



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

FULL-COLOR WEB EDITION • VOL. 70 - OCTOBER, 2014 • GEORGE BABIAK, EDITOR

SPRING PLAYMAKING

MARCH, 2014 - KIDS WRITE, ADULTS PERFORM



OUT ON A LIMB:

PLAYS THAT BRANCH OUT

THE SPRING 2014 PLAYMAKING SHOWS

What would Spring be without a healthy dose of 10-year-old kids writing plays that professional (and volunteer!) adults perform? We did the 10 plays on this page and the next during the weekend of April 4-6, 2014 at the Five Angels Theater. The kids' writing retreat was on Long Island; the Hamptons, to be precise.

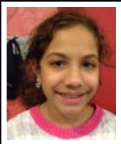
THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Greg MacPherson | | Lights |
| Andrew Sherman | | Composer/Music Director |
| Viviane Galloway & Sarah Swafford | | Costumes |
| Vanessa Valdes | | Goddess of Sound |
| Jenny Peek | | Stage Manager |

PLAYMAKING WEEKEND HOSTS

John Vassilaros and Alex Gersten-Vassilaros of Bridgehampton, NY and Laurie Becker of Sag Harbor, NY.

◀ Karen Tineo's *The Commotion* told the touching tale of a flat-screen TV (Wrenn Schmidt) and a flatulent old electrical outlet (Greg Hildreth) who just needed to connect. Rebecca Martinez dramaturged and directed this electrifying show.



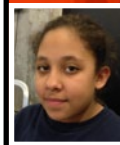
◀ *Alone Again*, written by Kiara Figueroa and directed by Nehassaiu DeGannes, was the first of two stark views of a post-zombie-apocalypse future. Sekou Laidlow and Christina Robinson were two young people hiding out from the ubiquitous "walkers."

▶ *Zombies*, as you might guess, was the second of the night's zombie thrillers. Sevan Asencio's dark drama featured Michael Crane and Matt Citron as battle-scarred veterans of future wars against the dead. Jeremy Stoller directed it.



◀ Edie Falco and Dan Butler closed the show with Daniel Tineo's poignant play, *The Crisis*, directed by James Yaegashi. Edie was a tree who was losing her leaves and Dan Butler was a rapacious zebra who wanted to eat the few she had left.

▶ Jayla Alvarez gave us a glimpse into the psyches of lamps in *All Day Everyday Therapy Time*, directed by Kerry Whigham. Eric Clem was the distraught table lamp who had to cope with a new lava lamp neighbor, played by Laura Woodward.



PLAYMAKING PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

OUR NEXT SHOW
OCT. 24-26, 2014
SEE FLYER INSIDE

YOUR OFFICIAL RECAP OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF PROJECT HISTORY.

PLAYMAKING, CONTINUED:



Shirley Rumierk and Carlo Albán were locked in an animal shelter cage in *The Dog and Cat Never Escaped*. Perhaps we should have said "spoiler alert" with that title. Sebastian Lopez wrote and Felix Solis directed this very "engaging" play.



Duaa Alkindi taught us that *Cheerleading Never Goes With Baseball* in the play that Sarah Krohn directed. Dahlia Azama and Joe Paulik DID go with each other, thank you.



In *B&B Perfection*, a school drama by Sofia Santoni set in a candy-centric future, Krystel Lucas was the popular cute girl and Marinda Anderson was the classic smart nerd girl. Christina Roussos displayed both Brains and Beauty as she directed the play.



In *The Honored Nerd* by Milen Tokarev, a Scottish college student (Michael Braun) sought the aid of a model (Adrienne C. Moore) to gain popularity. Annie Worden directed.



Nathaniel Ortiz's *The War and the Peace* (director George Babiak refers to it as *A Song of Candy and Ice*) had a dragon (Mauricio Salgado) and a knight (Marco Formosa) facing off.

KIDS MAKE MOVIES!

This past April, we took 3 kids, matched them with adults, and took a wild leap into the unknown by throwing them into our very first week-long introduction to the art of film, from script to screen.



