



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

FULL-COLOR WEB EDITION • VOL. 68 - OCTOBER, 2013 • GEORGE BABIAK, EDITOR



OUR NEXT SHOW
OCT. 25-27, 2013
SEE FLYER INSIDE

YEE-HA! TEEN ENSEMBLE TOURS WESTERN CANADA WITH "TWELFTH NIGHT"

▲ From L to R, standing: Armando Cosmé, Teen Dean Chris Ceraso, Ashley Smith, Doris Alcantara, Johanna Vidal, Melissa Rebolledo, Samantha Caldon, Lily Capstick, Jason Gil, and Alvin Garcia. Kneeling: Native Calgarian and Stage Manager Vanessa Valdes, Tino Paduani, Director Megan Cramer, Production Manager George Babiak, and Kiya Jacob.

At 5:00 a.m. on June 26th, 10 teens sleepily gathered at the Project to travel 2,400 miles to the Great Northwest for the Canadian Tour of our Shakespeare production "Twelfth Night."

The week before we were scheduled to leave for Canada, however, Calgary and Banff experienced severe flooding. Roads were destroyed, people were evacuated from their homes, and the University of Calgary provided temporary housing for many evacuees. Luckily, Canadians are a tough bunch! All of our hosts and friends rallied to make sure that we were taken care of in the best way possible.

Some highlights: the discovery of "Poutine" (french fries with gravy and cheese curds. Some say it tastes good.); Melissa and Lily's interview on CBC Radio (complete with singing one of our original songs); meeting Canada's second-highest paid Rodeo Clown (the highest paid was laughing all the way to the bank); traveling back in time at Heritage Park in Calgary (see photo at right); cowboy hats for everybody (courtesy of Judy Bissell, see photo above); theater games with gregarious college students, a glorious mountain hike to a gorgeous lake, and two wonderfully successful performances of our show at the University of Calgary and the Banff Centre.

As the Teen Ensemble arrived in New York a week later, we were welcomed back to our home city with 4th of July fireworks, almost as if NYC had staged them just for us!

-MC

TWELFTH NIGHT
THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Eric A. March Composer/Music Director
Lara de Bruijn Costume Designer
Burke Brown Lighting Designer
Vanessa Valdes Sound Designer
Winnie Lok Stage Manager

CANADIAN HOSTS
The University of Calgary
The Banff Centre



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

BIG STAFF CHANGES

There's been a whole lot of shakin' up goin' on at the Project as a new staffer signed on, one long-time staffer moved on, and another took on a new job description.

First off, **Josh Moody**, our **Development Associate** for the last 6 years, (at right; it takes 6 images to properly capture his personality), bade farewell to the Project in order to take a position as a "Manny" for the son of a husband-and-wife team of high-end fashion photographers. No, we're not kidding! Fear not, he'll be back as Tyleek Powell's Smart Partner this fall.



JOSH

GRB

Meanwhile, **Lisa Kerner** (shown at left taking a much-deserved break in Aruba) figures into these changes by taking on Josh's development responsibilities while continuing to perform a good measure of her previous duties. Her new title is **Development & Management Associate**.

In yet another development in the development staff, **Alyssa Anderson** (who would like some awards) joined the Project in June as **Manager of Individual Giving**.

Most recently Alyssa worked as Associate Producer at Playwrights Realm, an off-Broadway theatre company dedicated to emerging playwrights. Prior to that she had the pleasure of serving as Managing Director of the Yale Cabaret for the 2009-2010 season, as well as Assistant Managing Director for Yale

Repertory Theatre's 2008-2009 season. Originally from Florida, Alyssa has also worked with Orlando Shakespeare Theatre as both Marketing Coordinator and Box Office Manager, and with Planet Hollywood Orlando as Unit Accountant. She received a BFA in Performance from the University of Central Florida in 2002, and an MFA in Theatre Management from Yale School of Drama in 2010. In her free time, you can find Alyssa enjoying one of the many NYC parks with her dog, Wyatt.

And here's **Johanna Vidal**, a Project alum and a recent graduate of the University of Michigan. In May, Johanna took on the position of the Project's **Community Coordinator**. While at the U of M, she was co-Entertainment Chair of EnspiRED, an arts organization focused on self-expression. She also interned for En Nuestra Lengua, a Spanish immersion program where she helped kindergarten students enhance their vocabularies in their native Spanish. She's also got a hankering to do some traveling. London calling?



