



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PROJECT UPDATE

FULL-COLOR WEB EDITION • VOL. 81 - NOVEMBER, 2018 • GEORGE BABIAK, EDITOR



**GOOD VIBRATIONS:
PLAYS WITH SOUND FOUNDATIONS**
THE BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES
JULY 20-22, 2018, FIVE ANGELS THEATER

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Wes Braver.....	Composer/Music Director
Paula Cohen.....	Costume Designer
Miriam Crowe.....	Lighting Designer
Lella Michelson.....	Sound Designer
Caylyn Creager.....	Stage Manager

Boy, did we have a busy summer! In July we took 10 kids and 10 adult partners to our longest-running destination, Block Island (been going there since 1989), to rehearse a bunch of original plays that we brought to the city a week later. Here's the rundown.

1. Melanie Correa (R) taught Jenelle Chu how to escape from quicksand and conquered her own fear of sharks in Michael Walek's *How to Survive*.
2. In Kerry Warren's *The Red Bat*, Nikolai Alvarez was the seemingly murderous sports fan to whom Kerry had to deliver groceries. He turned out to be a good guy.
3. Neil D'Astolfo and Ivan Garcia were secret agents specializing in the supernatural in Neil's *Magic Spies*. Their mission pitted them against a giant slice of moldy bread and a very large and hungry cat.
4. Project founder Willie Reale returned to us with a neat little play called *Little Known Facts*, which featured Nyaliz Aviles and Molly Carden as jigsaw puzzle pieces. Nyaliz was the eye-of-the-unicorn piece that showed Molly that even a boring bit of blue sky had an important place in the picture. You might say she found "inner piece."



GOOD VIBRATIONS PHOTOS BY JOHANNA VIDAL

BLOCK ISLAND ONE-ON-ONES, CONTINUED



A Hare Too Far, by José-Maria Aguila, was an allegory for our times that told of two imprisoned rabbits (Amari DuBose and José). George Babiak was the cruel (but dashing) guard.



In Kyle Cameron's *Another Shot*, Cody Wilson was a frustrated actor and Carlos Jimenez his director (who just happened to be an oppressed werewolf).



Arielle Goldman's mythic fable, *Warrior Sisters*, cast Leta Reneé-Alan and Cassandra Sinchi as siblings seeking a way to save a lost baby and their village.



Quilvis Medina was a young giraffe who helped her anxious roommate Margaret Odette find her inner Valkyrie in Elizabeth Irwin's *How Oscar Gave Celia Wings*.



Alex Torres was Peter Pan to John Sheehy's cruel (but dashing) Captain Hook in John's *Out on the Neverland Sea*, which shed more light on the relationship of the age-old enemies.



Christian Santoni was a bird who was afraid to fly and KeiLyn Durrel Jones was the cat who gave his avian friend a lesson in courage in KeiLyn's *The Mis-Education of Larry the Sparrow*.

WELCOME, SAYANTEE!

We'd like to take this half-page to welcome our new Production Manager, Sayantee Sahoo. Her first name is pronounced Shy-UN-tee and her last name rhymes with "Yahoo," which is what we said when we received Sayantee's resume.

Sayantee is super excited about joining the team at The 52nd Street Project. She is an alumna of the National School of Drama (New Delhi, India) where her training focused on creative direction and design. Before coming to the US, she was working in India as a freelance technical manager, and designer for various performance arts organizations, and international theatre festivals like the Bharat Rang Mahotsav, ITFoK, Vivadi Collective, Shadowmime, Eklavya, etc. She has been a member of the theatre group Uhinee Kolkata, based in West Bengal, India, since 2008. With Uhinee, Sayantee has worked in various roles, including as technical manager for shows and touring festivals, workshop instructor on theatre education programs for children from marginalized communities and creative director & designer for several productions.



She recently concluded her adventures at the Yale School of Drama's Technical Design and Production (TD&P) program and was glad to finish writing her thesis on time. She wishes to engage in international exchanges for technical education for theatre in the not-so-far future. She feels knots are very interesting and hopes to be good at tying them efficiently someday.



FAREWELL, BRIAN!

We're sorry about having to say goodbye to our former Production Manager, Brian Freeland. He is a really good guy who gave us more than a year of excellent service. Well, maybe we should say two years, if we add up all the extra hours he put in baby-sitting the many outside rentals that help us pay the Project's bills.

Brian is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and two kids and is also taking on some cool free-lance PM gigs with other theater companies, including our buddies at Ars Nova. Good luck, Brian!

Hi, P.U. Readers! Kali, here! The following foundations, corporations, and government agencies recently made generous grants to The 52nd Street 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.



