



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

# PROJECT UPDATE

VOLUME 62 - OCTOBER, 2010 GEORGE BABIAK, EDITOR

## BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES JULY 2010

BLOCK ISLAND PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY AND GRB



▲ *Ready*, by Tasha Gordon-Solmon, told the tale of two Oscar nominees (Leah Kiara Macuilit and Brielle Silvestri) who get along smashingly.

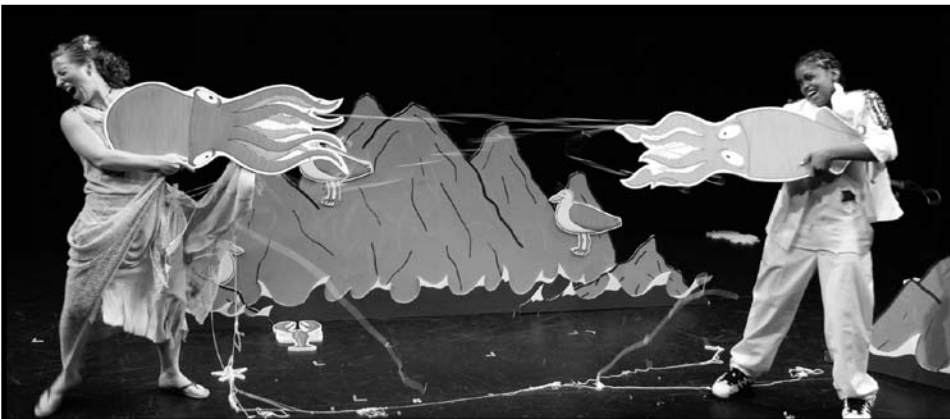
► Brandon Draude was a mortician and John Sheehy was a colleague with a deep, dark secret in John's *Morgue Than You Know*. The feet belong to intern Jesse Bertron.



▲ Dylan Dawson's *The Switchie Thingie 3000* had Kamil Kuzminski as an SPU deliveryman and Dylan as a rogue secret agent fighting over a device that turns people into what they hate most. It turned out that they both hated broccoli.

► Edison Sibri and Joanna Parson juggled several tasks while making the spiciest omelet in the world in Michael Lew's *Hot*. Little did Joanna know, but Edison's character was actually a robot!

▼ In *Sammy and the Siren*, author Megan Cramer was a siren hungry for a sailor's despair who lured ever-hopeful sea captain Chamel Rodney to her lonely rock. They battled with sea creatures that secreted Silly String but found that hope is tastier than despair.



### Now We're Cookin'!

All the Plays You Can Eat  
The 2010 Block Island One-on-Ones  
was rehearsed from July 10 to 17 on Block Island and was the 5th production staged at the Five Angels Theater. The shows ran from July 23-25.

#### The Creative Team

Kim D. Sherman .....	Composer
Greg MacPherson .....	Lights
Katherine Brown .....	Costumes
Suzanna Grobman .....	Costume Assistant
Vanessa Valdes .....	Goddess of Sound
Liz Bell .....	Stage Manager
Martha Velie-Gass and Pat Ritter .....	Chefs

#### The Host Families

Sue Black; Susan Bush; Socha Cohen; Mimi Leveille; Leslie Parsons; Ron & Judy Tierney; Joya Verde & Virginia Dare; and our headquarters host Dr. Christina Biaggi.

YOUR RUNDOWN OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF PROJECT HISTORY!

**BLOCK ISLAND  
CONTINUED**



▲ In Sascha Paladino's *Dazzling Stars*, the unlikely duo of a lounge singer (Delia Cadman) and a Russian cosmonaut (Gretchen Hall) went into the final frontier to make first contact with some music-loving aliens.



▲ Ever wonder what it's like to work at Lucky Burger on 52nd and 9th Ave.? Well, we found out in *Steak Tartare* by Graeme Gillis. Carlos ("Cricky") Breton was the happiest burger-flipper ever employed by Brian Hastert, the most misanthropic boss.



▲ Two rare fruits, a kumquat (Tatiana Goode) and a chokecherry (Ephraim Lopez) found themselves having to justify their existence in Cynthia Kaplan's *The F.R.B.*



▲ In *Leona by the Bayou*, by Vicky Ramirez, Venecia Escamilla was a shrimp boat captain turned fortune teller who convinces Emily Dorsch to become a travel writer who actually travels.



