We're In!

Yep, the long wait is over! At the end of December, the kids, volunteers, and staff of The 52nd Street Project finally moved into the new, 17,000 sq. ft. home we've been planning and building for the last 5 years. Not only do we have a sparkling and spacious new Clubhouse, we are also the proud proprietors of New York's newest 150 seat Off-Broadway venue, the state-of-the-art Five Angels Theater. After doing two rousing shows in the space, we finally got around to throwing a big party to inaugurate the new HQ on Monday, February 8th. It was terrific. If you weren't there, here are some of the things that went down on that chaotic, exhilarating day...

A marching band paraded...

...Edie Falco beamed...

...Willie Reale cracked wise...

...kids got costumed...

...a tiny city was built...

...Mary Testa sang a song with
Megan Cramer, Brad Weinstock, Ana Noguiera, and Tim Cain...

...Commissioner Kate D. Levin of the DCA, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Lewis Black all watched James getting his groove thang on...

...an enormous play was written...

...James McDaniel "got his groove thang on!"

...and Scott cut a ribbon!

PARTY PICTURES BY WENDY STUHLBERG
In Jed and Mom, Frankie Williams cast himself as a boy who leads a vivid fantasy life populated by frosty villains and friendly dragons. Catherine Mueller was his mother as well as his arch-nemesis Icebolt.

Lee Rosen was a disastrously ill-suited party clown in Laron Holt’s Beyond the Friendship. Laron was the famous dancer who helped Lee find the funny.

Samantha Caldona’s Love and Difference had her playing Megan Cramer’s mom. Together they prepared a lot of foam-core food and found ways to accept each other’s foibles.

Zenzele Cooper and Zoe Keana Norris were schoolmates whose lives go through significant changes in Zoe’s Break Free and Run.

Kiana Hernandez was an aquarium specimen hunter and John Sheehy was a drummer who was abandoned by his Family. They were stranded on an island in Matikamta: The Loneliest Island, which was directed by Armando Riesco.

In My Life, Wendell Joseph was a young man who wanted to sing — against the wishes of his mom. Josh Moody was the older brother who demanded bribes to keep quiet about the budding career.

In Marlowe Mendez’s Dreams of the Wolf, she and Erin Mallon were a mother and daughter who travelled through their worst nightmares and back to reality.

Ralphie Irizarry’s Identity Crisis was an update of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Ralphie was the transformed nerd and Carl Capotorto was the bully who met his match.

Our annual Playback show, wherein kids write plays that they perform with adult partners (who also serve as directors) was performed at the TBG Theater on Oct. 23-25 of 2009.

The Design and Tech Team
Jay Scott .........................................................Lights
Kim R. Sherman ....................................Composer/Music Director
Chris Rumery & Lara De Bruin .............Costumes
Jessica Bauer ..............................................Sound
Charles M. Turner ...................................Stage Manager

Weekend-away hosts in Bridgehampton
The Gersten-Vassilaros Family, Cathy Dantchik, and Yildiz Yuksik and Richard Blackstone

GETTING THERE: THE JOURNEY PLAYS

The Design and Tech Team
Jay Scott .........................................................Lights
Kim R. Sherman ....................................Composer/Music Director
Chris Rumery & Lara De Bruin .............Costumes
Jessica Bauer ..............................................Sound
Charles M. Turner ...................................Stage Manager

Weekend-away hosts in Bridgehampton
The Gersten-Vassilaros Family, Cathy Dantchik, and Yildiz Yuksik and Richard Blackstone
The title of Cassidy Capstick's World Traveler and Swimmer Boy serves just as well as a summary. Kenajuan Bentley was the Fearful swimmer and Alexis McGuinness was the bold jet pilot who befriended him. Kel Haney directed.

"Let teen-agers wear their own clothes" was the moral of Leah Kiara Macuilt's The Important Birthday Party. It starred Aya Cash and Elizabeth Canavan and was directed by Taibi Magar.

Krystel Lucas and Lisa Benavides acted out a classic grade-school rivalry in Britney Trinidad's Melanie and Aquamarine Forever, directed by Rick Meese.

Spooky by Carlos "Ricky" Breton and directed by Kate Forbes, told the tale of a ghost hunter (Christopher Evan Welch) who finds the thing he's hunting (Joel de la Fuente).

"All Good Things: The Patient Plays" was the very first production performed at the Five Angels Theater.

