

IBA and BHA reach out

Meet with neighbors about West Newton Street redevelopment

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

A team led by IBA's (Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción) CEO Vanessa Calderón-Rosado presented plans and answered questions for about 40 residents on Thursday, February 4 at the Villa Victoria Center for the



West Newton Street Development meeting on February 4. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

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The Boston Police Department Salutes Black History Month

SUBMITTED BY
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Boston's first African American Police Officer was Horatio Julius Homer, appointed in 1878. Homer served at the Commissioner's Office, then housed in Pemberton

Square, and on Sundays patrolled on Boylston Street in the Back Bay. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1895 and retired in 1919.

Sergeant Homer was something of a Renaissance man, playing 11 musical instruments and memoriz-



Horatio Julius Homer

Continued on page 3

South End Wonderland



Boston's Snow-covered South End. Photo courtesy Eight Streets Neighborhood Association

More Photos on page 2

Winter joy with Sondheim and Pippin

Pippin, tour presented by Broadway in Boston at Opera House, Boston, through February 14. 855-523-7469 or BroadwayinBoston.com

BY JULES BECKER

Only Stephen Joshua Sondheim would allude to the Marquis de Sade in a song called "God." The now 85 year old composer-arguably the greatest musical lyricist of his time- and eight Tony Award winner (one a special lifetime achievement honor)—reportedly wrote this tongue-in-cheek 2000 number in response to a 1994 New York Magazine article that facetiously

Sondheim on Sondheim, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, through February 21. 617-585-5678 or lyricstage.com

questioned whether he might be divine. Now Hub audiences will hear "God" and the Broadway legend's own taped interviews in the Lyric Stage Company of Boston's wonderfully intimate area premiere of the 2010 Broadway show fittingly entitled "Sondheim on Sondheim."

Sondheim collaborator James Lapine ("Passion" and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Sunday in the Park

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The cast of the Lyric Stage Company of Boston salutes the onscreen titular hero of "Sondheim on Sondheim." (Courtesy Mark S. Howard/Lyric Stage Company of Boston)

More Office Space Proposed

Burlington's Nordblom Co. and Philadelphia's Rubenstein Partners has proposed 216,000-square-foot office addition to the garage at 321 Harrison Avenue (across from Ink Block).

A developers have submitted a letter of intent to the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

"We believe that the proposed

project will have a positive impact on the neighborhood and furthers the goals of the city of Boston and neighborhood residents to create an attractive gateway to the South End and enliven both Harrison Avenue and Washington Street," Ogden Hunnewell, executive vice president of Nordblom, said in the letter to the BRA.

Online

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Online

South End Wonderland



Boston's Snow-covered South End. Photo courtesy Eight Streets Neighborhood Association

Drug Seizures in the South End and Mattapan

SUBMITTED BY
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Tuesday, February 9, 2016, officers assigned to the Area C and Area E Neighborhood Drug Control Units, while in collaboration with the Suffolk County Crime Prevention & Control Unit, executed search warrants in the area of 76 W. Newton Street in the South End and 31 Orlando Street in Mattapan. As a result of the operation, officers located and seized a significant amount of illegal narcotics including over 2.5 kilos of a Class A Drug (Heroin), 1.5 kilos of a Class B Drug (Cocaine) and a semiautomatic firearm (see photo). Officers arrested Luis Albert Medina-Feliciano, 40, of Boston and charged him with



Narcotics seized on February 9th in the South End. Photo courtesy of the Boston Police Department

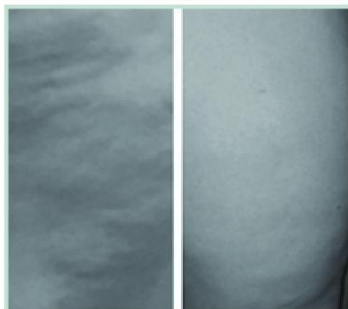
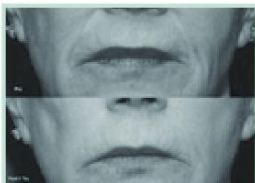
Trafficking Class A Drug (Heroin). Additional charges could be pending.

