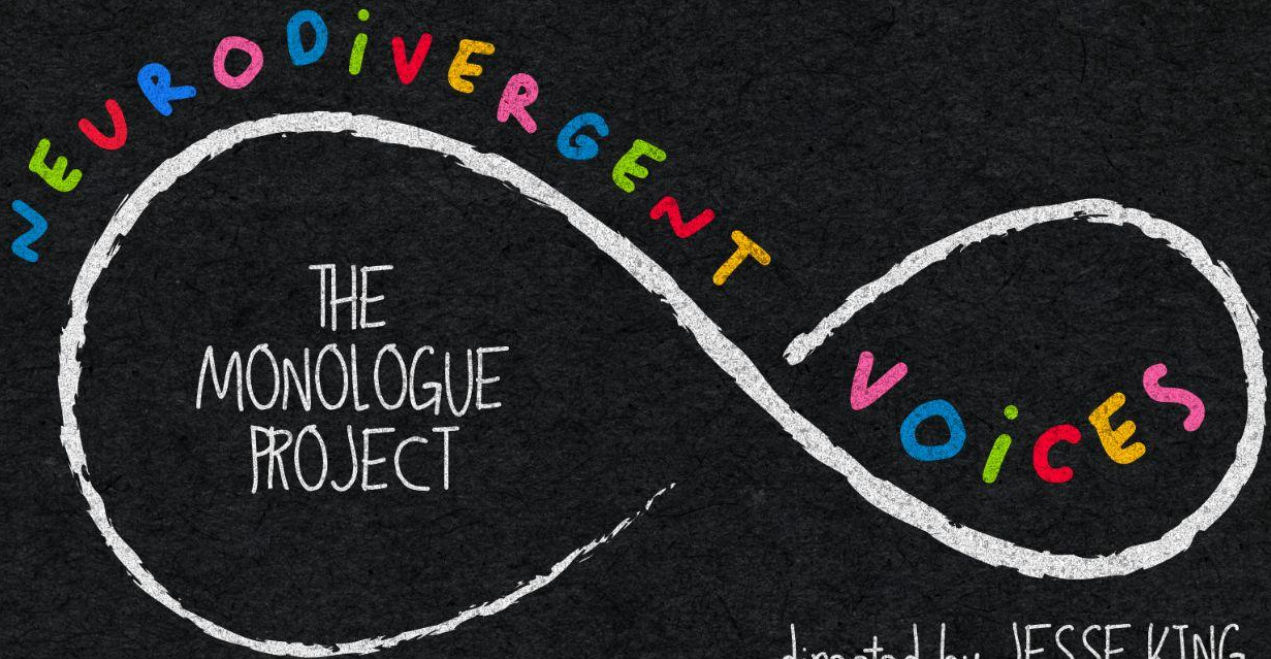


NEWTON THEATRE COMPANY

presents

Newton
COMMUNITY Theatre
Company



directed by JESSE KING



January 20, 2024
4:00 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church
96 Otis Street, Newtonville

Free admission! Please register at link below:

<https://ntc-monologue-ndv2024.eventbrite.com/>

Newton Theatre Company presents...

The Monologue Project: Neurodivergent Voices

Saturday, January 20th at 4pm
at Saint John's Episcopal
96 Otis Street, Newtonville

Director - Jesse King

Artistic Director - Melissa Bernstein

Digital Marketing - Abby Strayer

Social Media Coordinator and Sound Designer- Alex Taylor

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Graphic Design - Tess Vigdor

Any opinions or experiences expressed by the performers do not represent all neurodivergent people, including members of the cast. Each opinion and experience belongs to the individual performer.

Program

Jesse King - "What I'm Worth"

Rebekkah Tunik - "Different, But Not Less!"

