In July we took 10 kids and their grown-up partners to beautiful Block Island for a week to prepare the shows you see on this page and the next. They were performed in NYC July 20-22, 2012 at the Five Angels Theater.

**DRESS THE PART:**

**10 TAILOR-MADE PLAYS**

**THE 2012 BLOCK ISLAND 1-ON-1’S**

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**THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM**

- Greg MacPherson ............................................ Lights
- Kim D. Sherman ................Composer/Music Director
- Ciera Wells .................................................Costumes
- Kimberly Goings ..................Costume Associate
- Vanessa Valdes ............................Goddess of Sound
- Liz Bell ...............................................Stage Manager

**BLOCK ISLAND HOSTS**

- Kate, Sam and Jane Bird; Susan Bush; Socha Cohen; Katy Homans and Mardette and Patterson Sims; Mimi Leveille; Leslie Parsons; Joya Verde and Virginia Dare; Elliot and Amy Nerenberg; and our headquarters host Dr. Christina Biaggi.

- Chayse Peña was Atro, a cold, unemotional ninja assassin and Tim Cain was Calepino, the man who hired Chayse to kill... Calepino himself! Michael Mtnick wrote The Assassinator and gave us an excellent excuse to dust off the old samurai swords.

**In The Singer and The Seamstress, by Andrea Ciancavage, Imani Lewis was a young and rebellious girl with a golden throat and Rachel Rusch, in a dual role, was both the girl’s mom and a wise old woman of the woods who had some wisdom and some sewing tips to impart.**

**Christopher Oscar Peña’s Come As You Aren’t featured Alexandra Melz as a shy wallflower trying to fit into a new life on a different planet. Sabrina Caldona was the cool, outgoing alien girlfriend who welcomed her.**

**In Nick Platt’s surrealistic I Am The Walrus, Bhavesh Patel and Tyleek Mark Powell were job-hunting walruses who, despite the stylish gray suits, were not actually walruses.**
**Project Update, October 2012**

**ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY WINSTON RODNEY**

**Jed Clarke** wrote *Lightning*, a wacky romp about moving men that starred Derek Tineo as a laid-back Cali transplant and Jed as a Type A kleptomaniac. They found common ground by dealing with an eccentric client.

**Nancy Noto** was a juvenile shoplifter and Tiniyah Powell was the aging police officer who had to interrogate her in Jocelyn Bich's *Law and Some Order*. It turned out that they both had a fondness for Billy Ocean.

**In her play The Deli Decathlon**, Molly Anne Coogan cast herself as Sally Salami, a deceitful personal trainer who had to make a charming but overweight deli owner (Steven Baez-Padilla) get in shape for the competition of his life.

**Dress the Part:**

**The 2012 Wareham, Mass. 1-On-1's**

In August, we took a second group of 10 kids and their grown-up partners to Wareham, the Gateway to Cape Cod, for a week to prepare another set of action-packed plays. They were performed August 17-19, 2012 at the Five Angels Theater.

**The Design and Tech Team**
- Greg MacPherson .................................. Lights
- Patrick Barnes ................... Composer/Music Director
- Sarah Swafford ................................ Costumes
- Justin Cimino .................................. Sound Designer
- Colleen Sherry .......................... Stage Manager

**Wareham Hosts**
- Lucy Aptekar & Gerry Leader;
- Andrea & Emmanuel Daskalakis;
- Debbie Herring & Howard Brun;
- Joe McNay;
- Alice McNay;
- Beth Pfeiffer;
- Gray & Rosemary Watson;
- Sidney Worthen;
- Peter, Helen & Christopher Randolph.

**Makice Pacheco and Nick Mills** were a brother-and-sister team of ghost hunters on a quest to rout the evil spirits of Midtown Manhattan in *Hell's Kitchen House of Hellish Horror*, by Tim J. Lord. They got more then they bargained for when the Sphinx appeared and riddled them mercilessly.

