



Transcript from

COVID-19 Testing Toolkit Webinar Series: Lessons from the Entertainment Industry – Testing as a Mitigation Strategy to Get Back on Set

May 17, 2021

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00:00:05.009 --> 00:00:18.810

Andrea Lapp: Welcome to today's webinar covering COVID-19 testing toolkit webinar series lessons from the entertainment industry testing as a mitigation strategy to get back on set. Dr. Gigi Gronvall will now begin.

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00:00:20.400 --> 00:00:30.360

Gigi Gronvall: Thank you all for joining us today. I'm Gigi Gronvall, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health, Security and the Environment and an associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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00:00:30.840 --> 00:00:38.400

Gigi Gronvall: Today is our third installment of the webinar series on COVID-19 testing strategies featuring best practices from leaders.

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00:00:38.910 --> 00:00:45.990

Gigi Gronvall: This webinar series can be found on our COVID-19 testing toolkit which is available online and we'll put the link in the chat.

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00:00:46.710 --> 00:00:56.280

Gigi Gronvall: The toolkit provides essential information for organizations of all sizes, seeking to develop or adapt their COVID-19 testing strategies to fit their needs.

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00:00:56.760 --> 00:01:05.220

Gigi Gronvall: Testing, as you know, is crucial to stopping the spread of SARS-CoV-2, whether taking a test prescribed by your doctor or picking up a test from a pharmacy.

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00:01:05.550 --> 00:01:13.260

Gigi Gronvall: or choosing a test for for your employees it's important to choose the right type of test provide the most useful information.

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00:01:13.740 --> 00:01:21.990

Gigi Gronvall: Testing services are also now available that offer tests and testing strategies to organizations, so our toolkit gives you information about.

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00:01:22.230 --> 00:01:27.060

Gigi Gronvall: All the different kinds of tests, the testing services and everything else to help you figure out a good strategy.

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00:01:27.600 --> 00:01:32.430

Gigi Gronvall: This project is funded by the lie to help philanthropies and the coordinate bedding more foundation.

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00:01:33.060 --> 00:01:43.020

Gigi Gronvall: After this panel we're going to answer questions from the audience, so please submit questions in the Q amp a box, we will answer as many questions as possible.

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00:01:43.680 --> 00:01:47.820

Gigi Gronvall: Today we are talking with meredith lavender and marci Ulan.

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00:01:48.330 --> 00:01:59.100

Gigi Gronvall: My meredith and marci have been business partners for over 15 years and have worked together as executive producers and show runners for productions, including HBO Max is the flight attendant.

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00:01:59.460 --> 00:02:14.130

Gigi Gronvall: ABC nashville fox is proven innocent and the gifted, among others, so meredith and marcy will provide insights into how they use testing as one of the public health tools to resume production safely meredith over to you.

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00:02:14.820 --> 00:02:26.580

Meredith Lavender: Thank you so much dd and thank you for having us here today, and we want to lead by saying that the thoughts and ideas that we're sharing today are our anecdotal from our experience.

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00:02:27.420 --> 00:02:32.190

Meredith Lavender: and not necessarily representative of the studio itself, either we wanted to be able to share kind of.

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00:02:33.150 --> 00:02:38.610

Meredith Lavender: All the frontline experience we had taking a big crew back into production so just wanted to leave with that.

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00:02:39.120 --> 00:02:51.120

Meredith Lavender: And we thought it'd be helpful to provide a little bit of context for what a normal day in production would look like in order to kind of help people grasp the you know not not magnitude, but the magnitude for in our world of.

19

00:02:52.680 --> 00:03:07.020

Meredith Lavender: getting things back up and running production so essentially on any given day there's about 13 hours of work that gets done if you're running on a true schedule you'll hear stories of people working 16 hour days that's usually, when things aren't going very well.

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00:03:08.220 --> 00:03:15.510

Meredith Lavender: But that includes 12 hours of work and an hour for lunch, and that is all including timelines all the different unions separate represented.

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00:03:16.080 --> 00:03:24.510

Meredith Lavender: In production, and we have anywhere from I would say, a light damn set would be around you know, maybe 100 people.

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00:03:24.780 --> 00:03:33.840

Meredith Lavender: In the TV world of big big damn said might be, you know 300 people and then, if you have something really extraordinary like that we did on national sometimes.

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00:03:34.140 --> 00:03:39.840

Meredith Lavender: You can have seven or 800 people on set if you're doing a big concert scene and you have you know 500 extras etc.

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00:03:40.440 --> 00:03:50.010

Meredith Lavender: To kind of fill in the crowd so you can have a lot of people on set at any given point in time, and any given day the way the workday starts, as you have your crew usually.

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00:03:50.370 --> 00:03:57.930

Meredith Lavender: shows up at the same time, your actors show up to start their process and pre was doing everything from reading legs set dressing.

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00:03:58.410 --> 00:04:08.490

Meredith Lavender: Sometimes there's construction going on for future work and all these things kind of happen simultaneously with the entire career working in their different sections on on your soundstage at any given point.

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00:04:09.570 --> 00:04:17.250

Meredith Lavender: During the day that happens multiple times throughout the day to have people working you know versus shooting versus being quiet if they're shooting and then on.

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00:04:17.940 --> 00:04:30.630

Meredith Lavender: location, if you have the same kind of thing you vote in people are loading in they're setting up they're getting ready to shoot they're putting lights and are getting the cameras into the location and ready to work, so you have a lot of people coming and going into the interact.

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00:04:31.380 --> 00:04:42.090

Marcie Ulin: maresca so yeah so normal like typical actors journey through their morning would be the actor would some some actors drive themselves to set some are picked up by transco and.

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00:04:42.150 --> 00:04:43.110

Marcie Ulin: brought to set.

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00:04:43.440 --> 00:04:52.230

Marcie Ulin: They usually go straight into hair and makeup where they are interacting with their hair and makeup people and that's clearly a lot of in directly in people's faces time.

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00:04:52.560 --> 00:05:03.090

Marcie Ulin: Then they tend to go to set for a rehearsal and rehearsals happen and waves so you'll have your actors come in and they'll usually do a private rehearsal first, of whatever scene is up first of the day that involves.

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00:05:03.570 --> 00:05:11.160

Marcie Ulin: The actor, the director, the writer, the producer that's their onset and you kind of walk through and figure out exactly how they're going to block and shoot.

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00:05:11.490 --> 00:05:14.550

Marcie Ulin: The scene, where the cameras are going to go where the actors are going to be and everything else.

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00:05:14.820 --> 00:05:19.650

Marcie Ulin: And then there's a second rehearsal that happens where you open it up and truly almost every department head comes in.

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00:05:19.980 --> 00:05:28.470

Marcie Ulin: And usually stand around the edges and watches, because they have to be able to get everything set up all the actor finishes their process so, then the actor leaves and goes back to.

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00:05:28.860 --> 00:05:39.990

Marcie Ulin: hair makeup wardrobe and while they're gone the crew has the set and it's usually so that's all of our lighting texts and sound and everyone is coming in the camera departments and getting everything.

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00:05:40.350 --> 00:05:51.930

Marcie Ulin: Set up on top of each other so that then by the time they're finished the actors are ready, the actors come back to set the crew hands the set over and they step off and the actors are on and we're ready to roll.

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00:05:53.160 --> 00:06:05.400

Meredith Lavender: So suffice it to say there's a lot of cross pollinating that happens in the world of production, you have a lot of people coming and going said, has always been an open and very free moving place you know you're not thinking about.

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00:06:06.270 --> 00:06:12.360

Meredith Lavender: How, you have to sub divide people out of is really the only thing that has to happen when the cameras roll, is it needs to be quiet for sound.

