South End News

May 16, 2024 [Vol. 42, No. 43]

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LOCAL NEWS
for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Rosies Place Raises $920,000 at 50th Anniversary Safe & Sound Gala

From left, gala co-host Darryl C. Murphy of WBUR; Rosie's Place President/CEO Leemarie Mosca; Rosie's Place Board Chair Maricely Pérez-Alers and gala co-host Susan Wornick. Photo courtesy of Rosies Place.

SUBMITTED BY ROSIE'S PLACE

Rosie's Place, a Boston-based community center for poor and homeless women, announced that it raised a record-breaking $920,000 at its recent gala.

The Safe & Sound Gala, held May 9 at The Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts, drew a crowd of 350 attendees and celebrated 50 years of turning hope into help at Rosie's Place, the first shelter for women in the United States. Retired WCVB 5 anchor Susan Wornick and WBUR's Darryl C. Murphy served as

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Ellis Early Learning Awarded $25K Grant to Start Farm-to-School Project

SUBMITTED BY ELLIS EARLY LEARNING

Ellis Early Learning has been awarded a $25,000 Massachusetts Farming Reinforces Education and Student Health (MA FRESH) grant to establish a farm-to-school initiative for growing local food and promoting food literacy and nutrition education among its preschool students.

\"We hope the positive effects of this program reach beyond the classroom, making nutritional food and healthy eating habits more accessible to both Ellis students and their families," said Ellis Early Learning CEO

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Ellis Early Learning students plant vegetables on the roof deck garden at Ellis in the South End with the help of Green City Growers. Photo courtesy of Ball Consulting Group, LLC.

Boston Medical Center Earns 'A' Hospital Safety Grade in Spring 2024 from the Leapfrog Group

SUBMITTED BY BMC

Boston Medical Center (BMC) earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing patient safety. The 'A' grade, the highest distinction, recognizes BMC's commitment to protecting patients from harm and providing expert care.

The Leapfrog Group assigns safety grades to hospitals across the country based on more than 30 measures of errors, accidents, injuries and infections and the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

"We are very proud to receive another 'A' Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group. This grade confirms Boston Medical Center's ongoing

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Loop soars!

A Strange Loop, SpeakEasy Stage Company and Front Porch Arts Collective, Wimberly Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, through May 25. 617-933-8600; online at SpeakEasyStage.com or FrontPageArts.org

Kai Clifton (center) as Usher and the company of "A Strange Loop" at Calderwood Pavilion (Courtesy Maggie Hall Photography)

JULES BECKER
Contributing Writer

What is authenticity? What is truth? For Luigi Pirandello, the pursuit of the answers to these questions could involve "Six Characters in Search of an Author." For Michael R. Jackson, the author of the acclaimed 2019 musical "A Strange Loop"—the winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for drama and the 2022 Tony Awards for best musical and book, a queer Black

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A gender-bending spin of the *Dial*

Dial M for Murder, Greater Boston Stage Company, Stoneham, through May 19. 781-279-2200 or greaterbostonstage.org

Lily Kaufman and Kimberlee Connor in Greater Boston Stage Company's "Dial M for Murder." Photo by Maggie Hall Photography.

And, *Jersey Boys*

Jules Becker,
Contributing Writer

If you think you know everything about "Dial M for Murder," think again. Yes, Alfred Hitchcock turned Frederick Knott's 1952 play of the same name into an absorbing 1954 film starring Ray Milland as retired professional tennis player Tony Wendice intent on committing the perfect murder of his wealthy socialite wife Margot—played by Grace Kelly.

Two years ago dramatist Jeffrey Hatcher wrote a taut thriller with the Knott original's 1950's period ambience but dialed in a clever gender-bending twist and other striking touches. Now Greater Boston Stage Company artistic director Weylin Symes is helming its area premiere in a superb production very much worth calling all of your family and friends to see.

From the moment that one first sees Katy Monthel's handsome high ceilinged Wendice living room setting, Weylin and company clearly have Hatcher's number. Witty, often ironic dialogue follows about the reasons for committing murder—namely money, fear, jealousy, revenge and the desire to protect someone you love. Here as in the Knotts play, the suave husband is hiring shady, alias-rich Lesgate to kill his wife.

