

## ASK DOG LADY



### Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I have a Jack Russell terrier named Pety that's almost five-years-old. He likes to be gated in a room

when we leave the house for work. Every day, when I tell him to go to his space, he turns and smells his crotch. Can you tell me why he does this?

—Dave

Dear Dave,

Because he can. You might also ask your veterinarian when you see her (or him).

Dog Lady hopes you have done the humane, responsible thing and gotten Pety neutered so his crotch is not explosive territory. All male dog house pets should be fixed; all female dogs should be spayed. There is no question about this. Just do it. Your dog will thank you.

Dear Dog Lady,

My dachshund Yoda is one-year-old and we got her two weeks ago. Her old family already had a big dog, a Chihuahua and two other dachshunds when they got her as a puppy. They tried to encourage all the dogs to like her but it didn't work out so they had to keep her away from the others. For a year, they kept Yoda in a dog pen for most of the day with only the Chihuahua as occasional company. My mom felt bad about this and we took her in. I now love her so much. The only problem is that she barks at every male who comes

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## Whittier Honors McClain

SUBMITTED BY WHITTIER STREET HEALTH CENTER

Last Thursday February 22, 2018, Whittier honored Wanda McClain with its 2018 Black History Leadership Award. The award recognized McClain's major contributions to elevating the health status and health outcomes of the diverse populations in Boston. The award ceremony was part of WSHC Black History Month celebration and its Annual Meeting.

"Wanda McClain embodies Whittier's mission of addressing

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(Left to right) Matt Fishman, Vice President for Community Healthcare, Partners Healthcare – Frederica Williams, CEO of Whittier Street Health Center – Honoree Wanda McClain, Vice President of Community Health and Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) – Eva Clark, Esq, Whittier Street Health Center Board Member

## News from...

### Boston Public Schools

BY TOMMY CHANG, Ed.D.,  
BPS SUPERINTENDENT

The survivors of the shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, have

ignited a gun-control movement that is sweeping our nation.

On Wednesday, March 14—the one-month anniversary of the school shooting — students, teachers, and others from across the country

plan to participate in a 17-minute "walkout" to honor the 17 victims from Parkland. The event is also intended to urge Congress to adopt

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Photo courtesy BMC

## New Emergency Entrance Open

SUBMITTED BY BMC

The new walk-in entrance for Boston Medical Center's (BMC) Emergency Department is now open. If anyone is seeking urgent medical attention, please note that BMC's Emergency Department walk-in entrance is now located off of Albany Street near BMC's Shapiro Building.

Once BMC's Emergency Department expansion is complete in 2018, as part of the clinical campus

redesign, it will be almost 30 percent larger than what it was prior. The new entrance is just one of the BMC's newest, more efficient and welcoming spaces to provide the best possible care to patients.

As a result of Boston Medical Center's Emergency Department (ED) move, the new BMC ED walk-in entrance on Shapiro Drive opened on Sunday, February 25. This is the

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## Fresh and Tasty

### Chandler Inn gets new owner, new image

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

On Wednesday, February 28, the South End's longtime budget lodging, the Chandler Inn, was

renamed the Alise Hotel, the first public step in its re-branding as part of the Seattle-based StayPineapple chain. While the 56-room hotel will undergo a significant makeover to its aesthetics, service and amenities, the Alise will continue as an affordable

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# Street cleaning is NOW!

Check the posted street sweeping signs on your street for the schedule and parking restrictions.

**Villa Victoria Community  
640 Tremont St  
Boston, MA 02118**

The Waiting Lists for Federally Subsidized Apartments at Vivendas Apartments, Victoria Apartments, Casas Borinquen & South End Apartments will be open for individuals with the following priority only:

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**This includes having been displaced by:**

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- b. earthquake, flood or other natural disaster
- c. a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized under disaster relief laws.

