South End News

January 14, 2021 [Vol. 41, No. 8]

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Local news for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Theater

Looking Back at 2020

Remembering Mart Crowley, Larry Kramer and Terrence McNally

By Jules Becker

Lewis D. Wheeler, Hubens "Bobby" Cius and Kadahj Bennett in SpeakEasy Stage's production of "Pass Over." (Courtesy Nile Scott Studios)

Is social distance performance real theater? This question, of course, has informed virtually all stage efforts since the outbreak of COVID-19. Given the challenges of presenting split-screen and zoom productions, a best of the year list is unavoidably brief. Still, 2020 boasted some notable initial pre-COVID efforts and several following well-conceived presentations that provided online audiences with provocative fare until the re-opening of area theaters.

SpeakEasy Stage Company presented the Hub premiere of the tough-talking yet thoughtful street corner-set Off-Broadway drama "Pass

Continued on page 2

News from…

SoWa Artists Guild

Submitted by SoWa Artists Guild

Virtual winter event keeps art alive and fun

Building on its November success with a Facebook Live South End Open Studios Weekend, the SoWa Artists Guild is getting creative again and hosting a virtual Super Bowl weekend event.

"SoWa LIVE!" with the tagline "Meet our artists on Facebook Live" will follow the Guild's First Friday Open Studios evening, February 5th. The event will take place Saturday

Continued on page 3

News from…

Friends of the South End Library

Submitted by FOSEL

South End Writes

Filthy Labors by Lauren Marie Schmidt, Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 PM 8:00 PM

Lauren Marie Schmidt made her first appearance for South End Writes on July 14, 2020 when, during an event featuring her partner, the poet Martin Espada, she handed him their little fluffy dog while she searched the floor for an outlet to recharge a laptop being used in the poetry reading. The dog won a brief but decisive victory over poetry in the battle for audience attention.

Lauren Marie Schmidt will again join South End Writes to read from her latest collection, Filthy Labors, on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 PM. She will be introduced by Martin Espada. No word yet on whether the dog will make an appearance.

Continued on page 3

Modified Phase 2, Step 2 Of Reopening Plan Extended In Boston

Submitted by the City of Boston

The following industries in the City of Boston are required to remain closed for at least three weeks (January 27, 2021):

Indoor fitness centers and health clubs, including gyms using alternative spaces. One-on-one personal training sessions are allowed.

- Movie theaters
- Museums
- Aquariums
- Indoor recreational and athletic facilities (except for youth 18 and under)

*This does not apply to collegiate or professional sports.

*Indoor pools may remain open for all ages under pre-registration format structure limited to one person per swim lane.

- Indoor recreational venues

Continued on page 3

News from…

Boston Medical Center, COVID-19 Vaccine Update

From www.bmc.org

We now have a new way to help stop the spread of COVID-19—vaccines.

Vaccination will help protect you and those around you from COVID-19.

By being vaccinated, wearing a mask, and staying at least 6 ft. away from others, we can help end this pandemic.

As COVID infections go up in our communities, your risk of getting COVID-19 goes up too, and you can get seriously sick. But the COVID-19 vaccine prevents infections in about 95 percent of people. And it doesn't just protect you—by getting vaccinated, you'll also help keep your family and your community safe from COVID-19.

Currently, Boston Medical Center is providing the vaccine to hospital employees, based on state guidelines. We plan to begin vaccinating patients in early 2021, based on those guidelines. The vaccine will also be available at other health care organizations and pharmacies as part of the nation-wide vaccination effort. It will be available to different groups in phases. Your overall health and your job will help determine which phase you'll get the vaccine in. We expect that healthy adults will be able to get vaccines later in 2021.

We will continue to update this page as we learn more about COVID-19 vaccines.

Let's fight COVID-19 together.

Learn about how the COVID-19 vaccines work and when they might be available to you.

Visit https://www.bmc.org/covid-19-vaccine

Online

Check us out online at

www.mysouthend.com

twitter.com/SouthEndNews

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Online

Where will you live until you can call this 'Home' again? Your association policy won't cover your additional living expenses. Condo owners NEED Personal Condominium Insurance for that. Aside from replacing your personal property, it will help you with rent, while you're still paying your mortgage. Contact us.