The basic plotting—with Wendice planning a perfect murder that goes wrong—remains the same, but Hatcher has added some ingenious updating in the sum of the characters' relationships and professional associations. Here Tony has become a failed writer who now works as a book publisher, and his client is hit thriller novelist Maxine Hadley, Where Knott's Margot has loved writer Max, Hatcher's vulnerable heroine loves Maxine—a perilous lesbian relationship in 1950's England. Tony's alibi here strikingly involves accompanying Maxine to a BBC radio interview at the time of the attempted murder.

Symes' talented cast makes the witty repartee and Maxine and Margot's combination of bravery and resourcefulness very engaging. Lily Kaufman has all of Maxine's savvy and pluck, while Kimberlee Connor captures Hatcher's feistier Margot. Michael Ryan Buckley matches Milland's suave demeanor and low-key dangerousness framing Margot. Bill Mootos has all of Lesgate's elusiveness from the moment he enters the Wendices' apartment. Robert D. Murphy finds Inspector Hubbard's attitude and tough posture question-

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Rosies Place

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event co-hosts.

Proceeds from this year's gala will support emergency services including shelter, meals and a food pantry as well as long-term expert education, legal, mental health, recovery, employment, housing and stabilization assistance to some of Boston's most vulnerable women.

"Our programs are busier than they've ever been. There are thousands of women who came to Rosie's Place for the first time this year. There were also thousands who found themselves returning to us, because we are their safe landing place," said Rosie's Place President/CEO Leemarie Mosca in her remarks. "For 50 years, we have given our whole hearts to this work. It must continue. And we won't stop, until our innovative, expert and compassionate help is no longer needed."

Funds were raised via event chairs, table hosts, patrons and supporters; a silent and live auction; a "mystery wine pull" raffle and through fund-a-need donations collected at the gala.

The evening featured food stations from nine of Boston's best chefs including Joanne Chang of Flour Bakery, Noah Clickstein of Lehrhaus, Tim and Nancy Cushman of o ya, Luke Fetbroth of Tonino, Chandra Gouldrup of The Farmer's Daughter, Andy Husbands of The Smoke Shop BBQ, Kwasi Kwaa of Comfort Kitchen, David Punch of Sycamore and Lorena Ruiz of Tres Gatos and a raw bar from Island Creek Oysters. Geoff Morse of Bianca served as mixologist for the night.

Event chairs were Cherise and Robert Bransfield, William P. Collatos, Christina and Michael Gordon, Erin O'Connor Kent and Patrick Kent, Marriott Daughters Foundation, Michele May and David Walt, Deb and Mark Pasculano and Bank of America.

Founded in 1974, Rosie's Place is the first shelter for women in the nation. Rosie's Place relies solely on the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations and does not accept any city, state or federal funding. To learn more, visit www.rosiesplace.org.

Ellis

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Lauren Cook. "We anticipate an early introduction to fundamental food concepts will lead to improved health outcomes as children grow and develop, as well as increase their understanding of the benefits and opportunities of sustainable agriculture in their own community."

Ellis is using the grant awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to partner with Somerville-based Green City Growers to expand its pre-existing garden space, provide more engaging hands-on learning, and improve irrigation systems.

Green City Growers will work with classrooms in their outdoor gardens to implement developmentally appropriate activities through an interdisciplinary education model that embraces social-emotional learning and focuses on play-based education in accordance with Ellis's learning model.

Food grown in the garden at Ellis will be enjoyed by students and sent home for their families. Ellis provides breakfast, lunch, and a snack for all students each school day, accounting for more than 80 percent of their daily nutritional intake. The meal program offers students a variety of foods throughout each week in order to expose them to new foods, while maintaining the balanced diet that all children need.

South End Soccer Travel Team tryouts are for players entering Grades 3 - 8, looking to play at a higher, more competitive level. Tryouts will be held for both new and returning players, for placement on a Fall 2024 team. Interested players must register & attend one of the following tryouts:

Players in Grades 5 - 8
May 17th | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Carter Playground

Players in Grades 3 & 4
May 19th | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Roxbury YMCA

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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; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