▲ Richard Brea and Carlo Alban were the skydiving Alpha and Beta males who planned, while in free fall, to change the way America eats in Carlo's *When You're Falling*.

**THE WAREHAM ONE-ON-ONES  
AUGUST 2010**



◀ The title of *The Pretty Good Train Robbery* kind of says it all. Adnan was the plucky conductor and playwright George Babiak was the loquacious robber Big Words Bill. These two even had the audaciousness to put a rap song into a western set in 1885.

▶ Armando Riesco and Nick Carrero lifted weights and lines from Emily Dickinson poems in Sean Kenealy's *Over One Thousand*. These two bruisers showed a lot of strength, heart, and soul.



▶ (Near right) Jed Clarke's *Food Champions* was truly a play for our times. Jed and his partner Diamond Deanna Graves achieved internet immortality by competitively eating edamame and singing songs that denounce competitive eating.

▶ (Far right) Two rival pirates raced to find buried riches in Christopher Randolph's *Greenbeard's Treasure*. Unfortunately the treasure that Brandon Leon and Christopher found was an outboard motor, a device that neither could fathom the purpose of.



## Now We're REALLY Cookin'!

All the Plays You Can Eat  
The 2010 Wareham One-on-Ones

was rehearsed August 7-14 in Wareham, Massachusetts and was the 6th production staged at the Five Angels Theater. The shows ran August 20-22.

### The Creative Team

Patrick Barnes ..... Composer  
Greg MacPherson ..... Lights  
Ciera Wells ..... Costumes  
Suzanna Grobman ..... Costume assistant  
Jeanne Wu ..... Sound Designer  
Karen Munkel ..... Stage Manager  
John Sheehy, Liz Bell, Carol Ochs ..... Chefs

### The Host Families

Emily & John Morgan; Patty & David Strauss; Gray, Rosemary & Nancy Watson; Andrea & Emmanuel Daskalaskis; Jamie & Cathy Herring; Joe McNay; Peter, Helen & Christopher Randolph.



▲ In this play within a play within a play within a play, Britney Trinidad and Jackie Chung found ways to "get real." Literally! [*Self-Titled*], as it was titled, was written by Jon Kern.

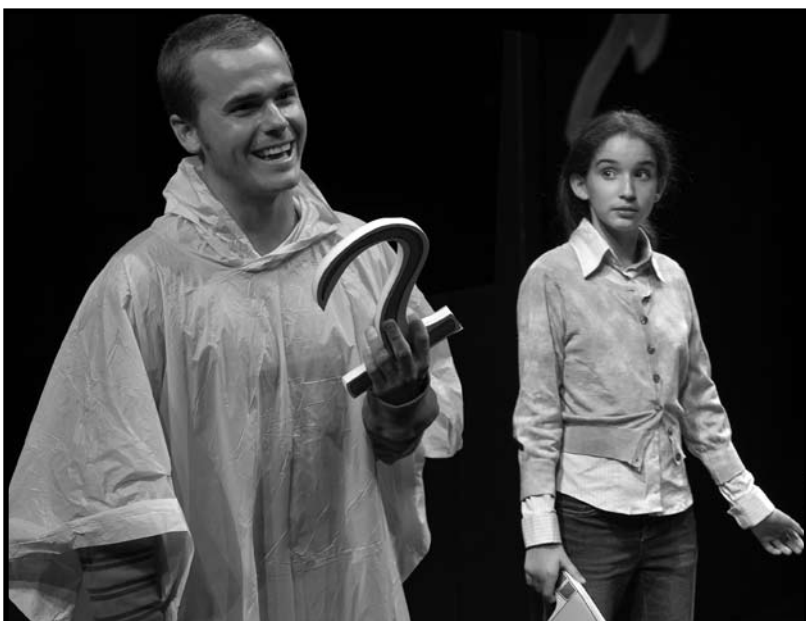
► Miguelangel Vazquez and Lee Rosen were lawyers, competing lawyers. It's a cutthroat business, and this is how they DO! Well, that's how their song went anyway. Craig Cox's *Personal Injury* had them chasing ambulances all the way to the hospital.



◀ (Far left) Jocelyn Ochoa and Susan McGinnis were two camp buddies who left behind boring macrame projects to conquer acrophobia by literally jumping into a lake. Kate Ryan wrote *Macrame vs. Tower*.



