

▲ In Jess Brickman's *Warm Heart, Cold Feet,* directed by Gayle Gitlitz, scientist Tiara Varela and her life-coaching assistant Nathaly Trinidad sussed out the true formula of love.



▲ Joseph Vasquez and Zoltan Lucas were the title characters of *Two Older Men*, written by Eric Dufault and directed by Charlie Semine. The duffers sang, danced, and told outrageous lies to win the love of the nursing home's femme fatale, whose ailments proved fatal.



- Meanwhile, two younger women, an epicurean cat doctor and a needy cat lover (Alizette Zapata and Jazmine Mikell), shared a hearty misanthropy in Sean Kenealy's *Pet Peeve*, directed by Julie Sharbutt.
- ▶ A high-voltage rock star (Gerardo Escamilla) and an electric super heroine (Stasia Bree Quiñones) made sparks fly in the energetic Don Nguyen's *Tommy Volt and the Lightning Girl*, directed by zippy Natalie Martin.
- ▼ An über-competitive pair of game show contestants (Brandon Leon and Haley Martinez) faced their worst fears while trapped on the 13th floor in a tiny elevator in Erica Saleh's *Terror Time*, directed by Carlo Alban, who is afraid of nothing.



NOBODY'S PERFECT: PLAYS WITH TRAGIC FLAWS

THE 2013 TWO-ON-TWOS

In this annual format, we line up 6 pairs of kids and match each team with an adult playwright and an adult director. The plays were rehearsed in Nyack, NY over the Martin Luther King Day weekend and performed Feb. 1-3, 2013 at the Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Cody Owen Stine	Composer/Music Director
Claire DeLiso	Costume Designer
Josh Langman	Lighting Designer
Justin Cimino	Sound Designer
Winnie Lok	Stage Manager

NYACK HOSTS

Susanna Styron, Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley, Polly King & John-Paul Newport, and Patricia Kahn.





▲ An ill-conceived detour on a road trip triggered conflict for two college buddies in Leila Cohan-Miccio's Fortune. Nic Grelli directed Lucas Ruedel and Jeremy Sanchez in this suspenseful bromance.



TRUTH OR DARE: THE GAME PLAYS

THE 2012 PLAYBACK SHOWS

Once a year, in our Playback show, the kids write for THEMSELVES (and an adult partner who also directs). This year's Playback was rehearsed in Bridgehampton, NY and staged at the Five Angels Theater on Oct. 19-21, 2012.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Eric March	Composer/Music Director
Kathleen Doyle	
Greg MacPherson	
Chris Steele-Nicholson	Sound Designer
Liz Bell	Stage Manager

THE HOST FAMILIES

John Vassilaros, Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, & Tonio, Luka, & Stefano Vassilaros, Marie Rubin, and Patrice & Louis Friedman.

■ Raul Castillo was a homeless man who came to see his long-lost-brother-cum-psychiatrist in Rene Paul Santiago's Trouble With The Bros. With the help of a giant pet rat, the two brothers resolved their life-long differences amicably.



▲ Thievery, by Brandon Draude, gave us a career criminal (Brandon) who took a rich, would-be robber (Michael Propster) under his wing. Their target: the Apple Store.



▲ In Siara Feliciano's A Star from the Galaxy, Emily Dorsch was a shy but talented young singer who had to audition for media mogul Mega Million, played by Siara.



▲ Melody Cruz's The Girls NOT Next Door showed Melody and dodgeball adversary Amirah Vann getting in big trouble with Coach George Babiak.



▲ Miguelangel Vazquez and Louis Changchien were undercover cops who had to track down a very buff villain (very buff Gus Rogerson) in Miguel's taut cop drama L.A.U.C.



▲ Curing Mr. and Mrs. Carrot by Jocelyn Ochoa, featured Jocelyn as an aspiring baker who cannot pursue a career until she cures her mom of an ailment that causes "fartaceous" eyeballs. Lanna Joffrey was the odoriferous mother.

