



30th SEASON
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15

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Working Theater is dedicated to producing new plays
for and about working people.*

Our 30th Season ran from January to June 2015 and featured the development of five new plays as part of our Five Boroughs/One City Initiative, the 5th Anniversary Directors Salon, TheaterWorks!, and other events aimed at reaching our audience of working men and women.

* working people refers to the wage and salaried workers of modest means working in factories, stores, offices, hospitals, classrooms, and other workplaces throughout America.

LETTER FROM THE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Two years ago Working Theater was able to fulfill a long-term goal of bringing our work directly into communities where working people actually live with our immersive touring production of *La Ruta*. The production was a critical success for the Company, but it raised questions about the goal itself. How do we sustain a presence in each neighborhood where we perform? How do we create and maintain meaningful ties in neighborhoods whose demographics are among the most diverse in the world? How do we maintain a relationship with our general audience as we move from neighborhood to neighborhood? Finally, as an organization, how do we financially support a project which in the beginning might not generate the box office revenue we have become accustomed to by performing in a traditional off-Broadway venue?

The exploration of these questions was the impetus behind the launch in our 30th year of the Five Boroughs/One City project. For our 30th Anniversary Season, Working Theater commissioned five teams of artists to create a new piece of theater in conversation with community members in neighborhoods in each of the boroughs of NYC. We worked with five venue partners: CASA and New Settlement Apartments in The Bronx, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan, Bushwick Salvation Army Community Center in Brooklyn, IBEW Local 3 in Queens, and Snug Harbor Cultural Center in Staten Island. Our venue partners generously introduced us to various communities with whom we began a dialogue about the hopes, challenges, and celebrations of their particular corner of New York City.

On May 10, 2015, the first phase of Working Theater's Five Boroughs/One City project concluded with an in-depth roundtable discussion with the commissioned artists of the project about creating theater in community. It was moderated by Theatre Communications Group's Executive Director, Teresa Eyring, and was livestreamed to the general public and archived on Howlround TV. You can access that conversation at: <http://howlround.com/livestreaming-conversation-about-community-engagement-and-theatremaking-in-community-for-working>.

The day before, Working Theater presented all five work-in-progress showings in a marathon performance, capping off a week of off-Broadway performances of the Five Boroughs/One City program. During the week, both the artists involved in the project and the general public were able to uncover the themes that run through all five pieces. The artists and the community interacted with each other and explored the ideas presented during structured post-performance dialogues after each of the ten scheduled showings. It was an inspiring week of artists reflecting and reacting to the city we live in. The common themes that ran through all of them were: home, displacement, segregation, community, gentrification, racism, and sanctuary; a push and pull, if you will, of the various and sometimes contradictory forces that make up any urban environment, but particularly one with the extraordinary diversity of New York City.

The week of events at the Dorothy Strelsin Theatre was the culmination of seven months of research, development, and active community engagement by the Company and the commissioned artists in five neighborhoods in NYC. While it remains to be seen if we were able to meet all of the challenges implied by the questions that inspired the project, there is no doubt that our artists created some remarkable pieces of theater. We look forward to producing each of them in the coming seasons. Five Boroughs/One City lives on!

I am grateful to our extraordinary Board of Directors for supporting this new direction for our Company, and completely indebted to our talented artistic teams, venue partners, and community members for taking the plunge with us. And a huge thank you goes to all of you, our generous donors, sponsors, audiences, and volunteers for making this work possible. Finally, I must thank Tamilla Woodard whose encouragement and artistic guidance were the heart of the project.



Mark Plesent
Producing Artistic Director

WORKING THEATER

FIVE

BOROUGHES

ONE

CITY

30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



30th Season Mainstage Initiative

FIVE BOROUGHS/ONE CITY

commissioned by Producing Artistic Director, Mark Plesent

Artistic Director: Tamilla Woodard

Supported by 21st Century ILGWU Heritage Fund and One World Fund

The Five Boroughs/One City Project launched in the fall of 2014 with commissions of five teams of writers, directors, and installation artists, supported by designers, dramaturgs, and community liasons. Each team's goal was to create a piece of theater rooted in a neighborhood in each of the five boroughs of New York City by engaging a specific community as both source and resource in the creative process. The work being created is for, inspired by, and in response to each community.

Over the next three seasons, Working Theater, in partnership with a community venue in each borough, will develop and present all five projects in rolling premieres within the community of their origin and then in a tour to each partner venue in each borough.

