

This is Artist Soapbox. Through interviews and original scripted audio fiction, we deliver Stories that Speak to your hearts and minds.

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Hey friends! It's Tamara Kissane here, the founder and CEO of Artist Soapbox.

Happy 2022! This is the first episode of this year's season. I'm excited to catch you up on all of the cool developments that were happening behind the scenes over the last five months, and let you know what's in store for you for the remainder of 2022.

Stick around til the end of the episode and you'll hear our new audio trailer – kinda like a highlight reel of audio fiction clips from various projects. It makes me so happy and gives listeners a sense of the breadth and variety of work that we've been doing.

Alright, here's the newsflash – Artist Soapbox is evolving.

We still have an interview podcast and we still produce scripted audio fiction, but we are tweaking the knobs on the who, what, when, where, how of all of that.

I am having all of the feelings about the Artist Soapbox evolution. The overriding sensation for me is electric excitement. I hope you'll feel that too after this episode.

I've divided our evolution into 3 categories of newness. New Look, New Hosts, and New Content.

NEW LOOK

We have a new dynamic logo and branding materials. Oh my gosh, Artist Soapbox even has specific colors and a font. We have a beautiful new website that you can check out on artistsoapbox.org. I have bootstrapping all of this for the last five years, and it has been such a gift to have professionals take the wheel and uplevel the look of Artist Soapbox.

The new website and new logo coincided with switching to a new website host and podcast host. I'm still learning the ins and outs of all of these platforms, so let me know if you experience any wobbles during this transition, however I'm really happy with these choices and I can't wait to dig into their full functionality including the opportunity to set up a podcast network. If you are curious, I'm using Wordpress.org, Flywheel, and CaptivateFM.

When you are bopping around artistsoapbox.org, you'll see lots of new text and a clarified mission, some videos, and an overall reorganization of the site, but I wanted to draw special attention to two items: First: Artist Soapbox team bios and photos on the About Us page. All of these lovely creatives have worked with me on multiple projects and have amassed development, process, and production experience making podcasts. If you've been a long term listener you will definitely recognize them. I'm so grateful for the work we've done together and will continue to do.

Secondly, when you are on the website, please make sure to subscribe to our Newsletter. Our old email list did not transfer when we transitioned to the new website host, so if you want to make double sure that you get emails from Artist Soapbox, then drop your contact info in the Subscribe box. And, of course, subscribe to this podcast via your favorite podcast platform because we are going to be churning out some amazing new, original, fresh audio content.

Which brings me to: NEW CONTENT

Artist Soapbox will also run on a season model rather than setting the expectation for listeners or for my team that we can muster new weekly episodes every week for years on end. I haven't figured out the calendar boundaries of the season yet, but I think we will run new content from late spring thru fall, and then we'll go quiet which will allow us to take a break and generate new episodes.

In the realm of Scripted Audio Fiction: First up (next week), you'll hear all 3 scripted audio fiction episodes from our Food for Thought Project. Food for Thought was our year-long writers lab for aspiring audio dramatists. Our writers, Tori Grace Nichols, Shea Stanley, and Ashley-Ruth Bernier each wrote a pilot episode for their scripted audio fiction season. Thanks to the support of the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, we were able to produce an excerpt of those original pilots so you can hear what they might sound like as they move into production. And guess what? They sound awesome. If you'd like to learn more about the Food for Thought Project, listen to Episode 151 and read the four blog posts written by Katy Koop on the Artist Soapbox website. I pop those links in the show notes.

I'm sure you've also been wondering about the first season of Jesus Pancake. Yes, as of early April, we have recorded all nine episodes at Trailblazer Studios in Raleigh, NC. Now, we are in post-production and plan to release the whole season later this year. I gotta tell you, friends, it was so much fun to record Jesus Pancake. If you have the opportunity to make audio fiction, especially with wonderful and talented people, then do it. Or hire us and we will do it because it is awesome fun and I love it. Special thanks to Aurelia Belfield for producing, directing, and making this project happen. Jesus Pancake was made possible by the generous support of our Indiegogo campaign supporters and a grant from the Manbites Dog Theater Fund. I'm sending massive gratitude to them.

The other portion of Artist Soapbox NEW CONTENT is a whole slate of new guests being interviewed by....NEW HOSTS:

Yes, we are featuring four incredible guest hosts on the podcast this season (I may be dropping in occasionally with an episode, but this season I'm happy to hand over the reins to some of our ASBX favorites: Lormarev Jones, Griffin James, Juliana Finch, and Mara Thomas. If you've been a long time Artist Soapbox fan, those names will all be familiar to you. Each guest host has determined an umbrella theme or focus for their episodes and connected with new guests to interview. You'll hear more about that later this month when we release their first pods. I am so excited to bring their voices to you and to offer varied perspectives, observations and inspirations that aren't generated from me but do align beautifully with the Artist Soapbox ethos. I am so grateful to Lormarev, Griffin, Juliana, and Mara for their willingness to jump in and share themselves with this audience.

Alrighty, one more small Category before I share the highlight reel and close out the episode. A couple of personal items to catch you up. This may give you additional insight into why there's been such a lull in Artist Soapbox content (yes, in addition to everything I've talked about thus far).

In the personal category: We moved to a new house in April. Still in North Carolina, but no longer in Durham. I still have 2 kids, a spouse, and 2 cats, and now I have chickens. Weeee! It's a transitional kinda year!

Also, I'm excited to let you know that my new musical commissioned by Honest Pint will be part of NC STATE's TheatreFest this summer. Honest Pint has gathered a group of very talented creatives to workshop this new, original musical inspired by the story of "Kafka and the Traveling Doll." Book by [Tamara Kissane](#) and music by [Matthew Hager](#), Mia Self will be directing workshopped portions of the piece the weekend of June 10 at NC State. Stay tuned for more information.

Alrighty, friends, thanks so much for sticking with us. I hope you are feeling the excitement about what's to come on Artist Soapbox. Enjoy this highlight reel.

OUTRO:

Established in 2017, Artist Soapbox (ASBX) is a podcast production studio based in North Carolina.

Artist Soapbox:

- produces original scripted audio fiction and an on-going interview podcast about the creative process
- cultivates aspiring audio dramatists and producers
- partners with organizations and individuals to create new audio content

For more information and ways to support our work, check out artistsoapbox.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

The Artist Soapbox theme song is Ashes by Juliana Finch.