The Design & Tech Team

- Greg MacPherson: Lighting Designer
- Patrick Barnes: Composer/Music Director
- Crystal Thompson: Costume Designer
- Vanessa Valdes: Goddess of Sound
- Hannah Cohen: Stage Manager

Weekend-away Hosts

- Steve Gorn, Barbara Bash, and Wiley Bash-Gorn
- Iris Brown and Joe White
- Laura Cunningham
- Elaine Musselman
- Deborah Freedman and Bill Woods
- Charles Miles and Naomi Freundlich
- Nicole and Paul Quinn
- Erica Schmidt and Peter Pinklage

- Sue Jean Kim and Myra Lucretia Taylor

Bruce MacVittie was a successful singer and Carson Elrod his hapless bro in Adnan Ahmed's The Brothers, directed by Davis McCallum.

Peter Jay Fernandez & Saidah Arrika Ekulona were long-lost siblings in The Mist, directed by Erica Schmidt. The kid is author Nick Carrero.
Zombies Alright, by Lloyd Suh, had Malik Velazquez and David McCall as two young men coming to terms with their new status as brain-eating ghouls. They were directed by a lively Jordan Mahome.

Vivana Vazquez and Maximo Jimenez were child movie stars in conflict in Dylan Pau's Charlie's Angel, directed by Katherine Brown.

In Carly Mensch's Dance Dance Revolution, directed by Mary Kate Burke, dancer Breanna Straker auditioned for pop star Luisa Santiago.

Lily Houghton was a fraudulent hypnotist and Eliza Munoz was a TV chef with hang-ups in Karen Trott's The Power of Suggestion. Suzanne Agins directed the play.

You Are Here: New Plays in New Places was the 2nd show produced at the Five Angels Theater, and the first to feature kids onstage.

The Creative Team
Greg MacPherson.................................Lights
Justin Poindexter .....................Composer/Music Director
Lara DeBrujin .............................................Costumes
Carol Sullivan.................................Stage Manager
Maury Schott.................................Caliph of Cacophony

Weekend Hosts in Clinton Corners, NY
Maria Tucci, Robert and Nicky Gottlieb,
Vicki Mabrey, Lili Taylor and Nick Flynn.

Marcus Quiñones and Emmett Goodman-Boyd were a pair of amateur astronauts who built a spacecraft in their basement in Don Nguyen's The Rocket Boys. Their navigator was director Jason Hare.

Marcus Quiñones and Emmett Goodman-Boyd were a pair of amateur astronauts who built a spacecraft in their basement in Don Nguyen's The Rocket Boys. Their navigator was director Jason Hare.

Armando was master chef Sal Celery and Kimberly Zenteno was painter Francesca Landscape in Room 5252 by Emily Chadick Weiss. Shane West directed this play about two people mistakenly assigned the same hotel room.
The 10th Annual Smart Partners and Homework Helpers Ping-Pong Tournament

On February 12th, we held our very first sporting event in the brand new Clubhouse. It was a blast! The larger, cushier venue drew a record 26 teams, each with a clever name. Some of our favorites: The Bomb Bozzer, The Mama’s Boys, and The Slightly Optimistic, Yet Not Too Sure of Themselves Team.

While the teams waited for table time, they amused themselves by gobbling down chicken wings, French Fries, and ice cream sundaes.

The winners, shown below, received Project gear, Paris Chocolates T-shirts, and sacks of Hershey’s candy courtesy of Ed Martin.

If you’re interested in volunteering as a Smart Partner or Homework Helper, call Liz Bell!

Best Dressed: This picture doesn’t do justice to the Pink Pong Panthers, Elena Caballero and “J” McLoughlin.

Good Sports: Team LaSora members Samantha Caldona and Laura Konsin are nice to everyone.

Wackiest Team: Big and Bigger. Adnan Ahmed and Dylan Dawson were very, very different in size.

Most Improved: Ralphie Irizarry of the Smooth Criminals and Doris Alcantara of The Purple Ponies.

First Place: The Flex Team - John Sheehy and Maximo Jimenez, claiming their 2nd consecutive title.


Hon. Mention: Trouble Makers Natalia Caballero and Katie Flahive. Lisa Kerner and Carol Ochs were subs.

Best Teamwork: King Kong Ping Pong. Hashem Ahmed and Felix Solis never played together before!

Best Pressed: This picture doesn’t do justice to the Pink Pong Panthers, Elena Caballero and Jie McLoughlin.

3rd Place: Deja Vu - Daquan Nelson and Kevin Puyen. Ironically enough, it was their first tourney.

Hon. Mention: Trouble Makers Natalia Caballero and Katie Flahive. Lisa Kerner and Carol Ochs were subs.

4th Place: Las Latinas - Gaby DeJesus and Livia DePaolis from Italy. Watch them next year!

5th Place: The Hard Hats - Jason Hare and Michael Bannister. Great headgear, to be sure!


Best Teamwork: King Kong Ping Pong. Hashem Ahmed and Felix Solis never played together before!

