The push and pull of Road

Road Show, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, through February 11, 617-585-5878 or lyricstage.com

Jules Becker

Could a repeatedly revising musical theater composer resemble a defensive parent with a bony child? A striking case in point is the talent of Stephen Sondheim, who actually suggests such a comparison.

Continued on page 3

21 South End Organizations Receive Grants

Submitted by The Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Boston Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council, announced Monday the selection of 21 Boston arts organizations and projects that will receive 2018 Boston Cultural Council organizational grants, totaling $472,095.

Organizations applied for the funding through a competitive process, and projects were selected based on their potential to enhance the quality of life, and the economy and design of the City of Boston, in addition to advancing the goals of the Boston Creates Cultural Plan.

“This is an exciting time for the City of Boston because we are investing in organizations and projects that have the potential to enhance Boston’s arts and culture community,” said Mayor Walsh. “I’m looking forward to seeing how these organizations use art to unite, lift up, and inspire Boston’s communities.”

The City of Boston contributed

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Black History Month Events

Thursday, February 1
Art & Activism: Works of the Black Male Artist Collective
5:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Newnham Café, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston

Wednesday, February 14
Black Legacy Ball
The Harvard Black Students Association’s inaugural Black Legacy Ball will be held on February 24, 2018. Come for a night of dancing, singing, photos, food, and community at one of Boston’s most historic venues: The Hampshire House, across from Boston Common. Black tie is recommended, and tickets are free.
https://www.facebook.com/harvardhca/

Continued on page 3

Honoring MLK
St. Stephen’s Church and 30+ partners take action

By Liz Stiehauker
St. Stephen’s

On Monday, January 15, St. Stephen’s Youth Programs leaders and volunteers led the MLK Day of Action; this year, projects took place at not one but two Boston Public Schools.

With the help of close to 210 volunteers, the Blackstone Innovation School and the Josiah Quincy Upper School have cleaner halls and classrooms, bright murals showing school pride, and new academic materials ready for student learning. This was thanks to a partnership of church groups—more than thirty community and faith-based organizations—who joined together for the day; key support came from City Year and the Massachusetts Service Alliance, as well as staff and administrators from the schools.

Volunteers reflected on the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Philanthropy is commend-
Giacomo’s Ristorante

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South End Calendar

13th Annual Ellis Progressive Dinner
Monday, February 5, 2018
5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
@ The Beehive 41 Tremont Street
The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association will hold its 13th Annual Ellis Progressive Dinner on Monday, February 5th. It’s a marvelous way to meet new neighbors and sample gourmet offerings from our neighborhood restaurants.
More at www.ellisneighborhood.org

Heart of Gold Scholarship Event 2018
Thursday, February 9, 2018, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
@ Estrogen, 700 Harrison Ave, Boston
The BESNA is hosting its annual fundraiser for its South End Scholarship. This is our 11th year: Last year we raised over $40,000 and awarded over $20,000 to 15 recipients. For the last 10 years, our neighborhood association has awarded scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $2,500 to over 45 South End high school graduates to cover textbooks, computers, or supplies for college or trade school.
Tickets are $50 in advance, $75 at the door.
This year we will be enjoying delicious Spanish tapas, wine, beer and cocktails, courtesy of Estrogen Tapas Bar. Enjoy live music and bid on lots of exciting items at our live and silent auctions. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund of BESNA.
http://www.blackstonefranklin.org/

South End Forum Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
6:00 - 8:00 pm
South End Library, 698 Tremont Street, Boston
facebook.com/SouthEndForum

Old Dorchester Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Project Place, 1149 Washington Street

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617.464.7280
Theater
Continued from page 1
about the 2011 musical "Road Show" in his
own second collected lyrics volume "Look, I
Made a Hat." 

Sondheim, by his own admission in
recent years, devoted 16 years to
repeat collaborator John Weidman (“Pacific
Overtures” and “Assassins”) to four distinct
scripts focusing on the respective obsessions
of real-life brother and sister, William and
Atticus Mirror—the first three with the titles:
"Wise Guys," "Gloals," and "Goldie." 

Novelist Henry James once wrote of the
author’s eventual willingness to "do his book
work with the same distaste of which the
misanthropic, misanthropic, misanthropic
man is the solitary laborer and the writer of
novels." For the book, Sondheim and Weidman
enjoyed working on a project that has its
moments but ultimately proves as unfilled as
the show itself.

Clearly Sondheim and Weidman have
tried to make their musical as interesting in its
own way as the very different brothers. After all,
more sensible Addis (born in 1875) turned
out to be a society belle who nevertheless
possessed both a philosophy and a dream. The
squared-off good idea of this show, as William
contests in the show, is still successful in
revival of Mediterranean and Spanish styles
in the home he built, designed the Hitchcock
Foundation and brought attention to Palm Beach
island. Addis is a delightful, if not particularly
assertive, character in the show.

