



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

# PROJECT UPDATE

FULL-COLOR ON-LINE EDITION - VOLUME 63, MARCH 2011 - GEORGE BABIAK, EDITOR

## PLAYBACK - OCTOBER, 2010

KIDS WRITE PLAYS FOR THEMSELVES AND AN ADULT PARTNER



▲ Hashem Ahmed wrote *Fake Thug* for himself and Shane West and cast them both as convicts who found themselves to be enemies, friends, and brothers, in that order.

◀ In Lauren Robinson's *Fixing Inventions*, Nehassaiu de-Gannes played an inventor who traveled back in time with softball pitcher Lauren to change their histories.

▶ Molly Coogan was a girl made of money (well, her dress was, anyway) who meets a half-wolf, half-human songstress (Jasmine Hernandez) in Jasmine's *Haunted House Drama*. They wound up making beautiful music together.

◀ Michael Bannister was a feisty Grandma and Josh Moody was her hapless grandson. They fought dancing thugs and drove to Las Vegas in Michael's *Sweet Old Granny*.

▼ Gabriella deJesus and Krystel Lucas were school "frenemies" in *Friendless*, an epic tale of downfall and redemption... hold it, on second thought, NO redemption!

## PSSST! THE SECRET PLAYS

In our annual Playback show, kids write plays that they perform with adult partners (who also serve as dramaturg/directors). PSSST! was performed Oct. 22-24, 2010 at our own Five Angels Theater.

### The Design and Tech Team

Greg MacPherson ..... Lights  
Andrew Sherman ..... Composer/Music Director  
Lara De Bruijn ..... Costumes  
Maury Schott ..... Sultan of Sound  
Carol Sullivan ..... Stage Manager

### Weekend-away hosts in Bridgehampton

Louis & Patrice Friedman, John Vassilaros, Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, Tonio, Luka, Stefano & Joyce.



PLAYBACK COVERAGE CONTINUES ON PAGE TWO ⇨

## BOOTING UP PROJECT WEBSITE 2.0

We loved our old website like we loved an old pair of shoes, but living in the new Clubhouse for a year convinced us that it was time for an overhaul. We'd like to invite you to visit [www.52project.org](http://www.52project.org) and take a little stroll around the virtual premises. You'll find lots of bells, whistles, animation, and actual songs from Project shows of the past to amuse you. For historians among you, every issue of Fivey Magazine from 2001 to now can be downloaded. More such resources are on the way.

Staying connected to the Project and making donations are easier than ever. Thanks to Iris Brown, our brilliant and longtime graphic designer; ICI (our webhost) and Ignacio (Iggy the Web-head) Rodriguez, who keeps the cybernetic engine room stoked.



**NEXT SHOW**  
**APRIL 1-3**  
CLIP-OUT FLYER INSIDE

YOUR RUNDOWN OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF PROJECT HISTORY!

PLAYBACK PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

**Playback, continued: PSSST! The Secret Plays** Featured the debut of our spectacular new digital projector and a huge new screen to go with it, thanks to the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. The new set-up displays background images so bright that they even show up in our production photos, as seen on these pages.



▲ In *A Friendship That Couldn't Be*, Lucas Caleb Rooney, his playwright/partner Zoltan Lucas, and an unseen mouse named Mary explored the outskirts of their small world.



▲ Mari Ulloa found a friend on another planet in *Intruder Alert!* in the form of an alien played by Katie Meister, who longed to travel back to Earth with Mari.



▲ In a fresh take on the bully/nerd parable, Devin Gonzalez and Jason Hare played college students who take the high road in a basement in Devin's *Carl and Jimmy*.



**PLAYMAKING - DECEMBER, 2010**  
**BRAND-NEW KIDS WRITE PLAYS FOR**  
**GROWN-UP ACTORS**

▲ Ahmed Nasser, age 11, brought together a runaway boy played by Kevin O'Rourke and a strange island creature known as a "Boblagoshi" played by Ned Eisenberg in *The Run Walker*, directed by Angel Desai. The Owl and the Pussycat were nowhere to be seen. Maybe if the boat had been pea-green...



