

Cindy Pierce

Author, Speaker & Comic Storyteller

June 2024 Newsletter

Hello Readers,

This month's newsletter includes a few oddly synchronic stories from my New England tour of *Keeping It Inn*. You will also find photos that capture some of the highlight moments.

My last three tour performances will be at Briggs Opera House in WRJ, VT this weekend. **We have added a post-show discussion after the Sunday matinee.** After the show, there will be time for folks to take a short break or be on their way (NO PRESSURE to stay), and we will start the post-show discussion soon after.

Here are the ticket links for the show at Briggs Opera House:

[Friday, June 7 at 7:30](#)

[Saturday, June 8 at 7:30](#)

[Sunday, June 9 at 2 PM](#) (post-show discussion)

Thanks for reading,
Cindy

***Stories from my Tour of
Keeping It Inn***

KEEPING IT INN

New England
Tour
April 25 - June 9
2024




The Tetris Fest to get all the costumes and set pieces to the next theater.



On the set with Rob Caldwell of WCSH-TV in Portland, ME.

My phone email inbox showed the names, "Nancy and Reg" together before my performance in Burlington last Saturday. The original email was from my brother, Reg to all the Pierce siblings and cousins. Our cousin Nancy had responded, so only their two names appeared. Something was encouraging about seeing those two names lined up no matter how they got there.

Nancy & Reg Saturday 
Reply to Your Earlier Update on St...
Good morning Reg Yes received.
And was with Roger yesterday on...

Five Nancys In One Weekend

In the show, *Keeping It Inn*, I play my mom, Nancy. While performing in Kittery, ME, I stayed with my good pal, Barb MacLeod whose mom is also named Nancy. While finishing up the tech setup at the Kittery Community Center, the Director, Chris Luise was updating me on his box office team. He informed me that a woman named Nancy would take tickets on Thursday night. He explained that a *different* woman, also named Nancy would take tickets on Friday. When I pointed out that my character's name was Nancy, we all agreed it was an odd and interesting coincidence.

An old family friend, Fern Bennett Phillips reached out to see if we could meet for lunch while I was in the Kittery area. Fern is the daughter of Huntley Bennett, one of my dad's closest Dartmouth pals. Huntley is mentioned in the show and appears in a



Sister Sarah before the show at The Hill Arts in Portland, ME



Brudad rehearsing for his backstage work. It took 45 minutes for him to prepare to press the button and say, "Hold!" or "Ready!"



Sister Sarah (as if you couldn't tell) found the best Big Nance hairdo recipe - curlers, big tease, shape, and hairspray.

photo with my dad between two scenes. Even though I was busy, I made time to connect with Fern whom I had not seen since the 1980s. While having lunch, Fern reminded me that her real name was Nancy, named after my mom. Mind blown.

Five Nancys in one weekend reminded me that my mom was along for the tour with me. Below is a photo of Fern Bennett Phillips and me.



Small World Amazingness

Peter Lamb attended the Kittery show and slowly realized he was connected to our family in more than a few ways. He sent me the following email the day after the show.

Dear Cindy,
I've been awash in the Pierce "fleet" since experiencing your performance at the STAR Theatre on Friday night. Thank you for the care, depth and passion in bringing us this play. It was extraordinary.



Brother MacGregor building Big Nance's desk for the Pierce's Inn scenes.



Support Squad: Tim Allison, Mike O'Malley and Barb MacLeod



UNH Freshman Camp Crew: Steve Truncellito, Cindy P, Kris and Jonathan (TJ) Millen (in front), Jen Iacopino, Paula Blake, and Hilary Rakoske.

I knew after the first few minutes that something was flickering inside. Subtle, but a real and distant memory. As the play unfolded, so did my fragments begin to come to the surface.

Some fifty years I was studying at UNH. One of my friends was Nancy Kirk. At some point Nan invited a small gang of us to her family house in Etna for a long weekend. One evening, over that weekend, we found ourselves at the Pierce Inn and all the family goings on there. Your Dad brought out a projector and started showing home movies from your then recent Greenwich days. Now for an outsider, someone showing home movies could be a bore with all the hooting and hollering about this and that and so and so. Then, bolting upright sometime in, I was keenly aware that I was seeing myself and my brothers in the movie! It seems that you lived near the Binkerds in Greenwich and our family happened to have been visiting them the day of the filming. Gosh. OK, that seemed reasonable enough to have slid into your family home movie.

Now, back to last Friday. Once home from your play, I talked to one of my older brothers and asked if he remembered that time at the Binkerds back in Greenwich and did he ever know the Pierce family. Silence, and then he said that Crawford lives two doors away from him in Colorado and he sees him often. And, then just yesterday, we were with Faith's sister, who lives in Concord, MA. One of



Town Hall Theater - Middlebury, VT



Nina Keck recording our interview in the Getaway Cabin at Pierce's Inn.



The stunning beauty of Southern Vermont Arts Center.

her long time friends is Sarah. Too much. But the thread keeps whipping about. Today I was talking with my friend John Skewes about your play, as I knew he would appreciate your work. Then he says, "Oh yes, Winky Pierce was in my high school class."

What a full circle from that chance visit at the Pierce Inn all those years ago. Sadly, I've lost touch with Nan Kirk, but the memory stands clear.

So, I am taking care on this Mothers' Day to keep my eyes and ears open for more evidence of motherly sauce. We all have our stories to tell and yours provides a deeply meaningful way in to shine light on the fragile triumph of parenting and family.

Thank you again for sharing your story,
Peter

Check out Cindy's YouTube channel
[ONWARD WITH THE AWKWARD](#)

Thanks for engaging. Please forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested in my work or direct them to the subscribe link below.

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Assessing the packing situation.



It is a little unsettling when the car asks me if I need a break.

Books by Cindy:

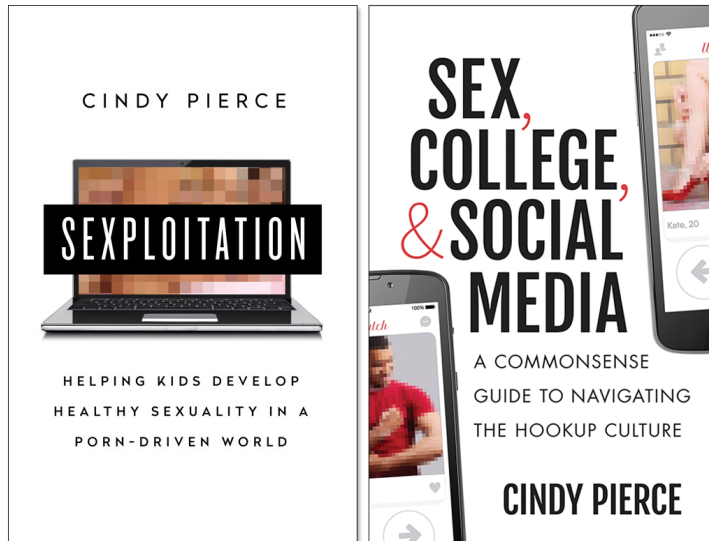
[*Sexploitation: Helping Kids Develop Healthy Sexuality in Porn-Driven World*](#)

(Bibliomotion, 2015)

and

[*Sex, College and Social Media: A Commonsense Guide to Navigating the Hookup Culture*](#)

(Bibliomotion, 2016)



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