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00:06:12.570 --> 00:06:22.980

Meredith Lavender: So that's really kind of a one other than that people are often even cameras are often people are moving around on the stage is doing things getting food, you know, whatever and so there's.

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00:06:24.270 --> 00:06:26.160

Meredith Lavender: figuring out how to go back to work.

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00:06:27.060 --> 00:06:33.180

Meredith Lavender: When you know, once the pandemic head and figure out how to create a safe environment we want that much cross pollination happening.

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00:06:33.450 --> 00:06:46.020

Meredith Lavender: that many people needing to come and go, it was it wasn't quite the same conundrum as a classroom or people who go into individual offices, I would equate it a little bit more, probably to the experience of trying to put factories or warehouses back.

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00:06:46.470 --> 00:06:51.690

Meredith Lavender: into a safe environment because there is so much movement throughout the day.

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00:06:52.320 --> 00:06:59.370

Meredith Lavender: And the thing about a crew is you're you're all on top of each other when you think you knew probably seen you know the making of a TV show or a movie.

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00:06:59.700 --> 00:07:10.650

Meredith Lavender: You know if you're the camera operator and you're operating the camera you've got a Dolly grip right behind you who's pushing the Dolly and your focus pillars right in front of you, and you guys are all probably sharing.

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00:07:11.100 --> 00:07:21.150

Meredith Lavender: And immersed three feet of space, at most, I mean it's a very intimate environment and then after that that you everybody eats lunch together craft service which is.

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00:07:21.570 --> 00:07:30.030

Meredith Lavender: kind of snacks and drinks throughout the days that our people congregate around that because, again by Union role there has to be those things made available to people so.

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00:07:30.540 --> 00:07:45.030

Meredith Lavender: Suddenly, you have anywhere from like 100 to let's call it 800 individuals so air go their families jam together and elimination, so we really had to like pull back and figure out how do we do this and how to do this safely.

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00:07:45.750 --> 00:07:49.470

Marcie Ulin: yeah so figuring out with the crew back to work, just it was a lot of moving pieces and then.

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00:07:49.950 --> 00:07:56.880

Marcie Ulin: For what we do, there was the added tricky component of there comes a point in time when the actors, could not be wearing pee pee.

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00:07:57.120 --> 00:08:08.940

Marcie Ulin: So our crews ended up wearing P P, basically, the whole time but there's a certain stretch time that the actors would hit where they truly had to remove absolutely everything to be able to interact with each other on set to be able to interact with.

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00:08:09.150 --> 00:08:09.450

Marcie Ulin: hair and.

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00:08:09.480 --> 00:08:20.640

Marcie Ulin: makeup and for those touch ups and everything else so Hence we had to develop we ended about testing strategy to help us let everybody feel they were going to be safe, so.

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00:08:21.510 --> 00:08:24.720

Marcie Ulin: Some of the shows that we that we know that we have friends who were working on.

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00:08:25.080 --> 00:08:32.010

Marcie Ulin: Did the thing where they basically went built like a bubble where they took their entire cast their entire crew they went to one location and they basically.

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00:08:32.280 --> 00:08:40.200

Marcie Ulin: locked down and treated it like it was summer camp, like the the weather, I know some of the sports leagues built that like here's the section and nobody kind of comes in her out.

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00:08:40.620 --> 00:08:48.810

Marcie Ulin: But for a lot of other shows that just wasn't possible or practical like for us, we were going back to locations that we'd already had running, we were in New York City like there was a lot of.

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00:08:49.800 --> 00:08:56.220

Marcie Ulin: There were a lot of other components that we just we did not have the capacity to say we're going to take everybody and just go walk into a place so.

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00:08:56.700 --> 00:09:04.470

Marcie Ulin: pretty much every studio ended up implementing both a tiered testing plan which i'm a little lab talk about in a minute about how many times a week different.

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00:09:04.920 --> 00:09:17.340

Marcie Ulin: groups are tested and a pod system that we put into place to kind of end up breaking up as lots of that hundred to 800 people who are going to be there into manageable groups so that we could kind of.

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00:09:18.180 --> 00:09:28.620

Marcie Ulin: have contacts we could contact tricks with ease if we needed to so we were one of the very first shows that ended up going back in and kind of ended up paving the way with putting these systems all in place so.

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00:09:29.670 --> 00:09:39.900

Meredith Lavender: that the way we did it was i'll talk about the pod system, first because it's what many places are doing and it's I think relatively self explanatory but it's the idea that each.

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00:09:40.230 --> 00:09:44.400

Meredith Lavender: Their zones within the structure of the studio space or the location so.

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00:09:45.360 --> 00:09:48.630

Meredith Lavender: You know, there was we called the red zone, the closest to camera zone, and that was our.

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00:09:48.990 --> 00:09:56.700

Meredith Lavender: That was our where actors were in the red zone, because very few people are allowed in it, because actors would be without masks etc, etc, so it was only really.

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00:09:56.970 --> 00:10:08.970

Meredith Lavender: Essential personnel there and then, as you tear it out, you know there's a yellow zone, they were green zones that were a little you know, maybe outside or a little easier to move move around and through so we created zones and then within that we created pause.

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00:10:09.330 --> 00:10:17.550

Meredith Lavender: So ordinarily, as I said earlier, you would have like you might have construction working first thing in the morning and you're rigging grips the would be on set you know.

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00:10:17.790 --> 00:10:23.040

Meredith Lavender: hanging lights are doing, are we doing things for the day your lighting crew either your step that crew would be there.

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00:10:23.280 --> 00:10:32.520

Meredith Lavender: We had to figure out how to say okay what pod can be in there and then get out and and not be in there for a while and then who's the next project can go in and which two pods could be there at the same time.

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00:10:32.940 --> 00:10:38.010

Meredith Lavender: So we figured out the whole system okay here are small, you know departmental groups of people.

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00:10:38.610 --> 00:10:45.030

Meredith Lavender: Such that if there was an issue within that pod we could shut the pod down, we know a lot of schools are doing this, my kids school did the same thing.

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00:10:45.390 --> 00:10:51.420

Meredith Lavender: You can shut down that pod contact trace accordingly and keep moving by bringing in kind of.

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00:10:51.900 --> 00:11:01.620

Meredith Lavender: Either people that were not affected, who were capable of doing the job and move up for a few days or, in some cases, we had to go outside of our production and find somebody with a skill set and bring them in so.

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00:11:02.700 --> 00:11:11.640

Meredith Lavender: That was one way we we kind of set up our contact racing slashing workflow which was you know it's challenging because it's not what anyone's used to.

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00:11:12.120 --> 00:11:19.050

Meredith Lavender: And then the second thing we did was essentially went through what he wore what PP was worn by whom and where and why.

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00:11:19.800 --> 00:11:25.290

Meredith Lavender: Because our makeup and hair people get the closest to our actors, they were kind of the most fortified.

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00:11:25.620 --> 00:11:33.930

Meredith Lavender: And they had guns they had gloves they had masks they had everything everybody, of course, had masks many people chose to wear masks and shields or I were.

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00:11:34.710 --> 00:11:44.340

Meredith Lavender: But we had our we had to really kind of be very conscientious about hair and makeup folks who get so close to the actors mask then we basically put in a.

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00:11:45.660 --> 00:11:50.550

Meredith Lavender: System of testing, so the way we did it on our show was three it was three tests, a week we did.

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00:11:50.850 --> 00:12:00.630

Meredith Lavender: Everyone had to get tested, who was in inside essentially I think yellow zones Mars, I think it was yellow and red had to get tested three times a week there were two rapid tests and one.

