



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PROJECT UPDATE

FULL-COLOR WEB EDITION • VOL. 75 • DECEMBER, 2016 • GEORGE BABIAK, EDITOR



Michael Propster was a young miner and Ahmed Abdelmegeed was an aged minor in Tim Lord's *To Mine and Mine Not*. Nothing was mined except humor.



In *Keep Calm and Snapchat Me*, Selena Sanchez was a girl whose older sister (Stephanie Jean Lane) went to war. Stephanie also wrote the piece.



Gage Simmons and Sebastian Arroyo were *Extreme Surfing, Skydiving Rock Stars Who Are Also Art Thieves* in Jeff Cox's play of that name.

SHOW PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

CLOTHES LINES: PLAYS FROM THE COSTUME TRUNK THE BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES

Each summer we do two sets of One-on-Ones, the oldest of all the Project's theatrical mentorship formats. The July set took 10 kids and their adult partners to beautiful Block Island for a solid week of rehearsing, eating, and splashing in the waves. After running everyone thoroughly ragged, we returned and staged the shows at the Five Angels Theater. On this page and the next are some glimpses of the performances on July 22-24.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Lara De Buijn..... Costume Designer
Josh Langman..... Lighting Designer
Vanessa Valdes..... Goddess of Sound
Charles M. Turner..... Stage Manager

THE B.I. HOSTS

Carl Kauffmann (main house host), Allison and Michael Anderson; Kate and Sam Bird; Katy Homans and Patterson Sims; Susan Matheke and Willie Feuer; Amy and Elliot Nerenberg; Gladys and Bill Phillips; Susan and Ray Torrey; Virginia Dare.

THE BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES JULY, 2016



In Charly Evon Simpson's play *To Be an Alien Body Builder*, Faisal Afridi was an unrelenting examiner, Jayleen Velez was the caring mentor, and Charly herself was the would-be "ABB." At dress rehearsal, when this photo was taken, Charly's part was played by our own Natalie Hirsch. Charly can be seen in the inset photo.

SEE OUR
NEXT BIG SHOW!
INFINITY AND BEYOND:
THE ULTIMATE PLAYS
DEC. 2, 3, & 4
FIND OUT MORE
ON PAGE NUMBER 4!



Beyonce Thomas got a chance to get back at a bully (Lucy DeVito) with a pair of scary rubber mitts in *Revenge of the Monster Hands* by Holly Hepp-Galvan.



Warrior Code, by Anne Troup, featured Angel Mendoza as a baby dragon and Anne as a knight in shining fabric.

YOUR OFFICIAL RECAP OF THE LAST FOUR MONTHS OF 52ND STREET PROJECT HISTORY!

BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES REPORT CONTINUED



Ka-Ling Cheung was an old-school Dental Pixie and Darby O'Donnell a fashionable Tooth Fairy competing for the choppers of a sleeping girl (intern Ian Edlund) in *Molar Opposites*, penned by Tahnee Cadrez.



Emmanuel Goicuria was a retiring principal suddenly forced to deal with a pyromaniacal student (Max Posner). Max's play *Retirement* ended on a wistful note when the characters ran into each other years later in a supermarket on Mars.



Gabriel Acevedo's character convinced his friend (Jose Gamo) to go to Pirate-Con, but inexplicably chose a shark costume for the event. Intern Holly Gibbs was a buccaneer emcee in Jose's *Walking the Plank*.



Kraken Wise, by John Sheehy, cast young Andres Mendoza as a hero called the Kraken, and John himself as Chaz, a scientist who accidentally turns his own hands into giant lobster claws.

CLOTHES LINES: PLAYS FROM THE COSTUME TRUNK THE WAREHAM ONE-ON-ONES

No sooner were the Block Island One-on-Ones done than we whisked 10 totally different kids to Wareham, Mass. (the Gateway to Cape Cod), to do 10 totally different plays. Everyone had a blast on the trip and all 10 plays were staged at The Five Angels Theater, Aug. 19-21.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Kim D. Sherman Composer/Music Director
Greg MacPherson Lights
Lily Prentice Costumes
Johanna Vldal Siren of Sound
Amanda Traile Stage Manager

THE WAREHAM HOSTS

Peter, Helen & Christopher Randolph; Lucy Apteekar & Gerry Leader; Andrea & Emmanuel Daskalakis; Kathy & Jamie Herring; Sam & Gerry Gray; Joe McNay; Gray & Rosemary Watson.