LISA

MC



ALYSSA

GRB

READ FIVEY MAGAZINE!



Project Update is written by the adults of The 52nd Street Project, but if you want to see stories, poetry, drawings, and reviews by the *kids*, check out the 15th annual issue of *Fivey*, the Project's literary 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.

JOHANNA



GRB

-GB



SPRING PLAYMAKING
MARCH, 2013 - KIDS WRITE, ADULTS PERFORM

STAND BY ME: THE RELIABLE PLAYS

THE SPRING 2013 PLAYMAKING SHOWS

Twice a year Megan Cramer teaches 10 brand-new kids the fine art of writing plays. Their final efforts are cast with adult actors and fully realized on the stage of the Five Angels Theater. This batch was written in Bridgehampton, Long Island, and presented on April 4-7 in Hell's Kitchen.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Kim D. Sherman Composer/Music Director
 Sarah Swafford Costume Designer
 Greg MacPherson Lighting Designer
 Betsy Rhodes Sound Designer
 Anne Lowrie Stage Manager

THE HAMPTONS HOSTS

John Vassilaros, Alex Gersten-Vassilaros and family, and Laurie Becker.

◀ Geeky Angela Lewis made a leap of faith in befriending undead Molly Carden in *The Zombie Cheerleader* and *the Human Nerd*, by Stephanie Macias. Charise Castro Smith directed this bloody buddy play.



Jealous Singer by Jayda Camacho, featured a competitive choral singer (Jackie Chung) driven to a vicious act of sabotage against the brilliant and modest Korey Jackson. George Babiak directed.



In the gripping tale *Revenge of the Stolen*, written by David Ortiz and directed by Kerry Whigham, Sue Jean Kim exacted a brutal vengeance on hobo Scott Parkinson. The moral: don't mess with a girl who carries a katana.



An undercover detective (Sekou Laidlow) encountered the ghost of a girl from the 1600's (Annie Purcell) hell-bent on a deadly mission in Matthew Orozco's *The Death of a Million*, directed by Rachel Dart.



In a play set in a China of the far future, Billy Crudup and Isaiah Johnson delivered knock-out performances as professional fighters in Damian Tineo's *That One Wish*, directed by Chad Hoepfner.



Sasha Davis gave us a glimpse into the lives of big cats with deep family secrets in her feline drama *Liars in Family*. Tasha Gordon-Solmon directed as Rachel Mewbron and Jeanna Phillips acted.



Kai Ceniza's *Ultimate Enemies* flashed back to Oklahoma in the 1950's, with Stephen O'Reilly and Mike Crane racing, fighting, vomiting, jail-breaking, and death-faking. Paul L. Coffey directed this wild west pastiche.



In Chyanne Peña's *River Madness*, a bear (Bhavesh Patel) and a tiger (Adrienne C. Moore) discovered that there were plenty of fish in the river. Nicole A. Watson directed the play.



My Singing Career, by Christin Tetteh, examined the ambition and envy of teens caught up in a talent contest. Awoye Timpo directed Liza Colon-Zayas and Julia Lawler.



In Mussa Ahmed's play, a banker (Reed Birney) and a robber (Peter Dinklage) fought about the most basic of needs: love and money. Andy Donald directed *The Robbery Case*.



THE BLOCK ISLAND 1-ON-1'S - JULY, 2013

In *The Corn Stalks At Night*, by Robert Askins, Michael Propster was a mutant ear of corn with ambulatory tentacles that threatened the life and livelihood of farmer Matthew Orozco. This corny comedy had a kernel of truth in it that really popped off the page.



Graeme Gillis's homage to horror and Hell's Kitchen, *Zombie Dance Party*, was a show-stopper that incorporated multiple monsters. Daiva Deupree and Tyleek Powell starred.



We learned from Erin Felgar and Stephanie Macias that running a marathon is pretty hard, even when you are *Born To Run*, as it was titled. Liz Flahive scripted this racy play.

**MAKE IT SNAPPY:
PLAYS IN A NEW YORK MINUTE**
THE 2013 BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES

In July we took 10 kids and their grown-up partners to beautiful Block Island for a week to prepare the shows you see on this page and the next. They were performed in NYC July 19-21, 2013 at the Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Josh Langman Lights
Eric A. March Composer/Music Director
Jennifer Kirschman Costumes
Isobel McBride Sound Designer
Liz Bell Stage Manager

BLOCK ISLAND HOSTS

Susan Bush; Socha Cohen; Katy Homans and Mar-dette and Patterson Sims; Leslie Parsons; Joya Verde and Virginia Dare; Martha Velie-Gass & Pat Ritter; and our headquarters host Dr. Christina Biaggi.



