May 16 - 29, 2024
50 cents at newsstands Vol. 39, No 48

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Addressing the Urgent Need for Parentage Reform

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

All children gain security and benefits from legal ties to their parents. Yet children with LGBTQ parents, and those born through assisted reproduction, lack clear and simple ways to establish legal parentage in many states. Two key advocates in Michigan's successful recent effort to make parentage laws more equitable and inclusive shared advice with me that they hope will help other states, including Massachusetts, do the same.

"I think it comes down to a willingness to listen and learn," said Stephanie Jones, founder of the Michigan Fertility Alliance (MFA), a grassroots, volunteer organization that led the charge for reform. The MFA's initial focus was on decriminalizing contractual surrogacy in Michigan, the only state where it was illegal, and clarifying paths to parentage for children born via surrogacy. By listening to families and "understanding other struggles," however, Jones said, "We knew we needed to expand that focus."

Polly Crozier, director of family advocacy at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), which partnered with the MFA on the effort, commended it for the "active and intentional decision" to ask, "How can we be as broad as possible to protect every child, no matter the circumstances of their birth?"

The answer was the Michigan Family Protection Act (MFPA). The

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 4*

In it for the long haul

Defeating hate and dogma demands dedication

by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net
contributing writer

Dozens of Virginia Commonwealth University grads walked out of their commencement ceremony in Richmond on May 11 as Gov. Glenn Youngkin took the stage to speak.

Youngkin is a good target for protests because he puts a friendlier face on MAGA politics than the likes of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, which makes him more dangerous. He is being touted as a possible running mate for Donald Trump.

Protests are an example of a concept I first learned in mathematics, of something being necessary but not sufficient. To make sustained progress on a public policy issue, it is not enough to get attention. We must engage the political process and do our homework.

Remember that advocates of forced birth worked for half a century to overturn Roe v. Wade.

We cannot afford to be single-issue voters in a country with so many challenges and with our democracy under threat.

People who call themselves pro-life endanger women's lives with cruel restrictions on emergency abortion care. Restrictions on child labor are lifted while feeding programs are cut. Bigots seek to erase queer lives and ban our literature. Republican legislators echo Russian disinformation on the floor of Congress.

see **ROSENDALL,** *page 4*

A gender-bending spin of the *Dial*

And, *Jersey Boys*

Jules Becker
Contributing Writer

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

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

Two years ago dramatist Jeffrey Hatcher wrote a taut thriller with the Knott original's 1950's period am-

see **THEATER,** *page 7*

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

Registration Now Open for Boston's LGBTQ+ Pride Parade and Festivals

Organizers Seek Sponsors for June 8th Celebration

Submitted by BP4TP

Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) today announced the opening of registration for the 2024 Pride Parade, as well as the festivals to be held on Saturday, June 8th, 2024 on Boston Common and City Hall Plaza.

The parade will start in Copley Square at 11 A.M. and move through the city's South End, finishing at Boston Common where everyone can enjoy the festival that includes performances from local and national entertainers. City Hall Plaza will host a Block Party for those 21+ that begins later in the afternoon. All BP4TP events are free to attend.

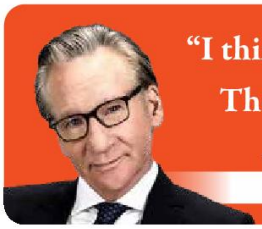
Last year, more than 1 million people attended Pride, the region's largest LGBTQ+ event.

Parade + Festival Registration will be completed online via Eventbrite, where interested parties will reserve their place in the parade and/or space at the festivals. Registration fees and payment options are outlined at https://www.bostonprideforthepeople.org/

Several hundred community groups, businesses, schools, government agen-

see **PRIDE 2024,** *page 7*

Boston Pride Parade 2023. Photo by Bay Windows Staff.



"I think this says everything about the presidential race.
The 70-year-old man with the worm-eaten brain is the youth candidate."