**The Ham[ster],** by Mattie Brickman, featured Ashley Thomas as a budding actress whose ambitions were outstripped by her own pet hamster, played by Krystel Lucas. They finally realized that theater is a collaborative art form.

**In Charmin Chic**, by Deirdre O'Connor, Flor De Liz Perez was an unscrupulous clothing designer who ripped off Amanda Rosa's sketches. Amanda got back at her by tricking Flor into wearing Couture de Commode. The tables were turned yet again when the outfit became a hit.
Dylan Dawson was tattoo artist Joey Needles and Ruby Zamora was Sally from the planet Inkblart in Dylan’s Extraordinary Tattoo, a play that mingled mayhem and motorcycles to great comic effect.

George Babiak was Russian, Ricardo Currin was French-Canadian, and Gus Rogerson was from Boston. It all added up to a great hockey game in George’s play, which was succinctly titled Bam! Super Beach Cake Party Bake-Off is one of those titles that serves just as well as a summary. Susan McGinnis and Edelys Guerrero were Ellie and Bella, the culinary competitors in Crystal Skillman’s play.

In March and April of 2012, 7 kids met weekly with adult partners to choreograph and rehearse original dance pieces under the tutelage and direction of Liliana Amador-Marty. The final works were performed for an audience on April 18.

Spoiler alert: Josh Moody was the killer and Bryan Lopez was the title character in Josh Koenigsberg’s Kid Kincaid: The Time Traveling Detective Superhero. If you missed it, this play will now be ruined for you when it is revived.

The costumes and effects extravaganza of the summer was surely Robert Askins’ The Fashionable Pharaoh. Megan Cramer was Gorbo the alien and Lambert Whitney was King Tut-tut of Egypt. It was a comedy of eras.

Dancemaking

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Discovery: Nehassaiu deGannes and choreographer Tatiana Goode.

We’re Back: A 3-part saga in dance performed by Gus Rogerson and choreographers Armando Cosme and Wendell Joseph.

Around the World: Choreographer Daniel Martinez and Jeremy Rishe.

It’s Time for Me to Be Famous: Choreographer Daquan Nelson and Kevin Dwyer.

The Fairy and the Gumdrop: Jennifer Ikeda and choreographer Nathaly Trinidad.

Little Guy and Big Guy Dancing: Brian Hastert and choreographer Adnan Ahmed.
In January, a passel of 10 bright-eyed and bushy-tailed kids commenced the latest Playmaking class. Their final shows were performed March 30-April 1 at, you guessed it, the Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM

Greg MacPherson..........................................................................Lights
Cynthia Wong ..................................................Composer/Music Director
Sarita Fellows and Chris Rumery ............................................Costumes
Betsy Rhodes .................................................................Sound Designer
Charles M. Turner III ........................................................Stage Manager

BRIDGEPARTON, LONG ISLAND HOSTS

The Vassilaros Clan (John Vassilaros, Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, Stefano, Tonio, Luca, and Joyce) and Laurie Becker of Sag Harbor.
Stage Combat, another of the Project’s newer programs, is structured like Dancemaking (see page 3). In May and June, seven kids were paired with adults and then learned the art of staying safe while looking dangerous from long-time volunteer Lee Aaron Rosen. The kids were then charged to incorporate the fight moves they had learned into original plays that they wrote themselves. It all came together in a vicious performance at the Five Angels on June 15th.

Branch Draude’s World War III presented us with an epic battle from the future. Here he is seen hurling a pistol at Dominic Comperatore.

In Mari Ulloa’s Time is Stolen, Mari played a wealthy woman who accuses her maid (Amirah Vann) of stealing a watch.

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Kimiye Corwin was a surly, kid-hating garbageman who tangled with a sweet but formidable Ruby Zamora in Ruby’s aptly named The Missing Ruby.

Yay! More ninjas! Warrior’s Sword by Alex Malan showed what happens when two warriors entrusted with guarding a sword get punchy. Vayu O’Donnell was his partner.