Seen here, from L to R, are George Babiak and Ruby Zamora, who made *Doomsday* with Marinda Anderson and Annie Purcell; Matthew Jellison and Alex Malan, the creators of *Time Troubles* with Nick Mills and Raul Castillo; and Enrique Cabalero and Dylan Dawson, the men behind *Dream Package* with Lucy DeVito and J. Mallory McCree. The filmmakers all kept within their schedules and budgets and presented their work at a real premiere (with a panel discussion, even) in the Five Angels Theater on April 25. In attendance were (board member) Frances McDormand and (her husband) Joel Coen. The Oscar winners said our stuff was pretty good! Sorry you missed the premiere? All three films can be seen on our website (www.52project.org) under the "Kid Stuff" menu. -GB

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT TEEN ENSEMBLE'S ONE-ACT FESTIVAL

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER

THE TEEN ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

The Teen Ensemble is a two-year acting conservatory-based program for the oldest kids at the Project. The first year culminates with a production of original one-act plays written by New York's best professional playwrights. This year's set was performed on May 30 and 31 at our own Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Burke Brown..... Lights
 Lara DeBruijn..... Costumes
 Lindsay Olson..... Sound
 HannaH Allen..... Stage Manager

NYACK REHEARSAL WEEKEND HOSTS

Wendy vanden Heuvel and Melissa Kievman, and Susanna Styron.



► Patrick Link's *Sweet Sound of Destiny*, directed by Colette Robert, was a kind of an updated *Norma Rae*. Mari Ulloa was a worker in Hashem Ahmed's poncho factory who exhorted her colleagues to stand up for themselves and make kites. L to R: Hashem, Mari, Gabriella DeJesus, Natalia Caballero, and Haley Martinez.

TEEN ONE-ACT PHOTOGRAPHS BY WINSTON RODNEY



The Roles of the Prince and Nigel, written by Matthew Paul Olmos and directed by Ruy Iskandar, featured Ruy as an old-school prince and Devin Gonzalez as a more modern kind of male hero. They competed in battle and vied for the heart of a lady in the audience.



In Liz Tuccillo's *Across the Dataverse*, which took place in cyberspace, Dante Quiñones was a hateful e-post with a heart of gold. Tiara Varela was a text who was attracted to him and Joyce Cheung was their guide in the virtual world. Erin Mallon directed.



Save Me, by Melisa Tien, was a comically gruesome pastiche of the medical and horror genres. Nic Grelli directed Brandon Leon, Jazmine Mikell, Nathaly Trinidad (lying down) and Elena Caballero in this bloody romp.



Natalia Caballero and Gabriella DeJesus were two girls in the woods in futile search of closure in Jihan Crowther's spooky *Then We Went Back*, directed by Natalie Paul.



Lucas Kavner's *Time Cruise* starred Michael Bannister and Elizabeth Vazquez as an old couple who try out alternate past lives with Edison Sibri as their guide. Here in the Disco Era are Edison, Tiara, Joyce, Nathaly, Michael, Dante, and Elena. Max Rosenak directed.



▲ Kaylee Zambrano and Amirah Vann were princesses adrift in Willie Reale's reverie on revolution, *Compassionate Pirates*.



▼ Jeremy Rishe and David Ortiz were video game testers who became trapped in their own creation in Jeremy's own creation, *Saving the Dragon*.



◀ Intern Garrett Kim scarfed up some juicy roles, including that of a flamboyant host who handed Emma Galvin and Allyssia Feliciano a big trophy for their tear-rific fashion designs in Nick Platt's *Sassy Sisters*.

▶ John Sheehy was a fretful palace steward and Milen Tokarev a carefree jester in John's *Jester Thing*.

▼ 'Fraidy Cat, by Sung Rno, told the story of two pet detectives (Adam Alkindi and Michael Propster) conquering their fear of cats and ghosts as they pursued a cat-ghost.



▲ *Phantasmol!*, by Itamar Moses, cast Stephen O'Reilly as a scheming coach who tried to steal ace soccer player Joshua Gomez away from his team.