▲ A purple unicorn (Lili Taylor) found herself ostracized in a community of white unicorns in *Friendship Day or Else*, by Kaitlin Feliciano. Liza Fernandez was her main antagonist, and Sonia Manzano directed.



▲ *Long Neck/Sweet Sixteen*, by Edelys Tiana Guerrero, told the story of a long-necked father (Ken Robinson) and a short-necked daughter (Liza Colon-Zayas) mourning the loss of a long-necked mother to a shark on the eve of a birthday party. Got that? Normal-necked Crystal Dickinson directed.

◀ In Derek Tineo's cross-dressing drama *Killing Spree*, Anna Chicken (Sam Ghosh) and Sammy Weak (Annie Purcell) were a latter-day Bonnie and Clyde. Martin Moran directed this wild ride of a tragedy.

**HOLY COW! THE ASTONISHING PLAYS**  
**THE FALL 2010 PLAYMAKING SHOWS**

In our ever-popular Playmaking program, new kids, all aged 10 or so, write original plays for professional actors. This batch was performed Dec. 10-12, 2010 at the Five Angels Theater.

**The Design and Tech Team**

Cat Tate Starmer ..... Lights  
 Patrick Barnes ..... Composer/Music Director  
 Viviane Galloway,  
 Crystal Thompson, & Ciera Wells.....Costumes  
 Vanessa Valdes ..... Goddess of Sound  
 Charles M. Turner III..... Stage Manager  
 Tom Schall ..... Fight Choreographer

**Weekend-away hosts in Stone Ridge, NY**

Steve Gorn and Barbara Bash, Joe White & Iris Brown (who were also wonderful chefs), Sean Cullen & Tess Hartman, Laura Shaine Cunningham, David Curtis & Ann Morris, Elaine Musselman, Nicole & Paul Quinn and Deborah Freedman and Bill Woods.

PLAYMAKING PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY



◀ Raven (Christina Robinson) loved singing duets at talent shows and Terra (Frances McDormand) loved singing solo with her guitar in her room. Obvious conflict ensued in *The Singing Disagreement*, written by Genesis Hires and directed by Diana Buirski.



▲ Keith Randolph Smith was a demonic tree who had the power of turning people into zombies in Faisal Afridi's *Tree With an Eye*. This costume, by the great Crystal Thompson, featured a red eye that lit up and moved from side to side.

◀ In the same play, Ray Anthony Thomas portrayed Zombie Slayer Dude, the only man who could slay the tree. This grisly extravaganza was directed by Felix Solis.



▲ Every great Playmaking show should feature a sports play, and Jeremy Vazquez provided this one with *A Dream Come True*, directed by Philadelphia Eagles fan Tim Cain. Former ProjKid Matthew Jellison and Grant Harrison were footballers who learned, respectively, how to play well and how not to bully your teammates. Gus Rogerson played their coach.



◀ In Lambert Whitney's *The Beauty and The Richness*, Bhavesh Patel and Judy Kuhn rampaged, danced, sang, and shot each other with a Beauty Gun. John Sheehy directed.

▶ Jennifer Ikeda and January LaVoy were two tropical fish in an aquarium who escaped capture by net in Melody Cruz's *The Big Problem with April and June*, directed by Erin Quinn Purcell.



◀ *A Mean Reptile*, directed by Justin Waldman, told the tale of a petulant prankster turtle and a trusting bunny who overcame their differences and sang a bit. Actors Diane Davis and Patrick Breen are seen here taking a bow with their playwright Amanda Rosa.



## POETRY CORNER

This past Fall 10 Project kids participated in the 6-week "Poetry In Performance" program taught by Liz Bell. Spoken-word artists Sarita Covington and Taylor Mali visited the classroom to perform their poetry and speak about what inspires them. The kids found their own inspiration in cherished objects, family and friends, photographs, and the sights and sounds of Hell's Kitchen. On Nov. 22, they read selections of their work in the Five Angels Theater, having prepared their performances with the support of volunteers Dylan Dawson, John Dixon, Katie Flahive, Krystal Lucas, Catherine McCarthy, and Ashley Marie Ortiz.