What would you do if you found out your dad was dating your most-hated teacher? Why, you’d beat her up, of course. That’s what Valeria Oliva did to Julia Lawler in her bluntly titled School.

In Mari Ulloa’s Time is Stolen, Mari played a wealthy woman who accuses her maid (Amirah Vann) of stealing a watch.

In Where’s the Money by Faisal Afridi, Jimmonn Cole found himself in deadly combat with loan shark Faisal.

In Mari Ulloa’s Time is Stolen, Mari played a wealthy woman who accuses her maid (Amirah Vann) of stealing a watch.

The Crazy School Fight depicted exactly what its title promised. Justin Bannister’s nerd gave bully Josh Moody his come-uppance with the aid of a rubber chicken.

In Mari Ulloa’s Time is Stolen, Mari played a wealthy woman who accuses her maid (Amirah Vann) of stealing a watch.

52 GALLERY: FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY BY PROJECT KIDS

The photos below were taken during the week-long photography program taught by Louis Changchien during the Spring Break of 2012.

Blue Soldier by Nathaniel Butler
Rainbow by Genesis Hires
Escalator by Leah Macuilt
Happy Old Man by Ahmed Nasser
Gridlock by Chamel Rodney
The Lost Boy by Breanna Straker
BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
THE TEEN ENSEMBLE’S BI-ANNUAL ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

The Teen Ensemble is a two-year acting conservatory for the oldest Project kids. The first year culminates with a production of original one-act plays written by New York’s best playwrights. This year’s set was performed June 1-2, 2012 at the Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM
Jay Scott ...........................................................Lights
Lara deBruijn ..............................................Costumes
Justin Cimino ....................................Sound Designer
Lisa Kerner ........................................Stage Manager

NYACK REHEARSAL WEEKEND HOSTS
Susanna Styron, Wendy vanden Heuvel.

▲ Four Dogs, written by Cynthia Kaplan and directed by Andrew Grosso, was about a pack of canines who doubt a feat of bravery performed by one of their number. Armando Cosme (left) was the heroic one while Lily Capstick, Jason Gil, and Zakiya Jacob played his skeptical friends.

▲ Kiana Hernandez was a trans-gender teen, Melissa Rebolledo was her religious and disapproving sister, and Viviana Vazquez was the waitress who counseled them in G.L.O.W., written by Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros and directed by Alexandra O’Daly.

▲ Jerome Hairston’s Test Run, directed by Stephen Rudy, examined a young man’s compulsion to get a tattoo of his girlfriend’s name. Emmett Goodman-Boyd was the lovesick teen and Francis Williams was the level-headed friend who gave him his practice tat.

▲ Matthew Paul Olmos’ play The Superpowers That Be took us down to the East Village of the 1970’s to see D.J. Quik (Alvin Garcia) intercede in a primal struggle between Flame (Maximo Jimenez) and the Bruja (Ashley Smith). Jordan Mahome directed.

▲ The evening was brought to a close by Doris Alcantara and Samantha Caldona, who touchingly presented a life-long friendship, from childhood to old age, by simply playing with toys. David Lindsay-Abaire wrote For Real Though, and Nikiya Mathis directed it.

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The 52nd Street Project Presents

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR GUS ROGERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAROL OCHS
PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR MEGAN CRAMER

3 BIG SHOWS AT THE 52ND STREET PROJECT’S OWN
FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Avenue (between 52nd and 53rd St.)
Friday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 21 at 3:00 p.m.

ADMISSION IS FREE, BUT WE URGE YOU TO RESERVE! TO BOOK SEATS, CALL (212) 642-5052 OR VISIT WWW.52PROJECT.ORG.
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 shows. “TRUTH OR DARE: THE GAME PLAYS” is a production of our Playback program, in which a child pens a play to perform with an adult partner. The Kid/Adult teams rehearse their shows during a long weekend in Bridgehampton, NY to prepare for the production in New York. All of the kids are established playwrights; they are veterans of the “Playmaking” classes, 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 funds from corporations; foundations; individuals; the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. The 52nd Street Project is supported by the Open Society Foundations and the Fund for the City of New York. 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.