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SALE ENDS
 Feb 14th



BPD

Continued from page 1

ing a poem a day. He maintained friendships with other African American public employees, including judges, federal workers, and state representatives. Together they hosted Frederick Douglass when he visited Boston. Douglass, the iconic social reformer, abolitionist and statesman, famously stated, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men" which is a belief shared by our officers who interact with the youth of this city on a daily basis. The Community Room at the new District B-2 station in Roxbury is dedicated to Sergeant Homer.

IBA

Continued from page 1

Arts, 85 West Newton Street, about the redevelopment of 146 residential units, mostly on West Newton Street, by IBA in collaboration with the Boston Housing Authority (BHA). Kate Bennett, BHA's chief of planning, development and capital construction; project manager Nina Schwarzschild; Clifford Boehmer, principal of Davis Square Architects; IBA chief operating officer Mayra Negrón-Rivera and Lynn Delidow, vice president of Villa Victoria's management company, Maloney Properties, also addressed the audience of about 40 residents.

"We have a very strong proposal that will not only make the quality of the buildings better with exterior and interior renovations that maintain the beautiful character of the building stock but improve the quality of life of the residents. We also feel that we can help integrate that part of the neighborhood with the work that we do at IBA and Villa Victoria," Calderón-Rosado said.

Calderón-Rosado gave a brief history of Villa Victoria as a complex of affordable housing and social services with a portfolio of 521 units, mostly located in the South End with a few properties in Lower Roxbury and Mattapan and an overview of the proposed

redevelopment on West Newton Street.

Calderón-Rosado said, "IBA has a very holistic approach to community development that goes beyond just providing housing," characterizing this collaboration with BHA as a homecoming of sorts, referring to IBA's partnership with BHA in the development of Villa Victoria's apartment towers on West Dedham Street and the properties on West Newton Street in the 1980s and 1990s. Calderón-Rosado alluded to the area's problems with violence but expressed optimism that this project will improve the environment. "We feel that this is a great way to provide some level of stability on the street. As we all know, this part of the neighborhood has a tendency for some public safety issues. I think the approach we will be taking in renovating and working with residents will help to ease that tension. Our residents in Villa Victoria want the same things that we all want: a safe place to live where they can walk and their children can play and we believe that the plan we have to renovate will help to achieve that goal," she said.

Architect Boehmer cited his previous work on more than 100 properties in the South End and acknowledged residents' concerns for the preservation of the neighborhood's historic character. "The good news is, the project will be largely funded with historic tax credits, so in addition to the rigorous standards upheld

by the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC), all of our renovations have to meet the standards of the Mass. Historical Commission and the National Park Service, which administers the federal historic tax credit. From the building envelope perspective, we are doing a lot of restoration." In addition to masonry, repainting and restoration of historic details, the project will modernize the climate control systems, replacing insulation and existing electric heat with a modern heating and cooling system that will obviate the need for window units. Boehmer added that existing, storefront-style metal and glass entrances will be replaced with traditional wooden doors; trees will be pruned; steps and railings will be improved and downspouts and windows will be replaced in compliance with historical guidelines. Interior improvements will include new kitchens, bathrooms, flooring and fire safety systems. Boehmer observed that at a cost of approximately \$130,000 per unit, the project must comply with state and federal accessibility code which will also require historically compliant solutions. "It's an ambitious program, and you will really see a difference in the outside of the buildings," Boehmer said.

In answer to a resident's question, Boehmer said he anticipates "an integrated approach" to building security that has not yet been de-

signed. He added that the properties included in the redevelopment currently comprise 146 units and that number will remain the same, with 44 studios and 58 one-bedroom units.