◀ (Near left) In Nicole Beckwith's *Eternity Time*, Asia Hoa Rosado and Flor De Liz Perez met in the Afterlife and discussed the possibilities of reincarnation, competitive eating, boring boyfriends, and Twinkies.



▲ Josh Moody was Freddy Kruger, Jr. and Haley Zoe Martinez was Norma Bates in Josh's *Killing Time*. They found true friendship through attempted murder.



▲ Willie Reale's *Great Date* found Megan Cramer and Cassidy Capstick enjoying a great lunch and a great tale of a great date. It was accompanied by some great spit-takes by Cassidy.

ALL WAREHAM, 2010 PHOTOS BY DAVID FURR

**THE NEXT LEVEL**  
**TEEN ONE-ACT FESTIVAL**  
**JUNE 4 & 5, 2010**



▲ In *Golden*, by Jose Rivera, A.J. Welsh, Hera Andre-Bergmann, and Carlos Dume were high school baseball players whose discovery of performance-enhancing sporting goods raises their game. Jeremy Beck (see *Megabits*, p.7) directed this mystical piece.

▼ In Zakiyyah Alexander's *It's Like...*, Azalea Rosario and Erica Arce were two label-loving fashionistas who decided to peel away the layers of artifice and, like, be themselves. Rebecca White directed this flavorful slice of teen life.

TEEN ONE-ACT PHOTOS BY DAVID FURR



▲ Janeice Aponte was a spunky princess who battled wolves, demons, and tree spirits in Jihan Crowther's modern fairy tale, *How Evangeline Got Her Prince*, directed by Nicole A. Watson.



▲ & ▼ Jonathan Rosario and Muhammad Cunningham were teens at a dance who come to blows and later, a tenuous truce, in Raul Castillo's *No Apologies*. David Dalton (once again, see *Megabits*, p. 7) directed this tense drama.



▼ *Marabel's Prayer* starred Jenisse Bouret as a harried barista who provides some unexpected spiritual comfort to a prickly customer (Josh Moody). Bekah Brunstetter wrote this heartfelt two-hander and Daniel Goldstein directed it.



**The Next Level**

Five One-Acts  
 Featuring the Teen Ensemble  
 was the 4th production staged at the  
 Five Angels Theater. The shows were  
 performed on June 4th and 5th.

**The Creative Team**

Burke Brown ..... Lights  
 Kathleen Doyle ..... Costumes  
 Sarah Lewis ..... Stage Manager  
 Jesse Bertron ..... Sound Designer

**Teen Weekend Hosts**

Wendy vanden Heuvel and Brad  
 Coley.





▲Ruby Zamora, all of 9 years old, penned *Bob and Bobbie*, a madcap futuristic tale of a brother and sister feud that involved voodoo dolls, lots of phone calls, and a home invasion of rats with alien heads. Jeanine Serralles was the sister, and Robert Stanton was the brother. Nicole A. Watson was the able director.

### Me First! The Pioneer Plays

The Spring 2010 Playmaking Shows

was written during a kid's writing retreat in Bridgehampton, NY on the weekend of March 5-7 and was the 3rd production staged at the Five Angels Theater. The shows ran March 26-28.

#### The Creative Team

Greg MacPherson .....Lights  
 Matt Schatz..... Composer/Music Director  
 Patrick Barnes ..... Piano  
 Katherine Brown/Kate Cusack..... Costumes  
 Charles M. Turner III.....Stage Manager  
 Maury Schott .....Sultan of Sound  
 John Sheehy, Liz Bell, Carol Ochs ..... Chefs

#### The Host Families

John Vassilaros, Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, and their family, who have a great house in Bridgehampton, and Laurie Becker of Sag Harbor.



▲Two dogs (Hannah Cabell and Pun Bandhu) embarked on an important quest in Brandon Draude's *Doug and Seth Family Finding*, directed by Josh Lewis.



▲Tatiana Goode gave us a ghost story, *Bloody Boom Boxes*, which featured Michael Potts and Nehassaiu DeGannes as a couple with a new baby who move into a creepy house down South haunted by a bloodthirsty cardboard box. It was directed by Awoye Timpo.



▲Also kind of spooky was Delia Cadman's *The Hall of Mirrors*, directed by Jordan Young. Opal Alladin and Nitya Vidyasagar were friends who ran away from school and into a haunted house.



