

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

VOLUME 57 - MARCH, 2008 EDITORS: GEORGE BABIAK & REG FLOWERS

PLAYMAKING BRAND NEW PROJECT KIDS WRITE PLAYS FOR GROWN-UP ACTORS



In December, our Playmaking show (*Don't Tread On Me: The Revolutionary Plays*) featured Yusef Bulos and Lois Smith (above) as a wandering baby and a grouchy blue mutant in *Who Are You?* by Aisha Diaz. The play was directed by Project newcomer Sarah Cameron Sunde. Below left, Crystal Dickinson and Brandon Virden were a brother and sister left without a mother in Viviana Vasquez's *Mom Disaster*, directed by Nicole Watson. On the right, Mia Barron and Maggie Lacey were a time-hopping bunny and dog in *Time Machine Extreme*, directed by Leslie Kramer (Mia and Maggie are shown taking a bow with their playwright Natalia Caballero).



PLAYMAKING PHOTOS BY REG FLOWERS

Folks that helped create *Don't Tread On Me: The Revolutionary Plays* were Greg MacPherson & Alex Gordon on lights; composer Patrick Barnes; costume designers Crystal Thompson, Beth Goldenberg and Jennifer Jimenez; sound designer Maury Schott; and stage manager Sara Bennett. Our amazing weekend hosts in Stone Ridge were the Gorn Family (Steve Gorn, Barbara Bash & their son Wiley); Joe White, Iris Brown & their son Walker; Laura Cunningham; Melissa Leo, Nicole & Paul Quinn; Deborah Freedman & Bill Woods; Charles Miles & Naomi Freundlich; David Curtis & Anne Morse; our chef Mary Pat Walsh and her able sous chefs Joe White & Iris Brown.

PLAYMAKING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



In *Ugly*, by Nathaniel Butler, Felix Solis and Stevie Ray Dallimore had words at the core of the earth. Dir: Danny Goldstein.



A Samurai (James Yaegashi) and a Ninja (Jessica Hecht) waged war & song in David McCall's *Battle of Japan*. Dir: John Sheehy.



A spoiled rich girl (Caroline Clay) and a clairvoyant monkey (Jeanine Serralles) found cautious friendship on Banana Island and Manhattan in *Creature + Human = Love* by Stasia Bree Quinones. Dir: Rick Meese.



In *What The Spinach!!!* by Lincoln Bernard, John Conlee and Frances McDormand were spectacularly clueless spies. Dir: Carlos Armesto.



In Alvin Garcia's *The Hero and The Villain*, Octavius (Howard Overshown) and Maximus (Christopher Randolph) warily circled each other. Dir: Larissa Lury.



Noah Trepanier was a nerd and Megan Cramer his very fast computer in Kara Thiam's *The Magic Computer*. Dir: David Dalton.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, INTRODUCING...

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER CONTEST RESULTS

IN THIS YEAR'S FUNDRAISER, PROJECTILES WERE CHALLENGED TO CREATE GREAT NAMES FOR THE ANONYMOUS BAND SKETCHED BY RESIDENT CARICATURIST (AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT) JOSH MOODY. PRESENTED HERE ARE THE WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES. KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR LOCAL LISTINGS FOR BALLISTIC PILLOW'S NEXT GIG.

OVERALL WINNER
BAND NAME:
BALLISTIC PILLOW
GIMMICK:
FEATHER CANNON FINALE

SUBMITTED BY:
SUE KARUTZ



HEAVY METAL CATEGORY WINNER
BAND NAME:

Fluffy Bunnies

GIMMICK:
PLAY DEATH METAL
IN GIANT RABBIT SUITS

SUBMITTED BY:
JEANNE SIMPSON & ADAM FELBER

HIP-HOP WINNER
BAND NAME:
**SPEL
CHEERLEE
DID**

BAND MEMBER
ALIASES:
Miz NoMah,
Ox E. Mo'Ron,
Nakra Nisim,
Sez Ura

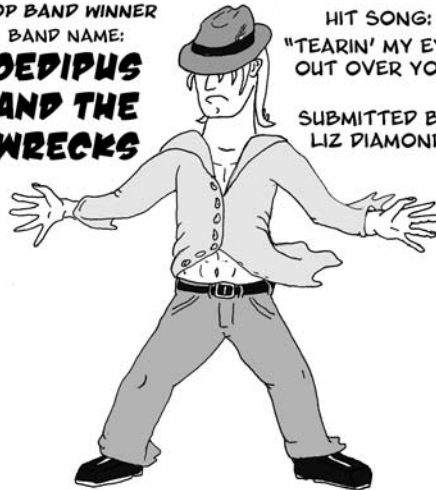
SUBMITTED BY:
NEP EISENBERG



POP BAND WINNER
BAND NAME:
**OEDIPUS
AND THE
WRECKS**

HIT SONG:
"TEARIN' MY EYES
OUT OVER YOU"

SUBMITTED BY:
LIZ DIAMOND



ANY AMOUNT OPEN MIKE WINNER
BAND NAME:

cheese stiletto

GENRE:
ALL-GIRL PUNK BAND

SUBMITTED BY:
PARRAH CLOUD
&
DAVE OWENS



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.

Dramatists Guild Fund4,000
Dramatists Play Service1,500
Office of Thomas K. Duane, Senator1,000

Educational Foundation of America10,000
Office of Assembly Member Richard Gottfried ..2,500
The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation25,000
Hurlbut Family Foundation500
James A. Macdonald Foundation1,000
Mellon Equity Associates1,000
The New York Times Company Foundation5,000
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs50,000
Sallie Mae Fund10,000
Shapiro & Lobel500
St. Vincent de Paul Foundation5,000
Surdna Foundation30,000
The Vervane Foundation10,000
Wiener Family Foundation15,000

PLAYBACK

KIDS WRITE PLAYS FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR ADULT PARTNERS

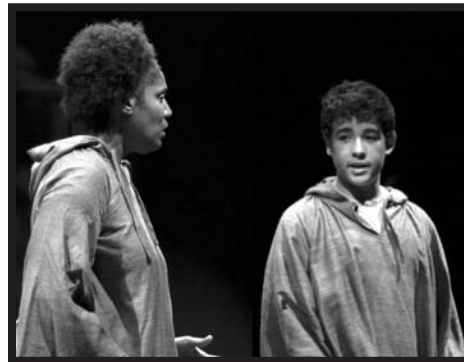
What's New? Playback, 2007 was presented October 19-21 at the Julia Miles Theater. Below, at left, are Jason Gil and Tim Cain as rival food vendors in *Taco Fever*. On the right are Ashley Smith and Maile Holck as a combative daughter and mom in *The War Between Love and Hate*.



In *Vicky*, Reg Flowers and Chloe Moore were high school chums with serious Friendship issues.

Terrence Mack and Jeremy Beck played selfish, warring kings in *The Lost Kingdom*.

Lily Houghton just wanted some privacy from her little sister Megan Cramer in *The Jello Fellows*.



Nancy Giles and Lordan Ulloa fought evil and despair in *The Demon Slayer*.

Musical Rapping *Candy-Loving Soldiers*, Jorge Zapata & Josh Moody.

PLAYBACK THANK-YOUS
 GREG MACPHERSON, LIGHTS
 ANDREW SHERMAN, COMPOSER
 COURTNEY FITZGERALD AND
 STACY TOWLES, INTERNS
 (AND COSTUME DESIGNERS)
 PREW VANDERBURG, SOUND
 KAREN MUNKEL, STAGE MANAGER

OUR HOSTS IN BRIDGEHAMPTON
 THE VASSILAROS FAMILY,
 LOUIS & PATRICE FRIEDMAN



Stephanie Marion pounds a foam-core drumkit in her play *Best Friends or Nothing*. Accompanying her are Courtney Fitzgerald, Angel Desai, and George Babiak.