▲ We got a nice glimpse into the life of a beleaguered museum guard in Deirdre O'Connor's *The Towering Terror*. Not-so-towering Duaa Alkindi was the ace art thief who made Dahlia Azama's life miserable.

▼ Surprisingly enough, sisters don't always get along, and we saw this fact illustrated beautifully by Carra Patterson and Kiara Figueroa in Catherine Yu's play, *Angel and Minnie in the Afternoon*.



▲ Speaking of sisters, U.S. Presidents have 'em too, and they can be real trouble, as POTUS Kayla Ortiz found out from Daiva Deupree in Daiva's aptly named play *The President... and Her Sister*.

▶ Madeleine George's *Open Wide* brought home this fine evening of kid/adult theater. It featured Genesis Oliver as a dentist with a fear of public speaking and Karen Tineo as a public speaker with a fear of dentists.

**WHAT'S MY LINE?:
THE PROFESSIONAL PLAYS**

THE BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES

In July, we whisked 10 kids and their adult acting partners (and directors, too) to faraway Block Island for a solid week to rehearse the shows seen here. We did 'em in the city the weekend of July 18-20.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Ben Fichthorn Lights
 Kim D. Sherman Composer/Music Director
 Kimberly Goings Costumes
 Vanessa Valdes Goddess of Sound
 Liz Bell Stage Manager

BLOCK ISLAND HOSTS

Allison and Michael Anderson; Susan Bush; Socha Cohen; Katy Homans and Patterson Sims; Cathy Joyce and Nigel Grindley; Susan Matheke and Willie Feuer; Leslie Parsons; Joya Verde and Virginia Dare; and our super headquarters host Carl Kauffman.



THE BENEFIT BOX



Elephants are Cool: Adam & Oscar.



Inside Appearance: Alizette, Marinda, & Nathaly.



It's A Blur: Chyanne, Heather, & James.



The Peacock Dance: Kaylee & Greg H.

▲ & ► Each year, during the first week of May, we throw a really big party to show a lot of people a great time and raise a big chunk o' change for the Project. This year's Annual Benefit, held on May 12 at the beautiful Tribeca Rooftop, was entitled *Zootopia: A Gathering of Party Animals*. That meant that five Project kids (Adam Alkindi, Alizette Zapata, Chyanne Peña, Kaylee Zambrano, and Mussa Ahmed) wrote snappy songs about animals for a herd of great musicians and singers to perform. The singin' grown-ups were Marinda Anderson, Kendal Hartse, Greg Hildreth, Oscar Isaac, Catherine Cheng Jones, Nathaly Lopez, Greg Naughton, James Naughton, Kelli O'Hara, and *The Spring Standards* (Heather Robb and James Smith). The trusty back-up band (which should have been named *The Animals*), was made up of Emily Goldman, Thad DeBrock, and Jon Epcar. Finally, let's give a big hand to the composers: Amanda Green, Oscar, Michael Mitnick, Greg Naughton, Heather, and James.

► Each year on September 11, the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund hosts Charity Day. Celebrities handle the phones to make trades and the proceeds go to various good causes including, for the past 5 years, the 52nd Street Project. Proj Pals Edie Falco and Bobby Cannavale both held their own as stock traders and netted some nice, fat profits for the Project. Proj Kids Ezekiel Albarron and Joyce Cheung came along to kibitz and learn a little bit about the stock market. We don't know exactly how much we'll rake in this year, but last year's Charity Day bagged us about \$35,000. How's that for a morning's work?



Tiger Is A Meanie: Mussa, James, Kelli, & Greg N.



The lyricists take their bow.



Edie brokers a major deal... with help.



Edie, Ezekiel, Joyce, & Bobby.

Dancemaking

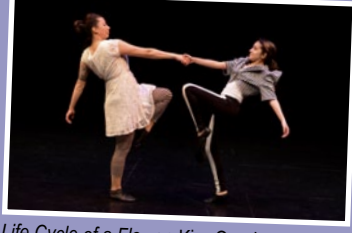
In March and April of 2014, 8 kids met weekly with adult partners to choreograph and rehearse original dances under the tutelage and direction of Megan Cramer (with a good deal of help from intern Hannah Allen). The final works were performed at The Five Angels for an enthusiastic audience on April 28 and 29.