\$83,325.....New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Development Fund	\$13,000.....The Beacon Giving Group
\$50,000 The Pinkerton Foundation	\$10,000..... The Education Foundation of America
\$34,000The Horace Goldsmith Foundation	\$10,000.....The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund
\$25,000 The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust	\$10,000..... New York State Council on the Arts Special Arts Services
\$25,000 The Stavros Niarchos Foundation	\$7,500 Frederick Loewe Foundation
\$19,000.....New York State Council on the Arts, General Support	\$5,000 Carol M. and Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation
	\$3,500Manhattan Community Award from Borough President Gale Brewer's Office

THE AUGUST ONE-ON-ONES
KIDS PERFORM WITH ADULT PARTNERS



Soon after the July set, we went to Pennsylvania to work on another batch of shows. Here, Daiva Deupree was a morning person and Sarah Lopez a late-sleeping fugitive in Dylan Dawson's *Cock-A-Doodle-Don't!* John Sheehy was the hapless rooster.



Bizarrely enough, John played another member of the poultry family in Michael Propster's *The Kiddley Divey Two (Wouldn't You?)*. John was Chief Chicken, the corrupt commander of goat cops Michael P. and his partner Walter Olivares, Jr.



Surfer Dude Daniel Henk and Garrett David Kim greet Yolanda the seagull (Katie Wee) on the beach they saved from an industrial polluter in Garrett's *Twindependence*. In case you couldn't tell, they played identical twins.

**GOOD VIBRATIONS:
PLAYS WITH SOUND FOUNDATIONS**
THE COLD SPRING, PA. ONE-ON-ONES
AUG. 17-19, 2018, FIVE ANGELS THEATER

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM
Avi A. Amon Music Director/Composer
Siena Zoë Allen Costume Designer
Greg MacPherson Lighting Designer
Alicia Moeller Sound Designer
Caylyn Creager..... Stage Manager

THE COLD SPRING HOSTS
Deborah & David Pursch; Katy Homans & Patterson Sims; Roberta & Vincent Conroy; Ryanne & Jim Jennings; Jim & Pat Sanders; Bob & Peggy Simons; Dylan & Becky Baker; Andrea & Chuck Heyn; Tina Ruyter; Andrea & Tom Webber.



Marchânt Davis cast himself as a hip but naive alien in his play *Three Little Pigs*, which also starred Xavier Espinal as an elephantine farmer who lost his pigs. Marchânt helped Xavier find those pigs... which they later entered in a pig race in San Francisco.



Marinda Anderson was a nervous passenger who boarded a plane with an emotional support peacock (Gianna Hires) in Cynthia Kaplan's *Last Plane to Cleveland*. Katie Wee was an irate passenger and Daniel Martinez a harried flight attendant.



1. Beaches get crowded in summer and sometimes Turtle Bunnies and giant hair balls have a tough time finding a spot that is sheltered from the sun. That was how the conflict began in *The Turtle (Bunny) and the (Ball of) Hair* by Gracie Gardner. Lanai Blake-Soden and Ashley Marie Ortiz played the two characters in search of an umbrella.

2. Jed Clarke (who was himself a Proj kid in the '90's) wrote *The Return of Agent Marks Vs. Turkey Vulture* for Amirah Hancock and Annabelle Cousins. After a bank heist, a desperate chase, and a plane crash, Marks and Turkey Vee (that was her name, not her species) fired flare guns in a bid to get rescued from a desert island.

3. Emma Ramos was a greedy developer and Kylee Chester the sole inhabitant of an island that Emma wanted to take over in Tim Lord's *The Wild, Wild Sea*. One of them met their doom at the end of the play (Hint: it wasn't the kid!).

4. George Babiak's *It's A Living* was about two half-witted millionaires who lose their fortunes and are forced to learn how to make it as working stiffs. Here, Yousef Altareb and George get elocution lessons in Long Islandese from Kat Almirañez, making her long-overdue Project stage debut as the gruff Professor O'Shaughnessy.

5. Do you hate Tom Brady? Well, so does Matt Ryan, quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons. We found that out in Grant Harrison's *I Hate Tom Brady*, in which Grant played Ryan. Aengus O'Donnell was a YouTube chef who was equally disdainful of Brady. Eventually, Brady himself made an appearance and convinced the two that, maybe, he wasn't all that bad, which led to a song and dance.



PLAYBACK OCTOBER, 2018
 KIDS WRITE FOR THEMSELVES AND ADULT PARTNERS



Gage Simmons cast himself as a seafaring construction worker and Jeremy Rishe as a flying, psychokinetic, 8-legged dog in his play *Parents*. In the end, they decided they were almost brothers but still had to find their separate ways home to their respective mothers and fathers.