In Josh Holloway's *G.A.*, a Guardian Alien came to Earth to reform a callow wastrel who lived in his mom's basement. Stephen O'Reilly and Ezekiel Albarron were the stars.



Zero and Five, by Matt Schatz, was a dystopian reverie on the madness of humanity's relationship with its environment. Jennifer Ikeda was the planet that Jayda Camacho desperately wanted to communicate with.



The first foamcore CitiBike made its appearance in *V.B.F.*, by Erica Saleh. Kimiye Corwin wore many disguises in order to convince Christin Tetteh that she alone was her "Very Best Friend."

BLOCK ISLAND 1-ON-1'S (CONTINUED)



◀ In *A Brief History of Crime*, by Lee Rosen, the author portrayed a mad time-bending, beard-sporting scientific genius who wanted to rule the world (don't they all?). Timmy Miller was the super-speedy do-gooder who thwarted evil Lee.

▶ Joel Perez revealed a surprising family secret to kid brother Damian Tineo in Nick Platt's *Space Cadet*. Spoiler alert: They're ALIENS!



◀ John Sheehy typecast himself as an omnipotent being with complete control over fate and destiny in his own play *I Never Metaphysic I Didn't Like*. Kai Ceniza was the regular old kid with the power to prove him wrong.

▶ Who doesn't love an evil robot school principal? Everyone, that's who! Luckily, Brooke Fraser, a.k.a. "The Chosen One," was there to stop Ka-Ling Cheung's bid for global domination. All of this mayhem took place in Nora Chau's *Fight Test*.



Dancemaking

In March and April of 2013, 8 kids met weekly with adult partners to choreograph and rehearse original dances under the tutelage and direction of Megan Cramer and her associate Gus Rogerson. The final works were performed for an audience on April 22 and 23.

▼ *The Cowboy and the Coward Cow*: Choreographer Alex Bonnet and A.Z. Kelsey



▶ *Jungle*: Lindsay Torrey and choreographer Makice Pacheco.



▲ *MDG Concertantes*: Choreographers Malik Velazquez and Daquan Nelson.



▲ *The Blow Out*: Alessandra Larson and choreographer Allyssia Feliciano.

▲ *The Nightmare*: Choreographer Tyleek Powell and Ruy Iskandar.

▲ *Nerdtopia*: Choreographer Joseph Cruz and Justin Cimino.

▲ *Friendship All Around The World*: Choreographer Jasmine Correa and Ashley Marie Ortiz.

THE BENEFIT BOX



◀ This year's Big Annual Benefit, held on May 13 at the Tribeca Rooftop, was entitled *Just Kidding*, and no kidding, it was a lot of fun. Michael Bannister, Enrique Caballero, Ricardo Currin, Maria Martinez, and Kayla Matos were the Project kids who wrote stand-up material for comics Lew Black, John Bowman, Nancy Giles, Vic Henley, Kathleen Madigan, and musician Cynthia Kaplan. Many laughs were had and much money was made for the Project.

▼ 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 4 years, The 52nd Street Project. Below are Bobby Cannavale, Edie Falco, and Tony Sirico with Proj Members Damian Tineo and Jasmine Correa. Last year Charity Day raised \$35,000 for us. Not bad for a day's work, eh?



"BIG KIDS" LOOK SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE ADULTS

The Project held the first annual **Big Kids Bash** on July 23rd! There were delicious snacks, a silent auction with some super swank goodies, and very tasty beverages – all in one of the neatest settings in New York, the roof of the Mondrian SoHo Hotel.

The purpose of the party was to kick off a new membership program, which will be a way for supporters of the Project to have even more access to the cool stuff we do! Members will receive benefits like invitations to special events and parties, advance notice on gala ticket sales, discounts at partner organizations, etc. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. If you have questions before then, feel free to email Alyssa Anderson at anderson@52project.org. -AA

► Big Kids Alexandra Garrison, Shelli Galati, Charles Beer-mann, Will Hogan, Blythe O'Brien, and Beth Wyatt.



