2-ON-2 PHOTOGRAPHS BY WINSTON RODNEY

nobody’s PERFECT:
PLAYS WITH TRAGIC FLAWS
THE 2013 TWO-ON-TWOS

In this annual format, we line up 6 pairs of kids and match each team with an adult playwright and an adult director. The plays were rehearsed in Nyack, NY over the Martin Luther King Day weekend and performed Feb. 1-3, 2013 at the Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM
Cody Owen Stine................ Composer/Music Director
Claire DeLiso........................ Costume Designer
Josh Langman...................... Lighting Designer
Justin Cimino...................... Sound Designer
Winnie Lok.......................... Stage Manager

NYACK HOSTS
Susanna Styron, Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley,
Polly King & John-Paul Newport, and Patricia Kahn.

Meanwhile, two younger women, an epicurean cat doctor and a needy cat lover (Ali-zette Zapata and Jazmine Mikell), shared a hearty misanthropy in Sean Kenealy’s Pet Peeve, directed by Julie Sharbutt.

A high-voltage rock star (Gerardo Esca-milla) and an electric super heroine (Stasia Bree Quiñones) made sparks fly in the energetic Don Nguyen’s Tommy Volt and the Lightning Girl, directed by zippy Natalie Martin.

An über-competitive pair of game show contestants (Brandon Leon and Haley Martinez) faced their worst fears while trapped on the 13th floor in a tiny elevator in Erica Saleh’s Terror Time, directed by Carlo Alban, who is afraid of nothing.

In Jess Brickman’s Warm Heart, Cold Feet, directed by Gayle Gitlitz, scientist Tiara Varela and her life-coaching assistant Nathaly Trinidad sussed out the true formula of love.

Joseph Vasquez and Zoltan Lucas were the title characters of Two Older Men, written by Eric Dufault and directed by Charlie Semine. The duffers sang, danced, and told outrageous lies to win the love of the nursing home’s femme fatale, whose ailments proved fatal.

An ill-conceived detour on a road trip triggered conflict for two college buddies in Leila Cohan-Miccio’s Fortune. Nic Grelli directed Lucas Ruedel and Jeremy Sanchez in this suspenseful bromance.
**Thievery** by Brandon Draude, gave us a career criminal (Brandon) who took a rich, would-be robber (Michael Propster) under his wing. Their target: the Apple Store.

**The Girls NOT Next Door** by Melody Cruz showed Melody and dodgeball adversary Amirah Vann getting in big trouble with Coach George Babiak.

**Truth or Dare: The Game Plays**

Once a year, in our Playback show, the kids write for THEMSELVES (and an adult partner who also directs). This year’s Playback was rehearsed in Bridgehampton, NY and staged at the Five Angels Theater on Oct. 19-21, 2012.

**The Design and Tech Team**

- Eric March ................................................................ Composer/Music Director
- Kathleen Doyle ................................................................. Costume Designer
- Greg MacPherson ............................................................ Lighting Designer
- Chris Steele-Nicholson .................................................. Sound Designer
- Liz Bell ................................................................................ Stage Manager

**The Host Families**

John Vassilaros, Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, & Tonio, Luka, & Stefano Vassilaros, Marie Rubin, and Patrice & Louis Friedman.

Raul Castillo was a homeless man who came to see his long-lost-brother-cum-psychiatrist in Rene Paul Santiago’s **Trouble With The Bros**. With the help of a giant pet rat, the two brothers resolved their life-long differences amicably.

**In Siara Feliciano’s A Star from the Galaxy**, Emily Dorsch was a shy but talented young singer who had to audition for media mogul Mega Million, played by Siara.

**Curing Mr. and Mrs. Carrot** by Jocelyn Ochoa, featured Jocelyn as an aspiring baker who cannot pursue a career until she cures her mom of an ailment that causes “fartaceous” eyeballs. Lanna Joffrey was the odoriferous mother.

In the action epic of the night, **Face Punch** by Enrique Caballero, Evan Enderle was ancient Kung Fu master Sensei Wu, who reluctantly trained an inept protege, played by Enrique. Little did he know that his young pupil would later save him from subterranean Fire Monsters (see back page).

**Apart and Back Together Again** by Leah Macuilt, was a classic story of a mother and daughter at odds. Leah was the teen-ager yearning for more independence while Wrenn Schmidt was the loving, but overprotective mom who eventually learned to loosen her grip.
Kayla Matos’ My Dreams, directed by Alex Barron, gave us the unforgettable named Chicken Wings Jackson (Eric Clem) and Jennifer Convertibles (Erin Felgar), a pair of downtrodden Britons who aspire to musical stardom.