Schwarzschild noted that a few exceptions may occur where an empty unit must be converted to an accessible family unit in order to meet accessibility standards. Calderón-Rosado chimed in that the project is still in the early planning stage and the next step is to secure financing. She projected that closing will occur in the fall of 2016 and that renovations will commence in early 2017 with an expected two-year time frame for completion.

A neighbor asked whether the project includes plans for changing the brick sidewalk, to which Boehmer responded that since they are public property, any sidewalks that are disrupted in the renovation will have to be restored with brick. South End Forum chairman Steve Fox followed with questions about disability-accessible sidewalks and entrances. Fox asked whether the planners would be willing to participate in a "pilot block" plan to test an accessible sidewalk model. Boehmer called Fox's proposal "a great idea".

On the trickier issue of creating accessible building entrances, Boehmer cited earlier work with Tenant Development Corporation

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The Boston Courant announces closure

BY SUE O'CONNELL

The free weekly paper, The Boston Courant, announced on Friday that after 20 years it is ceasing publication. According to a note published on the front page of Friday's edition, publishers David Jacobs and Gen Tracy noted that due the paper's loss in a wrongful termination lawsuit brought by a former employee, they would be unable to continue publishing.

The note said, in part, "You are reading

the last issue of The Boston Courant. Given the legal fees and the amount of the judgment, it is no longer feasible for the paper to continue publishing."

According to multiple sources and media reports, the wrongful termination suit was brought by advertising executive Kevin Smith, who was hired in 2008. When Jacobs and Tracy paid a web designer \$50,000 to mock up a digital edition of the paper. Then in 2008, the Courant hired advertising execu-

tive Kevin Smith to "increase print and web advertising sales."

Jacobs and Tracy had developed a web site for the newspaper but did not launch it. Smith argued in his suit that he was unable to perform his duties because the site was not launched, and his three-year contract with The Boston Courant was breached. A jury ruled in favor of Smith.

37/5

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February Vacation Week Activities

Boston Centers for Youth and Families

Address and more information at www.cityofboston.gov/BCYF/

Tuesday, February 16

BCYF Blackstone: Girls gym time, 3:4-5 p.m. Recreational gym (various activities), 4:30-5:45 p.m.

BCYF Charlestown: Sports Program-Soccer, tennis clinics, basketball skills and drills, swimming and games with Knucklebones for youth ages 6 - 12. Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost is \$45.00. Limited financial assistance is available.

BCYF Curtis Hall: Winter Vacation Program for ages 6-12. Swimming, gym, computer time and more, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$65 for the week. BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 6-12. 1-2:00 p.m.

BCYF Draper Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4 to 12. 12-1:30 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.) Recreational swim, 1-5:00 p.m.

BCYF Flaherty Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 2-4 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.)

BCYF Gallivan: Drop in activities for ages 7-17 in the Computer Lab, teen room, and gym. 5:30-8:45 p.m.

BCYF Hennigan: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 5-12. 2-4 p.m. King

of the Court Basketball Jamboree for ages 14 and under BCYF Holland: Next Level Basketball Clinic for ages 11-13. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fee: \$150.

BCYF Jackson-Mann: Vacation Week Program for ages 5.5-12 (must be in K2.) 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Fee: \$190. Field trips and on-site activities.

BCYF Leahy-Holloran: Open gym for ages 8+, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Field Trip to the Winterfest on Boston Common. Ice Skating and giant slides. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Fee: membership. BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 1:15-4:45 p.m. (Each half-hour is a different age group.)

BCYF Menino: STEM Club activities, 2-6 p.m. Ropework, 2-4 p.m. Fun with Scooter and Noodles, 3-5 p.m. Arts & Crafts, dancing and teen activities Boston Fire Department Explorer Program for teens. 1-3 p.m. Register in advance. BCYF Mildred Avenue: Next Level Basketball Clinic for ages 11-13. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fee: \$150. M.A.G.I.C. Girl's Program Dinner BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12 adult. 2-5 p.m. Each 45 minute block is a different age group.

