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U.S. steps up fight against Omicron as variant marches across globe

WASHINGTON/BERLIN, Dec 2 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden on Thursday laid out his strategy to fight the coronavirus as the highly contagious Omicron spread across the globe with winter coming and hours after the first known U.S. case of community transmission of the variant was reported.

With authorities around the world scrambling to contain Omicron, Biden warned in no uncertain terms that infections will rise this winter.

“We’re going to fight this variant with science and speed, not chaos and confusion,” he said, speaking at the National Institutes of Health medical research facility in Maryland.

So far three U.S. states have found Omicron cases -- California, Colorado and Minnesota. In all three cases, the patients were fully vaccinated and developed mild symptoms. a and Colorado, the patients had recently returned from trips to southern Africa and had not gotten booster doses. The case in Minnesota is the first known community transmission within the United States. [read more](#)

The patient in Minnesota had recently travelled to New York City for an anime convention, prompting the city to launch contact tracing to try to contain the spread.

“We are aware of a case of the Omicron variant identified in Minnesota that is associated with travel to a conference in New York City, and we should assume there is community spread of the variant in our city,” New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

Much remains unknown about Omicron, which was first detected in southern Africa last month and has been reported in at least two dozen countries, just as parts of Europe were already grappling with a wave of infections of the Delta variant.

Under Biden’s plan, the United States will require inbound international passengers to be tested for COVID-19 within one day of departure, regardless of vaccination status. Mask requirements on airplanes, trains and public transportation vehicles will be extended to March 18. [read more](#)

The U.S. government will require private health insurers to reimburse their 150 million customers for 100% of the cost of over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 tests, administration officials said, and make 50 million more tests available free through rural clinics and health centers for the uninsured.



Less than 60% of the U.S. population, or 196 million people, have been fully vaccinated, one of the lowest rates among wealthy nations.

THE ECONOMY

Fears about the Omicron variant have pounded financial markets and created doubts about the speed of the global economic recovery as the pandemic rages on. Shares fell on Thursday, and crude oil futures extended losses. [read more](#)

The variant could slow global economic growth by exacerbating supply chain problems and depressing demand, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told the Reuters Next conference on Thursday. [read more](#)

Francois, a medical worker, administers a nasal swab to a patient at a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) testing center in Noyal-Chatillon-sur-Seiche near Rennes, France, December 01, 2021. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe
People carry bags on Hohe Strasse shopping street as the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues in Cologne, Germany, December 1, 2021. REUTERS/Thilo Schmuelgen/file photo
Visitors wear masks to respect the

COVID-19 protection rules at a Christmas market on the Place Kleber square in Strasbourg, France November 26, 2021. REUTERS/Arnd Wiegmann

“There’s a lot of uncertainty, but it could cause significant problems. We’re still evaluating that,” she said.

Eager to avoid derailing a fragile recovery of Europe’s biggest economy, Germany had kept businesses open to the almost 69% of the population that is fully vaccinated as well as those with proof of having recovered from the virus.

But on Thursday, the country announced it would bar the unvaccinated from all but essential businesses such as grocery stores and pharmacies, while legislation to make vaccination mandatory will be drafted for early next year. [read more](#)

“We have understood that the situation is very serious,” Chancellor Angela Merkel told a news conference.

A nationwide vaccination mandate could take effect from February 2022 after it is debated in the Bundestag and after guidance from Germany’s Ethics Council, she said.

HIGH TRANSMISSION

The European Union’s public health agency said the variant could be responsible for more than half of all COVID infections in Europe within a few months. [read more](#)

A group of South African health bodies said on Thursday their latest findings indicated the variant posed a threefold higher risk of reinfection than the currently dominant Delta variant and the Beta strain. [read more](#)

The country also said it was seeing an increase in COVID-19 reinfections in patients contracting Omicron - with people who have already had the illness getting infected again - in a way that it did not see with other variants. Global travel curbs accelerated on Thursday in response to the threat from Omicron. In the Netherlands, health authorities called for pre-flight COVID-19 tests for all travel from outside the European Union, after it turned out that most of the passengers who tested positive after arriving on two flights from South Africa on Nov. 26 had been vaccinated. [read more](#) “The World Health Organization classified Omicron as a “variant of concern,” due to the number of mutations that might help it spread or evade antibodies from prior infection or vaccination.

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/09/2021



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Attorney Brent Coon has announced a \$10 billion dollar massive lawsuit against rapper and headliner Travis Scott and other defendants.

The firm will represent 1,547 concert goers. Coon said that what happened at Astroworld was an unconscionable tragedy and it is important that justice is

served for all impacted.

The Astroworld Festival tragedy at Houston NRG Park on November 5th resulted in 10 people dead and hundreds of others injured.

Coon’s firm is demanding legislative action to include crowd control and planning specialists to certify events, mandated training programs for

event preparation and criminal liability for any wrongdoing.

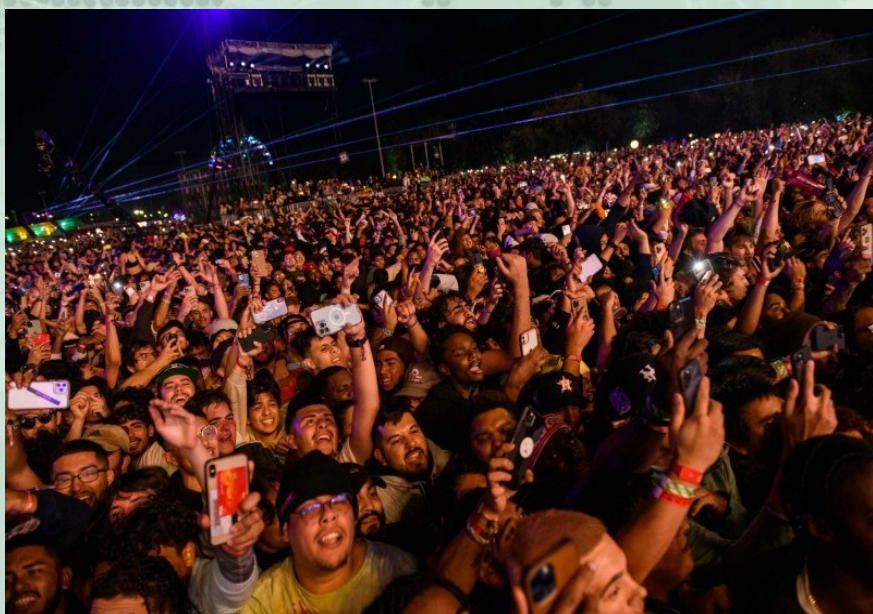
They have filed a request with the Harris County District Attorney’s office to consolidate all the cases involved. A hearing is set for December 13.

