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SHOW FLYER!

PROJECT UPDATE



VOLUME 51, MARCH, 2006

EDITOR: GEORGE R. BABIAK

THE PAYBACK PLAYBACKS

It was a rainy Columbus Day weekend in Franklin, NY, but we still managed to admire the colorful trees, roller skate, go bowling and eat Pie in the Sky ice cream (two days in a row!), oh....and rehearse some plays. We did our first public performance at **The Franklin Repertory Theater Company**, an old Masonic Temple filled with our friendly host families: **Gene, Carol, and Carmela Marner; Tom Duerdon, Xena Sheehan,** and the **Monosson** family. A couple of weeks later, during a chilly October weekend at the **Wings Theatre** in the West Village, an eager NYC audience finally got served our final version of *Chill and Serve; the Revenge Plays*. That's right, it was payback... I mean *Playback... time*.

Starting out the evening were **Crystal Toro** and **Megan Cramer** in *Glamorous and Fantasy*. Crystal dramatically breezed onto the stage to tell everyone how glamorous she was. Crystal and Megan sang a lot of songs and Crystal still remained glamorous in Megan's "answer play" *All the Pretty Little Flowers*, where she played a Rose, and Megan a Daisy. They sported huge flower heads made by our crafty costume designer, **Bryan Gmitter**. **John Sheehy** played a fantastic Mr. Fantastic, the owner of the two flowers, who sang and watered his way into the audience's hearts.

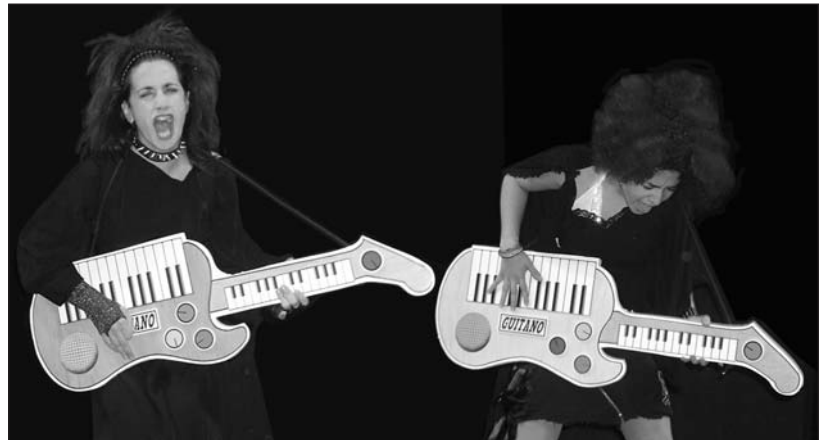
This was followed by **A.J. Welsh's** heartbreaking cop drama *I Had to Do What I Had to Do*, starring A. J. as Champ Shanahan, a tough cop, and **Ed Vassallo** as his partner Shockey, seeking revenge on Champ's father's killer. Ed served it back with *Acorn's Dilemma*, a flashback piece about Champ and his dad that caused most of the audience to reach for their handkerchiefs.

Next up was **Jonathan Rosario's** comic *The Rich and the Bum*, in which Jonathan's character, Yo I Don't Know, repeatedly conned **Zakiyyah Alexander's** character, Yo I Do Know, with a coin trick, until they both realized that their dreams of being a hip hop singer and a hip hop dancer, respectively, could be mutually beneficial. *Fame and Fortune* was Zakiyyah's answer, a window ledge drama where they realized that fame and fortune are NOT the most important things in life.

Janiece Aponte's *The Big Mystery* ended the first half, with Janiece and **George Babiak** as two studious friends cramming for an important math test and plotting a big stinky cheese prank. George responded with *Sweet Revenge*, in which Janiece and George were now two jock friends named Flash and Lefty who vowed retaliation against the nerds with the Domsday Stink Bomb. And in case the audience had forgotten what the evening's theme was, they sang a song called "Revenge" which featured appearances from shadowy superstars Megan Cramer and **Reg Flowers**.