—Bill Maher on Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Even I can't top that.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

Photo courtesy of HBO.

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Caps Off to You!
Watching My Daughter's Graduation with Pride + Joy

Photo via Pexels

Reflections from a Proud Parent on his Daughter's Graduation

By Lane Igoudin
Family Equality

To recognize Fathers' Day, Lane Igoudin—a long-time supporter of Family Equality—reflects on a recent moment of pride + joy.

She is adjusting the black cap on her head in the bright white California sunshine and tilts it up a bit on one side – to give it a jauntier look, I guess.

"Pappy, which way does it go?" she asks, swinging side-to-side the golden tassel clasped at the top with a '2022' tag.

"To the right," I say.

I've seen enough graduations. I read graduates' names at the Commencements at the college where I teach.

"First to the right, and then you move it to the left after you shake the principal's hand, or at the very end, when everyone received their diplomas. Just do whatever they tell you on stage."

"Alright, I'm ready then!" She kisses my husband on the cheek, and then me, and then starts out in her black gown and checkered Vans in the direction of her classmates waving to her from the distance.

"Wait, wait!" I run after her, pulling a bottle of Coppertone out of my pocket and handing it to her, "You don't want a 'graduation burn.'"

This is a big day for all of us. We started down the public adoption path almost 20 years ago, before marriage equality, partner benefits, or even the opportunity to name two men as legal parents on the Social Security card application (at the time, I had to be listed as the 'mother'). Back then, LGBTQ+ families were still very much hidden from public view, and in many states, gay men were not allowed to adopt, especially as a couple. In some places, our parental rights could be abridged or overturned if we were to cross the state line.

While that's changed dramatically over the years—with "same-sex couples...nearly three times as likely as their different-sex counterparts to be raising an adopted or foster child," (according to a 2015 study by the UCLA Williams Institute)—getting to the cap'n'gown was anything but easy.

As many a foster-to-adopt parent knows, you don't just adopt kids from the foster system; you adopt their history and past experiences, too. They can do their best, and you can do your best, but trauma can take a wrecking ball to everyone's plans and expectations.

Many times in my daughter's teenage years, the challenges we faced made me worry that we wouldn't even make it to the 12th grade, never mind the joyful ceremony we were witnessing. But those challenges taught me to go with the flow, trust the unknown, and pray that things would turn out fine.

Now, here she is, four years and four high schools later, graduating and already registered for her college classes in the fall. So, I guess we've done OK.

I am looking at her – a graduate – in wonder, celebrating not all that she could be, or all that I had once planned for her, but how far she has come and how far we have made it as a family.

And in looking at her, I feel so much gratitude for the tireless work of generations of LGBTQ+ warriors, including Family Equality, that fought so hard to give us the right to live the life of a parent—a full, three-dimensional, all-encompassing life of caring for another human being.

If there is anything I've learned from adopting her from the foster system at 1, and now looking at her at 18, it's this: we both have changed through this. She has grown into an assertive, talented, complex young woman. And she has taught me so much about how to be a parent, how to be myself.

She's not the only one graduating today. It's our milestone.

Lane Igoudin is a Los Angeles-based writer, blogger, and a proud dad to two amazing teens. An English professor at Los Angeles City College, he writes about gay fatherhood, foster and adoptive parenting, and spiritual growth. A dedicated supporter of Family Equality.org, Lane has written on this site about raising an intersectional gay family and the blessing of parenting daughters. See more at www.laneigoudin.com.

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MFPA is based on the 2017 Uniform Parentage Act (UPA), a best-practice model law developed by the bipartisan Uniform Law Commission, which lays out equitable paths to parentage for LGBTQ families and those formed via assisted reproduction.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D) signed the MFPA on April 1, making Michigan the 8th state to enact legislation based on or substantially similar to the 2017 UPA, following California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. (Additionally, New Hampshire and New York have comprehensive parentage legislation that is not based on the UPA, per the Movement Advancement Project.) LGBTQ parents and others forming families via assisted reproduction elsewhere, however, may find that establishing parentage is still confusing, expensive, humiliating, and lengthy, leaving children vulnerable.