▼In the action epic of the night, Face Punch, by Enrique Caballero, Evan Enderle was ancient Kung Fu master Sensei Wu, who reluctantly trained an inept protege, played by Enrique. Little did he know that his young pupil would later save him from subterranean Fire Monsters (see back page).

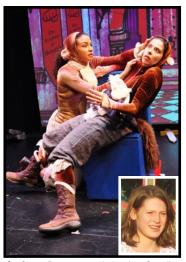


▲ Apart and Back Together Again, by Leah Macuilt, was a classic story of a mother and daughter at odds. Leah was the teen-ager yearning for more independence while Wrenn Schmidt was the loving, but overprotective mom who eventually learned to loosen her grip.





▲ Kayla Matos' My Dreams, directed by Alex Barron, gave us the unforgettably named Chicken Wings Jackson (Eric Clem) and Jennifer Convertibles (Erin Felgar), a pair of downtrodden Britons who aspire to musical stardom.



Carra Patterson and Jeanine Serralles were weasels at war in Camile Bernard's The Big Bash Between Bash and Smash, directed by Kira Onodera.



The Worst Day of Your Life, written by Adrian Luna and directed by Angel Desai, showed a tsunami's effects on a surfer (Joel Perez) and a meteorologist (Maria-Christina Oliveras).



▲ Timmy Miller's The Escape from Prison was a gritty jailhouse drama that starred Christopher Randolph as a mean guard and Crystal Dickinson as the prisoner that he tormented and eventually befriended. James Yaegashi directed.

► The Adventure, penned by Jonathan Vega and directed by Felix Solis, was a moving portrait of two lonely people who come together despite living on opposite sides of the globe. Edward O'Blenis was the do-it-yourself New Yorker who drove to Australia to make friends with non-stop runner Liza Fernandez. We also got to trot out the old boat-onwheels for this one.



▲ A girl (Elvy Yost) and her dog (Natalie Mitchell) sought a more interesting life in Wilhelmina Ohene Kari Kari's Adventure Day, directed by Donya Washington.



▲ Amer Mousa's Late Night with Eric Bond, directed by John Sheehy, was about a talk-show host (Jonathan Groff) who exacted a humiliating on-air revenge on his guest (Jeremy Rishe).

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE: THE WILD PLAYS

THE FALL 2012 PLAYMAKING SHOW

In September, we started a Playmaking class for 10 brand-new Project kids. They wrote their final plays in Stone Ridge, NY on a November writer's retreat. Those 10 shows were performed Dec. 7-9, 2012 at the Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Patrick Barnes	Composer/Music Director
Claire DeLiso	Costume Designer
Greg MacPherson	Lighting Designer
Betsy Rhodes	Sound Designer
Lisa lacucci	Stage Manager

STONE RIDGE, NEW YORK HOSTS

Steve Gorn & Barbara Bash, Joe White & Iris Brown, Nicole & Paul Quinn, Amy Weiss & Michael McClatchy, Nina Shengold, Deborah Freedman & Bill Woods, Charlie Miles & Naomi Freundlich, Jeff Madalena & Jason Gnewikow, and David Curtis & Ann Morris.



▼ An alien and a germ battled royally in Ezekiel Albarron's Zim Vs. Gorloc. Michael Raimondi directed Michael Braun and Aaron Costa Ganis in this raucous romp.



▲ The Basement, by Jafreisy Portes, brought us the abduc-

tion and subsequent escape of two brave siblings (Denise Burse and Ezra Knight). Erin Quinn Purcell directed.

▼ The Turn-Off, written by Brooke Fraser and directed by Sarna Lapine, depicted the familial rift between a daughter (Ka-Ling Cheung) and her father (Brian Hastert).