At First Sight: Choreographer Jasmine Correa and Ruy Iskandar.



Kingdoms: Mike James and Choreographer Damian Tineo.



Life Cycle of a Flower: Kira Onodera-Harrow and Choreographer Jayda Camacho.



Dance of Death: Ruy Iskandar, Choreographer Rene-Paul Santiago, and Jasmine Correa.



Men in Black 'n' White: Grant Harrison and Choreographer Ricardo Currin.



The opening and closing pieces were thrilling group numbers that featured the whole troupe.



Bird Pop: Choreographer Lambert Whitney and Jeanna Phillips.



Meeting and Parting: Erin Felgar and Choreographer Stephanie Macias.



Daily Life: Choreographer Valeria Oliva and Erin Roberts.



▲ *The Hell's Kitchen Bomb Squad: Countdown to World Destruction*, by Darcy Fowler, was about two bomb defusers (Lucy DeVito and Kai Ceniza) and featured a LOT of zippy Tom Cruise gags.



▶ *The Amazing Bullseye Carnival Sky-Diving Shark Tank Apprentice Makes a Deal* by Jiehae Park was the winner of the longest title contest. It starred Sevan Asencio, Korey Jackson, and Christopher Randolph as Donald Trump. The title is all the summary you need!



▲ Matthew Orozco was a lawyer (who worked in a law firm) and Jed Clarke was the selfish wastrel that Matthew owed his life to in Jed's *Life is Once*.

◀ Jayla Alvarez and Marinda Anderson were local TV weatherwomen competing for the same position in *Today's Forecast* by Eric Dufault. It was like a cold front and a warm front colliding.

▼ *The Incident Involving Soup and Tea*, by Sarah Burgess, gave us another art thief (Ariana Siegel) who was foiled by an undercover master of disguise and accents (Kayla Matos).



▼ George Babiak's *Duel Meaning* was a period piece examining friendship at its most combative. Sebastian Lopez and George starred.



▲ Aaron Costa Ganis was a nerdy kid who takes a trip through the looking-glass and finds his super-cool counterpart in the form of Ezekiel Albarron. The play was called *Oh, Snap* and it was by Robert Askins.

▼ We thought we'd had our fill of zombies for the year, but Anne Troup and Tiffany Miller brought the genre brand new life-after-death in Cynthia Kaplan's *Zombie Zone*.

**WHAT'S MY LINE?:
THE PROFESSIONAL PLAYS**

THE WAREHAM, MASS. ONE-ON-ONES

No sooner had we finished our Block Island plays, then we carted 10 more kids with adult partners (yep, they directed, again) to Wareham, MA, "The Gateway to Cape Cod," for another wild week of rehearsing and roughhousing. The plays were done at the Five Angels the weekend of August 15-17.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Greg MacPherson Lights
Eric March Composer/Music Director
Sarah Swafford Costumes
Garrett Kim Sound Design
Colleen Sherry Stage Manager

WAREHAM HOSTS

Peter, Helen & Christopher Randolph; Pam & Don Foster; Sam & Gerry Gray; Anne & Colin McNay, Joe McNay, Gray & Rosemary Watson, Marina & Bob Whitman.



▲ *Midnight in the Woods*, by Erica Saleh, took campers Sofia Santoni and Grace Rex into the woods to confront their fears. Can you guess what time they went?

◀ It's not all about comedy! Carlo Alban gave us *Jinx, I Win*, a drama about estranged brothers. Nathaniel Ortiz was the mature and successful younger brother, while Carlo played the older, irresponsible dreamer. And it rained a lot.