▲Jocelyn Ochoa's *Best-ist of Fren-zies* featured Nikiya Mathis as a smart poor girl and Lucy DeVito as a less-than-smart rich girl who face off in a runaway show to see who's prettiest. Patricia McGregor directed.



▲*Brainstorm*, by Eric Carrero, presented the tale of Brain Man (Tim Cain) and Brain Kid (Jinn S. Kim) a supervillainous pair of brothers who must contend with an even more nefarious fiend named Evil Devil (George Babiak). Henry Wishcamper was the mastermind behind the direction.

# PLAYMAKING CONTINUED



▲ *Samantha and Riley Unite*, by Deborah Welch, was the latest installment in the never-ending saga of nerd kids vs. cool kids. Phyllis Somerville was the good girl and Nancy Giles was the bully who learned her lesson about who your real friends are. It was directed by Laura Konsin.

▼ Marguerite Stimpson played the title role in Enrique Caballero's *The Revenge of the Psycho Platypus* as Cary Donaldson pursued her in his hovercraft. Kirsten Kelly directed this madcap futuristic tale.



▲ Bill Camp was Mayor Chum-Chum, an elected official who is stunned to realize that he must go *Back to High School or Dies*, in the play of the same name by Richard Brea. Dan Jenkins was the science teacher who discovered the seething cauldron of violence beneath the Mayor's surface. Stephen Ruddy directed it.

BARNETT COHEN



▲ Adult Patrick Clair and kid partner Lucas Ruedel battle it out over an ice cream cone in the *Stage Combat!* final presentation.

## Project Knocks Out New Programs!

This newsletter really needs to be a whole lot bigger because we're doing so much new stuff! This year we launched the following programs:

**Be a Designer** (Apr.7-May 19) - 9 kids learned how to design costumes, props, and sets and make set models

**Photography Week** (Mar. 30-Apr. 2) - 7 kids took photos and mounted an exhibition of them (which can still be seen in our lobby).

**Stage Combat!** (May 7-June 8) 5 kids and their adult partners wrote and performed plays that involved fisticuffs and sluggery. **NO KIDS WERE HURT IN THIS PROGRAM!**

## More News That's Fit To Print (Just Barely)

We hosted our terrific annual benefit, The Spring Sing Thing, in May. Five kids wrote wonderful songs about Spring, Singing, and Things, and a host of talented adults composed music for the songs and performed them. Martha Plimpton hosted the bash.

June brought the annual Replay Readings, a showcase for 11 new plays written by kids wrapping up their Advanced Playmaking class. It was the first to be presented in the Five Angels, and it was witnessed by an enthusiastic capacity crowd. **NO KIDS WERE HURT IN THIS PROGRAM EITHER!**

In late July we held the Scholarship Party (also a first for 789 10th Ave.), and were happy and proud to present 16 young collegiate types with some well-deserved financial aid.

**In Memoriam:** We mourn the loss of Project pal David Herdrich who passed away on Sept 5th, 2010. We send our love and sympathies to his wife Elizabeth and to ProjVols Karen Trott, Peter Herdrich and their daughters Wen and Anna. We'll miss him.



The Following Foundations, corporations, and government agencies recently made generous grants to the Project. We are grateful to them for their support as well as to the many individuals who help sustain the Project's programs year-round.

Big Wood Foundation.....	\$1,000
Bloomberg .....	20,000
CBS Corporation .....	5000
Consolidated Edison.....	25,000
Educational Foundation of America .....	25,000
Dawkins Family Foundaiton .....	15,000
Eleanor, Adam & Mel Rubin Foundation.....	2,000
Duke/Mellon/TCG.....	26,000
Sidney E. Frank Foundation.....	25,000
Fund For the City of New York .....	75,000
The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.....	55,000
Grant's Financial Publishing, Inc.....	1,000
Heisman Foundation .....	1,500
The Henlopen Foundation .....	2,500
Lotos Foundation.....	2,500
Morse & Company .....	3,000
Music Theater International.....	5,000
National Philanthropic Trust .....	1,200
The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority .....	14,181
Jonathan Rose Companies .....	2,500
Shubert Organization.....	5,000
Simon & Eisenberg.....	2,500
Susquehanna Foundation Corporation .....	20,000
TaxPro Finanacial Network .....	3,000
Tiger Baron Foundation.....	11,000
United Real Estate Ventures, Inc.....	10,000
Van Deusen Family Fund .....	1,000
John A. Vassilaros & Sons.....	5,000
Watkins, Inc. ....	3,334
I. Weiss & Sons, Inc. ....	1,000
Yorke Construction Inc.....	15,000

# MEGABITS



▲ This new little one is Lucia Sol Costanzo, seen here with her mom, ProjVol Marsha Stephanie Blake. She arrived May 15th.



