

PROJECT UPDATE

6 BIG PAGES!
SAME LOW PRICE!
52

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PLAYBACK

Those among you that missed *Something's Missing* certainly missed something. Those lucky enough to have been at Naked Angel's new theater space from November 8th-10th found something: an evening of total entertainment! Six Project veterans—Alex Metzler, Amy Barbosa, Desmond Robertson, Cordell Horsford, Elisa Mohamed, and Jeffrey Zambrano—teamed up with a bunch of Project adults—Ned Eisenberg, Anne Garcia-Romero, Jeff Williams, Bruce MacVittie, Denise Burse, Joe White, Peter Jay Fernandez, Anna Li, George and Willie—to create some swell new plays.

On a weekend in Buzzard's Bay courtesy of Christopher, Helen, and Peter Randolph, the kids each wrote a play in which something was missing. In turn, their adult partners wrote answer plays and the results were seen on our stage. We had kids with robotic arms, TWO, count'em, TWO detectives who found love, a jewel thief who found redemption, a lawyer who found her heart (gasp) and a boy who found the courage to make a pass at the girl he had a crush on. All in all, a worthwhile evening and lots of thanks to John McCormack and Naked Angels for lending us their spanking new theater. They are a lively company and we urge you to go and see everything they do. MB

PLAYMAKING

Strange Cow-People trying out for a cheerleading squad...a detective trying to find out who was responsible for the death of Cupid...a talking magical teddy bear. A hallucination you might have after washing down some really old Pez

with an even older glass of milk? No, no, my friend, it was yet another exciting set of plays sprung forth from the active imaginations of the Project's Playmaking class. After a wonderfully perfect time in Tyler Hill, Pennsylvania at the home of Eric Karpeles and Mike Sell we ambled on down to NYC and put the shows on stage.

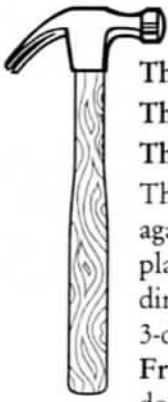


If you missed *Timing is Everything* at the Playwrights Horizons Studio Theater then you missed seeing Rain running off to Color Sky to be colored in the mind-bending "Rain and Rainbow" by Christina Ramirez. The dark side of the Carny world and the people who toil there was explored in "Carnival" by Aisha Jabour. Jaysunn Rosado penned a saga of spying in "Babaloo the Spy." We were treated to the ins and outs of Coffeeland and one man's dream of playing for the Coffeeland Cows in "The Little Girl in Trouble" by Peter Ventura. Pajama parties and pinkie swearing were the background behind the heart-breaking "True Friends



New playmakers Peter Ventura and Jaysunn Rosado (in hats) strike a pose with Project vet Eddie Zambrano.

Through Thick and Thin" by Isha Rodriguez. Matthew Jellison showed us just "Who Killed Cupid." Edith Berko-Nti gave us a fresh take on the cat and dog relationship and celebrated the joys of going to Nappyland in "Waffles and Barney." On a serious note, "Sisters" by Lorraine Zambrano took a harsh look at the damage drugs and denial can do to a family, and finally Michael Castro's "The Tree Near the Lake" featured the aforementioned magical bear as well as some very unusual dancing fairies. Yes, those whose timing was good enough to capture this evening of plays will not soon forget it. Many thanks to all who helped create the evening. MB



THE TWO-ON-TWOS

The Time: January 27th and 28th

The Place: The West Bank Cafe

The Mold: Broken

That's right, the Project broke the mold once again with its 1997 edition of the Two-on-Two plays. That's where one adult writes, one adult directs, and two kids act. We spent a smashing 3-day weekend at the 3 homes of **Maria Tucci**, **Frances McDormand**, and **Wendy Ettinger** doing 3 things: rehearsing, rehearsing, and rehearsing. Then, armed with great plays and songs, we broke into the **West Bank Cafe**, loaded up the bar with Birch Beer Floats (courtesy of Boylan's Bottling Company and D'Agostino's Supermarkets, Inc.) and had a rollicking two days of performances. The title and theme of the show was **Breaking the Mold II**, and there was a whole lotta breakin' goin' on.

