



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

VOLUME 58 - OCTOBER, 2008 EDITORS: GEORGE BABIAK & REG FLOWERS

ALL WAREHAM PHOTOS BY ROB WHITE



SUMMER FUN WITH THE WAREHAM ONE-ON-ONES KID/ADULT TEAMS IN PLAYS WRITTEN BY ADULTS

This past August, we took 10 kids and their adult partners to spend a week in beautiful Wareham, Mass., gateway to Cape Cod. After much swimming, eating, crab-catching, and rehearsing we brought them back to NYC to perform the plays pictured on these pages. Above: Michael Bannister, age 11 (the beard is make-up), and Howard Overshown enjoy honey cake and lemonade as they ponder leaving the treehouse they've lived in for 15 years in Jihan Crowther's *The Leap*.



In *Hip-Hop Numbers*, by Sean Kenealy, Paco Tolson learned that his math teacher, Miss Zimmerman (Katie Liu), knew how to teach AND rap (and show him who's boss, clearly).



We finally saw a woman in the White House in *President's Day Off* by Tonya Canada. Unfortunately, Lily Capstick needed Vice-Prez Tonya to give her a break.



Viviana Vazquez was an android and Maggie Lacey her teenage builder. Both of them learned what emotions are in *Brave New Girls*.



Nathaniel Butler and George Babiak played Kung Fu-Fightin' prison guards (and prisoners) in *Prose and Cons*.



Zoe Norris tormented new lunch-room arrival Diana Rojas with tales of toe-biting cockroaches in Betty Shamieh's *Save Your Toes*.



The Fountain of Yu was no Fountain of Youth, discovered Stasia Bree Quinones and Christopher Randolph, who both played really old people (i.e. over 40).

***I Said, Act Your Age*
MORE Plays That Grow On You**

was performed at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Playwrights Horizons (thanks, guys!) on West 42nd St. on Aug. 15, 16, & 17, 2008.

A Thousand Thanks to:

Greg MacPherson.....Lights
Patrick Barnes..... Composer
Katherine Brown
& Kate Cusack..... Costumes
Maury Schott..... Sound
Karen Munkel..... Stage Manager

Our Hosts in Wareham

Peter, Helen, & Christopher Randolph.



Cynthia Kaplan's *The Last Linda* paired Shirley Rumierk and Zoltan Lucas as a lab mouse and a sort-of mad scientist. Can you tell who played whom?



Devin Gonzalez was a crazed and lonely Dr. Jekyll and Craig Cox his new hipster doofus roommate Brad in *Jekyll and Brad*. Apt title, eh?



In *Fairy Wings*, by Jessica Bauman, a Fairy (Natalia Caballero) found that flight comes in handy when saving your friend the butterfly (Erin Mallon).

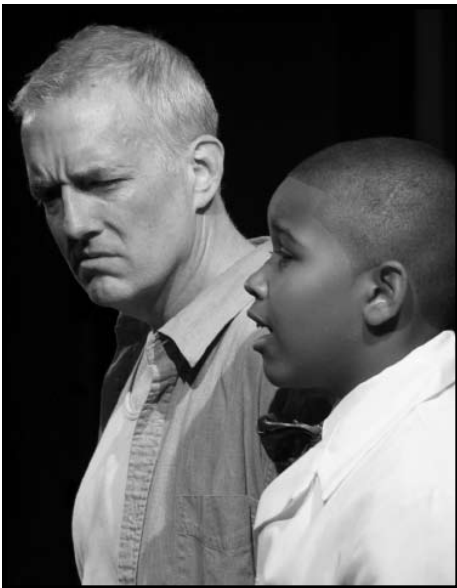
**THE BLOCK ISLAND
ONE-ON-ONES**

In July, we spent our week on beautiful Block Island. Between trips to the beach, Frankie Williams and Jed Clarke diligently rehearsed *Wild Eagle vs. Crazy Wolf*, a madcap romp about two gigantic adversaries who lay waste to a city, then chillax with pizza.



ALL WAREHAM PHOTOS BY ROB WHITE

REG FLOWERS



John Sheehy was a hapless schmo trapped in a memory-improvement clinic and Alvin Garcia was his whimsically cruel captor in *A Number On Your Head*. What inspired this drama? Can't say...we were LOST!

**Act Your Age:
Plays That Grow On You**

was rehearsed on Block Island and performed at Theater Three on West 43rd St. on July 18, 19, & 20th, 2008.