The Worst Day of Your Life, written by Adrian Luna and directed by Angel Desai, showed a tsunami’s effects on a surfer (Joel Perez) and a meteorologist (Maria-Christina Oliveras).

An alien and a germ battled royally in Ezekiel Albarron’s Zim Vs. Gorloc. Michael Raimondi directed Michael Braun and Aaron Costa Ganis in this raucous romp.

The Adventure, penned by Jonathan Vega and directed by Felix Solis, was a moving portrait of two lonely people who come together despite living on opposite sides of the globe. Edward O’Brien was the do-it-yourself New Yorker who drove to Australia to make friends with non-stop runner Liza Fernandez. We also got to trot out the old boat-on-wheels for this one.

The Basement, by Jafreisy Portes, brought us the abduction and subsequent escape of two brave siblings (Denise Burse and Ezra Knight). Erin Quinn Purcell directed.

A girl (Elvy Yost) and her dog (Natalie Mitchell) sought a more interesting life in Wilhelmina Ohene Kari Kari’s Adventure Day, directed by Donya Washington.

Amer Mousa’s Late Night with Eric Bond, directed by John Sheehy, was about a talk-show host (Jonathan Groff) who exacted a humiliating on-air revenge on his guest (Jeremy Rishe).

Amer Mousa’s The Escape from Prison was a gritty jailhouse drama that starred Christopher Randolph as a mean guard and Crystal Dickinson as the prisoner that he torment-ed and eventually befriended. James Yaegashi directed.

The Turn-Off, written by Brooke Fraser and directed by Donya Washington, depicted the familial rift between a daughter (Ka-Ling Cheung) and her father (Brian Hastert).

It’s A jungle out There:
THE WILD PLAYS
THE FALL 2012 PLAYMAKING SHOW
In September, we started a Playmaking class for 10 brand-new Project kids. They wrote their final plays in Stone Ridge, NY on a November writer’s retreat. Those 10 shows were performed Dec. 7-9, 2012 at the Five Angels Theater.

THE DESIGN AND TECH TEAM
Patrick Barnes ................... Composer/Music Director
Claire DeLiso ................... Costume Designer
Greg MacPherson ................ Lighting Designer
Betsy Rhodes ................... Sound Designer
Lisa Iacucci ................... Stage Manager

STONE RIDGE, NEW YORK HOSTS
Welcome to Illyria, a land of heartache, partying, revenge, foolery, unfairness, loneliness, music, and love. Or so say the eleven members of the Teen Ensemble who will be performing Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” this summer.

In January, we cast the teens in Chris Ceraso’s adaptation of the play, and over the following few weeks, they tackled their text and developed their characters. Working alongside their tireless adult volunteer coaches (Justin Blanchard, Dave Dalton, Ian Hersey, Maggie Lacey, Jordan Mahome, Jeremy Rishe, Lynne Rosenberg, John Sheehy, Brielle Silvestri, Robert Stanton, and Nicole A. Watson), and composer Eric A. March, they have continued to go deeper and deeper into the world of Illyria.

In February, the teens presented an entertaining hour of monologues, songs, and improvised scenes. As lords, ladies, servants, fools, and pirates, they strutted their stuff across the stage in all of their melancholy, lovesick, buffoonish, drunken, lonely, brave glory: all of them disguising something, all of them longing for love.

Throughout the Spring, we’ll continue to offer short informal presentations, leading up to our full-scale production of “Twelfth Night” on June 21 and 22. After our New York show, we will travel all the way across the country to another country: Canada. First stop: the University of Calgary, where we’ll perform at the University Theater on June 29. Then we trek up to Banff, in the beautiful Rockies, and do our show at the Margaret Greenham Theater at the prestigious Banff Centre on July 3. While visiting our neighbors to the North, we’re hoping to whoop it up at a rodeo, see some of that wildlife, and get creative with some local theater artists.

-MC
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.

Common Sense Fund ........................................ $30,000
Dawkins Family Foundation .......................... $5,000
Distracted Globe Foundation ....................... $30,000
Dramatists Play Service ............................... $1,500
Educational Foundation of America ............ $15,000
Ettinger Foundation ....................................... $2,000
The Giving Back Foundation ..................... $5,000
Ann M. Martin Foundation ......................... $7,500

The Marusi Family Foundation .................... $1,000
Newman’s Own ............................................ $25,000
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs .......... $60,070
Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust ... $25,000
Surdna Foundation ...................................... $25,000
Vervane Foundation .................................... $5,000
WME Foundation ....................................... $15,000