Ray Ocasio and **Sahara Walsh** performed a retelling of *Jane Eyre* in "Johnny Eyreco" (written by **Gina Torres** and directed by **Stephen Haff**). **Janice Santiago** was a very modern handmaiden and **Judy Agosto** her old-fashioned princess in the hard hitting and feminist "Don't Bet on the Prince" (written by **Adrienne Shelly**, directed by **Kirsten Sanderson**) with a comedic cameo by **Jonathan Santiago** as Prince Dweeb. **Yull Neri-Borda** and **Tessa John-Connor** were "Chained for Life" as fugitives from a chain gang in a play written by **Michael Bernard** and directed by **Dion Graham**. **José Dominguez** directed **Liz Tucillo's** "Perfect Imperfection" which featured **Ben Barthelemy** as the imperfect child and **Corrinda Smith** as the scientist who must learn to love him. **Robert Shaffron** wrote, **John Steber** directed, and **Jonsi Smith** and **Deshana Hamid** starred in "Women on the Verge," a searing play about crimes of fashion. **Thomas Santoni** finally found a role he was born to play: God in **José Rivera's** "God Stuff" (directed by **Gus Rogerson**). The play also featured **Ahmed Attia** showing off his range by playing a rabbit, a wolf, and the First Man. All the music was composed by newcomer **Kim Sherman** who did a swell job and backed up the kid's pipes with mellifluous tones all evening. Phew! A lotta people, a lotta Birch Beer and two great nights of theater. **MB**

NIGHTS ON THE TOWN

As if we weren't busy enough during the day, the Project has, with the generosity of some wonderful friends, had a slew of **Night on the Town** events to take kids to. Thanks to **The New Victory** theater for tickets to *The Flying Karamazov Brothers*, **Phyllis Kaufman** for bringing kids to Lincoln Center's *Reel to Real* movie series, and **Rachel Colbert** and **Michael Winter** of **Flagstaff Presents** for tickets to *The New Bozena*. Our Teen Class went to see the film of *Romeo and Juliet*. Although most enjoyed it,

Jeffrey Zambrano took umbrage with the choice of having *Juliet* awaken to see *Romeo* die. Said Jeffrey: "That's not the way they did it in the original." **MB**

CLASSES

It's finally happened. The Project has become a big sprawling faceless corporate conglomerate after-school center hosting thousands of kids as they line up and receive pre-programmed mentoring based on a computer personality profile.

Okay, that's all a lie, but we have been doing a lot more lately. We've started the **Smart Partners** after-school tutoring program and we've been offering classes. Art classes, cooking classes, singing classes—you name it. (Well, okay, there was no class in "The History of the Cannoli"). We have taken a break on the classes for now as our production schedule was a little heavy, but classes will resume in April. Already lined up is a Friday bike repair class to be led by the Project's Bicycle Brainiac **George Babiak**. We are always interested in ideas for new classes, S-O-O-O-O, if you would like to host a one-time or ongoing workshop at the Project and enrich the lives of some groovy kids (as well as your groovy self) call Michael at 333-5252. **MB**



Project classes: always stimulating!

ADAM RODRIGUEZ

NOW TO PRESENT OUR NEXT SHOW...

...here are everybody's favorite talking numbers with feet, Fivey and Twoey!!!!

FIVEY

What's the name of the next round of shows?

TWOEY

Oh, that's the Big Question.

FIVEY

Yes, it certainly is. So what's the answer?

TWOEY

To what?

FIVEY

The Big Question!

TWOEY

The name of the next round of shows!

FIVEY

THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT!!!



Oh, forget it! That's what happens when you ask numerals to do the jobs of letters. Readers, a handy flyer is enclosed with your newsletter and if you peruse that you will find an answer to *THE BIG QUESTION*.