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bpda | **Virtual Public Meeting**

Parcel 8 Proposal Presentations

Monday, January 25
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/parcel8
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 399 1728

Project Description:
Join the BPDA for a presentation of three proposals for redeveloping Parcel 8 in Nubian Square. Review the proposals at bit.ly/PlanNubian. Interpretation and translation will be provided in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Rejwenn Ajans Devlopman ak Planifikasyon Boston pou yon prezantasyon nan twa pwopozisyon pou redevlope Pasèl Teren 8 nan Nubian Square. Konsilte pwopozisyon yo nan bit.ly/PlanNubian. Peryòd kòmantè a pral fèmen nan 8 Fevriye. Yo pral bay sèvis entèpretasyon ak tradiksyon nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak Panyòl.

Únase a la Agencia de Planificación y Desarrollo de Boston para asistir a la presentación de tres propuestas para la reurbanización de la parcela 8 de la plaza Nubian. Vea las propuestas en bit.ly/PlanNubian. El período de comentarios se cerrará el 8 de febrero. Se ofrecerá interpretación y traducción al español y al criollo haitiano.

mail to: **Morgan McDaniel**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 914.548.8734
email: morgan.e.mcdaniel@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
2/8/2021

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Food Pantries

Information from the City of Boston

Haley House Food Pantry, 23 Dartmouth Street, Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 617-236-8132

Rosie's Place/Pantry, 889 Harrison Ave.,Mondays: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays and Fridays: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:30-6:30 p.m., 617-442-9322

Salvation Army/South End Food Pantry, 1500 Washington Street, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 617-536-5260.

Catholic Charities/El Centro del Cardena, Monsignor Reynolds Way, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., 617-522-4040

Boston Medical Center Food Pantry, 1 Boston Medical Center Yawkey B, Monday through Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 617-414-3834

Grant A.M.E./Self-Help, 1906 Washington St., First and third Thursday of the month: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 617-427-0670

American Red Cross/Mobile Market, 1033 Massachusetts Ave., Times vary, call ahead: 617-375-0735.

Islamic Multi Service Organization, 722 Shawmut Avenue, Second Sunday of the month: 1:30 - 4 p.m., 617-442-2805

Union United Methodist Church Food Pantry, 485 Columbus Ave., Second Tuesday of the month: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., 617-287-1020

Locations and times are subject to change. Please check back to confirm information before you head to a meal pickup site or food pantry.

Visit https://www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-covid19-food-resources for a full list of pantries.

Theater

Continued from page 1

Over" (2019 Lortel best play prize). Antoinette Nuandu's timely play riffs on Beckett and Exodus in a resonant look at the frustrations and difficulties of two African-American young men. Hubens "Bobby" Cius was forceful as Kitch and Kadahj Bennett commanding as Moses. SpeakEasy has since tackled LGBTQ issues with an audio presentation of M.J.Halberstadt (the deservedly acclaimed "The Launch Prize")'s informative bookstore-set play "The Usual Unusual" —one that the company is likely to stage fully post-COVID.

American Repertory Theater paid tribute to 85 year old activist Gloria Steinem with an exuberant area premiere of the Emily Mann Off-Broadway play "Gloria." Audience members sat on pillows and bean bags as well as regular Loeb Drama Center seats for this informative if overly busy portrait of the Ms. Magazine founder, supporter of gay rights and inspiring contemporary of Shirley Chisholm and Bella Abzug. Patricia Kalember powerfully captured Steinem's fire and feeling.

Spring found the Hub Theatre Company of Boston bringing new zest to "Much Ado about Nothing" in a lively split-screen revival. Jon Vellante was a standout as Benedick in a solid ensemble. Veteran actor Arthur Waldstein —wearing a tallit (Jewish prayer shawl) and yarmulke —proved very affecting as Rabbi Francis (originally, of course, Friar Francis) in director Bryn Boice's persuasive adaptation.

New Repertory Theatre began a project called the Showstopper Virtual Play Series with back to back on-line one person one-act plays. Colombian-American playwright Alexis Scheer's "A Very Herrera Holiday" impressed with a disarming Martha Stewart-like crafts show that eventually darkened via suspicions of the host about the fidelity of her husband. The second work, Miranda ADEkoje's Instagram-employing "[keyp-ing]," builds on the worries of an African-American producer's about the security of her director husband and fellow black film crew members testing for COVID in a virtually all-white community. This smart Zoom duo bodes well for New Rep's commitment to diversity.

