

# PROJECT UPDATE

Volume 42; March, 2003

Editor: George R. Babiak

## "If Only..." You Would Read This!

What's been going on since the last newsletter way back in November? The answers are right here in the six white pages you just yanked out of your mailbox. Moving chronologically, this year's Playback production was wistfully titled *If Only: The Second Chance Plays*. For this show the kids wrote plays over a fine weekend upstate at the **Hudson Valley Artist's Foundation**. Their adult partners then wrote "answer" plays. The finished sets were performed by the kids and the grown-ups in November at the A.T.A. theater on W. 54th St.

The evening opened with **Steven Vasquez's** *Stealing Dreams*, which charted the path of nerdy Benchy, who turns out to be a pretty good basketball player...so good that his nemesis hires a thug to stop him. Benchy is tragically slain, but he returns with foam-core wings to haunt his former rival in **Ed Vassallo's** *The Playuh-Hatuh*.

Speaking of rivals, **Lizette Natera** and **Cecilia Arana** portrayed competing singer/dancers at a high school talent show in *Lizette's Beginning is Winning, Losing's the End*. **Susan Kim's** sequel, *I'm Okay, You're Serving Coffee*, saw them reunited, forcing Ceci's character to, well, wake up and smell the coffee. **Megan Sandberg-Zakian** was the able dramaturg/director for both plays.

In his own play, *The Line Between Friends*, **Robert Tomas** played a boy enmeshed in a conflict with his coach. He returned to show us the coach's side of the dispute (and his potbelly) in **Michael Potts' A Few Good Years Left**.

**Jaymaree Rosado** and **Duane Boutte** were roommates who sought employment in their fields (journalism and dancing, respectively) in *Through Thick and Thin*, penned by Ms. Rosado. In *The Real News*, writer/dramaturg/director **Liz Flahive** had Jaymaree fighting newsroom sexism of an earlier era.

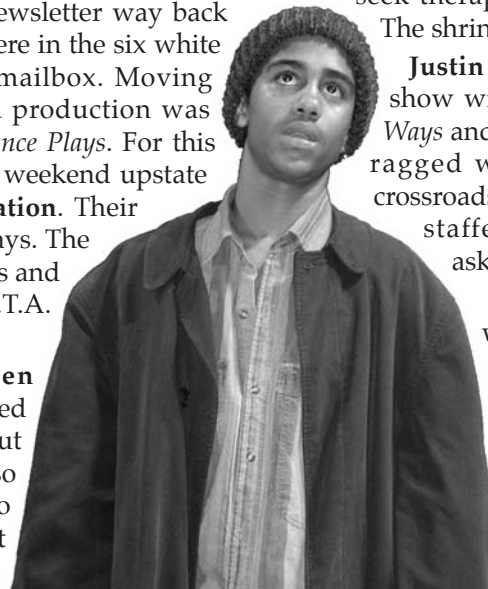
After the hubbub of the intermission died down, **Oscar Padilla's** *Friends are Better than Fame* showed us the fall and rise of a selfish movie star (Oscar) who meets his replacement (**Roz Coleman**) while panhandling. Dramaturg/Director **Danny Goldstein's** *Tennis Gilly-Style* explored the flip-side of the story as played out by two fans of the actors involved in a tennis match.

**Nadya Jabour** and **Nancy Giles** were co-proprietors of a groovy 70's record shop in Nadya's *Liz and Iz*. Running a

small business is so stressful that Nancy was forced to seek therapy in her own follow-up, *Love and Biz*. The shrink? Nadya, natch.

**Justin Aponte** and **Gus Rogerson** closed the show with their bittersweet plays *Two Different Ways* and *Rien de Rien*. Gus and Justin played two ragged wanderers who face a philosophical crossroads in France. Get a job or stay bums? We staffers were reminded of when we were asked to work here.