THE EARL OF SANDWICH™ FULL PAGE SPREAD

The Earl of Sandwich™, after pestering us for years to do something for the kids, sponsored our holiday fund-raiser, **The Create-A-Sandwich™ Contest**. "I have rather taken to the children," says the Earl. "I think of them as little canapés who will grow up to be heroes."

We have again topped the previous year's takings and raised the funds required to match the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs's \$8,000 grant. Thanks to the generosity of our friends we can now claim that money. Woohoo! But enough of fiduciary mumbo-jumbo. Our three esteemed judges **Danny Meyer (Union Square Cafe and Gramercy Tavern)**, **Amy Scherber (Amy's Bread)**, and **David Sneddon (Fairway Markets)** have been reacquainting themselves with the miracle of sliced bread as per your suggestions. And now, the envelope please:

THE ANDRÉ

Playwright **Jon Robin Baitz** is our Grand Prize winner: Take a Black Russian radish (thinly sliced), smoked salmon, one slice Heirloom tomato, some Haas avocado and a couple of thin, thin slices of Havarti cheese on Tomcat sourdough bread with a lovely garnish of cornichons, anchovies and a single Moroccan olive placed at an angle against the sandwich. Mr. Baitz is the winner of 2 Lobster Club sandwiches™—widely regarded as "the upper-crustacean sandwiches™."

The four Second Prize winners will receive Flyer Bar (The official chocolate bar of The 52nd Street Project) Gift Boxes:

THE BIG BEND

Tim Nelson submitted this delicious-sounding entry: Smoked turkey, spinach, cambazola, Durkee's Original Sauce, onion, thinly sliced jalapeño peppers (they must be fresh!) on a lightly toasted sourdough baguette.



Tim, by the way, is donating his Flyer Bars to his nephew, **Sam Fritschel**.

THE BEEFLESS BUTTHEAD

From **Roger Nozaki**: Take 2 slices whole wheat bread toasted and spread (both sides) generously with roasted red pepper hummus. Brown thin slices of tempeh in a little oil and soy sauce in a skillet, place on bread/hummus, add lots of tomato slices, mesclun greens and sprouts. Melted soy cheese optional.

THE LEW BLACK FOREST HAM SURPRISE

From **Edith Thurber** and **Kevin O'Rourke**: Melted Saga cheese, hot Black Forest ham, tomato, Bermuda onion on a toasted english muffin spread with sun-dried tomato pesto.

THE HEIMLICH HERO

Submitted by **John "Whitey" Cunning-ham** and **The Gentleman's Lunch** in the *Phoney Baloney* category: Take a sopprasetta and split it open as if to make a loaf. Smear chopped liver inside, add a few slices of baked, smoked cayman and blowfish cheek sashimi. Spread over with ginger infused Miracle Whip. Bake in phyllo pastry. Serve piping hot with salted mantioc chips.

RUNNERS UP

Jessica Lissy: "The Ambivalent Jew": Matzo, cream cheese and Genoa salami.

Becky Browder and **Ted Neustadt**: "*Le Quickie Croque*." One takeout menu, one phone, one question: "*Qu'est-ce que c'est votre sandwich™ du jour?*"

Our special thanks to our hard-working judges, **Anne Rosenzweig** of **The Lobster Club**, and **John Paris** of **Paris Chocolates** for their generous donations of most excellent prizes. And, of course, to the Earl of Sandwich™, who does *not* care to be reminded that he closely resembles his eponymous creation. SB



The following foundations and corporations recently made generous grants to the Project:

Cubic B's: \$1,000, **Horace Goldsmith Foundation**: \$25,000, **JP Morgan Charitable Trust**: \$15,000 (2 years), **Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation**: \$10,000, **Ann M. Martin Foundation**: \$10,000, **New World Foundation**: \$2,500, **Newman's Own Foundation**: \$25,000, **Scherman Foundation**: \$10,000, **Jules and Doris Stein Foundation**: \$11,250, **Bertelsmann's World of Expression Foundation**: \$2,500.

We are grateful to these organizations for their support as well as to the many individuals who help sustain Project's programs year-round.