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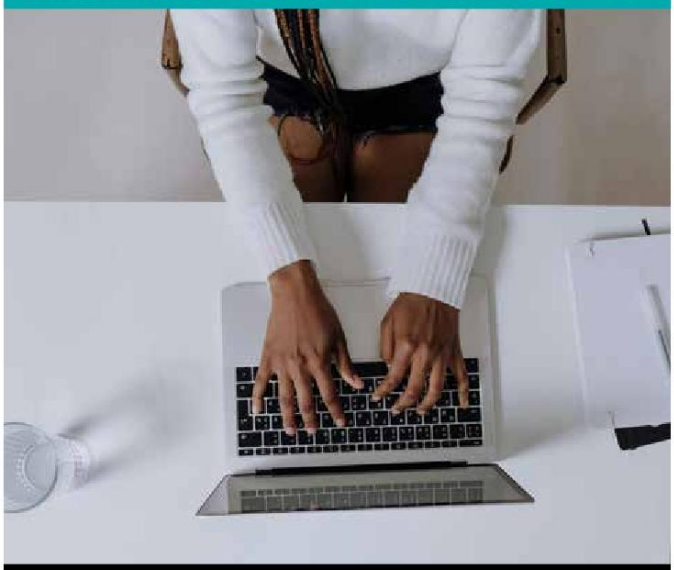
WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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BMC

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dedication to ensuring safety and patient-centered care," said Jodi Larson, MD, vice president and chief quality officer. "Receiving the highest possible safety grade recognizes the reliability, diligence, and clinical excellence of providers at every level throughout our system."

The spring 2024 Safety Grade marks the third consecutive 'A' grade celebrated by Boston Medical Center. Additional information about BMC's commitment to quality and safety can be found here.

"Everyone who works at Boston Medical Center should be proud of this 'A' Hospital Safety Grade," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "It takes complete dedication at every level, and an ironclad commitment to putting patients first. I thank BMC's leadership, clinicians, staff, and volunteers for caring so deeply for its patients and their safety."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program focused exclusively on preventing infections and eliminating medical errors. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is peer-reviewed, fully transparent, and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

Loop

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writer tellingly struggles to pinpoint his true identity while struggling to grapple with six 'Thoughts' and self-doubts. By turns touching and humorous, "A Strange Loop" proves a provocative and inspired musical—exhilaratingly staged by Front Porch Arts Collective artistic director Maurice Emmanuel Parent in a riveting co-premiere with SpeakEasy Stage Company at the Calderwood Pavilion.

Jackson's "not formally autobiographical" musical that he began writing as a monologue—as he explains in a 2019 essay entitled "Playwright's Perspective: A Strange Loop"—centers on a determined writer curiously but fittingly named Usher. As an usher for "The Lion King," the queer Black protagonist—who considers writing about what it is like to "travel the world in a fat, Black queer body" in the number "Intermission Song"—intriguingly focuses on writing a musical about a Black queer writer writing a musical about a Black queer writer —hence the title cognitive science cycle.

Will that cycle go up or down as Usher's six Thoughts serve as a kind of modern Greek chorus that both comments on and criticizes his ideas and intentions? These Thoughts often express the intrusive points of view of Usher's parents—an intrusion that connects with playwright Jackson's reference in his essay to a W.E. B. DuBois notion that Blacks are always looking at themselves through the eyes of others. Usher's church-going mother reminds him that he was raised in the fear of the Lord, advises him to read his Bible and strongly urges him to write a Tyler Perry-style show. At one point he even hears of a search for a ghostwriter for Perry with whom he has his issues. His distant and often clueless father asks him if he has HIV yet suggests that he contact celebrated gay Broadway producer Scott Rudin whose number he has found.

Profoundly lonely—in some ways as much of a life spectator as the protagonist of Sondheim's "Company," the 26-turning Usher tries gay online dating apps with generally disappointing results. At the same time, in a perception that may call to mind the authenticity-desiring screenwriter of the fine recent film "American Fiction," he senses that theater producers want writing about slavery, police violence and intersectionality. A blunt sympathizer challenges Usher to write his truth—an effort which he eventually sees as just as integral to finding his genuine identity as to creating a truly personal musical. While Jackson's musical may not solve all of Usher's challenges, the Thought-plagued protagonist is finally very clear about what he wants on stage and in his life.

Director Parent is equally clear about staging Usher's rich personal and professional odyssey. Scenic designer Jon Savage and lighting designer Brian J. Lilienthal establish the significance of Usher's Thoughts by having them appear in two levels of brightly lit panels. Becca Jewett dresses Usher in initial attire as actual usher and simple garb for his many moments of simple challenge. Her efforts become a vivid design for Usher's attempt at a gospel show ironically declaring that AIDS is God's Punishment. Parent's taut direction makes this scene a haunting standout—especially in light of the passing of Usher's fellow gay young friend Darnell (in the back story) who had refused medication. Grant Evan, Davron S. Monroe, Jonathan Melo, Aaron Michael Ray, De'Lon Grant and Zion Middleton capture Usher's parents, church choral members, dates, various conceptions and conflicting feelings with strong singing and remarkably versatile solo and ensemble performance.

