



PROJECT UPDATE

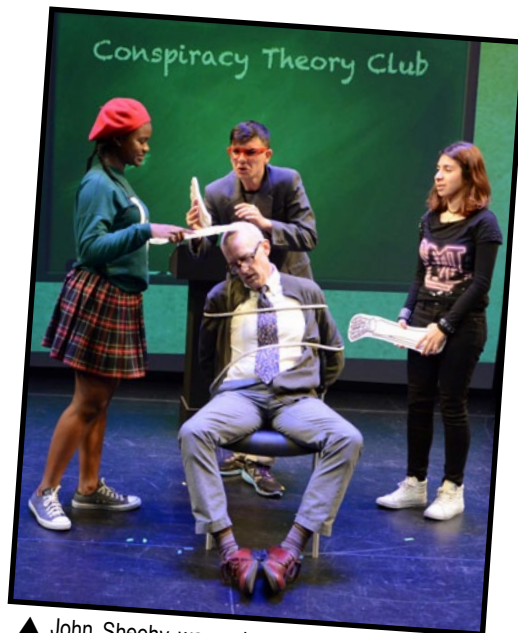
FULL-COLOR WEB EDITION • VOL. 74 - JULY, 2016 • GEORGE BABIAK, EDITOR

THE TEEN ONE-ACT FESTIVAL JUNE, 2016



▲ In Tim J. Lord's *Uprooted*, Faisal Afridi was a nerdy botanist investigating a rare tree (Britney Trinidad) who turned out to be the human captive of an obsessive Greek deity (Richard Brea). Max Rosenak directed the mythic piece, which took place in a fantastical NYC.

▼ Asia Rosado (center) was a high school principal who desperately craved to have cruel jokes played on her by her students Leah Macuilt and Daniel Martinez in Erica Saleh's *Senior Pranks*, directed by Ka-Ling Cheung.



▲ John Sheehy was a hapless teacher trapped by his high school's after-school conspiracy club in Dylan Dawson's *The Conspiratorium*, directed by Lynne Rosenberg. The brain-fevered students were Tatiana Goode, Enrique Caballero, and Ruby Zamora.

THIS IS HOW WE ROLL

THE TEEN ENSEMBLE'S ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

Our Teen Ensemble is best known for the globe-trotting Shakespeare tours that they do at the end of their two-year conservatory program here. However, they do some pretty demanding stuff at the end of the FIRST year in a full-blown festival of short plays written for them by the best professional playwrights we can find. This year's production took place at the Five Angels on June 3rd and 4th.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Jennifer Jimenez Costume Designer
 Tim J. Lord..... Lighting Designer
 Emma Steiger..... Sound Designer
 Haviland Atha-Simonton Stage Boss

THE WEEKEND-AWAY HOST

For the finishing touches on the shows, the Ensemble went to Drew University in Madison, NJ for a weekend retreat. Thanks to Drew and to Teen Dean Chris Ceraso, who teaches there.

► Christina Quintana wrote *Before the Bell* for Jasmine Correa, Imani Lewis-Ashley, and Ashley Thomas, who portrayed three teens who were stressed out about their coming prom but realized that none of them had to go with conventional partners... or with partners at all! This slice of teen life was directed by Rachel Dart.



◀ *Barry and Mary*, written by Melisa Tien and directed by Austin Regan, gave us a madcap exploration of climate change and the coming campaign through the eyes of a teen-age president (Chayse Peña) and his zombie-fighting sister (Edelys Guerrero).

2 BIG SHOWS
 COMING THIS SUMMER!
JULY 22-24 & AUGUST 19-21
 FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEM
 ON PAGE 3.

YOUR OFFICIAL RECAP OF THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF 52ND STREET PROJECT HISTORY.

SPRING PLAYMAKING - KIDS WRITE, ADULTS PERFORM



In Ahmed Abdelmeged's *Brothers Learn New Things*, directed by Tim J. Lord, Sam Lijja and Christopher Randolph were robot siblings who exchanged life skills.



