” according to Busch Gardens’ website.

Hybrid roller coasters use wood and steel building materials for the tracks and supports. They can have steel tracks and wood supports, such as Iron Gwazi, or vice versa, according to the Coasterpedia website.

The roller coaster features a purple and green color scheme with a crocodile-inspired theme along the 4,000-foot track.

Traveling toward central Florida, Universal Studios Florida recently opened a new roller coaster — Jurassic World VelociCoaster — and is preparing to open a new theme park.

VelociCoaster opened June 10. The ride was an immediate hit, reaching one million riders in the first two months, reported Fox 35 Orlando.

This roller coaster goes up

to 70 miles per hour and brings guests up to 150 feet in the air while featuring the prehistoric wonders seen in the Jurassic World movies.

Universal Studios is also working on opening a new theme park — Epic Universe. The park is currently set to open by summer 2025, according to WESH 2 News.

This addition will change theme park entertainment with new levels of experiences, stated the Universal Orlando website, including a new theme park, an entertainment center, hotels, shops, restaurants and more.

NBC Universal CEO Jeff Shell said Nintendo and Dreamworks are working on the project, as reported by Orlando Weekly. There are rumors of Super Nintendo World coming to the park, with some similarities to the same world in the Japan park.

Construction had paused in July 2020 due to the pandemic, but is restarting and working on returning to full-speed.

Walt Disney World is also working on many projects in their parks in central Florida.

This past fall, guests got to experience what it’s like to run through a kitchen from the eyes of a rat. Remy’s Ratatouille Adventure opened at Epcot on Oct. 1, the same day as the 50th anniversary of Walt Disney World.

Over at Magic Kingdom, construction continues on the TRON-themed roller coaster in Tomorrowland, which was intended to open for the anniversary as well. No opening date for TRON has been announced yet.

“The TRON attraction is based on the guest-favorite attraction

TRON Lightcycle Power Run at Disneyland in Shanghai. This coaster-style attraction will allow riders to board a train of two-wheeled Lightcycles for a thrilling race through the digital frontier,” said the Disney Parks Blog.

One attraction at Disney World with an opening date coming up soon is Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind, opening at Epcot this summer.

“Begin your adventure by touring the Galaxarium — a planetarium-like exhibition — showcasing the similarities and differences between Xandar and Earth’s galaxies. Just as you are about to reach the culmination of the tour, everything goes sideways and you are called into action to help the Guardians of the Galaxy,” the Disney World website said.

This attraction was also set to open in time for the 50th anniversary at the time of announcement on Feb. 11, 2018, a Disney Tourists Blog post reported, but it was also pushed back due to the pandemic.

Walt Disney World is working on many more projects to continue to make the parks magical, including restaurants, such as Space 220, Roundup Rodeo BBQ and a Princess and the Frog Restaurant, as well as new lands and many new experiences.

Despite the complications caused by COVID-19, Florida residents and guests have lots to look forward to with all the new theme park attractions and experiences around the state.

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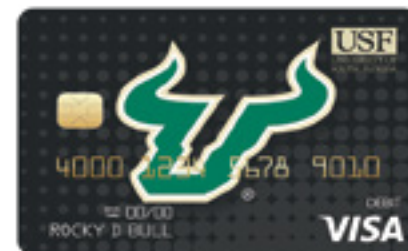
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Florida musicians new and old bring attention to the Sunshine State



Katherine Maily

STAFF WRITER

Florida is home to a wealth of culture that separates it from the rest, but it can only be fostered by the people who are willing to cultivate it. Floridian artists, including musicians and singers, represent their state's culture and carry on old traditions with their hits, even as they reach global and international fame.

From international superstars like Pitbull to newborn stars finding their fame on TikTok, Florida holds a host of artists that have been attracting attention in their home state.

Armando Christian Perez, also known by his stage name Pitbull, is one notable Florida native. Born in Miami on January 15, 1981 to Cuban expat parents, he was encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the U.S.

Throughout his life, his parents struggled with substance abuse, and Perez was later kicked out from a foster family due to his own issues with drugs.

His career in music began in the early 2000s when he began exploring genres such as reggaeton, crunk music and Latin hip hop, but several years later began releasing pop music.