The following foundations, corporations, and government agencies made generous grants to the Project between February and September of 2014. We are grateful to them for their support as well as to the many individuals who help sustain the Project's programs year-round.

| | | | |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Ann M. Martin Foundation..... | \$7,500 | Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation..... | \$10,000 |
| Brenner Family Foundation..... | \$10,000 | John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc. | \$6,000 |
| Bull's Head Foundation | \$2,500 | Liquid Holdings Group | \$5,000 |
| Cantor Fitzgerald | \$35,000 | LRS Designs, Inc. | \$1,000 |
| Carnegie Corporation of New York | \$2,400 | Music Theater International | \$9,000 |
| CBS Foundation..... | \$6,000 | Neil V. DeSena Foundation | \$7,000 |
| Comedy Central | \$3,994 | Newman's Own Foundation..... | \$25,000 |
| Consolidated Edison..... | \$10,000 | Ninth Avenue Association | \$2,000 |
| Dawkins Family Foundation..... | \$7,000 | NYSICA..... | \$8,060 |
| Delivery Agent..... | \$1,000 | Parsons Family Foundation..... | \$5,000 |
| Disney Worldwide Services..... | \$5,000 | Pinkerton..... | \$50,000 |
| Dramatists Guild Fund..... | \$2,000 | Shubert Organization..... | \$10,000 |
| Evercore Partners..... | \$5,000 | Slate Path Capital | \$2,500 |
| First Parish in Concord..... | \$1,165 | Staging and Design, Inc. | \$1,000 |
| Harkness Foundation for Dance..... | \$1,000 | Steingart Family | \$15,000 |
| Harold & Mimi Steinberg Fdn. | \$25,000 | Sterling Foundation | \$35,000 |
| HBO..... | \$2,400 | Tax Pro Financial Network, Inc. | \$9,000 |
| Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation..... | \$25,000 | Tiger Baron Foundation..... | \$5,000 |
| i.Weiss & Sons..... | \$1,200 | United Talent Agency..... | \$6,000 |
| | | Yorke Construction Corp..... | \$7,000 |



In Stage Combat, kids are teamed up with adults to learn the Fine Art of Fake Fighting from Lee Rosen (look for him on page 9). With the help of Megan Cramer's dramaturgical skills, the kids were then asked to write and perform original plays around the fight routines they had learned. It all came together in a brutal, but safe, performance at the Five Angels on Friday, June 13th.

▼ Britney Trinidad and Joshua Joya showed us REAL sibling rivalry in her play *In the Way*.

▼ David Ortiz took customer dissatisfaction to extremes with Chef Bjorn Dupaty in *The Bacon and Cheese Break Out*.

▼ Violence in sports? Impossible! But it happened in Sasha Davis's *Life's Not Going To Be The Way You Want It*, with Lindsay Torrey.



▲ *The Blue Past*, by Ashley Thomas, had Anne Troup and Ashley vying for a certain gem of a certain hue.

▲ Ezekiel Albarron dealt handily with a very mean, anti-skateboarding security guard (Mat Hostetler) in *Don't Taze Me, Bro!*

▲ Sibs at it again! Megan Cramer and Brooke Fraser were highly argumentative twins in *The Worst and the Best Friends*.

STAGE COMBAT PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

A TURNOVER, AND MORE TURNOVER



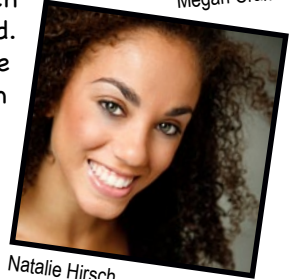
A turnover.

For many years, the Project had a very low staff turnover rate. It's not that we don't like apple turnovers, it's just that nobody seemed to want to leave. This year, however, has been one filled with transition for us.

First of all, in June we bade a fond farewell to Megan Cramer, who had been on the staff since 2005 and was our Associate Artistic Director since 2009. She is now the Middle School Drama Teacher at Avenues: The World School, which is in Chelsea. She says: "My Project pals are forever in my heart and mind. Please feel free to update me on all your successes, challenges, or mundane musings. And remember, I'm just down the road and can't wait to reunite with everyone in the theater for shows."



Megan Cramer

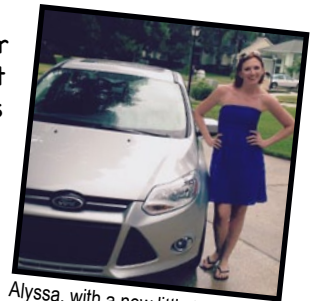


Natalie Hirsch

As sad as we are to tell you of Megan's departure, we're happy to report that we have a very fine replacement and her name is Natalie Hirsch. Our new A.A.D. has just endured her first rollicking Project Summer and came through with flying colors. When you come and see our next Project show, be sure to say, "Hi."