TEENS PREPARE FOR SHAKESPEARE, CANADA, AND WILD LIFE (ER, WILDLIFE)



▲The 2013 52nd Street Project Teen Ensemble, seen here as their Twelfth Night characters. From L to R, standing: Alvin Garcia, Samantha Caldona, Jason Gil, Ashley Smith, Armando Cosme, Doris Alcantara, Tino Paduani, Lily Capstick, Kiya Jacob. Seated on floor: Kimberly Zenteno and Melissa Rebolledo.



elcome to Illyria, a land of heartache, partying, revenge, foolery, unfairness, loneliness, music, and love. Or so say the eleven members of the Teen Ensemble who will be performing Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" this summer.

In January, we cast the teens in Chris Ceraso's adaptation of the play, and over the following few weeks, they tackled their text and developed their characters. Working alongside their tireless adult volunteer coaches (Justin Blanchard, Dave Dalton, Ian Hersey, Maggie Lacey, Jordan Mahome, Jeremy Rishe, Lynne Rosenberg, John Sheehy, Brielle Silvestri, Robert Stanton, and Nicole A. Watson), and composer Eric A. March, they have continued to go deeper and deeper into the world of Illyria.

In February, the teens presented an entertaining hour of monologues, songs, and improvised scenes. As lords, ladies, servants, fools, and pirates, they strutted their stuff across the stage in all of their melancholy, lovesick, buffoonish, drunken, lonely, brave glory: all of them disguising something, all of them longing for love.

Throughout the Spring, we'll continue to offer short informal presentations, leading up to our full-scale production of "Twelfth Night" on June 21 and 22. After our New York show, we will travel all the way across the country to another country: Canada. First stop: the University of Calgary, where we'll perform at the University Theater on June 29. Then we trek up to Banff, in the beautiful Rockies, and do our show at the Margaret Greenham Theater at the prestigious Banff Centre on July 3. While visiting our neighbors to the North, we're hoping to whoop it up at a rodeo, see some of that wildlife, and get creative with some local theater artists.

—MC



MEGAN CRAMER

ANNUAL BENEFIT: KIDS TO WRITE MATERIAL FOR TOP COMICS TO PERFORM



For the last four years our annual benefits have featured songs written by Project kids and performed by adult musicians and singers. Everyone loved the format, but some of our funny friends wanted to get into the act, so this time we decided to let Megan Cramer lead a comedy writing workshop for some kids with the help of comics Lew Black, John Bowman, and Vic Henley, and adult mentors Robert Askins, Dylan Dawson, Cynthia Kaplan, Josh Moody, and John "The Jester" Sheehy. The Annual Benefit, known this year as "Just Kidding," will take place at the Tribeca Rooftop on May 13, 2013. Come see the adults above perform the comedy stylings of the kids below. For more info, contact John at sheehy@52project.org -GRB



▲ Kayla Matos, Michael Bannister, Maria Martinez, Enrique Caballero, and Ricardo Currin spent many hours in the writer's room hashing out ideas.



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.

Common Sense Fund	\$30,000
Dawkins Family Foundation	\$5,000
Distracted Globe Foundation	\$30,000
Dramatists Play Service	\$1,500
Educational Foundation of America	\$15,000
Ettinger Foundation	\$2,000
The Giving Back Foundation	\$5,000
Ann M. Martin Foundation	\$7,500

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The Marusi Family Foundation	\$1,000
Newman's Own	\$25,000
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs	\$60,070
Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust	\$25,000
Surdna Foundation	\$25,000
Vervane Foundation	\$5,000
WME Foundation	\$15.000

THE 13TH ANNUAL SMART PARTNERS PING-PONG TOURNAMENT

We've been hosting this storied event for the entire 21st century, but 2013 was definitely the year in which the hardest-working teams of the Project finally got their due.





Da Refs: Carol and

THE CHAMPIONS: The Flash - Jason Gil and Sean Kenealy have been playing for 7 years. They came in 2nd in 2012 and finally took top honors.



2ND PLACE: The Wild Riders - Jasor Hare and Michael Bannister played their first match in 2009 and have never stopped practicing and preparing



3RD PLACE: Pink Pong Panthers - J McLoughlin and Elena Caballero have long awed with their outfits. This year they awed with their relentless volleys.