**THE WAREHAM, MASS. ONE-ON-ONES
AUGUST, 2016**

Nathaniel Ortiz was a wealthy, bored magnate who wanted to escape his fortune and his ennui by walking away from them while Gardiner Comfort was the faithful manservant who tried to keep him on track. Patrick Link was the author of *The Billionaire Birthday*.

SHOW PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

WAREHAM ONE-ON-ONES REPORT CONTINUED



Magalis Fabian Viñas was a baby Roo being stalked by a mean Aussie bushranger and Arielle Goldman was the Tasmanian Tiger who helped her out in Arielle's *Two Brave Friends*.



A selfish starlet (Haviland Atha-Simonton) and a humble cook (Thiana Goode) found themselves vying for the last spot in Paradise in Tahnee Cadrez's *At Heaven's Gate*. Holly Gibbs was the gatekeeper.



Rebecca Jimenez played the title role in *The Star Spangled Jokester* while Tina Chilip was her coach and confidant. Lynn Rosen wrote this play about a Borscht Belt comeback.



Jed Clarke's *The Dr. Mark Show* cast Coleman Williams as a daytime TV shrink who helps people find themselves. Jed was the incorrigible convict that sought Coleman's on-air assistance.



Marisol Miranda wrote and appeared in *Magicianation* for Yovely Ramirez. In it, Marisol played a girl coping with her resentment of the illness that afflicted her older sister.



Jose-Maria Aguila and Ethan Perez presented the longest, most exciting fight ever done in a One-on-One for their animal cop drama, *The Beat*. Jose-Maria wrote the play and choreographed the battle.



George Babiak was a melancholy sailor called Fred and Bryanna Ohene Kari was the tyrannical Captain Amy. Together they sought the dreaded Crimson Cuttlefish in George's *A Thrilling Tale of the Sea*.



Sam Lilja and Derek Rey were captive tigers desperate for freedom and John Sheehy was their cruel (and seemingly French) trainer in Cynthia Kaplan's *MoveOn.Tiger*.



Lovely Ramirez (twin to Yovely, above) and Erin Felgar were diligent home scientists seeking the perfect formula for chocolate cookies. *Sweet and Slow* was written by Madeleine George.

SHOW PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

GUS ROGERSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NATALIE HIRSCH, PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

INFINITY AND BEYOND



**10 NEW PLAYS WRITTEN BY KIDS AND PERFORMED BY ADULT ACTORS
AT THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S FIVE ANGELS THEATER**

789 10th Ave. 2nd Floor, between 52nd and 53rd St.

FRIDAY, DEC. 2 AT 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, DEC. 3 AT 3:00 & 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, DEC. 4 AT 3:00 P.M.

**4
SHOWS**

ADMISSION IS FREE, BUT RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST! TO BOOK YOUR SEATS, VISIT WWW.52PROJECT.ORG.

REPRISE AND SHINE: THE THROWBACK PLAYS
 THE 2016 PLAYBACK PRODUCTION

Just last month (October, 2016) we took 8 kids to Bridgehampton to rehearse plays they wrote to perform with adult partners. You saw them Oct. 21-23. If you DIDN'T see them, here are some photos.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Ben Moss..... Composer/Music Director
 Greg MacPherson Lights
 Siena Zoë Allen Costumes
 Aiden Dreskin Sound
 John Sheehy..... Stage Manager

HAMPTON HOSTS

Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, Cathy Dantchik, and Louis and Patrice Friedman.



Marchant Davis was an irreverent penguin and Ethan Zenteno a grieving polar bear in Ethan's *The Cold Catastrophe*.



Kaylee Zambrano's *The Secret Box* had Kaylee and Grace Rex as troubled friends in 1950's Louisiana.



◀ In Jayla Alvarez's *Connect The Dots*, Danaya Esperanza was raised as a ferret but came to realize that she was actually an adopted pit bull. Jayla was the guilt-ridden mother ferret.

▶ Milen Tokarev gave us a deep glimpse into his perceptions of Canada in his play *Fin*. Milen was an elderly man secretly living in a kitchen cabinet belonging to a boy entrepreneur (Stephen Stocking) in the business of raising exploding skunks.



◀ Amber Avant was a backpack and Rebecca Gomez was a fur coat in Rebecca's *Backpacking Through Sostco*. They went through some changes, but finally ended up driving into the sunset in the backpack's red convertible.

