

New Year's Day at the Cathedral



Archbishop Richard Henning poses for photos with the Haitian clergy and choir after presiding at Mass for the Haitian community on the occasion of New Year's Day and Haitian Independence Day. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.

See more photos on page 5

Boston Police Department warns residents of a new parking ticket scam

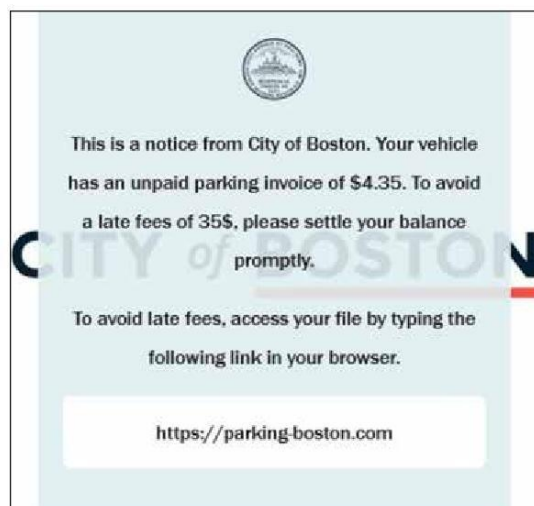


Photo via Boston City Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy, Facebook.

SOUTH END STAFF

Boston Police report that scammers are sending text messages to

residents claiming the recipients have unpaid tickets, using the

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Prudential Center honored Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 30th Anniversary

SUBMITTED BY
LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute was honored during Prudential Center's "31 Nights of Light," an annual tradition celebrating nonprofit organizations throughout December. For the 16th consecutive year, Prudential Tower was lit up in a different color each evening to spotlight participating organizations. As part of the celebration, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute hosted a "Flip the Switch" moment, providing a unique opportunity for the public to interact with the

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Louis D. Brown Peace Institute honored during Prudential Center's "31 Nights of Light," an annual tradition celebrating nonprofit organizations throughout December. Photo courtesy of Rosa Cabán.

Best Theater of 2024

Jules Becker
Contributing Writer

Explorations of identity, gender, diversity and tradition enriched much of the best theater of 2024. At the same time, inspired fresh revivals brought new insight to works by Moliere, Shakespeare and August Wilson as well as Tony Award-winning musicals. There were also significant collaborations between companies—notably Actors' Shakespeare Project and Hibernian Hall (continuing at the latter venue January 23-February 23 with Wilson's "The Piano Lesson"), SpeakEasy Stage and the Front Porch Arts Collaborative as well as Gloucester Stage Company and Teatro Chelsea—the last an ongoing new relationship.

Huntington Theatre—rightly acclaimed for its arresting earlier engagement with the entire



Jesse Hinson (left) as Ryan and De'Lon Grant as Keith in "A Case for the Existence of God" at SpeakEasy Stage Company. Photo courtesy of Nile Scott Studios.

Wilson "Pittsburgh Cycle"—staged Houston-set "Sojourners"—the inauguration of a partnering with area companies in producing the nine-play "Ufot Family Cycle"

by Nigerian-American dramatist Mfoniso Udofia. A very different ambitious work—the pre-Broadway

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SOUTH END AND BAY VILLAGE LIAISON OFFICE HOURS

Friday, January 17, 2025, 11:00am-12:00pm
Sip of Joy Cafe and Bakery,
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South End and Bay Village Coffee Hours are hosted by your neighborhood liaison Sarah Sharpe. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services liaisons hosts weekly Coffee

Hours located conveniently in each neighborhood. This is an opportunity to connect with your neighborhood liaison to receive support connecting with City departments, addressing

any concerns, or just to say hello to connect joyfully.

Neighborhood liaisons look forward to hearing how Boston can improve our neighborhoods.

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Snow 101:

Tips from the City of Boston

Before a Winter Storm

Get ready

- Sign up for emergency notifications through AlertBoston.
- Follow instructions from public safety officials.
- QR CODE: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/emergency-management/city-boston-alerts-and-notifications#emergency-alerts>
- Make a plan and review it! If you receive medical treatments or home health care services, work with your medical provider to determine how to maintain care and service if you are unable to leave your home for a period of time.
- Build an emergency kit. Be sure to add seasonal supplies to your kit, like extra winter clothing and blankets.

Prepare for possible power outages:

- Fully charge your cell phone, laptop, and other electronic devices before a storm, especially if power outages are expected.
- Consider purchasing a portable generator or installing a generator to provide power during an outage.
- If you have a life support device or other medical equipment or supplies which depends on electricity, notify your utility and work with your medical provider to prepare for power outages.

