



# PROJECT UPDATE

## FALL PLAYMAKING - DEC. 2017 - KIDS WRITE, ADULTS PERFORM



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### STIRRING THE POT: THE SPICY PLAYS THE FALL 2017 PLAYMAKING SHOWS

Playmaking, which we do twice a year, teams up our youngest kids with seasoned adult actors to create wildly unpredictable new plays. This batch was written on a retreat in Stone Ridge, NY, and performed Dec. 8-10 at the Five Angels Theater.

#### THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Avi Amon ..... Composer/Music Director  
 Zoë Allen ..... Costumes  
 Zach Weeks ..... Lighting  
 Ciana Proto ..... Sound  
 Jenny Peek ..... Stage Manager

#### THE HOST FAMILIES

Steve Gorn & Barbara Bash, Sean Cullen & Tess Hartman, Laura Shaine Cunningham, Tracey Dewart & Michael Eckersley, Deborah Freedman, Sylvia Greiser & Andrew Tingle, Jeff Madalena & Jason Gnewikow, Charlie & Naomi Miles, and Elaine Musselman. Last, but not least, thanks to Iris Brown and Joe White for being our Stone Ridge liaisons and chefs. Oh, and Iris did the flyer art, too!

1. Edie Falco was a chef who wanted to work at the Death Star restaurant and Stephen Wallem was a sweater salesman who wanted to do animation for George Lucas in Evaluna Santoni's *Jabba the Hutt* which was directed by Alexandra O'Daly. We're pretty sure Evaluna is a Star Wars fan.

2. In Ivan Garcia's *A Wish*, Neil D'Astolfo and Greg Hildreth were, respectively, a clumsy giant and a diminutive snowman who got to switch bodies for a day. John Sheehy directed this short play filled with big ideas.

3. Lynne Rosenberg and Chalia La Tour were actresses from different sides of the tracks competing with each other for the role of a mermaid in *Hollywood is Harsh*, written by Sarah Lopez and directed by Sarah Krohn.

4. *Happy Mother's Day*, by Melanie Correa, told the tale of two young women (Charlotte Graham and MaaYaa Boateng) who happen to work at adjacent coffee and doughnut establishments. The main conflict was about being honest concerning their plans for Mother's Day. Chelsea Hackett was the director.

Our next Playmaking show is **March 23-25**. Check out the flyer on page 5.



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FALL PLAYMAKING, CONTINUED:



*Heaven on Earth*, by Alex Breton, depicted a classic conflict between a devil (José Durán) and an angel (Carl Hendrick Louis). Oh, and there was a bloody war with the squishy Easter candies known as Peeps. Jeremy Stoller directed.



Jennifer Kim was a benevolent, shape-shifting princess and Mozhan Marnò was the voodoo-practicing daughter of an evil underworld lord in Amirah Hancock's *The Doll and the Pendant*. They plumbed the limits of their powers, sorted out their conflicts, and became friends under the direction of Krystal Lucas, who also jumped into Mozhan's role for one performance.



*Soccer*, written by Alex Torres and directed by James Yaegashi, told the tale of a boy (Grant Harrison) and a soccer ball (Mitchell Winter) who figured out how to win together. The audience got a real kick out of it.



Arielle Goldman played school-aged twins and Reynaldo Piniella the not-so-nice title character in Xavier Espinal's *The Bad Uncle*, directed by Michael Propster.



Bill Camp was a tough guy and Steven O'Reilly his fearful and nerdy companion in Liam Petard's *Sewer Break-Up*, directed by Nick Mills. As this odd couple sought treasure in the city's waste-disposal network, they relived childhood traumas and fought alligators and snakes.



Kylee Chester's *Stay* featured Kristen Adele and Mallory Portnoy as abandoned adult twins who must deal with the possibility of meeting their mom again. Monica Trausch directed.

PLAYMAKING PHOTOGRAPHS BY WINSTON RODNEY

Benefit Co-chairs Liz Flahive and Warren Leight and the Board of Directors of The 52nd Street Project invite you to save the date for

# A BUNCH OF BANANAS

AN EVENING WITH A PEEL

The 52nd Street Project's annual gala, this year honoring our friend

## Edie Falco

Monday, May 7, 2018 at  
Capitale on Grand St. & Bowery





**CURRENT MOOD: THE RELATABLE PLAYS**  
*The 2018 Two-On-Twos*  
 Each January, we match 6 pairs of kids with adult playwrights and directors to create "The 2-on-2's." The plays were rehearsed in Nyack and performed Jan. 26-28 at the trusty old Five Angels Theater.

**THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM**  
 Danny Ursetti..... Composer/Music Director  
 Kia Smalls & Garrett Kim.....Costumes  
 Jenn Fok.....Lighting  
 Chayse Peña..... Sound  
 Jenni Swan..... Stage Manager

**THE HOST FAMILIES**  
 Wendy vanden Heuvel, Brian Mertes & Melissa Kievman,  
 Susanna Styron, Polly King & John-Paul Newport, and  
 Patricia Kahn.



TWO-ON-TWO PHOTOGRAPHS BY WINSTON RODNEY

1. In *This Land is My Land*, by Tim J. Lord, Emmanuel Goicuria and Sevan Ascencio were future Americans in the year 2049 fighting over the last two acres of public land. Jose-Maria Aguila directed this very funny play with a serious political message.

2. In Rachel Bonds' *Bug Off*, Nicole Quiles and Jayleen Velez were rival exterminators (both coincidentally named Fran) having coffee, pancakes, and a bitter showdown in a dilapidated old diner. Roma Maffia, returning to the Project fold after 14 years in L.A., directed the zany farce.

3. Sebastian Lopez and Rebecca Gomez were nervous podcasters trapped in a high-rise elevator in *Fighting Fears*, which was written by Charly Evon Simpson and directed by Ruffin Prentiss III.

4. *The Power Play*, written by James Christy and directed by Kat Almirañez, was about two kids, Kaylee Zambrano and Ethan Zenteno, putting together a report about John and Abigail Adams. For some reason, we keep putting Ethan in powdered wigs. The inset shows him in a promo shot (by Stephanie Berger) for *Fancy That*, our 2015 annual benefit gala.

5. Ever wonder what it's like to be a library book? *#Shelfies*, by Naomi Lorrain, spoke volumes about two volumes (Kiara Figueroa and Jayla Alvarez) who share a bookcase. Stephanie Jean Lane directed.

6. *The Last Rangers*, by Sean Kenealy, explored the same issue of public land give-aways that Tim Lord did, but in a contemporary setting. Beyonce Thomas and Derek Rey were park rangers who tied themselves to a tree to make a stand. Danaya Esperanza was the director.

# WORDPLAY

A NEW PLATFORMS PROGRAM

We used to have a program that was simply called "Poetry." It was always a beautiful thing, but we realized this year that a lot of different spoken-word styles could be included in the format. Thus was born "WordPlay," which our indefatigable Program Director Garrett Kim spearheaded this past Autumn through 5 weekly classes and a public performance on Dec. 13. Eight veteran Project kids created individual pieces and one massive group presentation.

The final event was pretty cool, and even included some musical performances by our tuneful interns Tony Macht, Jimmy McKenna, Carrigan O'Brien, and Angie Toledo. Here a few photos we'd like to share with you!

▶ Here's Garrett introducing the Group Piece, which was remarkably well-synced for its short rehearsal time.

▼ *Fly* and *Friday Feeling* were performed by Jade Johnson, who was, in turn, coached by Carrigan O'Brien, one of our hard-working interns.



▲ Aengus O'Donnell looked every inch the artist as he performed his pieces *Eleven* and *Flavour Tour*. He was coached by Richard Perez.

▼ Gianna Hires delivered *Do Not Walk In* and *Don't Eat Slime or Tide!* Her coach was Lynette R. Freeman.



▲ Emmanuel Goicuria (who is all over these pages this ish) confidently presented *Home* (a different *Home* from Messiah's) and *Slim-Nugget*. Grant Harrison coached Mr. G.

▼ The always-poised Nyla Blake-Soden, coached by Rachel Schmeling, did *Queen Rose* and *Squishy Poem*.



▲ Yusef Altareb, a great believer in physical comedy, even in poetry, presented *The Jacket That Can Never Smell Good* and *The Life of Henry James*. Intern Tony Macht coached him.



▲ The ever-animated Nicole Quiles, coached by Proj Teen Jasmine Correa and intern Angie Toledo, performed *Anti-Love Poem* and *My Home Poem*.

