

With movie theaters closed, marquees go viral

In mid-March, as **Broadway** went dark and "nonessential" businesses began to close their doors, the gravity and uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States grew. When movie theaters closed and owners buckled down for an indefinite **hiatus**, some chose to leave their own messages on the way out.

Broadway 百老汇

hiatus 裂缝; 间断

Some left lighthearted jokes, warping titles to create "The Social Distancing Network" and "No Close Encounters of Any Kind."

Others opted for more abstract references.

Jordan Perry, general manager of the Lake Theater & Cafe, Oregon, has been updating his **marquee** to match the phases of quarantine, after watching Céline Sciamma's "Portrait of a Lady on Fire" (2019).

marquee 看板; 跑马灯; 天幕

"I had this marquee at my disposal and I liked the idea of not only getting people to watch this great movie but of trying to speak in more hopeful terms," he said.

Matthew Viragh, founder of The Nitehawk Prospect Park in the **Brooklyn** borough of New York, left a parting message on the theater's marquee when it closed on March 14. For the last two months, the marquee has read "Now Showing: Onward," referencing the **animated** movie that debuted shortly before lockdown began.

Brooklyn 布鲁克林

animate 生气的; 鼓舞; 使活泼

Though there is no end in sight yet, he is sure that the community will flock back to theaters once it is allowed.

"People really do enjoy going to the movies and getting out of their apartments and being with people in general — that's why you live in New York, right?" Viragh said. "For all the culture, all the food, and all of the time spent with friends."