Prepare your home:

- Remove dead or rotting trees or branches around your home that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- Clear clogged rain gutters to allow water to flow away from your home. Melting snow and ice can build up if gutters are clogged with debris.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- Properly insulate your home. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows to keep cold air out. Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside to provide insulation.
- Check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working and have fresh batteries.
- Ensure you have sufficient heating fuel and consider back up heating options, such as fireplaces or woodstoves.

- Prepare your vehicle for winter driving. Keep the gas tank at least half-full and have a winter emergency car kit.
- If you have a pet ensure you have enough supplies for them.

After a Winter Storm

- Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies and 311 for all non-emergency matters, including downed power lines and gas leaks.
- Clear snow from sidewalk (within 3 hours after snowing stops) on your property. This includes nearby curb cuts at least 42-inches wide to allow access for wheelchair users and those pushing strollers.
- Clear exhaust vents from direct vent gas furnace systems to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Dig out fire hydrants and storm drains in your neighborhood.
- Property owners and businesses should clear snow from walkways, entrances and access ramps.
- Check your roof and clear accumulated snow.
- Use caution and take frequent breaks when shoveling snow.
- Stay away from downed utility wires. Always assume a downed power line is live.
- Stay off streets and roads until they are clear of snow.
- Clear snow from around vehicle exhaust pipes before starting the vehicle.
- Don't park too close to corners so public safety vehicles and plows can maneuver safely.
- Make sure emergency generators or secondary heating stems are well-ventilated because their fumes contain carbon monoxide.
- Be aware of children playing in the streets, particularly climbing on or running out from behind large snowdrifts. Parents should remind their children to be aware of plowing operations and traffic.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions, and those who may need additional assistance.
- Continue to monitor media for emergency information.
- Follow instructions from public safety officials.

parking tickets must be paid within 21 days through official channels - online, by phone, mail, or in person. City-issued tickets are uploaded to the online system the same day, with handwritten tickets taking slightly longer to process.

Residents can verify legitimate tickets by checking the city's online system or calling the parking department at 617-635-4410.

Hoax

Continued from page 1

city's official logo but sending from non-617 phone numbers.

The messages contain suspicious elements like incorrectly formatted dollar amounts.

The city reminds residents that legitimate

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Peace

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organization, celebrate its mission, and take part in a symbolic lighting ceremony.

On Friday, December 20, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's held their 30th celebration over the weekend, in honor of 31 years since

Louis B. Brown lost his life to gun violence. That same day also marks 30 years of his family starting up an organization in honor of him. Louis was 15-years-old when he was caught in the crossfire during a shootout near his Dorchester home in 1993. At that time, there were no resources in Boston for survivors of homicide victims. This tragic event led to the creation of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

which focuses on helping families impacted by violence.

The Institute continues to break cycles of violence by providing services, advocacy, and training for families and communities affected by murder, trauma, and loss. This year also marks the \$25 million Campaign for Peace, a bold initiative to build a new Center of Healing, Teaching, and Learning.



Rachel Rodrigues Co-Executive Director of Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Alexandra Chéry Dorrelus, Co-Executive Director of Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Photo courtesy of Natalia Piferer; iPiferer Photography.



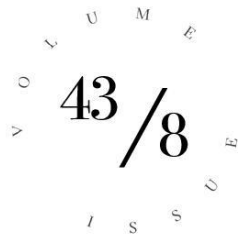
NBC Boston Anchor Latoyia Edwards, Emcee. Photo courtesy of Natalia Piferer; iPiferer Photography.



Suffolk Co. District Attorney Kevin Hayden, Clementina Chéry, Founder, President and CEO of Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Rachel Rodrigues Co-Executive Director of Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Denella Clark. Photo courtesy of Natalia Piferer; iPiferer Photography.



Boston City Councilor Brian Worrell talking to guests and honored with the inaugural Louis D. Brown Visionary Leadership Award. Photo courtesy of Natalia Piferer; iPiferer Photography.



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New Year's Day at the Cathedral



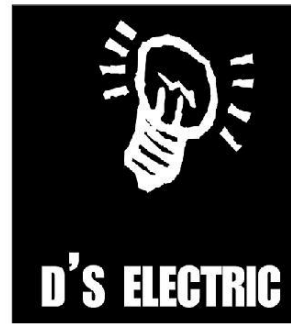
The Haitian choir. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.



Archbishop Henning poses for photos with attendees after Mass. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.

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Theater

Continued from page 1

tryout at the Emerson Colonial Theatre of "The Queen of Versailles" (based on the documentary of the same name) featured the always-winning Kristin Chenoweth but proved to be a work in progress that needs a better book and a somewhat stronger score from Stephen Schwartz ("Wicked"). Chenoweth and Schwartz fans may find the musical sharper on Broadway—with previews slated to begin March 12 with an April 8 opening and July 8 closing. More satisfying were distinctive theater-dance works and meaningful solo efforts.