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00:12:01.260 --> 00:12:09.480

Meredith Lavender: PCR that's how we handled kind of dividing out trying to catch anything you can catch it always doing a weekly PCR people that were.

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00:12:10.350 --> 00:12:17.190

Meredith Lavender: Less on set or could be on set and leave or like our construction crews, we tested them once a week because they had.

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00:12:17.610 --> 00:12:26.400

Meredith Lavender: Either time social distancing their workload, there are fewer people outside if it was just the construction crew, so we were able to create an environment like that.

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00:12:27.390 --> 00:12:34.650

Meredith Lavender: Within you know each department kind of determine how much you got tested or didn't get tested anecdotally one of the funniest.

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00:12:36.720 --> 00:12:44.610

Meredith Lavender: Things it's kind of came up in the processes that, like all PP is not created equal for all jobs and i'm sure, many people are seeing this in different environments.

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00:12:44.940 --> 00:12:56.940

Meredith Lavender: And, in our case, for example, if you have a camera man and he can wear a shield that's great but suddenly when that person goes to what we call handheld which is literally picking up the camera and holding the camera as opposed to it being.

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00:12:57.510 --> 00:13:06.390

Meredith Lavender: You know, set on \$1 or on what we call sticks, meaning that moving and that becomes a problem, because then they need to be able to actually look through.

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00:13:07.050 --> 00:13:12.660

Meredith Lavender: into the camera to see what the camera seeing and suddenly that shield doesn't work, nor does.

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00:13:13.020 --> 00:13:21.150

Meredith Lavender: protective eyewear so we have a bunch of people like very cool you like figure out and this happened on many productions, not just ours, but they figured out how to like.

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00:13:21.480 --> 00:13:30.810

Meredith Lavender: Take ski goggles or swimming goggles and do a one goggles thing with one eye open there's a lot of ingenuity that came out of it, but we had to get really creative because.

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00:13:31.650 --> 00:13:37.170

Meredith Lavender: Depending on what people needed, we had to kind of adjust accordingly, but at the same time, make sure they were says.

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00:13:38.400 --> 00:13:45.480

Marcie Ulin: No, and I mean it was you know we were lucky we ended up working we never lost a day shooting we never had to shut down the entire unit.

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00:13:46.320 --> 00:13:54.030

Marcie Ulin: We only had like 2025 days to get in the can but we've had friends that have truly have had shows up this they've been running for this whole.

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00:13:54.360 --> 00:13:56.880

Marcie Ulin: long stretch of time that have been in production, for months now.

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00:13:57.240 --> 00:14:09.030

Marcie Ulin: And the pod system will combine with testing is really, really worked well for the industry, where it's they get if somebody does get a positive they get to contact trace that little pod that little unit gets sent film.

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00:14:09.330 --> 00:14:17.580

Marcie Ulin: To wait out there quarantine period until they get healthy they bring in a backup crew and so that the Everything can keep running as smoothly as it possibly can.

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00:14:18.150 --> 00:14:24.090

Marcie Ulin: And you know now we're at this place where with the vaccine rolling out like we're going to see what the policies end up being.

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00:14:24.660 --> 00:14:31.710

Marcie Ulin: A lot of those are going to be set up the like studio and Union level, like those negotiations are happening and then those mandates are getting passed down to the shows.

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00:14:32.040 --> 00:14:37.080

Marcie Ulin: So it's going to be interesting to see what they end up what policies end up getting put into place and stick around but.

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00:14:37.080 --> 00:14:46.830

Marcie Ulin: we're hearing that most studios are leaning towards continuing testing protocols for at least the rest of this year, even with the vaccine rollout I mean that could change at any time but.

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00:14:47.220 --> 00:15:01.980

Marcie Ulin: You know, given what we're seeing even with things like major league baseball and the Yankees and those kind of things it's like the testing has been a great way to keep everything running smoothly and give everyone peace of mind when they're coming to be able to do their jobs.

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00:15:02.940 --> 00:15:14.820

Meredith Lavender: yeah for us, especially like the entertainment industry it's a gig economy we're all you know we don't we don't go to work we don't get paid that's that's literally from the highest top after you can think of down to.

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00:15:15.120 --> 00:15:20.100

Meredith Lavender: The PA on set who's you know first job ever in the business or second or third job ever in the business.

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00:15:20.430 --> 00:15:28.080

Meredith Lavender: And so, for us, like we were in the position our our crew wanted to go back to work if there was a real push everybody wanted to go back to work, it wasn't.

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00:15:28.890 --> 00:15:35.820

Meredith Lavender: It wasn't that we didn't feel like the fence or scope of fear, but it was the thing of how do we do this and how do we achieve.

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00:15:36.060 --> 00:15:44.820

Meredith Lavender: Safety and how do we have an environment where people know that they are safe and are being looked after, because from our CD that was paramount to anything else, of course, we wanted to finish the show.

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00:15:45.000 --> 00:15:50.880

Meredith Lavender: Of course, we wanted the world to see the show, but at the end of the day we couldn't do it safely, we had you know for us.

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00:15:51.480 --> 00:15:57.630

Meredith Lavender: You know that wouldn't have worked very well for us let's just say that and, as he said we'll look ahead we'll see what happens.

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00:15:58.230 --> 00:16:04.590

Meredith Lavender: And with with protocols and how they change, not only for our industry, but for the whole kind of a whole world right and.

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00:16:05.040 --> 00:16:14.280

Meredith Lavender: But it won't be surprising to us if the studio's do you want to continue testing everything that will become the real question of like, how do you do testing where it doesn't eat up.

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00:16:14.850 --> 00:16:16.290

Meredith Lavender: kind of the entire.

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00:16:17.040 --> 00:16:22.680

Meredith Lavender: load in process of the day, because that's one thing I didn't say that when we were looking in in the mornings, and we had.

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00:16:22.860 --> 00:16:29.190

Meredith Lavender: Rapid testing and the people had to come in and have the test, have had to wait 15 minutes, and that was eating up time in our day.

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00:16:29.400 --> 00:16:36.390

Meredith Lavender: And then, also because of code, we had to do short and we had to do shorter shooting our thought was just wanted to deal with the Union had made with the studios.

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00:16:36.690 --> 00:16:44.490

Meredith Lavender: And so, all of a sudden you're using test time to testing and then you're already you've already lost time so you're really having to jam pack your days in a different way, which was.

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00:16:45.270 --> 00:16:52.740

Meredith Lavender: Which is hard that's challenging, so I think people will be looking for ways for testing to be easy quick.

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00:16:53.220 --> 00:16:58.710

Meredith Lavender: Whether it's at home, is it the split test is there some other kind of rapid test that we just don't know about, yet that people can just.

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00:16:59.100 --> 00:17:10.650

Meredith Lavender: Oh look I did it and it's in my APP now and I negative and i'm good you know, so I think that'll be something that the studios will be don't have an eye to until and I towards until things are different universally.

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00:17:13.410 --> 00:17:24.000

Gigi Gronvall: You say a little bit more about like the I mean, because when you were when this was being filmed this was at a pretty scary time and and so was you know where people.

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00:17:24.990 --> 00:17:33.480

Gigi Gronvall: You know how were they like a scared about the testing was where people reassured, is it like is it normalized how long did that take.

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00:17:34.770 --> 00:17:40.110

Marcie Ulin: I mean, I think it was, I think it was a little bit of both I mean will be honest, it was it was, as we all, I mean, I think.

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00:17:40.770 --> 00:17:47.040

Marcie Ulin: we've all been living through this right like it was scary and the uncertainties part of what made it scary and I think the testing.