The kids' poems will be published this June in *Five*, the Project's literary magazine, which you'll be able to download from our website! ~LB

## BELL TELLS ALL by Liz Bell, Education Director

As Smart Partners poured into the Clubhouse for the program's kick-off pizza party this past September, Gus turned to me and said, "Uh oh. Are we all going to fit in here?" He need not have worried. 789 10th Avenue comfortably houses the Smart Partners program which is bigger than ever—50 pairs in all. The (kinda) new space provides our mentoring pairs not only more... well, *space*, but with even more to do each week. Our beautiful kitchen is stocked with state-of-the-art appliances, which pairs use to prepare meals made from scratch with fresh ingredients: guacamole, mac and cheese, pizza, cookies, pancakes, fruit salad, ice cream and more. They generously share their creations with the other kids who show up each afternoon for Homework Help, greatly increasing this program's popularity as well!

In December, we amped up the Smart Partners Open Mic Night by holding it in our Five Angels Theater. Pairs showcased their varied talents, from a stop-motion film created with the "FinalCut" program at our Sean Dawkins Computer Bar to a dance choreographed and rehearsed in the Pez Museum (best known as "the area near the freight elevator"). The Pez Museum doubles as a screening room, where pairs can watch movies on our very own HD television. We recently launched the Garden Project, led by Anita Flanagan, during which 5 pairs were each given a planter to fill with herbs and flowers and maintain through the seasons. When you stop by Five Angels this spring, be sure to check out the colorful, fragrant results on the lobby's terrace. You should also check out page 5 of this newsletter to see how we transformed our stage into the Five Angels Arena, a perfect battlefield for the Smart Partners Ping Pong Tournament!

All in all, at 789 10th Avenue, things just seem a little sweeter in the kitchen, a little more exciting on the stage, and a lot cozier in the Clubhouse.



# THE 11TH ANNUAL PING-PONG TOURNAMENT

This year we knew we had to step up our illustrious table tennis meet. The fans had long clamored for a more spacious venue than the Homework Help lounge, and the players were ready to spread their wings wide and really fly.

After a building-wide search, we finally settled on the beautiful Five Angels Theater which doubles very nicely as a sporting arena. As Goddess of Sound Vanessa Valdes pumped up the volume, 24 teams gathered to fire small white balls at each other until a final pair reigned supreme.

Many Foam-core honors were bestowed, and they are all pictured below. Do not pity the other 12 teams, for they went home with bellies filled with chicken wings, fries, ice cream, and chocolate gift bags (courtesy of Ed Martin at Hershey's). -GRB

Right: Tournament Officials George and Liz remained cool and collected during the final round. Below: *The Pandemonium Extravanzas* faced off against *The Hard Hats*.



First Place: *The No-Brainers* - Jorge Zapata and Josh Moody wrested the title from *The Flex Team* after 2 years in 2nd Place.



2nd Place: *Team Rock-It-Out* - Ray Harold and Kyle Fargardo did pretty well for their first tournament together.



3rd Place: *Team Dominate* - Andy Reyes and Kevin Towl did just that with every other team but two.



4th place: *The Flex Team* - John Sheehy and Maximo Jimenez yielded their first place position of the past two years, but remained high in the standings.



5th Place: *D Generation X* - Jeremy Keaveny and Enrique Caballero were actually trying for Wackiest Team, but wound up playing well instead!



Hon. Mention: *The Jets* - Jed Clarke and Francis Williams honored their favorite football team and fared better than their heroes.



Wackiest Team: *The Singing Zollies* - Zoe Norris and Molly Coogan danced and giggled their way to this singular honor.



Most Improved: Elena Caballero and J McLaughlin of *Pink Pong Panthers* aimed for their 3rd straight Best Dressed medals but were rewarded for their skill instead.



Best New Players: Richard Brea of *The Villains* and Nick Carrero of *The Ninjas* showed themselves to be true contenders.



Best Teamwork: *The Super Adventure Group* - Lucas Ruedel and Patrick Clair could smash balls AND play power chords with their paddles.



Best Dressed: *The Rad Men* - Eric Carre-ro and Brian Hastert. Need we say more?