Best Pressed: This picture doesn’t do justice to the Pink Pong Panthers, Elena Caballero and Jie McLoughlin.

Good Sports: Team LaSora members Samantha Caldona and Laura Konsin are nice to everyone.
A VERY VALUABLE WALK

Mark Twain said that golf was “a good walk spoiled.” We beg to differ! The first-ever Annual Charity Golf Outing at The Bayonne Golf Club at New York Harbor on August 24 netted over $130,000 and officially closed the Project’s Capital Campaign (the fund that paid for our new home). What’s more, it also raised $15,000 for our Scholarship Fund.

Our pal Lewis Black hosted the event and Billy Crudup was an honorary chair along with Kyle Czepiel, Neil DeSena, and Kevin Kelly. Chairing the whole shebang were our boardmembers Carolyn Cushman DeSena and Cathy Panchik. Fearless Founder Willie Reale came and served as auctioneer.

By the way, everyone who showed up to golf that day was an undisputed master of the game. If you come to the next Golf Outing in August we’ll say that about you, too. Get on the 2010 hot-list by e-mailing Carol Ochs at cochs@52project.org.

▶ Billy Crudup (in the dark hat) takes to the links with a team of expert duffers, all of whom golfed their ages.

▶ Carol Ochs, Carolyn Cushman DeSena, Billy Crudup, and Cathy Panchik. They’re all joining the LPGA this year. Uh, except for Billy.

▶ Cathy Panchik hob-nobs with Michael Aicastro and the Paragon Consulting Group. Every one of them had a hole-in-one!

▶ Lew Black tells the crowd how well they golfed and what the funds were being raised for. That’s Willie chuckling in the background.

▶ Co-chair Kyle Czepiel toasts some superb golfers.
CLIP THIS FLYER AND ATTACH TO REFRIGERATOR, MEDICINE CABINET, FOREHEAD, DASHBOARD, COMPUTER MONITOR, SMARTPHONE, OR CHILD/SPOUSE.

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

ME FIRST!
THE PIONEER PLAYS

THE SPRING 2010 PLAYMAKING SHOWS

At The 52nd Street Project’s
FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Ave., 2nd Floor
between 52nd & 53rd St.

Admission is free, but reservations are strongly recommended.

To book your seats,
call (212) 642-5052

Friday, March 26 @ 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 27 @ 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 28 @ 3:00 p.m.

10 new plays written by kids and performed by adult actors.

ARTWORK BY PATRICK JONES. LAYOUT BY GEORGE BAJIAK
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. “ME FIRST! THE PIONEER PLAYS” is a production of our Play-making 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 dramaturge/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 support from many individuals, corporations, and foundations, including from the Dramatists Guild Fund; as well as by public funds from The National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts (a state agency) and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

The 52nd Street Project is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the American theatre.

The Project is a member of ART/NY.
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.

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**POETRY CORNER**

During the school break of February 16-19, Liz Bell ran a poetry workshop for 11 kids. They spent the 4 days listening, observing, and scavenging to find poetry in the everyday. Assisting Liz throughout the week were Crystal Dickinson, John Dixon, Osage Lewis-Ashley, Jordan Mahome, Dominique Morisseau, Annie Purcell, Lee Rosen, Julie Sharbutt, and Felix Solis. On the last day the kids performed a selection of their works in the Five Angels Theater.

The poems will be published in Fivey, the Project's literary magazine, in June, but we thought we'd give you a little preview with young Michael Bannister's poem, which seems to crystallize the feelings of the week.

I love my family, I love the sun, 
I love my audience especially this one. 
I like to write these wonderful poems. 
I really hope that you really 
will enjoy them. 
I see that many people are here. 
What I want to do now is yell out and 
cheer! 

- Michael Bannister
MATCH THE MASKS

In September, these 10 teens began their two years as members of the Project’s Teen Ensemble. So far they’ve had movement training with Con Cread, improv with George Babiak and Doug Nervik, and most recently, a 6-week mask workshop with Sarah Petersiel. It’s all part of a master plan to give them tools that will assist them on the stage. In fact, you’ll be able to see them in action the first weekend in June in an original one-act play festival. The adult playwrights will be Zakiyah Alexander, Bekah Brunstetter, Raul Castillo, Jihan Crowther, and Jose Rivera.

Shown here are the teens (and their adult collaborators) as the mask characters that they created in the workshop.

Ready for a challenge? Match the mask characters to their real names!

The Teen Ensemble is Janiece Aponte, Hera Andre-Bergmann, Erica Arce, Jenisse Bouter, Muhammad Cunningham, Carlos Pume, John Manolis, Azalea Rosario, Jonathan Rosario, and A.J. Welsh. The adults are George Babiak, Chris Ceraso, Megan Cramer, and Nicole Watson.