Scenic Design Consultant: Deb O | Scenic Design Assistant: Emily Gabler

Lighting Design: Libby Jensen | Board Operator: Victoria Bausch

Production Stage Managers: Sarah Devon Ford | Danielle Teague-Daniels

Production Manager: Libby Jensen | Press Representation: Dan Demello

Photography: Tuda Sarian & Kevin O'Leary | Graphic Design: Ted Dawson



From left to right: Post performance dialogue at the Salvation Army in Bushwick, rehearsal of *Breaking Bread* with Chisa Hutchinson, audience at IBEW Local 3 in Queens. Photos by Tuda Sarian.



From left to right: Storycircle at New Settlement Apartments in The Bronx, work-in-progress showing at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, outreach with the Brooklyn artistic team at St. Brigid Parish in Bushwick. Photos by Tuda Sarian & Kevin O'Leary.

STATEN ISLAND PROJECT

Breaking Bread

written by **Chisa Hutchinson**

directed by **Kristin Horton**

You are invited to the Gibilisco Family Reunion dinner!

Join us for this immersive event which explores community, family ties, and racial tension.

Come hungry-baked ziti is on the menu!

Created with dramaturgical support from Theresa M. Davis.

Storycircle/Roundtable at Snug Harbor Cultural Center on March 27th & 28th, 2015

with Tanisha Christie, Nathan Hinton, Shauna Miles, Marcus Naylor, Jake Roa, Amber Williams

Work in progress showings at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre on May 8th & 9th, 2015

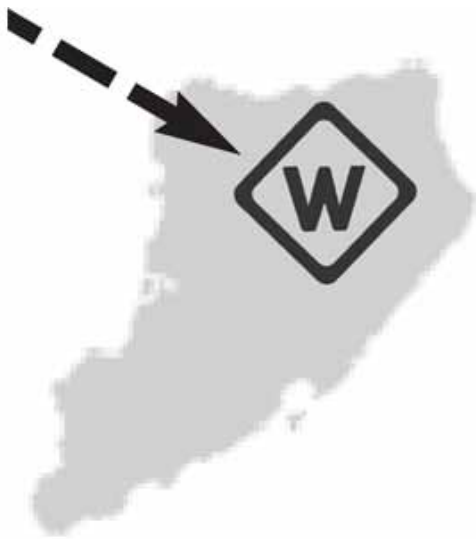
with Ngozi Anyanwu, Arthur French, Nathan Hinton, Robbie McCauley, Shauna Miles, Benjamin L. Myers

Stage Managed by Sarah Devon Ford



Benjamin L. Myers and Ngozi Anyanwu in work-in-progress showing of *Breaking Bread* at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre.

Photo by Tuda Sarian.



Top right: Audience participation at work-in-progress showing of *Breaking Bread* at Dorothy Strelsin Theatre.
Above: Kristin Horton, Chisa Hutchinson and Theresa M. Davis. Photos by Tuda Sarian.

BROOKLYN PROJECT

Bamboo in Brooklyn

written by **Ed Cardona, Jr.**

directed by **Ana Margineanu**

Join us as we explore Bushwick, recently mentioned in Vogue magazine as one of the 15 hippest neighborhoods in the world. While for the long-term residents it has never been hip, it has definitely always been home. Cardona's play weaves a traditional narrative with a surreal exploration of gentrification inspired by the psychedelic murals that cover the walls of this suddenly trendy neighborhood.

Work in progress showings at Salvation Army & La Luz in Bushwick on April 16th & 17th, 2015
with Brian D. Coats, John J. Concado, Gilbert Cruz, Lucca Damilano, Edna Lee Figueroa,
Vanessa Kai, Reza Salazar

Work in progress showings at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre on May 7th & 9th, 2015
with Brian D. Coats, John J. Concado, Edna Lee Figueroa, Mateo Gómez, Vanessa Kai, Reza Salazar
Stage Managed by AP Andrews and Sarah Devon Ford



Post performance dialogue at Bushwick Salvation Army after *Bamboo in Brooklyn*. Photo by Tuda Sarian.



Top right: John J. Concado, Reza Salazar, Brian D. Coats, Lucca Damilano at Bushwick Salvation Army work-in-progress showing.
Above: Ana Margineanu & Ed Cardona, Jr. conduct outreach in Bushwick at St. Brigid Parish. Photos by Tuda Sarian.