The Design & Tech Team

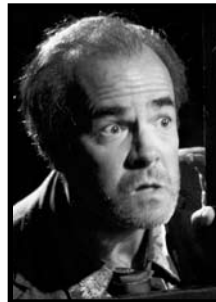
Greg MacPhersonLights
Doug NervikMusic Director
Sarita Fellows
& Jennifer JimenezCostumes
Katherine Brown
.....Costume Consultant
Vanessa Valdes
.....Goddess of Sound
Kathleen Foreman
.... Goddess of Stage Management
Chefs
..... Martha Velie-Gass, Pat Ritter

The Composers

Carlo Alban,
Patrick Barnes,
Brian Feinstein,
Greg Pliska,
Justin Poindexter,
Andrew Sherman,
Kim R. Sherman



Farmgirls and divorced llamas took the stage in Erin Quinn Purcell's *We Love It On the Farm*, which starred Claudia Zelevansky and Haley Martinez.



In *An Agent of Change*, Agent I (Kyle Fargardo, R.) wanted to settle down. Would villain Dr. Doomsendunder (Bruce MacVittie) let him? Not without a fight!



One good spy mentors another: In Liz Flahive's *Spy Games*, Chamel Rodney and Liz's sister Katie Flahive teamed up to save the Mona Lisa.



The Electric Lady (Melissa Rebolledo) wanted to be normal. Maude (Megan Cramer) wanted to stand out. They got it all sorted out in *Get Your Freak On*.



No babies in *Babysitter*, Shmaybesitter, by Megan Mostyn-Brown. Instead, Lauren Robinson had to dispatch a dragon for Princess Alexis McGuinness.



You Gotta, with Carlo Alban and David McCall, Jr., showed us the dark side of traveling in the desert.



Here's Michael Bernard's *The Island of Dr. Moron*, with cat/human hybrid Annie Henk and scientist Rafael Irizarry III.



Gabriella Dejesus was a world-famous singer and Reg was the tormented title character in *Phantom of the Cabaret*.

TEEN ONE-ACT PLAYS

Chris Ceraso, the Project's Teen Dean, in a real stretch, played a teacher to these five teens.



Like It Is: The 2008 Teen Ensemble One-Act Play Festival

In June, our Teens commemorated the end of their first year as an ensemble by staging 5 plays written for them by professional playwrights. The plays were performed at the East 13th St. Theater on June 7 & 8.

The Creative Team

Reg Flowers Direction
 Burke Brown Lights
 Bill Zeffiro Composer
 Ali Giacona Stage Manager/Sound
 Joshua Hernandez Light operator
 Sabina Friedman-Seitz Props

The Coaches

Emily Dorsch, Mercedes Herrero, Patricia MacGregor,
 Jordan Mahome, and Michael Potts.

Many thanks to Drew University and CSC.



Theresa Rebeck's *Wired Up* featured Johanna Vidal as an electronics whiz who eschews Jimmy Choo shoes.



Kayelani Silva and Megan Cramer were a daughter and a mom who try to find some common ground during a drive in Liz Tucillo's *Car Talk*.



Merlaine Mendez tackled pregnancy, religion, and education in Zakiyyah Alexander's *Recess* (no wonder she looks stressed).



Chris Ceraso wrote *Marathon and Mucilage* for Kimani Lewis-Ashley, who played a beleaguered student whose classical studies generated elaborate phantasms (the rest of the company is not napping. They're acting!).



In *A Taurian Tale* by Tarell Alvin McCraney, Victor Cortes played a story-telling prodigy who uses his gifts to escape the grimness of his reality.

TEEN PHOTOS BY DAVID FURR

PLAYMAKING
KIDS WRITE PLAYS FOR GROWN-UPS

The Spring production was Step One: Plays with Instructions. Here we see Elena Carballeros' *The Mysterious Day*. Lori Gardner and Alexis McGuinness played a mouse and a kitten who save the forest from corporate depredation. Also seen here are Chris Varmus and Alicia Violan Ryden. Laura Konsin directed.



Crazy Spider Mom by Elizabeth Vazquez with Phyllis Somerville and Patrick Jones (dir: Emilio Delgado) showed how vengeful a son can be.



Denise Burse and Marva Hicks were vicious twins in Haley Martinez's *The Big Issue* (Dir: Jessica Davis-Irons).



A Father & son team of evildoers (Jordan Mahome & Dan Colman) clashed in *The Villain and the Hero* by Rene Paul Santiago (Dir: Drew Cortese).



Zabryna Guevara and Matt Citron were zodiac-inspired combatants in *Revenge of Capcom* by Frankie Williams (Dir: Melissa Shaw).



