Join us on Saturday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific time, for "The Theatrical Jane Austen," a presentation by dramaturg, theatre-history scholar and Austen fan Melinda Finberg of the USC School of Dramatic Arts.

Her illustrated talk will explore Austen's early exposure to theatre, what theatre was like in Regency England, what Austen would have seen on stage in London and Bath, the family's home theatricals, Austen's favorite playwrights and more!

Register Now!

Finberg is an associate professor of theatre practice in critical studies at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. She is a nationally known dramaturg and scholar of theatre history. Her volume *Eighteenth-Century Women Dramatists* (Oxford University Press, 2001) is now in its third printing and is taught in colleges and universities across the U.S., Canada and Europe. She has been instrumental in bringing the plays of these women to professional and university stages, receiving the 2006 Elliot Hayes Award for Achievement in Dramaturgy from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas for her work on the 2005 Oregon Shakespeare Festival's critically acclaimed revival of Hannah Cowley's *The Belle’s Stratagem*.

Finberg’s interest in theatre history and dramatic literature are professional and pragmatic: She focuses on how plays can be produced on today’s stages for today’s audiences -- especially plays by historically neglected playwrights.

She has taught at Swarthmore College, Princeton University and Rider University, has been a guest lecturer at University of Puget Sound and Yale and Princeton universities, and given talks to JASNA members on a variety of topics. Her scholarly work is widely published and cited in journals, collections of essays and reference books.
If you missed Kimberly Alexander's wonderful April 24, 2021, talk on "18th Century Shoes and Their Secret Stories," or want to revisit the presentation or share it with a friend, the video is now live on the JASNA Southwest YouTube channel. The chat is also available. In addition, Alexander provided a bibliography for further reading.

The beautifully illustrated presentation took attendees on a tour of women's footwear from the 1740s through the 1790s. She described early branding efforts and the allure of purchasing shoes from some of the leading manufacturers of the day, such as Rideout and Davis in London. Many shoes could be worn on either foot, which allowed women to alternate how they wore the shoes in order to reduce overall wear. Alexander explained that silk brocade shoes might cost 18 shillings, while more common footwear made of wool might cost four to six shillings. Because of the high cost of footwear, some 75 percent of the shoes from the era that still exist today have been repaired and altered.

Alexander also discussed the impact of tariffs and taxes on the American colonies, the prominence of red for wedding shoes and how shoes were made or altered to relieve gout or disabilities. She also shared information on concealed shoes that have been found in chimneys or boarded up inside walls. Following the presentation, she offered a show and tell of shoes and buckles from the era and then provided even more information during a particularly lively Q&A session.

The book is a product of eight years of research during which Alexander visited 30 collections on both sides of the Atlantic. Treasures Afoot: Shoe Stories from the Georgian Era (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018) traces the
Alexander is on the faculty of the History Department of the University of New Hampshire, where she is director of the museum studies program and a lecturer. She has held curatorial positions at several New England Museums, including the MIT Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum and Strawbery Banke.

**Bridgerton** Costumer to Join JASNA Southwest's June 19 Event
Emmy Award-winning costumer Ellen Mirojnick, whose talent helped make Bridgerton a global phenomenon, will join moderator Deborah Nadoolman Landis for a conversation about costuming Regency-set adaptations at our June 19 Zoom meeting.

Mirojnick has worked with numerous prominent filmmakers -- from Steven Spielberg to Kathryn Bigelow and J.J. Abrams to Tony and Ridley Scott. In 2017 alone, her work could be seen in Steven Soderbergh's Logan Lucky, Angelina Jolie's First They Killed My Father and the opulent movie musical The Greatest Showman. She studied at the Parsons School of Design and became a sought-after designer before setting her sights on Hollywood, where her career has spanned three decades. She has been nominated twice for BAFTA and Emmy awards, with a win for her work on Behind the Candelabra.

Mirojnick has lectured at UCLA, the Lincoln Center Film Society, the Directors Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and has been profiled in numerous international fashion publications, as well as on AMC's Hollywood Fashion Machine series The Costume Designer.

She was interviewed by Vogue in December about her work on Bridgerton, which included overseeing the creation of 7,500 pieces for 5,000 costumes.

Deborah Nadoolman Landis, PhD, is a costume designer, historian and endowed chair holder at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, and the founding director of the David C. Copley Center for Costume Design at UCLA. She received an MFA in costume design from UCLA and a PhD in the history of design from the Royal College of Art, London. Her distinguished career includes Animal House (1978); The Blues Brothers (1980); An American Werewolf in London (1981); Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981); Trading Places (1983); The Three Amigos (1987); Coming to America (1988), for which she was Academy Award-nominated; and the groundbreaking music video Michael Jackson's Thriller (1983).


Registration information for the June 19 event will be available in May.