BILLY FARRELL AGENCY



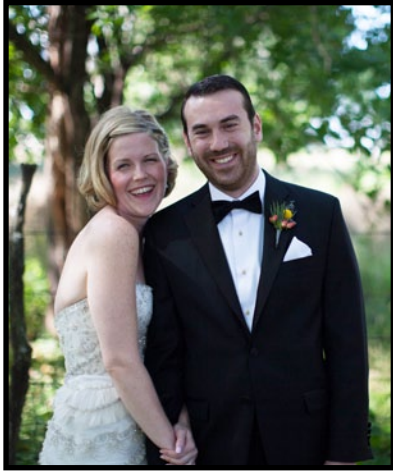
◀ More Big Kids: Mike Adler, Bill Mills, Allie Keller, Dina Vaysman.

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.

Cantor Fitzgerald.....	\$35,000	NYSCA.....	\$8,060
CBS Corporation.....	\$6,000	Pinkerton Foundation.....	\$50,000
Celestial Equities.....	\$8,000	Rona & Randolph Nelson Foundation.....	\$8,450
Common Sense Fund.....	\$15,000	Seven Turns Fund.....	\$1,500
Con Edison.....	\$10,000	Shubert Foundation.....	\$10,000
Dawkins Family Foundation.....	\$5,000	Staging & Design, Inc.....	\$2,500
Dubin Foundation.....	\$1,000	Steingart Family.....	\$15,000
Educational Foundation of America.....	\$10,000	Sterling Foundation.....	\$39,500
Harkness Foundation.....	\$3,500	Surdna Foundation.....	\$25,000
Heisman Trophy Trust.....	\$1,500	Susquehanna Foundation.....	\$15,000
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.....	\$25,000	Tiger Baron Foundation.....	\$5,000
Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation.....	\$10,000	John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc.....	\$5,000
Midler Family Foundation.....	\$5,000	West Bank Café.....	\$1,000
Music Theater International.....	\$3,000	Yorke Construction.....	\$6,000
Neil V. DeSena Foundation.....	\$16,000		



MEGABITS



▲ Our one-time intern and current playwright volunteer Sean Kenealy married Leah Tacha on June 29 of this year. We think they'll be great together.



▲ Kira Onodera is now Kira Onodera-Harrow. It's 'cause she married Mr. Aaron Harrow at the Gowanus Loft on June 1st. He's from Leeds, England!



▲ They're BOTH Project vols! Rachel Mewbron and Matt Citron tied the knot in Atlanta, Georgia on Sept. 14. Congratulations, you two.



◀ Here is Master Henry O'Neil Heck with his folks Maggie Lacey and Bill Heck. Henry was born right here in New York City on April 6, 2013 at 6:15 a.m. This early bird got the worm!

▶ They're BOTH Project alums! Steven Vasquez and Kayelani Almonte are seen here with little Aubrey Jaylee Vasquez, born on Feb. 25, 2013.



▶ Charise Castro Smith married Joby Earle (a "most excellent man") on August 3, 2013 in Long Island City. The ceremony was presided over by James Bundy, who is the Dean of the Yale School of Drama, where they met.



◀ Once again, they're BOTH Project vols! From way back, too! Drew Cortese and Jeanine Serralles got hitched on April 18, 2013. We got a kick out of this shot.

▶ *Not A Marriage or a Baby Department*: In August, staffer George Babiak, his wife Vanessa Valdes, and eternal Proj Vol Karin Schall traveled to Turkey to swim the legendary Hellespont Strait (also known as the Dardanelles). George and Karin were taken out of the water for failing to make the time limit, but Vanessa finished as the first (and only) woman in her age group. And they're all sexy!



KATHLEEN FOREMAN

JUNE 30, 1958 - SEPT. 2, 2013

Although she lived in Calgary, Alberta, Kathleen was a great friend to The 52nd Street Project. Kathleen was a professor of drama at the University of Calgary, an improviser, a storyteller, a director, a mask-maker, an author and much more. While on sabbatical in 2008 she came to New York to observe the Project, but, as is our nature, we asked her to work at the same time. She delightedly complied by being a cracker-jack stage manager for our Block Island production. The following Spring, she returned to dramaturge and direct a Playmaking show. More recently, Kathleen was one of our Alberta Angels for the teen groups we brought to Western Canada (see page 1). She picked up breakfast supplies and captivated our teenagers with a wonderful mask workshop in 2011 and came to see a dress rehearsal of "Twelfth Night" just this past July.

