

The Daily Item
LOOK!
PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

Salem playwright's work to be featured during Tony Awards

By **Steve Krause**
ITEM STAFF

Nate Bertone fits the mold of someone who — at least in this case — sticks to what he knows.

The 24-year-old Salem playwright will have his "Letters of War" featured during commercial breaks during the live "red carpet" streaming of the Tony Awards Sunday.

The play tells the story of Mae, an aging grandmother battling the advanced stages of Alzheimer's Disease in rural Mississippi. It is reflective of Bertone's real-life experiences, as he watched his grandmother battle the disease while his grandfather dealt with lung cancer.

"I was so far away (he was studying at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh at the time) that I felt that at any moment, my 'good-byes' to my grandparents could be my last," he said.

During commercial breaks for the streamed portion of the Tony

Awards, scenes from Bertone's play will be shown. Bertone, a Salem native and graduate of Salem High, said Carnegie Mellon, among whose graduates is Stephen Schwartz, who composed the blockbuster shows "Godspell (while still at the school)," "Pippin" and "Wicked," is the school doing the streaming."

If Bertone's name sounds familiar, it's because he's done a lot of work in this area. He got his start on the North Shore, designing sets for both the Marblehead Little Theater and the North Shore Music Theater for productions of "Grease," and "Shrek," beginning when he was 19.

"I love having a home base here," said Bertone, who will be directing three musicals this summer for the Sacramento (Calif.) Music Circus.

"The theater community on the North Shore is very supportive," he said. "I've directed several shows there."

One of them involved Lynn native Leah Miles. Two years ago, he produced and directed Miles' play "Entangled" for the old Salem Theater Company.

"The North Shore community supports and uplifts me and my work," Bertone said. "I really love coming back and working here."

The actual network airing the Tonys is CBS, but, unlike the Academy Awards in Hollywood, the network will not broadcast the pre-show "red carpet," so a media team from Carnegie Mellon will stream it online.

The university is a "higher-education" sponsor for the event, and presents an award for excellence in theater education to honor those who promote arts in the school, Bertone said. This year the award will go to Melody Herzfeld, a drama teacher at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where a shooting on Valentine's Day killed 17 people.

Bertone's play won three BroadwayWorld Awards, including Best Drama. In "Letters From War," the grandmother with Alzheimer's has to be moved to a nursing home while her granddaughter races against time, after finding a mysterious box of letters, to uncover the truth of her family's past before her grandmother's memories fade forever.

The play has been presented at Carnegie Mellon University, Salem Theatre Co., Marblehead Little Theatre, and North Shore Music Theatre.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, John Sacramone, Laurie Bratt, Kelley Bresnahan, Tim Brown, Richard Carey, Tom Gould and Jason Jones.

Peabody Performing Arts Parents donate \$2,000 to help Black Box

PEABODY — The Peabody Performing Arts Parents Group has donated \$2,000 to Northeast Arc's campaign to outfit Peabody's Black Box Theater.

"We hope this donation will help continue to provide the art and entertainment the city of Peabody deserves," said John Sacramone, President of Vocal Music Parents.

Peabody performing arts students were among the first supporters of the theater, located in the ArcWorks Community Art Center on Foster Street.

Students performed at four events at the theater, before, during and after completion of construction.

The gift from the Parents Group, which will support the final push to complete seating, lighting and sound for the theater, was made at the year-end banquet Tuesday night at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Peabody Square.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bertone's play, "Letters From War," won three BroadwayWorld Awards, including Best Drama.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebs give their condolences after Kate Spade's death

NEW YORK (AP) — Celebrities and fashion insiders react to the apparent suicide of designer **Kate Spade**:

"Fuzzy picture but i love it. Kate and I during Christmas family photos. We had so much fun that day. She was so sharp and quick on her feet. She could make me laugh so hard. I still cant believe it. Its a rough world out there people, try to hang on." — Brother-in-law and comedian **David Spade**, via Instagram.

