

A Haunting Eye



The cast in The Huntington's production of *The Bluest Eye* by Lydia R. Diamond. Photo: T Charles Erickson.

The Bluest Eye,
Huntington Theater Company,
Calderwood Pavilion, Boston
Center for the Arts, through
March 26. (Digitally streaming
through April 9). 617-266-0800
or huntingtontheatre.org

BY JULES BECKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While in college, Lydia R. Diamond made it her mission to read every one of Toni Morrison's

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News from...

East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

SUBMITTED EBNA

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday,
March 1 at 6:30PM

Virtual meeting via Zoom
- Participate easily and safely from
the comfort of your home.

Agenda:

Safety and Security Report/
Discussion, Boston Police Department, D-4

Fire Safety, Boston Fire Prevention
Education Unit

Business Spotlight: Atlantico,
600 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02118
80 East Berkeley Street Development

Come hear about and ask ques-



tions concerning what promises to be a very transformative development in our neighborhood. The Druker Company is seeking to develop the site at the northwest corner of East Berkeley and Washington Street, spanning to Shawmut Ave. You'll learn about the project from its proponents at our March meeting, and

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Provocative People



Marianna Bascham in "People, Places & Things" at SpeakEasy Stage Company. Photo: Nile Scott Studios.

People, Places & Things,
SpeakEasy Stage Company,
Calderwood Pavilion, Boston
Center for the Arts, through
March 5. Bostontheatrescene.com
or 617-933-8600

BY JULES BECKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If "People, Places & Things" sounds like an innocuous title for

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Crime

SUBMITTED BY
MBTA TRANSIT POLICE

Boston man arrested after punching bus window

On February 17, 2022 at approximately 2PM Transit Police officers assigned to the Central District received a radio call to respond to a disturbance onboard an MBTA bus on Washington Street and Union Park in Boston. Upon arrival officers were informed by the bus operator a male and fe-

male were creating a hostile and unsafe environment on the bus. The operator requested the two passengers exit and they refused. Officers approached the couple and they immediately began to direct their hostility and unruly behavior upon the officers. Officers attempted to reason with the couple to no avail. Other passengers were forced to disembark and re-board another bus.

The suspect exited the bus chased after the second bus that had assumed the passengers from the initial bus and punched the

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Poetry

Eyes Wide Open

BY JEANINE E. BROWNE

I came to class,
My eyelids closed.

I read some books
And got exposed.

To issues such a race and hate,
That never thought about of late.

The more I read
And came to class,

The Truth resounded
Clear as glass.

Of lies and hatred, never knew,
But found out slowly
What was true.

Members of a race so white
Oppressing all within its sight.

To keep the lies and hatred 'live,
Maintain their power to deprive

All others who were not like them,
Deny them life
Because of skin.

Each week the class revealed
some more,
That I, no longer could ignore.

My eyes saw truly,
As they knew,

The wrath of white man's
Daily due.

My eyes, they opened
up real wide.
No way to close them.
Turn the tide.

They stay wide open all the time
They see the Truth,

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Annette Green

News from SPARK

SUBMITTED BY SPARK BOSTON'S FUTURE

This Sunday: Take a Walk with us!

We're delighted to be hosting our first in-person event in way-too-long this weekend at the Boston Nature Center, Boston's Mass Audubon site in Mattapan. We hope you will join us at 11:00 AM on Sunday, February 27 for a guided tour with a naturalist, some light (via an all bodies accessible trail) hiking, and coffee and treats from Recreo. Learn more about an underappreciated attraction in Boston and meet some of your fellow Bostonians in a safe and fun way with SPARK Boston! This event is free and open to all, but reservations are strongly encouraged. We hope to bring more small outdoor winter events all across the city, so let us know where you'd like us to visit next!

Next #CiviCoffees Episode on Friday

We're delighted to bring back #CiviCoffees this month with a special crossover episode! What the Tech? hosts and Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (MONUM) staffers Jacob Wessel and Nayeli Rodriguez (a proud SPARK alum) will be joining our co-

hosts to talk about civic tech, public spaces, and the other things they investigate on their web series. Be sure to tune in and #BYOMug at 10:00 AM this Friday, February 25 on our Facebook Live stream!