Kathleen will be remembered forever by her partner Geoffrey Gerwing, her family, all her students, her best pal Vanessa Valdes and the rest of "The Goddesses," as Kathleen and her closest female friends are known. Now one of them regards us from above.

-GB



THE WAREHAM 1-ON-1'S



◀ This year, cicadas were everywhere, including on the Project's stage. *Time To Go Home*, by Cynthia Kaplan, explored the push and pull of two insects' journey back to the surface. Jillian Puhalla and Sasha Davis were the long-buried bugs.

▶ Lindsay Torrey was a beleaguered peanut seller and Jasmine Correa a rabid baseball fan in Tasha Gordon-Solmon's *Catch*. The object of their conflict: a home-run ball that they caught simultaneously.



▲ In *Slightly Damaged*, by Eric Dufault, David Ortiz and Corey Jackson were competing, crazy-costume-wearing, used-car dealers whose television ads grew increasingly hostile and strange. At the end, they found that their battered old friendship still had some resale value.

MAKE IT SNAPPIER: PLAYS IN A NEW YORK MINUTE, DOUBLE-TIME!

THE 2013 WAREHAM ONE-ON-ONES

No sooner was our Block Island set done than we whisked 10 more kids to Wareham, Mass. The shows were done Aug. 16-18, 2013 at the Five Angels.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Greg MacPherson Lights
 Patrick Barnes Composer/Music Director
 Sarah Swafford & Crystal Thompson Costumes
 Jason Cawley Sound Designer
 Jeff Brancato Stage Manager

WAREHAM HOSTS

Andrea & Emmanuel Daskalakis; Joe McNay; Alice McNay; Anne & Colin McNay; Gray & Rosemary Watson; Bob & Marina Whitman; Sidney Worthen, and above all, our main house hosts Peter, Helen, Christopher & Nicholas Randolph.

▶ Camile Bernard and Lucy DeVito were ruthless young women determined to ruin each other's birthday parties merely because they took place on the same day in Sarah Burgess's *August Thirtieth*.



▶▶ Meanwhile, insomniac Megan Cramer consulted dream expert Wilhelmina Ohene Kari Kari for a cure for her nightmares in *Follow Your Dreams*, which she wrote for Wil and herself.



◀◀ Mussa Ahmed played the title role in *Rod Rock, Undercover Cop* by Josh Koenigsberg. J. Mallory McCree played the dual role of Rod's commanding officer and the soccer-playing criminal mastermind that Rod was sent to investigate.

◀ In the Wareham show's other police dramedy, Tiniyah Powell and George Babiak were incredibly bored small-town cops yearning for the excitement of Hell's Kitchen in George's play *Mouse Arrest*.

WAREHAM (CONTINUED)



In Darcy Fowler's *The Eyes of the Melting Boy*, Chyanne Peña and Darcy were two girls who dared to descend into a suburban basement to watch an old, scary movie with the same name as their play.



Justin Bannister and Dylan Dawson traveled through time, space, and a host of alternate universes in Dylan's *Portal Potty*. It was, to be sure, the special-effects extravaganza of the One-on-One season.



Jed Clarke played a man who had been turned into a ghost after he ate a haunted taco in his play *Ghost Dreams*. Ricardo Currin was Jed's 39 year-old pro basketball player friend, the only man who could actually see his ghost pal.

Stage Combat works a lot like Dancemaking (see page 5). In May and June, five kids were paired with adults. Together the kid/adult teams learned the Finer Facets of Fake Fighting from ace Broadway fight director Tom Schall and Education Director Liz Bell. The kids were then asked to artfully weave the fight routines they had learned into original plays that they wrote themselves. It all came together in a harmless, but vicious, performance at the Five Angels on June 14th.



◀ Malik Velazquez and Angel Desai were combatants on an alien planet in Malik's dystopian *Thick Air*.



◀ Tinah Powell arrived to collect a debt from Nic Grelli in her play *The Runaways*.



▶ In Chayse Peña's *The Baseball Fanatics*, Chayse and Justin Blanchard had it out on the field.

STAGE COMBAT



▲ *The End*, by Edelys Guerrero, told the story of a high school friendship's collapse. Flor de Liz Perez was Edelys' antagonist.



