

ARTS COVERAGE

HED: *"The Glitch" Brings AI and Emotion to the Off-Broadway Stage*

DEK: Kipp Koenig's new play explores the blurred lines between technology and human connection in a twist-filled production now running at The Theater Center

By Rebecca O'Reilly

Oct. 2, 2025

NEW YORK, NY— Through an unassuming doorway on Broadway and up a couple flights of stairs, a new play *"The Glitch"* has made its Off-Broadway debut. The play, written by Kipp Koenig and Directed by Mark Koenig, (the two unrelated), follows Amy, a severe woman who seemingly doesn't want children, and yet finds herself at a company that uses "artificial emotional intelligence" to create a simulation of her future daughter, and through a glitch in the software Amy connects with the spirit of her real future child.

Following sold-out performances this summer at The Next Step theater festival in New York City, *The Glitch* has moved to The Theater Center's Jerry Orbach theater located in the center of the theater district, the theater is a tiny but cozy space, the stage itself only being 12 feet deep and 25 feet wide, Audience members in the front row joking how they were practically apart of the show.

The play has a 100 minute run time full of twists and turns. The story taps into many not-so-futuristic questions like, what are the emotional capabilities of AI? Do we trust AI with our own feelings? Despite that central theme, the main undercurrent was about love, human connection and truth.

The Glitch is the latest example of AI's growing presence in the performing arts. Echoing another robot love story of sorts, Broadway musical *Maybe Happy Ending*, took home 6 Tony awards including best musical in 2025. As AI advances into our everyday lives, writers and audiences alike are grappling with societal shifts in the way they know how— on the stage.

"I started writing this play in 2020 and it began as a simple love story.... but as AI began to really take off, I was paying attention to a lot of the positives of AI which doesn't get a lot of press," said writer Kipp Koenig. "I realized that the more interesting love story was between Amy and her simulated child, asking the question — can I change myself enough to be the parent I wish I had?"

Throughout the play Amy takes the audience on a relatable journey as she first distrusts AI, coming into the company clad in a comically large hat and glasses to hide her identity from the software, clear that she doesn't yet understand how it works. But she soon evolves to a fascination with, and then reliance on the "Artificial Emotional Intelligence" software that enables her to meet her future child.

As original theater takes a hit on Broadway— [New York Times reporting](#) earlier this month that no original musical has turned a profit this season, *The Glitch* has turned to a untraditional performance schedule to combat this, running only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, with a full non-equity cast.

"I knew [*The Glitch*] had to be sustainable for where we are right nowand I think that people want to come and watch human beings engage with human emotions as they are being felt in real time." Kipp Koenig said.

The limited run of the show began Sept. 24, and will run through Nov 2nd. Tickets are \$67 and can be purchased in person at The Theatre Center box office or on their website.

“My hopes for the play? Well it sure would be nice to have a lot of people in those seats.” said Kipp.

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ARTS COVERAGE

HED: Dead Ladies, Live Audience

DEK: At Greenwich Village's KGB Bar, the cult-favorite “The Dead Ladies Show” brings witty tributes to women who shaped history, one lecture and one drink at a time.

By: Rebecca O'Reilly, Contributing Writer

In a dark and cozy bar in the heart of Greenwich Village, people are meeting to talk about dead ladies.

Once a month since 2018, the KGB Bar on East 4th St has hosts “The Dead Ladies Show”, where different guests present eccentric and wildly fun collection lectures about women who made an impact during their time.

The show, created by Katy Derbyshire and Florian Duijsen, two German based creatives, made its debut in Berlin in 2016. It was brought to New York City in July 2018 by Molly Kemper, a freelance translator and writer, who has hosted the NYC show since then alongside co-host Sheila Enright.

“We found that everybody is hungry for intellectual but approachable feminist entertainment and history, and we really try to fill that niche,” Enright said.

They started in the smallest space at KGB before quickly outgrowing it and moving to a slightly larger performance space in the attic. When they outgrew that too, they moved to the newly renovated Kraine Theater on the first floor of KGB. On their Sept. performance the eclectic space filled quickly as showtime approached, with an audience of both newcomers and regulars who mingled freely and ordered drinks as if they were about to see an underground concert rather than a series of lectures.

When the show began, Enright welcomed the crowd and announced the presenters before stating the three important rules.

“We only have three rules for our dead ladies: they have to have been dead for at least a year, they have to have identified as a woman at some point in their lifetime, and, perhaps most importantly, no fascists,” Enright said, receiving cheers from the crowd.

