

The 52nd Street Project Presents

A WHALE OF A TALE!

6
plays
written by
kids and
performed
by adults

Natalie Hirsch,
Artistic Director

Carol Ochs,
Executive Director

Kat Almiraz,
Playmaking
Director

PLAYS THAT
MAKE A SPLASH!

ART WORK BY CAYLYN WAN-CREAGER, PHOTOGRAPHY AND LAYOUT BY GEORGE BABIAK

THE SPRING 2023 PLAYMAKING SHOW
THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER 789 10th Ave., between 52nd and 53rd St.

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.

WHALE OF A TALE: PLAYS THAT MAKE A SPLASH

Spring 2023 Playmaking - Mar. 31 to April 2, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“OFF THE WALL” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Julio Vaquero Ramos

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Greg MacPherson

Costume Designer

Ally Thomas

Sound Designer

Doug Seldin

Stage Manager

Dara Silverman

Projection Designs

George Babiak and
The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Diego Caioli

Backstage Crew

Diego Caioli, Kylee Chester,
Melanie Correa, Yovely Ramirez,
Evan Schultz

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

George Babiak & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz

Camera Ops:

Amirah Hancock, Sarah Lopez

Intern

Diego Caoili



The Playmaking Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides-Nelson	Noël Mihalow
Rachel Chanoff	Roseline Michael Neveling
Cathy Dantchik, co-chair	Carol Ochs
Carolyn DeSena	Margaret Odette
Louis P. Friedman, co-chair	Willie Reale, founder
Robert Goldberg	Shirley Rumierk, alumni member
Stephen Graham, chair emeritus	José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Annie Hausmann	Merritt Tilney
Natalie Hirsch	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Valerie Kay	Mark Whatley

What's Going On Here?

The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original theater. **WHALE OF A TALE** is a production of our Playmaking program. Young people participated in a playwriting course taught by **Kat Almirañez** and adapted for the Project by **Daniel Judah Sklar** from his book *Playmaking: Children Writing and Performing Their Own Plays*. At the end of the course, each child was matched with two actors and a dramaturg/director who guided him or her through the writing of a play. This performance is the end result.

This edition is very special because the children in this program were able to write the plays you're seeing on a weekend writing retreat in Bridgehampton, Long Island in the home of **Alex Vassilaros**. This was the first overnight trip for Project kids since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

Extra Special Thanks

We are extremely grateful to our friends who opened up their homes to us for our weekend away: **Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family**; **Cathy Dantchik**, and **Laurie Becker**.

WHALE OF A TALE: PLAYS THAT MAKE A SPLASH - ACT 1

All original music composed by Julio Vaquero Ramos

CLASH OF GUITARS AND THE AGREEMENT

Written by Jason DeVoe, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: George Babiak

Guitar Hero	Jeremy Rishe
Mustachio Man	Matt Saldivar
Tournament Director	Melanie Correa
Random Guy #1	Diego Caioli
Random Guy #2	Evan Schultz

Clash and Bash lyrics by Jason DeVoe

ENCOURAGE

Written by Jaelannie Rodriguez, age 9

Dramaturge: Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Director: Alex O'Daly

Lee, a chef	Jake Pino
Briana, a 90's style photographer	Lynne Marie Rosenberg
Lee's Dad, also a chef	George Babiak

Briana is Mad at Lee and *Wish* lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez

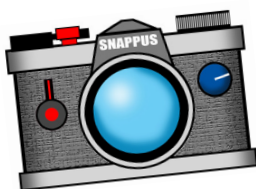
THE RACE

Written by Zion King Lamonge, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Alex J. Gould

Debby, a young Cheetah/Eagle	Madeline DeFreece
Luke, an eagle	Sergio Mauritz Ang
Dad	Diego Caioli
Mom	Evan Schultz

I Wish to Tell You lyrics by Zion King Lamonge



WHALE OF A TALE: PLAYS THAT MAKE A SPLASH - ACT 2

THE BAD WITCH AND LITTLE MAIKI

Written by Katherine Chauca, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Natalie Martin