4TH PLACE: Oscar the Groucho Marx and Furry Gump - Dylan Dawson and Enrique Caballero were wackiest in 2012, but this year they came to play!



5TH PLACE: Smiling People - Smiling because they play so well! Adnan Ahmed and Lisa Kerner teamed up only moments before and were great.



HONORABLE MENTION: The Terminators - They may be killer robots from the future, but Chamel Rodney and Lee Rosen are cheerful competitors



WACKIEST TEAM: The Sandwich Squad-How wacky are Michael Propster and Brandon Draude? Their aliases are Wonder Bread Man and Hellman's Boy.



MOST IMPROVED: Team Commando Squad Squad - Patrick Clair and Lucas Ruedel get better every time they hit the table. Watch for them next year!



BEST NEW PLAYERS: Take Notes Chayse Peña and Korey Jackson made their debut and displayed some real heart.



BEST TEAMWORK: The Warriors -George Babiak and Ruby Zamora moved like a well-oiled machine. With practice that machine will hit the ball every time.



BEST DRESSED: The P.J.'s - Paul Coffey and Joseph Cruz had the good sense to come dressed in animal-print fedoras and bathrobes.



GOOD SPORTS: The Funny Bunnies Julie Sharbutt and Nathaly Trinidad are just plain nice... and that's good enough for us to put their photo on this page!

... AND 2ND ANNUAL FOOSBALL MINI-TOURNAMENT

Last year, we began holding a Foosball tournament on the same day as our Ping-Pong Tournament. The din and chaos of two world-class events happening at the same time was so galvanizing that we decided to do it all over again.





CHAMPIONS: The Wolves Brandon Leon and Ariana Siegel. Normally nice Brandon is truly vicious in table soccer.



2ND PLACE: The Greeks Justin Bannister took #2 in 2012 with Ray Harold and did it again with Steven Hajar



3RD PLACE: The Spartans could not beat The Greeks, but Jed Clarke and Francis Williams were undaunted



4TH PLACE: The Sandwich Squad - Brandon Draude and Michael Propster took home more medals than anyone else.



GOOD SPORTS: The Strangers - Tyleek Powell and Joanna Parson had only just met, but they still played nicely.

artistic director playmaking director executive director gus rogerson megan cramer carol ochs



the spring 2013 playmaking plays

10 new plays written by kids and performed by adult actors.

thursday, april 4 at 7:30 p.m. friday, april 5 at 7:30 p.m. saturday, april 6 at 7:30 p.m. sunday, april 7 at 3:00 p.m.



at the 52nd street project's

five angels theater

789 10th avenue (between 52nd and 53rd st.)

stand by me: the reliable plays

the kid playwrights

mussa ahmed \star jayda camacho \star kai ceniza \star sasha davis \star stephanie macias matthew orozco \star david ortiz \star chyanne pena \star christin-delaine tetteh \star damian tineo

the adult actors and directors

george babiak * reed birney * molly carden * jackie chung * paul coffey liza colon-zayas * michael crane * billy crudup * rachel dart * peter dinklage andy donald * tasha gordon-solmon * chad hoeppner * korey jackson isaiah johnson * sue jean kim * sekou laidlow * angela lewis rachel mewbron * adrienne c. moore * stephen o'reilly * scott parkinson bhavesh patel * annie purcell * charise castro smith * lili taylor myra lucretia taylor * awoye timpo * nicole a. watson * kerry whigham and musical director kim d. sherman

The 52nd Street Project 789 10th Avenue New York, NY 10019

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The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original shows. "STAND BY ME: THE RELIABLE PLAYS" is a production of our Playmaking program, in which children are taught how to write plays. After nine weeks of classes, each child is given two adult actors, a theme, and a dramaturge/director who helps him or her through the writing of a play during a weekend in the country. The Playmaking classes were adapted for the Project by Daniel Judah Sklar from his book *Playmaking: Children Writing and Performing Their Own Plays*.