In Bryanna Ohene-Karikari's *One of Them Dies In The End*, Marielle Young and Bryanna sought global conquest and fought a war in the form of a game show hosted by Chyanne Peña.



Everything Isn't All About Sunshine and Rainbows, by Jayden Alvarado, certainly wasn't! Jayden's play was about a bellicose unicorn (Alex J. Gould) and a warlike gingerbread man (Jayden) who fought viciously.



Dalia Davi was a teen with family issues and Yovely Ramirez was a girl whose twin sister committed suicide in Yovely's *Mejor Amiga*. Despite misunderstandings, they stumbled their way to a lasting friendship.



Kyle Cameron and Derek Rey played a father and son who were at odds over the merits of video gaming in Derek's *Hard Life of a Teen-Age Gamer*. Here, Kyle relents and gives Derek the game he wants.

PHOTOS BY WINSTON RODNEY

**STRANGER FLINGS:
 PLAYS ABOUT NEW HOLIDAYS**
 THE 2018 PLAYBACK SHOW

This fall, we took seven Project kids and asked them to write plays to perform with adult partners (who also served as directors). Here are some views of the production we rehearsed in the Hamptons and then staged at the Five Angels Oct. 19-21.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Stephen Stocking Composer/Music Director
 Greg MacPherson Lighting Designer
 Sayantee Sahoo Sound Designer
 Margaret Gleberman Stage Manager

THE BRIDGEHAMPTON HOSTS

Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, Louis and Patrice Friedman, and Laurie Becker.



In Morgan Smalls' *Not In My Body*, Morgan was a closet tooth fairy and Angie Toledo the twin sister who secretly had magic healing fingers. An unexpected exchange of bodies forced them to reveal their secrets.



Thiana Goode was a fastidious but inventive chef and Jody Flader was her sloppy, burrito-mad roommate in Thiana's *The Microwave Burrito Tragedy*. They had a falling-out that almost led to Jody's homelessness.

NATALIE HIRSCH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRAÑEZ, PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

HEAD IN THE

THE AMBITIOUS PLAYS

THE FALL 2018 PLAYMAKING SHOW

10 PLAYS WRITTEN BY KIDS AND PERFORMED BY ADULT ACTORS

FRIDAY, NOV. 30 AT 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, DEC. 1 AT 3:00 & 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, DEC. 2 AT 3:00 P.M.

4
BIG
SHOWS

FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10TH AVE., BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

ADMISSION FREE, BUT BE SURE TO VISIT 52PROJECT.ORG TO MAKE A RESERVATION

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Another staff baby! Our Community Coordinator Yazzy Wilder, her husband Julian, and their son Julian Jr., welcomed Yara Maizie Wilder on June 28.



Project stalwarts Frankie Alvarez and Leah Walsh have a new little girl, too. Cecilia was born on Labor Day - 9/3/18 - at 5:34pm. 8 lbs, 7 oz, 20 in.



Aidan James O'Reilly was born on July 20th, 2018. His dad is actor Steven O'Reilly and his mom is the lovely Kristen Connolly. Aidan seems to enjoy Bob Marley, ceiling fans, and the sight of his own hands.



On Friday, September 14, at 6:04am, Project stage regular Bhavesh Patel welcomed Evren Jaan Laqueur Patel to his family! He was 7lbs, 7oz and exactly 20 in. long (or tall?). Alessandra Larson is Evren's mom.



Tahnee Cadrez, who worked for us back in 2016, is also one of our many baby-havers this year. Here she is with her husband Derek Freda and little Gemma Lou Freda, who was born July 27, 2018!



Nick Mills and his wife Ashley Melone are on baby #2! Marlowe joined big sis Ava Rose on October 6th. Aside from the fact that they haven't slept, they are grateful for two healthy, beautiful children.



Dan Perry of Calgary, Alberta was an intern at the Project in the summer of 2013. Here he is with Sarah Whitburn and their wee one Jack Andrew Perry, who was born July 4th, 2018 at 7lbs, 3oz.



Projector and Smart Partner Marco Formosa and Brynne Krayna are proud to announce that their sweet baby Sally is here! She was born Monday July 2 at 7.8 lbs with a full head of Maltesian hair!



Wow. A lot of babies this ish! Now for some marriages! Our pal Kel Haney, who has directed for us quite a bit over the years, married Michael Grew (who is an actor) on Chebeague Island, Maine on September 8th, 2018.



Alexandra O'Daly has been an all-around great volunteer for many years. On Sept. 8, she married Rachel James (who has been a Filmmaking vol for us) on a boat in Red Hook named the Mary A. Whalen.



Our great and good friend Rachel Rusch, who's been as fine a volunteer as anyone in this issue, got married to playwright Jason Gray Platt on July 14, 2018 in Redondo Beach, CA.