**Proof of this priority must be provided with the application, at the time the application is completed.**

**Applications will be available for pick on the following dates/times:**

- Thursday, March 15 th from 9:00am – 7:00pm
- Friday, March 16 th from 9:00am – 5:00pm
- Saturday, March 17 th from 9:00am – 11:00am

**Income Limits by Household Size must be at or below HUD's 50% Area Median Gross Income Limit as follows:**

1 Person	\$36,200	3 Persons	\$46,550	5 Persons	\$55,850	7 Persons	\$64,150
2 Persons	\$41,400	4 Persons	\$51,700	6 Persons	\$60,000	8 Persons	\$68,250

**Applications for housing can be obtained in the following ways:**

- Picked up at the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts located at 85 West Newton Street, Boston, MA 02118 on the dates and times mentioned above.
- Mailed or Emailed at villa@maloneyproperties.com upon request

**All applications must be received or post-marked no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 28 th . Applications returned by mail or in person must be sent to Villa Victoria, 640 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02118.**

If you or any family member has a disability, or limited English proficiency, and as a result need assistance completing the application and/or any assistance during the application process, we'll be happy to provide assistance upon request.

All developments have existing waitlists. Placement on these waiting lists will occur by lottery and State Preferences will apply.

The lottery will take place on Friday, March 30 th at 1:00pm at the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts at 85 West Newton St Boston, MA 02118

**Managed by Maloney Properties, Inc.  
640 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02118  
617-927- 1700 / US Relay 711**

**Dog Lady**

*Continued from page 1*

close to her. When she first met my stepdad she barked at him and at my uncle too. She doesn't bark at females. I feel sad for my stepdad. Do you know why she does this?

— Rosie

Dear Rosie,

*Yoda was in a very sad state for a year of her*

*life. You don't know if men in the old household scared her or were mean to her.*

*The best you can do is have your stepdad and uncle offer a treats to Yoda. Any man should put a treat in the palm of his hand and just hold out the hand for the dog to smell and, eventually, feel safe enough to take the yummy. With men treating the dog carefully time and again, Yoda should begin eating out of the palms of their hands.*

Dear Dog Lady,

We lost our beloved Cairn terrier to lymphoma. She was with us for 12 years before developing and succumbing to this disease.

After much mourning, we are ready to adopt another dog and have been looking at breed rescue sites for Cairns and West Highland white terriers. These sites report that many of the adoptable dogs are rescued from breeding kennels and may have issues arising from that past.

My questions: What are the dogs subjected to in these places that affects them so much?

Do these dogs have difficulty adjusting to a new environment?

— Mark

*Basically, rescued puppies from a so-called puppy mill or breeding kennel have no childhood. They have not been weaned properly so they lack social skills and good habits. Dog Lady receives many letters from people who wonder why their dogs eat feces or dirty their crates. This bad behavior starts often during the early weeks of life when a pup has not been properly trained by its birth mother.*

*The good news? A new environment can be a boon for these foundlings. Their problems can be overcome with training, loving attention, and responsible care.*

*Write askdoglady@gmail.com.*

Dear Mark,

**Emergency**

*Continued from page 1*

new permanent entrance of BMC's ED.

The BMC ED public entrance along Harrison Avenue will no longer be located in the Menino lobby. The Menino lobby hospital entrance will remain open. BMC's public safety and an information desk will still be available

to support patients. A new welcome desk is open at the Shapiro Drive entrance to direct patient families to their loved ones in the ED.

Signage around the BMC Menino and Newton campuses are being updated to direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic to the new location. In addition, volunteers are stationed the Menino lobby to help patients access the new ED walk-in entrance through the Menino/Moakley corridor.



**It's that weekend again.**

**Adjust the clocks.**

**Check the smokes.**

**Dog still goes to the park.**



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or email: sales@southendnews.com.

## Chandler

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destination.