▼ Messiah Green very seriously gave us *Home* and *Life Changer*. His coach was Samuel Pearce.



WORDPLAY PHOTOS BY GRB

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Kat Almirañez, Playmaking Director

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

THE  
52ND STREET  
PROJECT  
PRESENTS



ARTWORK BY IO PERL-STRAHAN

10

new plays written by kids  
and performed by adult actors

THE  
SPRING 2018  
PLAYMAKING  
SHOWS



FRIDAY, MARCH 23 @ 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 @ 3:00 & 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 @ 3:00 P.M.

THE KID PLAYWRIGHTS

Nikolai Alvarez 🍷 Nyaliz Aviles 🍷 Lanai Blake-Soden  
 Hala Eldeeb 🍷 Daniel Henk  
 Quilvis Medina 🍷 Walter Olivares, Jr. 🍷 Payton Rodriguez  
 Christian Santoni 🍷 Kassandra Sinchi

THE ADULT DRAMATURGE/DIRECTORS

George Babiak 🍷 Vichet Chum 🍷 Rachel Dart 🍷 Arielle Goldman  
 Kel Haney 🍷 Korey Jackson 🍷 Garrett Kim 🍷 Brisa Muñoz  
 Emma Ramos 🍷 Grace Rex 🍷 Michelle Taliento  
 Anne Troup 🍷 Michael Walkup

THE ADULT ACTORS

Kyle Cameron 🍷 Ka-Ling Cheung 🍷 Lucy DeVito 🍷 Jose Gamo 🍷 Rosa Gilmore  
 Alex Gould 🍷 Amber Gray 🍷 Zabryna Guevara 🍷 Jennifer Ikeda 🍷 Sullivan Jones  
 Alex J. Moreno 🍷 Bhavesh Patel 🍷 Ronald Peet 🍷 Leta Renée-Alan 🍷 Shirley Rumierk  
 Jessica Savage 🍷 Stephen Stocking 🍷 Joe Tippett 🍷 Sheila Vand 🍷 Justin Walker White

with Composer/Music Director Kim D. Sherman

ALL PERFORMANCES AT THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S FIVE ANGELS THEATER

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

Admission is free, but we urge you to reserve seats by visiting [www.52project.org](http://www.52project.org)

# THE 18TH ANNUAL PING-PONG TOURNAMENT RESULTS - FEB. 2, 2018



**THE CHAMPIONS**

"JELLYFAM, INC."  
Ethan Perez & Josh Moody



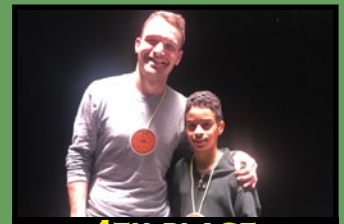
**2ND PLACE**

"CATCH 'EM ALL"  
Karen Tineo & George Babiak



**3RD PLACE**

"THE ROYALS"  
Carol Ochs & Stevens Velasquez



**4TH PLACE**

"THE WOLVES"  
Micah Stock & Gilbert Rosario



**5TH PLACE**

"FOLLOWERS OF BASEMENT"  
Yousef Altareb & Ahmed Attia



**HONORABLE MENTION**

"LIGHTS OUT"  
Chayse Peña & Korey Jackson



**WACKIEST TEAM**

"THE HOMIES"  
Darby O'Donnell & Sarah Johnsrude



**MOST IMPROVED**

"THE COOKERZ"  
Stephen Stocking & Ayman Musa



**BEST NEW PLAYERS**

"THE LIGERS"  
Ruffin Prentiss III & Ahmed Shabana



**BEST TEAM NAME**

"NO YOU"  
Emmanuel Goicuria & Natalie Hirsch



**BEST DRESSED**

"BARB AND JUDY"  
Magalis Fabian & Chelsea Hackett



**GOOD SPORTS**

"FINGER LICKIN' GOOD"  
Michael Braun & Rodery Rosario

## LISTEN TO US!



We've got our own radio show on the World Wide Web! Go to the podcast section of the iTunes Store and search for "The 52nd Street Project" or even just "PROJcast."

When you see the bold, orange Shel Silverstein/Iris Brown logo above, hit "SUBSCRIBE" and start enjoying stories, plays, interviews and more on a monthly basis. See you on the net, Yvette!