Good Sports: Brandon Draude of *The Throat Slitters* and Rene Paul Santiago of *The Killas* were not as violent as their team names suggested.

PING PONG PHOTOS BY GRB, DIANA ROJAS, AND JACKIE CHUNG

# THE SHAKESPEARE SHAKE-UP

At the beginning of the Fall Semester we announced to our Teen Ensemble that we would be performing "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," by William Shakespeare. This was met with mostly blank stares; it wasn't the most recognizable title. So we began to read through the whole play, stopping after each scene to discuss our many questions, to pontificate on the themes, and to engage in heated gender role debates! Soon the title and the play were very recognizable, and became very much our own. Using these themes and questions, the teens wrote individual response poems, created short improvised scenes, and as an ensemble wrote lyrics to an original song (with original music composed by ensemble member A.J. Welsh). We presented all of these on December 16th for our friends at the Five Angels Theater. Look for more small Shakespearean presentations by the Ensemble throughout the school year before our final, full-length production of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" in late June!

But when we say final, we're only talking about New York, for the teens will have one more challenge: taking the production to Alberta, Canada for two special performances: one at the University of Calgary, and another in the Canadian Rockies at the renowned Banff Centre. To prepare for the tour, the teens are applying for their passports, boning up on the rules of curling, and learning the correct pronunciation of "out and about!"

-MC

"Hearts tortured and crushed  
When 'sorry' isn't enough...  
Forgiveness is the hardest part of all  
but without it you'll be sure to crumple and fall..."

Love in the city  
Can be very tricky.  
But love on, love on, love on!"

- An excerpt from "Love In The City," a song written and composed by the Teen Ensemble.



Carlos Dume, our Proteus, reads his response poem about forgiveness beneath the teens' artistic conception of the character of Proteus. Quite a resemblance, no?



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.

Brenner Family Foundation .....	\$10,000
Cantor Fitzgerald.....	\$5,000
Dawkins Family Foundation.....	\$5,000
Dramatists Guild Fund .....	\$1,000
Dramatists Play Service .....	\$1500
William & Mary Greve Foundation .....	\$10,000
Goldman Sachs .....	\$15,000
Ann M. Martin Foundation .....	\$6,000
Mediavest .....	\$15,000
Merrill Lynch.....	\$1,750
Monteforte Foundation .....	\$2,500
The Ruth Nelson Family Foundation ....	\$10,000
Paragon Computer Professionals .....	\$5,000
Prudential.....	\$1,000
St. Vincent De Paul Foundation .....	\$5,000
The Starker Family Foundation .....	\$2,500
Harold & Mimi Steinberg	
Charitable Trust .....	\$35,000
Sterling Foundation Management.....	\$4,350
TCG .....	\$26,000
Theater Subdistrict Council .....	\$80,000

HOST LEWIS BLACK AND THE 52ND STREET PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS INVITE YOU TO POINT A FEW FINGERS AND SAVE THE DATE FOR ...



THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
A GALA CELEBRATION OF OUR FOUNDER

**WILLIE REALE**

7:00 PM., MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011 AT ESPACE  
635 W. 42ND ST., BETWEEN 11TH AND 12TH AVENUES

GUS ROGERSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEGAN CRAMER, PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR

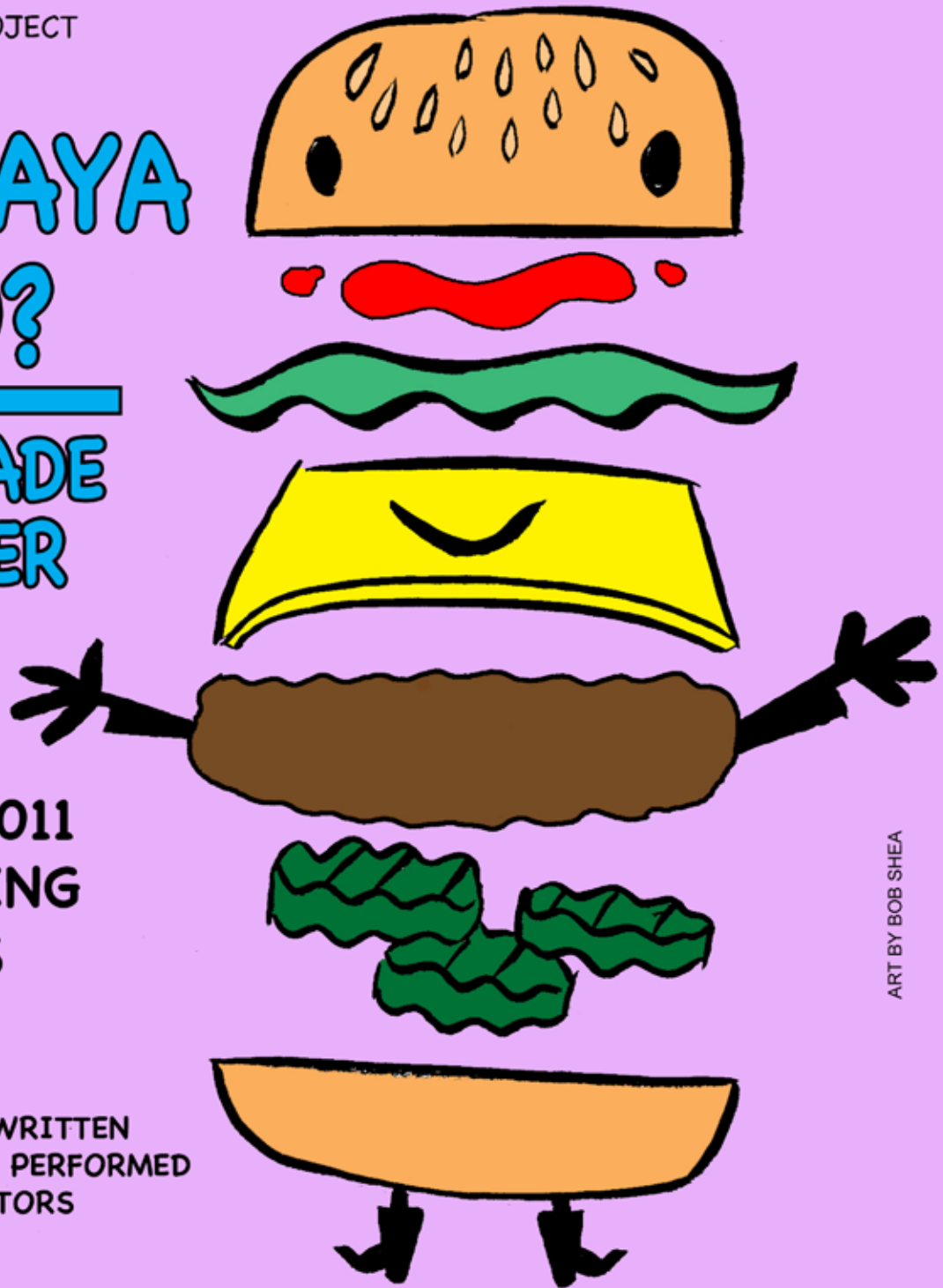
THE  
52ND STREET PROJECT  
PRESENTS

# WHADDDAYA NEED?

PLAYS MADE  
TO ORDER

THE  
SPRING 2011  
PLAYMAKING  
SHOWS

**10** NEW PLAYS WRITTEN  
BY KIDS AND PERFORMED  
BY ADULT ACTORS



ART BY BOB SHEA

4 BIG SHOWS AT THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S  
**FIVE ANGELS THEATER**

789 10TH AVE., 2ND FLOOR  
BETWEEN 52ND AND 53RD ST.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1 @ 7:30 P.M.,  
SATURDAY, APRIL 2 @ 3:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY, APRIL 2 @ 7:30 P.M.  
SUNDAY, APRIL 3 @ 3:00 P.M.

ADMISSION IS FREE, BUT RESERVATIONS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED! TO BOOK YOUR SEATS, CALL (212) 642-5052  
OR VISIT [WWW.52PROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.52PROJECT.ORG) TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ON-LINE.