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00:17:47.400 --> 00:17:55.770

Marcie Ulin: helped everyone feel like they had a backstop you know where you were you were in a you're trusting everyone that you're working with and.

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00:17:56.160 --> 00:18:03.030

Marcie Ulin: leaning into that kind of space and it, but it gave everybody the the feeling that they knew they were going to be here they knew that.

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00:18:03.420 --> 00:18:11.490

Marcie Ulin: The people that they were working with that everyone was looking out for each other and had if God forbid somebody came back with a positive.

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00:18:11.760 --> 00:18:16.200

Marcie Ulin: That there were there were protocols and systems in place to keep it from becoming.

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00:18:16.560 --> 00:18:25.020

Marcie Ulin: That Community spread and turning into suddenly you know everyone on set got sick or something like that which, of course, when we look back at it you're like the way that it's normally ran.

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00:18:25.350 --> 00:18:38.130

Marcie Ulin: We would never have been able to go back to work, because for us it was our show we shut down this is every show in the business shut down for like a decent stretch of time over last summer to figure out how are we going to do this in a way.

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00:18:38.700 --> 00:18:49.470

Marcie Ulin: That allowed people to come back to work, and nothing went back up until you know the fall was the word, the first kind of shows that came back in we all shut down kind of in March and didn't come back up until.

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00:18:50.010 --> 00:18:57.090

Marcie Ulin: The fall where they've had time to figure out and work through like how are these testing strategies going to work and how are these parts system is going to work.

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00:18:57.600 --> 00:19:05.790

Meredith Lavender: we're also relying on you know governors being willing to open up states to certain numbers of people gathering, because obviously you've heard us talking about Oh, we have.

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00:19:06.180 --> 00:19:17.130

Meredith Lavender: You know 150 people inside and York rolled it out a little bit and in waves, like our very first day of filming we were allowed that I think kind of hundred people on set so we had to go with a really slim down crew.

135

00:19:17.550 --> 00:19:26.430

Meredith Lavender: And then we were allowed Funnily enough, as we start on August 31 then September 1 we were allowed to go up, I think, to like 150 or 200 and then at some point, it became.

136

00:19:26.790 --> 00:19:29.550

Meredith Lavender: You know the numbers didn't matter if you have protocols in place.

137

00:19:30.300 --> 00:19:43.590

Meredith Lavender: The way we were able to kind of do things that was that we had actually machines that are ours dedicated to us in a dedicated space on our stages, so we were able to run our own testing kind of Protocol like in house essentially.

138

00:19:44.250 --> 00:19:58.080

Meredith Lavender: Which is the don't know that it would have been possible to do it any other way, because I just, we have to be we had to have total control of that situation in order to accomplish losing hours and hours and hours and days and days.

139

00:19:59.370 --> 00:20:02.700

Gigi Gronvall: Did you do symptom screening as well, or just the testing.

140

00:20:03.150 --> 00:20:22.470

Meredith Lavender: I yeah we did send them screening for sure I think at tested, I think it ever was asked the questions you know and everyone was baffling also just coming back in August everyone was highly aware of that kind of symptoms, so I think that um if anything happened I think anyone saw somebody.

141

00:20:23.880 --> 00:20:30.840

Marcie Ulin: And they were doing, we were getting like temperature screenings when people showed up and that kind of thing that you weren't sure the questions of you know i've been.

142

00:20:31.140 --> 00:20:34.890

Marcie Ulin: asymptomatic mid systemic it's really fun it's essentially we're doing with our kids going back to school now.

143

00:20:35.730 --> 00:20:46.320

Marcie Ulin: it's the same kind of yeah daily check to be like, yes, this temperature check and then also knowing that there was the top of 123 tests, a week again depending on which zone, you were in.

144

00:20:47.190 --> 00:20:54.630

Gigi Gronvall: Do you think it's going to influence the way that scripts are written and to kind of accommodate the smaller.

145

00:20:56.730 --> 00:21:06.330

Meredith Lavender: for the foreseeable future until until until things are more normal or you know you don't have to follow a strict protocol 100% and and you're seeing it.

146

00:21:06.720 --> 00:21:17.370

Meredith Lavender: For those of you out there who watch, you know, for example, CDs shows their actors are wearing masks the season and that's on some of the more like legal procedural stuff or things where.

147

00:21:18.090 --> 00:21:27.660

Meredith Lavender: it's okay to be part of the story, because it's you know its operating in the world, as if it's today those kinds of stories it's a little harder with something like the flight attendant.

148

00:21:28.350 --> 00:21:32.640

Meredith Lavender: And Kathy in the basket and character, but I do think you're going to see.

149

00:21:32.970 --> 00:21:44.850

Meredith Lavender: it'll be interesting to watch, I think, looking back when you look at TV over these kind of two years to see scenes that suddenly could have been one version of the scene that are much smaller with fewer extra is we did have.

150

00:21:46.020 --> 00:21:52.980

Meredith Lavender: One of the things we had to do was decided kind of what was the most number of extras we needed and we actually had a pool of investors that we kept.

151

00:21:53.850 --> 00:22:02.310

Meredith Lavender: On hand for the whole 30 days and we just moved them around, and you know if you lose your face today it's your back tomorrow or whatever he had to.

152

00:22:02.760 --> 00:22:13.860

Meredith Lavender: Normally, you would have different extras every day and we couldn't do that, obviously, we needed to have a pool of folks we could kind of keep the same time that we were keeping on our crew in our in our actors so.

153

00:22:13.920 --> 00:22:16.410

Marcie Ulin: You know we've had a lot of friends who have worked on.

154

00:22:16.860 --> 00:22:24.210

Marcie Ulin: shows different different shows than ours, but that are a little bit more effects heavy and that kind of stuff and they've said they're leaning a lot more on their effects, a lot more on their.

155

00:22:24.780 --> 00:22:32.220

Marcie Ulin: replacements of backgrounds and building crowds and tiling like we used to do this, a lot when we run nashville run like when we were shooting.

156

00:22:32.430 --> 00:22:40.290

Marcie Ulin: concert scenes and stuff where it would be like the first hundred people, you were seeing were real and then you would start to build out with computer models and stuff, and that is becoming.

157

00:22:40.680 --> 00:22:51.150

Marcie Ulin: A lot more widespread for anybody who's having to do any kind of crowd work, then that sort of stuff and the way that those programs have evolved over the last advanced for the last decade to is amazing yeah.

158

00:22:52.170 --> 00:22:55.170

Gigi Gronvall: That goes for lots of shooting on location as well right.

159

00:22:55.890 --> 00:22:59.490

Meredith Lavender: So we lost a couple of our locations understandably.

160

00:23:00.540 --> 00:23:03.420

Meredith Lavender: And they were established location so either had to.

161

00:23:03.990 --> 00:23:13.680

Meredith Lavender: build something on our set that could replicate it enough to get away with it, we had to change the location of that particular story piece, which in some cases even some cases it's hard.

162

00:23:14.430 --> 00:23:23.100

Meredith Lavender: But in locations, we have we would run into, for example, there's a big scene in episode eight that we shot at the jarvis Center we shot it as a.

163

00:23:24.270 --> 00:23:35.820

Meredith Lavender: As an airport, actually, but even in the space as massive as the Atrium at the jarvis Center you know, we had a limited number of extras we are allowed to have at any given point in time, so you know yeah and, like in.

164

00:23:36.270 --> 00:23:44.640

Meredith Lavender: places that didn't want us to come back you know it's again totally understand, but it yeah it was hard for us, but we got it we're just alive.

165

00:23:45.630 --> 00:23:55.380

Meredith Lavender: But you know look you you just you tack accordingly, and you, I mean part of part of producing anything and movies TV music video editing part of it is.