BELL TELLS ALL

THE SMART PARTNER REPORT



AFTER MONTHS OF INTENSE PING-PONG PRACTICE SESSIONS, 18 BRAVE TEAMS OF SMART PARTNERS AND HOMEWORK HELPERS ASSEMBLED ON FEBRUARY 15 TO PADDLE IT OUT ON THE WEATHERED, YET FIRM, GREEN TABLETOP. HERE ARE THE TEAMS WHO WERE DISTINGUISHED WITH AWARDS ON THAT FATEFUL DAY.



THE CHAMPIONS
ERICA SCHMIDT
JONATHAN ROSARIO



2ND PLACE
ED VASSALLO
HASHEM AHMED



3RD PLACE
GEORGE BABIAK
DEVIN GONZALEZ



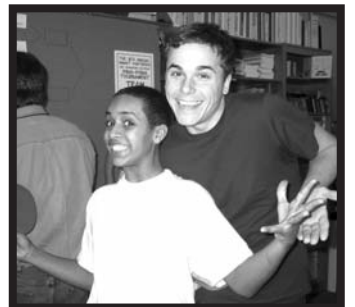
4TH PLACE
CHAMEL RODNEY
CONOR FETTING-SMITH



BEST NEW TEAM
ELISA ZURITZKY
JENNIFER RAMIREZ



BEST DRESSED
KAYELANI SILVA
MEGAN CRAMER



GOOD SPORTS
JORGE ZAPATA
JOSH MOODY



HONORABLE MENTION
JAZMINE MIKELL
CHRISTINE GRENIER



MOST IMPROVED
SEAN KENEALY
JASON GIL



BEST TEAMWORK
MAXIMO JIMENEZ
BARNETT COHEN



NOK-HOCKEY ACES
JASON GIL, CHAMP
KEVIN KULEGO &
JENNIFER RAMIREZ

PING-PONG PHOTOS BY JOHN SHEEHY AND GEORGE BABIAK

...MEGABITS...MEGABITS...MEGABITS...MEGABITS...



◀ Super-cool Project composer **Jonathan Andrew Sherman** and **Jodi Beth Sheeler** were married January 5, 2008 in Vieques, Puerto Rico. They were generous enough to ask for donations to the Project instead of wedding gifts. Is that nice, or what?



◀ The wee person cradled in the arms of **Lili Taylor** and **Nick Flynn** is none other than **Maeve Lulu Taylor Flynn**, who was born to these happy folks on January 9, 2008, just days before the Project spent the weekend at Lili's home in Red Hook, NY for the 2-on-2 weekend. Congratulations, Lili and Nick, and thanks!



▲ "Why, why, why, **Pelilah?**" sang Tom Jones. "Why not?" said Proj Vol **Gina Torres** and her hub **Laurence Fishburne**, who blessed their cheerful baby girl with that name. She has been around a while, having been born way back in the summer of 2007. This is how she looked at the tender age of four months.

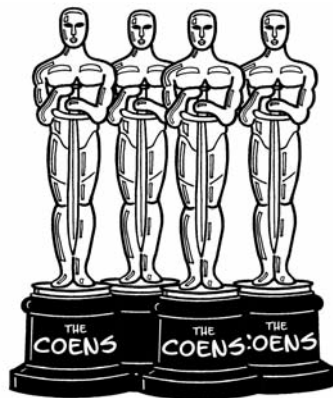


▲ Cute 'n' grumpy **Jack William Goebel** arrived last Dec. 23. His parents are **Paul** and **Jessica Goebel** (nee Soto). Jess was a Project kid way back in the 80s.

▶ This little guy, barely bigger than a Fern, is **Lucas**, son of **Liliana Amador** and **Frank Marti**. He's already demonstrating an interest in horticulture.



We like putting pictures of Oscars in the newsletter, especially if Project Pals have won some recently. In February, **Joel** and **Ethan Coen's** Film *No Country For Old Men* garnered 4, count them, 4 small golden men (3 of them for the brothers alone). It tickled us to see Joel's wife **Fran McDormand** (see her on page 4) and their son **Pedro** nervously perched on the edge of their seats during the broadcast. Congratulations, guys!