BCYF Nazzaro: February Vacation Week Program, Ages 6-12, 8am-6pm. Various activities and fees. February Vacation Week Program for teens. Various activities and fees.

BCYF Ohrenberger: Teen open gym, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Teen Center activities, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth open gym, 1-4 p.m. Teen trip

to Fenway Park Batting Cages. Contact the center for more information.

BCYF Paris Street Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 4-5:30 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.)

BCYF Perkins: SACC Childcare/after-school Program for ages 5-12, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Fee/info: contact center J.A.B. Step Basketball Vacation School for boys in grades 1-8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call center to register.

BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 2:30-4 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.)

BCYF Quincy: Recreation and fitness teen drop in/open gym time, 12-3:45 p.m., evening gym time, 6-9 p.m., include open gym, basketball, badminton, weight training, and table tennis. Fee: membership or drop-in fee. Pool: open and lap swim for ages 5 and older beginning at 3:45 p.m. Fee: membership or drop-in fee.

BCYF Roslindale: Vacation Week Program. 8am to 6pm for grades 1 to 5 and K1 and K2 students. \$175.00 or we accept vouchers from CCCB. BCYF Shelburne: Afterschool vacation week program for center members offering a variety of activities for girls and boys ages 6 to 12 years old. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$25.00 for the week per child. Vacation week program for teen members. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contact the center for more information (Tomoka Hall or

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CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L.c. 190B, §5-304		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court	
		Docket No. SU16P0154GD	
In the matter of: Kori Lake Of: Boston, MA		RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person	
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Kori Lake is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve 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 03/10/2016. This date is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection 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-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.			
WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 27, 2016 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate			

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IBA

Continued from page 3

properties that could accommodate accessible entrances under the front steps, but said this probably will not be feasible on West Newton Street because the entrances are not high enough. Boehmer said that it was more likely that accessible entrances would be put in the back but the matter needs more study.

Eric Huang, president of the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association, noted that there are existing affordable housing developments located in historic rowhouses around the South End that look indistinguishable from the outside from market-rate buildings, and asked whether these homes will be as beautiful when they are finished, to which Boehmer replied, "Even better!"

Rutland Street resident Richard Shibley inquired about the impact of construction on West Newton Street and West Haven Street, where some Rutland Street residents park and put out their garbage. Boehmer said there may be street cuts for water lines where sprinklers are not available. He conceded that it is "tough" to work in the South End without impacting neighbors, and that there will likely be a procedure for residents to call the developer with questions and complaints. Shibley also wondered whether the transfer of BHA housing in this project signals BHA withdrawal from providing housing. Bennett replied that BHA still owns 12,000 units around the city and will retain a ground lease on its properties in this project to ensure that it will not be converted to any other use except affordable housing.

Shibley also expressed concern about sound impact from air conditioning compressors. Boehmer said the compressors would be on the roof or in back of the buildings to meet historic requirements and that the sound issue will be studied in planning.

A longtime resident asked about the use of solar panels to power lighting and both Boehmer and Bennett lauded the idea. Bennett pointed out that BHA has used solar panels in other developments, but that funding from the state has decreased in recent years. Boehmer pointed out that solar panels cannot be visible from the street for historic reasons, but could work well on the rooftops.

In addition to the practical and logistical issues raised at the meeting, the South End's socioeconomic divide was evident. One neighbor asked whether the project, as affordable housing with rent tied to income, will require proof of employment and another gentleman asked whether the new development will be "true affordable housing or what I call 'technical' affordable housing." Bennett explained that now and in the future, residents pay 30 per cent of their income in rent.

Another man asked if proof of employment is required, and Bennett said, "No. Some people are on disability or have other forms of income. Occasionally there is someone with zero income, but typically, our residents are working." Jewel Cash, who moved to Villa Victoria in 1976 as an undergraduate student and later attained a master's degree, said that Villa Victoria residents and affordable housing denizens should not be pigeonholed as poor, lazy, uneducated or unmotivated. Cash said she moved to Villa Victoria because she wanted

her daughter, Jewel Cash, Jr., to grow up in that community. Cash invited neighbors outside Villa Victoria to "get to know us."