Everyone chilled in the lobby for intermission, ate some Flyer bars, and then came back to be served a second helping of vengeance. The second half started out with a bang, with *The Lesson of Giving* by **Dale Fetterman**. Dale was a fast-talking, cell-phone abusing businessman with no time for a subway singer named Spirit, played by **Lizzy Cooper Davis**. But they soon became friends and performed some fancy dance moves in the subway that led into *The Gift that Keeps On*, by Reg Flowers, featuring Reg himself as a very tall police officer. They all outran a five-headed cop, beat up another cop, and got arrested, only to realize that maybe it was time to take it easy.

Merlaine Mendez and **Patricia Buckley** then stormed onto the stage as crazy-haired, loud-screaming rock musicians in *The Yeah Yeah Brave Girls*. Wild hair, wild dance moves, wild clothes and improbable piano-guitar hybrids made the crowd go wild for this musical duo. Flash forward many years to *Yeah, Yeah Whatever* by **Reg Flowers**, and we got to see their two characters, Mimi and Cici, as old ladies living in Sarasota, exacting revenge on each other as only old, wrinkled, washed-up rockers can.



Patty Buckley and Merlaine Mendez rock steady as *The Yeah Yeah Brave Girls* in our October Playback show.

GRB

Continued on page 2

Finally, we ended the evening with *Lawyers Always Have a Thing for Football Players*, by **Steven Castellanos**. It featured the longest monologue ever written by a Project kid (but slyly assigned to his adult partner), and an excellent lobster prop with removable claws. Steven played a lawyer trying to toughen up his prize client, a wimpy football player, played by **Jed Clarke**. Jed's response, *Make it Right*, followed the two characters through a long reconciliation, and ended in the best dance number of the night.

Through all the chilling and serving, **Loren Toolajian** provided the magical music, ranging from rap to rock 'n' roll to ballads to pop. Assisted by sound guru **Maury Schott**, light genie **Greg MacPherson** and our cool new stage manager **Jenni Swan**, everybody looked and sounded like pros. And last but certainly not least, thanks to ab-fab **Ed Vassallo** for organizing our whole weekend away in Franklin. MC

PUBLIC APPROVAL



GRB

Nancy Giles uses sophisticated technology to trap **Michael Potts**.

This past September, nine very precocious kids, eager to be transformed into the greatest young playwrights of our age, strolled, jumped, and skipped into The Project Clubhouse. After 8 weeks of instruction in the fine art of Playmaking, we boarded the vans for Stone Ridge, NY for a weekend writer's retreat. The plays the young authors wrote in the country rocked the **Public Theater** in December with the 2005 Fall Playmaking Show, *Oh No You Didn't! Plays That Do*. A record breaking 900 folks were treated to the magic of theater born of kids' imaginations that more than filled the vast stage of the **Newman Theater**.

The show started with a tale of loyalty and friendship between Pencil (**Jeanine Serralles**) and Eraser (**Mia Barron**) on their quest for a 30¢ loaf of bread in *The Best Friends* by **Breanna Straker**, directed by **Maria Goyanes**. Next, **Terrence Mack's** tragic-comic *The Lock-Up*, directed by **John Sheehy**, pitted street kid Young Ron (**Kenajuan Bentley**) and Officer Bang (**Nancy Giles**) against the villainous gangster Joe (**Michael Potts**). **Zakiya Jacob** brought comedy and tragedy together in a very different way when two works of art, Smiley (**Josh Hamilton**) and the frowning Feala (**Megan Cramer**), came to life—and together—in *Feeling Good*, directed by **Jessica Bauman**. Set in a candy store in India, *Foolish Mortals, Magical Powers*, written by **Marlowe Mendez** and directed by **Claudia Zelevansky**, told the tale of a girl named Prey (**Akyiaa Wilson**) battling the evil Bad Guy (**Reg Flowers**) in the land of dreams. The act was brought to a rousing end when a Smart Monkey (**Christopher Randolph**) and a not-so-smart Man (**Danyon Davis**) high-stepped their way to superior intelligence.