QUEENS PROJECT

Alternating Currents

written by **Adam Kraar**

directed by **Gaye Taylor Upchurch**

When two newly married electricians, Luke and Elena, move to Electchester everything seems perfect: spacious apartment, low rent, friendly neighbors and an incredibly close-knit community. But as they settle in, they discover how much they may need to give up in order to really belong.

Work in progress showings at IBEW Local 3 on April 16th & 17th, 2015
with Michael Braun, Rheume Crenshaw, Brendan Cullen, Abigail Gampel, Keilly McQuail,
Hurbert Point du Jour, Joe Urla

Work in progress showings at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre on May 8th & 9th, 2015
with Michael Braun, Rheume Crenshaw, Abigail Gampel, Lauren Karaman, Clinton Lowe,
Desirée Matthews, Joe Urla
Stage Managed by Danielle Teague-Daniels



Rheume Crenshaw, Keilly McQuail, and Hurbert Point du Jour in work-in-progress showing of *Alternating Currents* at Local 3 IBEW in Queens. Photo by Tuda Sarian.



Top right: Kelly McQuail & Hurbert Point du Jour in IBEW Local 3 work-in-progress showing of *Alternating Currents*. Above: Cast of *Alternating Currents* at Dorothy Strelsin Theatre work-in-progress showing. Photos by Tuda Sarian.

BRONX PROJECT

The Block

written by **Dan Hoyle**

directed by **Maureen Towey**

Experience a day in the life of the South Bronx, where Rick the executive driver is buggin' out 'cause his clients make out in the back seat for longer than the Power 105 Commercial Free Hour, Moe's hat shop doesn't do business like when the gangsters ran the city in the '90s, Charlie's tryin' to get the kids to calm down after last night's shooting, and Eddy, well he won't give the block a moment's quiet and is riling everybody up. Inspired by the organizing work of CASA and conversations with its members and other residents of the South Bronx.

Work in progress showings at New Settlement Apartments on April 24th & 25th, 2015

with Lucca Damilano, Edna Lee Figueroa, Perri Gaffney, Dion Graham, Dan Hoyle, Genesis Oliver, JJ Perez

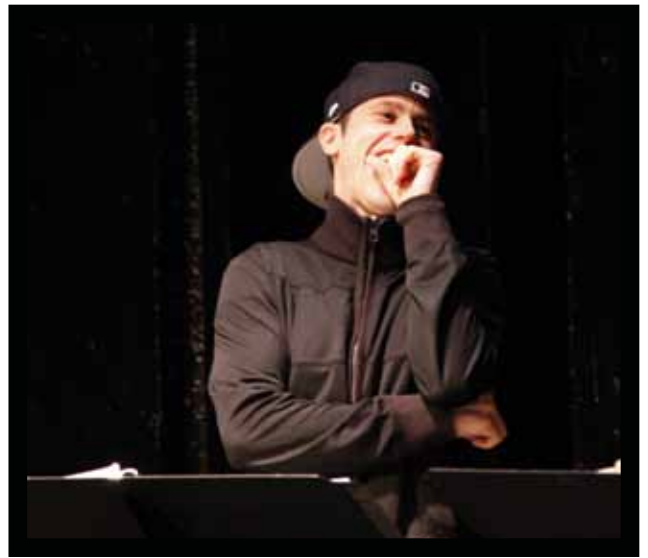
Work in progress showings at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre on May 6th & 9th, 2015

with Lucca Damilano, Perri Gaffney, Dan Hoyle, Russell Jones, Genesis Oliver, Elise Santora

Stage Managed by Sarah Devon Ford



Storycircle at New Settlement Apartments after work-in-progress showing of *The Block*. Photo by Kevin O'Leary.



Top right: Dan Hoyle in work-in-progress showing of *The Block* at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre.
Above: Genesis Oliver in work-in-progress showing of *The Block* at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre. Photos by Tuda Sarian.

MANHATTAN PROJECT

Sanctuary Songs

created by **Caridad Svich, Michael Premo and Rachel Falcone**

Believers and nonbelievers from all walks of life and faith traditions are welcome at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. And in the community of this magnificent cathedral, many people have found home and sanctuary. But in a world of chaos and injustice, what does that mean? This unique project weaves interviews, text, and lyrics with original music by Broken Chord.