We feel very sorry for all the people who lost their loved ones in the Astroworld Festival

tragedy. All government agencies need to look into this tragedy as a big lesson for the future.

Big concert events need to have more security measures to protect these young people.

As Coon said he, “.. will roll over every rock in this matter.”





Chris Lund surveys the damage after an evacuation order was issued for the Everglades Resort on Hatzic Island after rainstorms lashed the western Canadian province, triggering landslides and floods, shutting highways, in Mission, British Columbia, Canada. REUTERS/Jennifer Gauthier



A militant of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic is seen at fighting positions on the line of separation from the Ukrainian armed forces in the outskirts of Kirovsk in Luhansk Region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko



People dressed as Santa Claus walk over Millennium Bridge before taking part in a fun run on the South Bank in London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



People embrace as they pay their respects at a memorial at Oxford High School, a day after a shooting that left four dead and eight injured, in Oxford, Michigan. REUTERS/Seth Herald



Dancer of the Berlin State Ballet (Staatsballett Berlin) wear face masks as they perform during the dress rehearsal of Don Quixote in a production choreographed by Victor Ullate at Deutsche Oper opera house in Berlin, Germany. REUTERS/Fabrizio... MORE



An anti-abortion rights activist yells at pro-abortion rights activist Alicia Hurt during a protest outside the Supreme Court building, ahead of arguments in the Mississippi abortion rights case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, in Washington. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

Can Vaccines Win The Race Against COVID-19 Variants? Yes, They Can.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Vaccines are delivered to Tanzania as part of the COVAX program. (Photo/ UNICEF/Msirikale.)

Key Points COVID-19 Variants Threaten To Undermine Global Vaccine Programs Unless We Accelerate The Pace Of Delivery.

- Just over 1% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- In order to control the spread of COVID-19, we need a global effort to ensure no one is left behind in immunization campaigns.

A new wave of COVID-19 is engulfing many countries around the world primarily due to the increasingly prevalent and more transmissible Delta variant of the new coronavirus. With only a few regional exceptions, Delta is mounting a successful global attack. In Indonesia and other Asian countries, health systems are overwhelmed and running out of oxygen. Across Africa – from Tunisia in the north to South Africa – the virus is surging; recently, recorded deaths on the continent jumped 40% in one week alone. In Europe, plans to lift or relax lockdowns are being delayed or modified. And in countries like the US and the UK, a number of key COVID-19 metrics have started to increase after months of decline. The Delta variant (first discovered in India), and other variants of concern including Beta (South Africa) and Gamma (Brazil), are confirming the critical need to vaccinate billions of people around the world – fast. In the race between variants and vaccines, we are falling behind. Failure to pick up the pace now will enable this virus to multiply and mutate to the point where future variants could outsmart our vaccines.



In the quest to vaccinate every citizen of the world against COVID-19, speed and strategy are key.

It's essential to think smartly about the impressive armamentarium of vaccines at our disposal and ensure we don't squander any of these lifesaving assets. No single vaccine can conquer COVID-19 – we need many. Each vaccine should be deployed to the frontlines, targeted to where they can make the greatest impact so that no population is left behind. Above all, we need to follow through on vaccine delivery all the way from the supply depot to the last mile, turning every available vaccine dose into a vaccination in someone's arm.

At Johnson & Johnson, it was precisely this kind of pandemic scenario that informed our selection of a single-dose vaccine that could be easily transported without the need for ultra-cold refrigeration. Of course, no vaccine developer could have predicted how the original Wuhan strain of coronavirus would evolve, and whether their vaccines would hold up against emerging variants. Recent research published in the New England Journal of Medicine, along with a large real-world study of health workers in South Africa, suggests that the vaccine generates strong immune responses against Delta and other variants of concern. We now await results on protective efficacy from our large-scale clinical studies.



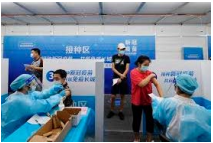
While getting vaccine science right is never easy, vaccine deployment on a global scale – in the middle of a pandemic – presents other challenges. Underscoring this, only slightly more than 1% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This has to change, not just for reasons of global equity, but because if we don't get COVID-19 under control everywhere, we will not be able to end this pandemic anywhere.

How do we crack the challenge of global deployment?

- Intensify international cooperation and cross-sector partnerships between industry, governments, health systems and civil society. Turning COVID-19 vaccines into vaccinations involves executing countless legal agreements, establishing no-fault compensation coverage for vaccine recipients, streamlining regulatory

processes, overseeing technology transfers with production partners, setting up pharmacovigilance systems, and coordinating closely with many global partners. This complex, multistep process, which normally takes years to complete, must be compressed into weeks.

- The global community needs to get behind COVAX, the unprecedented initiative working to ensure that the world's pandemic response includes concrete plans to enable access for lower-income countries, and vulnerable populations including those in conflict and crisis environments. Governments with surplus vaccines should immediately ramp up their dose sharing via COVAX. Stockpiling vaccine supplies will only prolong the pandemic. An example to emulate is the United States government, which recently embarked on the largest vaccine donation programme undertaken by any country in history.



- It involves the deployment of three COVID-19 vaccines from different manufacturers, and we're proud to be part of it.

So far, nearly 30 million doses of our vaccine have been donated to more than 30 countries across four continents – many through COVAX. This is just a start: millions more doses to many more countries will follow.

- Maintain the free flow of the global vaccine supply chain. Many of today's vaccines have been donated to more than 30 countries across four continents – many through COVAX. This is just a start: millions more doses to many more countries will follow. Recent research published in the New England Journal of Medicine, along with a large real-world study of health workers in South Africa, suggests that the vaccine generates strong immune responses against Delta and other variants of concern. We now await results on protective efficacy from our large-scale clinical studies.



- Build on decades of innovation and science. When the coronavirus crisis started, Johnson & Johnson leveraged more than a decade of research and development investments in our vaccine platform technology. We leveraged this

platform to develop our COVID-19 vaccine in just one year. We stand by our proprietary technology and believe in leveraging it for the global good. Expanding and accelerating voluntary technology transfers between vaccine developers and manufacturers, as we have done in India, South Africa and elsewhere, is the way forward.

- Short term actions that undermine the value of intellectual property will only discourage the innovation we need to combat the next pandemic. Ultimately, what we do now in the race against the variants will help to define not just how quickly the global community conquers COVID-19, but whether we are adequately prepared for the next pandemic. The principles of multilateral partnership, global equity, and unfettered rapid response must be at the heart of any pandemic preparedness blueprint for the future.

Here's what global progress on COVID-19 vaccination looks like

Several COVID-19 vaccines have been approved or authorized, but rollout has been hindered.