In Act II's opener, *The War Between the Barbies and Legos* by **Kyone Murphy**, **Kate Marks** directed **Bill Camp** as Lego-loving boy Max and **Ray Anthony Thomas** as his shrewish Barbie-phile sister Rudy in a spectacular that ended with the decapitation of innumerable dolls and the incineration of a small army of life-sized Lego soldiers. In the very touching *Sam and Samantha's Friendship* by **Chloe Moore**, **Ceci Arana** and **Ephraim Lopez** sang beautifully as two school kids making animals of themselves for the sake of friendship—all under the direction of **Glynis Rigsby**.

Nequai Figueroa's *The Halloween Night*, directed to hilarious heights of fear and paranoia by **Michael Potts**, featured **Mary Louise Wilson** as Ciara, a post office employee afraid of trick-or-treaters and **Florencia Lozano** as Megan, Ciara's prancing daughter who is afraid of barking dogs. This play featured the evening's second standout cameo, with **George Babiak** playing the cigar-smoking and piratical landlord known only as Mr. Landlord. Lastly, Deery (**Eddie Falco**), a new-born deer got *Lost In The Woods* while being pursued by a ravenous one-hundred-pound three year old toddler, Mucha Lucha (**Kevin Geer**) in the evening's finale, written by **Andy Reyes**. The play, directed by **Danny Goldstein** and ending with a small house being built onstage, proved that there is nothing too big to overcome with a little understanding and the clever use of foam core.

Lighting designers **Greg MacPherson** and **Doug Filomena**, composer **Patrick Barnes**, sound designer **Maury Schott**, tag team costume designers **Chloe Chapin** and **Abby Redmond**, stage manager **Patricia MacGregor** and crew supervisors **Noel Polanco** and **Riji Suh** supported the production. We were also very grateful to the staff at the **Public Theater**, who helped us manage an SRO weekend with fabulous audiences of family, friends and loyal supporters.

We must pay homage to the generous families that put us up in beautiful Stone Ridge: **Steve Gorn** (who supplied the main house); **Laura Shaine Cunningham**; **Mary Louise Wilson**; **Paul & Nicole Quinn**; **Deborah Freedman & Bill Woods**; **Charlie Miles & Naomi Freundlich**; **Jason Downs & Sophia Rabb**; and, last but not least, **Joe White & Iris Brown**, who made some great meals for us. RF



JOHN SHEEHY

Eddie Falco as a baby deer who is very attached to her stick.

PUT A NICKEL IN (€ YOUR TWO CENTS) THE 2005 FUNDRAISER € 2006 BENEFIT

"Hi, there! It's me, your old pal Jukey the Jukebox, here to tell you who won the annual Project holiday fundraiser..." Oh, hang on... we didn't do *that* kind of a fundraiser this year. Instead, we used the jukebox image to spur all Projectiles great and small to contribute some money *and* their favorite memories of The 52nd Street Project. It's all part of our grand scheme to get some ideas for this year's big benefit.

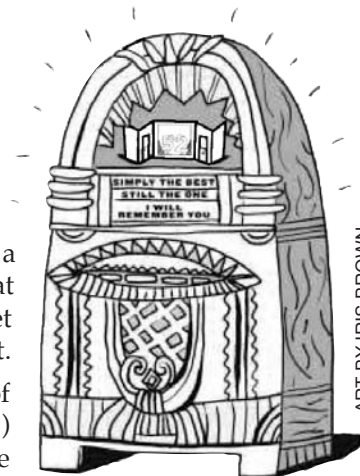
This year's entries were not judged on cleverness. In fact, **Toby Kahn** of Manhattan got his prize (dinner for two at **Five Points** restaurant on Great Jones St.) by simply being drawn at random out of a brown felt top hat. Many thanks to those who dug deep into pockets for donations and their memory banks for some stand-out moments. A sampling follows.

Some volunteers' entries involved their personal experiences. For actress **Anna Li**, it was winning a foam-core Olympic gold medal in figure skating on our stage, a medal she still wears occasionally after winning arguments with her guy. **Peter Francis James** recalls "entering the stage in long johns carrying a hockey stick and watching my 11 year-old playwright snot himself laughing." For other vols, it got *really* personal: **Paul Reale** told us of meeting his wife **Barbara McCrane** at a production in 1991, and **Jenny Gersten** mentioned *The Butler Did It*, our 1987 One-on-Ones because it was "when I first laid my eyes on Willie." She's talking, of course, about her husband **Willie Reale**, who is Paul's brother and the founder of the Project.