"If Only" we could list the other people who helped make this show possible...oh, what the heck: **Joel Derfner** composed the songs in the show while **Kari Riely** played them, **Sheila Kehoe** designed costumes, **Noël Dawkins** was our stage manager, the great **Greg MacPherson** did lights. Oh, and **John Sheehy** and **Liz Bell** served up fine grub on the trip. Ah, "If Only" they did it every day. GB



*Justin Aponte* ponders his existence in "If Only: The Second Chance Plays" (photo by John Sheehy)

## Okay, Start the Presses Again

The Fall 2002 Playmaking shows, *Stop The Presses: The Sensational Plays*, were worth writing home about. After a nine-week playwriting workshop here at The Clubhouse, the ten pint-sized playwrights and their dauntless dramaturgs made for Tyler Hill, PA where they enjoyed the marvelous munificence of hosts **Mike Sell** and **Eric Karpeles**. The result: a headline-worthy group of plays that played to packed houses in December at the fabulous **HB Playwright's Foundation** (Thanks to **Billy Carden**, **David Apichell**, and everyone else over there!).

The evening kicked off on a festive note with **Mandee Santiago's** *Spending Christmas Together for the First Time*, a celebration of sisterly love among evergreen trees (**Caroline Clay** and **Toya Lillard**). **Mordecai Santiago** (no relation to Mandee) gave us a seemingly simple tale of a seasoned gymnast (**Felix Solis**) training an ambitious novice (**Maria Tucci**), which unfolded into a shocking drama of lies, anger, betrayal and torrid romance. Who'd have guessed? Next up came *Reggie and Carlos' Adventure* by **Christopher Ramirez**, which paired **Robert Colston** and **Christopher Randolph** as a bunny and a hamster (costumes that made them look even cuter and cuddlier than usual) facing the cruelest of pet-store dilemmas: would they be sold separately, or together? All you really need to know about *At The Park*, by **Jonathan Rosario**, is



Not what you think: Eris Migliorini heals Michael Stuhlbarg's skinned knee.

that Licker (Eris Migliorini) licked Player's (Michael Stuhlbarg) injured knee because "there's a medicine in her tongue that calms people down." (Licker has been very busy attending to the New York theater community ever since). Closing

up the first act was **Crystal Toro's** *Two Ever-lasting*, in which sisters **Cara Marcous** and **Lizzy Davis** embraced both their professional calling and their familial duty. Their lilting hymn of "We Are Teachers Two For Life!" carried us buoyantly into intermission.

Sufficiently choco-lated, the audience settled down again in time for *Differences*, **Bryant Acosta's** game show comedy, wherein **Nate Corddry** and **John Conlee** competed intently for the grand prize: A Cadillac Escalade. Red. In *A Stupid Cheetaah*, **Merlaine Mendez** cast **Armando Riesco** as the title animal and **Saidah Arrika Ekulona** as the innocent antelope that almost falls prey to his wiles – but not quite! In *The Way You Meet a Friend on Manhattan Streets*, **Abigail Lopez** and **Erin Quinn Purcell** met on the streets of Manhattan and became friends (but at least playwright **Kayelani Silva** gave fair warning). **Isayah Muller** kicked it up a notch with his action thriller *Betrayed*, pitting dancer (and former Project kid!) **Victor Rojas** as "Tazz the Dancing Freak" against really tall guy **Reg Flowers** as, um, a really tall *bad* guy. Bringing up the rear was **Yaiana Vasquez Tineo's** *The Lovers and The Fighters*, in which **David Eigenberg** won, lost, and won back the heart of **Lizbeth Mckay**. The decisive moment was when he sang "Six, seven, eight. I always eat off a plate." Whose heart wouldn't melt?