Bloomberg Philanthropies ......................................... $75,000
Cantor Fitzgerald ....................................................... $50,000
Carnegie Corporation ................................................ $4,000
CBS .............................................................................. $6,000
Common Sense Fund ................................................... $30,000
Con Edison ................................................................. $10,000
Dawkins Family Foundation ....................................... $6,000
Distracted Globe Foundation ..................................... $5,000
Eleanor, Adam & Mel Dubin Foundation ....................... $1,000
Heisman Trophy Trust ................................................ $1,500
Horace Goldsmith Foundation .................................... $25,000
Koogle Foundation ..................................................... $1,000
Lotos Foundation ........................................................ $2,500
National Endowment for the Arts ............................... $6,250
People’s Choice Awards ............................................. $18,000
Quadra Productions ................................................... $5,000
Sesame Workshop ...................................................... $6,000
Shubert Foundation ..................................................... $10,000
Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust ................. $25,000
Sterling Foundation Management .............................. $40,500
Tax Pro Financial Network .......................................... $3,500
Theater Subdistrict Council ......................................... $20,000
Tiger Baron Foundation .............................................. $5,000
Yorke Construction Corporation ................................. $6,000

**COLLEGE SCHOLARS WHOOP IT UP**

Project devotees know that our summers are almost completely consumed by the double-barreled impact of the July and August One-on-Ones (covered extensively on the first three pages of this issue). Between the One-on-Ones, however, there is an eye of the storm in which we make room for a special evening that honors the members of the Project who have taken the great leap forward into higher education.

On Tuesday, July 31st, we threw the Annual Ron Black Memorial Scholarship Party at the Clubhouse, where we not only provided our young adults and a bunch of donors with soul food from Sylvia’s, but presented each of the kids with a scholarship of $1,000 to assist them with their coming year on campus.

The kids seen in the photos were in attendance and we also gave scholarships to Victor Cortes (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and Christopher Ramirez (Ithaca College).

-GRB

**DORIS, EDUCATION EXPERT**

By the time you read this, the Project’s own Doris Alcantara will have appeared on MSNBC on Sept. 23. Doris was selected to participate in a special program taped at the New York Public Library, a Student Town Hall that was part of NBC’s 2012 Education Nation Summit.

Carlos Dume wasn’t at the party because he was busy checking out the University of Michigan. Carlos is the fourth Project kid (and first boy) to get a complete free ride at that fine school thanks to the Henry and Gloria Jacobs Scholarship. Two Projectiles (Leah Galimidi and Yazzy Troche) have graduated and one (Johanna Vidal, top) is in her senior year. Carlos and his family are so happy that they presented us with a special plaque. Carol snapped it up for her office.
DIANA DEPARTS

Eleven years ago I told Megan Sandberg-Zakian, the Associate Artistic Director at the time, that I wanted to work at the Project. We were in Tyler Hill, PA for the very last time saying thank you and goodbye to Mike Sell and Eric Karpeles, who hosted the Project there for many years. I always loved being around the Clubhouse and the people here, but there was something about that night. It was also the first time I’d been with Project people as an adult. I’d been a kid here and a Teen Counselor many times, but never an adult talking to other Project adults. It made me love it even more. I think it might’ve also been because John and George made me laugh so hard that day. I was literally on the floor with stomach pains. So the next morning, while talking to Megan, I jokingly said, “Look, I would even sweep the floors if it meant I could work at the Project.”

In the time since that conversation, my title has changed a couple of times, the Project has changed and grown for the better, but my main responsibility is still the same: the kids. I grew up here with Carol as a second mom and Willie as a second father. I was more afraid of disappointing them than I was my own parents. I think most of us old school Project kids still live with that fear. This wasn’t just my job. This was my home.