A health worker and a military police officer carry the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine to an Indigenous hut in Manaus, Brazil, February 9, 2021. (Photo/REUTERS/Bruno Kelly)

- The World Economic Forum has created a visualization tracking country-by-country progress made on vaccination to date.

Countries around the world are racing to vaccinate their populations against COVID-19. In order to reach herd immunity, it's estimated that at least 60% of a population (and as much as 90%) must become immune thanks either to prior infection or vaccination. But as of 10 February nearly 130 countries, with a collective population of 2.5 billion, had yet to administer a single vaccine dose.

While some 10 different COVID-19 vaccines have been approved or authorized for emergency or limited use, the practical business of administering jabs has been hindered by staffing and supply shortages, procurement hiccups, and geopolitics. Concerns have also been raised about equitable access for poorer countries and historically-marginalized communities. But there have also been positive signs, including Israel's relatively swift rollout, an upwardly revised daily vaccination target in the US, and India's distribution of free doses to countries including Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Convidecia vaccine developed in China may just require just one dose, for example, but the Pfizer-BioNTech version already approved for use in several countries and the Sputnik V vaccine developed in Russia are among those that call for two.



The second waypoint in the visualization provides a fuller picture of progress made so far, as each country with available data turns a darker shade of green as the percentage of people receiving all doses prescribed by a vaccination protocol increases over time:

The discovery of new, potentially more deadly coronavirus mutations has added a sense of urgency to efforts to contain the pandemic – while prompting the exploration of ways to redesign existing vaccines.

For more context, here are links to further reading from the World Economic Forum's Strategic Intelligence platform:

- China and India are using the inoculation drive against COVID-19 as part of diplomatic efforts to shore up global and regional ties, according to this analysis – which has led to a tussle playing out online and in the media. (Australian Strategic Policy Institute)
- In the US, tailored messaging efforts are underway encouraging people particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 to get vaccinated – from communities of colour to migrant farmworkers. Among the aims, according to this report: giving people an empowering sense that they're helping others. (Kaiser Health News)
- Is it safe to delay a second vaccine dose? According to this report, there's some evidence that short waits are safe, but partial immunization may help risky new coronavirus variants to develop. (Scientific American)



- A number of wealthy countries have purchased far more vaccines than necessary (the UK, for example, has ordered 219 million full vaccinations for 54 million adults). This analysis suggests a way for excess doses to be re-distributed to those in need. (The Conversation)
- Will your ability to travel depend on your vaccination status? According to this report, Israel and Greece have agreed on a tourism pact enabling people already vaccinated against COVID-19 to travel freely between the countries. (Courtesy weforum.org)

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U.S. COVID Cases Start To Rise Again As The Holidays Approach



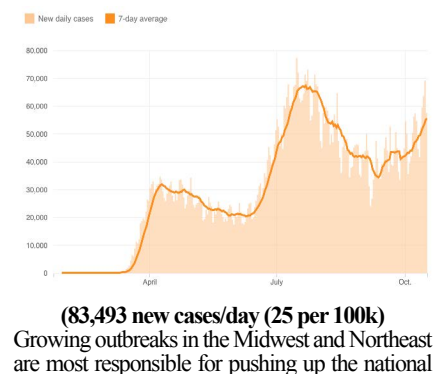
After declining most of the fall, COVID-19 cases are rising again in many parts of the U.S. (Photo/Valerie Macon/AFP via Getty Images)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

It's a worrying sign for the U.S. ahead of the holiday travel season: coronavirus infections are rising in more than half of all states. Experts warn this could be the start of an extended winter surge. The rise is a turnaround after cases had steadily declined from mid September to late October. The country is now averaging more than 83,000 cases a day — about a 14% increase compared to a week ago, and 12% more than two weeks ago. “I hate to say it, but I suspect we’re at the start of a new winter surge,” says Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist at the University of California, San Francisco.

New daily coronavirus cases are trending upward

The United States has seen new daily cases increase by more than 12 percent since the beginning of November.



numbers, and that comes after many weeks of high case counts and stress on states in the Mountain West where some hospitals are dealing with crisis levels of patients. “There are still large swaths of the country under-immunized and even among states that are relatively well-vaccinated, like Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota and Vermont, we’re seeing sustained transmission,” says Rutherford. The uptick in cases hasn’t yet translated into a national spike in new hospital admissions, which tend to trail a rise in infections by several weeks. However, the grim situation in some parts of the West and upper Midwest offers a concerning picture for other states where cases are now climbing. “It’s a marathon here,” says Dr. Kencee Graves at the University of Utah Hospital, in Salt Lake City, Utah, who describes her state, like much of the Mountain West, as stuck in a “high plateau of a surge” where hospitals not only have an ICU full of COVID-19 patients, but also many other kinds of sick patients who need care. Despite the concerning trends, the expectation among experts who model the pandemic’s course is that a surge will not bring the same level of death and severe disease as last year. “The vast majority of the population has some form of immunity,” says Nicholas Reich, a biostatistician at UMass Amherst who runs a COVID-19 forecasting model. “That feels really different about this moment — there are fewer people to infect.”

How bad could it get?
The growth in cases isn’t unexpected, given the patchwork of COVID-19 immunity across the U.S., where about 60% of the population is fully vaccinated. Americans are moving around like they were before the pandemic, mask wearing is low compared to last year, people are spending more time indoors because of cooler weather, and protection against infection, both from vaccinations and prior infection, is waning, says Ali Mokdad, professor of Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington’s Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation. “You put all of this together — and what you see in Europe where many countries with higher vaccination rates than the United States are seeing a surge — of course, it’s going to happen,” he says. And unlike last year, the U.S. has to contend with a much more contagious version of the virus “that makes it really hard to snuff out chains of transmission,” not to mention “human nature, which is wanting us to get back to pre-pandemic life,” says Reich at UMass Amherst. Just how bad the situation gets will come down to complex dynamics around immunity. Southern states endured a brutal wave over the summer and that may have built up enough immunity from infection to shield them from another big resurgence this winter. Areas that did not face the same kind of surge, in particular states in the northern half of the country, are now dealing with an increase, but many also have the benefit of higher vaccination coverage.

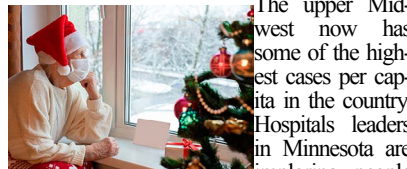


“The real question is, how big will it get and will it really be substantial? And my sense is in New England, it’s going to hit a wall of vaccinated people,” says Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University’s School of Public Health. “I think the Midwest and the Great Plains — which have lower vaccination rates but have not seen a big delta surge — they may very well end up seeing quite a few infections in the weeks and months ahead.”