A Pilot Block Neighborhood Association (PBNA) member asked about public safety relative to West Newton Street and O'Day Park. Calderón-Rosado explained that IBA subcontracts with Longwood Security for coverage around Villa Victoria and is in talks with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to provide maintenance and security for O'Day Park. She added that IBA is currently applying for funding from a program called Artspace with the goal of using art "as a way to build place. We want to make the park not only safer but also inviting to everyone in the neighborhood."

On the recent spate of shootings in the

South End, Calderón-Rosado said, "Unfortunately, recently we have experienced violence in the neighborhood." She continued, "I live in the South End but I don't sleep in the South End. I spend so much time here and when I walk back to my car to go home I want to feel safe, you want to feel safe and our residents want to feel safe. We continue to work with police, our property management company and our security company to make things better for all of us."

Calderón-Rosado emphasized that the February 4 meeting was the first in a series of public meetings with neighbors to discuss the West Newton Street redevelopment proposal. The dates of future meetings have not yet been announced.

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Vacation

Continued from page 4

Ricky Lambright.) Other activities for youth members: Painting Workshop (Boys Only) Computer Classes Youth & Teens Ping Pong Workshops Youth & Teens Improv Games Rock Wall Talent Show Prep BCYF Tobin: Vacation Week Program for youth ages 6-12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Various activities. Fee: \$30. Youth Connection program for teens ages 13-19, 1-9 p.m. Field trips, college tours, drop-in activities. Fee: \$5. February Frenzy basketball tournament for ages 12 and under. 12-3 p.m. Fee: \$100 per team. "Get Fit" fitness activities for ages 6-18 in partnership with Sociedad Latina. Girls Softball Clinic. 4-7 p.m. for ages 8-17.

Wednesday, February 17

BCYF Blackstone: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4 through adult 1:30-5:15 p.m. (each 45 minute block is a different age group.) Contact the center for information. Recreational swim time, 11-11:45 a.m. Girls-only swimming, 12-12:45 p.m. Recreational gym. 3-4:30 p.m. and 6:15-8:45 p.m.

BCYF Charlestown: Sports Program - Soccer, tennis clinics, basketball skills and drills, swimming and games with Knucklebones for youth ages 6 - 12. Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost is \$45.00. Limited financial assistance is available. 3 on 3 basketball tournament for youth ages 12 - 15.

1-3 p.m. BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12, 2-3:30 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.) Black History Month movie. 5:30-7:30 p.m. BCYF Curtis Hall: Winter Vacation Program for ages 6-12. Swimming, gym, computer time and more, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$65 for the week. BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 6-12. 1-2:00 p.m.

BCYF Draper Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4 to 12. 12-1:30 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.) Recreational swim, 1-5:00 p.m.

BCYF Flaherty Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 2-4 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.)

BCYF Callivan: Drop in activities for ages 7-17 in the Computer Lab, teen room, and gym. 5:30-8:45 p.m. Black History Basketball Tournament for ages 9-13. 1-5:30 p.m. Teams must make Black History collage to display. Registration: \$100 per team. Callivan Girls activity with BCYF Girls Leadership Corp. Ages 8-15, 5-7 p.m. Friendly Trivia Competition for ages 11-17, 5-6 p.m.

BCYF Hennigan: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 5-12. 2-4 p.m. King of the Court Basketball Jamboree for ages 14 and under BCYF Holland: Next Level Basketball Clinic for ages 11-13. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fee: \$150. BCYF Swim for Safety for ages 5-12. 1:30-4:15 p.m. Rock wall party and obstacle course. Ages 5 - 13: 3-4 p.m. Ages 14 - 16: 4:30-7 p.m. Free.