By contrast, younger and more reckless
Wilson (born in 1876) earned the dubious
title "America's most fascinating outlaw" as a
gambler, horse trader and panhandler in a spirit
of ongoing efforts to write screenplays and employ his charm as
a storyteller during his travels. While Addis goes along with Wilson,
he often expresses resentment about his brother's persuasiveness.

The push and pull of the brothers' rela-
tionship does lie at the heart of the trimmed
down, now 90-minute and no-intermission
show—which tellingly moves from an
early upbeat "Brothers Love" number into the
penultimate and edition from "Let's Call It.
"Revival director redefined "Sweeney Todd"
ناناذ of the cast.

Black History Month
Continued from page 1

Wednesday, February 14
Black Cotton Club JAM Session
Black Cotton Club
Dorchester Arts Collaborative
157 Washington Street, Boston

Saturday, February 17
8:00 PM
Black Excellence Art Show
All Ages

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or email: sales@southendnews.com.
Revisiting Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass is dead. This February during Black History Month, Americans across the country will commemorate the bicentennial of his birthday. Last year, however, President Donald J. Trump still didn’t appear to know this fact.

In kicking off Black History Month 2017 Trump hosted “listening sessions” with the White House leaving listeners scratching their heads wondering: Did Trump know that Frederick Douglass was killed in 1895? Despite then-White House press secretary Sean Spicer to clarify what Trump meant regarding his comment on Douglass, Spicer, however, made it clear he, too, didn’t quite know if Douglass is dead.

“I think he [Trump] wants to highlight the contributions he has made. And I think through a lot of the actions and statements he’s going to make, I think that the contributions of Frederick Douglass will be come more and more.”

The remarks from both Trump and Spicer could have been an episode of “Drunk History,” a TV comedy series where an inebriated

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Grants
Continued from page 1

$100,000 in funding and Mass Cultural Council contributed over $170,000 to the Boston Cultural Council (BCC).

The selected organizations represent an array of disciplines, including visual arts, theater, film, music, dance, and the humanities.

"On behalf of Boston City Singers, we are honored to receive continued funding from the Boston Cultural Council to support our music and youth development training programs," said Melissa J. Graham, Managing Director of Boston City Singers. "These funds will have a significant impact on our ability to serve underserved children from Boston's most challenging neighborhoods."

The BCC received 205 applications for this year's grant program. Applicants were required to show how they plan to help grow access to the arts in underserved areas lacking cultural opportunities, elevate the work of Boston's creative, inspire the creation of new works, and support the achievement and provision of excellent, high quality arts and culture in the City of Boston.

"Financial support from the BCC allows us to both help local writers and reach local readers," said Centers Halton, Co-founder of Halton mentioned Productions. "We can host more live events, which is where we've met so many of our contributors, and continue to develop our catalog by taking risks on authors who take risks on the page and the stage."

"We are grateful for the support this grant provides for our in-school, after-school, free ticket access, and award-winning teen summer employment programs which reach thousands of people each year," said Sue Dalzell Sullivan, Chief Strategic Officer of the Sox Center. "Combined with the leadership support they have shown for ArtWeek, an innovative spring festival that is now expanding statewide, we applaud both the City of Boston and the Boston Cultural Council as committed champions for our creative community."

This year, grants were categorized based on budget size, with general operating support for those with an annual budget under $1 million and project-specific grants for organizations with annual budgets over $1 million. The BCC is also participating in a new payment program with the Mass Cultural Council this year, through which grantees will receive their payment upfront instead of through reimbursements.

"The Boston Centers planning process led us to realize the disparity of arts opportunities across the various neighborhoods of Boston," said Julie Burres, Chief of Arts and Culture. "By investing in arts organizations across the City, we're a partner in that success and we're helping to expand access to arts opportunities in every community."

Here are the South End-based organizations that received Boston Cultural Council grants this year:

- Sleeping Weasel
- Boston Ballet
- Community Music Center of Boston
- Speaking Stage Company
- Chelsea Square Tenants Organization
- Boston Dance Alliance, Inc.
- Bay State Performing Arts, Inc. dba Boston Gay Men's Chorus
- Poler Strings
- Company One Theatre
- Boston Children's Theatre, Inc.
- Inquisition Brittany on America, Inc.
- United South End Settlements
- TinkArt Veterans League
- The Second Company
- Mass LEAP Inc.
- United South End Artists, Inc.
- Zetgeist Stage Company
- Fiber Arts Boston Resource & Innovation Center
- Urbanity Dance
- Turnstone Music, Inc.
- City Stage Co. of Boston
South End News Briefs

Flynn Neighborhood Office Hours
Boston City Councillor Ed Flynn will host Neighborhood Office Hours this Friday, February 2nd from 9am-11am at the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library.