Final Budget Listening Tour Sessions This Week

ICYMI: Mayor Wu has kicked off a community feedback process for the City's budget along with the Boston City Council. The City budget determines how all revenue will be spent on essential services like education, public works, elections, and more. Make your voice heard in this new process that puts residents at the center of determining how the city determines its annual and long-term priorities. There is one virtual session remaining: Friday, February 25 at 10:00 AM for all city neighborhoods. If you can't attend either session, an online survey is available to collect your feedback. Check it out below.

Coming Soon: Citizenship Day

Our friends at the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement and Project Citizen-

ship are thrilled to bring back Citizenship Day on Saturday, March 26. Citizenship Day is the largest citizenship workshop in New England, an annual tradition of helping immigrants on their path to citizenship. SPARK council members will be volunteering that day and you can join them, or book an appointment for a consultation yourself by calling 617-694-5949. We hope to see you at the Reggie Lewis Center one way or another!

Weekend Textile Curbside Collection Comes to Boston

Earlier this month, Mayor Wu announced that the City of Boston would expand upon their partnership with Helpsy, which has worked with Public Works to establish 30 drop box locations for textile and clothing recycling across most of Boston's neighborhoods. Now, the collaboration will include weekend curbside textile collection that can be scheduled directly with Helpsy. If your early spring cleaning results in a bunch of clothing you don't know what to do with, consider bagging it up and scheduling a safe and easy pick-up at your home.

More information at www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/spark-boston



Publishers:

Jeff Coakley
Sue O'Connell

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager:

Julie Walker Palmer

Contributing Writers:

Michele D. Maniscalco
Dog Lady

Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley
jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising:

sales@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings:

sencalendar@southendnews.com

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Boston, MA 02127

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People

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friends and co-workers and the inventions and artful 'lies' of the stage. SpeakEasy Stage Company is giving this very timely if somewhat lengthy drama a riveting, not to be missed New England premiere.

Macmillan smartly develops the addiction—stage 'lies' comparison right from the start as Emma, an alcoholic and drug-dependent actress, struggles to differentiate her role as Nina in Chekhov's "The Seagull" from her out of control addiction. In fact, she initially identifies herself as Nina as she begins a detox program at a rehabilitation center. While actors are called on to inhabit the roles they assume, Emma is warned by rehab worker Foster—himself a recovered addict—as well as the doctor and group therapist that total honesty is essential to her recovery.

Besides complete truthfulness, as Foster advises, she can expect to drink a lot of coffee and "sleep way more." To conquer the "parasite" that is addiction, Emma will have to spend at least 28 days in therapy in order to receive a 'graduation' certificate from the program. Ninety meetings in 90 days with fellow graduates should follow. At first the actress tries to remain a loner and a spectator at group therapy. Eventually she realizes that "The group is the program."

Even so, Emma proves very resistant to cooperating. At one moment she questions the fact that the doctor wears a crucifix—though religion is not pushed on any participant. At another moment she tells the therapist—who cautions "You're still dying"—that "I don't do long term." Where the rehab workers are non-judgmental about the addicts they treat, Emma adopts an intellectually superior pose with cynical references to post-modernism and Foucault. Not surprisingly, a fellow group



From left: Nael Nacer, John Kuntz, and Marianna Bassham in "People, Places & Things." Photo: Nile Scott Studios.

member named Mark—who recognizes one of her responses from "Hedda Gabler"—calls her "a nightmare."

Along the way, the 'nightmare' evolves with telling revelations—among them that Emma's real name is Sarah. Without spoilers, Duncan's savvy play—admittedly a bit lengthy during a first act group therapy session but powerfully unflinching in the arresting if shorter second act—does provide reminders of the parasitic nature of addiction and the real triggers of people, places and things. Look for transformations of Sarah and Mark as well as Sarah's pivotal confrontation with her parents.