Valentina, a witch who speaks Spanish.....Jennifer Mogbock

Maiki, a 10-year old boy who speaks Italian..... Micah Stock

Evidence lyrics by Katherine Chauca

TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN LIVES

Written by Diana Abrajan, age 10

Dramaturge: Vanessa Porras, Director: Rachel Lin

Shym, a business person and influencer..... Sahar Milani

Ciara, Shym's friend and roommate Alex Templer

Friendships Can Be Fixed lyrics by Diana Abrujan

LION AND BEAR FRIEND PROBLEMS

Written by Josiah Perez, age 9

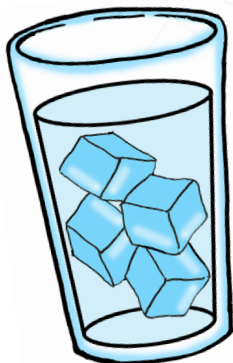
Dramaturge/Director: Michael Propster

Ms. Bear, a bear Daiva Deupree

Isaac, an older lion Carl Hendrick Louis

Bullies Kylee Chester, Melanie Correa, Yovely Ramirez

The Friend Song lyrics by Josiah Perez



WHAT'S COMING UP?

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT
PRESENTS

Flying Sala 2023

ORIGINAL
SPOKEN-WORD
PIECES...

...BY
PROJECT
MEMBERS

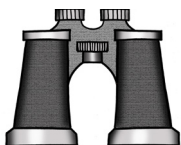
FRIDAY,
APRIL 21
7:30 P.M.

THE
FIVE ANGELS
THEATER

789 10TH AVE.
BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD

VISIT
52PROJECT.ORG
FOR INFO AND
RESERVATIONS

ARTWORK BY
JESSICA ELIE-PIERRE



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INTERNS!

If you know of any college or graduate students who might enjoy working with us and playing with us with us for a semester, please have them contact Caylyn Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Summer and Fall of 2023. Thanks!

COOL STUFF ON SALE IN THE LOBBY!

Fabulous Flyer Bars	\$ 2 . 5 0
<i>and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and Twoey" logo:</i>	
Two-tone Project Hoodie	\$ 4 0 . 0 0
Monotone Project Hoodie	\$ 3 0 . 0 0
Crew-neck sweatshirts	\$ 2 0 . 0 0
Project Caps	\$ 2 0 . 0 0
Project T-shirts	\$ 1 2 . 0 0 / \$ 2 0 . 0 0
Project Mugs	\$ 5 . 0 0
Project Notebook	\$ 5 . 0 0
Project Pencil 3-pack	\$ 1 . 0 0

Thank you for coming to **WHALE OF A TALE!** If you are not on our mailing list, join on-line at www.52project.org. If you're interested in being a volunteer, fill out the form below and hand it to one of our staffers in the lobby.

PLEASE PUT ME ON YOUR LIST:

04/23

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

DAYTIME OR MOBILE PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MY OCCUPATION _____

MY HOBBIES _____

WANT TO BE GREEN AND SAVE THE PROJECT MONEY ON POSTAGE?
CHECK THIS BOX TO RECEIVE OUR NOTICES EXCLUSIVELY VIA E-MAIL.

☐

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BE OF HELP. I CAN:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help load in and out for shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Draw and/or paint | <input type="checkbox"/> Help kids with homework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hang lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach kids a skill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work on a backstage crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Do office work | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a chef at an event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do graphic design | <input type="checkbox"/> Design sound | <input type="checkbox"/> Design and sew costumes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | |

MY SCHEDULE IS:

- ☐ Very flexible. I'm often available during weekdays.
- ☐ Somewhat flexible. I can help on the occasional morning or afternoon during the week.
- ☐ Not very flexible at all, but I've got some free time on evenings and weekends.

If you would like to mail this (and you're always welcome to enclose a tax-deductible contribution), you can send it to: The 52nd Street Project, 789 10th Avenue, New York, NY 10019. Or fax it to (212) 333-5598.