The show carried on, featuring three presenters whose subjects ranged from an ancient Egyptian princess that we know little facts about, to the lady that led the labor movement through the streets of NYC, to a trivia-loving meteorologist whose legacy lives on today in her

science scholarships for women. The sold-out house laughed at the presenters' quips and ordered more drinks during intermission. Tickets, just \$15 at the door and \$10 online, have helped the show thrive.

"It's nice to have a place to learn that's fun and also reasonably priced," said Stephanie Schwartz, a returning audience member.

Kemper, the original host of the NYC production, is hoping to fill that niche again in Kansas City as she moves west this fall.

"I already have some leads on a venue, and I'm really excited to try to keep this thing going. I'm hopeful we'll have our first Kansas City show in late winter or early spring," said Kemper, who works as a freelance translator and editor.

The Dead Ladies Show NYC takes place roughly once a month at the Kraine Theater within the KGB Bar. The next show at KGB will be Thursday Nov. 13th, but this month they are partnering with Green-Wood Cemetery on Sunday Oct. 26th for a walking tour. More information for both events is available on their [Instagram](#) and [Stubstack](#).

"There are so many dead ladies out there who are so interesting — it's wild. Everyone has a dead lady on their mind, whether they realize it or not... or maybe it's just us," Enright said, laughing.

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NYU COVERAGE

HED: Tandon hosts climate startups for weeklong program launch

DEK: Eight U.K.-based startups met in Brooklyn last week to kickstart a program aiming to boost partnerships and networks.

Rebecca O'Reilly, Contributing Writer, WSN

Sept. 24, 2025

In partnership with the Tandon School of Engineering, the eight environmental startups selected to participate in Innovate UK's Global Incubator Program gathered in Brooklyn last week to kick off the six-month market entry program.

Tandon's Urban Future Lab — a non-profit innovation hub that aims to build networks among climate tech startups — works closely with the U.K.-based companies to spearhead the program, starting with last week's event from Sept. 15-19. The lab was founded in 2009 to advise climate-focused companies on navigating the market by providing them with access to mentors, connections to funding and a head start in the New York City and national markets.

Fredric Clerc, UFL's interim managing director, wrote in an email statement to WSN that representatives from each startup participate in two intensive, weeklong in-market visits, where they partner with key climate tech stakeholders. During the two visits, the UFL facilitates high-level meetings and hands-on learning to give the startups a clear roadmap to succeeding in the U.S. market.

"The foundation of this program is customer discovery and market validation," Clerc wrote. "Our hope is that each company walks away with impactful insights, whether from customer conversations, pilot discussions or regulatory learnings, that properly inform their next steps."

The U.K.-based companies selected for the program — Bioledger, Ceraphi, Electron, Fellten, GyroPlant, HiiROC, Senze and UrbanChain — focus on different forms of sustainability. Gyroplant developed a reusable "GyroCup" in place of single-use products, reducing waste in indoor farming while supporting plant growth. Bioledger, on a mission to "raise the standard of sustainability assurance," developed a software to simplify compliance with U.S. and EU fossil fuel regulations.

"These eight companies stood out because they combine technical excellence with real commercial traction and are ready to engage deeply with potential U.S. partners, customers and regulators," Clerc wrote.

In the six years that the incubator program has been running, it has worked with 35 U.K. climate tech companies to successfully establish U.S. operations through the UFL partnership. Alumni companies have gone on to secure partnerships with major utilities, Fortune 500 companies and government agencies.

The public relations team at Fellten, which designs and develops electronic battery systems, wrote in a statement to WSN that the company's product, "Charge Qube," is catered towards the rapidly growing demand for quick-charge electric vehicles.

"We're finding that the level of support, the introductions being made, and the way the sessions are structured are very practical," Fellten's PR team wrote. "Even at this early stage, we're identifying pathways that could shorten time to market for some of our products."

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SPORTS

HED: San Francisco 49ers win in an intense overtime game against the LA Rams

DEK: Underdog Niners grind out a close win against the Rams Thursday night, Mac Jones stepping up big time as fill-in quarterback.

By Rebecca O'Reilly

Oct. 2, 2025

LOS ANGELES— In a tight 26–23 overtime upset, the San Francisco 49ers edged past the LA Rams thanks to a clutch performance by quarterback Mac Jones. Filling in for Brock Purdy, sidelined with a toe injury, Jones kept the offense alive against a tough Rams defense and kept his poise as they played a tough battle.

