South End News

November 3, 2022 [Vol. 42, No. 3]

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LOCAL NEWS

for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Joe Turner is back!



Robert Comelius as Bynum and James Milord as Herald in August Wilson's "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" at The Huntington. (Courtesy: T Charles Erickson)

Joe Turner's Come and Gone, The Huntington, Boston, through November 13. 617-266-0800 or thehuntington.org

> By Jules Becker Contributing Writer

Call August Wilson the Bard of Pittsburgh. After all, the nativebom African-American dramatist (1945-2005) movingly chronicled twentieth century black life in ten strong Pittsburgh-set plays—one for each decade. As with all great playwrights, the writing is both specific in its images and universal in its messages. Now The Huntington—which once powerfully showcased the full Wilson canon—is re-opening its

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Halloween in the South End



Nora Pontin and Lorenzo Pallotta portray Audrey Hepburn and Elmo for Halloween as they explore in the glow-in-the-dark play area at the second annual Fall-o-Ween children's festival hosted on October 21 by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department with support from H.P. Hood LLC. The fall celebration on the Boston Common Parade Ground featured games, inflatables, and free, fun activities for kids of all ages.

More photos on page 4

Ellis Early Learning Raises \$450,000 at Benefit

SUBMITTED BY ELLIS EARLY LEARNING

Ellis Early Learning raised \$450,000 for its mission and honored two "Sheroes of Early Childhood Education," Krissy Davis and Jeri Robinson, at its annual benefit event held Oct. 27 at the Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology in the South End.

Davis, a former Ellis director, is a Deloitte vice chair and leader of Deloitte's U.S. investment management industry practice. She served on the Ellis board for more than eight years and has a deep commitment to the community and a passion for the accessibility of high-quality early childhood education.

Robinson is the chairperson of the Boston School Committee and

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Krissy Davis (center), a Deloitte vice chair, holds her Shero Award presented by Coleen Downs Dinneen (left), chair of Ellis Early Learning's Board of Directors, and Ellis CEO Lauren Cook during the nonprofit's annual benefit event on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022. (Photo by Craig Bailey/Perspective Photo)

Storybook Ball

About 500 people came together on October 1,2022, at Boston's Museumof Fine Arts to celebrate Mass General for Children's 23rd annual Storybook Ball, raising more than \$1.2 million for pediatric care and research. Event partner Rafanelli Events transformed the MFA into Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, the bestselling children's story about letters climbing up a coconut tree, falling down and being comforted by their parents and other adults. The theme was inspired by the extraordinary care and expertise of the MGfC Newborn Medicine team, which was the focus of this year's gala. Photos by Matt West.



More photos on page 4

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The lessons of *English*

English, SpeakEasy Stage, Roberts Studio Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through November 19. 617-933-8600 or www. SpeakEasyStage.com



Deniz Khateri, Josephine Moshiri Elwood, Lily Gilan James, Zaven Ovian, and Leyla Modirzadeh in SpeakEasy Stage production of "English" (Courtesy Nile Scott Studios)

By Jules Becker Contributing Writer

Studying a language is no mere academic challenge. Such learning includes the culture and world view of the tongue in question. That challenge is compounded when the countries of the native and studied languages are as different and even polarized as Iran and the United States. At the same time, the teaching itself can have a profound even life-changing impact on both the instructor and the students. Such is the case for the four Iranian students - three women and one man - and their Iranian female teacher in the provocative prize-winning Off-Broadway play "English" (2022 Lucille Lortel Award) - now in a richly thoughtful SpeakEasy Stage area premiere at the Calderwood Pavilion.

The disarmingly simple title of Iranian-American Sanaz Toossi's no-intermission play has as much to do with identity as with language. On the one hand, teacher Marjan and her three female students all don the traditional Muslim hijab in her 2008 Karaj, Iran classroom (near Teheran. On the other hand, the teacher—preparing all four students for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)—insists straight taway that her class speak 'Only English.' Sessions regularly include such activities as show and tell, one-onone conversations, role-playing and circles in which ball tossing is tied to such word groups as items of clothing.

If Marjan is clearly an expert teacher and her sessions seem appropriately varied and interesting, her students reactions are clearly not uniformly positive. Attitude rich Elham—who eventually admits to five unsuccessful TOEFLs—sees English helping her to attend a medical school in Australia but contends that the teacher may be favoring male student Omid (who joins herafter hours in the classroom to watch such hit English language films as "Notting Hill." Older student Roya—whose son Nader and his family live in Canada—wants to learn English to speak with her granddaughter Claire but seriously questions the lack of their native Farsi in ses-

sions. Her reservations reach such a boiling point that she boldly presents a Farsi song and ultimately checks out of class. Omid likes the classyet harborssecretsabouthisactual English level and his life. Goli seems fascinated with English in her own way but actually dreams of an Iran in which Cyrus the Great is still king and everyone speaks Farsi.