▶ *Crazy Miracles*, by Sebastian Lopez, introduced us to an unscrupulous producer (Vichet Chum) all too ready to exploit the talents of DJ Loud (Sebastian) for personal profit. The gift of a private plane helped ease their tensions.



The Temple of Youth and Beauty, by Kiara Figueroa, cast Kerry Warren as an incredibly ugly blobfish and Kiara herself as a wizeden, ancient goblin. Luckily, Kiara was able to remove her rubber mask before the play ended (see inset).



Aramis Jimenez was the Agent of the Universe, George Babiak was the captive Agent 23, and Garrett Kim was arch-villain War Keeper in Garrett's thrill-a-minute spy drama, *War, Inc.*

SHOW PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

SONGMAKING

This Fall, our program director Garrett Kim spearheaded yet another new program: Songmaking. With the help of the NYU Tisch School of the Arts Music Theater Writing Program, Garrett matched three 52nd Street Project kid songwriters up with professional composers, musicians, and singers. The partnerships resulted in a beautiful concert that took place at the Five Angels on Oct. 28.



Songwriter Sabrina Caldona



Lauren Patten



Tim Jerome



Stephanie McKay



◀ Garrett, with the band behind him: Rachel Dean, Wesley Brandt, Avi Amon, and Danny Ursetti.



Kendal Hartse



Songwriter Ricardo Currin



Andy Dahn



Lilli Cooper



Korey Jackson



Songwriter Rosneyni Rosario

SONGMAKING 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.

Altus One Fund, Inc.....	\$5,000
Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund.....	\$70,000
Carnegie Corporation of New York.....	\$2,400
Castle Family Foundation.....	\$2,000
CBS Corporation.....	\$7,500
Chanel Family Foundation.....	\$10,000
Con Edison.....	\$10,000
Neil V. DeSena Foundation.....	\$8,400
Distracted Globe Foundation.....	\$20,000
The Eleanor, Adam & Mel Dubin Foundation.....	\$1,000
Educational Foundation of America.....	\$10,000
Fidelity Charitable Giving.....	\$2,400
Pamela & Wayne Garrison Family Foundation.....	\$25,000
Gewirtz Family Fund.....	\$3,800
The Stephen P. Hanson Family Foundation.....	\$10,000
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.....	\$75,000
Markel Corporation.....	\$1,500
New York Community Trust.....	\$10,000
The Morris & Alma Schapiro Fund.....	\$10,000
Schwab Charitable Fund.....	\$3,000
Senahill Partners.....	\$10,500
Shubert Foundation.....	\$10,000
Sterling Foundation.....	\$34,850
Susquehanna Foundation.....	\$15,000
United Talent Agency.....	\$7,500
John A. Vassilaros & Son, Inc.....	\$7,500
Viacom.....	\$15,000
Yorke Construction.....	\$7,500

BIG KIDS BASH



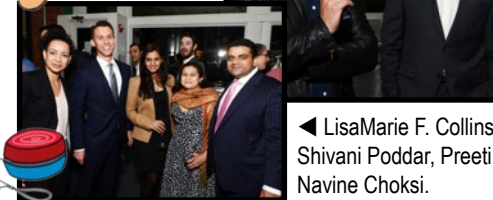
We've been holding more and more mini-benefit parties for our Crew 52 members. The latest "Big Kids Bash," took place on Wed., Nov. 9 at the Winery at the City Winery (Yep, the Winery has a Winery).

A whole bunch of fully-grown children showed up to drink some tasty blended wines, scarf down some delicious hors d'oeuvres, and purchase some real and foam-core toys to raise money for our programs (we've still got some stuff in the toy box, if you're interested). Here are some shots of the shindig:

► Samantha Cohen, Kristine Chau, Carolyn De Sena, and Richard DeSena.



◀ Raul Castillo and Frankie Alvarez did some speechifying for the crowd.



◀ LisaMarie F. Collins, Gregory Lullo, Shivani Poddar, Preeti Nath, and Navine Choksi.



WANT TO DONATE TO THE PROJECT?

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

MEGABITS

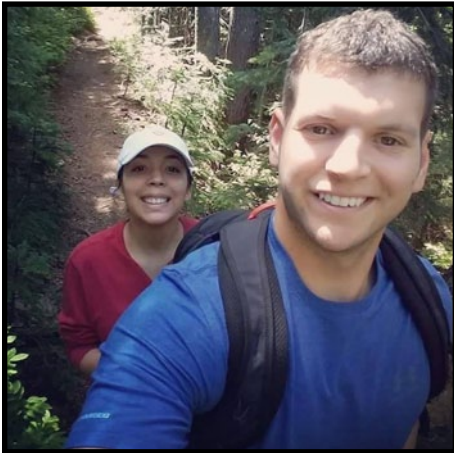


▲ Here are Paul Ashton, Chloe Grace Ashton, and Rachel Bauder, who is a Project stage manager from way back. Chloe was born on March 6, 2016 and all three family members have lots of energy and charisma.