Project Jackets-The Next Order

Remember the last show? Remember how you seethed with envy in your old pea coat as you watched staffers and volunteers strutting up and down the aisles in their sporty new 52nd Street Project jackets? Well, guess what: interest has been so high that we're placing a second order, in two snazzy styles.

The Twill Baseball Jacket



A soft and classy varsity-type jacket. This one's black with forest green sleeves and a zip-front. It's great for Spring and Fall. Willie's got one!
S, M, L, XL

\$95.

The Car Coat



A longer, hipper variation on the traditional theater jacket. Black wool with leather collar and pocket trim. Box-cut, zip-front.
S, M, L, XL

\$130.

Both styles have the full Shel Silverstein logo stitched on the back in glorious red and green. On the front, your friends Fivey and Twoey standing over your heart by themselves. To get your jacket, make out a check or money order to The 52nd Street Project and send it to us at *The 52nd Street Project, 500 West 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10019-5060*. Be sure to specify style and size.



Save the date for..

PANTS
ON FIRE

Monday, May 5

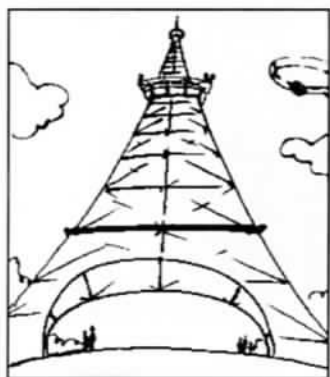
This year's Annual Benefit for the Project brings us a new location, menu, theme, and cast. Continuing the now time-honored tradition of game show spoofs, this year's extravaganza will be a send-up of that old TV standby, "To Tell The Truth." The location: **The Harmony Palace**, one of Chinatown's premier banquet halls. And speaking of pants, wear a loose pair; it's an eleven-course meal. For more information or reservations call **Sally Bock**, our highly intelligent, extremely friendly, and very lovely Director of Marketing and Development at **333-5252**.

PROJECT WINS FIRST JONATHAN LARSON PERFORMING ARTS AWARD

The family of the late Jonathan Larson whom readers likely know to be the creator of the musical "Rent," have set up a foundation in his memory. The Project enjoyed the extreme honor of being named its first beneficiary. Al Larson, Jonathan's dad, who was stationed at the 52nd Street Pier when he was in the navy, presented Willie and Carol with a nice plaque and a nice check. For those of you who read the New York Times, Willie's speech at the Jonathan Larson Awards was sloppily quoted. The following are his actual closing remarks:

"Next Autumn, ten new children who are 9 or 10 or 11 years old will take a course in playwriting and they will write a play; they will have their visions realized by respectful collaborators, and they will feel good about themselves for having done it. And that, my friends, will all be on Jonathan. What Jonathan spent so much of his life struggling to achieve he will now bequeath to some kids that I bet he would have liked. Jonathan Larson in his abbreviated stay has left his fingerprints on a great number of souls. Add to that number ten small ones. One for each finger."

NOUS RETOURNONS!



While you, gentle reader, have been sitting around reading PU and learning the Macarena, 9 Project teens have been steeped in serious literary pursuits. For two years these veterans of all of our programs have been meeting to work on acting Shakespeare and other authors. Now they're going to

France and you probably aren't. That's right, France; the South to be precise. They'll be hosted by the good old Muddyman clan at the Chateau De Berne in Provence, where they'll perform their own version of Twelfth Night. But take heart, there should be a sneak preview of the show here in town sometime in June. WR

ANGELS FOUND IN THE CITY OF ANGELS, A CAPITAL CITY

Our new pal Doug Chapin hosted a fundraising party at his beautiful home in LA where the Project raised over eight thousand dollars for its capital campaign. Project Board types Jim McDaniel, Fran McDormand and Pam Tyson all made speeches as did Willie or rather a robot that looks a lot like Willie who is touring the country and will not rest until the Project reaches its fiscal goal. WR

SALLY NEEDS A PLACE!



All Sally needs.