Work in progress showings at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine on April 28th & 29th, 2015
with Julie Jesneck, Amirtha Kidambi, Landon Knoblock, Nathan Koci, Aaron Meicht, Shawn Randall

Work in progress showings at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre on May 7th & 9th, 2015
with Julie Jesneck, Amirtha Kidambi, Landon Knoblock, Aaron Meicht, Shawn Randall
Stage Managed by Danielle Teague-Daniels



Work-in-progress showing of *Sanctuary Songs* at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Photo by Kevin O'Leary.



Top right: Julie Jesneck in work-in-progress showing of *Sanctuary Songs* at The Dorothy Strelsin Theatre.
Above: Shawn Randall & Amirtha Kidambi in work-in-progress showing of *Sanctuary Songs*. Photos by Tuda Sarian.

THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY DIRECTORS SALON

curated by Rebecca Martinez,
Nicole A. Watson, Dina Vovsi

The Directors Salon engaged over 70 artists across two weeks of programming designed to give emerging directors the opportunity to work and network.

DISCUSSIONS AND PANELS

We had a full week of events following the kick-off party, beginning with a Directors Roundtable on Tuesday, March 17th. The Roundtable was a relaxed, peer-led discussion with fellow directors on everything from challenges to opportunities.

On Wednesday, March 18th, we hosted a Q&A Panel on the topic of “Not Waiting for the Ask.” We enjoyed an enlightening discussion with Rachel Chavkin (the TEAM), Alec Duffy (JACK), and Daniel Jáquez about creating your own opportunities.



Top photo: Panelists Rachel Chavkin, Alec Duffy, & Daniel Jáquez
Middle photo: Director Driven Night post-show talkback with Mark Plesent, John Michael DiResta, Emma Weinstein, and Jerry Ruiz
Bottom photo: Participants take a break in the lobby of the Wild Project

ALUMNI NIGHT

with special musical guest ANNA/KATE

On Friday, March 20th, we welcomed back past Alumni from the first four years of the Directors Salon & asked them to present work-in-progress excerpts from new pieces.

#liberated directed by Lillian Meredith

created by the ensemble

with Jaki Bradley, Amanda Culp, Zoe Sophia Garcia, Rachel Karp,
Marianna McClellan, Maggie Raymond, Gabby Sherba

who we let in directed by Illana Stein and written by Charly E. Simpson

with Monica Jones, Vanessa Bartlett, Brian Burns

Love, lost and found directed by Daniela Thome, assisted by David Milla

with Rebecca Martinez, Karlin Mendez, David Mila, Richy Nouel,
Arisbeth Pavia, Daniela Thome

Leaf Storm directed by Shana Solomon, assisted by Catherine Gasta

created by the company with Kaitlyn Cantoni, Catherine Gasta, Elijah Laurent,
Adam Pagdon, Vanessa Guinto, Ashley Zimmerman

Here Lies Henry directed by

Emerie Snyder

written by Daniel MacIvor

with Nick Lewis

everything's whispered (for now)

directed by Dina Vovsi

created by the ensemble with

Michael Grew, Amanda Marikar,
Lillian Meredith, Lucinda Rogers,
Tracy Willet

From top left to right: Lillian Meredith, Shana Solomon,
Daniela Thome, ANNA/KATE, Illana Stein, Emerie Snyder,
Dina Vovsi



NIGHT OF DIRECTOR DRIVEN WORK

On Saturday, March 21st, we hosted our popular Night of Director Driven Work. From over 50 applicants, we chose three directors to present 20 minute excerpts of brand new pieces in development. We gave them rehearsal space, a production stipend, tech time, and an audience.

Blood on the Tracks conceived & directed by John Michael DiResta
written by John Michael DiResta, Steve DiUbaldo, and Alec Silberblatt
with Dylan Kammerer, Mia Kang, and Chris Wren
Costume Design by Joey Blaha

El Hoyo written & directed by Jerry Ruiz
conceived by Stephanie Ybarra, inspired by the short stories of Mario Suarez
with Varin Ayala, Sean Carvajal, Jorge Cordova, Zoe Sophia Garcia,
Ana Grosse, and Bobby Plasencia

Come My Beloved written & directed by Emma Weinstein
with Emily Altschul, Justin Weaks, Alex Seife, Hannah Hodson,
Karen Elibacher, and Eleanor Phillips



From left to right: Dennis A. Allen II, J. Julian Christopher, Kevin R. Free, Martyna Majok, Don Nguyen, Jiehae Park, Riti Sachdeva

HAT DIRECTOR NIGHT

On Sunday, March 22nd, we presented seven new plays commissioned by Working Theater based on the prompt “To Serve and Protect.” The directors were chosen out of a hat at random and given a cast of professional actors, rehearsal time, tech time, and an audience.