▼ Please welcome Charlotte Alexandra Neville, born in London on Sept. 8, 2016 to former board member Alexandra Garrison and her husband Ben Neville. The whole family recently visited Father Christmas.



▲ Catherine Mueller Melwani and Dan Melwani have a new baby boy named Arjun George Melwani. He arrived on Friday, Oct. 28th and is as good-looking as his parents. Cat told us that Arjun means "white light" and George means "of the earth."



▼ Richard Anthony, who is a big Project supporter, works at BGC Partners, and is a super fan of basketball and the New York Knicks, married Project volunteer and supporter Avigayil Taussig in September.



▲ We just found out that Project alum Octavia Rodriguez got married to Paul Bionaz last year. Paul is in the military and they love to go hiking, climbing, and skiing in Seattle, where they live. In a few months, however, they will move to Italy for three years!

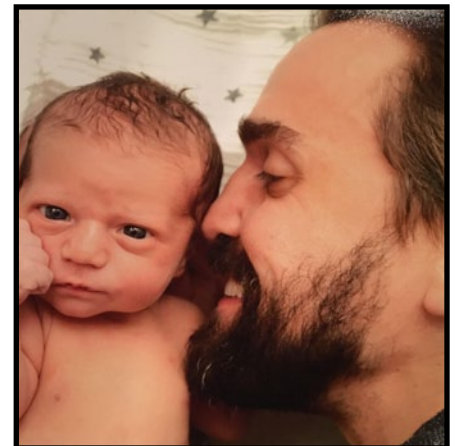


▲ We recently had a visit from Roz Paul, the artistic director of Scene and Heard, which is the London, England replication of The 52nd Street Project. Here she is with Boss Lady Carol Ochs.



▲ We're very proud of Project volunteers Carly Mensch and Liz Flahive, who are the creators and show-runners of the forthcoming Netflix show *G.L.O.W.* It's about lady wrestlers in the 80's!

▼ On Oct. 19, Molly Coogan, a top Proj Vol as well as a pinch-hitting temporary staffer, won the Seeso Best Comedy award for episode 1 of her web series "Things I Hate."



▲ Jack Tapper was born on Sept. 8th, 2016 at 6:36 while the song "Hey Jude" played. His parents, Annaleigh Ashford and Joe Tapper, instantly fell in love with him.



Flyer Bar Profile

What she does for us- Edie has been a volunteer with the Project since the Spring Playmaking show of 2001, in which she played the "bratty teenager" she mentions below.

Occupation- "I am an actress."

Why she does what she does- "I do what I do because I am rarely as happy as I am when I am acting."

Hobbies- "I love to sew and make crafty things."

Last book read- "I just finished a book called *Everybody's Fool* by Richard Russo."

Most recent accomplishment- "My most recent accomplishment was reupholstering my couch."

Best Project Memory- "My best 52nd Street Project memory is dancing as a bratty teenager in a play."

Credo- "My credo is 'Say what you mean. Mean what you say. Don't say it mean'."

Advice to kids - "Do what you love and it will bring you everything you'll ever need."

Place of birth- "I was born in Brooklyn, NY."

Habitat- "My preferred habitat is by the ocean."

Favorite thing about the Project- "Everything that goes into it and comes from it is good. There is no bad. It is a perfect idea perfectly realized. And I get to play a deer."

On Flyer Bars- "Flyer bars have to be the most delicious treat on the planet."



EDIE FALCO

SUMMER SNAPZ!



July: The Block Island Crew



August: Team Wareham



◀ Beach Sailors: Liz and her daughter Enza try dry-land boating.

▶ Mad dogs, Englishmen, and artistic directors: Gus watches rehearsals in the noonday sun.



▲ Magalis, frog impressionist.



▲ ▶ Trusty interns, trusty stage crew: Emma, Haviland, Holly, and Ian.



Meeting on the Porch! The girls get ready for the beach.



LUCY APTEKAR

▲ Country Boys: Derek and Ethan became potato farmers and birders in Wareham.