Even with a small surge, hospitals could still suffer

Even if hospitals see fewer COVID-19 patients overall, it’s already clear that many are less prepared to handle the demands of the pandemic compared to last year. “Every hospital I have talked to in the last month has severe shortages of staff, especially nurses,” says Dr. Bruce Siegel, president of America’s Essential Hospitals, which represents hundreds of public hospitals in the U.S. At the University of Utah Hospital, Dr. Graves

says their surge ICU was closed down because they couldn’t staff it anymore, and last month patients were waiting on average between three to five hours for an ICU bed. “Our resources and our stamina are far less now than a year ago,” she says. In the Southwest, hospitals are also dealing with packed ICUs. New Mexico has higher vaccination rates than many nearby states, but the state was forced to enact its crisis standards of care plan weeks ago. Some hospitals have activated those plans, but none have moved to the most extreme scenario of deciding who gets care and who doesn’t, says Troy Clark, president of the New Mexico Hospital Association. Starting in the spring, there was a “huge influx of patients that we don’t normally see” with other urgent medical needs, Clark says. That has kept hospitals extremely busy heading into winter — and with no slack to accommodate the growing number of COVID-19 patients. It’s a similar situation in many states, including Arizona where hospitalizations for COVID-19 are now as high as they’ve been since February. “We just don’t have that extra capacity for a COVID spike,” says Ann-Marie Alameddini, president of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association.



The upper Midwest now has some of the highest cases per capita in the country. Hospitals leaders in Minnesota are imploring people to take caution so they don’t require medical care for COVID or non-COVID emergencies. “This has never been more serious,” said Kelly Chandler of Itasca County Public Health, which includes the city of Grand Rapids, in a recent public statement. “We are at crisis levels of 2020, but without the same levels of COVID precautions in place.” As we head into the holidays, COVID risk increases, with more people traveling and socializing indoors. But “we also have some things that are helping, like more vaccines and kids getting vaccinated,” says Brown’s Jha. “So we’re in a stalemate. I don’t expect us to have a horrible surge, but I can certainly imagine parts of the country that see modest-sized surges as people get together and as the weather stays cold.” (Courtesy npr.org)

Related

Covid-19 Cases Increasing In 50% Of The U.S.

Coronavirus cases are increasing again in more than half of the U.S., possibly indicating the beginning of a new surge for the winter. The recent uptick marks a turnaround after cases had continually declined from about mid-September through late October. The U.S. is now reporting an average of more than 83,000 cases per day, which is a 14% increase from last week and 12% from the week before. “I hate to say it, but I suspect we’re at the start of a new winter surge,” George Rutherford, MD, an epidemiologist at the University of California at San Francisco, told NPR. “There are still large swaths of the country

under-immunized,” Rutherford said. “Even among states that are relatively well-vaccinated, like Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota and Vermont, we’re seeing sustained transmission.” The top current outbreaks are growing in the Midwest and Northeast. Michigan and Minnesota lead the country in highest cases per capita, where infections increased more than 60% in a 2-week period, according to The New York Times. The growth in cases hasn’t yet led to a nationwide increase in hospitalizations and deaths, which tends to trail infections by a few weeks, NPR reported. But some parts of the West, Mountain West and upper Midwest are facing crisis hospitalization levels. “The community needs to know that this has never been more serious,” Kelly Chandler of Itasca County Health and Human Services in Minnesota, said in a statement.



“We are at the crisis levels of 2020 but without the same levels of COVID precautions in place,” she said. “For your own sakes, dig out your masks and limit your exposure to groups, especially indoors.” Despite the uptick, forecast modelers who have been tracking the pandemic don’t think the surge will be as severe as last winter’s wave. “The vast majority of the population has some form of immunity,” Nicholas Reich, a biostatistician at UMass Amherst who runs a COVID-19 forecasting model, told NPR. “That feels really different about this moment,” he said. “There are fewer people to infect.” That said, the U.S. is dealing with the contagious Delta variant this year, he noted. People are also ready to gather with others, celebrate the holidays and interact without masks. Protection against infection — both from vaccinations and prior infections — is also waning. “You put all of this together, and what you see in Europe where many countries with higher vaccination rates than the United States are seeing a surge, of course it’s going to happen,” Ali Mokdad, a professor of Health and Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington’s Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, told NPR. More people will travel and gather indoors this year, which could increase transmission risks, the news outlet reported. At the same time, kids are now able to get vaccinated, and all adults may soon be able to get a booster shot. “So we’re in a stalemate,” Ashish Jha, MD, dean of Brown University’s School of Public Health, told NPR. “I don’t expect us to have a horrible surge,” he said. “But I can certainly imagine parts of the country that see modest-sized surges as people get together and as the weather stays cold.” (Courtesy https://www.webmd.com/)

我们时代的文学

第一批书写新冠病毒的小说已经到来

据英国《卫报》，新冠病毒成为一批作家书写的对象或基点，无论是探讨病毒本身或者隔离生活的精神状况，还是借由疫情所呈现的人类社会、历史、未来的种种变化，人类与自然的关系，都反映了时代如何影响了作家的写作，以及作家面对时代试图言说并超越的尝试。

第二次世界大战时，作家曾自问，他们是否要书写那个前所未有的时代？因其带来的不确定性和恐惧感，战争是难于被书写的，但战争带来了新的经验与新的语言，亟待被记录或者进行虚构性改造。彼时，伊丽沙白·鲍恩（Elizabeth Bowen）开始写短篇小说，在虚构与纪实之间，她把自己的作品描述为“我所保留的唯一的日记”。

去年三月，一些作家在大封锁时参与社区服务，作为送货员或者到病毒检测中心做志愿者。有些作家或许试图在自己的项目里继续推进，对眼前这个正在发生的新世界视而不见。但是，在过去的18个月里，任何书写的尝试都不能摆脱新冠病毒的影响，它是恐惧与停滞的混合物。而现在，当我们看到那些直面它的作品时，有些问题仍旧要被思考——我们真的想在病毒仍在发展时间读它吗？我们是否有可能因为过于关注当下的情况而忽略了更为深远的内容？

首先是阿莉·史密斯（Ali Smith）的《夏（Summer）》，这是她的“季节四部曲”的最后一部，史密斯在其中对疫情作出了即时的反应。在史密斯的视野中，疫情只是增加了她大量叙述中的碎片化特征。这本书包括了来自爱因斯坦的推测，以及关于第二次世界大战中曼岛“敌国人（enemy aliens）”被监禁的状况，以及在日常生活中对疫情思考。书中的人物Iris反思说，媒体将当下与战争时期进行比较是不恰当的，因为“疫情正在使墙壁、边界和护照变得毫无意义”。