Leaving us, too, is good young Ray Harold, our beloved Technical Director for the last 5 years. Ray is leaving us for bigger assignments on the Great White Way and other high-falutin' show-biz assignments. We feel Ray's departure keenly since we met him here at the Project as a 10-year-old boy (see photo at left).

Also departing is Alyssa Anderson, our Manager of Individual Giving since May, 2013. Alyssa is now the Manager of Programming at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC). You KNOW she's left New York for real because she bought the car at right the day after she flew to Nashville. She misses her 52 family, but is having a great time so far.



Alyssa, with a new little buddy.



MARTHA SWOPE



Ray at 10 (with Kenneth Little Hawk) and in more recent days with his favorite foamcore tool.

We'll let you know about some new staff members in our next ish! First, we gotta hire 'em.

-GB

BE A KID AGAIN, BUT A BIG ONE!

Last year we started a fun new program... for ADULTS! That's right, the Project's BIG KIDS CLUB is a way that adults who love the Project and want to support our work can get together and have a good time. Our ad to the right doesn't mention that the Electric Room, the venue for our next B.K. Bash, is a super-cool British-inspired hangout that will leave you feeling gob-smacked and tickety-boo (Brit-speak for "awe-inspired" and "just great").

Call John Sheehy or Lisa Kerner at (212) 333-5252 for tix. -GB

READ FIVEY MAGAZINE!



Project Update is written by us grown-ups, but if you want to see stories, poetry, drawings, and reviews by our kids, check out the 16th annual issue of *Fivey*, the Project's kids' magazine. We've got free hard copies at the Clubhouse, but you can download the full-color web edition at our website: www.52project.org.

IT'S THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S SECOND ANNUAL

BIG KIDS BASH!

TUESDAY, OCT. 28, 2014 7:00-10:00 P.M.
THE ELECTRIC ROOM AT DREAM DOWNTOWN
355 WEST 16TH ST., BETWEEN 8TH & 9TH AVE.

| | |
|---|--|
| DRINK, SNACK, AND SOCIALIZE FOR A GREAT CAUSE! | <p>\$90 UNTIL OCT. 1</p> <p>\$100 UNTIL OCT. 13</p> <p>\$125 UNTIL OCT. 28</p> |
|---|--|

MEGABITS



▲ One-time Project Kid and now board member Shirley Annette Rumierk and Armando Riesco (also a long-time ProjVol) are the proud parents of Valentina Annette Riesco, who was born on Wed., June 18th, 2014 at NYU Langone Medical Center. Valentina is infinitely amused with some new-fangled things that she has called "fists and fingers."



▲ His parents are Project director and pal Patricia MacGregor and the lucky Freedom Bradley. His name is Orion August McGregor-Freedom. The charming little guy was born at New York Presbyterian on Aug 2nd at 6:15 a.m. and weighed a healthy 7 lbs., 13 ounces.



◀ Declan Bernard Shortt, the new son of Projectile Laura Konsin Shortt and Brian Shortt was born happy and healthy on June 11 at 5:39 pm at Roosevelt Hospital, just outside of Hell's Kitchen! He was REALLY healthy at 9 lbs., 10 oz.

▼ Project Vols Jamal Mallory-McCree and Angela Lewis got married at 4:30 PM on Sun., August 17 in Detroit, MI. A week before, Detroit suffered one of the worst thunderstorms in a century causing mass flooding. It continued to rain all that week into Sunday, but by the actual ceremony the sun was blazing so brightly that all Jamal and Angela could see were squinting eyes and scrunched faces. The guests reported the sun was a minor distraction, but nothing could outshine the love in the atmosphere!



▲ Molly Anne Coogan married Jonathan Mahon Anderson at a top-secret location in Woodside, California on Saturday, June 18th. Staffer Liz Bell and founder Willie Reale attended.



