

**NEWTON
THEATRE
COMPANY**

Newton Theatre Company Presents

The Monologue Project:

Common Threads

Celebrating the voices of
Asian American girls and women
in the Newton community

Saturday, April 10th, 2021
Co-Directed by Edie Pike
and Valerie Goldstein



This production is sponsored by a generous
grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

Cast & Crew

Anika Chakravarthy

Claire Chang

Sophie Chang

Connie Chow

Vivian Liu-Somers

Diya Misra

Shalini Prasad

ZZ Sayyed

Malia Thompson-Leong

Dian Dian Jonas Walsh

Co-Director – Edie Pike

Co-Director – Valerie Goldstein

Talkback Moderator – Michele Leong

Pre Show Musician – Lasya

[Click here to check out
Lasya's Youtube channel.](#)

[Click here to check out Valerie's website,
Diversify the Media Narrative.](#)

Featured Acts

Dian Dian Jonas Walsh "What's in a Name?"

ZZ Sayyed "Where Am I From?"

Keren Kohane singing "Rocket to the Moon" from Over the Moon

Connie Chow "Belonging"

Claire Chang "Celebrating Cultures"

Zamaana: Sonakshi Das, Aris Vu, Mowmita Arefin, and Sanjana Deshpande dancing to "Illegal Weapon 2.0"

Malia Thompson-Leong "The Positives and Negatives"

Oi Yuk Yee "The Chinese Senior Center" translated by Lai Ha Yee

Diya Misra singing "Pehla Nasha Pehla Khumar" from *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar*

Sophie Chang "Colorful World"

Natalie Taw dancing to "Wannabe" by Itzy

Vivian Liu Somers "What is Asian American"

Valerie Goldstein singing "Ch*nk in My Armor" by Valerie Goldstein, accompaniment by Dylan Dinçer

Diya Misra "Realization Through Time"

Anika Chakravarthy "Stand Out. Stand Up"

Edie Pike singing "In Between" by Edie Pike and Virginia Hart Pike

Shalini Prasad "Twenty Years Removed"

Who's Who

Anika Chakravarthy is an 8th grader at Day Middle School. She loves writing, acting, singing and playing the piano.

Claire Chang is a 4th grader at Countryside Elementary School. She enjoys acting, drawing, and spending time outdoors. Over the past three years, she participated in three productions with the Newton Youth Players and four productions with the Newton Theatre Kids.

Sophie Chang is a 7th grader at Brown Middle School. She enjoys acting, drawing digitally, and playing the piano.

Connie Shui-Yi Chow (鄒瑞兒) lives in Newton Highlands, traditional and unceded land of the Massachusett and Pawtucket peoples.

Valerie Goldstein is a biracial senior at Newton South. She has done many shows with South Stage (even directing one she wrote) as well as with Newton Theatre Company, including the 2018 Monologue Project.

Who's Who Continued

Vivian Liu-Somers has acted and directed with many Boston area theater groups and festivals including with the Asian American Theatre Artists of Boston (AATAB), AAPCFEST (Asian American Playwrights' Collective Play Festival), the Nora Theater Company, Company One, the Boston Theater Marathon, Boston One Minute Play Festival, SlamBoston, Fresh Ink Mad Dash, Roxbury Rep Play Festival, ArlingTEN Festival, and Hovey Play in a Day. She recently had her first play *Waiting For Kim Lee* produced by AATAB. Favorite roles include Lindo in *Joy Luck Club*, Christmas Eve in *Avenue Q*, Melissa in *Love Letters*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and Bill Bradley and various roles in *Twilight: Los Angeles* written by Anna Deavere Smith. Many thanks to Edie, Valerie, and Melissa for this opportunity to highlight Asian female voices.

Diya Misra is a 9th grader at Newton South High School. She enjoys singing, skiing, and playing tennis. She is also involved in business.

Edie Pike is a Chinese transracial adoptee in 12th grade at Newton North High School. She is an involved performer and director in Theatre Ink, Newton North's teaching and working theatre.

Who's Who Continued

Shalini Prasad is a designer, artist and educator living in Newton. She loves to involve herself in acting, singing and dancing gigs whenever she has an opportunity.

ZZ Sayyed is a freshman at Newton North. She is involved in music, debate, theater and student government.

Malia Thompson-Leong is a biracial Asian American who is in 7th grade in Day. She enjoys dance, kpop, and gymnastics.

Dian Dian Jonas Walsh is a freshman at NYU and an Newton Public Schools alumna.

Save the Date: NSHS FORJ AAPI Solidarity Night

We are proud to say that we are one of many local organizations fighting for racial justice. Please consider registering for Newton South High School Families Organizing for Racial Justice's (NSHS FORJ) upcoming AAPI Solidarity Night on April 14th.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Director's Note: Common Threads Converging

Edie and Valeria both made their theatrical debuts in Newton Youth Players with Melissa Bernstein, and have stayed in touch with Melissa over the years. After having an amazing experience participating in Newton Theatre Company's The Monologue Project during her freshman year, Valerie was excited to create another installment of this program. She and Melissa decided to bring it back, this time with a focus on Asian American girls and women. Edie joined the team a few days later, excited to build on her previous experiences creating similar theatrical pieces.

Edie and Valerie are seniors at Newton North and Newton South respectively, and although they both participated in Newton Youth Players, it wasn't until Common Threads that their paths came together. Because the work they've been involved in over the course of their high school careers is so similar, they're thrilled that they had this opportunity to collaborate.

Both Valerie and Edie have been lucky enough to have had the incredible experience of being able to share their stories with an audience, and they want to continue to highlight and uplift other worthwhile narratives. They specifically wanted to amplify the voices of Asian American women and girls who, for so long, have had their voices overlooked and silenced. With the recent attention towards the Asian American community and the rise in anti-Asian racism and hate crimes, it is extremely important that we break this silence.

By creating a cast that includes a wide range of ages, Common Threads hopes to show how Asian Americans celebrate their culture and identity while also grappling with the many hardships they face throughout their lives, even here in Newton. While this show is a start, there is still much work that needs to be done. Please see the list of resources below to continue the momentum.

Thank you for being here, and please enjoy the show!
Edie Pike and Valerie Goldstein, Co-directors

Support the AAPI Community

All of us must work to combat the violence being committed against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). Consider educating yourself or supporting AAPI activist groups using the following resources.

[Asian Community Development Corporation](#)

[Stop AAPI Hate](#)

[Asian American Legal Defense Fund](#)

[Asian Health Services](#)

[Apex for Youth](#)

[CAAAPV Organizing Asian Communities](#)

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"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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