He started climbing charts with hit songs such as "Give Me Everything" featuring Nayer, Ne-Yo and Afrojack — which was his first U.S. No. 1 single — and



Numerous singers and performers from Florida, such as Pitbull and Flo Rida, found their careers explode after back-to-back chart topping songs and albums. CREATIVE COMMONS

"Timber" featuring Kesha, which got to No. 1 in 18 countries.

Flo Rida is another rapper hailing from the Sunshine State, who was born as Tramar Lacel Dillard in Carol City on September 16, 1979. He first began exploring rap when he joined a small rap group titled the GroundHoggz.

He posted his debut studio album, "Mail on Sunday," in 2008, and it later climbed to No. 4 in the U.S. He is considered one of the best-selling artists, having sold more than 80 million records globally.

Ray Charles (born Ray Charles Robinson) was a Florida-raised singer, pianist and composer labeled "The Genius." The development of early soul music has been attributed to his influence.

Charles entered the world of music when he began playing the piano in a local cafe in his hometown of Greenville. After losing his vision at age 7, potentially due to glaucoma, he attended the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine, where he focused on honing his musical skills.

Known for his deeply emotional performances, Charles has had several hit songs, including "I've Got a Woman" and "Hallelujah I Love Her So." He also toured across the U.S. and had appearances on TV, such as The Muppet Show, and in movies, such as The Blues Brothers.

He was also inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and received a Kennedy Center Honor.

A more unconventional Tampa native known for his music is Bishop Bullwinkle, who wrote the song "Hell 2 Da Naw Naw." The music video was published in March 2016 and later gained over 68 million views on YouTube and was used extensively on social media for comedic purposes.

Born in Tampa as Bernard Thomas, Bullwinkle has appeared in several other hits, including his song "Some Preachers." He was known for his humorous content and bold personality.

Vella, born in Tampa as Gabriella Valdes, a new, up-and-coming Tampa singer, is also working her way up to stardom.

She initially gained traction on TikTok when she started posting to fight boredom during the pandemic. She posted her covers of hit songs by Lady Gaga and the

Beatles, among others.


Her most popular video on TikTok, a cover of "I See Red" by Everybody Loves an Outlaw posted October 2020, has attracted nearly 40 million views and over 9 million likes as of Feb. 6.

She has since been signed on to a label, has amassed millions of followers on social media and performed in the October Gasparilla Music Festival in Tampa. In 2021, she also released her single called "Blue" with L3V3L Records.

The 18-year-old singer attended Tampa Catholic High School before leaving to pursue a career in music. She has since moved to Los Angeles to work more closely with her label.

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February 10th Pizza Planet 24th Epcot Festivals	April 7th Disney Afternoon of Mystery 21st Turning Red



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Why original films struggle in theaters, thrive on streaming



Clinton Engelberger

NEWS EDITOR

Theatrical exhibition for releasing non-blockbuster films has faced a downward spiral in box office numbers over the past few years. The current effects of the pandemic and the shift to streaming have expedited this process, but the core issue is that audiences don't take as many chances on theatrical non-blockbuster films compared to even a few years ago.

While the theatrical industry has continuously raked in billions of dollars annually, according to Box Office Mojo, each year this number becomes noticeably composed of blockbusters, such as Marvel or Star Wars films, creating a dangerous marketplace for mid-budget or original movies.

From 2015 to 2019, the yearly domestic box office rang in north of \$11 billion, according to Box Office Mojo. In 2015, while still composed of mostly blockbusters, the top 10 highest-grossing films domestically proved to be a diverse slate.

"Inside Out," an original animated film from Pixar, and two adult-skewing dramas, "The Martian" and "American Sniper," all secured a place in the top 10 among the other franchise titles.

However, this narrative has sharply shifted in recent years. In

2019, the top 10 highest-grossing films domestically saw only high profile franchises taking the top spots, with the top six being Disney films and the rest identifying as superhero flicks or high-budget remakes.

Small-scale or original studio programmers have found success in the streaming world because the theatrical audience for them has slowly dwindled, creating a disparity among which films can be produced. Original films do get made frequently, contrary to popular belief, but some audiences tend to avoid them when they arrive in theaters.