Most of our fans, however, cited moments that affected them as audience members. **Trudy Steibl** remembers **Arthur French** portraying an 11-year old ballerina in Alex Cooper's playmaking show. **Katherine Lumb's** favorite moment was "two duets between a piece of baked ziti and an epiglottis." **Jessica Bauman** and **Ben Posel's** best-loved kid-written line was **Ariana Casablanca's** "we can do this the *hard* way or the *easily* way."

The kid play that garnered the greatest number of reminiscences was, hands-down, **Dale Fetterman's** 2004 playmaking show *The Boxer and the Dancer*, which featured **Kevin Geer** facing the fight of his career and **Nancy Giles** as the hoofer turned cut-man. Kevin and Nancy's dance brought the audience to their feet at every show.

We've got quite a few more memories to share, but we're gonna keep 'em under our hats until the big day, which is called **GREATEST HITS, The Project's 25th Anniversary Benefit**. It will be hosted by **Sam Waterston** and you're invited! The party's happening at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1 at a spectacular new venue: **Gotham Hall** on Broadway and 35th St. If you'd like to come, or have any questions about it, just call **John "The Silver Fox" Sheehy**, at the Clubhouse, (212) 333-5252. GB



DINOSAURS RETURN

Speaking of memories, 20 years ago **Willie Reale** and his brother **Rob Reale** wrote *The Dinosaur Musical*, the most ambitious full-length show the first generation of Project kids ever tackled. It featured a papier-mache cliffside, a fog machine, a seven-piece orchestra and **Arlen Collier** as a pterodactyl who flew over the stage on a cable provided by **Flying by Foy** and operated by **Paul McCrane**. **Fran McDormand** was the official backstage "shusher."

This past year, inspired by the success of their show *A Year with Frog and Toad*, the Reale brothers brought back the giant lizards in productions in Kansas City and, most recently, at the **Arden Theater** in Philadelphia. The songs and script were completely re-written and the saurians were portrayed by adult professionals, but the old Reale wit and fascination with food both remained intact. Also, the actors still had a tough time sitting down with those big tails. Congratulations, Will and Rob! GB



At left: Tyrannosaurus Rex **Jose Soto** and sauropod **Paula Myrie** order lunch in the 1986 version of *The Dinosaur Musical*.



At right: **Robyne Parrish** and **Kelly McCreary** in 2006 as a mother and daughter *Parasaurolophus*.

GOING, GOING, GONE

Which way did we go, you ask? We went way cool, as in might-ee fine, as in ek-sell-ent, the weekend of January 27-29, when 12 Project pros paired up to perform 6 priceless plays, in *Which Way Did They Go? Theatrical Pursuits*. We also went across the hall, to the home of our friendly neighbors at the **Women's Interart Theatre**, where hundreds of people came to enjoy root beer floats and java (thanks to **Ron Fiorina** and **Boylan's Bottling Company**, **Mary Moore** and **D'Agostino's Supermarkets**, and **John Vassilaros** and **John A. Vassilaros & Son Coffee**) and some top-drawer musical comedy. First out of the gate was a blues stomp by **Jerome Hairston**, *Blues On The Red Planet*, directed by **Evan Cabinet** and starring **Paul Dixon** and **Alex Kehr** as, respectively, a son of a dentist and a son of an intergalactic overlord, who meet cute on Mars. Close on their heels were **Merlaine Mendez** and **Johanna Vidal** as a pair of mediocre psychics in **Madeleine George's** *The Future's So Bright*, under the direction of **Liza Steinberg**. As predicted, they were followed by a pair of thieves, **Christopher Ramirez** and **Isayah Muller**, in **Michael Bernard's** *Diamond In the*



Christopher Ramirez and Isayah Muller heft a particularly large diamond.