Such heartstopping plays would not have been written if not for the fine group of adult dramaturg/directors who saw them through from first pencil stroke 'til the last round of applause: **Rick Meese**, **Joe White**, **Jonas Oppenheim**, **Erica Schmidt**, **Danny Johnson**, **Sascha Palladino**, **Lizzie Gottlieb**, **Robert Sean Leonard**, **Kia Corthron**, **John Sheehy**, and **Mary Pat Walsh**. The young playwrights efforts shone ever more brightly thanks to a little help from our friends: **Crystal Thompson** and her magnificent costumes, **Greg MacPherson** on lights, **Maury Schott** on sound, **Karen Munkel** managing the stage, **Joel Derfner** composing the tuneful tunes. And then there were our ever-gracious hosts on the weekend away in Tyler Hill: **the Cobbs**, **the Pursches**, **the Rutledges**, **Sohail Raikhy**, **the Stoeckles**, **the Heyns**, **Katy Homans** and **Patterson Sims**, **the Spoeris**, and of course **Mike** and **Eric**. On a personal note, I'd like to add that this was the first Playmaking class I've taught at The Project, and I am EXTREMELY grateful to everyone for making my first time truly sensational. Thanks! Let's do it again... how's March 28th to 30th?

MS-Z

## None Booored at "All Aboooooard"

I'm sure you know the **Two-on Two** drill. Two kids, all alone upon the wicked stage, with nothing but their wits to defend them from an unruly mob desperate for **Boylan's Root Beer** floats and **Flyer Bars**. Their clever adult playwright was last seen sometime the year before, and their trusty adult director is out in the lobby getting a head start on the aforementioned goodies. Happy memories of their winter wonderland weekend, two weeks past, spent rehearsing and bowling and sledding and chowing down, can't help them now. The train has left the station. There's a show to do.

But rest easy, dear reader. *All Aboard: The Departure Plays* rode the glory train all the way to the end of the line. First on the track were **Anthony Mejia** and **Kimani Lewis-Ashley** as a couple of skydivers, canine and feline, respectively, directed by **Lee Rosen** in **Jonathan Bernstein's** *Raining Cats And Dogs*. The play ended before they hit the ground, but we're guessing that they landed on all fours. They were followed by **Zabryna Guevara's** *Samson and Calliope*, as directed by **Glynis Rigsby**, in which **Wonkezeh Newenle**, playing the selfishly brilliant scribe Samson Daleworth, learned to amuse his muse, played by **Samantha Padilla**. The audience was amused too, but with intermission and sugar close at hand, there was no telling what would happen. Fortunately, **Ivana Granados** and **Ariana Casablanca** pulled out all the stops as a pair of DIVAS!! in **R.N. Sandberg's** *Amor Es Un Tren* (that's Español for "Love Is Gonna Getcha"), directed by the playwright's first-born, **Megan Sandberg-Zakian** (charges of influence peddling are under investigation).

Thanks to our pals **Ron Fiorina** at **Boylan's Soda** and **Mary Moore** at **D'Agostino's Supermarkets** (can you say "Häagen-Dazs"?), inter-mission was awesome! So was the second act, which began with an Elvis impersonator and his ever-lovin' coach, impersonated by **Mike Grullon** and



Solangee Acosta and Mike Grullon in non-Elvis garb.

**Solangee Acosta**, overcoming low self-esteem issues to make the world safe for democracy and massive pompadours, in *A Little Less Conversation*, written by **Anne Torsiglieri** and directed by **Kim Sykes**. After that, with **Cindy Kaplan's** *Discovering America*, directed by **Becky White**, the audience was once again asked to muse on

muses. This time, **Anastasia Kehr** and **Suzette Santana** chose to inspire each other, to their mutual benefit. Then, in *All We Gotta Do*, written by **Michael Bernard** and directed by **Joe Mihalow**, **Jonathan Hagemeyer** and **Stephen Galimidi**, moved a box from one side of the stage to the other and we all got to go home. Oh yeah, they also cracked wise and sang and danced a whole bunch.

