

PROJECT UPDATE

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"It's like outside it's junky, but inside it's all nice."

So spake Project philosopher **Freddy Matos** and so it is. The Project has finally moved into its long awaited new home. The Clubhouse is located at 500 West 52nd Street (just above **Sonny's**). It is luxuriously laid out with a kitchen, kids' lounge and homework room, classroom, rehearsal room, conference room and offices galore. The best news of all is: WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS. That's right, we've hardly been open a month and already we have been host to classes, rehearsals, meetings, mailings and a dinner party or two. And here's a little tip, gentle reader: the Project clubhouse is THE place to be. Kids drop by after school and friends are welcome any old time. So, if you find yourself free with nowhere to go, your pals over at *El Proyecto Cincuenta Dos* will serve you a hot cup of joe. Don't be fooled by the outside of the building because, to quote our friend **Freddie Matos**: "Outside it's junky but inside it's all nice." MB

We're getting dizzy

Man, oh **Manischewitz**, it seems that every time you turn around the Project whips out another batch of shows. It's unstoppable. A machine spinning completely out of control, help, help! Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh! Okay, perhaps a never-ending string of quality plays by young playwrights is not a nightmare for everyone. In fact, it's pretty great.



Take Charge? It Ruled!

Take Charge: The Responsibility Plays marked our first time at the cozy HB Playwright's Foundation theater on Bank Street, and we're grateful to **Billy Carden**, **Trudi Stiles**, **Vienna Hagen**, and of course the legendary **Uta Hagen** for the generous contribution of their space and spirit.

As for the plays, they were once again the greatest in Project history. **Jonathan Brown** wrote a tale of supernatural friendship called, appropriately, *The Haunted House*. **Orquidea Alicea** gave us a sensitive treatment of romance between Jeeps in *Pushed for No Reason*. **Arthur French** gamely wore a pink tutu in **Candy Godoy's** *Sibling Love*. **Osage Lewis** scripted *Boys to Men*, an atmospheric portrait of two cave-dwelling schoolboys. **Gus Rogerson** was **Michael Dolan's** talking hockey stick in **Carl Moon's** *This Game Isn't Going Right*. **Alex Alicea** pitted **Laurine Towler** against **Taro Alexander** in the political drama *Election Day*. **Lorraine Lopez's** *A Trip to Paris* had **Ted Neustadt** playing **Emily**



The Take Charge kids. Clockwise from lower left: Jonathan Brown, Alex Cooper, Candy Godoy, Lorraine Lopez, Gloria Trejo, Orquidea Alicia, Alex Alicia, Osage Lewis, Carl Moon, Tanika Parsons.

Wachtel's girlfriend and boyfriend (Ted exchanged beauty tips with **Arthur French** backstage). **Karen Trott** was a "hurting kind of girl" in **Alex Cooper's** *OOPS!* **Tanika Parsons** explored a troubled relationship in *The Happy Couple...Sometimes*. Finally, **Jose Soto** and **Myra Lucretia Taylor** sang about their respective loves for turkeys and flamingos in **Gloria Trejo's** sweeping family saga, *The Life of Rachel*. GB

The Replay Picnic

For those of you who follow the maze that is the progression of Project programs, we recently finished another round of Replay, the advanced writing class for kids. **David Dominique**, **Marcsi Mysak**, **Stephanie Santana**, **Eddie Cooper**, **Judy Agosto**, **Tony**



Santiago, **Mary Vamvoukakis**, **William Brown**, **Natali Marcoci**, **Hunter Reid-Eaton**, **Rufus Reed**, and **Noel Polanco** toiled for ten weeks of classes to produce a batch of plays that were given staged readings at the fourth annual Project Picnic. Unfortunately, after three years of beautiful sunny days **Mother Nature** decided to rain on our parade so the picnic had to be delayed a day. But for those few of us who have embarrassingly open social calendars, the rewards were great. Not only did we see the premiere readings of some exciting plays but our incredibly generous and fun-loving hosts **Wendy**, **Derek**, and **Cooper Ettinger-McLane** opened up their pool and the heat of the day was relieved by some serious splashing. From theater to aqua-robics the Project is truly the place to be. Not only today but tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow as well. Before

you can say "Down time," the Project will be bringing you it's next round of One on One's, namely...