Director David R. Gammons orchestrates Sarah's roller coast ride to recovery—its complex highs and lows—with the smooth guidance of a master conductor. Marianna Bassham captures Sarah's delusional dangerousness as well as her ultimate vulnerability with harrowing intensity. This gifted and wide-ranging actress finds the chaos and the

paths that make Sarah an iconic character in a performance for the ages. Nael Nacer makes Mark both a proper foil for Sarah and a vivid clarity-questioning addict. Versatile Adrienne Krstansky catches the subtle caring of the doctor, the unflinching honesty of the therapist and the tough love of her Mom.

Kadahj Bennett has Foster's jazzy style as well as his directness. John Kuntz has the emotional fire of group member Paul and the strong understatement of Dad. Josephine Moshiri Elwood, Parker Jennings, Victor Shopov, Shamarke Yusuf and Dayna Cousins (substituting for Shanelle Chloe Villegas) round out the sharply etched therapy group.

Therapists and group members toast graduates with the wise wish "I hope I never see you again" and the advisory "Don't ever come back." By contrast, SpeakEasy's powerhouse treatment of "People, Places & Things" should make Hub theatergoers return repeatedly for more of the company's ambitious repertoire.

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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; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

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Eye

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books As the talented playwright (“Stick Fly,” among others) explains in an essay “Why I Had to Adapt The Bluest Eye,” “The Bluest Eye is not about race, but it’s about the world of the characters, and unfortunately and fortunately they live in a place that’s all about race.” Huntington Theatre Company has beautifully captured that alternately troubled and treasured world in a stunningly stirring production at the Calderwood Pavilion’s intimate Wimberly Theatre.

Morrison’s acclaimed 1970 novel sets that world and its African-American protagonist Pecola Breedlove in 1940’s Lorain, Ohio. Director Awoye Timpó, inspired by the black ritual tradition of storytelling in the round, has positioned some Wimberly seats upstage so that the actors seem to be surrounded by audience members in a cozy ambience. The talented cast often moves with spirit to Kurt Douglas’ catchy choreography as the vivid if largely sad storytelling captures the late Depression era struggles of the Breedloves and the MacTeers.

Sisters Frieda and Claudia MacTeer often serve as child narrators as they describe ill-fated Pecola, her tough parents Cholly and Pauline and their own family. The title image reflects the interest of Frieda and Pecola in Shirley Temple’s blue eyes. Pecola quite simply wishes that she had blue eyes herself. By contrast, Claudia—unimpressed with Temple—wishes that the girl dancing with Bojangles in the film “The Little Colonel” (1935) were black. Ultimately the image of blue eyes becomes a metaphor for the judgment of a racist world. Adding insult to injury is a film in which a black woman desires to be like white



Hadar Busia-Singleton in The Huntington’s production of The Bluest Eye by Lydia R. Diamond. Photo: T. Charles Erickson

beauty Hedy Lamar.

During the play (and novel), such societal indignities also find expression in the experiences of Pecola’s alcoholic and abusive father. Cholly has developed a hatred of women that reaches back to a childhood racist situation in which two white male voyeurs watch him having sex. Eventually emotionally twisted Cholly will rape Pecola, who also suffers neglect from Pauline. Frieda and Claudia’s Mama may be very strict, but she is loving.

For their part, Frieda and Claudia feel bad for pregnant and forlorn Pecola. Still, Frieda feels that all the Breedloves are peculiar. In fact, women with straw hats whisper about them—and seem to congregate for gossip with moves that somewhat call to mind Alvin Ailey choreography near the end of his iconic classic “Revelations.” Naïve lost soul Pecola will consult charlatan Soaphead Church as

she seeks to have a healthy childbirth.

As the strong eight-member cast play out the fortunes of the MacTeers and especially those of the Breedloves, the expressive original music of Justin Ellington and Douglas’ ritual-like choreography complement the storytelling. Most of all, the actors themselves capture Morrison’s poetic narrative as conveyed in Diamond’s affecting stagecraft. Hadar Busia-Singleton finds all of Pecola’s vulnerability. Brittany-Laurelle has Claudia’s strong mindedness, while Alexandria King catches Frieda’s changing feelings. Ramona Lisa Alexander captures Mama’s tenacity. The standouts are McKenzie Frye—who sings with great feeling as frustrated Pauline—and Greg Alvarez Reid, riveting as deeply conflicted Cholly.