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Theater

Continued from page 1

with George,” among others)—who conceived and directed the show on Broadway—has described this multi-media work as “a collage of his life.” In fact, Sondheim serves as a kind of on-going narrator-commentator as the informative show ranges through a 19-song repertoire of famous, less famous and actually cut numbers as well as material about his childhood, major influences (including Jewish composer-mentor Milton Babbitt) and collaborators—notably fellow gay Jewish talents Arthur Laurent, Jerome Robbins and Leonard Bernstein with the lyricist on “West Side Story.” Lyric Stage Company artistic director Spiro Veloudos-Boston’s pre-eminent Sondheim musical revival—most notably with a definitive edition of “Sunday in the Park with George”—has pieced together this musical life collage with the artistry of a Seurat and a labor-of-love design—credit especially Peter Flaherty’s video creations and Chris Hudacs’ lighting.

Particular thanks, of course, goes to the title subject himself. The composer speaks of the divorce of his dress designer, piano-playing mother Janet and his clothes manufacturer father Herbert when he was 10. Abandoned (along with Janet) by his father and psychologically abused by his mother—who would actually later lament giving birth to him, Sondheim would serendipitously find a surrogate father in the great lyricist Oscar Hammerstein (“South Pacific” and “The King and I,” among others). He also speaks directly about his sexuality.

As with Sondheim’s amazingly eclectic output, there are many diverse pleasures in “Sondheim on Sondheim.” A generous sample from the under-appreciated Tony winner “Passion” should have regular Lyric Stage Company theatergoers clamoring for a full

production—something Veloudos may be already considering. Leigh Barrett’s very moving rendering of Fosca’s plaintive solo “Loving You” makes her an instant choice for the singular role of the vulnerable heroine. Davron Monroe, possessing great stage presence and strong vocal range, is equally affecting as Giorgio, the soldier she loves. Barrett also gives an enjoyably fresh, no-frills reading to the sometimes over-sung Sondheim gem “Send in the Clowns” from “A Little Night Music.” Aimee Doherty demonstrates her considerable comic and vocal talents in the suggestive “Ah, But Underneath” from the 1987 London production of “Follies.”

Barrett’s impassioned “Losing My Mind” from “Follies” combines smoothly with Doherty’s wistful “Not a Day Goes By” from the lesser “Merrily We Roll Along” in a standout duo contrast. Christopher Chew’s tenacity and fire phrasing the very dark lyrics of “Epiphany” will remind Lyric Stage regulars of his memorable performance as the deeply troubled title barber in Veloudos’ sharp recent staging of “Sweeney Todd.” Sam Simahk finds all of unappreciated lyricist Charley’s frustration and sadness in “Franklin Shepard, Inc.” from “Merrily.” Rounding out the strong octet ensemble are Mala Bhattacharya, Maritza Bostic and Patrick Varner. Ilyse Robbins’ spirited choreography and Jonathan Goldberg’s robust music directions smartly complement Veloudos’ exquisite efforts.

Near the end of “Sondheim on Sondheim,” the full ensemble delivers “Children Will Listen” from “Into the Woods” with elegant effortlessness. Veloudos and company have listened so well to Sondheim that fans and newcomers alike will follow suit.

Diane Paulus is a musical theater magician extraordinaire. The American Repertory Theatre artistic director

amped up the simple joys of Stephen Schwartz’s dream-rich “Pippin” score with a diversity-driven razzle dazzle that transcended the thinness of Roger O. Hirsch’s book on the way to a well-deserved best revival Tony Award. Leading Player, who stage manages the title prince’s play-within-a-play quest for personal fulfillment, becomes a Pirandellian circus master presiding over big-tent flash. Ranging from aerial artistry and Cyr wheel wizardry to flashy handstands and balancing acts—the last including some suggestive male-bonding, the on-going feats complement Pippin’s exploration of war, physical pleasure—including an orgy-resembling sequence, politics and ordinary life. Credit 7 Fingers co-founder and co-director Gypsy Snider’s inspired circus creation and Paulus’ brilliant sleight-of-hand in distracting audiences members from a book that virtually makes Pippin’s scheming mother and brother disappear in the second act.