▲ It's really big when BOTH parents are ProjVols, and we've got lots of them this ish! Deirdre O'Connor and David Dalton had Dashiell Hurley Dalton on July 26.

► Then, Project actor and director Jeremy Beck and Proj artist Linda Beck followed their friends Deirdre and David (above) very closely on July 29 with Mr. Phineas Wester Beck. That's Phinny and Jeremy at right.



▲ Way back on May 30, Project playwrights Liz Flahive and Jeff Cox gave birth to Benjamin Kenzie Cox, who apparently does not trust photographers.



▲ Board member Jenny Steingart, her husband Jon, and their kids Leo and Ruby are proud to announce the arrival of Micah Jacob Steingart, who hails from South Korea. That's him in the middle, with the cheese stick.



◀ Another Board Boy! This behatted little tyke is Neil Anthony DeSena II, who showed up on April 7 and weighed in at a healthy 8.1 lbs. His folks are Carolyn and Neil DeSena and he has an older sis named Madeleine.



▲ A big welcome to the newest member of a renowned Project clan: Emma Vamvoukakis, daughter to Mary V. She was born April 23 of this year.



▲ Another fine family! Project actor Stephen Barker Turner with his wife Jenny Bacon, their son Hugo, and the newest member of the Turners, Beatrice Rose. They all recently returned to the East Coast. Welcome home!



▲ We were duly impressed with Project Vols Jason and Jessica Hare who entered their first triathlon this year and raised no less than \$16,050 dollars for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. As if that weren't enough, they did another one in DC less than 3 months later. This podium photo is from event #2.



▲ Seen here is former Proj Intern Jeremy Basescu and Rachael Ditre with their new baby Gabrielle Clara Basescu. Coincidentally enough, she was born on the same day as Emma Vamvoukakis (the little girl to the left of this column).



▲ Finally, two brilliant Project actors, Celia Keenan-Bolger and John Ellison Conlee tied the knot on Sept. 4th. At this writing, they are honeymooning in Hawaii.





**THE 52ND STREET PROJECT**  
**789 10TH AVE.**  
**NEW YORK, NY 10019**

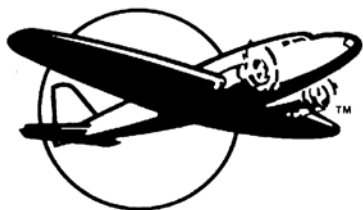
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MEGAN CRAMER

**Enrique Caballero and Jeremy Keaveny**, seen here at the Smart Partner Kick-Off Pizza Party (Sept. 20, 2010), are one of 14 new S.P. pairs, making a record-breaking total of 49 mentorships. Be number 50! Call Education Director **Liz Bell** at the Clubhouse, (212) 333-5252, today.

**HERE IT IS: PROJECT UPDATE #62**  
 YOUR RUNDOWN OF THE LAST  
 SIX MONTHS OF PROJECT HISTORY!



# Flyer Bar Profile

**Place of birth:** Washington, D.C.

**Current habitat:** "An overstuffed kitchen in Greenwich Village."

**Occupation:** Private chef

**Why she does what she does:** "I love to bring people to the table... and I believe in 'giving up your day job.'"

**What she does for the Project:** Many years as a volunteer house manager, a perennial benefit co-chair, a dramaturg/director, and a super weekend-away chef.

**Hobbies:** "Travel, Food Quests and Wine Tasting, Telling My Friends What Restaurant to Try, Tracking Real Life Murder Mysteries."

**Last book read:** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

**Most recent accomplishment:** "I took on the Vita Mix "Vita Prep" Blender and won. Seriously, I turned that baby on and everything on the counter moved about three inches. She drives nice."

**Best 52nd Street Project memory:** "Anytime someone makes John Sheehy wear tights."

**Credo:** "Everything is better with a cheese course."

**Advice to kids:** "You are never too old to learn something new."

**Favorite thing about the Project:** "That first bow the Playmaking playwrights take at the end of their show."

**On Flyer Bars:** "Boy, they sure can change your day."



**Mary Pat Walsh**