

JORDY and Mila Jam to Headline Boston's Pride Festival



Mila Jam. Photo by Steven Simone.



JORDY. Courtesy photo.

SUBMITTED BY BP4TP

JORDY and Mila Jam, will co-headline the Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) festival on Saturday, June 8th on Boston Common.

"Each of these artists will not only wow the audience with their extraordinary talents and performances, but also serve as wonderful reminders that showing up as our authentic selves is a bold and courageous act that sends a message to the world

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Boston's Pride Organizers Announce 2024 Parade, Festival Theme

"Still Here: In Living Color"

SUBMITTED BY BP4TP

Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) announced the theme of the 2024 Pride Parade and Festival, which will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2024. "Still Here: In Living Color" is a nod to historic and current-day resilience in fighting anti-LGBTQ+



Pride Parade 2023. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.

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Cathedral High School Graduates the Class of 2024

SUBMITTED BY CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

The 93rd commencement took place on Saturday afternoon, May 18 at Holy Cross Cathedral. At 2p.m., the faculty led off the procession from the gymnasium to the Cathedral. The girls, clad in yellow caps and gowns and the boys in green followed along and took their seats in reserved pews in front of the sanctuary. Delivering the invocation was Rev. Robert Kickham and delivering words of wel-



Salutatorian, Carolyn Then-Castillo, president Dan Carmody, and valedictorian Laura Agblekpe. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.

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LOCAL NEWS

for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Spring Theater

Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Roberts Studio Theatre, The Calderwood Pavilion, Boston, through June 2. ActorsShakespeareProject.org or 617-933-8600.



Evan Taylor as Romeo and Chloe McFarlane as Juliet in Actors' Shakespeare Project's staging of "Romeo and Juliet." Photo by Maggie Hall Photography.

BY JULES BECKER
Contributing Writer

Project's richly disarming revival at the Calderwood Pavilion's Roberts Studio Theatre.

Shakespeare may have set "Romeo and Juliet" in Verona, but his great love tragedy speaks to all people and all ages. Perhaps gifted actress Marianna Bassham had this universality in mind in directing the Actors' Shakespeare

In line with this approach, designer Lisa Coleman has dressed many of the actors in fairly unpretentious attire. Capulet brawlers wear grayish hoodies while their

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Toni Stone

BY JULES BECKER
Contributing Writer

Toni Stone, Huntington Theatre, mainstage, through June 16. 617-266-0800 or huntingtontheatre.org

Call the Indianapolis Clowns a baseball counterpart to the Harlem Globetrotters. As with the legendary Black basketball team, the barnstorming Clowns of the Negro American League were known for combining comedy, showmanship and genuine skill.

In 1953 owner Syd Pollock—who had introduced Hank Aaron to the Negro Leagues—signed Toni Stone (after Aaron moved on to the MLB Braves) as the first woman to play as a regular on a men's professional level team. The pioneer second base player—inducted into the Women's Sports Hall of Fame 50



Jennifer Mogbock as the title character and fellow actors in "Toni Stone," written and directed by Lydia R. Diamond at Huntington. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

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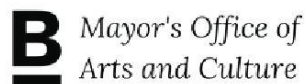
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Four teens charged with beating senior on a Silver Line bus



Photo by Aria1561, via Wikimedia Commons.

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN
www.universalhub.com

Transit Police report arresting four teens - all 15 or 16 - on charges related to an attack on a Silver Line bus at Washington and Herald streets in the South End around 10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14.

The four first tried to rob a 68-year-old man of his phone, but when he refused to yield, "the

juveniles began to assault/beat the victim," police say.

Police add officers were able to get to the scene quickly enough to arrest all four on charges of being delinquent for assault with intent to rob, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon - shod foot - and assault and battery on a person over 60. Their names were not released because of their ages.



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Pride Theme

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bias, rhetoric, and legislation across the country. This year's theme also acknowledges how the LGBTQ+ community has overcome, persevered, and continues to stand and live out loud in the face of adversity and injustice.

"We really hope everyone can make this theme their own, by finding the word or phrase that speaks to how they are showing up in the world; for me, I am "Still Here: VIVACIOUSLY, In Living Color," said Adrianna Boulin, President of Boston Pride for the People. "While Boston and Massachusetts can be proud of our leadership in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality, the sad truth

is that our community remains under attack at increasingly alarming rates all across the nation. Even 20 years after we secured the legal right to marry whomever we love, there's work to do. This year's theme celebrates our determination to make every community safe for all LGBTQ+ people. We deserve to live authentically, not limited to just black and white, but fully - IN LIVING COLOR."