"#KateSpade, whose lively, colorful, and yes, joyous designs has died. My deepest sympathy to her family and friends, and her many fans around the world, who loved the wonderful illusions she created. I am stunned." — **Bette Midler**, via Twitter.

"My grandmother gave me my first Kate Spade bag when I was in college. I still have it. Holding Kate's family, friends and loved ones in my heart." — **Chelsea Clinton**, via Twitter.

"The CFDA is devastated to hear the news of our friend, colleague, and CFDA member Kate Spade's tragic passing. She was a great talent who had an immeasurable impact on American fashion and the way the world viewed American accessories. We want to honor her life and her major contribution to the fashion business and express our most sincere condolences to the family."

— **Diane von Furstenberg**, chairman of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, in a statement.

"Kate Spade was more than a designer. She had a quirky visual language that captivated Bat Mitzvah girls and artists alike. She was also a staple of NYC who spread good will. My heart breaks for her family. Thank you, Kate, from one of the millions you made feel beautiful." — **Lena Dunham**, via Twitter.

"I remember when I got my first Kate Spade bag in high school. It was my most prized possession. My current wallet, covered in bees, makes me smile every time I see it- it's by Kate Spade. My heart is just broken for her family and loved ones." — Actress **Beth Behrs**, via Twitter.

"I will never forget the first Kate Spade bag I got for Christmas in college. She was a trailblazer. Her life and death are a reminder that pain doesn't discriminate. Sending love to her family." — **Jenna Bush Hager**, via Twitter.

"I am heartbroken about the news of Kate Spade. I have worn her clothes many, many times. They were colorful, bold, cheerful, and encouraged women to find the twinkly person inside them. You couldn't walk into her boutiques and not smile. Rest In Peace, Kate." — **Mindy Kaling**, via Twitter.

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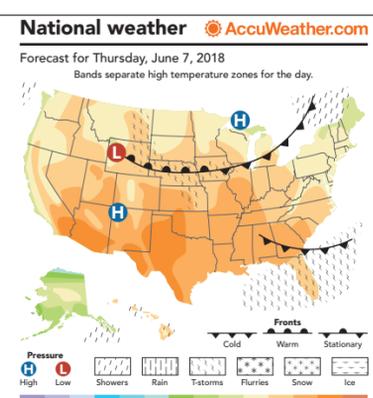
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WEATHER

SUN, MOON, TIDES

Sunrise today 5:05 a.m.
Sunset today 8:20 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 5:04 a.m.
High tide today 6:49 p.m.
Low tide today 12:28 p.m.
High tide tomorrow 7:36 p.m.



TODAY'S FORECAST

Partly cloudy. High 71F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.
Tonight: A few clouds. Low 57F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.



TODAY
P' Cloudy | High 71, Low 56

MARINE FORECAST

S winds 5 to 10 kt. Gusts up to 20 kt in the afternoon. Waves around 2 ft.
Tonight: SW winds 5 to 10 kt with gusts up to 20 kt. Waves around 2 ft.



FRIDAY
M' Sunny | High 78, Low 58



SATURDAY
P' Cloudy | High 74, Low 54

LOTTERY

MASS. EVENING:	MASS. MID-DAY:
Wednesday 8604	Wednesday 6019
Tuesday 9453	Tuesday 4343
Monday 8658	Monday 8496
Yesterday's payoff:	Yesterday's payoff:
EXACT ORDER	EXACT ORDER
All 4 \$3,996	All 4 \$6,086
First or last 3 \$559	First or last 3 \$852
Any 2 \$48	Any 2 \$73
Any 1 \$5	Any 1 \$7
ANY ORDER	ANY ORDER
All 4 \$166	All 4 \$254
First 3 \$93	First 3 \$142
Last 3 \$93	Last 3 \$142
Mass Cash: 4-5-10-21-28	
Megabucks: 11-19-22-26-30-38	
Powerball: 23-28-41-53-56-(14)	