Carson Elrod and Matt Saldivar were hilariously grotesque giant mutants in Gabriel Acevedo's *Reducing the Fear of Monsters*, directed by George Babiak.



Danaya Esperanza and Marisol Miranda figured out their problems in *Friendship Never Ends*, written by Lovely Ramirez and directed by Flor de Liz Perez.



Bounty hunter Eliza Huberth and extra-terrestrial Molly Carden were roommates in Thiana Goode's *The Alien's Secret*, directed by Natalie Hirsch.



Brandon Hall was hero Slimey Slime Boy and Therese Barbatto was villain Gila Girl in Carlos Jimenez's *Super Slime Magic*, directed by Garrett Kim.



Rebecca Jimenez's *The Lesson of Friendship* cast Christine Pumariega and KeiLyn Durrel Jones as warring roommates. Mikhaela Mahony directed.



A giraffe (Rebecca Frank) helped a turkey (Amber Avant) escape from a zoo in *Lana Helps Mel*, written by Yovely Ramirez and directed by Lucy DeVito.



Stephen Tyrone Williams wanted to make pizza and Armando Riesco aspired to the presidency in Angel Mendoza's *BrotherShip*, directed by Brandon Dirden.



Two mini-vans (Daniel Jenkins and Dan Butler) coped with envy in *Whatever Comes Around, Goes Around*. Andres Mendoza wrote, Michael Walkup directed.



Kerry Warren and Kate Abbruzzese were French dogs from another world in Shadel Gil's *Planet Frenchy*, directed by Grace Rex.

FRESH START: THE REJUVENATING PLAYS
 THE SPRING 2016 PLAYMAKING SHOWS
 In March, we took 10 kids to Bridgehampton to write plays acted by adult professionals. The plays were staged April 1-3 at our own Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM
 Teresa Lotz Composer/Music Director
 Greg MacPherson Lights
 Kim Goings Costumes
 Amanda Tralle Sound
 Jenny Peek Stage Manager

WEEKEND WRITING RETREAT HOSTS
 Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, Leslie and Cathy Dantchik, and Laurie Becker.

KID PORTRAITS BY GRB
 STAGE SHOTS BY WINSTON RODNEY AND JOHANNA VIDAL

DON'T MISS OUR TWO SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS!

CLOTHES LINES: PLAYS FROM THE COSTUME TRUNK

THE 2016 BLOCK ISLAND
ONE-ON-ONES

10 adult-written plays featuring
kids and adults on stage together.

Friday, July 22 @ 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 23 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 24 @ 3:00 p.m.

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S
FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Ave., between 52nd & 53rd St.

In both shows, watch each of the
10 playwrights incorporate a costume
randomly drawn from the Project collection!

JULY



ARTWORK BY PATRICK JONES

AUGUST



CLOTHES LINES:

PLAYS FROM THE COSTUME TRUNK 2!

THE 2016 WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
ONE-ON-ONES

10 **MORE** adult-written plays featuring
kids and adults on stage together.

Friday, August 19 @ 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 20 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 21 @ 3:00 p.m.

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S
FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Ave., between 52nd & 53rd St.

Tickets are free, but reservations are strongly
recommended. Reserve at www.52project.org

STAGE COMBAT!

In our Stage Combat program in late spring, Seven kids teamed up with adult partners to learn the fine art of fake fighting from Jose-Maria Aquila. The kids were then asked to write and perform original plays around the fight routines they had learned. It all came together in a harmlessly brutal performance at the Five Angels on Friday, June 17th. Garrett Kim oversaw the whole brouhaha and saw it to a triumphant ending.



Rebecca Gomez was an FBI operative who was forced to pummel a troublesome raccoon (Olivia Gilliatt) in *The Exterminator*.