For the last four years our annual benefits have featured songs written by Project kids and performed by adult musicians and singers. Everyone loved the format, but some of our funny friends wanted to get into the act, so this time we decided to let Megan Cramer lead a comedy writing workshop for some kids with the help of comics Lew Black, John Bowman, and Vic Henley, and adult mentors Robert Askins, Dylan Dawson, Cynthia Kaplan, Josh Moody, and John “The Jester” Sheehy. The Annual Benefit, known this year as “Just Kidding,” will take place at the Tribeca Rooftop on May 13, 2013. Come see the adults above perform the comedy stylings of the kids below. For more info, contact John at sheehy@52project.org

-GRB
**THE 13TH ANNUAL SMART PARTNERS PING-PONG TOURNAMENT**

We’ve been hosting this storied event for the entire 21st century, but 2013 was definitely the year in which the hardest-working teams of the Project finally got their due.

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**THE CHAMPIONS:** The Flash - Jason Gil and Sean Kenealy have been playing for 7 years. They came in 2nd in 2012 and finally took top honors.

**2ND PLACE:** The Wild Riders - Jason Hare and Michael Bannister played their first match in 2009 and have never stopped practicing and preparing.

**3RD PLACE:** Pink Pong Panthers - J McLoughlin and Elena Caballero have long awed with their outfits. This year they awed with their relentless volleys.

**4TH PLACE:** Oscar the Groucho Marx and Furry Gump - Dylan Dawson and Enrique Caballero were wackiest in 2012, but this year they came to play!

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**5TH PLACE:** Smiling People - Smiling because they play so well! Adnan Ahmed and Lisa Kerner teamed up only moments before and were great.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** The Terminators - They may be killer robots from the future, but Chamel Rodney and Lee Rosen are cheerful competitors.

**WACKIEST TEAM:** The Sandwich Squad - How wacky are Michael Propster and Brandon Draude? Their aliases are Wonder Bread Man and Hellman's Boy.

**MOST IMPROVED:** Team Commando Squad Squad - Patrick Clair and Lucas Ruedel get better every time they hit the table. Watch for them next year!

**BEST NEW PLAYERS:** Take Notes - Chayse Peña and Korey Jackson made their debut and displayed some real heart.

**BEST TEAMWORK:** The Warriors - George Babiak and Ruby Zamora moved like a well-oiled machine. With practice that machine will hit the ball every time.

**BEST DRESSED:** The P.J.'s - Paul Coffey and Joseph Cruz had the good sense to come dressed in animal-print fedoras and bathrobes.

**GOOD SPORTS:** The Funny Bunnies - Julie Sharbutt and Nathaly Trinidad are just plain nice... and that’s good enough for us to put their photo on this page!

**GOOD SPORTS:** The Strangers - Tyleek Powell and Joannia Parson had only just met, but they still played nicely.

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**... AND 2ND ANNUAL FOOSBALL MINI-TOURNAMENT**

Last year, we began holding a Foosball tournament on the same day as our Ping-Pong Tournament. The din and chaos of two world-class events happening at the same time was so galvanizing that we decided to do it all over again. —GRB

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**CHAMPIONS:** The Wolves - Brandon Leon and Ariana Siegel. Normally nice Brandon is truly vicious in table soccer.

**2ND PLACE:** The Greeks - Justin Bannister took #2 in 2012 with Ray Harold and did it again with Steven Hajar.

**3RD PLACE:** The Spartans could not beat The Greeks, but Jed Clarke and Francis Williams were undaunted.

**4TH PLACE:** The Sandwich Squad - Brandon Draude and Michael Propster took home more medals than anyone else.

**GOOD SPORTS:** The Strangers - Tyleek Powell and Joannia Parson had only just met, but they still played nicely.
the spring 2013 playmaking plays
10 new plays written by kids and performed by adult actors.

Thursday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m.

At the 52nd Street Project’s
Five Angels Theater
789 10th Avenue (between 52nd and 53rd St.)

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. “STAND BY ME: THE RELIABLE PLAYS” is a production of our Playmaking 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 funds from corporations, foundations, and individuals. Important support is received from the Newman’s Own Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The Project is a member of ART/NY.
Over the school break of February 18-22, 2013 Liz Bell led a photography workshop for 5 kids who hit the streets daily with digital cameras. With the Project’s Playmaking program in mind, during which members first learn about the creation and development of a character, the photography was inspired by characters, real and imagined, discovered in Hell’s Kitchen. The adult mentors were George Babiak, Steven Hajar, Lisa Kerner, Zoey Martinson, and Colleen Sherry. The teen assistant was Chamel Rodney.