## IN MEMORIAM REG E. CATHEY



We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Reg E. Cathey, who succumbed to lung cancer on February 9. Reg, who was truly an actor's actor, appeared in a number of memorable Project plays over the years. The most recent was a love story by 10-year-old Nathaly Trinidad entitled *Together Forever*. It was produced at the Public Theater in April, 2009 and co-starred Annie Purcell. A photo from it appears above. We shall miss Reg, and our condolences go out to his family and friends.

# MEGABITES



One-time intern and eternal ProjPal Perry Daniel got hitched to Mark McClain Wilson on Oct. 21, 2017. They used little Peg People versions of themselves to rehearse the ceremony.



Charlie O'Rourke is also a former intern and a second-generation Project Vol (his dad, Kevin O'Rourke, did many shows with us). He got married to Annie Ciccarello on December 29th, 2017 in Hartford, CT.



Lewis Black's dad and long-time Project supporter, Sam, turned 100 on Feb. 10 and they threw a nice party for him. Lew's mom Jeannette was there too, but she's only 99. Project founder and spring chicken Willie Reale was in attendance, as well.



Leah Galimidi, a former member of the Project (2000-2005) and one of our Henry and Gloria Jacobs University of Michigan scholarship recipients, married Matt Kennedy on Feb.17 in NYC. He is a lucky guy!

## WANT TO DONATE TO THE PROJECT?

It's as easy as 5 + 2! Just visit [www.52project.org](http://www.52project.org) and click "You Can Help."



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.

Bull's Head Foundation .....	\$1,500
Castle Family Foundation .....	\$2,000
Dramatists Play Service .....	\$1,000
Pamela & Wayne Garrison Family Foundation.....	\$10,000
Google .....	\$1,000
Guggenheim Partners.....	\$2,500
Frederick Loewe Foundation .....	\$5,000
The Lotos Foundation .....	\$8,000
Newman's Own Foundation .....	\$20,000
New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Arts Education .....	\$4,000
New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, General Operating Support.....	\$19,000

# Flyer Bar Profile



**Lucy DeVito**

**What she does for us-** Lucy DeVito acts and directs! She first appeared at The 52nd Street Project in March of 2010, playing a not-too-smart rich girl in 10-year-old Jocelyn Ochoa's *Best-ist of Frenzies*. Since then she has appeared in 5 more productions and 2 kid-made short films. You'll be able to see her in the very next Playmaking show (as of press time, March, 2018. See the flyer on page 5.)

**Occupation-** "Actress, producer."

**Why she does what she does-** "I love hearing and telling stories."

**Hobbies-** "I draw and paint. I'm also an Iyengar Yoga junkie."

**Last book read-** "*Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan...loved it!"

**Most recent accomplishment-** "I gave my cat a bath."

**Best Project Memory-** "There are so many! I think the best character name I've ever had was Sigmourney Lorney and that was in *Movie Making*." (This film, Enrique Caballero's *Dream Package*, can be viewed on our website, [www.52project.org](http://www.52project.org), under Kid's Stuff/Kid Videos. Look in the 2014 Filmmaking series. — Ed.).

**Credo-** " 'So what, who cares?' (stolen from Joy Behar)."

**Advice to kids-** "Keep writing and sharing...I learn from you every time I come around the Project :)"

**Place of birth-** "Los Angeles, California."

**Habitat-** "Brooklyn, New York."

**Favorite thing about the Project-** "I love the people. The kids, the staff, the volunteers and the audiences are so generous and down to earth. I've never met someone I didn't like at the project. It's filled with good vibes, love, and passion for expression."

**On Flyer Bars-** "Obsessed."

## TRIP SNAPZ!



**Stone Ridge:** Seen from an overhead bridge in the Bash/Gorn house, the Playmakers take a break.



We all have our special places in which we are especially creative. For Xavier, it is the bathtub.



You don't expect to have a cockatoo climb onto your arm at a roller skating rink, but that's just what happened to our intern Carrigan.



**Nyack:** It was so cold in January that Nicole and Kaylee could walk on Lake Lucille.



**Ice Skating at Bear Mountain:** Jayla and Ethan do not realize that the wall is a false friend.



**Bowling at New City Lanes:** We were so pleased with our skills that we all played a record three games.