▲ One of our favorite intern-turned-volunteers, Shane Llewellyn West (we love that name), married Anna-Kaye Ffrench (also a great name) on August 10, 2014.



◀ Ace Project Volunteer (12 years running!) Lee Aaron Rosen and Adria Vitlar got married in a wonderful ceremony at Brooklyn's Bell House on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2014.



► Yet another all-star Project couple got hitched this summer! Tim J. Lord and Nicole Watson were married on Aug. 23 in Columbia, Mo. Nicole's dress had a crucial last-minute failure, but Tim's cousin, who learned her seamstress skills in the theater, saved the day. Tim sent us a few other photos besides this panoramic wedding party shot, but we couldn't resist those two bowtie-sporting tykes.



IN MEMORIAM

ED VASSALLO

MARCH 29, 1972 - FEBRUARY 25, 2014



Ed Vassallo and his wife Chen He.

The 52nd Street Project mourns the loss of Ed Vassallo, a Project Pal if ever there was one. He was first a friend, a great friend, beloved, wonderful company, a man with a delightful gift for friendship. And he was as fine a volunteer as we have ever known, always ready, tireless even, refreshing to everyone around him. He did everything a theater artist does: write, sing, dance, act, direct, dramaturge, mentor, you name it; and he did all of it well and with flair, and then he'd go and play catch or checkers with a kid or two (often the kids with the roughest edges and the biggest challenges, who were drawn to him because Ed was cool and sweet-natured and he saw what was best in you).

He did load-ins too, back when we had load-ins, and for three years in a row he hosted the Playback Weekend up at Franklin Stage in the Catskills, courtesy of his friends Gene, Carol and Carmela Marnier. He did everything, not just the fun stuff where everybody tells you that you were great when it's all over. And no matter what, everything he did with us was shot through with what the Project is all about: pleasure, common endeavor, and the full expression of each kid's promise and potential.

We will always remember him with abiding love and with deep gratitude for how much he blessed the Project and all of us who call it a place to belong. -Gus Rogerson

ARLEN MINGUS COLLIER

Arlen Mingus Collier -- Darlin' Arlen - having suffered complications from kidney failure, has left us at the age of 38. Arlen was with the Project in the old days beginning in '84. He was a favorite with audiences and volunteers. His frame was small and his heart was huge. And Arlen quips have become the bedrock of Project Lore.

"Arlen, how was horseback riding?" Arlen: "Great. We trolloped."

At the Doctor on Block Island just before getting an allergy shot -- "If I take it like a man, can I have ice cream?"

He was in a car outside the theater after a performance and a Project patron knocked on the window to congratulate the kids. -- "Keep movin' man, we don't need the window washed."

Arlen acted in a lot of plays. He studied his lines as hard as he could but in the end, the script was merely a suggestion. In *The Dinosaur Musical* as a flying pterodactyl, after milking a rather elaborate death scene, he finally fell down in a heap. The audience let out a collective sigh of sadness. Ever in the moment, he picked his head up off the stage and ad-libbed, "Don't worry folks, I'm not really dead."

And that remains true. He is lives in our memory and in our hearts. -Willie Reale



Peter MacNicol and Arlen perform in *Quark Victory* (1989).

JOYA VERDE

DECEMBER 10, 1932 - AUGUST 29, 2014



Joya Verde, guiding light of Block Island.

We at the 52nd Street Project are sorry to have lost yet another star in our firmament with the passing of Joya Broga Verde. Since 1989, exactly 25 years ago, Joya and her partner Virginia Dare have been the twin lighthouses that have welcomed The Project and its kids to Block Island every summer. Annually, they shepherded us to the Main House, made sure everything worked during our visits, hosted volunteers and kids in their very own Mermaid House, came with us to the beach, and toted uncountable bags of garbage and recyclables to the island transfer station for us.