The conversion of the former Chandler Inn marks the nine-property hotel chain's entrée to the East Coast, as its other hotels properties are located in Washington state, Oregon, California and Chicago. Marketing director Della-Rae Carriere said via e-mail, "Boston is a top tier city on the East Coast and the stars aligned in our favor. Staypineapple Hotels are always thoughtfully located in great cities like Boston."

The Chandler Inn was a two-star hotel, and the Alise Hotel will be a 2.5 star property, with rates starting at \$169 per night during the March 13 through May 5 "sneak peak" period. Renovation, or the "pineapplization" of the hotel as described in a StayPineapple announcement of the Alise opening, will include an update of the lobby, installation of new, king-sized beds with new headboards and custom platforms, new flooring and twin duvets for each bed, as well as design elements that will incorporate the company's pineapple motif and signature yellow in features from bathrobes to bicycles for guest use.

Amenities will include Chromecast streaming, afternoon snack breaks with complimentary coffee and pineapple cupcakes and Keurigs with StayPineapple coffee pods. A transition team from the company's base is on-site at the former Chandler to manage the transition, but Carriere reports that many of the Chandler's employees will remain at the Alise.

StayPineapple will officially announce the opening of the Alise Hotel in July and expects renovations to be complete in late 2018. The Trophy Room bar will remain unchanged, according to Carriere. As the Chandler Inn has had a loyal gay clientele, the South End News inquired about the target audience for the Alise Hotel going forward.

Carriere responded, "We cater to the



The Alise Hotel remodeled from The Chandler Inn. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

young, the young at heart, the savvy, and the seeker of different and great." In terms of the price point beyond the Sneak Peek period, Carriere said, "It is too early to tell. We are still learning the Boston market but our team will exercise all the necessary means to be competitive. However, we hope to elevate the product to meet our Staypineapple brand standards and to cater to our target guests."

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# A Powerful Frenzy

**Ripe Frenzy,**  
New Repertory Theatre and Boston  
Center for American Performance,  
Boston University Fine Arts College  
Studio, through March 11. 617-923-  
8487 or newrep.org

BY JULES BECKER

Tavistown may become as iconic in "Ripe Frenzy" as Grover's Corners in the now classic "Our Town" (1938). In fact, Jennifer Barclay's rolling world premiere—a visceral and powerfully disturbing co-production by New Repertory Theatre and Boston Center for American Performance at the Boston University College of Fine Arts Studio One—begins with a mother's monologue that compares favorably with the opening exposition by Stage Manager in Wilder's play.

To make the affinity even stronger, the fictional upstate New York community's high school theater holds a Guinness Book record of nearly 40 full productions of "Our Town." Thanks to director Bridget Kathleen O'Leary's clever staging, the ties to Wilder's play greet audience members in the form of made-up wall posters for those productions that line the entrance to the actual Boston University theater space.

If both plays examine Main Street America through the microcosm of an everyday town, "Ripe Frenzy" finds its own hauntingly dark ambience and finish.

Town historian Zoe, the mother in question, details the preparation for what was going to be a 'groundbreaking' high school production of "Our Town." At the same time, she tellingly reveals that the theater space will soon be 'rubbish.' A growing number of ominous elements will gradually lead up to a local 'incident.'

As audience members peer at the initial set-up for the 2017-set high school theater, they will notice that the set is divided for the two key "Our Town" families—Gibbs and Webb—as well as Main Street and the Graveyard—the last curiously downstage.

Attentive theatergoers will note that the setting indications say that "Time is slippery here"—a slippery timing that will revolve around a shooting impacting the production itself. Most telling of all, mothers and their children alike take note of new school shootings on their phones with a regularity as 'normal' as media coverage of AR-15 killings.

Hovering over the community is a precarious sense of security as residents worry about a killer named Brian James McNamara and



(Left to right) Stacy Fischer, Henry B. Gardner and Reilly Anspaugh in "Ripe Frenzy" (Courtesy Kalman Zabarsky / New Repertory Theatre)

seem obsessed with images of him on their phones.

