



Theatre Classes During The Pandemic



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Southwestern Theatre Production Timeline:

Spring 2020:

- *Little Women: The Broadway Musical* closes and the Jones Theatre prepares for *Album*
- Spring Break is extended for an extra week
- Southwestern University goes online
- *Album* was postponed for an unknown amount of time

Summer 2020:

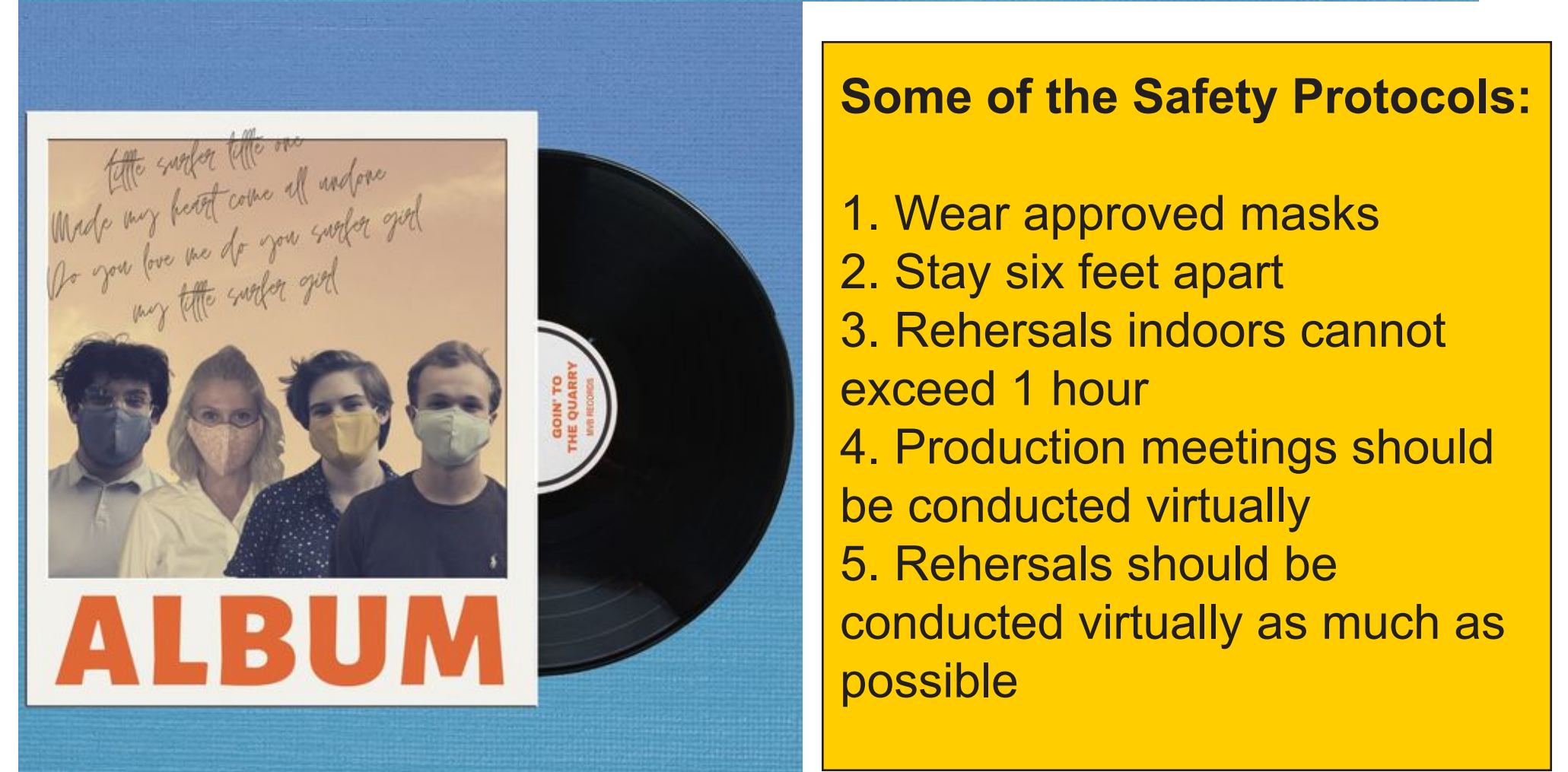
- Classes continued online
- Fall show was chosen: *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
- Guidelines for performing and classes were drafted and approved

Fall 2020:

- Classes returned through the hybrid model
- Some practical hands-on classes were canceled
- *Album* was produced and performed for one weekend
- A new outdoor stage was built on the Athletics Field between the two football practice fields
- *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins was produced and performed
- Auditions for *Bright Star: Concert Version* were conducted through video submission

Spring 2021:

- New protocols for singing are finalized
- *Bright Star: Concert Version* was produced and performed at our new Open Air outdoor Theatre



Top: Original marketing poster for *Album*
Bottom: Marketing for *Album* once it was re-announced

- Some of the Safety Protocols:**
1. Wear approved masks
 2. Stay six feet apart
 3. Rehearsals indoors cannot exceed 1 hour
 4. Production meetings should be conducted virtually
 5. Rehearsals should be conducted virtually as much as possible



Everybody performance on the outdoor theatre space. Used of movement involved with projections to create and represent connectivity

Responses from Universities:

"We overcame most hurdles and transitioned quickly with training and help from our learning center and a national commitment to providing online education effectively."

Mark Charney, Texas Tech University

"No classes were cancelled, but as we planned the fall and spring, some classes were rearranged from the standard offerings to ensure we can supply the best educational experiences in our restricted formats."

Sarah Maines, Texas State University

"We can come up with new ways of teaching in the theatre, which means creating new forms of theatre and fostering new ideas that are, in turn, going to give opportunities to new generations of artists."

Sergio Costola, Southwestern University

Research:

To compare select Texas universities with theatre programs and their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Texas universities are on average doing exceptionally well versus universities across the US.

Purpose:

To celebrate the tenacity of the theatre program to provide top quality training with extremely stringent safety protocols.



Bright Star: Concert Version with a socially distanced audience. Singers are ten feet apart.

Conclusion:

While the country faces a crisis to keep students attending theatre classes, students in Texas colleges, both private and public were able to transition to online learning and continued to provide top level academics and productions.

Southwestern University was able to incorporate new technology in the classroom and explore new forms of theatre.

Theatre has taken a financial loss, but has shown that it is an important part of the community as a place to forget about the stress of life and enjoy some entertainment.



Weekly theatre company meeting with students and faculty including staff and administration during Fall 2020