Many thanks to the Project's very own **Mertzes**, our pals across the hall at the **Women's Interart Annex**, for the

use of their theater, and to our weekend hosts, **Derek McLane** and **Wendy Ettinger**, **Lili Taylor**, and **Robert Gottlieb** and **Maria Tucci**, for the use of their domiciles. **Patrick Barnes** returned to the fold by writing and playing some awful nice music. GR

### Here's How

For anyone and everyone who's been wondering exactly what it does take to become a member of The 52nd Street Project, we thought it might be helpful to put it in print. #1: You have to be a kid. #2: You have to live in Hell's Kitchen. #3: You have to join between the ages of 9 and 11 by taking part in the **Playmaking** program, which is offered two times a year, in the fall, from September to November, and in the winter, from January to March. After you've done Playmaking, you are eligible for all the other programs, everything from **Replay** and the **One-on-Ones to The Teen Ensemble**, but every kid doesn't do every program, for all kinds of reasons. We could list them all, but then you'd be reading this article until next Tuesday. Kids, none of the reasons have anything to do with how much we like you or whether or not you give Doritos to Gus when he shamelessly mooches from you. If you want to be a Smart Partner, and share your smarts with some lucky adult, then you have to join that program before you turn 13. If anyone has any questions about any of this, feel free to call or visit Gus at the Clubhouse. Thanks for reading. GR

### Replay Redux

Yet another reason that 2003 will go down in history – The Project is trying out a new way to showcase the annual crop of plays from the "Replay" class. After making it through Playmaking, Project kids who just can't get enough playwriting participate in Replay, another nine-week class, this time honing more advanced writing techniques such "the monologue," "the third character," and the dreaded "rewrite." Previously the plays to emerge from this class were read aloud at our annual Replay Picnic, a forum where the nuance and sophistication of these works was rarely fully appreciated, due to such alluring distractions as hamburgers and a swimming pool. This year, however, staged readings of the plays will be presented at a proper off-Broadway theater on a Monday night in May. This means that even our friends who are currently performing in shows will be able to attend. And you don't even have to bring a bathing suit. Unless you want to. (Have no fear: plans for a play-less picnic are still in the works). MS-Z

### Be a Theater Critic!

If you enjoy the theater, you can make your views known via a new weekly column starting soon in The Wall Street Journal. Reviews based on Zagat Survey's trademark formula of real-people ratings and comments (pro and con, witty and wise) will be culled on-line at Zagat.com. Vote now and you'll receive a FREE Zagat guide to NYC theater when published this spring.

Vote today at  
[www.zagat.com/survey](http://www.zagat.com/survey)

### LOW DOWN ON THE HOLD UP

The Project is planning on knocking over a bank – and everyone's invited. This year's bash and grab will be **HEIST SOCIETY: The Project's Bank Job Benefit**. It'll be held on Monday, May 12, 2003 at **Capitale**, the former bank turned party space.

Last year's benefit was such a disco inferno at **STILL STAYIN' ALIVE: The 20th Anniversary Benefit**, we decided it was time to do it all over again. This time, instead of dancing shoes and polyester, there will be pinstripes and prison stripes. The caper begins with cocktails and dinner, then we will stage a diversion featuring adults and kids in the roles of cops and robbers. An invitation you can not refuse will be heading your way this April. For more information, contact **John "Mr. Big" Sheehy**, at the Project. JS



The last few months have been so busy we can but list the announcements and wish everyone hearty congratulations. We are thrilled that there has been so much delightful good news in a time when the daily news can seem a little bleak. So, in chronological order (with apologies to anyone we left out)...

Boy, did planets align on October 16th – Board member **Lisa Benavides** and Proj. Vol. **Tim Nelson** were thrilled to welcome their second son **Theodore Kaiser Nelson**. **Charlotte Hall** was born to our project pals **Annie Reale Hall** and **Glen Hall** on Block Island (this day was also their 9th wedding Anniversary). And October 16th will be the future wedding anniversary for **Barry Singer** and **Loretta DeSimone**.

October 27th marked the birth of May, that is 9 lb., 1 oz **May Elizabeth Lehrer Seller**, born to project pals **Joshua Lehrer** and **Jeffrey Seller**.

On Oct. 30th **Stephanie Berger** (see her Flyer profile on p. 6) gave birth to twins! She and hubbie **Paul King** welcomed **Jacob Faro** and **Noah David** to their home.

Founder Boy **Willie Reale** and Proj. Vol. extraordinaire **Jenny Gersten** welcomed their second son **Leonardo Gersten** to what some are beginning to call the Upper West Side boy's club on November 15th.