Despite a roster depleted by injuries, supplemented by a largely rookie team, the 49ers battled their longtime rivals with grit. Jones, making his first major start for San Francisco, led key drives that ultimately secured the win.

“Kyle came up to me before the game and was pissed that we were the underdogs and he just told me to let it fly and I said you do not have to tell me twiceIt was a great team win” Jones said in an interview after the game.

The 49ers had a strong start with tight end Jake Tonges making a 6-yard field goal early into the first quarter. The Niners then kept the speed up with another creative touchdown by wide receiver Christian McCaffery early in the second quarter. Both landed successful field goals by recently signed kicker Eddy Piñeiro.

The Rams, who were originally predicted to win this game, struggled to get past the Niners and move the ball in the first half. Eventually landing their first touchdown of the night from running back Kyren Williams and a field goal by Joshua Karty, but the messy plays of the Rams did not let up as they missed two kicks and fumbled on key opportunities.

A successful 37 yard field goal by Pineiro, left the score going into halftime at 17-7. Jones at the half had 15 for 23 for 179 yards and two touchdowns, identifying himself as a real threat.

“Hes doing a hell of a job. He's getting rid of the ball, he's being aggressive, when it's not there he's checking it down. I love how he's playing right now.” Kyle Shanahan, the head coach of the 49ers said during an interview at halftime.

The heat was on for both teams in the second half, Rams tight end Davis Allen starting off strong with a 20 yard reception. Shortly after, Rams star wide receiver Puka Nacua secured a touchdown leaving the score 17-14.

Rams wide receiver Davante Adams received 2 long passes back to back 26 yards then 24 yards. Opening up for a 8 yard Touchdown by Williams to lead to Rams to tie it up at 20-20 after an unsuccessful field goal giving up a potential lead.

The Niners continue to forge ahead, making a 59 yard field goal. Alongside a stand out play by rookie Alfred Collins, a fumble recovery swiping the ball at the end zone, stopping the Rams from a pivotal score by Williams with a minute to go.

Shortly after the Rams kicked a 49-yard field goal tying the game with 2 seconds left, leading to a 10 minute overtime, starting with the Niners on offense after a messy and confused coin flip.

The Niners score a field goal on their 4th down and turn over to the Rams where Quarterback Matthew Stafford throws a successful 38-yard reception to Tutu Atwell, but it was not enough as the Niners defense held up, leading to tight 26-23 win.

“Give the 49ers credit, they made enough plays to win the football game, we had plenty of chances throughout this game and we fought, we battled, but there’s a lot of things that we have to be able to clean up,” head coach of the Rams, Sean McVay said in a post game press conference.

It was clear that Jones was the highlight of this game in lieu of all the injuries that the team is dealing with, leaving so many of their star players on the bench.

“Having a backup QB like him is so valuable....He was so poised throughout the entire game, and that really helped us.” McCaffrey said post game.

The 49ers are set to play The Tampa Bay Buccaneers this Sunday. It is still unclear if Jones will be put in again for Purdy, but one thing is certain: the rookies of the 49ers will continue to see more play time as a host of injuries continue to beat down their starting line.

SPORTS

HED: The NYU Women’s Volleyball Team is Focusing on Defense Ahead of Ithaca Invitational.

NEW YORK, NY— NYU Women’s Volleyball team are set to sharpen their defense ahead of the Ithaca Invitational this weekend, amid many injuries on the team.

The volleyball team, who played a double header this Saturday at NYU’s invitational, lost to Christopher Newport University and won against Montclair.

“Heading into Ithaca this weekend, we are really focused on staying disciplined in our individual positions and defense specifically.” Chloe Lemons, an NYU outside hitter said. “Coming off of this past weekend we really felt that was an aspect of the game we could’ve cleaned up, so that is our main focus this week in practices.”

The focus on defense comes as the team is battling a host of injuries, including a fractured ankle and a torn ACL.

“Almost everyone has had something minor bothering them, which just comes with the game and the amount of reps we are taking every week, so we are always in the athletic training room getting treatment,” Alden Roberts, a setter on the team said.

Both NYU and Ithaca are ranked top in their region for DIII Women's volleyball, each having 20 wins this season.

They are set to play at 6:30 PM this Friday, September 19th at Ithaca College.