The answers are below! Good luck!

FLOWERS

JOE... SEPHINE

GUS

SAM

ROSIE

JOEY

NO-NAME!

CAN-TU

MARY

CHILDSCARER

NNANCY

NASH

PIMP

BUCKY

FLOWERS

JOE...

SEPHINE

GUS

SAM

ROSIE

JOEY

NO-NAME!

CAN-TU

MARY

CHILDSCARER

NNANCY

NASH

PIMP

BUCKY

JACK-O-LANTERN CARVING AT HALLOWEEN

Diamond Danna Graves and Alex O’Day made a loving, heart-eyed pumpkin.

Graeme Gillis and Alvin Garcia decided their Jack needed some orthodonture.

As the sign says, this is Erin Mallon (in a wig) and Stasia Bree Quiñones.
Sascha Paladino, director of *Throw Down Your Heart*, a great documentary about his brother Bela Fleck, the globe-trotting banjoist, sent us this photo of his new twins. They are Gianluca Joseph Paladino, formerly known as Baby A (he’s on the left) and Cole Alessandro Paladino, formerly known as Baby B (who is on the right). They were born to their mom, Erin Torneo, on January 19. Congrats to the whole family.

Walker Emerson Alexander was born Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 6:53 a.m. to Taro Alexander and his wife Leigh Pennebaker, joining older brother Jackson. Taro, it should be known, is the Founder of Our Time, a great theater group that does work like ours with people who stutter.

On October 3, our trusty Associate Program Director Diana Rojas gave birth to Caleb Carter Pelerin. He’s a cute little guy who has a spectacular head of hair and is partial to Santa Claus outfits. His dad, Ernest Pelerin, is as proud as can be.

Lili Taylor got married to Nick Flynn. That’s their little girl Maeve. Cool family, eh?

IN MEMORIAM

Actor Paul Butler passed away on January 12. Paul did a number of Project shows, but his best-remembered role was Rian the Bear in Adrian Zambrano’s *We Love This Pie* in 1998. He is seen in costume at right with Gus Rogerson, Peter Jacobson, and George Babiak.
And here's a picture of YOU! Well, maybe. Actually, this is a photo of the very first audience in the Five Angels Theater. Opening night was Friday, December 10, 2009.

**The Morgans**

**John, Emily, Gus & Nick Morgan**

**WHAT THEY DO FOR THE PROJECT**
The Morgans host a couple of kids for a week every August during the Wareham One-on-Ones. They also come to see our shows and attend our benefits every year!

**OCCUPATIONS**
John: Business Analytics
Emily: Entrepreneur Hopeful
Gus: 2nd-grader
Nick: Kindergartener

**WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO**

**J:** "To put jelly in my belly."

**E:** "I’ve always had business ideas and decided 2009 was the year to take action."

**G:** "I'd rather be an assassin."

**N:** "I like all the cupcakes we get when it’s somebody’s birthday in my class."

**HOBBIES**

**J:** Reading; Golf

**E:** Yoga; parlor games

**G:** Hapkido; piano

**N:** Legos, drawing

**LAST BOOK READ**

**J:** Lush Life by Richard Price

**E:** Cheerful Money by Tad Friend

**G:** Mr. Pepper’s Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater

**N:** Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

**RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENT**

**J:** Fiction published online in New York magazine

**E:** Honorable Mention Winner in Brooklyn’s 2009 Power Up Business Plan Competition

**G:** Earned his Yellow belt in Hapkido

**N:** Earned a “Good Behavior” prize from his teacher

**FAVORITE PROJECT MEMORY**

**J:** “Showtime on the Randolphins’ lawn.”

**E:** “Reading aloud at bedtime to all of the wonderful kids who have stayed with us.”

**G:** “Mabel Honeytree, Your Time Has Come!!!!”

**N:** “The Mad Scientist play.”

**CREDO**

**J:** “Semper Ubi Sub Ubi.”

**E:** “Give credit where credit is due.”

**G:** “Cats Have Nine Lives.”

**N:** “Knock Knock.”

**ADVICE TO THE KIDS**

**J:** “Have fun.”

**E:** “If you’re coming to Wareham, we hope you like bats.”

**PLACE OF BIRTH**

**J:** St. Paul, MN

**E:** New York, NY

**G and N:** Daegu, S. Korea

**HABITAT**

Brooklyn, NY and Wareham, Mass.

**BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROJECT**

“[Its camaraderie and its foam core.”

**ON FLYER BARS**

“Deelish at the Internish.”

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The 52nd Street Project
789 10th Ave.
New York, NY 10019