

February
2004

“YOU’VE GOTTA COPE!” *Loss & Gain* Appears at NYC Public Schools



Youth cast members performing a scene from the theatrical production *Loss & Gain* at Health Professions and Human Services High School in Manhattan. **Photo: Lucy Skeen**

For the past year HAI's **Youth Leadership and Education Program** has collaborated with renowned director, composer and playwright Elizabeth Swados to launch *Loss & Gain*. The one-hour theatre piece has been created and performed by a diverse group of New York City youths who attend weekly workshops with Ms. Swados. While *Loss & Gain* was originally conceived as means of addressing the needs of NYC youths in the aftermath of the events of 9/11, the program quickly grew in scope and in its ability to help students acknowledge and constructively cope with various kinds of loss. Through theatre, participants are able to engage a creative process and, most importantly, share their strategies of dealing with and overcoming grief in a supportive environment. The result of their hard work is a musical theatre production now touring NYC schools and other audience appropriate venues. After a recent dress rehearsal for cast members' families and friends, one parent wrote: "...the performance left a powerful impression on me... I feel this is a wonderful way to give to the community and also a way of expressing yourself."

On January 16, *Loss & Gain* appeared at **Health Professions and Human Services High School** with two performances for students and staff. Upcoming performance dates include the **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School** (2/10), **The Summit** (Department of Juvenile Justice) (2/13), **Bridges** (Juvenile Detention Facility) (2/20), **Hostos/Lincoln Academy** (2/26) and the **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts** (3/5). *Loss & Gain* is made possible with generous support from The Ford Foundation, The Laura B. Vogler Foundation, Inc., The Starr Foundation, The Schnurmacher Foundations and the Tribune New York Foundation.

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This February, HAI will provide Hope And Inspiration to an audience of more than 24,800 people at more than 900 events by offering opportunities...

...to enjoy dance, theater, concerts and more

◆ In February, HAI's **Cultural Events Program** will make the following events accessible to New York City residents who are culturally isolated due to age, frailty, physical or mental disability:

<i>The Exonerated</i>	45 Bleecker Street, Manhattan
New York Knicks	Madison Square Garden
Harlem Globetrotters	Madison Square Garden
New York City Ballet	New York State Theatre

HAI's Valentines Day Dance will take on February 12th, 6- 9 pm at Club Exit.

HAI's **Cultural Events Program** includes: (1) the **Community Performing Arts Series**, which mounts dance, drama and music performances throughout the year in each of the five boroughs; (2) the **Omni*Bus Program**, which comfortably and safely carries people who are bed confined and those using wheelchairs from hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers to attend cultural events throughout the greater New York area. February destinations include Camden Aquarium, Liberty Science Center, NY Hall of Science, Valentine's Day Dance as well as a variety of restaurant and movie excursions; (3) **Tickets to Go**, which provides New York City seniors age 60 and over with greatly discounted tickets, subsidized by the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, to renowned cultural and entertainment events; and (4) the **Describe!** program, which makes live theater performances accessible to visually impaired and blind individuals. On February 18th, Describe! program attendees will enjoy an audio described performance of the hit Broadway musical *42nd Street*.

◆ In February, HAI's **On-site Performance Program** will include many events to commemorate Black History Month including performances by Carolina Slim, a renowned blues vocalist and guitarist, the Jazz Elders, Ricardo Greenaway performing Caribbean tunes on pan, Aisha Hosley, a jazz vocalist, Ray Blue, a jazz instrumentalist and Sam Jacobs performing music that ranges from standard to hip hop. Of special note is David Deblinger's participatory performance/storytelling series at the Isabella Geriatric Center, which engages elderly residents in physical and verbal theatrical exercises and improvisations. Over fifty performances with an emphasis on love songs have been scheduled to help facilities celebrate Valentine's Day.

...to develop competence through artistic expression

◆ In February, HAI's **Arts Workshops Program** will exhibit stunning artwork created by individuals living with mental illness. It will remain mounted at HAI's SoHo loft space through February 14th. The exhibit features an extraordinary drawing by Rodney Thornblad, an interpretation of *The Last Supper*, 42" x 121", and many other original works. The exhibit is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 1pm to 6pm. The HAI Arts-in-Education Media Project, funded through the NYSCA Arts-In-Education program is underway at PS 811M, Riverview High School, serving students attending the Adolescent Day Treatment Program of Bellevue Hospital and at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls High School, serving students from the Linden Hill and Goldsmith Residential Treatment Centers in Westchester.

...to acquire skills for supportive/independent living

◆ In February, HAI's **Prevention Education Program**, which uses theatrical role-play to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, homelessness, youth leadership/violence prevention and Medicaid managed care, will present performances of *Peace-by-Peace*, violence prevention, HIV prevention and housing readiness workshops at Samuel Gompers High School, Campus Magnet High School, the Lexington Avenue Women's Shelter, The Metro Hotel, The Lee Goodwin Residence, and FEGS/IPRT. The cast of *Loss & Gain* (see reverse) will perform at Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School, The Summit High School, Bridges Juvenile Detention Facility, and Hostos/Lincoln Academy.

...to gain access to information and to learn more about our mission

◆ Visit HAI's website, www.hospitalaudiences.org and view *Access for All: Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions* and its update, *Addendum 2001, On the Go: A Guide to New York City Culture at a Discount for Seniors* and the monograph, *Live Arts Experiences: Their Impact on Health and Wellness*.

This February, HAI will reach a projected audience of over 24,800 people at more than 900 events... through:

Cultural Events Program	2,500 people at 40 events
On Site Performance Program	9,000 people at 180 performances
Arts Workshop Program	9,790 attending over 628 hours
Prevention Education Program	3,600 attending over 60 workshops