



Spring 2011 Newsletter

This year, as Wingspan Arts celebrates our tenth anniversary, our programs and our leadership role in arts education, I want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the Board of Directors, the staff and our talented teaching artists, past and present, who all share in the successes of our first decade.

As we look ahead to the challenges of fulfilling our mission to connect the arts to life in our second decade, our Board is pleased to announce that Paul Ashley has been named our new Executive Director and I will be assuming the role of President. As Wingspan's Education Director, Paul has played a pivotal role in building Wingspan into one of the of the region's leading arts education providers. We wish him well as he assumes leadership of all day-to-day operations. In my new role as President, I look forward to pursuing our longstanding goals of developing a new arts center building and growing Wingspan's producing season.

Thanks again for your past and future support - Gary Bernstein, Founder/President

Education Programs

Club Wingspan Afterschool has some great new classes running this semester! Taught by some incredible veteran teaching artists and some fantastic new teachers, our classes continue to be a popular on-site choice for many families in New York City Schools. Some of our new classes this semester include Dharma Kids, which teaches the students how to focus on healthy, balanced lifestyles and Fashion Design, where our students are learning to be the next generation of designers! We are also running Origami classes this semester, and are hoping to contribute Paper Cranes to aid the relief efforts to the families affected by the Tsunami in Japan – stay tuned for more details on how YOU can get involved! Next week – April 11th to 15th – is Open Class Week at all of our afterschool sites; our students and Teaching Artists are looking forward to sharing some of the magic that takes place in the classrooms with parents, families and friends. Check out the website for updates and schedules.



Our yearlong drama integration residencies are blooming into plays penned entirely by students. Fourth graders at PS 77/ Lower Lab will present the story of a family who leaves Great Britain for Jamestown and discovers that success is truly a journey. This residency, with support from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, will present their work on May 26th at 9am and 6pm. The Brooklyn School of Inquiry's 2nd graders are immersed in character development, creating a play that visits different aspects and eras of New York City. You can expect to visit the Empire State Building in its early construction and hear the story of a subway token that becomes a metro card. The curtain will rise on these young actors June 17th at 9am.

Wingspan Arts will host the 2nd Annual **Citywide Ballroom and Latin Dance Festival** on June 14th from 4–6pm. Ballroom dancers from in-school residencies at PS 230 in the Bronx, PS 102 in Queens, Learning Community Charter School in Jersey City, Lower Manhattan Community Middle School in the Financial District and MS 324 in Washington Heights will compete against several other schools. You can bet that PS 230 is looking to defend last year's first place title!

Conservatory

2011 is shaping up to be a banner year for the Wingspan Arts Conservatory. This week we start a new class, Spring Into Acting, as we wind down our Cabaret Troupe which performed this weekend! **POWER: A Musical Revue** was a great success this past Saturday & Sunday evening with full audiences of families and friends to support all of the great work they did over the winter. Great job Cabaret Troupe!

As the weather warms up we have already set our sights on our Summer Conservatory. The 2011 Wingspan Ensemble and Players will be the largest groups we have ever had, and certainly the most talented. And while those programs are at capacity, there is still space in our wonderful Musical Mania program for current Kindergarten to 4th grade students. For more information on registration and financial aid for this program please check our website or contact marissa@wingspanarts.org.



Events & Productions



For those of you looking for great things to do with your kids on a Saturday - look no further! Wingspan Arts will be hosting our **3rd Annual ARTOPIA!** at The Anderson School on Saturday, May 7th. This event is FREE and open to families throughout the city. Join us from 11am-2pm for workshops in songwriting, dance, clowning and yoga, as well as performances by students of all ages, and a very special sneak peek at a new kids show! More information is available on our website.

Wingspan Arts wants to thank all of you that came to support our programs and teaching artists at the truly exciting **Local Artists for Local Kids** event, held at Chashama on March 16th. This event was a showcase of the work our teaching artists do as artists and raised money to support our Summer Conservatory. It was an electric night full of original music, interactive artwork, film and spoken word - if you missed us this year be sure to catch it in 2012.

Wingspan Arts welcomes two new members to our Board of Directors, Inna White and Scott Wilcox.

Inna White is the founder and chief investment officer of Althea Group. She is also a member of the CFA Institute and The 100 Women in Hedge Funds Philanthropy Committee. Ms. White received her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance from the Stern School of Business.

Scott Wilcox is an associate in the Litigation Department of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. In 2008, he graduated magna cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School, which honored him with the Irving Stenn Jr., A.W. Brian Simpson, Robert S. Feldman, Raymond K. Dykema, and Jason L. Honigman Awards. Mr. Wilcox also previously managed several other theatrical productions on Broadway, off Broadway, and on tour.

April Spotlight On...

Advanced Shakespeare at PS 183



In Spring of 2008, Teaching Artist Katie Knipp began teaching Shakespeare in the Afterschool program at PS 183. Katie really wanted to share Shakespeare with the kids, and was so excited to offer it as an afterschool class. That first year they did a version of "A Midsummer Nights Dream" which they shaped as a group. It was wonderful...and a class was born. That first year the students struggled to understand the language and worked to translate the text into words they could work with.

Three years later we now offer a Shakespeare class in four of our Afterschool programs, and PS 183's Shakespeare class has grown (as has its participants) to offer Advanced Shakespeare for the older students.

This year's Advanced Shakespeare class is working on "Twelfth Night". They are using a lot of Shakespeare's text, as well as taking the Bard's words and making them their own. In addition to the language they also have the chance to work on acting skills in this class, including ensemble work and using their creativity.

Katie Knipp teaches many classes in our Afterschool and Conservatory Programs, including being the lead teaching artist in our Summer Musical Mania Program for K-4th grade students!



Click to Donate \$20 to support Shakespeare in Afterschool!