Commissioned playwrights included:

Dennis A. Allen II | J. Julian Christopher | Kevin R. Free | Martyna Majok
Don Nguyen | Jiehae Park | Riti Sachdeva

Hat Directors included:

Anouk Kemp | Nilan Johnson | Claire Beckman | Alex Mallory
Christopher James Weihert | Jeremy Karafin | Nathaniel P. Claridad

Actors included:

Bradley Anderson | Varin Ayala | Farah Bala | Sheldon Best | Mandi Masden
Rajesh Bosh | Brian D. Coats | Lucy Devito | Jocelyn Kuritsky



Top row from left to right: Anouk Kemp, Nilan Johnson, Claire Beckman, Alex Mallory, Christopher James Weihert, Jeremy Karafin
Bottom row from left to right: Natalie Gershstein, Nathaniel P. Claridad

THEATERWORKS!

For our 30th Season, we hosted a session of our 16-week playwriting and performance class taught by playwright Joe Roland at 32BJ SEIU. The classes culminated in free, staged reading style performances where the students were joined by professional actors and directors. This season's performances were all held at The Wild Project, 195 East 3rd Street, New York, NY

THE PLAYS:

Bite Nite by Peter Mergel

By the Book by Peter Mergel

Everything Must Go by Michael D. O'Hara

Jimmy's Game by Carlos Cotto

Manny by Julian Pimiento

SPECIAL GUEST ACTORS:

Kaliswa Brewster, Bill Buell, Johnny Zito



The Building Service 32BJ Thomas Shortman Training, Scholarship and Safety Fund (Shortman Fund) provides training to eligible members of Local 32BJ in English as a Second Language, industry skills, and computer skills. It also provides college and graduate scholarships to eligible members and their eligible dependents. For more information call the Training Center at (212) 388-3701 or visit <http://www.32bjfunds.org>

Hector J. Figueroa,

Chairman, Building Service 32BJ Benefit Funds and President, 32BJ SEIU

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Kyle Bragg, Secretary-Treasurer, 32BJ SEIU

Howard I. Rothschild, Secretary, Building Service 32BJ Benefit Funds

Susan Cowell, Executive Director, Building Service 32BJ Benefit Funds

Linda Nelson, Director of the Thomas Shortman Training, Scholarship and Safety Fund

TO THE BONE BENEFIT

On September 16th, 2014, we presented our constituents with a benefit performance of Cherry Lane Theater's production of Lisa Ramirez's *To the Bone*, followed by a post-show reception with the playwright and cast. The play was originally commissioned and developed by Working Theater and went on to be placed on the prestigious Kilroys list.

To the Bone played at The Cherry Lane Theater from September 9 - October 4, 2014 and was directed by Lisa Peterson.



Top Right: Lisa Ramirez & Mark Present at *To the Bone* benefit.
Above: Cast and team of Cherry Lane Theater's production of *To the Bone*

2015 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY



Stuart Appelbaum gives a speech at the 2015 Annual Awards Ceremony

Working Theater's 2015 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY honored STUART APPELBAUM, Executive Vice President, United Food and Commercial Workers and President, Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union, UFCW for bridging the gap between the arts, labor, and community on Monday, April 13th, 2015 at Sardi's Restaurant and featured cocktails, dinner, dessert, a silent auction, and a special performance of excerpts from *Factory Girls*.

VIP Tables:

Belluck & Fox
UFCW Local 2013
UFCW Local 342

Patron Tables:

OPEIU
RWDSU

VIP Tickets:

Administrative Services Only

Patron Tickets:

Eisner & Associates, P.C.