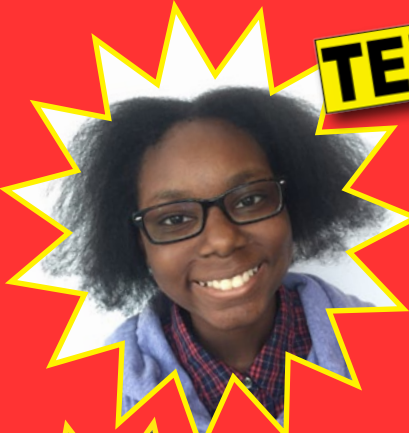


Rodery Rosario was a bunny who duked it out with a giant lizard (Stan Demidoff) in *Secret Recipe*. Sadly, a vase was shattered in the process.



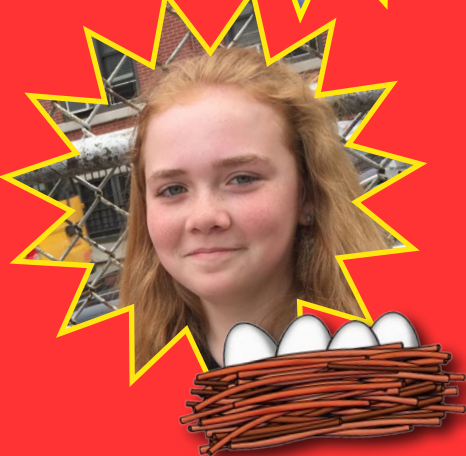
Bryan Lopez knocked the daylights out of his future self (Michael Salinas) with the aid of a pet sugar glider in *Two Bolts*.

TELLER

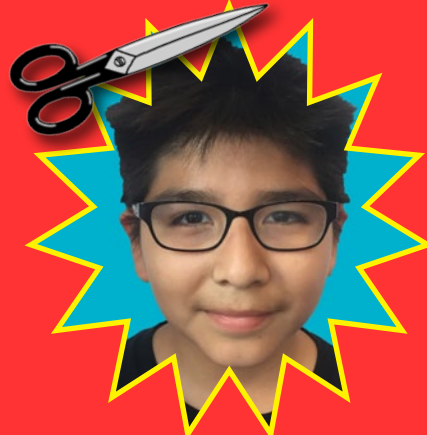


Bank employees Wilhelmina Ohene Kari Kari and Ashley Thomas came to blows with their boss (Molly Carden) and each other in *Long Lost Sisters*.

TELLER



In *What Really Happens In the Sky*, Darby O'Donnell had to beat up a bird (Leah Walsh) whose eggs she had accidentally turned into cube-shaped clouds.



Ethan Zenteno mixed it up after giving a vain and resentful sibling a haircut he didn't like (Charlie O'Rourke) in *Brothers Reunite*.



Kiara Figueroa, after demonstrating how to make a giant Gummi Bear, had to thoroughly trounce another internet personality (Kerry Warren) in *YouTube Starz*.

SMART PARTNER DEPARTMENT

Liz Bell, the Seeress of Smartnering, left us for a long time this year to have her adorable new daughter Enza, but the Smart Partners were not deterred from having a terrific season of creative hanging out. We celebrated our mentorships in June by having our annual Smart Partners' Picnic in a new location: the freshly refurbished playground at P.S. 111, from whence the majority of our Smart Kids come from. Here are a few of the kid/adult teams that attended.



Stephanie Macias and Erin Felgar



Max Posner and Coleman Williams



Karen Tineo and Lauren Blumenfeld



Sathya Sridharan and Stevens Velasquez



Jayla Alvarez and Marinda Anderson



Jeremy Stoller and Aramis Jimenez



Lucas Ruedel and Patrick Clair



KeiLyn Durrel Jones and Andry Moreno



"We read Fivey!"

Jayleen Velez and Alyssa Cartwright



You may be wondering if our Smart Partners do anything except lounge around at picnics. You bet they do! To find out what adventures the SP's have been up to, check out the 18th annual issue of *Fivey*, The 52nd Street Project 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.

What, still staring at this page? C'mon, go download *Fivey*!

-GRB

LAUGHING MATTERS



Back in 2013, we took a big leap of faith for our annual May benefit gala and let some 52nd Street Project kids write stand-up comedy for adult pros to perform. That show, "Just Kidding," was such a success that we decided to try it again this year and call it "Laughing Matters." And it worked again!