Wilder buffs will remember that Simon Stimson's alcoholism is about as serious an issue as one finds in "Our Time." By contrast, school shootings have become the sadly all too familiar problem for the characters of "Ripe Frenzy" and by extension for all Americans (with director O'Leary mentioning the 17 school shootings this year even before Parkland).

Still, the people of Tavistown are determined to remain strongly connected. Zoe and her best friends Miriam and Felicia see themselves as undaunted as the Three Musketeers. Miriam's daughter and Felicia's son seem to act like a couple.

Particularly telling is the status of Zoe's unseen son. The proud mother praises her son's talent as a photographer. Thanks to Jared Mezzocchi's brilliant projection design, theatergoers have a chance to view both stirring landscape shots—for example, a majestic local mountain—and grim ones. Positivist Zoe unsurprisingly asks her son to refrain from displaying the latter.

Indeed, every unexpected door rattle startles her. Could McNamara be lurking outside in the shadows? Also, what is the full story about Zoe's son? "Ripe Frenzy" sub-textually suggests that the children lack enough quality time with their fathers. Could the absence of positive male role models have a negative effect on young men like McNamara?

Barclay's play does reach a striking resolution, one that will have audience members reflecting on the characters' priorities and their own.

Under O'Leary's tight direction, cast members are equally striking. Veronica Duerr is a standout in the challenging role of Zoe. Duerr has all of Zoe's stage manager-like attention to both hopeful and uncertain phenomena in Tavistown and captures her warmth with Miriam and Felicia.

Stacy Fischer catches Miriam's tenacity as play director and her emotional push and pull with both adults and students. Samantha Richert finds lesbian surgeon Felicia's elegance as well as her directness. Henry B. Gardner as somewhat reserved Matt and Reilly Anspaugh as attitude-rich Hadley make a very convincing young couple. David Orlando's smart lighting enhances moments of mystery as well as clarity.

"Ripe Frenzy" vividly depicts an America both similar to and different from that of "Our Town"—one in which friends and family come together for understanding but also pull away with fear and technological distance.

Authority Barclay is a rich young voice that Wilder would admire. Her play, as staged by New Rep and BCAP, makes her vision a must-see response to the cold, violence-condoning posture of the NRA and the president who brandishes its propaganda.

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## Honor Roll

### Western Governors University

Tyler Sonnier has received his Bachelor of Arts in Science (5-9) degree from Western Governors University (WGU). The university held its 64th commencement ceremony at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando on February 10th to celebrate the graduation of about 15,000 graduates from across the country.

At commencement, the online, nonprofit university recognized 8,839 undergraduates and 6,117 graduates who have completed their degrees in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and healthcare, including nursing. More than 1,100 new alumni participating in the ceremony. Graduates who were not able to attend the ceremony were able to watch the event via live video stream on WGU's website.

### Northeastern University

Northeastern University is pleased to recognize those students who distinguish themselves academically during the course of the school year. The following local students were recently named to the University's dean's list for the spring semester, which ended in December 2017.

Valerie Holler, majoring in Political Science/Business Adm. In addition to achieving distinction through the dean's list, Holler is a member of the University Honors Program.

Natalie Leung, majoring in Pharmacy. In addition to achieving distinction through the dean's list, Leung is a member of the University Honors Program.

Amelia Santiago, majoring in Physical Therapy. In addition to achieving distinction through the dean's list, Santiago is a member of the University Honors Program.

Rebecca Jones, majoring in Behavioral Neuroscience. In addition to achieving distinction through the dean's list, Jones is a member of the University Honors Program.

To achieve the dean's list distinction, students must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.5 or greater out of a possible 4.0 and carry no single grade lower than a C- during the course of their college career. Each student receives a letter of commendation and congratulation from their college dean.

The University Honors Program offers high caliber students the chance to further hone their studies and interests, live in special interest on-campus housing, and participate in one or two honors courses each term.

