

Newton Theatre Company Presents

The Monologue Project:

LGBTQ+ Voices

www.NewtonTheatreCompany.com



Newton Theatre Company presents...

The Monologue Project: LGBTQ+ Voices

Saturday, June 24th at 8pm at Hyde Bandshell

Featuring music, monologues, drag!

Hyde Community Center rain location (same address)

&

Monday, June 26th at 7pm at Newton Free Library

Featuring monologues!

Directors - Allen Flint and Valerie Goldstein

Stage Manager - Natalie Ottaviano

Technical Director - Bernie Bernstein

Graphic Design - Marissa Wandrey

Digital Marketing - Abby Strayer

Artistic Director - Melissa Bernstein

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Newton, Massachusetts is on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett Indigenous Peoples.

The name Massachusetts comes from the Massachusett language term for "At the Great Hill," referring to the Blue Hills overlooking Boston Harbor from the south.

The Indigenous Nations that belong to this land are known as the Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mashpee Wampanoag, Ponkapoag, Stockbridge Munsee Mohican Nation and Nimuc.

We respect & recognize it is a privilege to be living on these lands as guests. We acknowledge the trauma experienced over centuries to the indigenous peoples who live on these lands and continue to face injustice.

We honor with gratitude those peoples who have stewarded this land. We also acknowledge that these lands are sacred to generations yet to be born.

Saturday Program

- Valerie Goldstein and Allen Flint - Introduction
- Lavender
- Phoebe Anthony - “Labels”
- NAOMI - “Sidelines”
- Valerie Goldstein - “Faith”
- Jesse King - “Words that Define Me”
- NAOMI - “Make it Boom”
- Allen Flint - “Totally, Finally Happy”
- Phoebe Anthony - “Little Miss Perfect”
- Valerie Goldstein - “Where are the Gay Presidents”
- Videos from Mia Cohen, Avi Fidler, and Jean Chandler
- Missy Steak with Joy Cobb on guitar

Monday Program

- Valerie Goldstein and Allen Flint - Introduction
- Phoebe Anthony - “Labels”
- Bob Parlin - “We Don’t Have a Problem *Here*”
- Valerie Goldstein - “Faith”
- Allen Flint - “Totally, Finally Happy”
- Jesse King - “Words that Define Me”
- Valerie Goldstein - “Where are the Gay Presidents”
- Videos from Mia Cohen, Avi Fidler, and Jean Chandler

The show is approximately one hour long.

There will be no intermission.

Please silence all cell phones before the show.

Directors' Note

Welcome to the Monologue Project: LGBTQ+ Voices! This show is very important to both of us as queer people, and we're grateful to share it with you today.

Valerie: I had the amazing opportunity senior year at Newton South to tell my story in a play I wrote and directed called Lia's Love Story, which was inspired by my struggle to figure out my bisexuality. Because I did not have many, if any, queer stories growing up, I felt alone while trying to figure out this important part of my identity. The goal of the play was to show just one person in the audience that they are not alone, to provide the support and visibility that I did not have growing up. I am so excited to continue to provide a platform for queer stories through this show, and I hope again that just one person in the audience tonight sees a little piece of themselves in one of these monologues and feels less alone.

Allen: Valerie's play is the reason I ever got involved in theatre tech. She's also the one who introduced me to and then got me hooked on the idea of media representation. Now, those are two of my passions, and I'm psyched to get to mix them in the creation of this production. As a young trans and aroace person, representation is so crucial to me. My feelings of gender dysphoria and lack of romantic and sexual attraction aren't things I ever saw represented growing up, and I didn't know I was experiencing them until I could name them. I hope that by sharing our stories tonight, we are increasing the odds that lgbtq+ folks will be able to figure out what they're feeling, and won't be so scared when they do. One of the difficult things we as lgbtq+ people have to do sometimes is explain ourselves and what we are experiencing, so I also hope that the non-lgbtq+ people here are able to take away some knowledge tonight, to make a queer person feel seen when you can say "Aromantic? Oh yeah, I know what that is!"

Directors' Note

We believe that we need to hear more LGBTQ+ stories, which is why we are putting on this performance today. We want to amplify the voices of LGBTQ+ people in our very own community so that we can celebrate our identities, learn about the obstacles we've had to overcome and are still overcoming, and figure out where we go from here.

Right now in our country, LGBTQ+ rights are being threatened, especially the rights of trans youth who face legislation preventing them from receiving gender affirming care and from coexisting with their peers in places such as bathroom stalls or sports fields. It is so important that we continue to have these conversations about LGBTQ+ topics because that's the first step of change, and there is a lot of work that needs to be done here and in the rest of the country.

We hope this show is continuing that dialogue that will lead to change, but the work is not over after tonight. We hope you continue to engage with LGBTQ+ stories and issues, and we hope you do your part to make Newton a welcoming place for all queer people, by providing a safe place like this one for people to share their stories.

We want to thank everyone who has helped us share our stories and put on this production: Melissa Bernstein for guiding us through every step of this process; the Newton Theatre Company for producing this show; our wonderful tech people Bernie Bernstein and Natalie Ottaviano, our stage manager; our logo designer Marissa Wandrey; our marketer Abby Strayer; Hattie Kerwin Derrick and the Pride Coalition; and John Rice at the Hyde Community Center and Ellen Meyers at the Newton Free Library for hosting our performances and for your technical support. And thank you all for coming and supporting this project! We hope you enjoy the show!