Playing With Fire: The Danger Plays

Yup, this summer we will be bringing you two sets of ten new plays written by Project adults for Project kids and adults to act in. This year's theme deals with danger, so don't come expecting any goody two-shoes kiddie-drama. This will be theater on the edge! For information on dates and times see the attached flyer and WATCH OUT! There's danger in them thar plays. **MB**

Those Bears: Less Stern than Thought

A few months ago **Catherine Ellis**, a managing director at **Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.**, had a very good thought: If Bear, Stearns' employees make philanthropic contributions, why not tell them to give to us? The employees recognized the simple perfection, the purity of logic, the unfettered right on-ness of the plan and then wrote us notes *and checks*. Just goes to show, it's not what you know, its whether or not you know Catherine Ellis. **SB**

Fun²

It's bound to happen. After fifteen years of whining, begging and cajoling to perform at benefits, people start to act edgy. **Victor Garber** was the first to snap, but **Lewis "Lulu" Black** wasn't far behind. The dastardly duo



Jill Barbosa: A center square to rival Paul Lynde.

schemed to cheat young contestant **Thomas Santoni** in the biggest game show scandal since **Herbert Stempel** and **Charles Van Doren** stepped into those tainted booths. So began **Celebrity Squares**, the Project's attempt to single-handedly revive 70's TV game shows. In defense

of this questionable crusade, artistic director **Willie Reale** was heard to say, "We've done stupider things, and besides, every child in this show will emerge with a greater understanding of kitsch."

Hell's Kitchen kids **Marcசி** and **Zsuzsa Mysak**, **Cordell Horsford**, **David Dominique**, and **Jill Barbosa** joined adult stars **Barbara Feldon**, **James McDaniel**, **Fran McDormand**, **Kate Nelligan**, and ex-Project-kid-turned-soap-star **Jose Soto** to fill **Derek McLane's** crosshatched set (built gratis by angels with bandsaws at **Neil Mazzella's Hudson Scenic Studios**).

The gift bags this year contained an unprecedented haul. Through **Mark Jacobs**, **Watkin's Products** donated enough shampoo, conditioner, and soap to give a woolly mammoth a makeover. They also threw in enough lip balm to salve the Sphinx. **Scholastic** topped off their "Goosebumps" (eek!) book donations with monster blood (ew!), bookmarks, and keychains. For those that function better with stimulants, there was that perennial fave, **Vassilaros** coffee. **Nickelodeon** tossed in trading card packets complete with tattoos and **Revlon** graced our benefit bags with perfume and long-lasting lipstick. It's tough to schlep all that loot home, but when it comes to benefit bags we believe more is more.

Now for the thanks

As always, muchas, muchas gracias to everyone who bought tickets or made contributions. Believe us, we know who you are.

The Project is proud of its benefit and happily admits that, if not for the courage of a fearless crew, a host of volunteers, donors and especially **Lisa Benavides**, **Becky Browder**, **Beth Emelson**, **Jenny Gersten**, **Karin Schall**, and **Mary Pat Walsh** the benefit wouldn't be half the fun, or net half the funds.

Capitalists Wanted

Since time immemorial we've been jawing about this new space, saying how great it's gonna be, going on and on, misspelling "capital," and even "possibilities." But apparently not everyone was put off by our hot air or typos. **The Capital Campaign** is off to a quick start with generous gifts from friends old and new. To name a few:

Wendy Ettinger & Derek McLane	Eugene Katz
Joseph (feed me no squid) Gazdak	Belle & Roger Kuhn
Louis P. Friedman	Jill Larson
Stephen Graham	Lloyd's Bank
Barbara Howard	Frances McDormand & Joel Coen
Larry Jones	Zeb Schachtel

So if you'd like to be in the annals of history and would like to name a chair, room, or study carrel for posterity (or know a captain of industry or rich aunt who does) please call **Sally Bock**, Priestess of Posterity at 333-5252 to discuss. **SB**

Funding Update

The following foundations and corporations recently made generous grants to The 52nd Street Project:

Barker Welfare Foundation	\$ 5,000
Consolidated Edison	1,000
Hennessey Foundation	5,000
MCJ Foundation	1,000
Morgan Stanley Foundation	5,000
Laura Pels Foundation	2,500
Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation	5,000
Surdna Foundation	35,000
Traveler's Foundation	3,000
Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund	15,000

Nights on the Town

Project kids just love spending long hours sweating over their Playmaking notebooks or feverishly memorizing lengthy monologues, but every now and then we pry their noses free from the grindstone and take them to see a show. In the last three months we've had some tickets for great shows donated to us by some mighty generous theater companies. A great favorite was **Bill Irwin's** collaboration with the **GhettOriginals** Hip-Hop group. We also saw a sword- and gun-play filled **Treasure Island** (complete with **Joe Grifasi**, **Alex Draper**, and a live parrot). And of course, we can't forget the freebie of the decade: seats at the final dress rehearsal of **Rent** for a specially selected group of teens. Thanks to the **New Victory Theater**, the **Blue Light Theatre Company**, and the **New York Theater Workshop** for "comping through." **GB**



Play Celebrity Squares at home!

We know. Not all of you were able to make it to the benefit. Well, don't feel too bad. How good can a game show parody be, after all?

"But it was a *Project* parody!" you say through your tears. All right, then, for those of you who missed it, here is the actual quiz from the show. Each question has four possible answers: one is ours, the others were made up by our audience that night. Hint: if you find yourself chuckling, you're probably onto an audience-written answer. One more thing: don't send us any more answers. GB

- What is the best way to serve a lobster?
 - With a tightly-strung racket
 - By releasing it from the trap
 - From the left
 - In the buff with a bib and butter
- What is a sure sign of inflation?
 - That these tickets cost so much more than last year
 - Minimum wage for Kathie Lee's Honduran children
 - JFK's golf clubs at \$1.4 Million
 - Prices go up
- Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet eating her curds and whey. What is "whey"?
 - Vat comes after "Oy."
 - The watery part of milk that separates from the curds
 - A synonym for "rad."
 - California-speak for "That's true."
- What is a "latte"?
 - The drink after Fa-So
 - ½ steamed milk, ½ espresso
 - An Italian potato pancake
 - Coffee sans coffee
- What is the primary factor in choosing a doctor for most people?
 - Location
 - Marital status
 - Warm hands-Short fingernails
 - If he/she has a Caesar haircut
- What is the most difficult fabric to dry-clean?
 - Rayon
 - Plaid
 - The Social Fabric
 - Really, really dirty fabric
- What do you call a unit of measure in electricity?
 - A Con Ed bill
 - A "watt"
 - A "zap"
 - An "ouch"
- What was the undoing of Hester Prynne in Nathaniel Hawthorne's immortal classic, *The Scarlet Letter*?
 - Demi Moore
 - The rhythm method
 - Adultery
 - Lettering in a contact sport
- In construction, what is the best way to find a stud?
 - A magnetic stud finder
 - Follow Hester Prynne
 - 1-900-STUD
 - Go to the 52nd St. Project
- What is a "Leko"?
 - Esperanto for a trip to the Men's Room
 - A stage light
 - What a New Yorker says when you grab him
 - The sixth Marx Brother
- What does a bad workman blame?
 - Never having the chance of working with the 52nd Street Project as a child
 - Oppression by the bourgeoisie
 - The nuns in grammar school
 - His tools
- What do Jewish men get married under?
 - Pressure
 - A Huppah
 - Demi Moore
 - Fear of death
- Who is the best actor of all time on a police drama?
 - Jack Webb
 - Frances McDormand
 - Dudley Do-Right
 - Abe Vigoda ("Fish")

Two First Ladies Meet



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPH (NEAT, HUH?)