Dante Quinones had his heroes (Reg E. Cathey & Michael Potts) face the dreaded Chupacabra in *The Haunted Cloverfield* (Dir: Henry Wishcamper).



Wave-generated suds were a fearsome menace in Michael Bannister's *Seafoam Beach* with Myra Lucretia Taylor and Frank Wood (Dir: Larry Nathanson was his understudy).



Katie Liu's *Losing Cat*, with Annie Torsiglieri and Emily Dorsch, was about just that (Dir: Julia Gibson).



The Bad Day by Davon Joseph, was your classic cops & robbers & boxers yarn with Liche Ariza, Andrew Kelsey, & John Sheehy. (Dir: George Babiak).



Zoe Norris wrote *The Love Story of Londin*, the tale of a girl (Nana Mensah) who falls for a boy (Brandon Kruhm) from Puerto Rico (Dir: Jessica Bauman).

Step 1: Plays With Instructions was produced at the Calhoun School Theater on March 28, 29, & 30th

The Creative Team:

Greg MacPherson.....Lights
 Justin Poindexter Composer
 Bryan Gmitter, Jennifer Jimenez,
 & Chris Rumery..... Costumes
 Maury Schott..... Sound
 Linnae Caurdy..... Stage Manager

Our Hosts:

The Vassilaros-Gersten Family
 in Bridgehampton, Long Island

PLAYMAKING PHOTOS BY GRB AND REG FLOWERS

THE MEZZO-SOPRANOS BENEFIT

Singing for their supper in the photo below are the MEZZO-SOPRANOS at the annual Project benefit of the same name, which was held at beautiful "Espace" on West 42nd St. on May 5.

From left to right on the stage are Maximo Jimenez, Azalea Rosario, Edie Falco, Hashem Ahmed, Carl Capotorto, and Dominic Chianese. This gang of performers provided the diversion at this year's annual bash, which raised the most loot of any of our benefits so far. It really was a mob scene.



WENDY STUHLBERG



GRB

MORE KIDS TO COLLEGE THAN EV-AH!

You know what? The whole Project dream is WORKING! This year's annual Scholarship Party, held on July 31 at the penthouse at Ars Nova and hosted by Jenny & Jon Steingart, was a huge success, handing out the most scholarships ever to kids headed off to higher education for the first time, or those returning with at least a B average.

Seen above at the party, back row, L to R, are (deep breath) Steven Galimidi, Lizette and Zaida Natera, Alex Tomas, Nikki Fargardo, Katherine Acosta, Suzette Santana, Amelia Whitney, Aisha Jabour, Osage Lewis-Ashley, Jayme Rosado, and Jeremy Butler. Front row: Nikki Rosario, Megan Cruz, Leah Galimidi, Amy Burth, Jill Vanover, and Peter Ventura. Not present, but still given a scholarship, were Christian Alvarez, Kamila Jacob, Matthew Jellison, Joshua Joya, Ani Kehr, Anthony Mejia, and Adrian Zambrano. That makes 25 checks of \$1000 each. Money well-spent, we say.

THE REPLAY READINGS

This past June 16, we held the annual rite-of-passage for advanced young playwrights known as the Lorraine Cohen Replay Readings. 15 kid writers, 10 actors, and 5 directors all added up to an exciting evening. We could say a lot more, but you would do better to pick up a copy of our first-time-ever Replay Book. All 15 plays are included in this glossy volume and you can be a proud owner for 10 measly bucks. Send us a check or drop by and pick it up on the spot!



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.

APA.....	\$5,000
Bloomberg.....	\$5,000
The Brenner Family Foundation.....	\$10,000
CBS Corporation.....	\$5,000
Dubin Foundation.....	\$1,000
Duke/Mellon/TCG.....	\$26,000
Sydney E. Frank Foundation.....	\$75,000
Office of Assembly Member Richard Gottfried.....	3,000
Saul Horowitz Jr. Fund.....	\$5,000
NYFA.....	\$52,000
NYSCA.....	\$12,000
Jonathan Rose Companies.....	\$3,000
Savoy Bank.....	\$5,000
Sesame Workshop.....	\$5,000
Van Deusen Family Foundation.....	\$2,500
Vassilaros & Son, Inc.....	\$2,600
Watkins, Inc.....	\$3,000
Wiener Family Foundation.....	15,000

The Big Rectangle of Gratitude

Our undying thanks to all the Fantastic host Families that weren't mentioned on the preceding pages. If we didn't have these generous people to mooch off of during our trips to the country, these pages would be blank!