Everybody that has ever come to Block Island with The 52nd Street Project had the opportunity of spending time with Joya Verde. Like the island itself, Joya beguiled visitors with her considerable charm. And like the retreating bluffs of Block Island, the place is equally lessened by Joya's absence. We will miss her welcoming presence, her light wit, and her kindness and devotion. -GB & GR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
GUS ROGERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAROL OCHS

PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR
NATALIE HIRSCH

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

JUST DESSERTS

PLAYS WITH
CONSEQUENCES

THE 2014 PLAYBACK PLAYS



STEVENSON

**8 NEW PLAYS WRITTEN BY KIDS AND PERFORMED BY
THE PLAYWRIGHTS WITH ADULT PARTNERS AT THE**

FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10TH AVENUE (BETWEEN 52ND AND 53RD ST.)

FRI., OCT. 24 AT 7:30 P.M. ◆ SAT., OCT. 25 AT 7:30 P.M. ◆ SUN., OCT. 26 AT 3:00 P.M.

THE KID ACTOR/PLAYWRIGHTS

**JOSEPH CRUZ ◆ IMANI LEWIS ◆ BRYAN LOPEZ ◆ ALEX MALAN
MARIA MARTINEZ ◆ CHRISTIN TETTEH ◆ BAMBA THIAM ◆ RUBY ZAMORA**

THE ADULT ACTOR/DIRECTORS

**LAUREN BLUMENFELD ◆ KYLE CAMERON ◆ MOLLY CARDEN ◆ JUSTIN CIMINO
MOLLY COOGAN ◆ ANGEL DESAI ◆ A.Z. KELSEY ◆ CHARLIE O'ROURKE**



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SEATS TODAY!



THE 52ND STREET PROJECT
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VANESSA VALDES & COLLEEN SHERRY

Above: A few shots that capture the fun that 52nd Street Project kids have in the water in Block Island, RI and Wareham, MA when they're not rehearsing. See these kids on our stage on pages 4 and 6.

Flyer Bar Profile



ROSEMARY, GRAY, AND TIM WATSON

What they do for us- Rosemary, Gray, and their son Tim have been a Wareham, Mass. host family for 52nd Street Project kids since 2005. True fans, they attend our shows in Wareham AND in New York!

Places of birth: Gray: Boston, MA. Ro: Youngstown, OH. Tim: Pittsburgh, PA.

Habitat: Lexington, MA and Wareham, MA.

Occupations- Gray: Software Engineer. Ro: Hands-on Boardmember for a non-profit that addresses the root causes of poverty and homelessness. Tim: High School sophomore.

Why they do what they do- Gray: "I enjoy solving problems, creating things, and working with computers." Ro: "I believe in thinking globally; acting locally." Tim: "What? I have a choice?"

Hobbies- Gray: "Sailing and alternative energy projects." Ro: "Reading, gardening, trying new recipes." Tim: "Music, baseball, video games."

Last books read- Gray: "*The Big Short* by Michael Lewis." Ro: "*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger." Tim: "*Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen*, by H. Beam Piper."

Most recent accomplishments- Gray: "Rewrote a bunch of code and fixed a big bug at work." Ro: "Used ALL of the veggies in our farm share in things that we (mostly) liked!" Tim: "Inspiration for a new song (Tim writes electronic music)."

Best Project Memories- Gray: "The refrain: 'Please don't chop off my hand, crazy space lady', (Dylan Dawson and Patrick Barnes in *Extraordinary Tattoo*, 2012)." Ro: "Our family tradition of playing *Uno Attacks!* with the kids we've hosted." Tim: "The play *Rockin' Hood* by Christopher Randolph, 2009."

Credo- Gray: "To leave the planet in a better state than when I arrived." Ro: "RECYCLE!!!!" Tim: "Who's afraid of 138?"

Advice to kids: Gray: "Listen to your Grandmothers and READ." Ro: "Try hard, laugh, breathe." Tim: "When you perform, know that the audience is rooting for you!"

Favorite things about the Project- Gray: "The enthusiasm!" Ro: "The anticipation of the sets, props, costumes, and music in the NY performances!" Tim: "Seeing the plays take shape from reading lines with the kids we host, to the preview show on the lawn in Wareham, and then to the final NY performances."

On Flyer Bars: WHERE CAN WE GET THEM IN BOSTON????