Songmaking Concert Thrills Fans Onstage and Online

It's good to be back! A highlight of Autumn, 2021 was Hear Me Out! The 2021 Songmaking Concert. Five Project members wrote songs that were scored and performed at the Five Angels Theater by some very talented adult volunteers on Thursday, Nov. 18. Here's a recap of the event, which was live and livestreamed. Click the artwork box at right to see the video! 

- Cassandra Sinchi kicked off the concert by introducing her two songs. Laura Riveros-Sefair sang the heartfelt Para Mis Niños and Natalie Walker did an extremely comic turn with What Do We Need? Hedgehogs. Both were composed by John Brautigam.

- Morgan Smalls then presented her songs, the first of which was The Big Stage, an animal-character duet sung by Kyle Cameron and Angel Desai. Adrienne C. Moore followed them with a powerful Change. Morgan's songs were scored by Joely Zuker.

- Kylie Chester's two songs were very different in mood from each other. The somber Safety Blanket was performed by Vanessa Porras, and the cheery Light was brought to the stage by Allie Babich. Raiah Rofsky composed both songs.

- Our oldest writer, Alex Torres, gave us Kevin Hart, a song about the comedian/actor of the same name. It was performed by Marchant Davis. Jon-Michael Reese then sang Alex's mythic epic Jack and Tammery: The Mightiest Hammer. The two songs were composed by Utsav Bhargava.

- Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez brought in the spirit of play with A Guide to Create Fun, sung by Jen Anaya. Closing the night was Ronald Peet with Jai-Lyzz's positive anthem You Don't Have to Be Scared. The music for this pair was provided by Julio Vaquero Ramos.
In December of 2021, we continued to bring children and the plays they write back into the Five Angels Theater with our ever-popular Playmaking program. Click the poster below to see a video of the plays seen here!

Schoolmates Nick Mills and Annie Henk got off to a bad start but fixed it up with music and dance in Caelne Arango-Ramirez’s *Untitled*, directed by Therese Barbato.

Ashley Marie Ortiz was the daughter of celestial bodies and Sullivan Jones was Blok O. Cheese in *Sun and Moon*, by Hansel Benedicto. Nolan Doran directed the piece.

Lorelei de Campi treated us to an epic quest in *Of Flights and Fights*. Here, the evil Skullmancer (John Sheehy) menaces Betsy Hogg and Keshav Moodiar. Marielle Young was the director.

Daiva Deupree was a dolphin and Neil D’Astolfo a snappy dresser in Ivy Moayed’s *We Make a Good Team*. Lynne Rosenberg directed their journey to Morocco and back.

Giovanni Benedicto wrote *Random Friends*, the tale of a friendship between an old TV (Mitchell Winter) and a young girl (Stephanie Jean Lane). Sean Kenealy directed.

LIVE AT THE
FIVE ANGELS THEATER
AT 789 10TH AVE.! 

ALSO LIVE ON OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

FRIDAY, APRIL 1
7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2
3:00 & 7:30 P.M.

CLICK THIS BOX OR VISIT 52PROJECT.ORG
FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION

Hi, P.U. Readers! I’m Ahmed, a staff member AND Project Alum! I manage this box nowadays. 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.

The Scott Family Foundation ........................................... $1,000
Carnegie Corporation of New York ................................... $1,200
Greenwich Country Day School ........................................ $2,298
Bull’s Head Foundation ....................................................... $2,500
Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts ............................... $5,000
Lazard Ltd. ........................................................................ $5,000
Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund ............................................ $10,000
Filomen M. D’Agostino Foundation .................................... $10,000
The Educational Foundation of America ............................. $10,000
Frederick Loewe Foundation ............................................. $10,000
NYSCA – COVID Recovery Fund ....................................... $10,000
Rose M. Badgeley
Residuary Charitable Trust .............................................. $25,000
The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation ............................... $30,000
National Endowment for the Arts ...................................... $30,000
NYSCA – General Operating ........................................... $49,500
The Seller Lehrer Family Foundation ............................... $75,000

(Gifts received April 6, 2021 – September 21, 2021)

Want To Donate To The 52nd Street Project?
It’s as easy as 5 + 2!
Just click HERE to get to our donation page.
**Five Angels Take Flight At The Five Angels**

February 11, 2022 was a historic night for us. We've done several live shows in the past year, but the actors were all adults performing works written by our members. *Flying Solo*, a collection of original spoken-word pieces, marked the return of young performers to the Five Angels stage. All five were ready to spread their wings with monologues they had created for the event.