This December we heard from long-time pal **Jerry McGill**: "On December 5th I married my sweetie, **Andrea Watrud**. I will be moving to Germany to be with her. Life is crazy, no? Maybe I can send up a Stuttgart Project?" Ach du lieber!

On Dec. 15th **Lazlo Henry Meiman** was born to elated project volunteers **Hank Meiman** and **Betsy Foldes**.

On Dec. 30th after being engaged for an eternity **Adam Felber** and **Jeanne Simpson** were wed much to the delight of those anxiously waiting for Adam to change his phone message (It went something like "Hi, this is Adam and Jeanne. We can't answer the phone because we're engaged.") CO

# NAMERS NAMED!

## "WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?" Contest Results



I, Dr. Bizarro von Weirdman, am here to report, yea, even to shout to the heavens -- IT'S A LIVE-ly contest the Project has held this year. You may recall that the goal of this year's fundraiser was to profile some of my most outrageous creations. The expert judging panel from the Project (all of whom specialize in freaks) was thrilled with the creative sense of nomenclature among the entries. The Project also appreciates the over \$56,000 raised to help them continue their work with the kids.

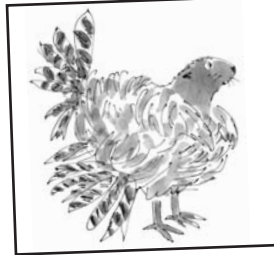
Judges were looking for the hilarity of non sequitur, the insight of juxtaposition and the poignancy of twisted logic. While all entries showed some of these qualities, the following are

the winners in each category that came closest to putting it all together. Winners will each receive a Flyer bar gift box. The grand-prize winner will receive an honorary mad-doctorate degree and dinner for two at ESCA. JS

### Jethro "Beau" Beavurkey

**Grand Prize Winner**  
Submitted by Mary Pat Walsh

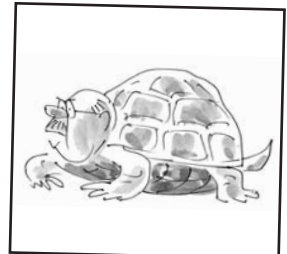
**Place of Birth:** The South, definitely the South  
**Current Habitat:** The shores of Lake Pontchartrain  
**Occupation:** Professional spokespet for the "Stop the Turducken" campaign.  
**Hobbies:** Whittling tiny pieces of corn into ornamental jewelry.  
**Last book read:** "Free to Be You and Me" by Marlo Thomas  
**Advice to Kids:** "Eat your veggies."



### Morty Turtlebaum

**\$25 Turtagent Category**  
Submitted by Danny Goldstein

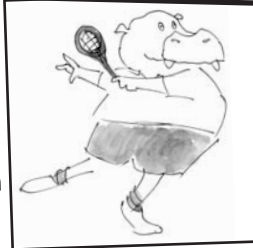
**Place of Birth:** Flushing, Queens  
**Current Habitat:** Efficiency apartment in Teaneck, New Jersey  
**Occupation:** Parole officer  
**Hobbies:** Parcheesi, and collecting model rockets  
**Last book read:** "Tuesdays with Morrie"  
**Advice to Kids:** "Be cool, stay in school" (Advice learned in parole officer school)



### Hippathlete

**\$50 Hippathlete Category**  
Submitted by Louis Giansante

**Place of Birth:** Dr. von Weirdman's Clone Clinic for Hybrid Hippos  
**Current Habitat:** The East River, right beside the Tennis Club bubble  
**Occupation:** Personal Trainer and Tennis Coach to Anna Nicole Smith & Harvey Fierstein  
**Hobbies:** Suppo Wrestling (Sumo for Hippos), collecting blue hippo statues from the Met Museum  
**Last book read:** "Dr. Atkins' Weight Loss Plan for Giant Herbivores"  
**Advice to Kids:** "Eat Green! Preferably from river bottoms. Look what veggies did for me!"