The 52nd Street Project  
789 10th Avenue  
New York, NY 10019

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NEW YORK, NY  
PERMIT #4292

THE SPRING 2011 PLAYMAKING SHOWS



# WHADDAYA NEED?

## THE KID PLAYWRIGHTS:

Justin Bannister ✪ Jade Cuevas ✪ Siara Feliciano ✪ Alex Malan  
Daniel Martinez ✪ Valeria Oliva ✪ Julissa Peralta  
Edwin Rodriguez ✪ Martin Sanchez ✪ Amber Urena

## THE ADULT ACTORS AND DIRECTORS:

Cecilia Arana ✪ George Babiak ✪ Raul Castillo  
Dominic Comperatore ✪ Danyon Davis ✪ Zachary Fine  
Alex Gersten-Vassilaros ✪ Ruy Iskandar ✪ Florencia Lozano  
Catherine Mueller ✪ Maria-Christina Oliveras ✪ Ashley Marie Ortiz  
Susie Pourfar ✪ Lisa Rothe ✪ Maureen Sebastian ✪ James Yaegashi  
Music Director Justin Poindexter and many more!

# PLAYS MADE TO ORDER

THE SPRING 2011 PLAYMAKING SHOWS



State of the Arts



NYSCA



Dramatists  
Guild  
Fund DGF

The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original shows. "WHADDAYA NEED? PLAYS MADE TO ORDER" is a production of our Playmaking program, in which children are taught how to write plays. After nine weeks of classes, each child is given two adult actors, a theme, and a dramaturge/director who helps him or her through the writing of a play during a weekend in the country. The Playmaking classes were adapted for the Project by Daniel Judah Sklar from his book Playmaking: Children Writing and Performing Their Own Plays.



The Playmaking Program is made possible by support from many individuals, corporations, and foundations, including from the Dramatists Guild Fund; as well as by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts (a state agency) and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

The 52nd Street Project is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the American theatre.

The Project is a member of ART/NY.





**THE TWO-ON-TWOS**  
 ONE ADULT PLAYWRIGHT, ONE ADULT DIRECTOR,  
 AND TWO KID ACTORS.

▲ In Jeff Cox's *Diamond Dog and the Hurricane*, Andy Reyes and Daquan Nelson played the title roles. Andy was a morning D.J. who began falling in love with the night life and Daquan was his dismayed partner who remained committed to the Morning Zoo. Howard Overshown directed.



▲ Tino Paduani and Natalia Caballero were elderly superheroes who come out of retirement to save the mayor of Philadelphia in *Hi-Zap! The Chronicles of Carol and Bob*, written by Larkin Clark and directed by Erica Sullivan.

**FRIENDS LIKE THESE: THE ENEMY PLAYS THE 2011 TWO-ON-TWOS**

The 2-on-2 format gives full stage responsibility to our kids, who by the age of 14 or so are ready to fly alone. The adults merely write and direct. FLT was performed Jan. 28-30, 2011 at the Five Angels Theater.

**The Design and Tech Team**

Greg MacPherson ..... Lights  
 Cynthia Wong ..... Composer/Music Director  
 Sarita Fellows ..... Costumes  
 Maileen Cancel ..... Sound Designer  
 Colleen Sherry ..... Stage Manager

**Weekend-away hosts in Clinton Corners, NY**

Maria Tucci and Robert Gottlieb, Maggie Gray and Andrew Ross, Lili Taylor and Nick Flynn

► Adam Felber wrote us a bleak but hilarious view of a zombie-filled future in *2020*, directed by Ian Hersey, wherein the president of the U.S. (Melissa Rebolledo) is forced to team up with a slacker from the rough part of Central Park West (Rafael Irizarry III) to combat the brain-eating plague.



◀ *Leaving Us Behind* by Matthew Paul Olmos, took place on the stage of a comedy club. Taking heckling to a new level, Alvin Garcia stepped out of the audience to transform nervous comic Kyle Fargardo into a high-voltage stand-up. Jeremy Johnson was the director.



▲ A down-and-out florist (Doris Alcantara) plotted against her up-and-coming neighbor and competitor (Elena Caballero) and got her come-uppance in *America's Next Top Florist*, written by Kim Rosenstock and directed by new staffer Lisa Kerner (see page 10 for her bio).