Invitation into the honors program is highly competitive and students must maintain a high GPA and strong commitment to campus leadership to remain a part.

Northeastern University is pleased to recognize those students who distinguish themselves academically during the course of the school year. The following local residents were recently named to the University's dean's list for the fall semester, which ended in December 2017.

Sonia Husain, majoring in Business Administration.

Kendall Kosten, majoring in Business Administration.

Ibrahim Bah, majoring in Political Science.

Grace Byrd, majoring in Criminal Justice.

Alec Cecon, majoring in Physical Therapy.

Saeed Faghihi, majoring in Economics/Business Admin.

Liam Fitzgerald, majoring in Biochemistry.

Nathan Glazer, majoring in Business Administration.

Isabel Kain, majoring in Physics.

Alexander Langston, majoring in Chemistry.

Longsheng Lin, majoring in Computer Science.

Claire Noe, majoring in Psychology.

Daniel O'Brien, majoring in Business Administration.

Amy Wong, majoring in Communication Stud./Sociology.

Shirley Wong, majoring in Business Administration.

Omolola Ometoruwa, majoring in Health Science.

Alexa Diiorio, majoring in Biology.

Anthony Guariglia, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Benjamin Lerman, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Fernando Nunez Santos, majoring in Applied Physics.

Juliana Prieto, majoring in Criminal Justice.

Collin Walter, majoring in Biochemistry.

Elijah Gullage, majoring in Engineering.

Nenser Krua, majoring in Nursing.

Fatuma Mohamed, majoring in Political Science/Intl Affairs.

To achieve the dean's list distinction, students must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.5 or greater out of a possible 4.0 and carry no single grade lower than a C- during the course of their college career. Each student receives a letter of commendation and congratulation from their college dean.

### Whittier

Continued from page 1

health disparities among people of color, and Black History Month is a perfect opportunity to honor Wanda for her contribution to Boston's community health," said Frederica M. Williams, Whittier Street Health Center's president and CEO. "Wanda has successfully led her team to implement programs that address health equity, ensure comprehensive access to primary healthcare, and provide educational and career opportunities for young people. These are some of the very goals that Whittier has been working to achieve since our day one."

Wanda McClain is the Vice President

of Community Health and Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Boston, MA. Overseeing the Center for Community Health and Health Equity at the Brigham, its two licensed community health centers and its relationships with the nine affiliated health centers in Boston, Wanda works to ensure the Brigham fulfills its strategic commitments to health equity and high-quality patient and family-centered care.

Prior to joining the Brigham, she was the Director of Community Partnerships at Partners HealthCare. In addition to her tenure in health care, she has experience in community development and in the financial services industry.

### BPS

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common-sense measures to help prevent the gun violence that is plaguing our schools and neighborhoods.

It has come to our attention that a number of Boston Public Schools (BPS) students would like to participate in this national workout. BPS believes strongly in the importance of student voice and student advocacy on issues that matter most to them and their school community. To support our students' participation in this observance and to keep them safe, BPS students and staff are invited to participate in activities that will be arranged by their school as part of the "BPS Day of Observance: #Enough." These activities, which will be conducted on school grounds, are designed to provide healthy and safe opportunities for students to express their views, feelings, and concerns during this 17-minute period. They may include classroom-based activities, school-wide assemblies, or outdoor observances on a school's campus.

You or your child may wish to opt out of participating in these events. If so, please send a written note or email to your child's school on or before March 14. We suggest you contact your child's school if you have any questions or would like additional information.

We recognize that some students may choose to leave their school grounds to join others in lobbying at the State House. We

encourage you to have a discussion with your child about this. We hope that students participate in the planned 17-minute activities at their school and remain for classes afterward. Students who do not return to class after the designated activity will be marked absent from any missed classes. They will also be provided the opportunity to make up the missed classwork.