In their global opening weeks, according to the Netflix Top 10 website, films such as "Red Notice" (148.7 million hours watched), "The Unforgivable" (85.8 million hours watched), "He's All That" (42.8 million hours watched) and "Bird Box" (45 million households reached) can find sizable audiences on Netflix, because modern audiences are finding it easier to click a button at home for a non-blockbuster film than take a chance on one in theaters.

Another reason streaming services have stolen some of Hollywood's thunder is due to the age of the "movie star" statistically ending for celebrities starring in non-blockbuster films.

Actress Melissa McCarthy produced theatrical smash after smash years ago, according to The Numbers, with hits such as "Identity Thief" (\$175.3 million on a \$35 million budget) and "Spy" (\$232.5 million on a \$65 million budget) shaping her to be a household name.

However, once the streaming



The popularization of streaming services has created a difficult landscape for mid-budget and original films to find success like they used to. PIXABAY

era took hold of star-driven films, McCarthy was left with theatrical films such as "The Kitchen" (\$15.7 million on a \$38 million budget) and "The Happytime Murders" (\$27.5 million on a \$40 million budget) underwhelming severely at the box office.

Due to this downward trend, many streaming services stepped in to swoop up the stars left in the dust by Hollywood. Celebrities such as McCarthy, Adam Sandler and Halle Berry signed multi-film deals with streaming services, causing Hollywood to halt production on many small-scale and star-driven theatrical films.

Some streaming services pick up high profile box office bombs and sell them as something new, a strategy for which Netflix is infamous. This causes audiences to get used to the idea of waiting for films to come to streaming instead of visiting the movie theater to see it, and shows the

power streaming has to produce hit films due to their accessibility.

In recent memory, box office bombs such as "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword," "Going in Style" and "Knight and Day" have all found places on the Netflix charts, sometimes even years after their initial theatrical release, according to Scott Mendelson, a box office analyst for Forbes.

While theatrical exhibition will continue to survive thanks to the surplus of blockbuster releases, it will need the copious amounts of mid-level studio programmers that Hollywood could once rely on to help theaters live comfortably, according to Mendelson.

Hollywood releases films such as "Nightmare Alley (2021)," "Booksmart," "The Nice Guys," "Kubo and the Two Strings" and "Annihilation" to diminishing box-office returns, but films such as "Ghostbusters: Afterlife,"

"Halloween (2018)" and "Jurassic World" prove to be solid hits.

This explains why we get numerous attempts to revive former franchise glories such as "Terminator" and "Transformers" instead of more original films, according to Mendelson.

In 2022, original and mid-budget studio films such as "The Lost City," "Bullet Train" and "Don't Worry Darling" hope to buck this trend and find sizable box office returns upon their release in theaters.

If people don't show up to the theater for original or small-scale films, it sends a message to Hollywood to not make those types of films anymore, Mendelson said.

Hollywood is often criticized for not having any original ideas, but when audiences don't show up in theaters for original content, it's hard to blame the studios for the myriad of reboots and sequels that get produced.

Delayed and new TV show seasons to premiere in 2022

By Gabriela Menez Chahade
CORRESPONDENT

While many TV shows were delayed or postponed in 2021 due to the effects of the pandemic, 2022 will bring new seasons or series finales of popular shows, and even the premiere of new ones.

Some of these shows will help you escape from reality and relax, while others will place you right in the middle of tension-filled action.

Bridgerton, the successful Netflix drama, based on the book series written by romance author Julia Quinn, will return with a second season to Netflix on March 25.

Season one was based on the first book of the sequence called “The Duke and I,” a romance set in the Regency era. The eldest daughter of the *Bridgerton* family had been looking for a suitable husband for two years until she met the Duke of Hastings.

Likewise, the show’s second season will be based on “The Viscount Who Loved Me,” the second book in the series. While the first book focuses on Daphne *Bridgerton*, the sequel is about Anthony *Bridgerton* and his quest for love.

The TV show is very similar to the book series. The first season focused primarily on the romance of Daphne *Bridgerton* (Phoebe Dynevor) and Simon Basset (Regé-Jean Page).