L to R, center:
Free Snap by Devin Gonzalez
Portrait of Susan, 32 years old by Kate Mendoza

L to R, bottom:
Neil the Zombie’s Fear by Daniel Martinez
Portrait of Frankie the Fire Hydrant by Britney Trinidad
Gulligan’s Dream of a Nest by Ruby Zamora

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Devin Gonzalez
Kate Mendoza
Daniel Martinez
Britney Trinidad
Ruby Zamora

Angel Desai and Malik Velazquez.
Poetry in Performance
On Monday, Nov. 19, 11 young poets gathered in the Five Angels Theater to read 22 new works as part of the Lorraine Cohen Poetry in Performance Program. They were led by Education Director Liz Bell and their work will appear in the next Fivey Magazine, coming in June, 2013. Meanwhile, here are some photos!

▼ Bryan Lopez treated us to the racy Hot Ass Car and My Ugly Life.
▼ Imani Lewis read The Very Annoying Princess and What A Day.
▼ The whole group poses.
▼ Ricardo Currin boldly delivered 2 Happy People in the Garden and Battling Darkness.
▼ Ruby Zamora skipped her way through Hell’s Kitchen Poem and Flying.
▼ Genesis Hires gave us Green Freak and Stalker.
▼ Ruby Zamora skirped her way through Hell’s Kitchen Poem and Flying.
▼ Jasmine Corea recited The Foody Pair and The Girl in The Feather Scarf.
▼ Edelys Guerrero acted up a storm in her poems I Am Different and My Night Light.
▼ Edelys Guerrero acted up a storm in her poems I Am Different and My Night Light.
▼ Justin Bannister started quietly with Talent Show and howled (literally) with The Little Wolf.

HOLIDAY SEASON OPEN MIKE SHOW
The Project’s Seventh Annual Open Mike Night took place on Friday, Dec. 14 at the Five Angels Theater. Liz and George, inspired by Playmaking show Late Night with Eric Bond (see page 3), decided to stage the night as a mock TV talk show. George played Ed McMahon to Liz’s Johnny Carson as they introduced and interviewed Smart Partner pairs.

During the evening, Dylan Dawson and Enrique Caballero presented no less than three short films created by their vest-pocket sized production company Awesome Guy Studios. Another highlight was the debut of a “Corny Comedy” routine by Genesis Hires and Rachel Rusch. They were so funny they were invited up to Liz’s desk for some in-depth questions.

The Open Mike Show has become a holiday tradition here at the Project and was as entertaining as previous editions, and that’s saying something. -GB

Enrique Caballero in a still from action pic Elbow Guns, produced by the prolific Awesome Guy Studios.
Jane Obadia (whom we first met as Jane Muddyman, daughter to Bill) and Danny Obadia are the proud parents of Elana Joan Esther Obadia. This cutie was born on Nov. 14 in Virginia.

Doug Nervik
April 12, 1953 - October 23, 2012

For many Projectiles, Doug Nervik was the guy who always found time to show up at load-ins and light hangs. Others knew him as a superb pianist, accordion player, bicycle mechanic, and impressionist. A precious few knew he was also a clown, Christmas carol leader, Murder Mystery Party writer and performer, New York City tour guide, and computer maven. We think he was at his very best when volunteering as an accompanist for our teen groups in the musical improv portion of their training. Doug’s unflagging positivity and pure musical skill gave each and every one of our teens the courage to sing with joy and conviction.

Doug passed away in October from the effects of a severe stroke. On December 2, the Project hosted a special memorial to Doug that filled our theater to the brim with his many friends. The event also kicked off the Doug Nervik Music Fund at The 52nd Street Project. As of press time, the fund has received $6,885 in donations.

-GB
Flyer Bar Profile

What she does for us: Has been a pal and supporter of the Project since 1993 and a member of the Board of Directors since January, 2002.


Why you do what you do: “I work out of my house so I get to wear sweats to the office, except of course when I have a Skype interview – then I have to put a blazer on over my t-shirt.”

Hobbies: “I’m into photography, travel, architecture and design.”

Last book read: Me Before You by JoJo Moyers. “It’s an unconventional love story about two people that never should have met but circumstances changed that and in turn changed their lives forever.”

Most recent accomplishment: “I haven’t accomplished it yet, but I am determined to learn French… so souhaitez moi bonne chance.” (Ed. note: “Wish me luck.”)

Best Proj. Memory: “When I was asked to join the Board. I love the Project, the kids, the staff and everything it stands for.”

Credo: “Live with no regrets.”

Advice to kids: “Never say never.”

Place of birth: Queens, NY.

Habitat: Tribeca, NY.

Favorite thing about the Project: “I love watching the kids faces while they watch their plays being performed! Always makes me smile.”

On Flyer Bars: ”Wish I could eat them for breakfast, lunch and dinner.”

CATHY DANTCHIK