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BUSINESS STORY

Hed: Packed theaters across the nation put the future of movie premieres into question

Dek: The successful releases of Wicked, Moana 2 and Gladiator II have studios questioning whether the transition into streaming is as welcomed as once predicted.

By: Rebecca O'Reilly

WC: 347

Dec. 05, 2024

Wicked has sold out movie theater seats across the nation, according to box office sales data, defying some major studios' [predictions](#) that the golden age of movie theaters is long gone.

Universal Studios' Wicked Part One has become the highest-grossing U.S. film based on a Broadway musical according to box office data, earning \$112 million domestically and \$162 million globally since its sold-out premiere on Nov. 22.

Wicked's record numbers, paired with the [box office](#) successes of Gladiator II and Moana 2, marks a turning point for movie theaters that four years ago [faced extinction](#) after the Covid-19 pandemic caused studios to turn to streaming platforms as the preferred release model.

"Our ticket numbers have been super high with the release of Wicked, Moana 2 and Gladiator II," said Nana Nazworthy, an AMC supervisor at a theatre in St. Petersburg, Fla. "The days of seeing movies in theatres are back."

Universal Studios has continued its allegiance to the traditional theatrical release format, a starting point of 60 days in theaters with room for extension based on ticket sales. [This model](#) has been the traditional format for decades, but the introduction of streaming studios has become a turning point for studios to maximize views and increase profit.

Unlike Disney, which has poured money into its streaming platform Disney+, Universal Studios has relied on advertising. Universal Studios spent \$987 million in the third quarter of 2024, ending in September, on advertising compared to \$960 million, cutting down on video costs, according to Universal Studios financial documents.

"They wanted Wicked everywhere, a pink and green tsunami," said a Warner Brothers Discovery executive who asked not to be named due to privacy concerns, referring to the similar way in which the company pushed marketing for its movie Barbie in summer 2023.

Universal Studios secured over [400 brand deals](#) to promote Wicked according to Variety, instead of relying on its streaming platform, Peacock.

“Studios underestimated the power of seeing a movie in a theatre, the cultural bond that it creates that streaming just doesn't have,” said Darren Campo, a former media executive for Warner Brothers Discovery.

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NEWS

HED: Women stockpile contraceptives amid post election uncertainty

DEK: Searches for IUDs and emergency contraception surge as students and advocates prepare for potential policy changes under Trump.

BY: Rebecca O'Reilly

WC: 413

Dec.1, 2024

The morning after the election, Google data on search trends showed a drastic spike in inquiries like [“IUDs”](#) and [“is Trump banning birth control?”](#)

These spikes reflected the flood of uncertainty that women are experiencing across the nation when it comes to reproductive care—a trend that’s also emerged across college campuses.

The American Society for Emergency Contraceptives (ASEC), a nonprofit that works to ensure easy access to contraception across colleges in the United States, said it has received inquiries from multiple colleges about installing contraceptive vending machines that provide morning after pills at a lower cost.

“The need for accessible birth control is crucial and wanted across the nation in colleges, especially as it is becoming harder and harder to get abortion care,” said Nicola Brogan, assistant director at ASEC.

Many public colleges and universities do not supply emergency contraceptives in their student health centers, and other options like Planned Parenthood's are becoming [increasingly rare](#), especially in smaller college towns.

A 2018 [study](#) conducted by medical students in southwest Pennsylvania found there were significant barriers to obtaining timely emergency contraceptives, with only five percent of pharmacies in the area having same-day access. This study was reported as reflective of pharmacies in areas across the country that contained similar demographics as southwest Pennsylvania, an area containing majority white, lower income families.

“When I had to get Plan B it was all locked up and even though it’s legal, it made me very self conscious to ask the pharmacist for it,” said Anna, a student at Liberty University who declined to provide her last name due to privacy concerns.

Following the election, women on New York University's campus were also trying to prepare by stocking up on accessible emergency contraceptives.

Sara Hunt, an NYU student who worked for a company that promoted Cadence OTC, an affordable morning after pill, was given samples to distribute across campus.

“I had a lot of people taking extras for their friends and stocking up in case of a future emergency,” Hunt said. “Especially after the election people kept texting me to ask if I still had any.”

NYU and Columbia University both have multiple vending machines on their campuses that dispense emergency contraceptives for only \$15.

“EC and birth control gives me the confidence that I dont ever need to worry about finding an abortion clinic in a state where it's outlawed,” said Pooja Advani, a TikTokker who uses her platform to raise awareness of birth control.

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