From left to right in the photo of the group bow below:
1. Melanie Correa gave us Kiara's Potential, directed by Michael Propster.
2. Kailey Caton's Why Are We Friends?, directed by Kendall Cafaro.
3. Xavier Espinal with I Am..., directed by Ronald Peet.
4. Amari DuBose presented Al and the Library, directed by Jose Gamo.
5. Hannah Leon's Charlie's New World, directed by Adaire Kamen.

What did our five angels have to say? Click on the poster art at left and you can see the video of the actual show! 

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**Subscribe to "The Projcast!"**

Speaking of "The Spoken Word," did you know that we have a podcast that features the writing and voices of our young members? Well, we do!

Just click on the logo at right and start downloading these fascinating nuggets of information and entertainment! 

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*Project Update 4 April 2022*
The Board of The 52nd Street Project, along with the CLAWS Foundation and event hosts Billy Crudup and Frances McDormand, invite you to get your beauty rest, remember age is just a number, and save the date for:

52 IS THE NEW 40

The 52nd Street Project’s 40th Anniversary Gala
Monday, May 9, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. at
CAPITALE
BOWERY AND GRAND STREET

Cocktails, dinner, and an array of new songs with lyrics by young people and music and performances by adults.

Interested? Click this page or contact John “Four-Oh” Sheehy at (212) 333-5252 or at sheehy@52project.org.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD REVIVAL!

After bringing members back to our stage with monologues (see p. 4), we thought it was high time to have them do some acting as well. The young'uns of In The Same Boat had a week-long midwinter break, so we took 7 tried-and-true Two-on-Two scripts from the past, tailored them a bit, and then had the kids whip their shows together with adult partner/directors in a mere five days. We presented them on Friday, Feb. 25. They turned out great and you can still see them by clicking on the poster art below.◆

Above: Hannah Santos played a dual role (she operated a dog puppet) in Former Wives of Reggie by Max Posner. Hannah’s partner was Alex J. Gould, who was very fetching in green as the characters exchanged stories about the man they had both married at different times. John Muca was a lonely pet owner who brought his cat to veterinarian Jon-Michael Reese just to make a friend in Pet Peeve, by Sean Kenealy.

Carina Goebelbecker was furious at roommate Hannah Brea for freezing her goldfish in Sarah Hammond’s Frozen Fish. Naseem Abdul-Majeed and Korey Jackson scattered a friend’s ashes while skydiving in Beto O’Byrne’s What We Do, We Do For True. Logan Goicuria and Tina Hughes confronted their fears about grandmothers and other things in a mysterious room in Bunker Brothers, by Jesse Liebman.

Emily Gardner Xu Hall and Kylie Rose Rivera-Beato discovered they had both auditioned for the Beach Boys in Melisa Tien’s Flower Children. Kyle Cameron and Aidan Vasquez were rival urban cowboys in a Hell’s Kitchen pizzeria in The Showdown, by Sung Rno.

On hand to help us with ITSB was Kate Gulden as our Stage Manager, Bri Weintraub as the Lighting and Sound Designer, and Christian Corpening and George Kielty as our livestream cameramen.
Here is Naomi Lorrain with her husband JP Reynolds and their new son Nehemiah Lucca Reynolds who was born December 1, 2021 in New York City. A Yale shirt, already? Naomi says "We rep our alma mater hard!"

Little Matteo Petrovski was born to Alexandra Lemus and Chris Petrovski on October 8, 2021 in Los Angeles. They appear to be a very happy little family. Maybe Matteo can hang out with Nehemiah someday!

Yale and Harvard on one page? Former ProjKid Doris Alcantara is pursuing her Masters Degree in Education Policy and Analysis at Harvard Graduate School of Education. We are totally impressed!