Arlekin Players continues to show itself to be an envelope-pushing troupe. If its one-woman trial-based drama "State vs. Natasha Banina" needed stronger development and fuller back story, the company nevertheless deserves kudos for a well-acted, technically imaginative effort.

Three pioneering gay playwrights were lost to America and the world in 2020-Mart Crowley (84), Larry Kramer (84) and Terrence McNally (at 81 from complications from COVID 19).

Crowley's pre-Stonewall "The Boys in the Band" (1968) broke ground for dramatists seeking to focus on the fortunes of gay characters. Theatergoers can catch a film version of the Tony Award-winning 2018 revival (complete with the entire Broadway cast) on Netflix. Kramer's Tony-winning play "The Normal Heart" (powerfully staged on Broadway) combines a touching romance in the age of AIDS, insights about activists like the playwright himself and timely comment about politicians favoring opportunism over courage and caring.

Terrence McNally (whom this critic was privileged to meet at a talkback after a stellar SpeakEasy Stage Company production of his Off-Broadway gem "A Man of No Importance") was rightly known as "the bard of American theater." The multi-talented writer and opera aficionado won Tony's for plays – "Love!Valour!Compassion!" and "Master Class"–as well as the books of musicals —"Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Ragtime."

Surely the works of all three —particularly the prolific McNally —will remain an essential part of American stage repertoire.

Phase 2

Continued from page 1

with potential for low-contact (batting cages, driving ranges, bowling alleys, rock-climbing)

• Sightseeing and other organized tours (bus tours, duck tours, harbor cruises, whale watching)

• Indoor historical spaces & sites

• Indoor event spaces (meeting rooms, ballrooms, private party rooms, social clubs)

• Private social clubs may continue to operate, if they serve food, consistent with restaurant guidance.

• Indoor and outdoor gaming arcades associated with gaming devices

The following industries in the City of Boston are allowed to remain open with the following restrictions in place for at least three weeks (January 27, 2021):

• Indoor dining in restaurants may remain in operation with restricted bar seating. The 90 minute limit on seatings to reduce crowding and prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be strictly enforced. No member of any dining party may remain in a restaurant for more than 90 minutes in any calendar day. Ancillary activities such as pool tables, darts, trivia, etc. are prohibited.

• Bar seating is prohibited unless express written approval is issued by Boston's Licensing Board, after licensees submit a Bar Seating Plan for review and approval.

• Indoor non-athletic instructional classes in arts, education & life sciences for persons 18 years and older may continue to operate within the 10-person capacity limit.

• Outdoor event spaces used for gatherings and celebrations within the 25-person capacity limit, including those in parks, reservations, and other outdoor spaces not designated in Phase Four.

• Outdoor theaters and outdoor performance venues may continue to operate within the 25-person capacity limit.

• Motion picture, television and streaming production may continue to operate.

Per State guidance in effect since December 26, 2020, the following industries in the City of Boston are currently allowed to operate with the following restrictions in place:

• Office spaces may remain open at 25 percent capacity. Employers are strongly encouraged to allow employees to work from home as much as possible.

• Indoor dining in restaurants may remain in operation at 25 percent of seating capacity (calculated by the occupancy load as stated on a licensee's certificate of inspection issued under the State Building Code. Workers and staff are excluded from the occupancy count.)

• Close contact personal services may remain open at 25 percent capacity (workers and staff are excluded from the occupancy count.)

• Places of worship may remain open at 25 percent capacity (workers and staff are excluded from the occupancy count.)

• Retail businesses may remain open at 25 percent capacity (workers and staff are excluded from the occupancy count.)

• Golf facilities may remain open at 25 percent capacity (for indoor spaces)

As a reminder, the following State orders remain in effect to reduce the transmission of the virus:

• Temporary capacity and gathering limits: 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors for both private homes and event venues and public spaces.

• Face coverings order: face masks or cloth face coverings are required in all public places, whether indoors or outdoors, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.

• Travel order: all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents are required to:

*Complete the Massachusetts Travel Form prior to arrival, unless visiting from a lower-risk state designated by the Department of Public Health.

*Quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts.

• Stay-at-Home Advisory: residents of Massachusetts are advised to stay home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

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SoWa

Continued from page 1

and Sunday, February 6th and 7th, 11am-5pm, live streaming on Facebook from the artists' studios at 450 Harrison Ave in Boston's SoWa Art and Design District.