The urgent need for reform, Crozier believes, was underscored when the Alabama Supreme Court ruled in February that an embryo was a child, causing in vitro fertilization (IVF) providers in the state to halt services. "Attacks on IVF, the notion of personhood [for an embryo], are very scary and dangerous, and could undermine so many families in this country," she said. One positive thing states can do, however, is "pass protections for children already born through assisted reproduction and surrogacy." She explained, "If your children aren't born into a society where they're secured to their parents and have that stability and ability to thrive, you're not protecting reproductive rights."

Furthermore, "The attack on reproductive rights is now so clearly a much broader attack," encompassing abortion, IVF, LGBTQ people, and more, she said. But while some have included parentage in that mix, "We don't see it that way. It's not controversial to protect children."

To help Michigan protect them, Jones sought people with the expertise needed "to make sure that we did as much for as many people as possible." In return, the experts from GLAD, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and elsewhere, "respected MFA and allowed us to be the final decision maker," she said, adding, "So many amazing people put hundreds of hours of work into this with zero recognition, and that to me is the magic."

Jones was particularly grateful for Crozier's guidance around how to take a child-focused approach so that everything "always comes back to protecting children," she said. "That is how we were able to achieve what we were."

For advocates looking to begin work in other states, Jones advised, "Start building a trusted coalition and make it very clear what your goals are," then start pulling together resources. She also urged "assessing the political landscape" and building relationships with lawmakers, adding, "Education is a key component, and being willing to ask the hard questions."

Additionally, she said, "Understand what parts of the UPA will serve you" and how broad to make your bills, as well as how to be "realistic and strategic with getting language passed. It's a balancing act." Legal experts familiar with your state "can help you understand and navigate that."

Crozier agreed that "there are many ways to approach success." She contrasted Michigan's "large scale" parentage act with a more targeted 2020 bill that GLAD helped pass in New Hampshire to ensure that unmarried couples can adopt children and that LGBTQ parents can confirm their parentage through adoption. "It's not big, it's not showy, but it's critically important," she said.

She also reminded LGBTQ advocates to look for collaborations with other movements, such as reproductive and fertility rights, because "together you know more, you're stronger, and you're smarter."

For organizations like GLAD that partner in multiple states, Crozier stressed "how incredibly important it is to be grounded in the state you're working in and really understand what families are dealing with and what the political context is."

Part of that includes being aware of what Jones called "wolf in sheep's clothes" legislation being pushed by special-interest groups. Crozier explained, "People need to understand how interconnected parentage, fertility insurance, fertility fraud, gamete regulation, and regulating the storage of embryos are." In both blue and red states, bills dealing with these issues "can have many negative unintended consequences. They're sometimes very nuanced and you need to be reaching out to the folks who are digging deep into those areas to understand."

The good news? "Protecting children and families is an issue that a lot of people connect with and in many states, parentage reform is seen as just common sense," Crozier said. She pointed to the Maine Parentage Act, unanimously adopted with a Republican legislature, and the Connecticut Parentage Act, which passed with only one vote against it. The MFPA, too, garnered some Republican support. "When you're building families and protecting children, you want to be on the side of right," she asserted, as the scramble to undo the consequences of the Alabama decision showed.

UPA-based parentage bills are now pending in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota, but those are not the only states whose parentage statutes need updating. Crozier said, "States need to be really focused on passing this legislation, because the attacks are coming—they're already here—and you want to signal to the children and families in your state that 'We protect every child.'"

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1,500+ LGBTQ family books.

Rosendall

Continued from page 1

In confronting injustices, it is frustrating to know that even problems long targeted for change, like racially biased policing, stubbornly resist reform efforts.