166

00:23:55.950 --> 00:24:04.230

Meredith Lavender: Just being nimble it's being your job is literally just all problems that's marcy and my job by trade, other than writing words we then.

167

00:24:04.470 --> 00:24:14.250

Meredith Lavender: Once the words are written we solve problems and that's what you spend your day doing and and as a creative storyteller you you look at any given scene and you say okay what's the essence of the scene.

168

00:24:14.730 --> 00:24:28.440

Meredith Lavender: Okay, if I can't do it on a boat because it's raining and it's not safe for the crew, can I get the same thing convey that we're like standing in a boat house, yes, I can okay great that's an easy change so it's the benefit of having.

169

00:24:28.770 --> 00:24:38.550

Meredith Lavender: creatives involved in producing and Problem Solving and we were able to you know to tack accordingly, but I think locations, will be a challenge, continue to be a challenge going forward.

170

00:24:38.910 --> 00:24:52.080

Meredith Lavender: Until people are more comfortable and people feel that the vaccines are you know, doing everything that they have been doing and that they're working in that you know we're seeing where we all curtail of of the of the disease of the virus so.

171

00:24:52.260 --> 00:24:59.070

Marcie Ulin: yeah I mean we also you know we we have worked on many, many shows where we travel.

172

00:24:59.550 --> 00:25:07.890

Marcie Ulin: A lot and in a traditional way when you're shooting a TV show a lot of times what happens is your directors only coming in, for that one episode.

173

00:25:08.160 --> 00:25:20.010

Marcie Ulin: Your writers, are only coming in, for that episode, you have actors who are coming in, for a day or five days or that kind of thing, and that was that has been very challenging to try to figure out how to work around those.

174

00:25:20.940 --> 00:25:23.430

Marcie Ulin: those sorts of limitations, because there's not the same.

175

00:25:23.940 --> 00:25:37.530

Marcie Ulin: in and out, you know, like even when we first did this back up, it was that place of like people were quarantining in New York for two weeks before they could even go beyond set and join the pods and stuff if you're coming from outside of New York state and so that's that's going to.

176

00:25:37.590 --> 00:25:46.140

Meredith Lavender: Change just going through that right now all of our friends were in Canada, the same issue, right now, because Canada's quarantines are incredibly.

177

00:25:46.950 --> 00:25:59.460

Meredith Lavender: Their rules are really stringent right now it's a three days before you land test test to the airport, you have to go to a governance section of hotel until you get your second negative and then it's still 14 days total.

178

00:25:59.970 --> 00:26:09.150

Meredith Lavender: In quarantine wherever even quarantine safely and so that affects production to right and my mother in law just went through it, she had been here, and she went back to Canada where she's from but.

179

00:26:09.480 --> 00:26:24.210

Meredith Lavender: And same thing with production and the actor who's going to Canada right now has to have to do that so then production has to take on the cost of that the the time structure of that, and what that does, and when you're asking somebody to come in and it gets a little trickier.

180

00:26:25.680 --> 00:26:36.000

Meredith Lavender: You know so unless it's a big role is like, in most cases, now stuff you might have flown in American actor off you're casting a Canadian local which doesn't happen it's good for Canadian local talent.

181

00:26:37.440 --> 00:26:39.630

Gigi Gronvall: Yes, it is that does that affect like.

182

00:26:39.990 --> 00:26:52.530

Gigi Gronvall: um you know the kind of the lifestyle of you know where people might go with their families for for for the whole production or you know, does it sometimes doesn't this take months.

183

00:26:53.310 --> 00:27:01.890

Marcie Ulin: yeah a lot of times, it does and again we've had friends who have contemplated taking jobs outside of the US, but they've realized that.

184

00:27:02.580 --> 00:27:07.740

Marcie Ulin: There there's an openness to visas for certain workers, but not the extended.

185

00:27:08.370 --> 00:27:14.310

Marcie Ulin: tourist visa that like your family used to get so people who are like oh I don't want to necessarily take a job i'm gonna be gone for.

186

00:27:14.760 --> 00:27:23.730

Marcie Ulin: A year that i'm in a way that out, do I go and leave my family for a year do it or do I not take the job and that's definitely been I think something that a lot of people are.

187

00:27:24.180 --> 00:27:28.650

Marcie Ulin: are weighing as they try to contemplate that, but the so the notion of do you just pick up your whole family and.

188

00:27:29.130 --> 00:27:40.470

Marcie Ulin: Go and you're going to go live someplace else for a long extended period of time because it's not it's easy to bounce back and forth to be like i'm going to be on set for

Monday through Thursday and i'm gonna go home for the weekends and it's a it's a big shift hmm.

189

00:27:41.220 --> 00:27:45.900

Gigi Gronvall: Did you have any problems like with false positives during the time that you were shooting.

190

00:27:46.350 --> 00:27:47.070

Marcie Ulin: We can read.

191

00:27:48.330 --> 00:27:56.820

Meredith Lavender: Because the way we are protocol was a positive was a positive positive we got lucky in that nobody got stuck on our show.

192

00:27:57.750 --> 00:28:00.900

Meredith Lavender: But we had a times folks had to go home.

193

00:28:01.320 --> 00:28:11.850

Meredith Lavender: And then we'll follow up subsequent testing, it was proven to have been a false positive but we just we had the studio's had to make it the other unions had to make a decision, and I think it was the right decision at the time.

194

00:28:12.150 --> 00:28:25.470

Meredith Lavender: Especially with with still we're back in vaccines were still a question America wasn't going to be late 19 or 20 we just didn't know, and so I think the answer, or like 20 sees me and know what year it is anymore i've lost my nine.

195

00:28:26.940 --> 00:28:28.590

Meredith Lavender: Where they are in space anyone.

196

00:28:29.190 --> 00:28:41.190

Meredith Lavender: know what the point being that we that wasn't rolling out, it was still a question when it was going to roll out, you know if it was like 20 or 21, and so we just had to have a hard line and approach it that way, so the answer was.

197

00:28:41.310 --> 00:28:44.730

Meredith Lavender: going to be testing back, and it was positive, you went home, and that was this one, it was.

198

00:28:45.990 --> 00:28:58.650

Gigi Gronvall: Good it ended up that you had like more people involved or less people like when you had to have extra crew members didn't end up being you know about the same number or how did that change, like the actual numbers of people that you've had.

199

00:28:59.340 --> 00:29:06.840

Meredith Lavender: A couple things that I didn't have her one we definitely had a few extra people, because each show has a coven officer wow so it's actually somebody.

200

00:29:07.140 --> 00:29:15.840

Meredith Lavender: Usually somebody from the medical field who comes on to the show to oversee the whole process of everything to do with coven and also then that person is.

201

00:29:16.410 --> 00:29:22.500

Meredith Lavender: Making sure that protocols being followed whether testing or people hear anything out or distancing or anything else.

202

00:29:23.430 --> 00:29:30.750

Meredith Lavender: We definitely in some cases had fewer people, because if again if we are going into a location, we normally would have been able to walk in with like.

203

00:29:31.080 --> 00:29:42.480

Meredith Lavender: 150 people in that location, so that you can only have 100 people, but we can't say I wouldn't have to be extra as if we need all the extra, so in that case you might have like a slim down camera crew or slim down.

204

00:29:43.050 --> 00:29:53.820

Meredith Lavender: grip or electric crew, you know depends on I wouldn't say it was for our show, in particular, I wouldn't say it was an overwhelming swing and one way or the other, I know some other shows probably.

205

00:29:54.900 --> 00:29:58.590

Meredith Lavender: More so than baseline down as much as they try just to get back in.