随着史密斯将病毒大流行放置到更大的参照系中探讨时，今年秋天，一批完全面对新冠病毒的书出现了。萨拉·霍尔（Sarah Hall）在春季封锁的第一天就开始创作的《烧衣（Burntcoat）》讲述了一对恋人在瘟疫肆虐的世界中面对排形式的亲密关系。萨拉·莫斯（Sarah Moss）的《坠落（The Fall）》写于冬季隔离的绝望时期，讲述了一个因禁闭而发狂的自我孤立的女人。

《没有孩子的生活（Life Without Children）》是罗迪·多伊尔（Roddy Doyle）在都柏林封锁期间写的小说集。在这本书里，多伊尔用怪异的想象探索着正在形成的新世界和它的语言习惯——“在都柏林的商店里，人们正在购买‘一个半（one and a half）社交距离’的胶合板”。

正如史密斯的角色Iris观察到的，在过去两年里，将当下生活进行战时比较越来越频繁。对许多人来说，病毒仿佛发起了一场新的“闪电战”。在医院里，一直存在着类似战时的灾难气氛。但对大多数人来说，隔离是一个等待的时期。作家们面临的挑战是，如何从待在家里的人身上创造出叙事？

这是一个充满启示的时候。当年的鲍恩将她的战时故事描述为“清晰的异常”。她认为，在新的严酷之中，我们要揭示出彼此的“精神状况与真实处境”。

萨拉·霍尔（Sarah Hall）认为，病毒起到了“揭露的作用（clarifying force）”。在一定程度上，它让我们看见了社会的裂缝（政府腐败、国家服务、不平等）。但在《烧衣（Burntcoat）》中，隔离的方式让这对恋人成为脆弱的身躯，暴露在对方面前，当这对恋人越来越接近死亡时，性爱变得更加亲密。

在《烧衣》中，霍尔让病毒变得更加致命，隔离也比现实的更加极端。在《卫报》的采访中，霍尔谈及她与一位病毒学家的谈话，她说，那些潜伏在我们周围的其他病毒“正随时准备出发”，“新冠病毒不会是那个真正把我们打倒的病毒”。小说家正在对可怖的未来发出警告。

对隔离的恐惧，成为悬疑作家的创作话题。作为资深的惊悚小说作家，凯瑟琳·莱恩·霍华德（Catherine Ryan Howard）认为，犯罪在这个秘密、恐惧和猜疑已经泛滥的时代兴起。她的小说《56天（56 Days）》开始于一对恋人在禁闭的压力下搬到一起，并问道，完美的谋杀是否正是禁闭所允许的？在格雷厄姆·格林的战时小说《恐惧内阁（The Ministry of Fear）》中，他借由一位人物发问，在如此众多的死亡中，为什么任何一件谋杀都是重要的？谋杀很可能基于普通的动机，但霍华德的小说试图探索个人的弱点和脆弱之于我们生活的意义。

在萨拉·莫斯（Sarah Moss）和罗迪·多

伊尔（Roddy Doyle）的书中，作家把隔离而非病毒视作探讨的对象。有人说，在隔离期间，每个人都变得更加自我，在没有社交的情况下，人们的焦虑或者疯狂会变得更加极端。莫斯并不同意这一观点，她认为，我们在公司而不是在隔离中变得最自我。在多伊尔的故事中，主人公大多是中年男人，有的男人利用隔离走出了自己原本的生活，或者爱上了他们多年来没有注意的妻子。

莫斯的叙述可以被看作是最困难的，因为如果像史密斯所强调的那样，疫情已经表明我们的世界是如此支离破碎，那么书写隔离的危险可能是连贯性太强。

如今，我们在萨莉·鲁尼（Sally Rooney）和雷切尔·卡斯卡（Rachel Cusk）的书中看到了走向隔离的意愿，以及对叙事的疲惫。

鲁尼最新的小说《美丽世界，你在哪里》主要发生在隔离之前，但描述了一个作家爱丽丝退缩到一个偏远的海滨别墅，在保护自己不被他人发现和被迫追问这个世界发生连接之间的张力与纠结。卡斯卡的“纲要三部曲（Outline trilogy）”，描绘了一个在她的世界里日益孤立的女人，为小说寻找一种不依赖整体叙事结构的形式实验。在她最新的小说《第二场所（Second Place）》的背景中，叙述者观察到她的生活比许多其他人的生活变化要小（“我们已经简化了我们的存在”）。

莫斯拒绝接受隔离的乐趣，也许是因为她自己从一开始就害怕隔离所带来的束缚。她在哥本哈根说：“相比于病毒本身，有些人更害怕隔离”。她的小说是对我们在隔离中所失去的一切的挽歌，尽管她也对我们的生存能力充满希望。她说，这本书是从一个问题开始的：当我们跌倒时，谁来接住我们？危险在于，封锁会侵蚀社区共同体，在网络驱动下，二元思维成为常态，我们可能不再认识到彼此的人性。

03超越病毒的可能？

有意思的是，当病毒大流行开始时，莫斯和道伊尔都放弃了他们写到一半的小说，因为他们无法思考如何进入另一种形式的当下。读了这些封锁小说和故事后，我们必须发问，在有太多重复的情况下，还能出版多少本书？不把病毒写进小说又意味着什么？或者，作家们会通过转向历史或未来，来避免病毒带来的文学挑战吗？

一些作家已在思考历史：泰莎·哈德利（Tessa Hadley）即将出版的小说以20世纪60年代为背景，而乔纳森·弗兰森（Jonathan Franzen）则以20世纪70年代为背景展开了三部曲。劳伦·格罗夫（Lauren Groff）曾说，她写《母体（Matrix）》这个关于十二世纪修女的故事，是为了逃避特朗普的美国；当疫情来临时，她可能已经松了一口气，因为她也被救出来了。但她的修女社区有一些让人联想到隔离的东西，而这里的叙事核心恰恰来自于让世界远离的尝试：修女们通过建造一个巨大而不方便的迷宫创造了一个替代世界。

想象更极端的场景，是避免写得太过泛滥的一种方法，就像霍尔所做的那样。病毒向来是科幻小说和气候变化小说的领域。多年来，科幻作家一直在思考流感大流行可能带来的后果。新冠病毒揭示了我们生活与其他物种之间有多大的联系。劳拉·简·麦凯（Laura Jean McKay）在她的“阿瑟·克拉克奖”获奖小说《那个国家的动物（The Animals in That Country）》中对人类和动物之间的关系进行了勇敢的探讨。该书想象一个受“动物流感Zoonu”袭击的世界，它使人类和动物能够理解对方的语言。

欧娜·阿里斯蒂德（Oana Aristide）的《蓝色之下（Under the Blue）》将虚构的流行病与人工智能的发展结合起来——正在开发一种神奇的人工智能，以预测对人类生命的威胁并帮助我们处理这类危机。这两本书在病毒暴发时都已经准备就绪，因为封锁而推迟了。这样的书被证明是有预言性的，因为文学小说——它的艺术性、创造性和结构