Air Force Senior Airman Roger Fortson, a black man, was shot to death on May 3 by a sheriff's office deputy in the Florida Panhandle who had gone to the wrong apartment.

According to Tom McGlaughlin of the Pensacola News Journal, Fortson's girlfriend, with whom he was talking on Facetime when the incident occurred, "said Fortson was startled by an aggressive pounding on the door of the apartment, but when he peered through the peephole could see no one on the other side, so he went and retrieved his legally registered gun."

Police bodycam footage showed that Fortson was holding his gun at his side, pointing it down. The deputy quickly fired six shots at him. What the camera doesn't show are differences in cultural attitudes that cause police to use deadly force more often against black people.

There is a long, dispiriting list of such incidents. It is hard to stop these tragedies when so many react to them either by being outraged at anyone who calls out biased policing, or with numbed indifference.

I worked on police reform for decades as part of a broad-based coalition. The organization most resistant to our efforts was the Fraternal Order of Police. Its leaders routinely circled the wagons, indignant at any suggestion that officers should not be above the law.

Some conservatives complain that black people do not cooperate with police. But how can people be expected to trust law enforcement when their lives are accorded so little value?

It doesn't stop at police. On May 9, the school board in Virginia's Shenandoah County voted to restore the names of Confederate leaders to two schools that had previously honored them.

The refusal ever to let go of the Lost Cause, the indignant denial of racial double standards, the insistent clinging to grievance while waving a treasonous banner—those are not signs of an easy solution ahead.

When innocent people are cut down so easily and often, mostly without consequence to those doing it, we are not the nation or people that we claim to be.

It can be hard to accept being part of a multi-generational struggle whose fruits we may not live to see. But if we are about more than venting—if we seriously intend to address systemic problems—we cannot prepare for a marathon as if it were a fifty-yard dash.

Roger Fortson bought a flight suit for his adoring little sister to match his own. He was saving to buy his mother a new house. He was 23. His death leaves an empty space with his loved ones and community. Even if the sheriff's deputy is tried and convicted of wrongful death—so far he has only been placed on leave—it will not bring the young man back.

We have a nation not so much to restore as to create. When innocent people are cut down so easily and often, mostly without consequence to those doing it, we are not the nation or people that we claim to be.

Amid our grief, we need moments of unaccountable joy to remind us of what has been taken from our fellow citizens in a way not evenly distributed. We must find the grace to listen and learn from those who have borne the brunt. And we cannot leave it to others to beat back the forces of ignorance, fanaticism, and authoritarianism on Election Day.

Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist at rrosendall@me.com.

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Teen charged in mass shooting at LGBTQ+ friendly punk rock show in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A teenage suspect who allegedly made derogatory remarks about LGBTQ+ people before opening fire at a backyard punk rock show faces seven felony charges for a shooting that killed one person and injured six others in Minneapolis.

The document charging Dominic James Burris and another man says the shooting was motivated by bias against the victims' gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

"Witnesses identified the gathering as a LGBTQ+ friendly community and the victims included people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer," charges say. "Witnesses identified the shooters as two males who were not part of the community, but who had come to the concert and interacted with multiple people in the minutes before the shooting."

Burris, who turned 18 last week, appeared in juvenile court Tuesday on charges of aiding and abetting second-degree intentional murder and six counts of felony assault with a firearm, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. Burris' mother, brother and public defender Camille Bryant declined comment after the hearing.

A second teen faces similar charges after being identified through DNA testing of a cigarette butt, but he's not in custody and his whereabouts are unknown, according to the charges.

Musician and songwriter Nicholas Trevor Golden, who also went by August Golden, died from a gunshot wound to the chest. Golden, 35, played in the punk band Scrounger and was deeply involved in the punk scene in Minneapolis and other cities. Another shooting victim suffered injuries to his intestine, liver and a kidney, which had to be removed, charges say.