Performers' Bios

Phoebe Anthony (she/her) is a rising senior at Newton South! She loves musical theatre and speaking out through civic engagement! She thanks everyone who made this amazing show possible and hopes you enjoy the show! Happy Pride Month!

Jean Chandler is the Drag alter ego of Matthew Miller, a Newton resident with 3 teenage boys in the public school system. A former School Committee member and active volunteer in the community, Matthew embarked on his drag journey during the shut down. This self-discovery has involved learning make up techniques, hair styling and sound editing. Jean taught herself to sew and even how to do a split...a feat she never thought would be possible.

I'm **Mia Cohen**, a 2021 Newton South graduate. I have been passionate about queer rights since I first learned about the concept and love discussing them. Currently, I'm a comedy student at DePaul University and a fan of my cat.

Avi Fidler (they/them) is an actor, poet, and theatrical carpenter from Newton, Massachusetts. They recently graduated from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a BFA in Acting. UArts performance credits include *Everybody*, *Men on Boats*, *I Want A Country*, and *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*. This summer, Avi is working at Northwestern as an assistant teacher and assistant director for their High School Institute's theater division, The Cherubs.

Performers' Bios

Allen Flint (he/him) graduated from Newton South in 2021 and is now studying film and television editing in college. A big fan of the arts, Allen does cross-stitch, photography, and theatre tech. He also loves watching performances, and can't wait to watch this one with you all.

Valerie Goldstein (she/her) is a NSHS grad and Syracuse University student majoring in Policy Studies with a passion for education policy specifically. She also co-directed the *Monologue Project: Common Threads* with NTC and is excited to continue helping people share their stories. She hopes you enjoy the show, and happy pride month!

Jesse King graduated from Newton South High School in 2019 where he participated in backstage theatre and now he works at Newton Theatre Company as the Stage Manager and Assistant Teacher for Newton Theatre Kids. He felt it was important to share his story because it is something that has been prevalent throughout the majority of his life and he hopes he can get his message across and help other people in a similar situation feel more seen. In his free time, Jesse likes to indulge in his geeky interests such as comic books and video games, and he loves to come up with intricate stories and characters. This isn't Jesse's first time public speaking, as on multiple occasions, he has spoken on panels (and even a talk in front of 60 or so people with just him and his brother) about his experience being autistic (as well as having ADHD and anxiety), and how things like the education system affected that experience.

Hello my name is **Lavender** and I'm a 24 year old drag queen from the Boston area. I love being able to use the art-form of drag as a platform to perform and share beauty and kindness. Being invited to perform at this event was an honor and I'm excited to share my art with you all.

Performers' Bios

NAOMI is a Boston based Electro-pop & Pop-rock artist, songwriter and producer drawing much of her influence from Tate McRae, Zedd, and Paramore. She creates energizing songs with catchy synth riffs, hooky melodies, and compelling, introspective lyrics that make people want to scream and dance along, all with the hope of inspiring people to embrace discomfort and fight for things that may seem impossible.

Bob Parlin retired this past year after teaching history at Newton South High School for 35 years. He has also been an LGBTQ+ activist since the early 1980s, co-founding GLSEN, the nation's largest organization working to create safe and welcoming schools for LGBTQ+ students and staff. At Newton South, Bob co-created the first GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) at a public school, as well as Newton's South's Faculty Council and Human Rights Council. Co-founder of the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission and the MA Safe Schools Program LGBTQ+ Students, Bob has conducted over 350 trainings on gender and sexuality issues for students, faculty, parents and community members across New England. Bob wrote about his experience coming out at Newton South in the book *One Teacher in Ten*. Bob and his husband of 25 years, muralist Bren Bataclan, live in Cambridge, MA.

Missy Steak is a Boston drag queen with a penchant and a passion for comedy/culture/and listing things in threes. She'll make ya laugh, she'll make ya cry, and she'll do it all for cheap. You can catch her her trivia night at Roxy's Arcade in Cambridge every other Monday or wandering the streets looking for the truth of the universe.

Performers



Phoebe Anthony



Jean Chandler



Mia Cohen



Avi Fidler



Allen Flint



Valerie Goldstein

Performers



Jesse King



Lavender



NAOMI



Bob Parlin



Missy Steak

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We love being a part of the Newton Community. Through partnerships with other nonprofits, and the tradition of our annual Monologue Project, we are always looking for ways to connect with the folks who live, work, and go to school in our hometown. **Do you have an idea for a partnership?** Please be in touch!

The Hyde Community Center

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St. John's Episcopal Church

The Monologue Project: LGBTQ+ Voices is a proud recipient of grants from Mass Cultural Council, Newton Cultural Council, and Newton Community Pride.





Northland
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The advertisement features a background of fresh produce, including several large orange carrots and green asparagus spears. In the upper right, there is a circular orange badge with white text that reads "DELIVERY FEE WAIVED" in large, bold letters, with "on your first order" in smaller text below it. The main text is centered on a white rectangular background. It starts with the "Wegmans" logo in a black, cursive font. Below that, the word "delivery" is written in a large, bold, orange sans-serif font. Underneath "delivery" is the phrase "in as little as one hour" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the white box, it says "Powered by" in a small grey font, followed by the Instacart logo (a green leaf and a carrot) and the word "instacart" in a bold green font. Below the Instacart logo, it says "order today" in a small black font, and finally, the website address "wegmans.com/instacart" in a bold black font.

“It’s communication —
that’s what theatre is all about.”

— Chita Rivera



Thank you, Newton Theatre Company, for a season of
innovative and thought-provoking shows.

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