This year's kid comedy writers were Jayla Alvarez, Karen Tineo, Milen Tokarev, Magalis Fabian Viñas, and Coleman Williams. Their adult comics were Lewis Black, John Bowman, Jim Gaffigan, Kathleen Madigan, and Jessica Williams.

It all happened at the Edison Ballroom on May 2, 2016. Everyone laughed a great deal and, best of all, it was the most profitable benefit in Project history! -GRB



1. Lewis Black is introduced by Coleman. 2. Milen and John Bowman take a bow. 3. Magalis and Jessica Williams. 4. Jayla and Kathleen Madigan. 5. Karen and Jim Gaffigan. 6. Founder Willie Reale and ace auctioneer Robin Treadway. 7. The greatest audience ever.

BENEFIT PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

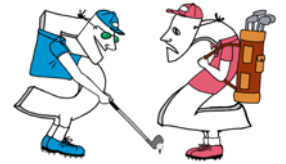


The following foundations, corporations, and government agencies recently made generous grants to the Project. We are grateful to them for their support as well as to the many individuals who help sustain the Project's programs year-round.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| APA Talent & Literary Agency..... | \$12,500 |
| Cantor Fitzgerald..... | \$70,000 |
| Carnegie Corporation of New York | \$2,400 |
| CBS Corporation..... | \$7,500 |
| Dawkins Family Foundation..... | \$7,500 |
| Distracted Globe Foundation..... | \$30,000 |
| The Educational Foundation of America..... | \$10,000 |
| Friars National Foundation | \$2,000 |
| The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation | \$25,000 |
| Live Nation Comedy | \$7,500 |
| LRS Designs, Inc. | \$1,500 |
| Omnicom Group, Inc. | \$5,000 |
| The Shubert Foundation..... | \$10,000 |
| Sterling Foundation..... | \$34,850 |
| Susquehanna..... | \$15,000 |
| TaxPro Financial..... | \$2,500 |
| Tiger Baron Foundation | \$5,000 |
| TV Land/Viacom..... | \$7,500 |
| United Talent Agency | \$7,500 |
| The Vervane Foundation..... | \$2,000 |
| John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc. | \$7,500 |
| Yorke Construction Corporation..... | \$15,000 |
| Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC | \$5,000 |

BIG GOLF TOURNAMENT #6

May was a big month for fundraising! On the 23rd, three weeks after the big gala, we went over to the Bayonne Golf Club to hold our 6th Annual Charity Golf Outing. It was, according to all, the best weather we ever had for the outing. 16 foursomes (including celebrity host David Costabile and tireless organizers Neil and Carolyn DeSena) met on the Scottish-style links and made the event a financial, as well as a sporting, success. The Project took in nearly \$60,000 that will be used to fund the trips we do with our kids each year. -GRB



The golfers gather on the green as Board Co-chair Cathy Dantchik and Executive Director Carol Ochs survey the course.

WANT TO DONATE TO THE PROJECT?

It's as easy as 5 + 2!
Just visit www.52project.org and click "You Can Help."

MEGABITS



▲ Alyssa Anderson, our old Manager of Individual Giving, is newly engaged. Her beau, Matt Kuntz, is a pilot for a charter jet company. She says "We dated for a little over a year before deciding to get hitched, and I couldn't be happier! He's a really wonderful guy, and an excellent dog dad to Wyatt (see inset)!" The event will happen sometime next summer in Nashville, where Alyssa now lives.



▲ More former staffer news: Megan Cramer, who used to be our Associate Artistic Director, got a new job in her home town of Atlanta. She'll be the Upper Learning Theater teacher (high school) at The Galloway School in Buckhead and living in Midtown, next door to Piedmont Park and The Flying Biscuit (her favorite Atlanta restaurant).



▲ And as for current staff news: Garrett Kim graduated in May from Fordham University with departmental honors in Theater, concentrating in playwriting & directing. He was also elected to Alpha Sigma Nu & Phi Beta Kappa. Garrett celebrated his achievement by dining on the diploma he had just received.