For the second year, Boston Pride for the People will host the 2024 Parade from Copley Square to Boston Common where all are invited to take part in a day-long festival. A 21+ block party will also be held on City Hall Plaza. Boston's Pride celebration is the largest in New England.

Romeo and Juliet

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Montague counterparts don black ones. Benvolio, Romeo's cousin and best friend, wears a black tank top. Even Capulet and Lady Capulet—often adorned with elegant outfits in other productions—sport much simpler attire here—including sneakers. Villainous Tybalt dons a light colored tank top.

Such simpler costuming and Saskia Martinez's largely geometric scenic design allow Shakespeare's poetry and insights about romance, family and friendship to fully dominate this staging. Triangles dominate the handsome set—symbols that may suggest the kind of enlightenment about body and spirit that Romeo's confidant Friar Laurence means to stress in trying to replace easy hate with deep love and caring. Fernando Barbosa displays a romantic kind of feeling for Romeo as Friar Laurence in a performance as compelling as any this critic has seen. Nurse, Juliet's confidant, brings a similar caring and support to her attention to Juliet. Inspired veteran actress Paula Plum smartly balances Nurse's

earthiness and geniality with her unflagging attention to Juliet.

"Romeo and Juliet" boasts other well-developed secondary characters, and Bassham has clearly given them sharp attention. Michael Broadhurst—wearing a long black coat and sporting distressed pants—makes the most of Mercutio's poetic attitude and standout wit and humor—particularly in his Queen Mab speech. Nicolas Zuluaga captures Benvolio's remarkable sincerity as a friend determined—though unsuccessfully—to keep the peace between the families. Broadhurst and Zuluaga—under Bassham's strong pacing—capture the playfulness of their characters' banter.

Here and throughout the production Ilya Vidrin's movement choreography connects artfully by turns with the changing fortunes of the families and kinsmen. In this staging, Esme Allen is intriguingly distant as Lady Capulet with regard to Juliet, while Christopher V. Edward—though verbally abusive at one point—does display real feeling as Capulet. Sandra Seane—Seri has the right fire as Tybalt, and Jules Talbot has fine authority as

BP4TP launched in 2023 and created the first Pride parade and festivals in Boston in more than three years. More than one million people attended the parade in 2023, which included more than 250 marching contingents and 215 vendors at the festivals.

Anyone individuals or companies interested in sponsorship opportunities should contact sponsor@bp4tp.org. Individuals interested in volunteering are encouraged to sign up on the BP4TP website. Volunteer roles include: accessibility, communications, development (fundraising), festival and events planning, operations management, parade organization, volunteer engagement, and the QTBIPOC Advancement Fund.

Prince Escalus. Peter DiMaggio is a strikingly sensitive Paris.

Most of all, Evan Taylor as Romeo and Chloe McFarlane as Juliet make an arrestingly striking couple. Taylor could sometimes deliver his lines with stronger projection, though understatement does work well when his character experiences moments of anxiety. Even so, he does capture Romeo's wistful passages about Juliet as the sun and his profound reflections. McFarlane perfectly expresses Juliet's insecurity and loneliness in response to Romeo's banishment. She delivers all of Juliet's speeches with strong phrasing and full clarity. McFarlane has the young Capulet's spirit and energy.

The ASP staging captures the lovers' promise and ultimate sadness. After the close of the play, an ensemble—including Romeo and Juliet—gathers on stage for a photo. Is the ensemble a sign of where the warring families and lovers should be? Does this 'happy ending' suggestion take away from the staging? Theatergoers will have to decide for themselves. Still, Bassham and a solid cast do their best with Shakespeare's romantic gem.

Toni Stone

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years later—and her stint with the Clowns are the fascinating subject of the 2019 Lydia R. Diamond Off-Broadway hit "Toni Stone." Now directed exuberantly by the playwright herself, its Huntington mainstage premiere is a high-scoring winner.

Based on the Martha Ackmann biography "Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone," Diamond's insightful play demonstrates how passionate this undaunted player was about playing as well as about baseball itself. Stone stresses the need to "get in the head of your opponent" as in chess. Speaking to the audience about her life and athletic prowess—garnering trophies in several sports, she admits to rambling even as she displays an encyclopedic knowledge of baseball.

At times she makes a claim (not fully documented) that she actually batted against the legendary Black pitcher Satchel Paige. Still, she remains focused on the game (actually batting .243 in 50 games with the Clowns) and eventually gains the respect of her fellow players. Those diverse teammates include the

savvy catcher Stretch and the book-reading "long on brains" Spec. Pollock goes to bat for Stone, saying "She's no cupcake" and asserting that she plays with her heart. Just as absorbing are Stone's intriguing relationship with Aurelius Alberga—who became her husband—and her friendship with wise and world-weary sex worker Millie.