The following are this critic's choices for the best of 2024.

Theater

An American in Paris (Reagle Music Theatre). Director-choreographer Rachel Bertone sharply captured the dance and plot riches (the latter tied in with the Holocaust-surviving heroine) of this Gershwin-orchestrated Broadway gem.

A Case for the Existence of God (SpeakEasy Stage Company). A business relationship turned friendship and bromance in Samuel D. Hunter's affecting play—with heartfelt performances by De'Lon Grant and Jesse Hinson.

A Strange Loop (SpeakEasy Stage and Front Page Arts Collective). Gifted Maurice Emanuel Parent powerfully staged this provocative 2020 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner with riveting Kai Clifton as black gay protagonist Usher.

Dinner for One (Greater Boston Stage Company). Physically gifted Paul Melendy moved with amazing agility as Debra Wise beautifully underplayed in this disarming comedy.

Fiddler on the Roof (North Shore Music Theatre). Jerome Robbins would drink a L'Chayim to director Robert Schneider's labor of love revival.

The Hombres (Gloucester Stage Company and Teatro Chelsea). Director Armando Rivera brought fire and feeling to Tony Meneses' insightful examination of what it means to be a man and friendships between very different men.

King Hedley II (Actors' Shakespeare Project). James Ricardo Milord—one of the Hub's finest actors—found all of the title character's tenacity and vulnerability in ASP's stirring revival of this resonant Wilson play.

Leopoldstadt (Huntington Theatre). Director Carey Perloff turned Tom Stoppard's Tony-winning exploration of family, tradition and his own experience as a Jewish man into what is arguably the highpoint of 2024 area theater.

The Dybbuk (Arlekin Players Theatre). Igor Golyak caught the drama and the spiritual surrealism of the Ansky classic at the Vilna Shul.

The Lion in Winter (Theater Uncorked). Director Alison Olivia Choat and a superb cast made James Goldman's witty 1183-set play an entertaining battle royal.

The Winter's Tale (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company). Nael Nacer's sublime Leontes—initially chilling and eventually caring—headlined director Bryn Boice's exuberant revival.

Urinetown (Lyric Stage Company of Boston). Greg Kotis' prescient book about water and corporate greed and Mark Hollman's witty score found fresh currents of fun and insight in this rollicking revival.

Solo Performance

Driving in Circles (at Boston Playwrights Theatre). Multi-talented Jay Eddy wrote, composed and performed this blisteringly powerful and personal musical focusing on recovery from abuse.

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number.

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

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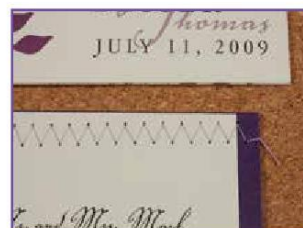
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Passover Seder in Tom Stoppard's "Leopoldstadt" at the Huntington Theatre. Photo by Liza Voll.

Golda's Balcony (Shakespeare & Company at Emerson Paramount Center). Annette Miller brought new resonance to her award-winning portrayal of Golda Meir.

Robert Frost: This Verse Business (Spring Pool Arts at Calderwood Pavilion). Gordon Clapp brought Frost to life and declaimed his poetry with equal vitality.

Distinctive Dance-Theater

Diary of a Tap Dancer (American Repertory Theatre)—Writer-choreographer Ayodele Casel and seven equally talented performers dance out both her own story as well as the timely yet virtually untold history of black women tap dancers.

Message in a Bottle (Sadler's Wells and Universal Music UK with Zoonation: the Kate Prince Company, at Emerson Colonial Theatre) This touching look at family challenges danced out its appeal to love and understanding in the most exciting such effort since "Movin' Out."

Tours

& Juliet (Broadway in Boston at Citizen Opera House)

Company (Broadway in Boston at Citizen Opera House)

An Evening with Audra McDonald (Celebrity Series at Symphony Hall)

Patti Lupone: A Life in Notes (Celebrity Series at Symphony Hall)

Honorable Mention

Beyond Words (Brit d'Arbeloff Women in Science production at Central Square Theatre)

Cost of Living (SpeakEasy Stage)

John Proctor Is the Villain (Huntington)

Moby Dick (Arts Emerson)

South Pacific (Reagle)

The Minutes (Umbrella Stage Company)

Titanic (North Shore Music Theatre)

Trouble in Mind (Lyric)

Wipe Out (Gloucester Stage)

Yellow Face (Lyric)



Christopher Chew (center) and cast members in Lyric Stage Company of Boston revival of "Urinetown." Photo by Nile Hawver.

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