Some parents may choose to support their child through early dismissal. Parents giving their child permission to depart early on March 14 will need to submit a letter or email to their student's school. Schools will call families to verify that the letter was submitted by a legal parent or guardian. Students 16 years of age and older who leave school will do so without any adult supervision. Students under the age of 16 must be picked up in person by a parent or guardian in order to be dismissed.

We recognize the importance of students having the opportunity to understand and discuss the recent events with their families. You may find the following website helpful as you speak with and support your child: <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/luk/18/02/resiliency-after-violence>.

I want to thank everyone throughout the BPS community for supporting our young people as they develop their voice and ability to take action on important issues. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

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To all persons interested in petition described:		
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Annise Kyeshia Jackson be allowed to change her name as follows:	<b>Suffolk Probate and Family Court</b> 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300	
Annise Kate Jackson		
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: <b>Boston</b> ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: <b>03/29/2018</b>		
<b>WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.</b> Date: February 28, 2018 <i>Terri Klug Caffazza, Register of Probate</i>		

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# Camp Hale Summer Enrollment is Open

Established in 1900, Camp Hale operates on the belief that all youth, particularly those from urban environments, will benefit from challenging opportunities for physical, mental, and social growth and development.

The goal of Camp Hale is for each camper to leave camp with an enhanced sense of well-being, improved social skills, and awareness of personal potential. Traditionally an all-boys camp, Camp Hale established an all-girls session in 2012 to provide inner-city girls with the chance to experience the beauty and unique opportunities that Camp Hale has to offer.

Each summer, 200 young men and women ages 6 to 15 years old head to lakeside cabins in the heart of the White Mountains, located on Squam Lake in New Hampshire. Residential camping allows the campers to engage in a long list of activities including canoeing, swimming, archery, hiking, fishing, ecology, camping skills, and just enjoying the mountain air.

Ultimately, we seek to ensure that these skills stay with them well into the future and benefit them in other endeavors such as school, work, sports, conflict resolution, and interpersonal relationships.

**Activities**  
Camp Hale's programming is firmly rooted in tradition. Many activities that began in the first summer continue to this day, and focus on these following components:

**Individual Skill Building:** There are two 50-minute periods where campers can choose their own activity and can hone their skills in Archery, Athletics, Arts & Crafts, Boating, Canoeing, Camp Craft, Nature, Swimming, Soccer, and Fishing.

**Peer Relationships, Team Building:** The afternoon period focuses on the cabin group's ability to solidify themselves as a group and utilize their collective strengths to achieve a common goal. Whether it be an overnight trip on the lake, a scavenger hunt, or a hike on a mountain, each camper has a chance to lead and make "essential" decisions, but not without cabin group approval.

**Camp-wide Reflection, Affirmation and Celebration:** The evening activity is usually a traditional camp-wide event, for example a talent show or campfire. It allows for a rejuvenated sense of identity, solidarity, and belonging that many may be missing because of the distance from home.

**Trip & Travel**  
We are offering a trip & travel week, which is a true outdoor experience, from sleeping under the stars in the White Mountains to battling the rapids in white water rafting. If your child is ready for an adventure, please sign them up. There are 8 slots per session, so don't miss out! This program will have intense hiking and vigorous activity; all participants must interview and attend a pre-trip meeting in Boston.

For more information visit [www.uses.org/](http://www.uses.org/)

# The Going-ons at "The Hotel Nepenthe"

REV. IRENE MONROE

John Kuntz's is a masterful storyteller. His genius to getting his audience to look at the difficult and messiness of life with laughter. His "The Hotel Nepenthe" is a hilariously and entertainingly dark play. But, the dark parts don't languish long. And, those story parts are quickly snatched away with ridiculously hilarious 1970's sitcom theme songs from "The Odd Couple," "One Day At A Time," "Bewitched," "The Jeffersons," to name a few" and Starland Vocal Band's hit song, "Afternoon Delight"

The search, however, for a cohesive or common narrative thread might appear elusive and frustrating at times. But it's intentional. "I like non-linear storytelling because it demands active participation from the audience...an audience has to figure things out," Alex Lonati, the play's director shared with the audience during the Q&A after the performance. And, John Kuntz at the Q&A obliquely hinted to Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" as a way to give the audience a frame of reference and POV to examine his play.