Instagram Live Chat on Jane Austen Adaptations

If you missed the Instagram Live event on April 27, featuring Pemberley Podcast creators and Young Filmmakers 2020 contest winners Jillian Davis and Yolanda Rodriguez, you can catch up by watching the event video.

The duo discussed Austen adaptations
To download a high-resolution poster for the contest (shown above) for a college or high school classroom, email youngfilm@jasnasw.org. And help us spread word about the contest (open to any amateur filmmaker under the age of 30).

Upcoming Austen-Related Events

Many other regions and Jane Austen-related organizations are offering a wide variety of compelling online events open to people all over North America. For a list of JASNA events coordinated by other regions, be sure to check the JASNA.org events calendar. Some have limited capacity, so sign up early for anything that's of interest to you!

Here are two interesting ones coming up from JASNA Metropolitan New York.
June 26, 2021
2-4 p.m. Eastern Time
Patricia Matthew
"'Attendant with pearls': Race, Portraiture, and Abolition"
Free Zoom Event

September 18, 2021
2-4 p.m. Eastern Time
Uzma Jalaluddin
“Ayesha At Last: Remixing Pride and Prejudice”
Free Zoom Event

The Masked Janeite Shop from the Greater Sacramento Region sold out its face masks last fall during the 2020 Virtual AGM. The region is now offering its Spring Collection with nine choices of fabric.

Proceeds will be shared between Jane Austen’s House, Chawton, Hampshire, UK and the Greater Sacramento Region.

Masks are $15 each, which includes shipping and tax.
A Pandemic-Inspired Take on *Sanditon*

*Sanditon Season 2: Parker Brothers Build the Boardwalk* is a 10-part reimagining of the unfinished story of *Sanditon* by Jane Austen, told in digital theater form, filmed and produced by the power of Zoom. Written by Carol Lisa O’Brien, narrated by Jane Austen’s fifth great niece Caroline Jane Knight from Chawton, where Austen wrote *Sanditon* in 1817, the production was performed during the pandemic by 30 strangers from around the world.

This DIY online theatrical experience is free to watch on the Jane Austen Literacy Foundation YouTube channel. Any advertising revenue will be used to fund literacy projects.

View the web production
The film version of *Bridget Jones's Diary* celebrated its 20th anniversary in April.

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**A Modernization of *Persuasion* Is in the Works for Netflix**

Netflix has announced a new modernized version of *Persuasion*, starring Dakota Johnson. Filming is expected to begin this month. The adaptation is by *Rain Man* screenwriter Ron Bass and Alice Victoria Winslow, with British theater director Carrie Cracknell directing.

According to the announcement, in this version, Anne Elliot is a nonconforming woman with modern sensibilities, living with her snobby family who are on the brink of bankruptcy. When Frederick Wentworth -- the dashing one she once sent away -- crashes back into her life, Anne must choose between putting the past behind her or listening to her heart when it comes to second chances.

A more traditional take on *Persuasion*, starring Sarah Snook (of the HBO series *Succession*) is currently in the works for Searchlight Pictures.

Read more about plans for the [new Netflix version](#).

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**Reading/Film/Game Groups**

**Sunday, May 2, 1 p.m.**
**Riverside Reading Group**
*Jane Austen: A Life* by Claire Tomalin
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Vicki Broach.

**Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m.**
**North Orange County Reading Group**
*Jane Austen at Home: A Biography* by Lucy Worsley (chapters 24-30)
Meeting will be outdoors near a member’s home with others joining via Zoom.
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

**Saturday, May 15, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**
**Ventura Reading Group**
*Miss Austen* by Gill Hornby
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

**Sunday, May 16, 1-3 p.m.**
**Orange County Reading Group**
*Jane Austen in Hollywood* by Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

**Sunday, May 16, 2-4 p.m.**
**South Bay Reading Group**
*The Jane Austen Diet* by Bryan Kozlowski
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

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San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Unnatural Death by Dorothy L. Sayers
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Catherine Hayes.

Saturday, May 22, 10:30 a.m.
San Gabriel Valley Reading Group
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (first half)
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Kelly Duir.

Saturday, May 22, 12:30 p.m.
Long Beach Reading Group
Waverley by Sir Walter Scott
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Sunday, May 23, 6 p.m.
Santa Monica Reading Group
Perdita by Paula Byrne
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Diana Birchall.

Sunday, May 23, 7 p.m.
Pasadena Area Reading Group
Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K. Jerome
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.

Thursday, June 3, 6:30 p.m.
Janeites Reading Trollope
Castle Richmond by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Lora Walker.

Saturday, June 12
Westside/405 Reading Group
A Damsel in Distress by P. G. Wodehouse
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Karen Berk for more information.

Sunday, June 13, 1:30 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Katie Boeck.

Sunday, June 27, 7 p.m.
Pasadena Area Reading Group
Mapp & Lucia by E. F. Benson
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.