Goli's dream may be a clever sub-textual tease. Marjan seems to claim that learning English is not a matter of conquest. Even so, the light accent-bearing teacher—who spent several years in Manchester England—may have been 'conquered' by English. Where Elham speaks of liking her native tongue, Marjan seems clearly conflicted about her preference and by extension her identity as she fears that Farsi is winning her inner war with English. Audience members learning another language or bearing dual citizenship are likely to experience a similar conflict. "English" isunquestionably a singularly insightful play about language, communication and humanidentity.

Under Melory Mirashrafi's taut direction, a nimble cast captures the play's vivid quintet and the characters' very diverse points of view. Deniz Khateri captures Marjan's evolving feelings about language, teaching and her own complex identity. Zaven Ovian has Omid's charm as well as his elusiveness. Josephine Moshiri Elwood catches both Elham's insecurity about her thick accent and her pride in her heritage. Lily Gilan James is properly enthusiastic as Goli. Leyla Modirzadeh finds Roya's strong spirit and devotion to family. All five actors smoothly move between the faster tempo English cleverly meant to represent Farsi and its slower tempo counterpoint for the English the students are gradually learning. Janie E. Howland's wood-dominated classroom set is strikingly warm. Nina Vartanian smartly reflects the differences between the characters in her nuanced costumes.

Omid admits to liking Marjan in both languages. Theatergoers should embrace SpeakEasy Stage's enchanting premiere of "English" and the food for thought it importantly provides about the worlds of words. Vaccines save lives & lessen symptoms.

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Halloween photos continued from the cover



Wally the Green Monster greets youngsters at the October 21 Fall-o-Ween children's festival hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department on Boston Common with support from H.P. Hood LLC.



Instructor Kelly Maher leads a Zumba dance party on Boston Common during the October 21 Fall-o-Ween children's festival hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department with support from H.P. Hood I.I.C.

Storybook ball photos continued from the cover



hoto by Matt West.

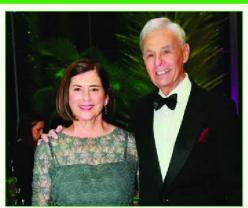


Photo by Matt West.

O'DAY PLAYGROUND DESIGN MEETING #1

Saturday, November 5, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. Meet at O'Day Playground 75 West Newton Street

In the case of rain meet at IBA's Headquarter Office, 2 San Juan St Project page: boston.gov/oday-improvements

Interpretation and translation services are available to you at no cost. If you need them, please contact us at lauren.bryant@boston.gov, LCA@boston.gov or 617-961-3019 by: 11/1

CITY of BOSTON



City of Boston Parks and Recreation



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Letters policy

Tobe considered for publication, letters must be no longerthan 500 words; refrainfrom extreme personal attacks; besigned and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to PO BOX E.14, Boston, MA 02127; E-mail:letters@southendnews.com



Boston School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson, center, holds her Shero Award presented by Kristin McSwain (left), senior advisor and director of Mayor Michelle Wu's Office of Early Childcare, and Ellis Early Learning CEO Lauren Cook during the nonprofit's annual benefit event on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022. (Photo by Craig Bailey/Perspective Photo)

Ellis

Continued from page 1

served as the vice president of early childhood initiatives at the Boston Children's Museum. She has more than 40 years of experience in teaching and consulting in early childhood education.

"We were so pleased to recognize Krissy, a long time leader and champion of Ellis, along with Jeri, who is a key partner as we strive to enhance the accessibility of early childhood education for working families in our community," said Lauren Cook, CEO of Ellis Early Learning. "The funds raised in their honor are vitally needed as we contend with a highly constrained workforce and demand for care that outstrips the supply of available teachers."

More than 200 parents, teachers and donors enjoyed the evening to honor the Ellis Sheroes. Despite persistent financial challenges faced by Ellis and the early childhood education sector, the benefit was an opportunity to celebrate with cocktails and dinner, music, and fun.

The event co-chairs were Ellis Board of Directors Chair Coleen Downs Dinneen, retired executive vice president at Natixis, and board member Jim Geraghty, managing director and private wealth advisor at Morgan Stanley.

Ellis is grateful for generous support from many local corporations and organizations, including Amazon, The Baupost Group, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Deloitte, Eastern Bank, Kirkland & Ellis, Moderna Foundation, Natixis, State Street, The TJX Companies, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley and the Wellington Foundation.

For more information about how to support Ellis's mission, visit ellisearlylearning, funraise.org.





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LEGAL NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court**

Lourdes Grullon Nunes vs. Alberto Merejo Medina

directing the defandant to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P/Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P.Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for **Divorce 1B**. Docket No. SU20D1661DR

Suffolk Probate and Family Cour 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667, Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. Defendant canno be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action.

