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November 20, 2011

Dear BAPT supporters,

Sure as the seasons turn, BAPT continues to grow and bring Playback Theatre to audiences near and far. The company is entering its *10th season*, and we are thrilled to report that we are busier than ever. (Almost time to quit our full time jobs!). With our 12-person team of New York City's finest actor-activists, we have a full roster this fall of visiting schools, universities, hospitals, and social service agencies. Here is a sampling from our 2011 journey. This year we performed for:

- *JFK Airport's Custom and Border protection agents for their "family heritage" day*
- *Parent Advisory Work Group (PAWG) where foster care and birth parents came together to connect and tell their stories*
- *NYU's School of Medicine for the medical students around issues of patient empathy, body image and obesity*
- *ACS's (Administration for Children's Services) Department of Youth and Family Justice about the new changes in the foster care system*
- *Fanwood Library (Fanwood, NJ) at an outdoor family show*
- *Westchester Family Services Youth Summit at Pace University*
- *St. Luke's Hospital psychiatric resident doctors around the theme of violence at the workplace*

We also continue to bring our anti-bullying *Keep the Peace!* program to schools throughout the metropolitan area. This year we have KTP programming in the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Chappaqua, Garrison, Bronxville, New Rochelle and Mt. Vernon. This unique and effective program (created by Hudson River Playback Theatre) creates a space for youth and adolescents to dialogue about issues and experiences of bullying using Playback and also role-playing. We know how pressing the problems of exclusion, name-calling, and other kinds of harassment are at schools right now and we are happy to be able to contribute something toward the solution.

Finally, BAPT members continue to move forward on their personal journeys towards anti-oppression by deepening our education around issues of racism and other kinds of oppression. We are a very diverse team (ethnically, spiritually, socio-economically, gender and age-wise, etc.) and in our rehearsals, we are looking squarely at our own prejudices and misconceptions by telling our stories and engaging in honest dialogue. This work is hard, but necessary. As Dr. King said, "the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice."

In these hard economic times, it is because of donations from supporters like you that we are able to keep the *BAPTmobile* on the road visiting the many organizations and schools who cannot otherwise afford us. If you can help us again this year, we would be most grateful. Every dollar counts. If you are able, make a tax-deductible donation payable to **The Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc. earmarked for "Big Apple Playback Theatre"** and send to: BAPT, 50 Poplar Place, New Rochelle, NY, 10805. Any dollar amount, from \$25-\$25,000, will be put to good use and is tax-deductible. We certainly appreciate it and so do the communities we serve.

Happy holidays & Thank you!!

Hannah & Erica and the BAPT crew

P.S. You can also make a secure credit card donation to BAPT at PAYPAL https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=WJ929GXR6R9DG

Words from our clients:

*For one of our lessons we were fortunate to get the **Big Apple Playback Theatre** to come and perform their anti-bullying skit. Their improvisation was incredible; they took the students' real life bullying experiences and re-enacted them. During the course of two 45-minute performances the BAPT allowed the students to act along side on stage. Through the performance the students saw that bullying is hurtful, they also learned strategies that will help them stop bullies in the future. The performances were remarkable and exceeded every expectation. Not only did the students enjoy themselves, but they also learned valuable lessons about bullying that will remain with them throughout life. Thank you so much Big Apple Playback Theater for coming to P.S. 154X and making a difference in the lives of our students.*

Tereva Bundy, Corps Member, City Year New York at P.S.154X

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude for all the hard work and effort you expended to bring our initial C²¹ Interclerkship Intensive/Intersession to fruition. Without your commitment to excellence the Interclerkship Intensive/Intersession effort would not have been a success. We are most grateful for your important contributions on behalf of our students to create anew, a learning experience that pushed the boundaries of medical education. On behalf of the Office of Medical Education we thank you for participating in this C²¹ curricular initiative and we look forward to your future engagement in C²¹.

Laura Srebnik, on behalf of New York University Langone School of Medicine

BAPT was what was needed for the group. At a pace that was respectful and measured, BAPT took the group to a place where they listened to each other something that they rarely do in their workspace. BAPT showed them what it looks like to value each other through the gift of listening. BAPT gave them a mirror to see themselves. Your work was very facilitative to what I was up to with them. They expressed their fears in small groups and they got in touch with who they are without the fears. And in their words they got to speak of themselves as fearless. Thank you to BAPT. I acknowledge your gifts.

Dr. Willie Tolliver, Leadership Transformation Group

Yes, I would like to support the efforts of *Big Apple Playback Theatre*.

Your tax deductible contribution will help us cover:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 = Toward printing costs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 = 1 workshop at a homeless shelter
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 = Props and costumes	<input type="checkbox"/> \$800 = Website maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 = Travel to performances	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 = 1 performance for an organization
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 = 1 month rent for rehearsal space	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 6,000 = KTP Residency in a school
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 = Actor salary for one year

Please make checks payable to: "THE FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT ARTISTS, INC. "
and earmark the check "For Big Apple Playback Theatre"

**Send to: Erica Itzkowitz
Managing Director/BAPT
50 Poplar Place
New Rochelle, NY 10805**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____