Project Writer Vol Christina Quintana got hitched. The wedding was Saturday, September 15th in Asbury Park, NJ on the beach with a reception at Tim McCloone's on the boardwalk. Here she is in a spectacular suit with the spectacular Sarah Sala!

SCHOLARSHIP PARTY, JULY 31, 2018



What's with the line-up? Well, these are the college-level Project Kids that came to our annual Scholarship Party. Each year, our oldest members receive \$1,000 per year. The ones who are in town come to this fundraiser and celebration that features BBQ food, and everyone's favorite activity, the handing out of checks! From L to R: Edelys Guerrero, Daniel Martinez, Chayse Peña, Faisal Afridi, Jasmine Correa, Ashley Thomas, Kate Mendoza, Kaitlin Feliciano, and Imani Lewis-Ashley.

CHARITY DAY AT THE STOCK MARKET

Every September 11, in memory of what happened in Lower Manhattan 17 years ago, the **BGC** and **Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Funds** host a special event called Charity Day. Celebrities answer phones to make trades and the proceeds go to many good causes including, for the past 9 years, The 52nd Street Project. We don't know how well we did this year yet, but last year's Charity Day bagged us about \$35,000. Check out the pics we took!

1. Billy Crudup chats up a customer who didn't expect Dr. Manhattan (*Watchmen*) or Russell Hammond (*Almost Famous*) to answer.
2. Billy steps up to the step-and-repeat with Howard Lutnick of Cantor Fitzgerald and his wife Alison.
3. ProjPal Bobby Cannavale hobnobs with Daniel M. LaVecchia of BGC.
4. ProjKids Wilhelmina Ohene Karikari and Xavier Espinal were thrilled to meet Kimiko Glenn of *Orange is the New Black* (Frankly, a show they are a little young to be watching.)



Flyer Bar Profile



Korey Jackson

What he does for us- Korey has been a volunteer actor and director for the Project since the Spring of 2012. That same year was when he and Project Kid Chayse Peña became Smart Partners. Chayse went off to college in 2018, but they remain friends. You can read their own story about their Project adventures in the most recent Fivey magazine, available at our theater or online at www.52project.org OR hear about it in episode 3 of The 52nd Street PROJcast (The *It Takes Two* episode).

Occupation- Actor/Producer/Director/Writer.

Why he does what he does- "I ask myself this question more frequently these days, but The 52nd Street Project is a place that always reminds me. I believe the arts have an incredible power to change lives in meaningful ways, both for the artists and the audiences collectively. And it's the opportunities to have those kinds of experiences that keep me going in this work."

Hobbies- "Travel. Music. And recently been doing more cooking. I like delicious food!"

Last book read- "I'll give you two great novels I recently read: *A Spy In Time* by Imraan Coovadia and *The City of Lost Fortunes* by Bryan Camp."

Most recent accomplishment- "Just returned from an incredible trip to Nairobi, Kenya with an organization called *Stories 4 Strength* in August, where I was a part of a group of five teaching artists leading a theater arts camp for kids living in Mthare, one of the more vulnerable areas in Nairobi."

Best Project Memory- "One of my favorites has to be the first time I went to Wareham, Massachusetts for the One-on-Ones. That place is amazing and we had a really great group. So fortunate I was able to go back two more times over the next several years."

Credo- "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Advice to kids- "Always continue to learn, grow, adapt. But at your own pace. And don't forget to have a lot of fun along the way!"

Place of birth- Hackensack, New Jersey

Habitat- Currently living in Newark, NJ.

Favorite thing about the Project- "That so many kids get to have these incredible artistic experiences at such a young age that they wouldn't get otherwise, and that they get to be a part of such a special community of peers and staff and volunteers that all get to benefit from each other's talents and then share them with the larger community. It doesn't get much better than that."

On Flyer Bars- "Um... Flyer Bars are delicious!"

SUMMER SNAPZ!

► **Block Island:** Gus Reale, eldest son of Project Founder Willie Reale, was one of our trusty interns this year. At left, Gus and Willie as they were spotted on the BI Ferry this past July.



At right, the warrior women of the Block Island One-on-One's strike a pose between waves on Crescent Beach.



◄ **Cold Spring:** This past August we returned to Northeast Pennsylvania, home of the late summer One-on-Ones through most the 1990's. Our base was the beautiful farmhouse of David and Deborah Pursch and, as usual, we sometimes had to adapt quickly.

When rain began just before the show on the lawn, we swiftly moved into the barn (L). The storm clouds passed, and we moved with equal rapidity back onto the lawn (R) for Act 2, much to the dismay of the chickens in the barn, who were greatly enjoying the performances of John Sheehy (see page 4).