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November 17, 2020

Guides » Best of Utah

Best of Utah 2020

The complete list of winners from our readers and staff

By City Weekly Readers and City Weekly Staff

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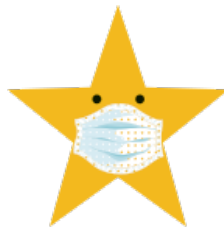


2020, folks ... amirite?

I know, I know: This year, it's been hard to think about what's *good*. Between a global pandemic, the economic damage caused by it, social unrest to address institutional racism and, oh yeah, the ongoing threat of a fascist takeover of the American government, it's understandable if your mood hasn't exactly been celebratory.

In some ways, this year's *City Weekly* Best of Utah issue is unlike any other we've done. There's a recognition that some of the people and places we're celebrating have been hit hard by the COVID crisis—some of them hanging on by their fingertips, some of them still figuring out if they can survive.

We realize that as we go to press, many of our award-winners don't know if they'll still be operating a month or even a week from now, and we send deepest condolences to those who have already had to make heartbreaking choices this year. It's possible that the information included here might change suddenly, and we apologize to readers if anything rapidly becomes inaccurate or obsolete as the world around us changes by the moment.



Yet in another sense, this is a Best of Utah the way it's always been. Our goal, even as more and more commerce moved online and benefitted massive corporations, has been to celebrate that which was specific and special to our state—the savvy entrepreneurs, the talented artists, the creative chefs, the dedicated activists and so much more. We support them, in the way so many of them have always supported *City Weekly*, by reminding readers that these are the people and places that give our communities their distinctive personality beyond chain establishments. And the fact that readers voted by the thousands in this difficult time shows that you support them, too.

Inside these pages, you'll find over 300 selections of the best restaurants, nightspots, arts organizations, shops, services and individuals, with 150 of those selections representing our readers' picks for Utah's best. For many of you, those picks will simply be a reminder of the great stuff you already know; for others, we hope it's a chance to discover something new and wonderful to add to your experience of living in Utah. Especially as we head into the holiday season, we ask you to support them financially to the extent that you are able to do so,

making sure that come this time next year, we're *still* celebrating them as the Best of Utah.

We're all going to enjoy watching the door hit 2020's ass on the way out. But in the meantime, let's raise a cheer to everything in our state that made the experience of living through this year even a little bit easier.

—SCOTT RENSHAW





Best First Return to Live Performance

Wiseguys Comedy Clubs

It was something of a leap of faith when, in early May, Wiseguys reopened its comedy club venue at The Gateway. We were still figuring out what kinds of gatherings were safe, and many people still weren't sure about going out to live entertainment. Yet the re-opening—with reduced seating capacity for social distancing and enhanced sanitary protocols—has thus far been without incident, as the Ogden and West Jordan venues have also subsequently re-opened. At a time when we all could use a laugh, Wiseguys was able to deliver it—and safely. (SR) **Multiple locations,** wiseguyscomedy.com

Best Drive-in Shakespeare

SONDERimmersive's Through Yonder Window

If you're a theater company, what do you do when you can't have audiences in a theater? If you're a film organization, you can show things at a drive-in, but that couldn't work for a play ... could it? Graham Brown and SONDERimmersive proved that the answer is "yes" with their production of *Through Yonder Window*, a take on *Romeo & Juliet* offered at The Gateway's parking structure with patrons remaining in their vehicles. The result was a one-of-a-kind experience that offered a new perspective on a story about people separated through no fault of their own. (SR) sonderimmersive.com

Best Drive-by Installation

UMOCA/ Granary Arts Lawn Gnomes 2020

A gallery isn't just an indoor physical space; it's a place where people can encounter art. With those indoor physical spaces shut down, the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art and Granary Arts in Ephraim collaborated on a project encouraging local artists to create pieces that they would then put out in their front yards, providing multiple locations in the state for those who were interested to drive by and view safely. Jared Steffensen and Cara Krebs were among those who responded to the call, giving us all a jolt of new visual excitement that didn't require staring at a screen. (SR)

utahmoca.org/lawn-gnomes-2020

Best Virtual Dose of a Summer Institution



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Feedback from May 27 and Beyond

By City Weekly Readers

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Feedback from May 13 and Beyond

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THE ESSENTIAL A&E PICKS FOR JUN 3 - 9

Sasha Issenberg: The Engagement: America's Quarter-Century Struggle Over Same-Sex Marriage, Chris Kattan @ Wiseguys, Body Logic Dance Company: Woman
By City Weekly Staff

MUSIC PICKS: JUN 3 - 9

Open Streets With Social Antidote, Rock Camp Returns, Bad Heather Releases Self-Titled Debut EP, and more.

By City Weekly Staff

THE ESSENTIAL A&E PICKS FOR MAY 27 - JUN 2

Craig Childs: A Voice from the Desert, Utah Dance Film Festival, Evaporated @ Granary Arts, and more.

By City Weekly Staff

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Promotions

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT 5 **Utah Pride Week 2021**
Utah Pride Center | Salt Lake City, UT

SAT 5 **David Spade**
Wiseguys | Salt Lake City, UT

SAT 5 **Utah Grizzlies vs. Komets**
Maverik Center | West Valley City, UT

	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
	5	6	7	8	9	10

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