The shooting happened Aug. 11 at a pop-up punk rock show that was also a birthday party. Gunfire rang out as a band was ending the show for a crowd of 30 to 50 people.

"This shooting at what should have been a joyous event rocked our LGBTQIA+ community and increased fear among a community that is too often already under attack," Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty said at a news conference.

While Minnesota has no standalone hate crime charge, defendants can face charges with aggravating factors and enhanced sentencing if the crime is motivated by bias. It isn't yet known if prosecutors will seek those upgraded charges. Prosecutors also haven't decided whether Burris will be certified as an adult, Moriarty said.

Some witnesses at the party said they overheard the suspects "utter derogatory epithets about the sexual orientation of the concert attendees," charges say.

The complaint said that about one minute after the suspects left the party, gunshots rang out. Charges say officers recovered nine discharged cartridge casings from two different firearms in a neighboring yard.

One witness told investigators he saw someone in a red hooded sweatshirt running down the alleyway and another person in a black hoodie peek around a corner of the alleyway, while another identified Burris wearing the red hoodie, charges say.

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billy masters

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"The patient is a young, athletic, well-built male." How can I take any doctor seriously who would describe me like that? In what world am I young, athletic or well-built? Then again, my doctor is a heterosexual male—in his world, I'm a catch! All that proves is that I should be dating straight women—or straight men! But, I digress. I had my annual physical last week—convinced I was pre-diabetic. I was even prepared to lose a few toes. Of course, my doctor saw through this career-advancing ruse and sent me on my way. Once again, my bid for fame was thwarted. I won't be kicking up my heels with that big girl in the blue dress—all because I don't need to lower my A1C! God bless Obama...and Romney (I am in Massachusetts, after all). What the hell—God bless Weld, too.

Everyone is talking about the **Tom Brady** roast. There are things I find amusing—like taking out the booing of **Kim Kardashian** in the repeats. Because, if we don't see it, it didn't happen, right? I never saw Kim's sex tape—but I know it happened. **Ray J** told me! Then there's the criticism of the many jokes at the expense of **Giselle Bündchen**, which reminded me of an anecdote. Way back in 2009, **Joan Rivers** was roasted on Comedy Central. She HATED doing it—but she was paid extremely well to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. But she had a condition; her grandson **Cooper** and daughter **Melissa** were off-limits for the comedians. That agreement was somewhat amended when Melissa agreed to join the roast. After all, if you're on the dais, you're fair game.

I just watched "Spacey Unmasked", the documentary from UK Channel 4 (it hits HBO Max later this week). I had a strange and unexpected reaction to the accusations—I was mostly sympathetic to **Kevin Spacey**. The men featured fell into one of two categories. There are some who were minding their own business and found themselves the recipient of some aggressive sexual act (i.e. **Anthony Rapp**). But most of them were young actors asking Kevin for career help, or writers who wanted Kevin to produce their movie. In those cases, Spacey simply offered tit for tat—well, more tat than tit. While many of these men felt uncomfortable, they kept going back. Why? One guy came right out and said after his "encounter", he was gonna use it as "leverage—you're gonna help me make my career". I'm not blaming them. It's natural to think someone who is ahead might help you...especially if you give them head! I can't tell you how many guys I've slept with who I had little interest in. But they paid for dinner, or bought me drinks, or just wore me down. Nobody pulled out a gun or threatened me. As Spacey points out, despite the numerous legal cases brought against him, he has always prevailed. We'll see how that works out since a new civil suit has been filed against Kevin in the UK. That trial is not expected to take place until early 2025.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention a few other interesting details. **Ruari Cannon** had a role opposite **Kim Cattrall** in "Sweet Bird of Youth" at the Old Vic. I found his account particularly credible and painful. Andy, who had an encounter with Kevin at the Public Theatre in 1981, finds it suspect that Spacey has not made any statement about the gay community or how it feels to live as an out gay man. I can answer that one—Spacey is not a member of the gay community and does not live as an out gay man. There are all different kinds of gay people, Andy. Then there's Greg, who went to high school with Kevin and claims to have been the recipient of some unwanted sexual aggression while driving in his car. For someone who claims to be straight, he took an inordinate number of photos of a young Kevin Spacey, who at the time was still Kevin Fowler. And speaking of Fowlers, there's Kevin's brother **Randall Fowler**, who claims to have been repeatedly raped by their father. Not that this is germane to the story, but today Randy bears a striking resemblance to a latter-day **Jeanne Cooper**!