萨拉·莫斯（Sarah Moss）



阿莉·史密斯（Ali Smith）

性游戏——本身就是预言，用比教科书或纪录片更强的生命力来凸显我们世界中的力量。

柳原汉雅（Hanya Yanagihara）即将出版的小说《到天堂去（To Paradise）》写到了2093年，想象了一个被瘟疫撕裂的极权世界，可以看作是我们时代的黑暗延伸。长崎红杉（Sequoia Nagamatsu）的《我们在黑暗中走多高（How High We Go in the Dark）》跨越了数百年，人类试图在瘟疫后重建自己。加里·施泰因加特（Gary Shteyngart）的《我们乡村之友（Our Country Friends）》以2020年的封锁为背景，描绘了一群朋友在乡村隐居之处以薄伽丘的方式等待大流行的情况。这三部小说都在一月份问世，显示出不同类型的文学装置是如何被我们当前时代所影响的。今后还会有更多的疫情小说作家们试图追问这个被封锁的社会发生了什么，探索新冠病毒所揭示的社会和我们讲述的故事是否能保持一致，通过病毒的探照灯显现出“清晰的异常”。

《雄獅少年》路演口碑不俗 全國大規模點映今日開啓

將於12月17日全國上映的現實主義喜劇動畫電影《雄獅少年》近日在廣州、鄭州兩地分別進行路演，主創驚喜到場與觀眾暢聊，現場座無虛席，熱血的勵志情節和舞獅元素收獲了諸多觀眾的喜愛。現場觀眾好評如潮，觀眾紛紛表示「影片是一部需要慢慢去品味的電影」，更有觀眾盛贊「年度最強動畫電影」。據悉，該片將於12月8號到10號開啓全國25城第二輪點映、12月11號到12號開啓全國影城第三輪大規模點映。並於今日開啓全國預售。

講述每一個人的故事 向普通人致敬

電影《雄獅少年》講述了受人欺負的少年阿娟，在機緣巧合下與好友阿貓、阿狗組成雄獅小隊，一路跌跌撞撞、最終打破偏見、創造奇跡的熱血勵志成長故事。影片將勵志、成長、喜劇等類型雜糅在一起，內容元素十分豐富。既有好笑逗趣的幽默片段、又有酷炫十足的「雄獅爭霸」；既是成長坎坷的少年崛起故事，也是平凡小人物的追夢之旅。

導演孫海鵬在廣州場分享了這部影片的創作初衷，「越是大眾的情緒，越能引起共鳴，越有力量。所以我一直想做一部小人物一步一步實現自己夢想的電影，這部電影讓我實現了這個夢想。」

鄭州現場，該片監製張苗對影片中角色名字由來做出了解答：「阿娟，這是個特別普通的名字，但讓我們很多人都有共鳴。這部影片融入了所有主創向普通人致敬的初衷，阿娟阿貓阿狗就是我們每一個人，就是普通人。影片是關於我們每一個人的故事，希望大家都能從這些角色身上找到共鳴。」



一部需要慢慢去品味的電影 被贊具有現實寓意的影片

放映過程中，觀眾笑聲連連，而電影後半段的劇情，更讓不少觀眾感動落淚，在電影結束放映後，觀眾多次自發鼓掌，收獲諸多贊美。

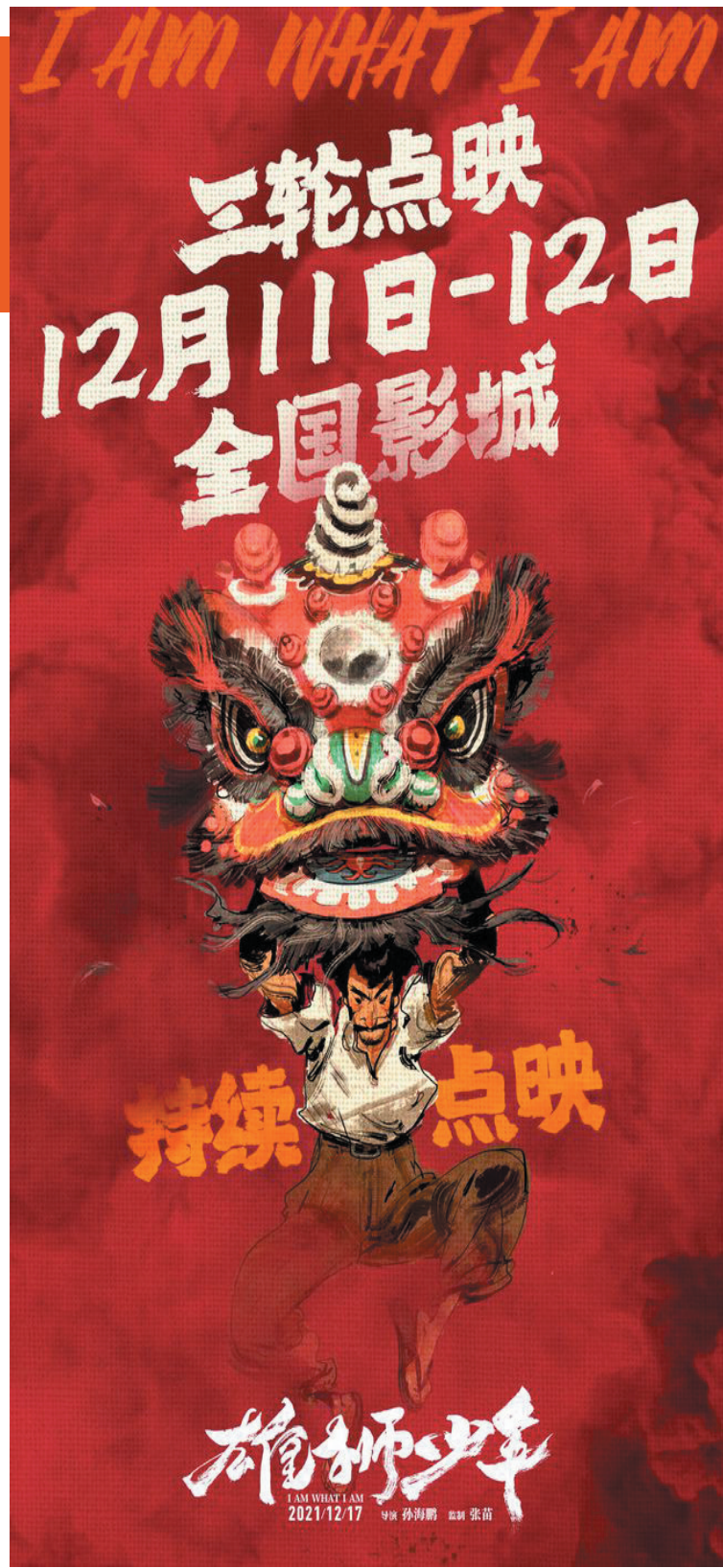
電影《雄獅少年》作為近年來為數不多的現實題材動畫，具有深刻的現實內涵。主創團隊除了想帶給觀眾的除了少年成長故事外，更多地是對小人物的真實剖析。通過平凡少年在曲折人生中的崛起故事，引發大眾對現實生活的高頻共鳴，傳遞出任何人都能「勇敢追夢，就能創造奇跡」的普世情感內核。