206

00:29:59.130 --> 00:30:14.850

Meredith Lavender: Because, especially shows like la had different rules than New York had different rules from Atlanta had different roles from Chicago so you've had to had to just roll with it wherever you were so, but our show in particular didn't feel like to like it impacted us that much.

207

00:30:17.040 --> 00:30:28.710

Gigi Gronvall: um there's a question about like the cadence of the testing and like how that was negotiated and whether that is there going to be sort of a industry best practice on that, like.

208

00:30:29.550 --> 00:30:46.290

Gigi Gronvall: You know, you mentioned that it was dictated by Union requirements that you did testing three times a week is that do you see that changing or and also who paid for the test, I know that in some locations, it was probably free but picked up by the state.

209

00:30:46.320 --> 00:30:47.190

Gigi Gronvall: Or was it picked up.

210

00:30:48.570 --> 00:30:50.790

Meredith Lavender: Everything for for us.

211

00:30:51.840 --> 00:30:55.410

Meredith Lavender: They now the show is paid for everything which has been in the studio thanks for everything.

212

00:30:56.430 --> 00:31:12.150

Meredith Lavender: This is a bike so the studio's pay for it um I had a that's a good question about the cadence I wonder, Maurice i'm gonna say this is a question and curious your thoughts I wonder, with the vaccine if that might change.

213

00:31:12.750 --> 00:31:21.720

Meredith Lavender: And this is me truly wondering, maybe a changes protocol, maybe once a week becomes the standard maybe the you know I don't know I think that's going to be a kind of wait and see.

214

00:31:23.100 --> 00:31:33.780

Meredith Lavender: Because it's also the question I you know I don't think unions or studios necessarily will make vaccines mandatory and that I have no, I have no finger on the pulse on that other than to say I just don't know that that's what will happen.

215

00:31:34.770 --> 00:31:40.380

Meredith Lavender: So if that doesn't happen, I think the testing in place in some capacity don't you agree.

216

00:31:41.280 --> 00:31:47.730

Marcie Ulin: yeah I think so because I think that it's and again, as we all know, there's there's so many ripple effects that go with.

217

00:31:48.270 --> 00:31:55.830

Marcie Ulin: that go with that and what the policies are, but I think it's going to be, it will be negotiated between the studios and the unions is my knee jerk on that.

218

00:31:56.130 --> 00:32:06.330

Marcie Ulin: To make sure that everybody feels like they are protected and covered and then that will be kind of the policy that rolls forward but it's going to live at that level not really on like an individual show.

219

00:32:07.980 --> 00:32:21.000

Meredith Lavender: Think, if I had if you made me in this moment paper, I would say it would never be it would not be less than one and I don't expect it to go to more than three reasons that kind of became the industry that did kind of become the standard.

220

00:32:22.650 --> 00:32:28.680

Meredith Lavender: But again about what is that that's again union bosses and studio heads and heads of production, good luck.

221

00:32:30.840 --> 00:32:43.260

Gigi Gronvall: But you had you didn't really have i'm trying to think about if there were any children on the set but I mean certainly there's going to be shows that have that have kids that can't you know can't even be vaccine get.

222

00:32:43.290 --> 00:32:45.930

Meredith Lavender: Right, we have, we have two kids on our side.

223

00:32:46.020 --> 00:32:47.370

Gigi Gronvall: And oh yeah yeah that's right.

224

00:32:47.490 --> 00:32:48.570

Meredith Lavender: i'll do.

225

00:32:49.740 --> 00:32:50.550

Meredith Lavender: The same thing.

226

00:32:52.080 --> 00:32:54.570

Meredith Lavender: Every time they had to test the same as everybody else.

227

00:32:54.990 --> 00:33:04.320

Marcie Ulin: But to your point about the vaccine jujitsu exactly it's like there are people who can't get vaccinated for for whatever reasons are people who are you know with an age requirements and, like all of those things so.

228

00:33:05.070 --> 00:33:17.730

Marcie Ulin: You know, like we said, our understanding right now is that for most a lot of students are saying to basically like they're just going to continue these for the foreseeable future right like this is how they're going to be handling this yeah.

229

00:33:18.720 --> 00:33:23.160

Gigi Gronvall: So somebody asks how did you handle clear and i'm not sure what.

230

00:33:24.960 --> 00:33:28.590

Meredith Lavender: I don't think we have anything, as I know, it is only because my husband's.

231

00:33:29.220 --> 00:33:35.580

Gigi Gronvall: Clinical Okay, I was thinking it was something that was an acronym from your world and not but yes, I do know what clears.

232

00:33:36.990 --> 00:33:38.190

Meredith Lavender: The lab accreditation.

233

00:33:39.360 --> 00:33:45.780

Meredith Lavender: case I think it's because we were working with a testing company, and then we had a registered nurse on site doing.

234

00:33:46.140 --> 00:33:58.290

Meredith Lavender: All of the actual testing whatever so we were in conjunction with a come with a testing company or with a it was a testing company, and then the natural when we had medical professionals and and all of that so right we didn't have to have an actual proper.

235

00:33:58.620 --> 00:34:02.490

Meredith Lavender: We didn't have to set up a lab the goodness my husband has set up to those and why we didn't have to.

236

00:34:04.230 --> 00:34:05.370

Meredith Lavender: gather, who has done that.

237

00:34:05.910 --> 00:34:10.020

Gigi Gronvall: Now, now the clear waiver is isn't an important part of this process.

238

00:34:10.200 --> 00:34:10.860

Gigi Gronvall: For some.

239

00:34:11.340 --> 00:34:26.370

Gigi Gronvall: Did you collect statistics or Is anybody collecting statistics about any of you know, our studios looking like pan what you know what has worked and what doesn't and if there's any best practices that are emerging.

240

00:34:27.300 --> 00:34:29.070

Meredith Lavender: If they are, they haven't told us.

241

00:34:31.260 --> 00:34:31.560

Marcie Ulin: Right.

242

00:34:33.450 --> 00:34:41.790

Meredith Lavender: If there was you know, interestingly, if there was a great public health reason to collect that information somebody should raise their hand and talk to Hollywood but.

243

00:34:43.020 --> 00:34:46.260

Meredith Lavender: You know that that that functions above our heads, from where we sit on shows.

244

00:34:46.860 --> 00:34:58.590

Gigi Gronvall: huh do you think people will want to have some sort of card that identifies you know that that their vaccines What do people talk about like the vaccine issue like i'm ready to work i've been vaccinated um.

245

00:35:00.330 --> 00:35:11.880

Meredith Lavender: I don't think that's a good question I don't know the answer to that I don't I think you know people if social media is any indication, it feels like most people are pretty psyched and letting the world know they've been vaccinated so.

246

00:35:13.080 --> 00:35:21.840

Meredith Lavender: I think if it's about coming back to work, then, again I don't think anyone I don't know that they'll be able to make that mandatory between you know, unions and CEOs and.

247

00:35:22.530 --> 00:35:30.420

Meredith Lavender: My abilities and rules and people's rights and hipaa and all that i'm not sure about to handle that because I think that's where it becomes actually an interesting.

248

00:35:31.830 --> 00:35:33.420

Meredith Lavender: With it, and the wheel.

249

00:35:35.040 --> 00:35:45.930

Gigi Gronvall: Did did there was ever a problem before coven that you could think of where like you know productions had problems because of illness i'm wondering.

250

00:35:46.230 --> 00:35:56.670

Gigi Gronvall: You know, is this is there going to be some expectation like this is a variable that maybe we can control like to keep flew off the set or is that something or people are just not there yet.

251

00:35:58.410 --> 00:36:03.390

Marcie Ulin: I mean I don't I can't think of anything that falls in this category.