Toby Proctor-Goddard - "Neurodiversity, Stigma, and Problems With Curing"

Claudia Maibor - "Setting the Standard of Kindness"

Ben Majewski - "Give Us a Chance"

Bobby Lovett - "Walk Like a Man, Talk Like Superman"

Nathan Nahar - "Troubles With School"

Erin Ryan Heyneman - "Lessons From Acquired Neurodivergence"

Rick Halloran - "Inclusion"

John Curley - "How Embracing My Neurodivergence Has Made Me a More Effective Educator"

Avi Fidler - Video Monologue: "Pool Party Prank"

Zoe Blake-Weber - Video Monologue: "Being Me"

Jesse King - "Neurodivergent" by Schmetterling from Poems & Quotes

The show is approximately one hour long.

There will be no intermission.

Please silence all cell phones before the show.

Performers' Bios

Zoe Blake-Weber (they/them) is a 3rd grader who has performed in three Newton Theater Kids productions so far and is excited to do more! They also really enjoy other forms of creative expression: art, music and dance. Their most recent interest is learning to sew. They feel happy and honored to be included in the Monologue Project highlighting neurodivergent voices. They would love to inspire others and help people understand what it is like to be neurodivergent, especially since they feel other kids are not nice sometimes to people with differences (like them).

John Curley: My name is John Curley (he/him/his). I've been a public school educator for over 15 years, with experience primarily in Special Education. I'm also disabled and my disabilities impact me in myriad ways personally and professionally. My experience as an educator and as a disabled person have brought me to the monologue project. It allows me to use my voice to further normalize disability and remove stigma.

Avi Fidler (they/them) is a recent graduate of the Ira Brind School of Theater Arts at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is their second time being involved in The Monologue Project, the first being their participation in LGBTQ+ Voices last year. Recent acting credits include originating the role of Ash in *Unfair Advantage* by Tyler Rocio Ecoña as part of *Folkslore: Breaking the Binary* at the 2023 Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival. Starting next month, Avi will be behind the table at rehearsals of *Fun Home* at New Light Theatre as the NLT Spring 2023 Directing Apprentice. They would like to thank Jesse King and Melissa Bernstein for putting this production up, and would also like to thank everyone who comes to see it!

Rick Halloran: Hi, my name is Rick Halloran (he/him/his), and I'm a senior at UMass Amherst. I am expected to graduate in May 2024 with my BA in Theatre and an Education minor. I was diagnosed with autism at age 2 and I am participating in this monologue project because being a neurodivergent has always been a major part of my life. I want to share how having a disability has made an impact on me from when I was young up until my adult life, and to share how we can make a difference in helping those with disabilities.

Jesse King (he/him): My name is Jesse King , and I've lived in Newton all my life. It is my absolute pleasure to be directing *The Monologue Project: Neurodivergent Voices*. Throughout my life, the feeling of being different has always been very prevalent, and it has at times been isolating and painful, and there was a time when I felt like nobody would accept me. My hope is that, through this project, I can help promote understanding, compassion, and give a mic (both literally and figuratively) to the voices and stories of neurodivergent people, voices and stories that may otherwise go unheard, so that the future for neurodivergents to come can be just a little bit brighter.

Bobby Lovett is thrilled to be making his Newton Theatre Company performance debut. He currently works as the House Manager at NTC, as well as a local Afterschool Care Teacher. His most recent credits include *The Government Inspector* (The Mayor) and *Working: The Musical* (Man 1), at UMass Boston, where he received a B.A. in Theatre Arts this past May. He was also diagnosed with autism at age 1, receiving many years of evaluations, special education, therapy, and extra support of all kinds to get to where he is today, for all of which he is very grateful.

Claudia Maibor: Hello! My name is Claudia Maibor and I use they/she pronouns! I'm a double major in Psychology and Creative Writing with a concentration in Jewish Studies at Clark University. I'm doing this project because I believe in educating the world on how to better support those that are neurodivergent, and in making the world a better place.

Ben Majewski: Hi, my name is Ben Majewski. I work as a Resource Specialist at Mass. General Hospital in Boston and as a dishwasher and busperson at O'Hara's Restaurant in Newton, MA. I am also a member of the Mass Down Syndrome Congress Self Advocate Advisory Board. I enjoy many recreational and volunteer activities in my community. I enjoy talking to people about my experiences as a person with Down syndrome.