▲ Two unlikely school chums escaped their school rally by going underground (in the basement, that is) in Janine Nabers' *Rally Underground*, directed by Donya Washington. Zoe Keana Norris and Lily Capstick were the girls who turned antipathy into empathy.

TWO-ON-TWO PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY



In October of 2010, the Project held its second Annual Charity Golf Outing at the Bayonne Golf Club. The weather on the Scottish-style links was definitely Scottish-style: that is, brisk, blustery and bracing. Spirits were high, though, and so were the funds we raised. The Project netted over \$150,000, \$11,500 of which goes directly into our college scholarship fund.

Our pal Lewis Black once again hosted the event with the help of John Bowman. Our honorary chairs were Louis Pzz Friedman and Richard Anthony. The event was chaired by Carolyn Cushman DeSena and Cathy Pantchik. Newswoman Alexis Glick was the official auctioneer that evening.

Every one of the players who showed up to golf that day was better than Tiger Woods. If you come to the next Golf Outing in August we'll say that about you, too. Get on the 2011 roster by e-mailing Carol Ochs at [cochs@52project.org](mailto:cochs@52project.org). -GRB



We had some real hotshots on this outing. The foursome above: Michael Dorf of City Winery, John Bowman, Lewis Black, and our illustrious founder Willie Reale.



Kyle Czepiel, Adam Capon, Neil DeSena, and James Formisano.



The hottest shots of all were our cigar-wielding chairs Cathy Dantchick and Carolyn DeSena.



Pretty snazzy clubhouse, eh? It's hard to believe this is Bayonne, New Jersey.



Randy Frankel, Andrew Duke, T.J. Nelligan, and Chris Braden.



Justin Brownhill, Corey Davis, and Billy Crudup



Kevin Kelly with Mike and Phil Shaheen.



Nigel Faulkner, J.P. Xenakis, Jordan Silverstein, and Morgan Fahey

## MEET OUR LATEST STAFF MEMBER - LISA KERNER

During her senior year of college, Lisa Kerner was flipping through her mom's Vanity Fair magazine when she came across a brief article about The 52nd Street Project. The blurb affected Lisa in some magical, inexplicable way, and she immediately ripped out the page, taped it to her dorm room wall, and emailed Megan and George about an internship. The next thing she knew, she had booked a one-way ticket to New York City right before Christmas 2009, leaving warm, perpetually sunny Mountain View, California behind. Within a couple of hours at the Project, she had fallen in love with everything about the place, and her January to May internship flew by all too quickly. The word "ecstatic" barely does justice to how Lisa felt when she was given the opportunity to join the Project team full-time in December 2010. Now on board as the General Management Associate, Lisa deals with rentals, bills, maintenance, equipment, interns...and basically whatever Carol tells her to do.

Lisa grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and went a whole fifteen minutes away to college at Stanford University, where she majored in English, minored in Film, and spent most of her time being President of the Film Society and producing "Aida" for the student-run theatrical group. While not at the Project, Lisa enjoys mercilessly ripping apart celebrity clothing choices on the red carpet, idolizing Tina Fey, and thanking her mom for subscribing to Vanity Fair.



# MEGABITS



◀ On February 3, WestBank Cafe owner and Project-supporter-for-decades Steve Olsen (on the left) received an amazing gift of a kidney from his cousin Jimmy Triolo (on the right). Here they are, both looking like a million dollars. Nice going, guys.



▲ Lisa Tilney, the woman who helped us get through the daunting process of building and outfitting our new Clubhouse and theater, was married to Chris Lawrence on October 2nd of 2010 on Little Moose Lake in the Adirondacks. We presented her with a special "Wedding Survival Kit" in a genuine foam-core briefcase.

▶ At the end of February, lighting designer Burke Brown and costume designer Kate Cusack were walking along the Brooklyn Bridge when Burke suddenly proposed marriage. According to Kate, Burke "wanted to ask me when we were somewhere that we could always come back to."



▲ Jillian Gersten Shuman was last seen in a hospital bed with a baby in this newsletter in October of 2008. Here, that first baby (Talia) is meeting a new one named Gracie Henrietta Shuman who was born on Sept. 28, 2010. The inset shows Gracie a couple of months after the big photo. You may notice that both kids are cute.