Sally Bock, our director of development, will soon be homeless and is looking for new digs starting sometime this summer. Ideally, she would like to find a cheap (We pay her in sandwiches™ that didn't make the finals) place to live for a year or so on the Upper West Side, which could be a sublet, a lease or a roommate deal. She is clean-livin', house-broken, and spends many weekends out of town with deserving youth. If you have any leads, please call her at 333-5252 so we can all get some rest. WR

WISH LIST, PART II

Our last request for things we need was such a rousing success that we thought we'd push our luck and ask for more. If any of these items are lying around your house just gathering dust, well, hey, we can sure use them! GB

SLEEPING BAGS

Our gracious out-of-town hosts occasionally run short of beds. Call us dreamers, but we're hoping for nice, warm, clean bags with fully functional zippers.



EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

Especially a typing tutorial program. We're mostly looking for Macintosh format, but we do have one PC in the office which is just used by kids.



A NICE DESK LAMP FOR WILLIE

Give our boss one less excuse for not turning out humorous newsletter items by the score.



A FLEET OF CADILLACS

Ha! Just kidding!



A REALLY BORING FUNDING FACT

Thinking of donating stock? The current federal tax break allows a donor of appreciated stock to deduct the full market value of the securities. This break is due to expire on May 31, 1997. Beginning June 1, donors of stock will only be able to deduct the amount they paid for it. The donation of stock will still allow donors to avoid capital gains tax as the Project, not the individual, will sell the shares. President Clinton would like the tax break to be extended, but whatever the outcome, our gratitude for the donation of stock will continue to exceed the purchase price, as well as the selling price, of the stock. Z-Z-Z-Z... SB



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New York, NY 10019-5060

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Flyer Candy Bar Profile

GREG MACPHERSON

Occupation: Official Lighting Designer of the 52nd Street Project.

Hobby: He flies airplanes. (Not a prerequisite to receive this high honor.)

Favorite thing about the Project: The delectable gourmet food during Project tech week. (Pizza and La Cuisine Chinoise.)

Most Recent Accomplishment: Lit two of the President's Inaugural Balls.

Credo: "Always hit your mark or you're left in the dark."

Advice for the Kids: "Always be nice to the lighting guy and never ask for pink."

Favorite Flyer Bar: "I like the dark one because it's a little more bitter than I am."



There are two ways to get a box of your favorite Flyer bars: 1) Get Profiled 2) Call 1-800-CANDYBAR. Why wait?

RECORDS

A lot of new bunnies were born this quarter in the Project volunteer rabbit hutch. In no particular order...Emma Walton and Steve Hamilton announced the birth of Sam Hamilton on Oct. 18, 1996. Ollie Platt and Camilla Campbell have provided Lily with the sibling she's been pining for in the name of George Campbell Platt, born Feb., 6 1997...Pat Murphy, the Project legal counsel, and Adam Spilka (an attorney himself) announced the birth of Jackson on Nov. 4th. He has a strong sense of right and wrong and looks good in briefs.

In the nursery coincidence department Alex Gersten Vasillaros and Johnny (Coffeeshopolous) Vasillaros tagged their new tyke Luca John. Three days later Peter Hedges and Susan Bruce titled theirs Lucas John. (Willie says Carol can avoid duplication of this type by naming her babe-to-be "Dunky Ochs MacVittie.")

Congrats to Fran McDormand of the Project board and the Project boards for her Oscar nomination for *Fargo* and the same to Joel and Ethan Coen for, well, the same. The Project is even more excited about the nomination of Roderick Jaynes, *Fargo's* editor, who in his quiet and unobtrusive way has influenced all of us, especially in his devotion to his mother.

Bored? Despondent? Understimulated? Staff member Michael Bernard and volunteer Adam Felber have launched a hot new comedy/variety show. "Irwin Smalls Presents" can be seen every Friday night at 10:30 PM at the West Bank Cafe Downstairs Theater. It's only \$5.00! Call Michael at the Project for more info.

And... oh yeah, Willie and Jenny got engaged.