Dramatists
Guild
Fund

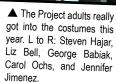
The Playmaking Program is made possible by funds from corporations, foundations, and individuals. Important support is received from the Newman's Own Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The Project is a member of ART/NY.



SMART PARTNERS PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY, 2012

Many NYC Halloween festivities were quashed by Hurricane Sandy this year, but the Project's annual gourd-gutting celebration happened on Oct. 26, 3 days before the storm. Whew!







▼ Francis Williams and Jed Clarke.



▼Rachel Rusch and Genesis Hires.

Over the school break of February 18-22, 2013 Liz Bell led a photography workshop for 5 kids who hit the streets daily with digital cameras. With the Project's Playmaking program in mind, during which members first learn about the creation and development of a character, the photography was inspired by characters, real and imagined, discovered in Hell's Kitchen. The adult mentors were George Babiak, Steven Hajar, Lisa Kerner, Zoey Martinson, and Colleen Sherry. The teen assistant was Chamel Rodney.



Free Snap by Devin Gonzalez Portrait of Susan, 32 years old by Kate Mendoza

L to R, bottom:

Neil the Zombie's Fear by Daniel Martinez Portrait of Frankie the Fire Hydrant by Britney Trinidad Gulligan's Dream of a Nest by Ruby Zamora



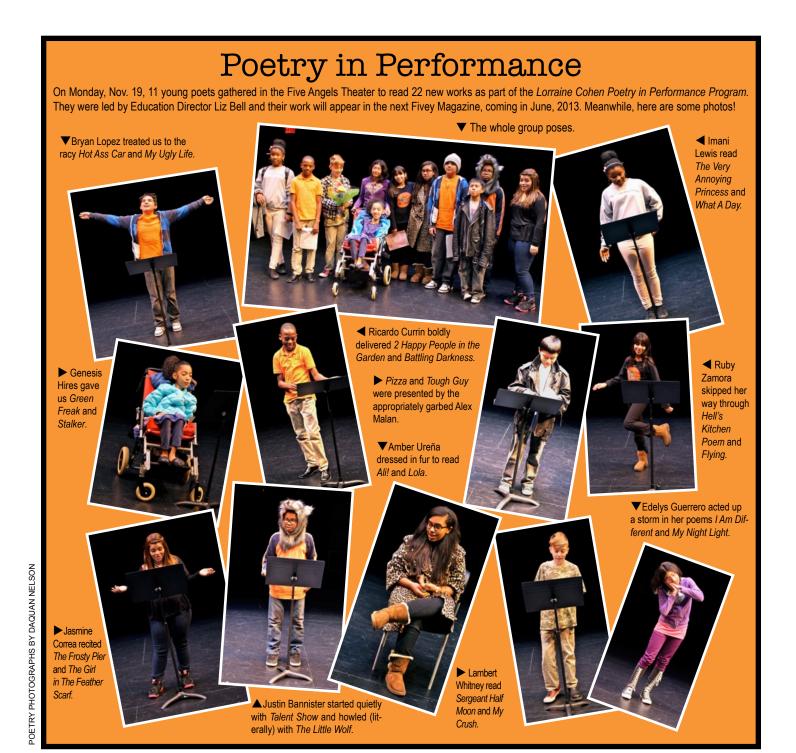












HOLIDAY SEASON OPEN MIKE SHOW

The Project's Seventh Annual Open Mike Night took place on Friday, Dec. 14 at the Five Angels Theater. Liz and George, inspired by Playmaking show Late Night with Eric Bond (see page 3), decided to stage the night as a mock TV talk show. George played Ed McMahon to Liz's Johnny Carson as they introduced and interviewed Smart Partner pairs.

During the evening, Dylan Dawson and Enrique Caballero presented no less than three short films created by their vest-pocket sized production company **Awesome Guy Studios.** Another highlight was the debut of a "Corny Comedy" routine by Genesis Hires and Rachel Rusch. They were so funny they were invited up to Liz's desk for some in-depth questions.