Tickets and Ads:

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Association of Benefit
Administrators
Robert Arcaro
Peter Bernstein,
Segal Co
Council of School
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Administrators
Robert Croghan,
Organization of Staff

Analysts
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IBEW Local 3
Fusco, Brandenstein
& Rada, P.C
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And a very special thank you to our Silent Auction Donors:

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Sardi's
Sea Oak Golf Club

Eleanor Tilson
The Vineyard Theatre
Veronica Carrero
West Bank Café

Our generous friends and volunteers:

Cheryl Asher, Rodger Belknap, Connie Coddington, Zachary Moody, Grace Song, Susan Wilson



All 2015 Annual Awards Ceremony photos by Tuda Sarian

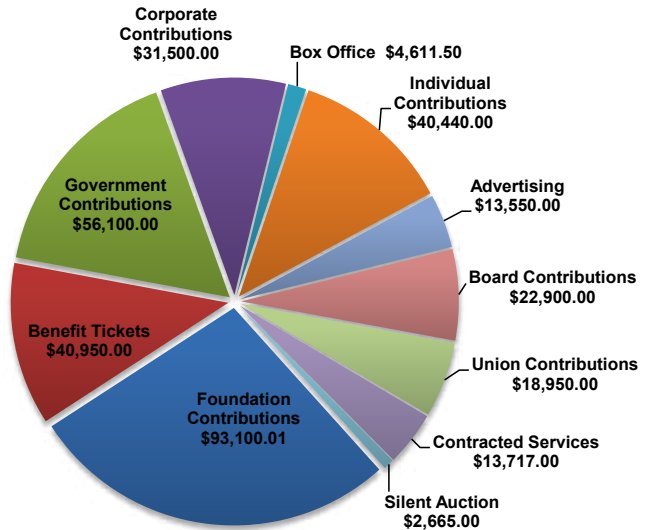


FINANCES

The Working Theater Co., Inc
July 2014 to June 2015

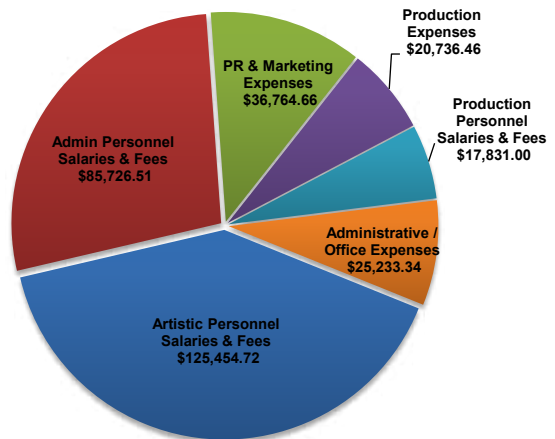
INCOME

Foundation Contributions	\$	93,100.01
Benefit Tickets	\$	40,950.00
Government Contributions	\$	56,100.00
Corporate Contributions	\$	31,500.00
Box Office	\$	4,611.50
Individual Contributions	\$	40,440.00
Advertising	\$	13,550.00
Board Contributions	\$	22,900.00
Union Contributions	\$	18,950.00
Contracted Services	\$	13,717.00
Silent Auction	\$	2,665.00
TOTAL	\$	338,483.51



EXPENSES

Artistic Personnel Salaries & Fees	\$	125,454.72
Admin Personnel Salaries & Fees	\$	85,726.51
PR & Marketing Expenses	\$	36,764.66
Production Expenses	\$	20,736.46
Production Personnel Salaries & Fees	\$	17,831.00
Administrative / Office Expenses	\$	25,233.34
Total	\$	311,746.69



SUPPORTERS

Working Theater is extremely grateful to all of the individuals, foundations, and companies that have supported our 30th Season!

(FY 2015: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015)

Platinum Sponsor:

MagnaCare

Gold Sponsors:

CWA Local 1180 | EmblemHealth
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George Bueno
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Connie Grappo

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Eleanor Tilson
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Roslyn Yasser

Working Theater STAFF

Mark Plesent: Producing Artistic Director

B.J. Evans: Managing Director

Adam Thompson: Development Consultant

Joe Roland and **Joseph White**: Educational Program Directors

Rebecca Martinez, **Dina Vovsi**, and **Nicole Watson**: Directors Salon Curators

Grace Song and **Sara Neier**: Administrative & Literary Interns

SPECIAL THANKS

to our friends and volunteers who donated their time and resources this season:

Cheryl Asher, **Rodger Belknap**, **Sarah Levine**, **Rebecca Martinez**,
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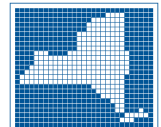
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