.....
While we're at it, we've gotta hand out congrats to **Tamara Jenkins**, a past Project director, who was nominated for an Oscar for her screenplay for *The Savages*.

In Memoriam

The 52nd Street Project mourns the death of **David Rogerson**, Gus' dad, and a regular supporter of the Project. Rogie, as he was known, spent his professional life as a teacher and coach, and loved working with kids. He was a good guy, and will be missed.



THE 2-ON-2'S

1 ADULT PLAYWRIGHT, 1 ADULT DIRECTOR AND 2 KID ACTORS



In *Don't You Make My Red Eye Blue*, by Jeff Cox, A.J. Welsh and Joyce Cheung were bickering flight attendants. Dir: Becky White.



Jennifer Ramirez and Erica Arce played detectives *Bobby's Babes*, in Keira Naughton's play of the same name. Dir: Kate Marks.



In *The Big Beach Party*, by Graeme Gillis, hot dog boy Junior Chatman and Lady Lifeguard Jenisse Bouret, sang, danced and took care of the Jersey Shark. Dir: Reg Flowers.



Bridesmaid Stephanie Vamvoukakis helped her Bridezilla friend Azalea Rosario find out what she really wanted in Deirdre O'Connor's *Wedding Bell Blues*. Dir: Erica Cardwell.



A scientist (Harlo Ulloa) and a zombie (Bryant Acosta) learned the humanizing value of laughter in *The Best Medicine*, a parody of *I Am Legend* by Michael Bernard with the most shameless jokes ever to grace the Project stage. Dir: Joe Mihalow.



Mordecai Santiago ponders an army enlistment as Pablo Maldonado coaxes and cajoles him in Winter Miller's *War is a Game of Basketball*, directed by Gus Rogerson.

The 2008 2-on-2's, more properly named *Scandalous: Plays That Tell All*, was staged at the TBG Theater on 36th St. on Feb. 1, 2 & 3.

2-on-2 Thank-Yous

Greg MacPherson,
Thom Weaver,
& Kathleen Dobbins, lights
Justin Poindexter, composer
Katherine Brown, costumes
Sean Kenealy, sound
Sara Bennett, stage manager

Our hosts in Clinton Corners

Maria Tucci,
Lili Taylor,
Joel Coen
and Frances McDormand

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT
500 WEST 52ND ST., #2B
NEW YORK, NY 10019

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT #4292

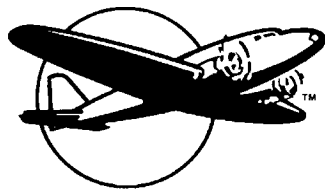
SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL
BENEFIT... OR ELSE!

The Mezzo Sopranos

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008

CALL JOHNNY "BAG O'DONUTS" SHEEHY
AT (212) 333-5252
OR E-MAIL SHEEHY@52PROJECT.ORG

INSIDE: THE BIG NEW PROJECT UPDATE... AND A SHOW FLYER!



Flyer Bar Profile

Occupation: Architect

Why she does what she does: "I love cities and buildings."

What she does for the Project: She is our owner's rep; that is, she is facilitating the design and construction of our new theater and headquarters.

Hobbies: "Reading, traveling, playing squash, eating."

Last book read: "The Sea" by John Banville.

Most recent accomplishment: "Learning how to make an omelet."

Best 52nd Street Project memory: "In *The Great Discovery*, a 1-on-1 play last summer, there were two girls on top of a mountain confronting their fear. One reminds the other of how she admired her friend's ability to get on stage every night even though she puked her guts out before the show. The actress's reply: 'A bit embarrassing... but it still casts me in a noble light.'"

Credo: "Less is more."

Advice to kids: "Take advantage of The Project - it is an amazing place!"

Place of birth: Hartford, CT. **Habitat:** Brooklyn, NY.

Favorite thing about the Project: "Foam core sets, music at the shows, overwhelming creativity and talent."

On Flyer Bars: "My goal is to win one at a raffle before a Project show."



LISA
TILNEY