

Princeton Students Bring Arts Alive!

Arts Alive!, a collaboration between HAI and Princeton University to provide New York City schoolchildren directly affected by September 11th with live arts experiences while revitalizing New York arts organizations, has, as a component, complementary educational workshops led by Princeton students. Workshops range from intellectual discussions about the themes and morals of a play, to participatory arts activities including song, dance and drama, all of which encourage the schoolchildren to think critically about a performance.

Workshop highlights to date have included an exploration of *Carmen* by two Princeton students, Jen Borghi and Laura Winn, and HAI's Laura Tichler, for students aged 11 – 13 at P.S. 20. As a warm-up exercise, the students stood in a circle and "sang" their names, opera-style. Even the principal participated, creating an elaborate, impromptu

aria. If this did not already get the kids' attention, Jen Borghi, a trained opera singer, performed two selections from *Carmen*, then played an excerpt of a recording of the soundtrack while describing the plot and characters in detail.

To get 6th through 8th graders at I.S. 51 excited about the Broadway show *Aida*, Princeton students Jeffrey Vinikoor and Anne Sutula began by asking questions about theater and the history and culture of Egypt. They played a song from the CD and talked about the play's composer Elton John. The last activity, by far the most engaging and challenging, had the students break into small groups and choose one member to wrap into a mummy with toilet paper.

Teacher and student workshop participants have been enthusiastic. As one teacher stated, "Our school greatly appreciates the time and effort of the workshop leaders. Professional and flexible, these young people created an environment in which normally shy students acted, sang and danced in front of an audience, which they not only did well, but also impressed us all! The material was definitely age appropriate and allowed an outlet for a class of students who



Laura Winn, Princeton student, leads workshop on the Broadway show *42nd Street* for 8th graders at JHS 189. Photo by Patty Reitkopf

normally have a high energy level."
-Ms. E. Kostakis, JHS 189

In the words of Princeton student and workshop leader Jeffrey Vinikoor, "Working with the children to help them learn about the arts was challenging and highly rewarding. Knowing that the workshop helped broaden their knowledge of culture and will hopefully help rebuild their community, at least in some small way, I couldn't have spent my Friday morning doing anything better."

Respect!

The second installment of HAI's **Respect Project** will have its debut on April 10th at Lehman High School in the Bronx. This year's performance, directed by Tony Award winning choreographer and director George Faison and assisted by HAI's Rhonda McLean-Nur, features twelve vibrant and hard working teenagers from New York City high schools. Through workshops, the teenagers created monologues that address issues affecting urban teenagers today – racism, poverty, date rape, drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Particularly poignant are examinations of prejudice, violence and the emotional aftermath of September 11th. The performers' energy, resilience and strength shine through as they explore sensitive issues using dance, poetry, rap and skits. HAI has received many requests for **Respect** from schools that saw last year's pilot performance and anticipates that this year's piece will be as successful.

Arts Mentoring Program

The HAI Arts Mentoring Program is underway at eight special education schools in New York City. Led by professional artists with extensive classroom experience, the Program provides teachers with practical, hands-on, art-based projects to incorporate into their curriculum. The HAI artists conduct professional development sessions with school staff, individual training sessions with teachers, and sessions with teachers and their students in the classroom. Responses from students, teachers and administrators alike have been enthusiastic.

The Program has initially focused on the schools in New York City Board of Education District 75, the citywide district that includes community based vocational sites, community and special education schools, high schools, hospitals and institutional facilities.

HAI is now arranging additional Mentoring Series for the school year starting September, 2002. For more information contact Program Director Betty Marks at 212-575-7696.

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This April, HAI will give Hope And Inspiration to an audience of more than 24,000 people at more than 945 events by offering opportunities...

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

* In April, the **Cultural Events Program** will arrange for more than 4,000 people to attend 50 events including:

<i>Proof</i>	Walter Kerr Theatre	<i>The Crucible</i>	Virginia Theatre
<i>Into the Woods</i>	Broadhurst Theatre	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Lunt-Fontanne Theatre
<i>Oklahoma</i>	Gershwin Theatre	Ballet Tech	Joyce Theater
<i>Stomp</i>	Orpheum Theatre	New York Mets	Shea Stadium
New York Yankees	Yankee Stadium		

* **Omni*Bus Program** - In April, the Omni*Buses will take more than 800 individuals on more than 35 trips including the circus at Madison Square Garden, plus restaurants and movies.

* The **Describe! Program** provides live audio descriptions of Broadway and Off Broadway performances for blind and visually impaired individuals. A group of visually impaired students from Connecticut will attend a specially requested audio description of *Aida* at 2PM at the Palace Theatre on April 10th.

* **Tickets to Go** provides New York City seniors, age 60 and over, with greatly discounted tickets to renowned cultural and entertainment events. 410 individuals will attend 11 events in April, including: *Carmen*, *Tosca*, *Into the Woods*, *Gregory Hines* and *The Man Who Had All the Luck*.

* **Arts Alive!** is a program developed by Princeton University and administered by HAI. The goals are to provide live arts and cultural experiences for New York City public schoolchildren from districts most affected by September 11th, and to help sustain New York City arts and cultural organizations. In April, nearly 1,000 students will attend 19 events, including: *Oklahoma*, *Ballet Tech*, *The Crucible*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Into the Woods*.

* This April, the **On-Site Performance Program** will reach 6,800 people through more than 135 live performances. **Treble a Cappella**, a New York City based all women ensemble will perform at Jewish Home and Hospital's Kittay House in the Bronx on April 21st.

...to develop competence through artistic expression

* In April, more than 700 hours of arts workshops will take place for a total of 11,500 participants. HAI will host the Seventh Annual Consumer Art Show for Morningside Westside Community Action Corporation (MWCAC) on April 25th, 6-9PM. A silent auction will take place during the annual event that raises funds for MWCAC. The juried art show and silent auction, open to mental health consumers from any program in New York City, will be curated by Betty Marks and Frank Palazzolo, an HAI professional teaching artist. The HAI Arts Mentoring Program is now underway at eight public schools in New York City. See front page article for more information about this new initiative.

...to acquire skills for supportive/independent living

* The HAI **Prevention Education Program** uses theatrical role-play to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, homelessness, youth leadership/violence prevention and Medicaid Managed Care. In April, more than 60 workshops will reach more than 1,800 individuals at facilities including the Professional Performing Arts High School, High School of Graphic Communication Arts, the Queens Alternatives to Detention Center, Bronx Lebanon Hospital/Life Enrichment Program and the Lexington Avenue Women's Shelter. Cheshire Frager, co-director of the Conflict Resolution Program at the American Friends Service Committee, will train new HAI facilitators/actors and senior Peer Educators in conflict resolution.

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

* HAI has various publications to aid disabled and elderly people and to enlighten and stimulate the general public as to the value of *live arts* experiences. A hard copy of *Access for All: A Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions* is available by writing to HAI. An updated version will soon be available on our website. The third edition of *Live Arts Experiences: Their Impact on Health and Wellness* can be viewed at www.hospitalaudiences.org.