### Frau Ingrid Birdbabe

**\$100 Matrostrich Category**  
Submitted by Judy Minor

**Place of Birth:** Osteriches, Germany  
**Current Habitat:** Upper Nest Side  
**Occupation:** Emu-seum curator  
**Hobbies:** Walks on the beach, sand castles, sight-seeing over others' heads  
**Last book read:** "Fear of Flying" by Erica Jong  
**Advice to Kids:** "Stand tall and proud, and don't play with eggs."



### Bob the Beavurkey

**"Any Amount" Category**  
Submitted by John & Amedeo Turturro

**Place of Birth:** Beavurkeyville, Massachusetts  
**Current Habitat:** In a 5-year old boy's giant smelly sock.  
**Occupation:** Don't you know Beavurkeys don't have jobs?  
**Hobbies:** Eating Spam cubes, and maintaining his 50-year old Spam cube.  
**Last book read:** "The Joy of Spam" by Bob E. Spamly  
**Advice to Kids:** "Don't get addicted to Spam, and stay in school."



All illustrations  
on this page  
are by  
James  
Stevenson

We're more than halfway through our Smart Partner Year, and it's been a big success so far, with the Smart Pairs balancing hard work with hard play! **Michael Velez** and **Alex Tomas** both focus on math skills with their Smart Adults, **Perry McBain-Daniel** and **Mike Stone** respectively

— evidenced by the inevitable question each week, "Liz, do you have a calculator/protractor?" But they also know how to take a breather from all the multiplication tables and unit conversions. Perry and Michael are heading to Central Park to ice skate this week, while Alex and Mike have already made weekend trips to both the movies and the arcade. As I write this, another pair, **Adrian Zambrano** and his Smardult, **Lee Rosen**, are watching *Daredevil*, a break from their intense homework-filled sessions, and a celebration of Adrian's acceptance into St. Agnes High School.



S.P.'s **Michael Velez** and **Perry McBain Daniel**

JOHN SHEEHY

Meanwhile, newly inducted partners **Jonathan Rosario** and **Erica Schmidt** began a book called *Soccer Halfback* three weeks ago. When they tire of reading, they head to the park to kick the ball around themselves. Another new pair, **Christopher Ramirez** and **Jonas Oppenheim**, are planning to make a movie about the Project, while I search for a video camera for this upcoming endeavor. Then there are the musicians: **Kim Sherman** is teaching **Jennifer Jimenez** how to play the piano, while **Kari Riely** is giving her Smart Kid, **Kathy Taveras**, voice lessons.

Here's a snippet of *The Series of Brad and Myra*, co-written and published at Staples by the creative team of **Jazzy Hernandez** and **Julia Walk-Miller**. It's destined to be a Project classic:

*"Brad never expected it to happen like this. Why was he getting chased by a cow? And it wasn't just any cow, this cow was wearing a polka-dot muumuu. And the cow wasn't black and white, it was green and pink. And it didn't moo but rather kept repeating the phrase, "Baah... I mean ribbit... I mean tweet." As you can tell this cow wasn't the same old farm cow you'd expect, it was from Pluto... Brad wasn't the sixth grader you'd think either. He had pink eyes. They were pink like the rosiest cheek, the most embarrassed pig."*

Tune in next newsletter for updates on several more pairs and their exciting adventures! I'll be sure to include more subtle requests for donations to the Project's Smart Partner program. If you haven't picked up on the hints, let me be blatant: **WE NEED PROTRACTORS, CALCULATORS, AND A VIDEO CAMERA, PLEASE.** LB

## A Lot Like Tennis, Only Smaller

Throughout the year, the Project strives to maintain a supportive environment that is free from competition, but on February 12 we held an event in which we deliberately encouraged vicious, unbridled rivalry: the 3rd annual **Smart Partner Ping-Pong Tournament**. This year a record 24 teams (each consisting of one kid and one adult), competed for the gleaming, hand-colored foamcore trophies.



"Revenge, I shall have it!" quoth Carol and Mayleen. (Note Carol's brace).