Most of all, Kai Clifton is endearingly human and principled as Usher. He has Usher's vulnerability singing about his "In White Girl" and unaffected sincerity opening up to his parents about his identity and professional aspirations. His robust singing makes him as vocally striking in his own way as the music world's famous Usher. Clifton's powerful portrayal signals a talent with a long future. David Freeman Coleman conducts Jackson's own thoughtful score with nuance and great feeling.

Usher's Mom speaks of wanting him to go up not down. "A Strange Loop" is very much the former for both gifted Jackson and this soaring SpeakEasy Company-Front Porch Arts Collective collaboration.

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Dial

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ing Maxine. Deirdre Gerard's costumes catch the men's sartorial reserve and Margot and Maxine's often livelier attire, Jeff Adelberg's expressive lighting and Andrew Duncan Will's evocative sound design make the most of the famed attempted murder and self-defense sequence.

As in the Knott original, the right key makes all the difference. Dial M for magnificent at GBSC.

Jersey Boys, North Shore Music Theatre, Beverly, through May 19. 978-232-7200 or nsmt.org

Musical fans ought to find it hard to take their eyes off of "Jersey Boys" at North Shore Music Theatre. After all, the Tony Award-winning jukebox musical boasts a properly smart and insightful Marshall Brickman-Rick Elise book—also rightly a Tony winner. If director-choreographer Kevin P. Hill does well with the sharp Rashomon-like four-character narrative about the strengths and weaknesses of the Four Seasons themselves, he could do more to fire up the renditions of the North Shore quartet.

Zane Zapata has the right rage as Franki Valli in dealing with often self-serving Tommy Devito—played with convincing control by Chris Marsh Clark. Zapata does have some good falsetto moments—particularly on "My Eyes Adored You." Drake Leach as Nick DeVito effectively gripes about his brother's hotel habits. Aidan Cole catches Bob Gaudio's respect for Valli and his pivotal collaborating with gay songwriter-producer Bob Crewe—properly decisive about the group's music—most notably his own work with Gaudio. Even so, the renditions of signature numbers like "Walk Like a Man" should have more all-out energy in voice and trademark body moves.

Valli and Four Seasons fans need to adore "Jersey Boys." Right now the earnest NSMT revival is coming up short.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING ON DAMAGES ASSESSMENT

AIHUA HARRIS **versus defendant** **MING FAY, INC.** **QUIANG CHEN WEI** **YUN LI** **XIU WERI LI**	**LOCATION OF HEARING:** Suffolk County Superior Court - Civil Suffolk County Courthouse, 3rd FL, CR 306 Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108
	Civil Docket #2384CV02383

Under Mass. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(2), Plaintiff informs Defendant through this newspaper publication of a hearing on assessment of damages for Default of Defendant in the lawsuit.

1. The defendants Ming Fay, Inc., Quiang Chen, Wei Yun Li and Xiu Weri Li are hereby notified by the above named Plaintiff of the Damage Assessment Hearing scheduled on 06/26/2024 at 2:00 PM.

2. The damage assessment Defendants caused to Plaintiff is calculated for the sum of $343377.15 plus treble damages under MGL Chapter 93A.

Publication Date: 5/16/2024
So Ordered by
Hon. Michael Pineault, Associate Justice
Suffolk County Superior Court

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME	**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** **The Trial Court** **Probate and Family Court**
In the matter of: Elize Nazelie Casarjian **Of:** Boston, MA	
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Elize Nazelie Casarjian of Boston, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Rusty Indigo Suede**	Docket No. SU24C0198CA **Suffolk Probate and Family Court** 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **05/30/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 07, 2024 ***Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate***

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION	**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** **The Trial Court** **Probate and Family Court**
Estate of: Anthony J Wright **Also known as Anthony Wright** **Date of Death: 10/20/2023**	Docket No. SU24P0796EA
To all interested persons: A petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Corinne White of Whitman, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Corinne White of Whitman, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration.**	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/10/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 02, 2024 ***Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate***

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