Especially remarkable is the very talented and versatile Black cast. Aside from Jennifer Mogbock as Toni, male actors are called on to play not only the baseball players but also female characters—notably pivotal Millie—and white roles—including Pollock and a Coach Gabby who turns out to be a KKK member. Mogbock is commandingly riveting as both narrator and protagonist. She fully captures Stone's love of the game and her confidence about playing and her talents. Toni's romance with

Alberga—played with charm and style by Jonathan Kitt—develops very convincingly.

Also impressive is Stanley Andrew Jackson as Millie. Jackson finds all of her grace and vulnerability as Toni's first female friend—particularly as she advises Stone.

Blake Morris is fittingly direct as Pollock and decisive as Stretch. Omar Robinson has

the right thoughtfulness as reflective Spec and tenacity as demanding Gabby. All of the cast members playing Clowns move with the right combination of baseball athleticism and dance synchronization thanks to Ebony Williams' Broadway caliber choreography. Hassiem Muhammad's sharp acrobatics and juggling are high points of the showmanship of the team.

Special praise goes to Collette Pollard's scenic design for the Clowns' stadium—with full size billboards and realistic bleacher benches—where players sometimes sit as though on the team's barnstorming bus. Designer Brian J. Lilienthal does similar justice to stadium lights as does costumer Mara Blumenfeld to team uniforms.

While the cast and production values make Diamond's lively play absorbing throughout, the second act could do with a stronger finish. Even so, theatergoers and baseball fans alike will want to explore the history of the Negro Leagues and Stone's significant contribution—after seeing it.

Stone speaks of turning something that matters into something beautiful. Mogbock and the entire Huntington cast hit Diamond's compelling theatrical pitch right out of the park.



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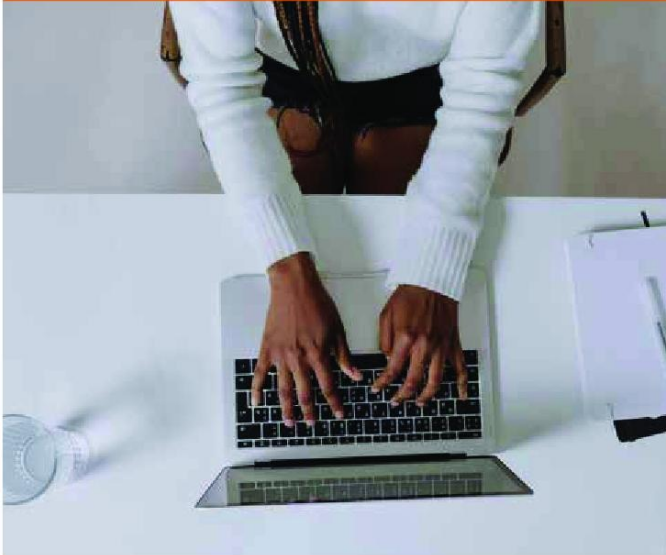
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Cathedral

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come and congratulations was Paul Chisholm, Chairman of the Cathedral Board of Trustees.

Delivering the salutatory address was Carolyn Then-Castillo and the valedictory, Laura Agblekpe. Also addressing the graduates was school president Dan Carmody and school principal Karl Danso. Diplomas were presented to 60 graduates.

- Laura E. Agblekpe
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- Nancy Tieu
- Michelle Tran
- Makaiya Wilkinson
- Jayden Avant Williams
- Yashane Xavier Williams
- Tyler Makai Wright



Graduating seniors on the basketball team get together for a final team picture. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.



Ludjy Patrick Levariste (left) and Arianna Evelyn Johnson (right) were presented the Services Award. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.

Pride Festival

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that our community is still here, in living color," said Adrianna Boulin, President of Boston Pride for the People.

In 2018, pop singer/songwriter JORDY broke through with the independent single "Just Friends," tallying 18+ million streams and counting. He maintained his

momentum with "Close To You," reeling in another 13+ million streams.

Mila Jam, a transgender star and self-proclaimed activist is a YouTube sensation turned original pop artist who has toured internationally with the Broadway musical RENT; performed with Chaka Khan at Chicago's Pride In The Park and alongside James Brown, Mark Ronson, Laverne Cox, Travis Wall, Jody Watley, Lady

Kier (Deee-Lite) & Natasha Bedingfield.

The Boston Pride for the People Festival will take place from noon to 6pm on Boston Common, is free and is open to people of all ages. No advance tickets are required. The event will take place following New England's largest LGBTQ Pride Parade which kicks off in Copley Square at 11am. A 21+ block party will also be held on City Hall Plaza till 8pm.

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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
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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.

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

Publication Date: 5/30/2024
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