Rough. This theatrical extravaganza, under the direction of **Tom Schall**, featured an awesome laser show. No one realized that the lasers were made of string. After an uplifting intermission, we went a few doors down the hall from our mediocre psychics, to a suicide hotline where good friends **Octavia Rodriguez** and **Aladino Olivares** worked, in **Reg Flowers' Hand O' Yo Bidness**, directed by **Megan Cramer**. On behalf of all the meek, Aladino handled and handed over his business. Right behind them came a couple of dueling journalists, in **Susan Kim's Scoop**, with **Becky White** at the helm. **Kayelani Silva** and **Amanda Santos** both failed to get the story but they did gain mutual respect. The chase ended with **Skyeblu Welsh** as a girl in a coma and **John Cuevas** as her grief-stricken suitor, in *Not Funny!*, written by **Erin Quinn Purcell** and directed by **Michael Baron**. It being a play, they were able to travel back in time and set things right, so we all left happy.

We would never have found our way without the help of the following: Our fabulous weekend hosts, **Lili Taylor**, **Steven Perpeluk** and **Terry Fitzpatrick**, and **Maria Tucci** and **Robert Gottlieb**; our steadfast stage manager **Jean Marie Donnelly**; our wonderful composer **Andrew Sherman**; our superb costume designer **Mark Caswell**; and our good looking lighting designer **Greg MacPherson**. We enjoyed pursuing theater with all of them. GR

ADVENTURES IN SMARTITUDE

Last summer, during the Wareham One on One trip, I asked **Luisa Santiago** why she thought that she and her adult actor, **Nikki Philips**, were getting along so well. She replied, "Well, what two actors don't get along?" Hmm.... Anyway, Luisa and Nikki have maintained their on-stage chemistry through a Smart Partners friendship, taking a break from honing their acting skills to focus on those required to kick butt at Ping Pong (see their picture on p. 5) and the board games Cranium and Clue.

In fact, that Wareham trip proved fruitful for several new pairs—Project sisters **Cathy** and **Analís "Fifi" Fernandez** both snagged Smartners. Fifi and volunteer **Liz Canavan's** roles as time-traveling best friends are now a reality, (the best friends part, not the time travel). They reunite every week to draw, read together and work on Fifi's short story, *The Soul Connector*. Meanwhile, Cathy bonded with our Project kid-turned-Executive Assistant **Diana Rojas**. If you ask Diana what she likes most about her latest title, Smart Partner, she'll tell you, "I get to form a deeper bond with Cathy than the usual Project adult-kid friendship."



Liz and Fifi in Wareham

JOHN SHEEHY

To help deepen the bonds between these kids and their adults, we've encouraged them to be adventurous together—throughout our big city and within the pages of a book—by using the newly implemented Smart Partners Coupons. In September, each pair received a Book coupon and a Field Trip coupon, and they've had a blast finding ways to spend them. Another new pair, volunteer **Esra Gaffin** and **Luz Maldonado**, used their Book Coupon to get Luz her first personal dictionary. When they're not looking up weird words, they're chatting over hot chocolate at the local diner, or touring Esra's workplace at **RollingStone.com/RealNetworks, Inc.**, to inspire the budding career woman in Luz. **Joyce Cheung** used her Field Trip voucher to take her Smart Adult **Melissa Jones** on a tour of her favorite spots in Chinatown, including a friend's restaurant and her mother's jewelry store. Melissa said she was "given a real glimpse into Joyce's life."

Meanwhile, those Fernandez sisters took their Smart Adults to Bryant Park for an ice-skating field trip. Afterwards Cathy wrote about the fun they had: *We ice skated all the way to 8:00 pm. I fell like 10 times. Diana fell once... I was scared at first ... but when Diana and Liz guided me for about 30 minutes, I got the gist of it. I had the best time. I am a pro on the ice (that's what I think!). I was proud of Diana, me, Fifi, Liz because we all believed in each other that we could do it. We did. That was the best time I ever had.*

To inquire about how you can be a mentor to a Project kid, contact **Liz Bell** at The 52nd Street Project: (212) 333-5252 or bell@52project.org. LB

PINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

On Friday, February 17, no less than 24 teams assembled at the Clubhouse for the *Sixth Annual Valentine's Day Smart Partners and Homework Helpers Ping-Pong Doubles Tournament*. For nearly 4 hours (just a little longer than it takes to say the event's name), the pong pairs battled it out. Just to make things a little more chaotic, we also had some Nok-Hockey exhibition matches. Nok-Hockey, by the way, is a vicious little game played on a wooden tray with plastic hockey sticks and a very hard little wooden puck, as one player's fat lip attested. Below, the results of both competitions. GRB



The Champs: Josh Lewis & Anthony Mejia for the second year in a row.



