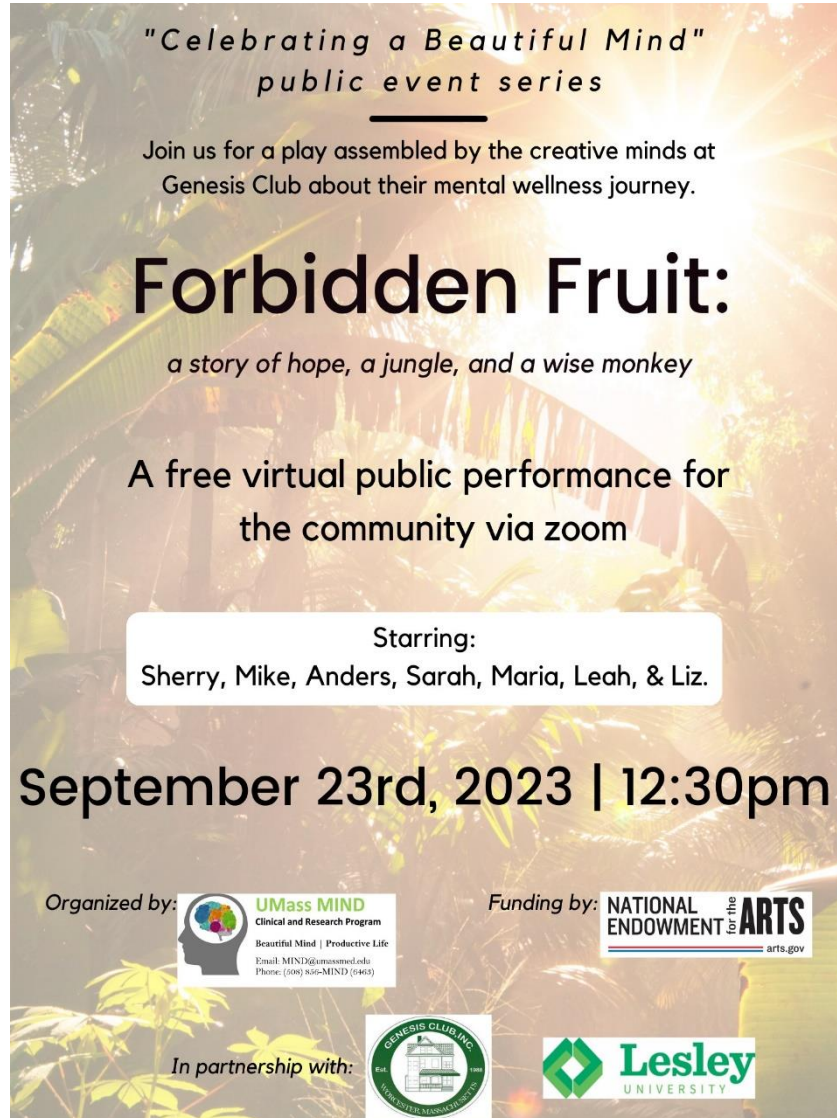


## ***Forbidden Fruit: An Interactive Public Drama Therapy Performance (9/23/2023)***

In collaboration with Genesis Club of Worcester, a community center for mental health recovery, and Lesley University, UMass MIND hosted an interactive public drama therapy performance via Zoom on September 23, 2023. This event, supported by the National Endowment of Arts, is part of UMass MIND's "Celebrating a Beautiful Mind" Public Event Series.



*"Celebrating a Beautiful Mind"*  
public event series

Join us for a play assembled by the creative minds at  
Genesis Club about their mental wellness journey.


# Forbidden Fruit:


*a story of hope, a jungle, and a wise monkey*


A free virtual public performance for  
the community via zoom


Starring:  
Sherry, Mike, Anders, Sarah, Maria, Leah, & Liz.

## September 23rd, 2023 | 12:30pm

Organized by:  **UMass MIND**  
Clinical and Research Program  
Beautiful Mind | Productive Life  
Email: MIND@umassmed.edu  
Phone: (508) 855-MIND (6463)

Funding by:  **NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS**  
arts.gov

In partnership with:  **GENESIS CLUB OF  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**

 **Lesley**  
UNIVERSITY

The play, *Forbidden Fruit*, celebrates the importance of authentic connections and embracing the unknown. It opens with a conversation between a grandmother, Goldie, and her granddaughter, Penny, during which Goldie shares the lessons learned from a long-ago adventure in the jungle. As Goldie starts her story, the audience is transported to the jungle, following Goldie as she searches for a purpose in life and for the forbidden fruit. In the jungle, a series of enlightening and tumultuous encounters unfold, guiding Goldie to the answers she seeks.

The actors, who spent June through September 2023 developing the play, truly enjoyed being a part of the program. "I didn't know I could connect with my anger through a production. It allowed me to

connect with myself and use it in a good way and not a bad way."

The audience included healthcare providers, friends, family, fellow clubhouse members, and others who have experienced serious mental illness. During the interactive portion of the performance the audience indicated their feeling of connection to the characters and used words like "empowered," "love and warmth," "relief," and "self-strength" to describe how the performance made them feel.

UMass MIND's drama therapy program and performance help participants communicate and share the various mental health challenges they've encountered in their recovery journey.