Virgin River, the American romantic drama series produced by Reel World Management, will also be coming back this year with a fourth season between April and July.

It is based on the *Virgin River* novels by author Robyn Carr. The first novel of the series was published in 2017.

The story follows Melinda



New seasons and shows come to Netflix, CW and more, providing more content to watch this year. PIXABAY

Monroe, who, in hopes of escaping her traumatic past, accepts a job to work as a midwife and nurse practitioner in *Virgin River*, a remote town in Northern California.

Monroe finds herself falling in love with the town’s local bar owner, Jack Sheridan. The series follows the storyline of both these characters and the development of their romance.

Season three ended with several cliffhangers which will dominate the story moving forward, including Mel’s announcement of her pregnancy but her uncertainty of her unborn baby.

The famous Netflix historical drama series “*The Crown*” will be returning to the streaming platform with a fifth season in November.

The show begins with the story of Queen Elizabeth II from

the instant before her coronation. The series takes its audience through the Queen’s journey during her reign by basing itself on true events in her life.

Season five will focus on the life of Princess Diana and her marriage with Prince Charles.

Fans of the British period crime drama series “*Peaky Blinders*” will see the release date for the sixth and final season has not been announced yet, but is expected to come out early this year.

The show is set after World War I and portrays an early 20th century street gang the — *Peaky Blinders* — in Birmingham, England.

After serving in the British Army during World War I, Thomas Shelby, the *Peaky Blinders*’ leader, and his brothers returned to England. Shelby aims to make his gang an empire with

power even outside the realms of Birmingham.

Netflix surprised “*Grace and Frankie*” fans in mid-2021 by releasing the first four episodes of season seven. The remaining 12 episodes will be released this year.

Grace and Frankie is one of the longest-running Netflix original series, according to Showbiz Cheatsheet, with 94 episodes. The show is about two older women who used to dislike one another, but found common ground when they found out their husbands were cheating on them with each other.

Despite *Grace and Frankie*’s opposite personalities, they are forced to live together after the separation from their husbands and form an unbeatable connection.

The following seasons of the show focus on *Grace and*

Frankie’s friendship, their husbands’ marriage, and how characters deal with such an unusual situation.

The new CW show “*Naomi*,” created by Ava DuVernay and Jill Blankenship and based on the comic book series by the same name, premiered on Jan 11.

Naomi, played by the actress Kaci Walfall, is a high school student curious about her past and decides to dig into her birth family. The protagonist was adopted by a military man named Greg and his wife Jennifer and knows little to nothing about her bloodline. She discovers more about her mysterious past and potential superpowers.

The supernatural girl has the powers of flight, super strength and the ability to shoot energy blasts.

THINGS TO DO

**Busch Garden's
Mardi Gras**

Jan 8 - Feb 6
Busch Gardens

Florida State Fair

Feb 10-21
Florida State
Fairgrounds

Bark in the Park

Feb 12
Curtis Hixon Park

Tampa Chocolate Festival

Feb 13-14
1210 Holt Ave, Clearwater

**Comedy and Cocktails
at Dark Door Spirits**

Feb 18
Dark Door Spirits

**Hard Rock Tampa
Presents: Zedd**

Feb 20
Seminole Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino Tampa

**alt-J and Portugal. The
Man**

Mar 4, 7
Yuengling Center

**Gasparilla Festival of
the Arts**

Mar 5, 6
Julian B. Lane
Riverfront Park

**Florida Strawberry
Festival**

Mar 13
Plant City, Florida

Reggae Rise Up Florida

Mar 18
Vinoy Park, St. Pete

Innings Festival

Mar 19, 20
Raymond James Stadium

Taste of South Tampa

Apr 3
Tampa Garden Club

**John Mayer - Sob
Rock Tour**

Apr 5th
Amalie Arena

**Tampa Bay Blues
Festival**

Apr 8-10
Vinoy Park, St. Pete

**Justin Bieber Justice
World Tour**

Apr 9
Amalie Arena

98 Rock Fest

Apr 22
Amalie Arena

**Secret Stash
Music Fest**

Apr 23
10509 N. Nebraska Ave

**Elton John: Farewell
Yellow Brick Road**

Apr 24 - 25
Amalie Arena

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