一位觀眾觀影後對影片贊不絕口，「非常驚喜，看到這麼好的電影。雖然

是部動畫電影，卻更適合成人看。這部片子更像一壺酒，需要慢慢去品味。」針對影片的現實主義題材，有觀眾表示「影片的整體構思以及裏面的現實寓意也特別好，獅子頭也做的特別漂亮，我真的特別喜歡。」

不少觀眾看後分享了影片對自己的觸動：「看完這部影片給我的最大感觸就是，成功是少見的，失敗才是常態。我們每個人的人生大致相似，我就想努力做一點不相似的人生。」「它傳遞出的那種敢於挑戰、勇於實踐的堅韌品質是值得我們所有人學習的，想推薦給身邊所有人看。」

電影《雄獅少年》中究竟有怎樣令人感動的平凡人追夢故事。12月17日，來電影院一探究竟。



《李茂換太子》曝「快樂暗號」預告 常遠張子棟魔性對唱



由高可執導並編劇，馬麗、常遠、艾倫等主演的跨年爆笑喜劇《李茂換太子》發布「快樂暗號」版角色預告，張子棟飾演的殺手暗算常遠飾演的李茂失敗，反被擒獲，為套出幕後主使，李茂精心策劃了一出好戲……電影講述了想要升官發財的小捕快李茂

，和想要出宮獲得自由的太子，長相雷同互換身份的故事。將於12月31日歡樂上映。

架空背景拓寬創作空間 常遠張子棟即興發揮腦洞大開

今日發布的預告中，李茂假扮殺手同夥，試圖騙取其信任，從



而套出幕後主使，不料卻被一組神秘暗號難倒。細聽之下，這看似無厘頭的暗號竟是一首魔性洗腦神曲！對此導演表示，自己在設定故事情境時，希望給予演員更大的創作空間，「將故事設置在架空的歷史背景裏，既可以拓寬古裝喜劇的表達，也讓片中人物能夠得到充足的展現。」主演們也不負眾望盡情發揮，這段出其不意的「快樂暗號」就是大家

即興演繹的成果，充分利用古今人物的反差製造笑點，伴隨著「嚕啦啦」的歡快節奏，原本緊張的氣氛瞬間化為歡樂，拍攝現場收獲笑聲一片。

群星喜鬧歡笑跨年 2022 帶快樂出發

此前電影發布的宋小寶、艾倫兩支角色預告，憑借密集的笑點，出其不意的反轉包袱，收獲好評如潮。今日曝光的這支「快樂暗號」版角色預告，更是通過一首洗腦神曲帶給大家不一樣的新奇體驗。作為賀歲檔唯一一部喜劇電影，《李茂換太子》希望為國產喜劇貢獻些「新花樣」，在歡笑中陪伴大家迎接新年的到來。究竟這部喜劇群星集結的影片中還有多少令人意想不

到的驚喜，12月31日，讓我們拭目以待。

電影由新麗傳媒集團有限公司、非洋娛樂傳媒(北京)有限公司、中國電影股份有限公司、騰訊影業文化傳播有限公司、天津閱文影視文化傳媒有限公司、上海淘票票影視文化有限公司出品，北京微夢創科網絡技術有限公司、抖音文化(廈門)有限公司、浙江橫店影業有限公司、影聚天際影視傳媒(天津)有限公司、津然影業(上海)有限公司、北京曉浩影視文化傳媒有限公司、四川納森影視文化傳媒有限公司、寧和萬向文化傳媒(北京)有限公司、司貝影業(北京)有限公司、深圳市風之花語文化傳媒有限公司、北京盛煜天桐文化集團有限公司、藝迪文化傳播(上海)有限公司、北京一品傳揚文化傳播有限公司、浙江畫眉影業有限公司、上海天幕星映文化傳媒有限公司、深圳壹眾傳媒有限公司、寧波浩瑞廣告傳媒有限公司、北京星動力影視傳媒有限公司、四川盛桐蓉和文化傳媒有限公司聯合出品。12月31日《李茂換太子》做你的快樂噴泉，新一年帶快樂出發！

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2021年壓軸台劇！ 《茶金》《華燈》爆紅主因揭密



疫情影響各行各業，反觀台灣影視產業卻有許多優質台劇傾巢而出，讓許多本來不關注台劇的觀眾回籠，近期最受矚目的就是號稱最美台劇的《茶金》對上最華麗台劇《華燈初上》，兩部劇更是將這波熱潮推向高峰！《華燈初上》製作人戴天易與《茶金》製作人湯昇榮兩人接受《TVBS新聞網》專訪，進行一場強強對談，道出近期台劇局勢，也分享外界最好奇的幕後祕辛。

2021年堪稱台劇爆發期，繼《天橋上的魔術師》、《火神的眼淚》、《俗女養成記2》等，陸續有許多好戲再度點燃觀眾對台劇的熱情。對比許多走小品路線的台劇，《茶金》和《華燈初上》無論在卡司、造型、場景及細節考究上都花了相當大的功夫，當然還砸了大筆金錢，精緻程度突破台劇新高。巧的是，這兩部劇的製作人湯昇榮和戴天易是13年前客家電視台《花樹下的約定》就認識，當時湯昇榮是客台副台長，戴天易是《花》劇的行銷，在這條路上，兩人亦師亦友，到現在變成最大的競爭對手！

《茶金》製作人湯昇榮和《華燈初上》製作人戴天易對於台劇力大爆發，兩人都認為跟國際平台大舉進攻有很大的關係。

湯昇榮說：「我覺得這幾年也是國際平台進來，大家也看到其他國家很厲害的戲劇，台灣過去都在累積、每年都有很好的戲，但這2年大家逐漸找到說故事的方法，劇本團隊、導演的的方法也在改變，還有市場行銷跟社群媒體，我們迎來了一個很好的時機點，所以一棒接一棒，很多的戲的樣態都在出現，加上政府機關、學界與投資方都加入這個戰場，整個大環境都