Our Development Manager Ahmed Attia and his wife Nikki brought Arthur Francis Attia into the world on November 23, 2021. They still consider Dorothy (the doggie in the photo) to be their first-born.
IN MEMORIAM

**Ned Eisenberg**  
**Jan. 13, 1957 – Feb. 27, 2022**

We are deeply saddened about actor Ned Eisenberg's passing. In the 80's and '90's, Ned was one of The 52nd Street Project's earliest volunteers, and he was a great one. Many remember Ned for his debut in Brighton Beach Memoirs, or as one of The Fanelli Boys, or his recurring role as Roger Kressler on Law and Order:SVU, or even his terrific portrayal of Iago in a 2009 Off-Broadway production of Othello. We, however, will always cherish his Project appearances, especially a very poignant one in 2006 called Autumn's Nest with Frances McDormand directed by Jessica Bauman and written by 9-year old Doris Alcantara (see her on page 7). Our hearts are with Ned's wife Patricia and their son Lino. ❖

Photos:
1. Ned with his ever-present smile.
2. Ned with early Project member Tia Nesmith, who, sadly, is also no longer with us. (photo by Barbara Ettinger).
3. Ned and Frances McDormand in "Autumn's Nest."

**Emilio Delgado**  
**May 8, 1940 – March 10, 2022**

March was a hard month for us. At press time, we learned of the loss of our great friend Emilio Delgado. Most everyone, of course, remembers Emilio's 44 years of portraying Luis, the beloved handyman on Sesame Street. In this space, we'd like to recall his days as a stellar Project Volunteer. Emilio performed in a few plays written by our young members and directed several others. He would play any role written for him with gusto and was always unfailingly warm and friendly to everyone who worked with him. Time and again, people approached him to say "I grew up with you!" Emilio's usual answer was a cheery "Of course you did." We will miss him and give our condolences to his wife Carole and their family. ❖

Photos:
1. Emilio, as he looked every time he entered our Clubhouse.
3. Emilio and Chris McCann in 2004's "Best Brothers and Good Friends" by Muhammad Cunningham, directed by Michael Potts.
What she does for us-Helen Cespedes has been an acting and directing volunteer for us since the Fall of 2015. In fact, she will be in the next Playmaking show (see page 3). Right now, however, she is most renowned at the Project for teaching SAT prep classes to a group of our teens. Helen teaches the course professionally for Bespoke Education, so it’s a great gift to us. Oh, and she is also one of our illustrious Smart Partners!

Occupation- "Actor/Writer/Teacher/Smart Partner!"

Why she does what she does- "Because I can’t seem to shake this need to make things, learn things, and tell stories with people!"

Hobbies- "The staff at the Project know quite well that I have a bit of a jigsaw puzzle addiction."

Last book read- "Ok, this one's a bit heavy, but Looking For The Good War by Elizabeth Samet. She uses social and cultural history to analyze the mythology surrounding WWII as “the last good war.” Gonna need to read a novel next!"

Most recent accomplishment- "Adopting a puppy! Archer 'Archie' Doggoon Puppington!"

Best Project Memory- "So many, but most recently, getting to sit in the Five Angels Theater with my AMAZING Smart Partner Hannah Leon’s mother and brother as we watched her TRANSFORM in her brave and transfixing solo piece in Flying Solo." (See page 4)

Credo- "'Illegitimum non carborundum" OR 'Don't let the “bullies” get you down.'"

Advice to kids- "Stay weird! Your weirdness is your magic."

Place of birth- "Boston, Massachusetts."

Habitat- "The wild woods of Inwood!"

Favorite thing about the Project- "The rush of community that I feel every time I walk into the clubhouse!"

On Flyer Bars- "Can I have one?" ◆

SNAPZ! SMART PARTNER HOMECOMING WEEK

February is a cold month, so we warmed it up by inviting Smart Partner pairs for a special week of new activities, including a Scavenger Hunt, Ping-Pong Pandemonium, Vision Boarding, and Video Puppetry.

Alex and Bryanna just hung out. Aengus and Jimmy scavenged. Alex, Nikolai, Jayden, and Jose had a rousing ping-pong match. Angie and Melanie made life plans with vision boards. Maria and Marielle made a puppet music video. Click the pic to see the end result!