There was a 5 foot blow-up of Chris Hansen and Alex Draper's photograph at the top of the steps leading down to the Rose Garden! Willie and Carol (that's her on the left) were invited to the White House to a reception in honor of the President's Commission on the Arts and Humanities publication of *Coming Up Taller*, a book about programs that bring the arts to kids and features the Project. As Carol worked the room of dignitaries, Willie ate six cookies and pocketed 20 paper napkins with the presidential seal. WR

Bock on the Block



GRB

After an exhaustive search, rigorous interrogations and countless reference checks, the Project has hired Sally Bock as its new Director of Development. PU readers should understand that not only did we need to find someone with appropriate credentials to carry out the work but also someone we could live with in close quarters for up to a week at a time, who cares about children, can rustle up a meal and crack wise with the rest of the wisenheimers on staff. Sally is all this *and* has a doctor for a boyfriend. And this just in! Sally has a brother who is an astrophysicist and she has a fundraising scheme that involves a rocket launch. Stay tuned to your PU for breaking developments on the Bock Rocket. WR

At last! Jackets!

After all these years, the 52nd Street Project has finally commissioned an official jacket for all of you who have enough bucks to buy one. See the enclosed order form or call George at 333-5252 to get more information.



Run for Art's sake

Saturday, September 21 will be the first annual **Race for the Arts**, a 3.1 mile run organized by the NY Road Runners Club and the NY State Council on the Arts. If you would like to be on the Project Team, please call Sally at 333-5252. Any ideas for team costumes are welcome. We have a limited number of spots, so get the lead out! (Kids are welcome, too!)



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BOB GOLDBERG

Place of birth: Brooklyn NY

Occupation: "I don't have a clue but when I figure it out I'll let you know."

Best thing about his job: "I like the people I work with, It's all about the twinkle in Robin Wagner's eye, the Bernie Gersten bounce, and the Harry Kalkanis wiggle. It's the intangibles in human contact."



Most recent accomplishment:

Acted as general contractor for the Project clubhouse and saved us twenty thousand dollars in the bargain. "The strategy was to get all the guys to work for cheap. I told them that it was for the kids and since I don't usually ask for favors they all said yes. Who wouldn't work for a clubhouse? We were all kids once."

Advice to the kids: "Stay with the program, stay off the streets, keep your thoughts clean, your vision clear, and when you're old enough, come to work for Yorke Construction."

Hobbies: Sports, food, drink and mowing the lawn. "I love the zen of the tractor."

Favorite Flyer Bar: "I haven't had one. Are they good? Send 'em over."
 WR

To order your Flyer Bars, call
 1-800-CANDYBAR



TID-BITS

Birthing among Project volunteers and supporters has hit an all time high. Has something been added to the water supply? Congratulations to one and all.



Jack Madison Marshall Neustadt (aka Mr. Baseball) was born on October 24, 1995 at 8lbs, 12 oz to **Becky Browder** and **Ted Neustadt**. (The editors are looking for someone to blame for omitting this announcement last issue).

Owen Philip Driscoll Pence was born at 2 am on April Fool's Day to **Moira Driscoll** and **David Pence** (our other Project April Fool baby **Jerry McGill** could not be reached for comment). **Hazel Baer Ellsbach** was born on March 23, 1996 weighing in at 9½ lbs to **Janet Reich** and **Bart Ellsbach**. **Elise Renee Friedman**, our newest baby on Board, was born on April 16, 1996 at 6lbs, 7oz (we're told she's a bruiser now) to **Patrice** and **Louis Friedman**.

Other Board member news: **Laura Valeroso** was married to **David Seidman** on May 4th and delayed her honeymoon until after the Project Benefit. Now that's commitment! On Saturday, June 22, 1996 **Mark Keoppen** and **Wendy Townsend** tied the knot. We hope their dinner was as great as the barbecue they have for the kids every summer in Tyler Hill. Project Volunteer extraordinaire **Amanda Jacobs** got engaged on March 9 to **Gary Wolf**. Playmaking king **Daniel Judah Sklar** made a play for **Yolanda Rodriguez** and they took the holy vows on the 8th of June.



"I left my hard drive in San Francisco"

On a sadder note for PU readers, (except those of you in the Bay Area), Project Computer wizard **Tom Reale** and Project Botanist and ex-staff member **Mina Reale** have moved to San Francisco. We'll let you know their e-mail address as soon as we know it. We wish them lots of love and luck.

On the college front we are happy to announce that **Dawn Jackson** will be attending Bard College in the Fall. CO