2nd Place: Erik Bowie & A.J. Welsh kiss their trophies in their "King Pong" t-shirts.



3rd Place: Perry Daniel & Michael Velez. Last year they got "honorable mention."



4th Place: Nicole Fargardo & Erica Schmidt, who subbed for Karen Munkel (inset) at the end.



Honorable Mention: Sarah Kay & Jennifer Ramirez played hard and fast.



Best Teamwork: Mordecai Santiago & Liz Bell were a well-oiled machine.



Most Improved: Stephanie Vamvoukakis & Janiece Aponte practiced for weeks.



Best New Players: Joyce Cheung & Melissa Jones paddled fiercely.



Best Dressed: Nicole Philips & Luisa Santiago. It pays to own two pairs of bunny ears.



Good Sports: Cathy Fernandez & Diana Rojas clapped for everyone.



Nok-Hockey Champ: Georgie Zapata drank deeply from the cup of victory.



Nok-Hockey Medalists: Jonathan Rosario and Angel Silva beat all but Georgie.

The Following Foundations and corporations recently made generous grants to the Project. We are grateful to them for their support as well as to the many individuals and government agencies who help sustain the Project's programs year-round.



Con Edison\$2,000
Dramatists Guild Fund\$3,000
Dramatists Play Service\$1,500
Horace Goldsmith Foundation\$30,000
William & Mary Greve Foundation	...\$15,000
JKW Foundation\$26,500
Hennessy Foundation\$10,000

Hurlbut Family Charitable Lead Trust	..\$500
James A. Macdonald Foundation	...\$1,000
Mellon Bank\$1,000
St. Vincent de Paul Foundation	...\$5,000
TCG/Doris Duke/ Andrew Mellon Foundation\$13,000
Wiener Family Foundation\$15,000

REG FLOWERS



◀ This little fluffernutter is **Beatrix Anne Weber**, the new daughter of **Beth Emelson** and **Joe Weber**. She was 8 lbs., 4 oz. on January 13, when she was born. As you can see, she has a very pinchably cute set of cheeks.



◀ This attractive little family is **Lora LaVon**, one of our ace costume designers, her husband **Dan Friedman**, and their baby girl **Binah Friedman**. She arrived in the world at 2:54 a.m. on Thursday, Feb 16th, weighing 7lbs 9oz. Mother and daughter are doing well, and the proud father "is writing emails from the foothills of exhaustion."

▶ After his new baby boy **Tobias Frazier Draper** was born on February 7th, **Alex Draper** captured him on film in deep meditation. Toby was 8 lbs., 14 oz. and his mom, **Lorraine Tobias** (whence comes his first name), is doing just fine.



▶ Not only are they Gus' brother and sister-in-law, they're also award-winning documentary filmmakers: From the 2005 Sundance Film Festival to New York's Quad Cinema comes *Shakespeare Behind Bars*, **Hank Rogerson** and **Jilann Spitzmiller's** documentary about the only all-male Shakespeare company in the U.S. prison system. The Quad is on East 13th St. between 5th and 6th ave. and the movie plays there from March 10 to March 16. Check it out. It's real good.



PATRICK BARNES

Occupation: "My heart says songwriter, my wallet says Executive Assistant to the President of the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers (although that may have changed by the time this is published)."

Why he does what he does: "My mother said that she used to sit me, when I was an infant, in front of the radio on Saturday afternoons while she cleaned house. I reportedly sat gaping and transfixed for the entirety of 'Live From The Met' each week. I love music. I love helping people find a voice. Re: that NYRAG thing: I like having money."

Habitat: "Smack across the island from the Project, at 52nd & 1st, in what is sometimes called "The House of Drapes." Over a fish store, in a building that tilts about 8°."

Place of birth: Ohio State University Hospital, Columbus, OH.

Hobbies: "I make things - shelves, blankets, whatever. Also hiking (Cornwall is highly recommended)."