▲ The playwright/actors finally stopped fighting long enough to take a friendly bow.



▲ Richard Brea and Raul Castillo took their video game battle to very physical heights in Richard's play, *The X-Box Incident*.

STAGE COMBAT PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

The Board of Directors of The 52nd Street Project invite you to

GET BACK

A Benefit Concert with Jonathan Groff

One Night Only

Sunday, November 24, 2013 @ 7:00pm

The 52nd Street Project's Five Angels Theater
789 Tenth Avenue, NYC 10019

Featuring special guest artists
and music direction by
Mary-Mitchell Campbell.

This event will support the writing and
acting programs of the Project.

For ticket information contact Alyssa Anderson at
212/333-5252 x14 or anderson@52project.org.



Be A Designer

We bring a lot of kids to the boards, but sometimes you've gotta BUILD some boards. That's why we offer "Be A Designer," taught by George Babiak, assisted by Education Director Liz Bell, and helped by a cluster of dedicated volunteers. They all came together during the March 25-29 spring break to teach 7 kids a little bit about set design. And it all turned out great.



Julissa Peralta



Justin Bannister
and Ai Vuong



Bianca Washington
and Bamba Thiam



Samantha Paduani



Lincoln Bernhard and
Wilhelmina Ohene-Kari
experiment with a
prop sword.



Will's spooky set model for
"The Swordsmen."



Greg MacPherson stepped
out from behind the lighting
tech table to help Ezekiel
Albarron.



Kaitlin Feliciano
and Lisa Kerner

BE A DESIGNER PHOTOGRAPHS BY LIZ BELL

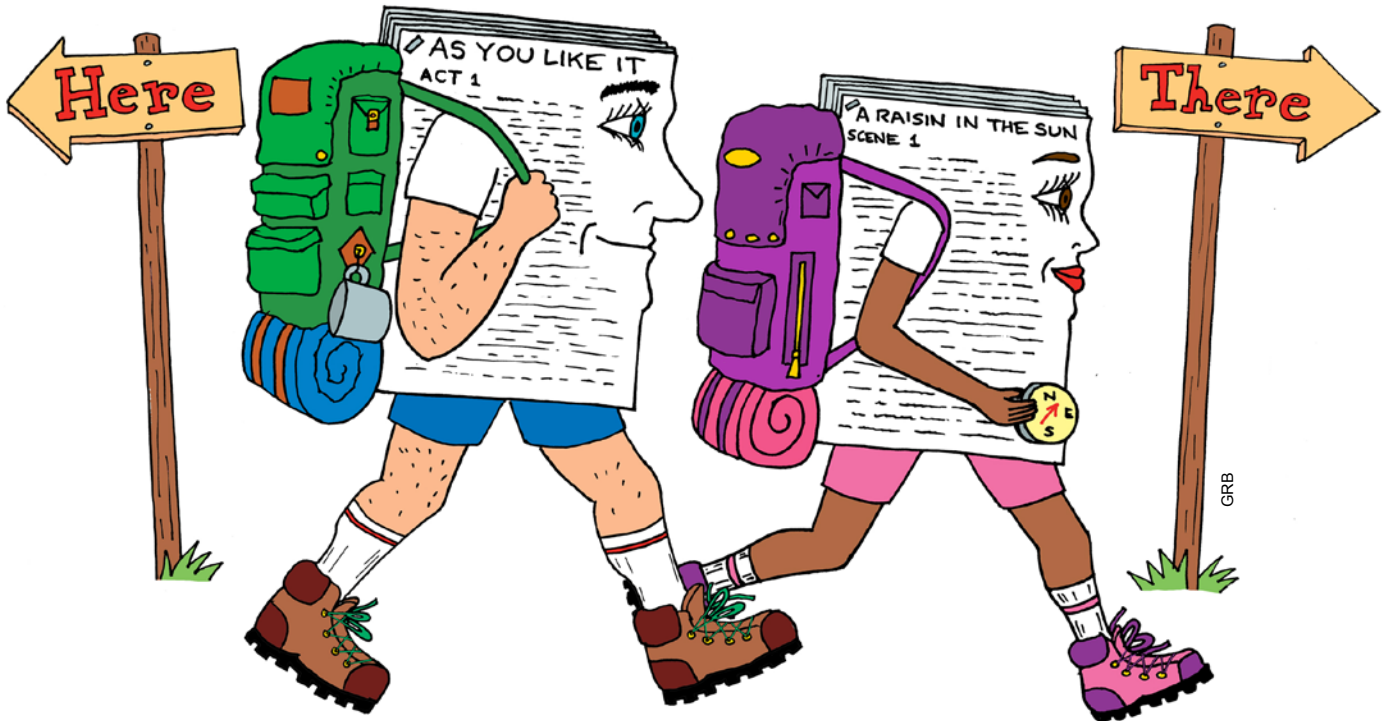
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
GUS ROGERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAROL OCHS

PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR
MEGAN CRAMER

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

IN TRANSIT



PLAYS ON THE MOVE! THE 2013 PLAYBACK SHOWS

9 NEW PLAYS
WRITTEN BY KIDS
AND PERFORMED
BY THE PLAYWRIGTS
WITH THEIR
ADULT PARTNERS AT THE

FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10th Avenue
(between 52nd and 53rd St.)

Friday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 27 at 3:00 p.m.

THE KID ACTOR/PLAYWRIGTS

Adnan Ahmed
Richard Brea
Jade Cuevas
Kaitlin Feliciano
Genesis Hires
Steven Baez-Padilla
Chayse Peña
Britney Trinidad
Fallyn Vega

THE ADULT ACTOR/DIRECTORS

Carlo Alban
Darcy Fowler
Grant Harrison
Angela Lewis
Nick Mills
Nancy Noto
Vayu O'Donnell
Jeremy Rishe
Rachel Rusch

and composer/music director
Loren Toolajian



THE 52ND STREET PROJECT
789 10th Ave.
NEW YORK, NY 10019

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Marsue Cumming MacNicol, the Project's former Executive Director, recently paid a visit from California. An impromptu reunion of the oldest of the old-timers was held at the West Bank Cafe.

From left to right: Nyita Hanley, Jose Soto, Karen Myrie, Luis Santoni*, Shirley Rumierk, Jeffrey Zambrano*, Marsue, Willie Reale, Richard Myrie, Annette Myrie, Deneka Peniston.

*Daughters Sofia Santoni and Kaylee Zambrano will start Playmaking this year.

Flyer Bar Profile



**BARBARA BASH, STEVE GORN,
& WILEY GORN**

What they do for us- Barbara, Steve, and their son Wiley have been a Project host family in the Stone Ridge area of upstate New York since November, 2005. Last summer, Wiley was a Project intern.

Occupations- Barbara: "Calligraphic artist and author." Steve: "Musician and composer specializing in world music." Wiley: "Student/Director/Actor."

Why they do what they do- Barbara: "I'm in love with the alphabet and all the ways it manifests in the world." Steve: "I've been playing music all my life; more than entertainment, the Indian music which I play is a healing art." Wiley: "I love to hear and tell stories. I love how much they teach us, both about the world and about ourselves."

Hobbies- Barbara: "African dance and gardening." Steve: "Walking in the city, cooking Indian food and conversing." Wiley: "The violin/fiddle, playing music with friends, reading epic sagas, and long walks in a warm summer rain or a winter snow storm."

Last books read- Barbara: "*Robbing the Bees : A Biography of Honey.*" Steve: "*Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton: The Secret Agent Who Made the Pilgrimage to Mecca, Discovered the Kama Sutra, and Brought the Arabian Nights to the West.*" Wiley: "*Freeing Shakespeare's Voice* by Kristin Linklater."

Most recent accomplishments- Barbara: "I led 250 people in a big brush workshop at a leadership conference in Canada." Steve: "In spring 2013, I received a 'cross-cultural award' in Hyderabad, India." Wiley: "Opening a production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, of which I was the assistant director and played the role of the Vagrant."

Best Project Memories- Barbara: "Watching kids being listened to so deeply and supported so fully by adults." Steve: "Children running wild on our land, and the Sunday afternoon play readings." Wiley: "Realizing that my fellow interns were also musicians and putting on an impromptu show for the staff."

Advice to kids- Barbara: "Take in the world fully - and then let your unique voice come through." Steve: "Let your plays be fresh, alive, and from your heart." Wiley: "Embrace the unknown."

Favorite things about the Project- Steve: "Playwriting weekend on our land..." Barbara: "...and then getting to see how this fresh material gets turned into the wackiest plays!" Wiley: "How open and inviting the space is. Doors are open to all and I love that everyone gathers to have lunch together."