252

00:36:03.720 --> 00:36:06.420

Meredith Lavender: I hope people will be I hope people.

253

00:36:07.260 --> 00:36:12.180

Meredith Lavender: As somebody who often starts off every writers room by telling people if they feel crappy to stay home.

254

00:36:12.720 --> 00:36:20.460

Meredith Lavender: Because not let's not have like the universal cold the fires around the writers room and my hope is that we've all learned a little bit about.

255

00:36:20.880 --> 00:36:30.930

Meredith Lavender: That and that we you know people listen to their bodies, a little bit more, and that also work environments, create a slightly better situation for people to be allowed to be set, you know, because it does happen.

256

00:36:32.010 --> 00:36:36.480

Meredith Lavender: So yeah but I don't I can't think of anything either offhand okay.

257

00:36:37.890 --> 00:36:48.930

Gigi Gronvall: What was the was there did it take like what were some of the most fun experiences, then you had to like do people were people.

258

00:36:49.680 --> 00:37:01.890

Gigi Gronvall: feeling like they weren't didn't get the full experience of this of the show or anything, because there is that, like separation of pods or did it, you know did it just come, you know did it work out.

259

00:37:02.670 --> 00:37:13.380

Meredith Lavender: People were just really happy to be worked, I mean like I said, these are people who don't work and have to pay, and I think people were really you know yeah I wasn't I We talked to our friends recruiter and it was you know.

260

00:37:13.740 --> 00:37:18.000

Meredith Lavender: it's weird and you know you don't just sit around you know it's not the kind of.

261

00:37:18.990 --> 00:37:30.660

Meredith Lavender: laid back, not the right word, but just kind of free flowing creative jam that production can be, and that was definitely weird, but I think people were just so happy to be back at, especially for us, so we shut down we shot.

262

00:37:31.080 --> 00:37:39.960

Meredith Lavender: We shot all five episodes in today's episode six of an eight episode series, you know so for all of us like we just we all wanted to get the show done was we.

263

00:37:40.680 --> 00:37:45.960

Meredith Lavender: thought we had something really special that we were working on and we thought the world is going to be hope, the world is going to love it.

264

00:37:46.350 --> 00:37:57.810

Meredith Lavender: And so we I think everybody in our particular case everybody was just really excited to go back to work and and finish this thing and see it through, so I don't think anyone was too concerned at that point about is it fun or not fun.

265

00:37:58.950 --> 00:38:02.490

Meredith Lavender: Our friends, I have a friend who has a show up in Atlanta right now, and she.

266

00:38:03.270 --> 00:38:07.170

Meredith Lavender: She said, you know people just want they're rolling with it everyone's rolling with it, and like.

267

00:38:07.380 --> 00:38:21.360

Meredith Lavender: they're finding their phone and they're finding you know, especially now with vaccines and being outside is a different equation even than it was for us because even back then we still were following much stricter protocol, you know they're finding their way back to it, I think.

268

00:38:22.290 --> 00:38:27.150

Gigi Gronvall: Did you have rules for eating and drinking and like how did people manage to do that.

269

00:38:30.000 --> 00:38:37.530

Marcie Ulin: I mean they had, I believe that what they did was they had all of the meals became individually wrapped and package so there wasn't the like.

270

00:38:38.010 --> 00:38:48.030

Marcie Ulin: cafeteria line style flow and everyone was socially distanced and they were eating in waves, as opposed to it being like the whole company breaks and goes to lunch for.

271

00:38:48.570 --> 00:38:55.950

Marcie Ulin: An hour together and it's like lunch hour in high school today we all get to hang out together and have a good time it was much more like.

272

00:38:56.430 --> 00:39:10.170

Marcie Ulin: It went in definite waves in pockets and they had you know, sometimes people were eating outside and sometimes you know they were inside and you know very, very large spaces, where people were still staying socially distance.

273

00:39:10.680 --> 00:39:13.110

Marcie Ulin: When they were eating anytime they had to remove their PP.

274

00:39:14.070 --> 00:39:18.450

Meredith Lavender: same across services, all that became normally services is kind of looks like.

275

00:39:19.410 --> 00:39:28.290

Meredith Lavender: I don't know you want, you know there's snacks out there might be some fresh fruit cut up and I became all individually wrapped and packaged stuff and then anytime.

276

00:39:28.710 --> 00:39:37.470

Meredith Lavender: They could be weather permitting they could be outside like they were outside anytime we could do anything you know where we weren't in an enclosed space we took advantage of that.

277

00:39:38.490 --> 00:39:48.960

Gigi Gronvall: Can you talk a little bit about like the beginning, like what so when production was shut down and March, and you know and how you kind of got to the testing strategy that you had.

278

00:39:50.400 --> 00:39:51.690

Meredith Lavender: yeah so we.

279

00:39:53.220 --> 00:39:58.470

Meredith Lavender: There were a lot of paul's a lot of calls that even we weren't on again, because this is happening at the high level.

280

00:39:58.890 --> 00:40:08.400

Meredith Lavender: And because the unions had to agree to it and, in our case and and then a lot of unions, where you have writers Guild screen actors Guild the oxy which is your below the line crew.

281

00:40:08.700 --> 00:40:17.820

Meredith Lavender: directors Guild Am I missing producers Guild and there's you know, there was a lot, there are a lot of talks happening, as you can imagine, incredibly incredibly high level.

282

00:40:18.210 --> 00:40:29.400

Meredith Lavender: So what we did, and we were lucky we were able to put all of our editors at home and get them edit bays setup at home, and so we were able to do edit essentially through zoom which was wild and crazy but it worked.

283

00:40:29.880 --> 00:40:40.500

Meredith Lavender: And so we weren't we weren't a while they were kind of solving it by higher level, because you know we were one of how many TV shows out there and that had to figure out a way to go back and so.

284

00:40:40.890 --> 00:40:57.240

Meredith Lavender: That quest was really on them and then our show, in particular, we were allowed to that we got each studio was allowed to pick a single show to kind of put ahead of the big Union deal that was going to happen and as our show and in the case of Warner horizon, and so we.

285

00:40:58.950 --> 00:41:09.600

Meredith Lavender: We kind of had to hit pedal to the metal on that, and so we had a lot of calls about testing and how is going to work that felt largely on our line producer and our unit production manager they're kind of the physical production people.

286

00:41:10.860 --> 00:41:27.720

Meredith Lavender: within an actual production and so that really fell to them kind of figure out how to how to make it all work, and so they spent a great deal of time from probably late April until we were back in they spent a great deal of time lots.

287

00:41:29.130 --> 00:41:31.950

Meredith Lavender: And lots of doctors and lots of scientists and people waiting in.

288

00:41:33.420 --> 00:41:34.770

Gigi Gronvall: mercy, do you have any.

289

00:41:35.880 --> 00:41:38.250

Marcie Ulin: yeah I mean that was.

290

00:41:39.090 --> 00:41:44.310

Marcie Ulin: That was kind of the way that we actually ended up evolving it, you know just wanted to try to.

291

00:41:44.910 --> 00:41:57.240

Marcie Ulin: Put the most parameters in place where we could clearly turn the lights back on but also everyone could feel that they were covered, you know that they that they were not walking into a scary you know hit that we were managing the situation.

292

00:41:58.380 --> 00:42:00.780

Marcie Ulin: And, and that everyone felt like they were they were being taken care of.

293

00:42:02.580 --> 00:42:11.640

Gigi Gronvall: Do you have any advice for why I have a question before asking me like a broader one, but I mean so different studios put forth one show.