很好，還有電影人、音樂家與很多厲害的歌手參與，所以今年是一個很漂亮的年。」

戴天易則認為：「這幾年其實都有很棒的作品，包括《我們與惡的距離》、《俗女養成記》、《誰是被害者》、《我的婆婆怎麼那麼可愛》、《若是一個人》等等，有看到台劇一直在改變，近年的影響就是國際平台的加入，改變的觀眾的收看習慣，題材也不再受傳統思維框架，為什麼《茶金》、《華燈初上》能這麼成功，第一因為我們上了國際平台，第二是藉由台灣媒體的力量去協助它，這絕對是疊加效果。」

雖然台劇做出好成績，不過在創作過程中，兩人都遇到無數挑戰，尤其2部作品都是高成本、大製作的時代劇，從前置作業就相當耗費心力，這中間遇到最困難的挑戰在哪裡？

湯昇榮說：「我們比較難的是需要很多的田調跟知識性的東西，以《茶金》來講，它所面臨的面向很大，動員的人很多，找茶業、古董車；拍攝廠景的規模都很大，我們動用了好多茶葉園跟茶廠，把它拼成一個樣子，在建構場景方面超困難，而第一集在印度、最後在倫敦，這些都

是要用動畫去做，本來沒疫情就要去當地拍，我們的戲都有難度、都不簡單，每齣都是挑戰。」

戴天易說：「《華燈》最難的就是製作費的控管，我跟導演還另外一位製作人對峙好幾次，「光」本來想實景架設，但是這樣製作費會很高，如果場景太散編劇也不好安排，所以在製作費的討論下我們去調整劇本，讓「光」在中影文化城搭建場景，集中在那邊做拍攝，才能有效控制成本，所以這次在製作費的掌控是最難的、很辛苦，之前超支2次，要跟各位製作人說，不管拿多少錢，製作費的控管是最重要的。」

兩部戲除了各個細節讓外界驚艷，聚集了華麗的演員卡司更是一大亮點，幾乎所有實力派、有討論度的演員都加入演出陣容，讓觀眾驚呼「沒有一個不是咖」，兩位是否可以分享當初選角遇到的狀況？

戴天易說：「我覺得找演員反而是個順利的過程，像找蘇媽媽這個角色，心如一一看就說是楊謹華，即便我們都覺得為何心如自己不演，但她說就是謹華。她不會以製作人的角度去挑角色演，她會以誰比較適合這部戲，其實這6個小姐找的過程

都很順利，只有2個我跟連奕琦有衝突，是劉品言跟郭雪芙，郭雪芙因為導演覺得她是偶像劇出身，不知道她能不能演出這角色，劉品言是我覺得這角色應該會有更好的人選，結果華華這個角色大中，好吧，算我看走眼（笑）。」

湯昇榮則透露：「我的演員更難找，因為全劇主要用客語對話，還夾雜台語和英文，所以第一關就是要測試演員口條，其實我們一開始海選很多人進來，因為海陸客家話不好講，所以就先挑出一些可以辦到的人，當然有些人是我們從形象上去找到，比如說薛仕凌、連俞涵，尤其是郭子乾這個角色，中間換過非常多演員來試，原本是想找夏靖庭來演，不過因為他的時間搭不上，我們就放棄，直接讓他演爸爸。」

《華燈初上》、《茶金》同時登上國際平台Netflix，並獲得巨大成功，引發迴響，湯昇榮和戴天易都認為這是對台劇的投石問路，未來在作品呈現上會更加著重IP設定，期盼能帶給觀眾更多面向的戲劇作品。對於影視市場正式進入串流時代，兩人都認為是一個非常好的現象，在創作的道路上不必被收視率綁架。

《茶金》溫昇豪登演藝巔峰！ 製作人曝他「私下面貌」

製作人湯昇榮是夯劇《我們與惡的距離》、《火神的眼淚》等作品的重要推手，近期又推出時代劇《茶金》，鮮明的時代背景、精緻的美術設計，再度驚艷觀眾，被譽為「最美台劇」，而這幾部劇中都有溫昇豪，完全是愛將般的存在。湯昇榮接受《TVBS新聞網》專訪，親揭溫昇豪的「私下面貌」。

《茶金》開場映入眼簾的就是一片壯闊茶園，瞬間將觀眾帶入1950年代，從場景、服裝處處可見用心，湯昇榮憶起當初拍攝過程說：「我覺得場景真的是最麻煩，因為人擺在裡面，然後周邊環境要處理成那個年代，就充滿各種困難，隨時都有可能穿幫。」

為了呈現那個年代的真實生活樣貌，每個細節都十分講究，一個費心打造的美軍俱樂部場景，僅在劇中出現短短2分鐘，湯昇榮有感而發說：「不只是這個戲，我們產業也需要練兵，任何的美、韓、日劇，他們在做時代劇，整體的美學、美術的研究、質感，確實我們沒做到一定水準，未來跟其他國家比都會差一截。」



除了畫面呈現的用心，湯昇榮挑選演員也別具慧眼，談起多次合作的溫昇豪，笑說：「他還是模特兒剛轉到戲劇圈就認識，他就一直很大男孩、很誠懇，也有點文青感，私下卻有點台客，所以他有很多面向，我覺得他是滿有趣，本質非常爽朗的人。」

湯昇榮坦言與溫昇豪特別投緣，因此有好的角色都會第一個就會想到他，接連

合作了《我們與惡的距離》、《火神的眼淚》到近期的《茶金》。談起溫昇豪憑《與惡》拿下金鐘獎戲劇節目男配角獎，湯昇榮字句間滿是驕傲和感動，直言：「不過《茶金》是我認為他最巔峰的表演，非常內斂。」大讚他內心戲表演很好，一出場就是焦點。

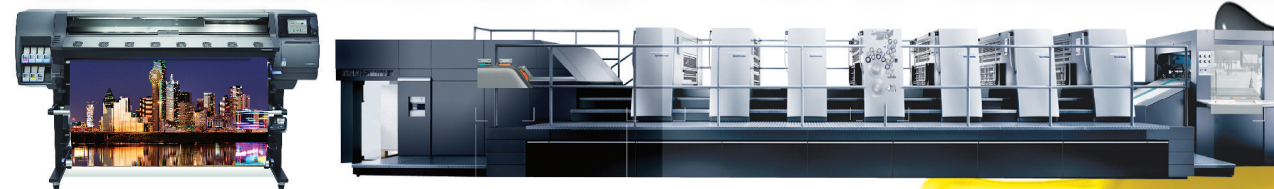
湯昇榮每每推出新劇總能創造話題，

題材總是顛覆外界想像，被問及最想挑戰的類型，他侃侃而談：「我對未來的題材充滿興趣，但不是科幻片，而是像現在這樣很自在的聊天，還有武俠片，我前幾天跟朋友聊到，台灣很久沒有武俠片，我應該來拍一個不一樣的武俠片。」透露未來3年的待拍清單都已排程，希望能把不同主題的都嘗試過。



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