Diamond speaks of Morrison’s soul in her essay. The Huntington staging of “The Bluest Eye” is a haunting celebration of that soul.

LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. SU21P1972EA

Estate of: Robert William Treanor
Date of Death: 9/09/2020
To all interested persons: A petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by: A Ramon Rivera of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. And also requesting that A Ramon Rivera of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
PO Box 9667
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 03/24/2022.

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: February 10, 2022. Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor.

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

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

e-mail:
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Service Guide Ads Get Results

For more information email Jeff at sales@southendnews.com

Crime

Continued from page 1

door's window causing it to shatter. Officers attempted to place him into custody and he violently resisted. Officers were able to subdue the suspect and was transported to TPD HQ for the arrest booking process.

Do you recognize this suspect?

Please contact us with any info. Assault dangerous weapon investigation.

Transit Police detectives are seeking the identity or whereabouts of the individual depicted in the picture. If you have information relative to the subjects identity please contact Transit Police detectives at 617-222-1050 or you can send an anonymous text to 873873.

On February 4, 2022 at approximately 8:50PM a male boarded an MBTA bus at Boston Medical Center in Boston. The MBTA bus operator politely requested he don a mask. The male subject ignored the request and proceeded to speak on his cellular telephone. According to the operator the subject was apparently so troubled by the request to don a mask he was telling the person on the other end of the call about it in unpleasant terms. At some point the male subject approached the operator and stated "Shut the f*** up" or he would "stab" him.

Immediately following this threat the male subject produced a knife and lunged



Photos courtesy of MBTA Transit Police.

at the operator. Fortunately the male subject did not make any contact with the operator.

Virtual Public Meeting

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, March 7
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM
Zoom Link: bit.ly/March2022RSMPOC
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 677 5789

Event Description

The BPDA invites the community to the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee meeting to gain feedback on a minor modification to the South End and Campus High School Urban Renewal Plans. The modification contemplates additional allowable land use and building requirements on 1130 Tremont Street, 175-177 Ruggles Street, 0 Tremont Street, 0 Melnea Cass Boulevard, and 0 St. Francis de Sales Court, which makes up the "Crescent Parcel".

The RSMPOC was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan.

Upcoming meetings/Próximas reuniones/Dat pwochen rankont yo se:

- March/Marzo/Mas 7
- April/Abril/Avril 4
- May/Mayo/Me 2

For interpretation services, contact the planner listed below one week before each meeting.

Para los servicios de interpretación, comuníquese con el planificador que se indica a continuación una semana antes de cada reunión.

Si w bezwen sèvis entèpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak reyinyon.

Contact:

Kelly Sherman
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.5493 | kelly.sherman@boston.gov

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Virtual Public Meeting

Frederick Douglass Peace Garden Proposal

Tuesday, March 8
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Zoom Link: bit.ly/3LBTb3S
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 013 3262

Project Description:

The BPDA invites you to a community meeting to discuss a proposal from the Frederick Douglass Peace Park Stewardship Committee and the Boston Food Forest Coalition to create a community garden at the Frederick Douglass Peace Garden Site in Lower Roxbury, Parcels X-26b and X-26-2 in the South End Urban Renewal Area, Project No. Mass R-56.

La BPDA lo invita a una reunión comunitaria para conversar sobre una propuesta del Comité de Administración del Frederick Douglass Peace Park y la Boston Food Forest Coalition para crear un jardín comunitario en el lugar del Frederick Douglass Peace Garden en Lower Roxbury, Parcelas X-26b y X-26-2 en la Zona de Renovación Urbana del South End.

BPDA envite w nan yon reyinyon kominotè pou diskite sou yon pwopozisyon Frederick Douglass Peace Park Stewardship Committee ak Boston Food Forest Coalition pou kreye yon jaden kominotè nan sit Frederick Douglass Peace Garden nan Lower Roxbury, Parcelas X-26b ak X-26-2 nan zòn Pwojè Renouvèlman Iben South End.

mail to: **Morgan McDaniel**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.6250
email: morgan.e.mcdaniel@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
3/22/2022

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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