

## Social Media

**cakesbyrachel** 🍷 Love is in the air, February is around the corner, and we're getting excited about our [#valentinesday](#) sale! Looking for something classic and elegant? Our French macarons have you covered. Luxe and romantic more your style? Pick up one of our decadent mini cakes. Simply can't decide? With our Best of the Bakeshop Box, you won't have to! Pre-order with the link in our bio, and reserve your special someone (or yourself) a sweet treat! Go ahead, you deserve it. 🍰💌🍪

Photo by [@doahimagery](#)

[#valentinesday](#) [#love](#) [#sweettreat](#) [#cake](#) [#vday](#)

**artiststheater** Mark your calendars! 📅 We are delighted to announce ATB's first of three ✨Summer Happenings ✨ taking place at the [@dorchesterartproject](#). It's an honor to be working with the folks at DAP to curate joyful evenings of music, poetry, and theatre performance, with appearances by fresh faces and local favorites alike!

We kick off on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, and all are welcome to attend. Come bask in the warm ambiance of [@ashnimusic](#), move and groove to [@dancelujah](#), and lean into the powerful words of [@ashleyrosepoet](#).

🎫 Tickets are Pay What You Can– grab yours today at the link in our bio!

## Blog Post Intro

### Seasonal Panzanella

Grab your fleece-lined aprons! With October on the horizon, we have finally reached the official start of fall and what we at the Merry Chef like to call “The Changing of the Gourd:” the reintroduction of autumnal produce into our culinary rotation. While this is an eagerly anticipated time of year for us, we acknowledge that many of our readers are not *quite* as thrilled as we are by the impending approach of winter. With that in mind, we invite you to explore a dish that conjures up a summer journey to the warm hills of Tuscany...with a seasonal twist. *Panzanella*, an Italian dish traditionally made with sourdough, basil, and fresh tomatoes, typically pairs well with balmy July nights and a glass of sparkling white wine. We've given ours some autumnal flair by swapping in roasted acorn squash as the main vegetable, and adding pomegranate seeds for an extra burst of flavor. Have leftover bread that's about to go stale? Pumpkin seeds abandoned after a night of carving jack o' lanterns? Our squash panzanella welcomes all manner of culinary cast offs, and its prep time of under an hour is sure to ease the sting of the first frost.

This is an incredibly versatile recipe, and lends itself well to substitutions– we encourage trying butternut squash instead of acorn, or tossing a handful of sage leaves fried in butter on top for some extra crunch and garnish. Let us know your favorite summer to autumn recipe adaptations in the comments below, and *buon appetito!*

## Newsletter/Announcement

Dear community,

We are delighted to announce that rehearsals are now underway for *Break, Break*, the third installment of Erin Lerch's "unapologetically queer, stubbornly hopeful" *Legion Cycle*. Directed by Josh Glenn-Kayden, the show is a co-production between LTP and Artists' Theater of Boston, and will open at The Boston Center for the Arts on September 15th.

*Break, Break* is a tense sci-fi thriller about a scrappy band of misfits who take refuge in an old radio station when a series of mysterious global attacks upend the world around them. While the subject matter may be intergalactic (the conflict centers around an alien invasion), the play stays firmly grounded by centering humanity's compassion and resilience, and explores how we build community in unprecedented times.

Holding onto optimism even in the midst of dire circumstances is a theme present in almost all of playwright Erin Lerch's work, and their writing pulls inspiration from an eclectic collection of sources, from the literary canon of Octavia Butler to Halo, the cult favorite video game. Lerch, whose play *Shrike* was produced last year by Fresh Ink Theatre, explores narratives set in a post apocalyptic future where gender and sexuality are expansive and integrated seamlessly into the world as a whole.

"Working with Erin has been one of the great joys of my creative life over the last few years," says director Josh Glenn-Kayden. "Erin's plays challenge the local and national narratives of what queer plays can or should be, and [their] commitment to hopeful stories even in dark times is perfect for this moment."

Dystopian tales that don't devolve into nihilism are uncommon, and theatrical pieces that explore the science fiction genre are even rarer. Lerch thinks that productions like *Break, Break* will have all the more impact now, as audiences are still struggling to process the continuing repercussions of the pandemic. "The play is about building community after devastating events, working through grief, and finding hope and connection after long periods of isolation."

*Break, Break* opens at the Plaza Black Box Theater at the Boston Center for the Arts on Friday, September 15th. All admission is Pay What You Wish with a \$10 minimum, and performances continue through September 23rd. Tickets are available for purchase at the link below. We hope to see you there!