▲ Now for some baby news! On March 13, 2016, Wiley Everett Bollinger was born in the Greenpoint apartment of Christina Roussos and John Bollinger. Christina recently came to visit the Clubhouse and introduced Wiley to her Smart Partner, Sabrina Caldon. Sabrina was a little nervous about holding babies, but took to it pretty quickly. Wiley already has some hobbies, by the way. Christina says, "He loves to roll around and look in the mirror."



▲ Shane Llewellyn West, one of our all-time favorite interns, and his wife Anna-Kaye have a new little dude named Caleb. He was born on Nov. 7, 2015. Not to be outdone by Wiley Bollinger's intense schedule of activities, Caleb "enjoys eating, sleeping, and bathing."

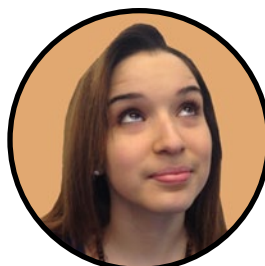
COLLEGE-BOUND KIDS OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT



Nicholas Carrero
Guttman
Community College



Brandon Leon
College of
Mt. Saint Vincent



Haley Martinez
Borough of Manhattan
Community College



Dante Quiñones
SUNY
Plattsburgh



Nathaly Trinidad
University
at Buffalo



Flyer Bar Profile

What she does for us- Since 2009, Lara de Bruijn (pronounced "DE BRIAN," please) has designed costumes for no less than 10 mainstage Project productions. Our July show, *Clothes Lines: Plays from the Costume Trunk*, will be her 11th.

Occupation- Costume Designer.

Why she does what she does- "I love being a visual part of telling stories."

Hobbies- "Cooking, going to galleries, seeing shows."

Last book read- "*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen."

Most recent accomplishment- "I became a Godmother!"

Best Project Memory- "That's a hard one, there are so many. A floating wrench in one of the plays a few years ago still stands out. We all got so much joy from it!"

Credo- "Believe that every show you do is the greatest thing you've ever worked on."

Advice to kids- "There is probably great value in the things you are excited and passionate about."

Place of birth- "Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada."

Habitat- "Park Slope, Brooklyn."

Favorite things about the Project- "Meeting the playwrights and talking to them about their plays, being in tech and watching such bravery from the playwrights and performers, and seeing what many thousand things can be made with foam core!"

On Flyer Bars- "Best thing to eat in the lobby!"

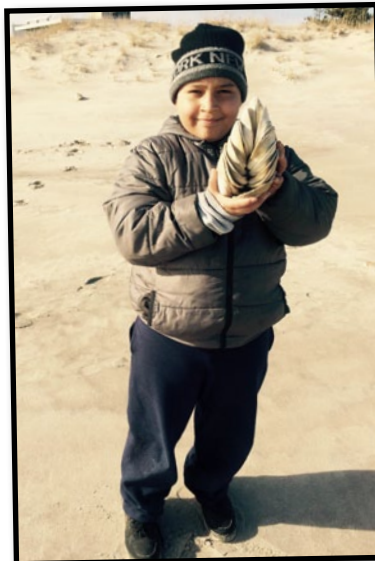


LARA DE BRUIJN

TRIP SNAPZ!



Bridgeton: Everyone collects shells on the beach...



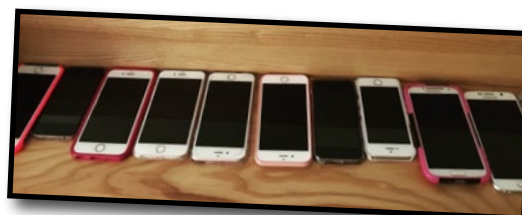
...but Carlos got the most, to be sure.



Bridgeton: Flor de Liz Perez, Shaunice Jordan, and Lucy DeVito do the first reading of a kid's play.



Madison, NJ: "Drew University is nice, but we coulda had better weather..."



"...and they take away our phones when we rehearse..."



"...but ice cream makes everything okay."