It is **Ordered** that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein on or before **November 23, 2022**. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter

It is further Ordered that the accompanying summons be published once in the South End News a newspaper published in: P.O. Box E.I.4 Boston, MA 021.24 the publication to be 20 days at least before said return day. It is further Ordered that a copy of the summons be mailed to the defendant at his/her last known address by registered or certified mail.

Date: 9/2/2022 Hon. Janine D. Rivers, Justice of Probate and Family Court

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

Commonwealth of Massachusett The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU20P2015GD

In the matter of: Aida Mariona Of: Boston, MA

RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by the Annmary Conor of Amesbury, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.

Suffolk Probate and 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed o resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longe e cessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 11/29/2022. This city is NOT a bearing date, but a deading date by which you have to file the written appearance flyou object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter writtout further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attomery must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection writhin 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take a

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 20, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Alleged Incapacitated Person

RESPONDENT

INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO

Docket No. SU22P2393GD

In the matter of: Eliezer Cepeda Of: Boston, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested

persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Eliezer Cepeda is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Maria Cepeda-Matos of Loiza, PR (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/24/2022. This day is NOT a hearing

specific lacts and grounds of your opercon within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-name person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 25, 2022

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate Get local and advertise your

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Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

e-mail: letters@ southendnews.com

Joe Turner

Continued from page 1

handsomely renovated main stage with a fittingly named August Wilson Lobby (the late Wilson often frequenting that lobby) and a joyous and heartfelt revival of his haunting "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" (1984, Broadway 1988).

Set in 1911 at a Pittsburgh boarding house run by owner Seth Holly and his wife Bertha, Wilson's richly poetic drama finds "the sons and daughters of newly freed African slaves" wandering into the city from the South. Both hopeful and uncertain about their prospects in the North, they seek a stability that Seth possesses. Imperturbable resident conjure man, or root worker Bynum Walker seems to speak to all the boarders' respective quests and hopes as he evocatively stresses the importance of finding one's own song.

Thatsearch for one sown song—and by extension, identity—finds its strongest expression in the search of harried deacon Herald Loomis for his wife Martha Pentecost. Herald had been kidnapped for seven years of chain gang farm labor by the title brother of the Governor of Tennessee and later looked unsuccessfully for Martha for three years. He has now arrived at the Holly boarding house with daughter Zonia to continue his quest. There he meets Rutherford Selig, whom Bynum describes as a first-class People

Finder. Selig promises to find Martha, but Herald's Memphis years continue to plague his soul and threaten his own search for an inner song.

All around Bynum, Herald and Zonia, other boarders struggle with varying degrees of success to sing their own songs and articulate their own identities. Jeremy Furlow works on roads but longs to make his mark as a guitarist playing at dances and hopes Molly will join him. Independent-minded Molly Cunningham has no intention to head to the Jim Crowe South and believes that men are not dependable but she does find Jeremy fairly charming. Mattie Campbell-who had two babies that died and a man named Jack Carper who may not return-has to finish ironing for Doc Goldblum and may be too diffident to set out on her own. For his part, Bynum counsels these younger boarders as well as Herald to find their inner song and sing it

Under director Lili-Anne Brown's seamless direction, a first-rate cast sings Wilson's rightly acclaimed song (a New York Drama Critics' Circle Award winner) with exuberant confidence. Maurice Emmanuel Parent has all of Seth's omeriness and directness while Shannon Lamb beautifully captures Bertha's contrasting serenity. Robert Cornelius catches pivotal Bynum's amusing approach to life and lyrical philosophy aboutself-examination. He sharply finds

the rhythms and disarming wisdom of the root worker's extended speeches about inner songs. James Milord is touching as emotionally conflicted Herald—especially as he describes sitting up like Jonah in the whale's belly for three years waiting to say goodbye to Martha. Milord is commandingly riveting as he refers to flesh and bone imagery with the force of a prophetic vision like the biblical Ezekiel's.

Stewart Evan Smith, a revelation as dream-driven Jeremy, has all of his charisma and flair. Dela Meskienvar captures Molly's tenacity, while Alnisa Petty aces Mattie's sweetness and vulnerability. Lewis D.Wheeler finds Selig's no-nonsense business posture. Patrese D. McClain makes the most of Martha's faith-strong connection to the famed Psalm 23 ("The Lord Is My Shepherd"). Gray Flaherty as Zonia and Joshua McKenna as neighbor playmate Reuben Mercer (alternating with Alana Ross and Eli Lapaix respectively through the run) have all of their ease and simplicity. Arnel Sancianco's eye-catching boarding house set features a majestic staircase and landing.

As Loomis finds his song of selfsufficiency, Bynum observes "Herald Loomis, you shining! You shining like new money!" So it goes for the wonderfully luminous revival of "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" and the newly reopened Huntington.



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