The Open Mike Show has become a holiday tradition here at the Project and was as entertaining as previous editions, and that's saying something. -GB



MEGABITS



▲ Louis Changchien and Jackie Chung, a pair of Project vols, got hitched on January 12, 2013 in Chelsea, where they also live. Atticus Chung was the dog of honor/best man and, from what we hear, stole the show.



▲ Also newly married is Project volunteer Kevin Dwyer to Katie Kolb. They tied the knot on November 17 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Kevin tells us that Bill Clinton did not show up but Katie's dad was once Mayor of Arkadelphia, AR.



▲ Erin Quinn Purcell and Peter Bernstein have a new boy named Dewey. Born Dec. 31, he is one of those New Year's babies you usually see next to last year's bearded old men.



▲ Kimiye Corwin, a long-standing 52nd Street Project actress, dancer, and Stage Combateer, married Jesse Liebman on Sept. 9. We think he is a lucky fellow!



▲ Jane Obadia (whom we first met as Jane Muddyman, daughter to Bill) and Danny Obadia are the proud parents of Elana Joan Esther Obadia. This cutie was born on Nov. 14 in Virginia.



■ Photographer Winston Rodney is the proud dad of Project kid Chamel Rodney and our ART/NY Local Hero award recipient. He was honored at the Signature Theater on Sept. 24, just because he is our #1 show photographer and does it all out of the goodness of his heart. From L to R: Megan Cramer, Winston Rodney, ART/NY chief Ginny Louloudes, and Carol Ochs. ► Jeanne Simpson and Adam Felber have a new baby girl to go with their older son. Jeanne is seen at right with Vivan Rose Felber, born Oct. 28, 2012, while Adam's got Baz in hand. Someday we hope they will all be in one room together for a family portrait!



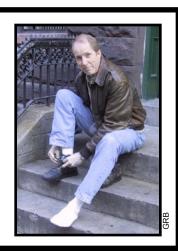


DOUG NERVIK

APRIL 12, 1953 - OCTOBER 23, 2012

For many Projectiles, Doug Nervik was the guy who always found time to show up at load-ins and light hangs. Others knew him as a superb pianist, accordion player, bicycle mechanic, and impressionist. A precious few knew he was also a clown, Christmas carol leader, Murder Mystery Party writer and performer, New York City tour guide, and computer maven. We think he was at his very best when volunteering as an accompanist for our teen groups in the musical improv portion of their training. Doug's unflagging positivity and pure musical skill gave each and every one of our teens the courage to sing with joy and conviction.

Doug passed away in October from the effects of a severe stroke. On December 2, the Project hosted a special memorial to Doug that filled our theater to the brim with his many friends. The event also kicked off the Doug Nervik Music Fund at The 52nd Street Project. As of press time, the fund has received \$6,885 in donations. -GB





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Trusty fall interns Lillian White and Charlie O'Rourke were red-hot as a pair of evil and hungry (but literate) Fire Monsters in the Fall Playback show. See page 2.



What she does for us: Has been a pal and supporter of the Project since 1993 and a member of the Board of Directors since January, 2002.

Occupation: Financial Recruiter.

Why you do what you do: "I work out of my house so I get to wear sweats to the office, except of course when I have a Skype interview – then I have to put a blazer on over my t-shirt."

Hobbies: "I'm into photography, travel, architecture and design."

Last book read: *Me Before You* by JoJo Moyers. "It's an unconventional love story about two people that never should have met but circumstances changed that and in turn changed their lives forever."

Most recent accomplishment: "I haven't accomplished it yet, but I am determined to learn French... so souhaitez moi bonne chance." (Ed. note: "Wish me luck.")

Best Proj. Memory: "When I was asked to join the Board. I love the Project, the kids, the staff and everything it stands for."

Credo: "Live with no regrets." **Advice to kids:** "Never say never."

Place of birth: Queens, NY. Habitat: Tribeca, NY.

Favorite thing about the Project: "I love watching the kids faces while they watch their plays being performed! Always makes me smile."

being periornied: Always makes me simile.

On Flyer Bars: "Wish I could eat them for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