Two random people in transit interact in such a way that can alter the trajectory of their lives or does it? you'll ask yourself. Kuntz plays with this haunting question as a lens to look at loss, infatuation, intrigue, desire, and well, the inexplicable. The random interactions are wildly humorous but not wildly improbable, and all take place in and around "The Hotel Nepenthe." And like the drug, "nepenthe" depicted in Homer's "Odyssey" the characters are desperately seeking ways to alleviate grief, pain, and trouble from their lives. And their choices are not always good ones.

As I sat in the audience, I thought of Doris Day's 1956 silly hit song "Que Sera, Sera" (whatever will be, will be) because some of the vignettes, in my opinion, exhibited recklessness and privilege suggesting the characters' actions had neither personal nor moral agency. Also, some of the characters in the vignettes who perpetuated violence or exhibited poor decisions out of desperation showed neither consequences nor accountability for their actions.

There are vignettes that'll give you a belly ache from laughter, a headache from unresolved answers, and at times both: a starlet entertaining her paramour with an exaggerated tale about walking a red carpet seeing people from the present and past; a gay man who sets out to rescue his suicidal lover randomly ends up with a violently rageful taxi driver who

locked the previous passenger in the trunk of his cab; a vengeful political wife out to blackmail her spouse with a low-paid sex worker; and, a troubled purple-clad young mother who abandons her baby with a night cab dispatcher, to name a few.

"This play is difficult to describe," Lonati wrote in The Hotel Nepenthe playbill. "But the one thing they all have in common is their shared search for connection and their attempts to figure out why they are here, and whether or not it all matters."

The four thespians—Margaret Clark, Rebecca Schneebaum, Cam Torres and Michael Underhill—are superb method actors with boundless energy in a 90-minute non-stop high octane performance. They shift and morph into eighteen complex characters through a series of vignettes, all of whom are experiencing some form of existential angst. "I wish that my life mattered, somehow. That this pervading sense that this is all just a bunch of random stuff happening would dissipate. And through all the chaos, everything would somehow make sense," the Girl in Purple states.

With many of the storylines left hanging it might leave you hanging with a feeling of incompleteness and in some cases in total confusion. But, if you're looking for Kuntz to give you a definitive answer to those scenes in "The Hotel Nepenthe," you'll won't find it. That's the work for you to do. And it's worth the journey.

"Kuntz creates a Noir-esque world that mixes humor, danger, and a touch of absurdism. The episodic scenes weave seamlessly to tell stories of people who are lost and lonely. The play left me with no answers, only questions but it was extremely satisfying. In the end, I felt like I had gone on an adventure. I highly recommend this play to any theater whose audience enjoys being provoked in a dark and playful way," Bridget O'Leary stated in her review of the play.

John Kuntz is a Boston-based actor, playwright and solo performer. He is a founding company member of The Actors Shakespeare Project. Kuntz's Hotel Nepenthe was the 2012 BWW winner in the category for Best Actor in a Play - Medium Theater.

Thanks to Brown Box Theater and their continued commitment to making theatre accessible to all audiences, The Hotel Nepenthe is free of charge throughout its two-week run at Atlantic Wharf (290 Congress Street) in downtown Boston from March 2-4 and 9-11, all performances at 7:30pm. To reserve free tickets, please visit [www.brownboxtheatre.org](http://www.brownboxtheatre.org).

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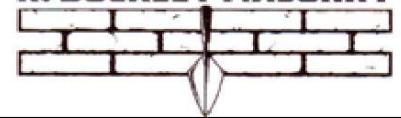
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