294

00:42:12.480 --> 00:42:26.550

Gigi Gronvall: What What about like you know less less resourced productions yeah how how did you know that, like test how would a testing work or did they were they just unable to continue.

295

00:42:28.380 --> 00:42:31.530

Meredith Lavender: Anyone that I said everything right.

296

00:42:32.460 --> 00:42:40.950

Marcie Ulin: yeah I don't know top I had, I mean, I know, like I said there were some productions and I definitely know some like smaller indie type things that they really did that they built a bubble.

297

00:42:41.400 --> 00:42:49.080

Marcie Ulin: And that was how they handled it they had their crew they had their cast the other writers their directors or producers and they basically.

298

00:42:49.770 --> 00:42:55.050

Marcie Ulin: tested went into the bubble, and I have I don't know if they ended up continuing doing you know.

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00:42:55.890 --> 00:43:10.080

Marcie Ulin: Testing as they went or not, but they basically locked themselves down and said, you know for 10 days or 12 days or 25 days or however many days they were going to be shooting nobody was going in or out and they were treating it like one little.

300

00:43:11.160 --> 00:43:24.000

Marcie Ulin: One little shut down household unit basically was the work unit and they weren't going and visiting their families, they weren't going back and forth and just not cross pollinating and that was how I like I know have a couple friends who did indie films that way.

301

00:43:25.380 --> 00:43:28.260

Marcie Ulin: During during the pandemic and stuff but.

302

00:43:30.840 --> 00:43:43.140

Gigi Gronvall: So kind of an overarching question like what kind of advice would you give you know and what kind of advice would you give to others as they're thinking of like how to prepare in the future for for.

303

00:43:44.640 --> 00:43:50.250

Gigi Gronvall: another outbreak and what do you think is like some of the biggest lessons that you know you really wish that.

304

00:43:51.720 --> 00:44:00.300

Gigi Gronvall: That you know, we want to make sure we preserve so that we don't you know forget how you know we can we can get back to work a little bit more quickly.

305

00:44:01.650 --> 00:44:02.190

Meredith Lavender: Do you wanna.

306

00:44:02.850 --> 00:44:05.340

Gigi Gronvall: be on a small level or you know big will level.

307

00:44:06.300 --> 00:44:07.170

um.

308

00:44:09.720 --> 00:44:12.840

Marcie Ulin: I mean i'm tired it's kind of like I think that this was a.

309

00:44:13.860 --> 00:44:17.190

Marcie Ulin: It definitely felt once in a generation.

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00:44:17.790 --> 00:44:25.020

Marcie Ulin: We type thing that's how and i'm hopefully knock wood um where everyone.

311

00:44:25.620 --> 00:44:35.970

Marcie Ulin: came together and it feels like we we've done our best to figure out the best way through this very, very challenging time for everyone, and now we are really.

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00:44:36.390 --> 00:44:47.130

Marcie Ulin: Hoping that we're turning the corner I needed to turn the corner and I mean I guess the spaces, if it God forbid happens again that we all now have some policies in place and hopefully we'll be able to step into that even faster and.

313

00:44:48.450 --> 00:44:56.940

Marcie Ulin: put those guys put those guardrails up if we need to stop them back into place again it felt very much like the this time when it all started everyone was.

314

00:44:57.840 --> 00:45:07.980

Marcie Ulin: Completely flat footed in that place of it never happened before what was this you know, and I mean that was clearly across the across the globe and I feel like.

315

00:45:08.850 --> 00:45:19.050

Marcie Ulin: Hopefully, what we what we gain out of that is now we feel like we have some policies that have worked and it worked well and guidelines and guardrails so that we can clip them back, and if we need to.

316

00:45:20.070 --> 00:45:28.770

Meredith Lavender: I think, for me, my takeaways are a little bit marcy and I are production friendly writers and producers, not everybody is we are.

317

00:45:29.520 --> 00:45:36.450

Meredith Lavender: I think we were already pretty nimble this taught us to be a lot more nimble and I think that that is a takeaway that I hope.

318

00:45:37.140 --> 00:45:45.300

Meredith Lavender: Every production will take with them of you know, when when the thing that comes out of left field comes out of left field, and you just figure out how to.

319

00:45:45.810 --> 00:45:52.770

Meredith Lavender: mitigate through it as quickly as possible, and now that and I do think there are some lessons learned this of like okay stop.

320

00:45:53.130 --> 00:46:02.550

Meredith Lavender: Get everybody on the same page if we need a smaller career we do a smaller crew if we need to change location, we can change the location, there are ways to do this, you know and and make it happen, so I think.

321

00:46:02.970 --> 00:46:09.780

Meredith Lavender: You know, there are some practices in Hollywood that have existed for your forever and the answer was always like well that's just because that's how you know how it's always been done.

322

00:46:10.080 --> 00:46:18.120

Meredith Lavender: And I think that now there's there's a way to challenge, some of those practices and not in a take on the machine way, but just like no like look look.

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00:46:18.480 --> 00:46:26.670

Meredith Lavender: I think you'll hear people say you know, during coven we did this thing and it saved us like six hours on a day and I do think some of those practices will carry forward.

324

00:46:27.390 --> 00:46:35.760

Meredith Lavender: I certainly hope so, and then I do think also I the thing I said before, I really hope this has everybody, you know looking out for.

325

00:46:37.320 --> 00:46:42.810

Meredith Lavender: people's health in a slightly different way than then we certainly have in the past, and you know that's that's from.

326

00:46:43.560 --> 00:46:47.970

Meredith Lavender: Whoever onset all the way up to the top and down to the bottom, so you know that you're.

327

00:46:48.420 --> 00:46:54.660

Meredith Lavender: A little more aware, even as an individual that you're more aware if i'm feeling a little funky like yeah you know what now it's so weird to put on a mask.

328

00:46:55.110 --> 00:47:02.010

Meredith Lavender: You know, many countries have done that, for a long time, and I think there are lessons to be learned from that as well, so we'll see we'll see if if.

329

00:47:03.510 --> 00:47:04.950

Meredith Lavender: We all choose to do that or not.

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00:47:08.820 --> 00:47:16.440

Gigi Gronvall: it's it's been such a pleasure to hear your stories of the and and i'm really so excited to.

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00:47:17.010 --> 00:47:30.000

Gigi Gronvall: That I had to prepare for this that I had to actually watch your show, so it was really such a great experience and thank you for all the joy that you bring and it really.

332

00:47:30.660 --> 00:47:37.800

Gigi Gronvall: has been so informative and we are so grateful that you took time out of your very busy schedules to talk with us about about testing.

333

00:47:38.190 --> 00:47:39.480

Meredith Lavender: And the.

334

00:47:41.010 --> 00:47:46.950

Meredith Lavender: fact that all of you who have been other people solving these problems for the last you know 15 months like.

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00:47:47.280 --> 00:47:59.520

Meredith Lavender: Hats off to you, because if you all didn't do what you do for a living, we there's no chance we would have been back in production so we're very, very grateful to to all of the science folks and and medical folks out there who just figured it out.

336

00:48:01.230 --> 00:48:15.600

Gigi Gronvall: Thank you so much, everyone and well, that concludes our webinar for today and we'll we'll put everything on our website so you can review the recording and we'll make sure that we send it to people who weren't able to join us.

337

00:48:16.710 --> 00:48:25.320

Gigi Gronvall: Sorry, if we didn't get to your question, but, but hopefully we'll answer it in some other ways another time Thank you everyone, and thank you especially meredith and marcy.

338

00:48:25.470 --> 00:48:26.310

Gigi Gronvall: Take care of everybody.

339

00:48:27.120 --> 00:48:27.750

Meredith Lavender: Take care.