The Hamptons: Laurie Becker **Block Island:** Roberta & Alan Alpert; Sue Black; The Homans Family; Jennifer & Elliot Taubman; Ron & Judy Tierney; Norm & Shelly Topf; Joya Verde & Virginia Pare; Dr. Christina Biaggi.
Wareham, MA: Gerry & Sam Gray; Patty & David Strauss; Gray & Rose Watson; Bob & Marina Whitman; Sidney Worthen & David Pearce; Joe McNay and his Family; and Beth Pfeiffer.

MEGABITS



This sassy mug belongs to Greg & Jessica Pliska's new daughter Margot Tillie, born May 15.



Here's Nathaniel Robbins Ryan Anish, son of playwright Kate Ryan and Josh Anish. He showed up on April 17.



On May 5, board member Noel Mihalow and her ProjVol husband Joe M. had twins Lennan and Finn. They're taking it easy here with their big sister Fallon.



May we introduce Milo Alexander Sherman? He's the tiny scion of composer Andrew Sherman and wife Jody, born on July 13.



This chipper chap is Sebastian Q Felber, or "Baz." He was born in LA to Jeanne Simpson and Adam Felber on March 26.



On April 2, new board member Carolyn DeSena and her hub Neil had a girl named Madeleine Dinny Marie.



Behold our most recent arrival: Talia Bear Shuman, born 6:24 AM on September 12, 2008 to Jillian Gersten and Brian Shuman, last seen on these pages in July, 2007 soon after their marriage. Bernard and Cora Finally have a granddaughter!



Director Henry Wishcamper and his wife Jenny unveiled Nina Dorothy on Sept. 3. Nice head o' hair!



Former ProjKid Samantha Pardilla stopped by to show off her son Ivan. He's a nice little dude.



Block Island Chef Pat Ritter's son Noah Ritter and Clariza Simo had Nohli Rio on Aug. 29.



Meanwhile, Noel Polanco, a Famous Project kid, is getting married to his gal Ruthie in November



Then there's good ol' Dina Rojas, who got her BA From good ol' Hunter College. Way to go, D!



THE 52ND STREET PROJECT
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Kyle Fargardo hand-feeds a seagull from the Block Island Ferry while Gaby Dejesus and Lauren Robinson watch.

IN THIS ISSUE OF "PROJECT UPDATE:"

- Photos of the July and August One-on-Ones
- A recap of the Spring Playmaking Production
- The Teen One-Act Play Festival
- A Flyer for our October show... and much more!



Flyer Bar Profile

Place of birth: Chicago, Illinois.

Current habitat: "I tend toward ecological areas in which humans can mostly go unnoticed by things like bears - such as Jersey City!"

Occupation: "Writer, Director, Maker of Pine Nut-less Pesto!"

Why you do what you do: "I enjoy writing, I enjoy directing, I am allergic to pine nuts!"

What he does for the Project: Writes, directs, and has helmed the last nine (9!) of our annual benefits, held every May (get your ticket now).

Hobby: "Convincing people that "The Wiz" is a great movie. Most of it is a great movie. Like two-thirds of it is a great movie. Seriously. I'm serious!"

Last book read: "Ulysses by James Joyce!"

Most recent accomplishment: "Ulysses by James Joyce!"

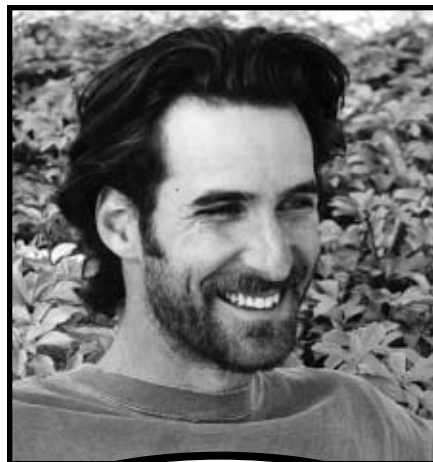
Best 52nd Street Project memory: "Introducing Project volunteer Josh Lewis to Project volunteer Sarah Kay, who are now married!"

Credo: "If you walk a mile in another man's shoes, tell him you have his shoes!"

Advice to kids: "Know that everyone - everyone - has something to offer!"

Favorite thing about the Project: "Laughter!"

On Flyer Bars: "I've never been on a Flyer Bar. But I'm willing to try. Unless it has pine nuts!"



JONATHAN BERNSTEIN