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

Adriana Trigiani & Tim Stephenson	Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer
Alan Krevis & Gary Horowitz	Glen Gillen	Mary Lin & James Yoshimura
Alexandra Garrison	James & Hannelore McDaniel	Mary Lou Teel
Alexandra Vassilaros	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Mary Pat Walsh
Amanda Green & Jeffrey Kaplan	Janey Feingold	Matthew Jones
Amy Herzig	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Megan Cramer
Andrea Johnson	Jenni Swan	Megan Thompson
Anna Li & Frank Sposato	Jenny & Jon Steingart	Meg Simon
Anne M. Bacon	Jenny Gersten	Melissa & Lee Briggs
Annie & David Hausmann	Jeremy Smith	Melissa Lowry
Arin Chilcote	Jerry Levine & Nina Tassler	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Barnaby Harris & Suzie Kondi	Jessica Bauman & Ben Posel	Mickey Lemle
Becky & Dylan Baker	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Michael & Megan Crane
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Joe White & Iris Brown	Michael Herzig
Beth & Ray Abbott	John Lee	Neena Beber
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	John Rossi	Noël & Joe Mihalow
Beth Crookham	John Turturro & Kathy Borowitz	Omar Metwally
Bettina S. Buschel	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Bill Camp & Elizabeth Marvel	Jonathan Marc Sherman	Peter & Marsue MacNicol
Billy Crudup	& Alexandra Shiva	Rachel & Larry Norton
Billy Dreskin	Jon Ecker	Randi Puccio
Betsy and Bob Goldberg	Joseph Nigro	Rebecca & Richard Dresser
Brenda Wehle & John C. Lynch	Josie Merck	Richard Langan
Buzz Bovshow	Judy & Sam Berger	Richard Sweren
Carl Capotorto	Judy Dennis	Robert Shore
Carol Bell	Judy Kuhn & David Schwab	Robert Shwartz
Carole Yass	Judy Taub Gold	Ron & Judy Tierney
Carolyn DeSena	Kali Crandall	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Cathy Dantchik	Karen Hauser & Warren Leight	Roseline Michael & Dennis Neveling
Cecilia Arana & Kevin Grant	Karen Powell	Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin
Chris Ceraso	Karin & Tom Schall	Ruth Nelson
Christine Ziegler-Sullivan	Kate Burton & Michael Ritchie	Sarah & Paul Ardire
Christopher Randolph	Katie & Douglas Jordan	Sarah Horowitz
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	& David Venarde
Courtney & Lowell Pettit	Kerry Pflingst & Russell Dodson	Shari Goodstein
Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Laura & David Ross	Sherry Cohen
Cynthia Vance-Abrams & Robert Abrams	Laura Ewing	Shirley Rumierk & Armando Riesco
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Laura Jones	Stephen Bernstein
David Aldridge	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig	Stephen Graham
David Williams	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Sunil Arora
Debbie & Lawrence Catena	Lauren Weiner	Susan Isaacson
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Laurie Becker	Susannah Gray & John Lyons
Douglas Kabel	Lewis Black	Susan Wallace
Drew McCoy & Amy Aquino	Lili Taylor	Suzen Murakoshi
Drew Milstein	Lindsay Fram & Mason Pettit	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Edie Falco	Lisa Benavides & Tim Blake Nelson	Tara Elwin & Andre Meade
Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Lisa Cohen & David Hillman	Terry Belanger & Ken Giese
Elaine Musselman	Liz Bell & J. Andrew Stein	Tina Galley
Elizabeth & Eric Berman	Lois Smith	Todd Herman
Ellen Chopay	Lori O'Connor	Tony Goldwyn & Jane Musky
Ellen Kroll	Lori Tan Chinn	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lynda Hughes	Vicki & Craig Holleman
F. Richard Pappas	Lyn Hejninian & Larry Ochs	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Frances & Fred Langbecker	Lynne Rosenberg	Vicki de Klerk-Rubin
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Wendy Ettinger
Frances Strauss	Marion Koltun	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of October 14, 2022