Gabrielle McClinton may not be as fiery as Patina Miller was as the revival’s original Leading Player, but she rises to more convincing tenacity in the later going. Brian Flores is properly innocent and vulnerable if not charismatic as Pippin during the character’s hopeful signature number “Corner of the Sky.” Flores and affecting Bradley Benjamin as Catherine share a tender duet on “Love Song.” The standouts are Adrienne Barbeau, very warm and winning as the prince’s gutsy grandmother Berthe, and John Rubinstein—the original Pippin in the 1972 show—here alternately bold and buffoonish in a tour de force portrayal of King Charles.

If “Pippin” lace fast and loose with history, call it theatrical license. Paulus and company’s rollicking revival —to borrow the title of one of the score’s best songs—brings morning glow to the Opera House.



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Vacation

Continued from page 5

BCYF Hyde Park: regular programming schedule for the week.

BCYF Jackson-Mann: Vacation Week Program for ages 5.5-12 (must be in K2.) 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Fee: \$190. Field trips and on-site activities.

BCYF Leahy-Holloran: Character Breakfast at Florian Hall. Fee: adult (13+) \$25, child \$20. Contact the center for more info. BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 1:15-4:45 p.m. (Each half-hour is a different age group.) Black History Basketball Tournament at BCYF Gullivan. Register to be on the BCYF Leahy-Holloran team.

BCYF Madison Park: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4 and older (each half hour is a different age group.) 6-8:30 p.m.

BCYF Mason Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety for ages 4-12. 3-5:15 p.m. (each

half hour is a different age group.)

BCYF Menino: STEM Club activities, 2-6 p.m. Fun with Scooter and Noodles, 3-5 p.m. Table tennis, 4-6 p.m. Cooking, teen workshops and darts tournament Boston Fire Department Explorer Program for teens. 1-3 p.m. Register in advance.

BCYF Mildred Avenue: Next Level Basketball Clinic for ages 11-13. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fee: \$150. Community Movie BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 2-5 p.m. Each 45 Tuesday, February 16 Please contact the center to confirm this information. For a list of our centers and contact info, visit our website

BCYF Blackstone: Girls gym time, 3-4:15 p.m. Recreational gym (various activities.) 4:30-5:45 p.m.

BCYF Charlestown: Sports Program - Soccer, tennis clinics, basketball skills and drills, swimming and games with Knucklebones for youth ages 6 - 12. Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost

is \$45.00. Limited financial assistance is available.

BCYF Curtis Hall: Winter Vacation Program for ages 6-12. Swimming, gym, computer time and more, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$65 for the week. BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 6-12. 1-2:00 p.m.

BCYF Draper Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4 to 12. 12-1:30 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.) Recreational swim, 1-5:00 p.m.

BCYF Flaherty Pool: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 4-12. 2-4 p.m. (each half-hour is a different age group.)

BCYF Gullivan: Drop in activities for ages 7-17 in the Computer Lab, teen room, and gym. 5:30-8:45 p.m.

BCYF Hennigan: BCYF Swim for Safety free swim lessons for ages 5-12. 2-4 p.m. King of the Court Basketball Jamboree for ages 14 and under

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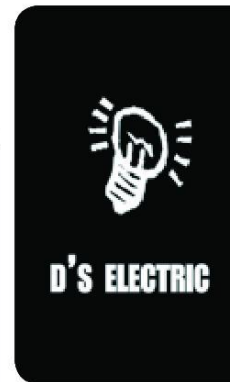


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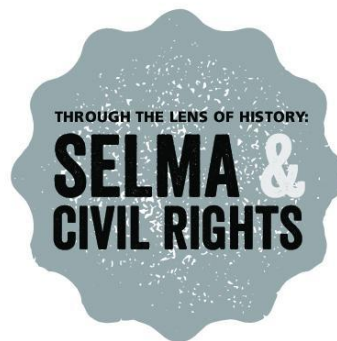


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