It’s hard to say where the kids would be without us, but I know that I wouldn’t be who I am without them. They’ve taught me so much and without knowing it, they’ve encouraged all these dreams I have now of continuing to work with children.

I write all of this to say that I will be leaving at the end of September. I’m sad to be leaving, and I’m also incredibly scared. But “It’s a good scared.” Somehow it feels like leaving home for college for the first time. Mom, Dad, and my siblings are all saying goodbye at the door. But I’m not going very far. I’ll be at the Hunter College School of Social Work in a new position there and hoping that in the next year or so, I will also be attending the school.

I can’t say goodbye because I’ll still see you all at shows and other events here at the Project. All you college students, I’m still going to make sure you stay on track and keep those B averages.

It has been a pleasure to watch all of you kids grow up, go to college, graduate and take over the world. Thank you for making me the kind of person who goes for what she wants. After all, that’s what we want to see in you.

See you guys soon!

— Diana Rojas
MEGABITS

Above are Jonathan Kaplan and Katherine Nolan Brown, both stellar Project volunteers for many years. The babe in Katherine’s arms is Katherine Nolan Kaplan (henceforth known as “Nolan”), born Monday, July 9, 2012 at 3:33 p.m. after 41 hours of labor. Whew.

Larry Nathanson got certified as an Open Water SCUBA Diver in Mexico in late August, joining his wife Lisa Gugenheim (inset) as a full-fledged member of the New York City Dive Ratz.

Another wonderful Project couple got married early this summer. David Costabile and Eliza Baldi tied the knot in Pennsylvania on June 25, 2012. By all accounts it was a blast.

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IN MEMORIAM

Our good friend Bea Terry passed away on May 15, 2012 after a year-long battle with cancer. In addition to being a great Project director and volunteer, she had been an associate director for a number of Broadway shows including, most recently, “God of Carnage,” and “Memphis.” In an earlier life, she had been a Montessori school teacher in California for 14 years. Our condolences to her partner Gretchen Michelfeld and their 3-year old son Beckett.

On September 4th, 2012 we bade farewell to one of the all-time great Project moms, Marie Ann Fargardo, who was taken by lung cancer. Marie’s children span the three decades of the Project, from Fran-Marie in the early days of the 80’s and 90’s to Nicole in the 2000’s, to Kyle, who is a present-day member. She also leaves behind a fourth child named Heather. The staff and volunteers of the Project send their sincerest condolences to the young Fargardos.

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Flyer Bar Profile

Christopher Randolph

What he does for us: Has been an actor, director, writer, trip host, chef, sailor, powerboat skipper, electrician, and load-in volunteer since at least 1991.

Occupation: Actor, Director, Writer.

Why he does what he does: “I enjoy being a part of communal storytelling, and in the process I always learn more about what it means to be human.”

Hobbies: “Sailing, cooking, swimming, running, playing guitar.”


Most recent accomplishment: “Well, I baked a really good peach pie recently. Does that count...?”

Best Project Memory: “In over 20 years there are so many I don’t know where to start; but I’ll certainly never forget the Hurricane Bob 1-On-1’s in ’91.”

Credo: “Show up, breathe deeply, consider others, and don’t lose your sense of humor, particularly about yourself.”

Advice to kids: “Keep asking questions, and keep trying things. There’s so much you can learn and do if you just keep going.”

Place of birth: “Boston, Massachusetts.”

Current Habitat: “The wilds of Brooklyn Heights and sometimes Wareham, Mass.”

Favorite thing about the Project: “The people; kids AND adults. And John Sheehy’s cooking.”

On Flyer Bars: “They’re sublime. I live in hope that I’ll win one in a Project pre-show lottery drawing, but it still hasn’t happened. Yet...”

Nice turn-out! More than 80 adults and kids showed up for the Smart Partner Pizza Party on Friday, Sept. 14. Liz can be seen giving a stirring speech that kicked off a brand-new season of mentoring partnerships. Want to be a good pal to a cool Project kid? Call Liz Bell today!