Nathan Nahar is a Newton South 2021 graduate. He has three siblings and is a fraternal twin. He likes singing, reading, writing and talking with people. This is his first performance with the Newton Theatre company.

Toby Proctor-Goddard: I am Toby Proctor-Goddard, and am a senior at UMass Lowell, and am on the autism spectrum. I will graduate in May 2024 with a B.A. in Psychology, minoring in Disability Studies and Sociology. I graduated from Middlesex Community College in December 2021 with a A.A. in Liberal Arts & Sciences. Throughout my life, I have been committed to supporting people with disabilities in being successful. I am participating in this project since I want to share my story with other people, and empower those with disabilities to see that they are capable and deserve to be loved.

Erin Ryan Heyneman (she/her/they) is a disabled speaker, educator, and creator. She holds a certificate in Leadership for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from Northwestern University and serves as Secretary on the Melrose Commission on Disabilities (COD). Erin openly discloses that she has motor and cognitive impairments due to advanced Multiple Sclerosis. Prior to her disabling impairments, Erin had a fulfilling twelve-year career as a high school English teacher. Her speaking events demystify inclusion and access for a not-currently-disabled general audience. She firmly believes that awareness education is the first step toward a more inclusive society: because we don't know what we don't know! Erin was instrumental in bringing Newton's Understanding Our Differences to Melrose Public Schools, where her two children attend. Erin's dad, Steve Ryan, grew up on Beacon Street in Newton along with ten more Ryan brothers and sisters. erinryanhey.com

Rebekkah Tunik: My name is Rebekkah Tunik and I'm a junior at UMass Boston majoring in Early Childhood Education. I plan to graduate in May 2025, and get my Masters in Special Education. I was diagnosed with autism at age 2, and I didn't speak until I was 7. At times, I think to myself wishing I didn't have autism, but I've come to a realization that I can make a difference in the community. My dream is to be a role model for people in the autism community. I signed up for this project to share my story to the audience and make a positive impact in the neurodivergent community.

Performers





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Covie Edwards-Pitt and Matt Weinzerl

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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!

Some of our partners have been:

The Boys and Girls Club of Newton

Cappella Clausura

The City of Newton

The Coleman House

The Harmony Foundation

The Hyde Community Center

Newton Community Development Foundation (NCDF)

Newton Free Library

Newton Public Schools

Newton Senior Center

Pazzi Lazzi

The Second Step

St. John's Episcopal Church

Understanding our Differences

Uniting Citizens for Housing Affordability in Newton
(U-CHAN)

Coming up... for Newton Theatre Company



Kindertransport
by Diane Samuels
Directed by Melissa Bernstein

Between 1938 and the outbreak of war, almost 10,000 children, most of them Jewish, were sent by their parents from Germany to Britain. Nine-year-old Eva ends up in Manchester. Over forty years later, she has changed her name to Evelyn and denied her roots. It is only when her own daughter discovers some old letters in the attic that Eva is forced to confront the truth about her past.

Buy your tickets now on our website, newtontheatrecompany.com

We are doing two weekends of *Kindertransport*!

Friday, April 12th at 8pm
Saturday, April 13th at 2pm
Saturday, April 13th at 8pm

Friday, April 19th at 8pm
Saturday, April 20th at 2pm
Saturday, April 20th at 8pm

young jean lee's

WE'RE GONNA DIE

We're Gonna Die
by Young Jean Lee

Part musical, part stand-up, this darkly comedic production is a captivating mix of music and story-telling that explores life's big questions with humor and heart. Fronting her own band, Poor Yorick, our very own Paige Perkinson sings upbeat songs about downbeat lives and inevitable ends. Don't miss this acclaimed uplifting show about the thing everyone has in common - our inevitable end.

We are doing three performances of *We're Gonna Die!*

Friday, May 31st at 7pm

Saturday, June 1st at 7pm

Sunday, June 2nd at 7pm

Hyde Bandshell

90 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands

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.

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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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