Speaking of scandals, Bravo has cleared **Andy Cohen** of drug, alcohol and sexual harassment charges. While this was their investigation, the network claims that "outside investigators" were brought in, and determined that "the claims were found to be unsubstantiated". **Leah McSweeney's** lawyer calls the statement a sham to feed prospective advertisers. He also adds this tidbit: "NBC did not speak with the complaining witnesses. How is that an investigation?" The attorney indicated that this internal investigation does nothing to deter them from going forward with their lawsuit. Watch what happens, indeed...

The Eurovision Song Contest just crowned Switzerland the 2024 winner. The competition never took off here in the States the way it does in...well, Europe! It's kinda like a cross between "American Idol" and "The Gong Show". Each country submits a song and singer, which often includes some sort of costume, nationalistic dance, and a healthy helping of kitsch. You won't be surprised to hear that it also attracts a very gay audience. How gay? During the live semifinals from Sweden, co-host **Petra Mede** was explaining how easy it is to use the official app. While she was holding one "random" audience member's phone, we heard what may have been an unfamiliar sound to Petra—but what we all recognized as the notification from Grindr. And then another. And then another! As the notifications kept coming, Petra said, "OK, I'll just give you the phone back. It seems like you're having a wonderful week here in Malmö!" I don't know if the Eurovision app is easy, but the owner of that phone sure is! It all seemed a bit staged to moi...or however you say it in Swedish. You can watch the clip on BillyMasters.com.

Meanwhile, the famed Cannes Film Festival is about to start. One of the more interesting films is a documentary about **Faye Dunaway** called (not surprisingly), "Faye". It is also produced (not surprisingly) by Faye Dunaway—which I suspect means you won't learn much about Miss Dunaway. You'll recall the last time someone attempted to do a televised biography about her, he was the recipient of numerous lengthy phone messages—all of which you can hear on BillyMasters.com. I'm sure this project (which will air on HBO Max later this year) will have lots about her two films with **Johnny Depp** and the wonderful **Marlon Brando**. And being in Cannes is always a good career move. Shortly after she landed, it was announced she was cast in **Jonathan Baker's** supernatural love story called "Fate", which will costar **Andrew McCarthy and Harvey Keitel**. And she was even very slyly spoofed on "SNL" this week, as you can also see on our website.

Elsewhere in Cannes, a deal was made for a film about an older gay couple. "Out Late" is about a romance between a blue-collar widower and a retired dancer, played by **Ron Perlman and Rupert Everett**, respectively. The producer says, "Romcoms are back in force. What a gift to have Rupert Everett returning to that genre after the classic 'My Best Friend's Wedding.'" To me, it sounds more like "Grumpy Old Queens".

This week's "Ask Billy" question comes from Mark in San Francisco: *"I just saw 'Red, White & Royal Blue' and really liked it. Both guys were so hot, so I was wondering what you know about them."*