JOHN SHEEHY

The champions, at long last, were **Carol Ochs** and **Mayleen Cancel**. After two years of being in second place, the pair were so determined to win that not even Carol's injured hand nor Mayleen's raging fever could stop them from trouncing their opponents. In second place were **Johnathan Roldan** and **Jack Gwaltney**, closely followed by third-place finishers **Frankie Ventura** and **Tim Luceno**. **Diana Rojas** and **Jaymaree Rosado** came in fourth, **Adrian Zambrano** and **Lee Rosen** won the *Pretty Good Player* awards, **Maury Schott** and **Alex Kehr** took the *Best New Player* spots, while **Christopher Ramirez** and **Jonas Oppenheimer** went home with the *Good Sport* medals, possibly the most noble honor that can be bestowed. Jonas certainly thinks so, since he's been wearing his during afterschool hours at the Project.

GB



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.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Barker Welfare                         | \$7,500  |
| Barnsely Foundation                    | \$7,000  |
| Capital Group                          | \$12,695 |
| Dramatists Guild Fund                  | \$3,000  |
| Entertainment Weekly                   | \$2,350  |
| Horace W. Goldsmith                    | \$15,000 |
| William and Mary Greve Foundation      | \$15,000 |
| The Hennessy Foundation                | \$10,000 |
| JKW Foundation                         | \$25,000 |
| Newman's Own                           | \$15,000 |
| New York Times Company Foundation      | \$7,500  |
| Philip Morris Employee Fund            | \$10,000 |
| Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation | \$5,000  |
| Stranahan Foundation                   | \$20,000 |
| TCG                                    | \$26,000 |
| Vervane Foundation                     | \$10,000 |
| Wiener Family Fund                     | \$15,000 |



JLS

The 52nd Street Project  
500 West 52nd St., #2B  
New York, NY 10019

**Caroline Clay**  
as a distraught  
Christmas Tree in  
"Stop The Presses"

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #4292



## Stephanie Berger

**Occupation:** Photographer **What she's done for the Project:** Documented years of Project summers and benefits.  
**Why you do what you do:** "I am able to look close and intimately at people, places, and events through the lens of my camera and through my own vision, leave behind a beautiful image."  
**Hobbies:** Bike riding, Haitian-African dance, spending time with friends.  
**Most recent accomplishment:** Giving birth to my twin sons, Jacob and Noah King, on October 30th, 2002  
**Last Book Read:** "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry  
**Best 52nd Street Project Memory:** "Many fun memories but especially rehearsing, eating, and watching the sunset at the stone house on the hill in Block Island- also, listening to Lew Black's comments during Hurricane Bob which left us without electricity and water in Cape Cod for a week."  
**Credo:** "Be kind to others, remember to laugh."  
**Advice to kids:** "Believe in yourself, work hard and follow your dreams."  
**Place of birth:** Brooklyn, New York **Habitat:** "Upper West Side, but I'm a Village girl at heart."  
**Favorite thing about the Project:** "Seeing the adults bring the kids' imaginations to life through their plays."  
**On Flyer Bars:** "Buy one during intermission and support the Project."



STEPHANIE BERGER

Below: Rusty was the music director for our "Space" benefit. A devoted Trekkie, he donned Vulcan ears and a Star Trek uniform to wear at his post at the keyboard.



WENDY STULBERG

LT. RUSTY MAGEE - HELMSMAN



Above: Rusty Magee and his son Nat in 2001.

## Rusty Magee: Composer and Pal

The Project mourns the loss of beloved composer **Rusty Magee** who passed on February 16 after a feisty battle with cancer. He was far too young. There is comfort to be taken in the fact that Rusty put out enough energy during his abbreviated term to have fueled a hundred years of life. Rusty wrote more than one hundred songs for the kids of the Project and his irrepressible spirit will live on in tunes that you're happy to have stuck in your head. Our hearts are out to his wife **Alison** and his son **Nat**. Bye, Rusty. WR

**Editor's Note:** The March Playmaking show will be performed in celebration of Rusty's life. The flyer's enclosed; come one, come all.