Debby Krim, an artist in the building, will take on the role of filmmaker and shoot live footage of all participating artists. Viewers can participate live from home, ask questions, contact individual artists and make purchases. They simply need to go to the "SOWA Artists Guild" Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/SowaArtistsGuild

"We had such success with Facebook Live in November," says SoWa artist Paul Pedulla, "reaching thousands of viewers, answering some wonderful questions and selling work. So we just had to do it again."

Facebook users can participate live and/or continue to view some compelling and spontaneous video footage for days and weeks to follow.

"We're keeping art alive, even for people who are in their homes," explains Stephen Silver, Founder of the SoWa Artists Guild. Another SoWa artist, Audrey Markoff, adds, "it's a fun way to bring some of Boston's best art directly into art lovers' homes on a chilly winter weekend."

Depending on state protocols, 450 Harrison Ave may also be open for in-person participation at the February 6th and 7th event with masks required. One way or another, SoWa artists will continue to greet the public.

South End Library

Continued from page 1

"*The Resisters*" by Gish Jen

Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

Gish Jen, the acclaimed author of many novels, short stories and thought-provoking essays, has agreed to return to South End Writes to discuss her widely praised eighth novel, The Resisters, on Tuesday, February 2, via ZOOM.

Jen visited the South End library in 2017 to present her earlier work of fiction, The Girl at the Baggage Claim: Explaining the East-West Culture Gap.

The first paragraph in the New York Times review of The Resisters describes a searing picture of a world we hope we will never see but which conceptually appears increasingly close at hand: The Resisters " … imagines a society even more catastrophically divided than our own. In Jen's AutoAmerica, almost all of the jobs have been automated and rising seas have swamped large sections of the country. The privileged, known as the "Netted," have "angelfair" skin and live on high ground, while the "Surplus," whose skin is often "coppertoned," suffer on swampland and rickety houseboats…"

More information at www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org

South End Honor Roll

Saef Named to Bucknell University Dean's List

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2019-20 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. Caroline Saef, class of 2021, from Boston has achieved dean's list status.

Located in Lewisburg, Pa., Bucknell University is a highly selective private liberal arts university that offers majors in the arts, engineering, humanities, management, and social and natural sciences, along with broad opportunities outside of class, to its 3,600 undergraduates. Graduate programs are available in select disciplines. Students benefit from a small student-faculty ratio of 9:1, personal attention from faculty, leadership opportunities, and excellent graduation rates and career outcomes.

Kevin Peete named to the Curry College Dean's List

Curry College is proud to announce that Kevin Peete of Boston has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Peete majoring in Psychology, is among the roughly 1,000 students that have received the distinction, a marker of academic excellence and high achievement.

To earn a place on the list, full-time undergraduate students - those who carry 12 or more graded credits per semester - must earn a 3.3 grade-point-average (GPA) or higher.

Founded in 1879, Curry College is a private, four-year, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Mass. Curry extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth, Mass. Curry offers 28 undergraduate majors, as well as graduate degrees in business, accounting, education, criminal justice, and nursing, with a combined enrollment of over 3,700 students. The student body consists of approximately 2,000 traditional undergraduate students, and 1,700 continuing education and graduate students. Approximately 1,575 of its students reside on the Curry campus. The largest majors are business management, communication, nursing, criminal justice, and education, and the college is also internationally known for its Program for the Advancement of Learning (PAL). The College offers a wide array of extra-curricular activities ranging from 15 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu.

Boston Ward 4 Dems January Calendar

Boston Ward 4 Dems Meeting—January 19th, 6 pm.

Democrats from Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End hold their monthly meeting. Agenda: a climate policy update from Cabell Eames, legislative manager for 350 Mass/Better Future Project; City Councilor Michelle Wu about her candidacy for mayor; Alex Gray about his candidacy for Boston City Council At-Large. Email ward4dems@gmail.com for Zoom information.

41/8

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South End News is published every other Thursday.

Letters policy

To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed 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 E14, Boston, MA 02127; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

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The people depicted here are models. Their image is being used for illustrative purposes only.

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COVID-19 RESOURCES

Greater Boston Basic Needs Supports

Catholic Charities Greater Boston Basic Needs Department

Serving Suffolk and Middlesex County. Services include: food pantry assistance (Dorchester, South End, Somerville); emergency financial assistance; emergency essential assistance; SNAP outreach; HIV support services; resource & referral assistance

More Info: Please call (617) 506-6628 or email Basic_Needs@ccab.org

Resources for Immigrant Communities: What's available?

Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign (NILC & CLASP)

The PIF Campaign has developed a quick reference guide on immigrant eligibility that provides a general overview of some of the federal public programs available to support individuals and families during the COVID-19 crisis. In light of implementation of public charge regulations, we have also included clarification about whether certain public programs are taken into account for public charge purposes. The guide includes links to deeper dive resources on eligibility from our partners. https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/

Suffolk County Resource Guide

Suffolk County District Attorney, Rachel Rollins

This is a collection of resources currently available in Suffolk County, Ma, compiled by the staff of the Juvenile Alternative Resolution Program of the Juvenile Unit at the Office of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins. It is not a complete list, and you should continue to consult relevant experts and your care providers when appropriate. This guide is intended to be a starting point for residents and service providers for finding resources to assist during the COVID-19 National Emergency. Our current circumstances are fluid and evolving; information, services, and recommendations may change over time. We advise you to contact any of the included services outlined here ahead of time to ensure up-to-date accuracy. https://www.suffolkdistrictattorney.com/

DTA SNAP and Cash Benefits During COVID-19

Massachusetts Legal Services

To view a general overview of DTA policies and how to ensure folks can access benefits, please visit MLRI's COVID-19 page: https://www.masslegalservices.org/DTA-COVID-19

Hunger and Food Resources for Households

Project Bread's Hunger and Food Resources page offers information for families and households on school meal sites and locations; the Food Resource Hotline (to get connected to food, and for SNAP application assistance); and policy updates (state and federal level). http://www.projectbread.org/

Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB)

GBFB partners with 500+ hunger-relief agencies, including food pantries, community meal programs and other food assistance providers throughout the nine counties and 190 towns and cities across Eastern Massachusetts. These efforts have doubled in the wake of COVID and increased food needs. This page offers information on food pantries across the state, as well as additional resources for food assistance, including school meal sites. https://www.gbfb.org/

Massachusetts State Updates & Resources

State of Massachusetts (Governor's Office) and MA DPH is working closely with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide updated information about the novel coronavirus outbreak. https://www.mass.gov/ offers:

Prevention and treatment
Cases, quarantine and monitoring
State of emergency
Printable fact sheets and FAQ
Emotional health and well-being resources
Press release
MA 2-1-1

SIREN COVID-19 Resource Page

Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network (SIREN)

sirenetwork.ucsf.edu/covid-19-resources includes resources on a national level such as:

Social needs surveillance
Recent news articles about COVID and health equity
Resources for clinicians and patients
Insurance coverage and codes for COVID-related healthcare services
Pharmacy delivery services
Vaccination scams/exploitation
Housing
Employment/income concerns
Utility concerns
Social isolation
Advocacy opportunities

The City of Boston

The City of Boston has a free texting service to provide daily updates and information about the coronavirus. Text BOSCOVID to 99411 to opt-in for English. Language and communications access remains a priority for Mayor Walsh, so this text service is also available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, Cabo Verdean Creole, and Portuguese.

Text BOSEspanol for Spanish
Text BOSKreyol for Haitian Kreyol
Text BOSFrancais for French
Text BOSKriolu for Cabo Verdean Creole
Text BOSPortugues for Portuguese

Updates in 10 total languages can additionally be accessed through boston.gov/coronavirus#multilingual-help. Each language has its own page and hosts multilingual print materials distributed citywide.

HOMELESS SERVICES AND HOSPITAL CAPACITY

On April 2nd, Mayor Walsh announced that construction begins at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center to add 500 beds for treating homeless adults who have tested positive for COVID-19 and need care, but do not require full hospitalization.

The City has released a Request for Proposals to secure a partner organization to operate the facility. If necessary, the Convention Center beds will be opened up for hospitals to use for sub-acute COVID patients in the general population.

These 500 beds will bring Boston's total number of new beds for homeless individuals to over 1,000. This includes Boston Medical Center's Newton Pavilion facility, which the City and State are working to re-purpose as a medical facility for homeless residents affected by the coronavirus.

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LODEG

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After more than 30 years in Dudley Square we have moved.

Washington Park Mall (less than a mile from our previous location)
330 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Roxbury

Due to COVID, we are working remotely for your safety and ours!

Don Green

Look for our GRAND OPENING later in 2021!

Annette Green