So many questions about an old topic. But, I'm game. **Nicholas Galitzine**, who played the Prince of England, can currently be seen on the big screen in "The Idea of You" romancing **Anne Hathaway**, and on the small screen in "Mary & George" (on Starz) romancing the King of England! He's straight, and he feels guilty about playing so many gay roles. "I felt a sense of uncertainty sometimes about whether I'm taking up someone's space, and perhaps guilt." To that, I say balderdash—not that I'm sure what that even means. Then there is **Taylor Zakhar Perez**, who played the son of the President of the United States (an inexplicably cast Uma Thurman). He doesn't like to talk about his sex life, which is typically code for being gay. He's rumored to be married to techie **Garrett Gerson**—but you didn't hear it from me. By the by, "Red, White & Royal Blue" was so popular, Amazon Prime has ordered a sequel. I'm told most of the people from both in front of and behind the camera will return—including **Matthew López** (of "The Inheritance" fame), who directed and penned the script based on the book by Casey McQuiston. Some photos of the lads can be found on BillyMasters.com.

When Amazon is really delivering, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. Since I like to tie my columns together in a nice bow, let's say that **Taylor Zakhar Perez** is gay. Is anyone complaining that he hasn't made any statement about the gay community, or how it feels to live as an out gay man? I'm not judging, but I'm also not looking to any celebrities for validation of my life. Unless they're checking out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that is proud of nothing and everything at the same time. If you want to share your two cents, send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I book a trip to Malmö! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible

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Tom Brady

Photo by Canadian Film Centre, via Wikimedia Commons.

Kim Cattrall

Photo by Condé Nast, via Wikimedia Commons.

Nicholas Galitzine

Pride 2024

Continued from page 1

cies, employee resource groups, elected officials, and others are expected to march in the parade. Organizers estimate that the number of booths available for vendors at the festivals will be 250 and are likely to sell out.

Sponsorship Opportunities are available, at levels ranging from $5,000 to $50,000. The cost of producing the parade and festivals is estimated at nearly $1 million. In addition to registration fees, contributions from community and businesses are an essential source of financing the events.

A Partnership Package is available for corporations and non-profit organizations interested in supporting this year's Pride. It includes the dates for informational sessions for interested sponsors and can be found on the BP4TP website: www.bostonprideforthepeople.org

Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) is the volunteer and community-run non-profit organization working to empower, celebrate, commemorate, and educate in partnership with Boston's LGBTQ+ communities. In 2023 BP4TP hosted and managed Boston's first Pride parade and festivals in more than three years, bringing New England's largest Pride parade back to its home in Boston. For more information visit: bostonprideforthepeople.org.

Theater

Continued from page 1

bience but dialed in a clever gender-bending twist and other striking touches. Now Greater Boston Stage Company artistic director Weylin Symes is helming its area premiere in a superb production very much worth calling all of your family and friends to see.

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

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

Symes' talented cast makes the witty repartee and Maxine and Margot's combination of bravery and resourcefulness very engaging. Lily Kaufman has all of Maxine's savvy and pluck, while Kimberlee Connor captures Hatcher's feistier Margot. Michael Ryan Buckley matches Milland's suave demeanor and low-key dangerousness framing Margot. Bill Mootos has all of Lesgate's elusiveness from the moment he enters the Wendices' apartment. Robert D. Murphy finds Inspector Hubbard's attitude and tough posture questioning Maxine. Deirdre Gerard's costumes catch the men's sartorial reserve and Margot and Maxine's often livelier attire, Jeff Adelberg's expressive lighting and Andrew Duncan Will's evocative sound design make the most of the famed attempted murder and self-defense sequence.

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

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

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

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

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

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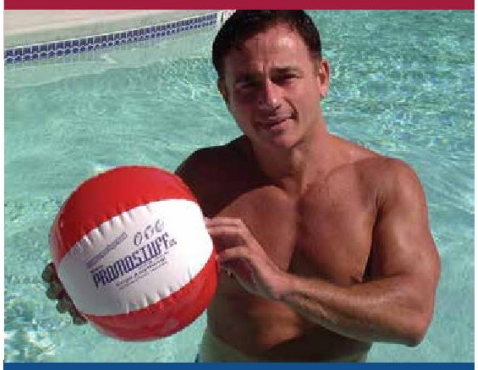

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