▶ Just in at press time: Proj writer/director/actor Keira Naughton revealed that she is marrying the very lucky Benjamin Forgash in Lenox, Mass. on March 12. Congratulations to them both!

◀ The little lady sporting a wicked widow's peak at the left is young Clara Isabelle Cabnet-Galarza. She's with her mom, Rocio Galarza, who was an intern with us many years ago. Holding the camera is her dad, Project director Evan Cabnet. Little Clara was born September 18th, 2010 at 9 p.m. and weighed in at 7 pounds, 5 ounces



▶ What, not enough adorable babies on this page for you? Okay, we've got one more: Proj Director Henry Wishcamper and his wife Jenny have a new baby boy with a big moniker: Mr. Cyrus Norman Wishcamper. He was born Dec. 14 at a good-sized 9 lbs., 10 oz. He's seen here discussing particle physics with his older sister Nina.



▲ Boy, we have some generous friends! Freddie and Myrna Gershon sent us an enormous 75 lb. chocolate Santa for Christmas. Just as we finished eating his boots 5 weeks later, Gwen and Rick Harris of Calgary, Alberta sent us a beautiful foosball table.



## BIG GIFTS DEPARTMENT

## REST IN PEACE, MAX WILK



On Saturday, February 19, we lost Max Wilk, an author, playwright, screenwriter, and long-time friend of the Project. Max was instrumental in arranging the Project's special Playmaking trips to the Navajo reservation in Tuba City, Arizona back in the 1990's. Max is seen in this photo in his 90th year singing a lively version of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." He's the one in the jaunty cap. Our hearts go out to Frances and the rest of Max's family.



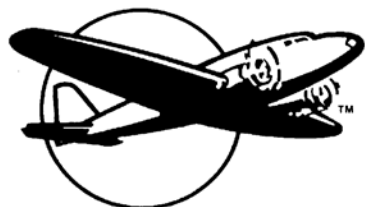
THE 52ND STREET PROJECT  
789 10TH AVE.  
NEW YORK, NY 10019

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NEW YORK, NY  
PERMIT #4292



Frances McDormand demonstrates her musical prowess with a foam-core 1964 Fender Stratocaster in *Holy Cow! The Astonishing Plays*, our December Playmaking show.

WINSTON RODNEY



# Flyer Bar Profile

**What they do for us:** Host our October Playback weekend and our March Playmaking weekend at their home in Bridgehampton, Long Island. John is on our Board of Directors, Alex writes and dramaturgs.

**Occupation:** Johnny Vassilaros: Coffee roaster, Alex Gersten-Vassilaros: Writer

**Why you do what you do:** Johnny-"I like to eat." Alex-"Because I like to know what I'm thinking about."

**Hobbies:** Johnny-"Tennis and traveling." Alex- "Photography, tomatoes, reading about the war, drinking coffee." Stefano – "Sports, playing outside." Luka – "Go to school and go home." Tonio – "Surf, kiteboard, play basketball, track."

**Last book read:** Johnny – *Team of Rivals*, Stefano- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Luka- *Lord of the Flies*, Alex- *Einstein's God*, Tonio- *The Things they Carry*.

**Most recent accomplishment:** Stefano-Going back to school, Alex- Learned how to "cup coffee well," Tonio- Ran a 5:20 mile

**Best Proj. Memory:** Stefano- "When we went bowling last year." Luka-"Manhunt games." Alex-"Every bow ever taken." Tonio-"Football on the beach."

**Credo:** Johnny and Alex: "If it tastes like candy, spit it out."

**Advice to kids:** Johnny- "Win first, play later." Alex- "Work hard, play hard."

**Place of birth:** NYC for everyone.

**Habitat:** The Upper East Side.

**Favorite thing about the Project:** Stefano- "To hang out with the kids." Luka- "The kids." Alex- "These weekends." Tonio – "Love watching them perform."

**On Flyer Bars:** Stefano- "They're really good." Luka- "It's really good." Alex – "I've been known to buy 8 at a time." Tonio- "My favorite candy bar."



GRB