Most recent accomplishment: "I've set up a simple home recording studio, and I've started making recordings of Project songs. I wish I could bring in all the original casts to recreate their performances."

Last book read: "I'm reading 'Arthur and George' by Julian Barnes, no relation. He's dreamy and so's the book."

Credo: "Give more than you get."

Advice to kids: "Never tell me that you don't like your song."

What he does for us: All-star composer and music director for Project shows.

Best 52nd Street Project Memory: "Every single time a kid has said (unprompted), 'I like my song.'"

Favorite thing about the Project: "It gives me reason to live."

On Flyer bars: "They give me reason to live, too."

MAD HOT PROJECTILES

One of our recent innovations has been the "Break It Up" program, in which we plan multi-day workshops that keep kids coming to the Clubhouse during their occasional weeks off from school. Reg Flowers has a fancy new camera and took this picture during our February B.I.U., which featured Ballroom Dancing. Seen learning the foxtrot here from right to left are **Hera Andre-Bergmann**, **Jason Gil**, **Joyce Cheung**, and **Mordecai Santiago**.

In addition to the foxtrot, the kids learned swing and salsa dancing from volunteers **Andrew D'Angelo**, **Evita Arce**, **Rodney Lopez**, and **Autumn Bear**, all of whom work at **Dance Manhattan**. Other Project loyals in attendance were **Ephraim Lopez**, **Rick Meese**, and **Nikki Philips**. GB



REG FLOWERS

THE
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PROJECT
PRESENTS

ANY DAY
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2006
PLAYMAKING
PLAYS

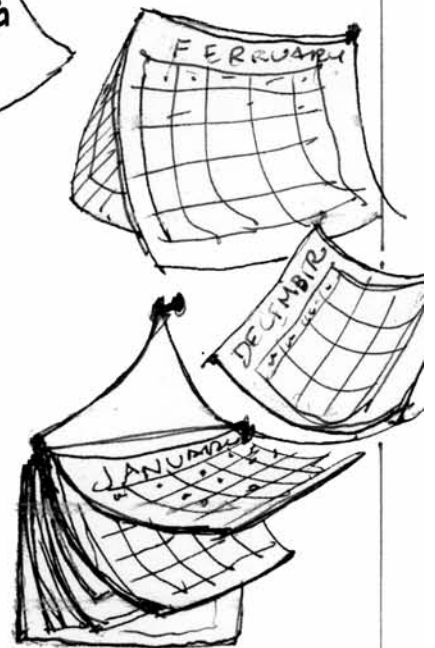
GUS ROGERSON
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REG FLOWERS
PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1 AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, APRIL 2 AT 3:00 P.M.

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INSIDE: THE SPRING EDITION OF...

PROJECT UPDATE

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PLAYS WORTH WAITING FOR: THE SPRING 2006 PLAYMAKING SHOW

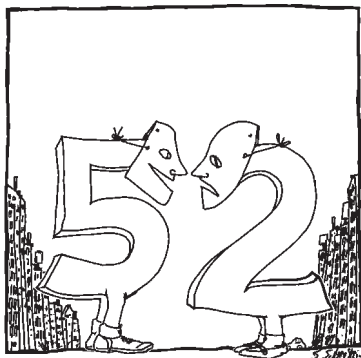
THE KID PLAYWRITERS

LILY CAPSTICK
JOHN COCOMANOLIS
KYLE FARGARDO
DEVIN GONZALES
KIANA HERNANDEZ
MAXIMO JIMENEZ
SIMONE LINDO
ASHLEY TORRES
ARPAD WEST
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CARLOS ARMESTO
ALEX BARRETO
YUSEF BULOS
LIZA COLON ZAYAS
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PHYLLIS SOMERVILLE
RISI SUH
MYRA LUCRETIA TAYLOR
ANNIE TORSIGLIERI
DAVID ZAYAS
...AND MORE!



The 52nd Street Project

The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original shows. "Any Day Now: Plays Worth Waiting For" 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 dramaturg/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*.

The Playmaking Program is made possible by public funds from many corporations, foundations, individuals, and the New York State Council on the Arts (a state agency), and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.



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