

## The Annenberg Center Kicks off Fall 2020 Online Film Series with *The Surrogate*, October 2

(Philadelphia – September 23, 2020) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts kicks off its fall 2020 online film series on **Friday, October 2 at 7 PM** with *The Surrogate* (2020, 93 minutes), directed by Jeremy Hersh. In the film, Jess Harris (Jasmine Batchelor, *The Good Fight*), a 29-year-old web designer for a nonprofit in Brooklyn, is ecstatic to be the surrogate and egg donor for her best friend Josh (Chris Perfetti, HBO's *Looking*) and his husband Aaron (Sullivan Jones, *Slave Play*). At 12 weeks into the pregnancy, a prenatal test comes back with unexpected results that pose a moral dilemma. As they all consider the best course of action, the relationship between the three friends is put to the test. Tickets are \$10. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](https://AnnenbergCenter.org) for purchase or information.

The Annenberg Center has a long history of presenting film, starting in the 1970s, and has recently returned film to its regular program mix, part of its commitment to presenting inclusive arts programming that promotes cross-cultural understanding while supporting independent film on campus and in West Philadelphia. Additional films in the fall online series include *Aviva* (November 13), *My Darling Vivian* (November 20), and *Two Beats One Soul* (December 4).

Promotional photographs for *The Surrogate* can be accessed in the Annenberg Center's [Press Room](#).

### About the Annenberg Center's 2020-21 Digital Season

The Annenberg Center's fall 2020 digital season comprises five livestreamed performances by top dance companies, three outstanding jazz artists making their Annenberg Center debuts, and one collaborative early music performance, in addition to screenings of four recently released independent films. The live performances will be broadcast using state-of-the-art digital technology from the Prince or Zellerbach Theatre, integrating live chat, and concluding with interactive discussions with the creators and performers. Livestreamed performances will be available online for ticket holders for 48 hours after the start time.

### About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting the University of Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance and film, serving an annual audience of over 80,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center's multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support and customer service. The Annenberg Center is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community and surrounding region. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](https://AnnenbergCenter.org).

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**FILM**

***The Surrogate***

Friday, October 2, 7 PM

Jess Harris (Jasmine Batchelor, *The Good Fight*), a 29-year-old web designer for a nonprofit in Brooklyn, is ecstatic to be the surrogate and egg donor for her best friend Josh (Chris Perfetti, HBO's *Looking*) and his husband Aaron (Sullivan Jones, *Slave Play*). At 12 weeks into the pregnancy, a prenatal test comes back with unexpected results that pose a moral dilemma. As they all consider the best course of action, the relationship between the three friends is put to the test.

*Directed by Jeremy Hersh, 2020, U.S., 93 min, drama, English.*

Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](https://www.annenbergcenter.org) for ticket information.

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