GE no longer wants a helipad, but Suffolk Construction does

Suffolk Construction is seeking city permission to build a helicopter landing pad atop a 22-story building at the corner of Columbus and St. Paul Streets. Suffolk’s executive said the company is still engaged in discussions with nearby residents and civic groups about the proposal.

Monroe

Continued from page 4

narrator fumbles recounting historical events, which illustrate why we need Black History Month and an intensive tutorial for the Trump administration.

With the election of Barack Obama as president, many events arose concerning the future need for Black History Month. Millennials, in particular, whose beliefs help elect the country’s first African-American president revealed celebrating Black History Month seems more relevant to them. To them, the continuation of Black History Month is a relic tethered to an old defunct paradigm of the 1960s civil rights era and a hindrance to the country moving forward.

But in 2018, Trump became the first to declare Black History Month, and he later asked about whether the celebration of Black History Month is needed. Did he mean, because Trump has tweeted out an insult to just about every marginalized group in the country.

Since his first year in office, Trump’s display of xenophobic, misogynistic, LGBTQ+phobic, and racist remarks, to name just a few from his own list of bigotry, appears to have no cutoff point. Trump’s embrace of white supremacy showed itself in his statement about black immigrants from what he described as “shithole countries.” And, Trump’s removal of white supremacist groups—Ku Klux Klan, Identitarians, Identity Christians, Neo-Nazis, and Neo-Confederates, to name a few—from the list of groups that are banned by the Southern Poverty Law Center highlights the Jim Crow era Trump wants the country to travel back to when he says “Make America Great Again.”

His repugnant “Mama on both sides” comment about the Charlottesville massacre may be the trigger that last summer depicted the perpetrators as victims, too. By Trump condemning counter-protesters similarly as white supremacists and swastika-wielding thugs, many of his supporters are now more emboldened than ever before to not only contest the celebration of Black History Month but to insist on the celebration of white history month. For example, Boston born White supremacist Richard Spencer, a Trump supporter, sees no need for Black History Month. At one of his notorious rallies Spencer stated that “I would never say something like, ‘I don’t like black people just that ‘Africans have benefited from white supremacy.’” Trump’s administration, if it could have its way, would instead have a white history month celebration.

If Spicer was telling the truth last year that Trump’s administration would be highlighting Douglass’ invaluable contributions to America’s history it should start with his historic speech, “What, to the slave is the Fourth of July?” delivered on July 5, 1852, to the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society in Rochester, N.Y.

In the speech Douglass stated to a country then in the third year of its 1850 Fugitive Slave Law, “To you, our colored fellow-citizens, to speak now, by asking me to speak today? What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence? I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! Your high independence forms a kind of impenetrable barrier between us. This Fourth of July is yours, not mine.”

Douglass’s speech then as now highlights the fight for black independence and full citizenship. It informs our understanding of race relations today because it connects with contemporary themes of class and gender issues, economic disparity and the prison industrial complex, to list a few.

For many years Community Change, Inc. Library on Race in Boston held an annual public event called “Reading Frederick Douglass.” At this participatory reading, people took turns reading aloud parts of Douglass’s 1859 July speech. The website explains why that particular speech.

“Reading Frederick Douglass causes us to think of new ways about our nation’s history, affords opportunities to open up discourse about race relations and citizenship (especially immediately before or after the speech), and raises awareness of the role slavery and race continue to play in our history and national discourse.”

In 2012, the Federation of State Humanities Councils awarded Reading Frederick Douglass the Schwalbe Prize for the Best Overall Program. The program is now held in Vermont.

Douglass’s indefatigable activism as an abolitionist helped end slavery, and the 13th Amendment made it legal. But it’s important to remember his remarks about the 13th Amendment in a country moving forward. “Verily, the work does not end with the abolition of slavery, but only begins.”

I hope Trump revisits Frederick Douglass.

BPD Officers Confiscate 4 Firearms in Less Than 6 Hours

The BPD’s ongoing and uncovering efforts to protect and serve the citizens of Boston by targeting those who knowingly carry and possess unlawful firearms, the recent and uproarious findings of the Boston Police Department arrested three individuals on gun-related charges and confiscated four firearms in less than 6 hours, one in the South End.

On January 27, 2018, officers from District D-4 (South End) were on patrol in the area of 39 Bromm-Harris Way in the Lower Roxbury area when officers observed an individual, believed to be the subject of a no trespass order, enter one of the buildings inside the complex. As a result, officers followed the individual into the building. After speaking to the individual, officers allowed the individual to leave the location. While still inside the building, officers received information relative to a weapon possibly hidden inside one of common areas. A search of the area enabled officers to locate and confiscate a loaded Ruger SR45 firearm tucked into a void or hole found in the common hallway. This matter to be further investigated by District D-4 detectives.

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