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Not only has the home at 435 80th St. been demolished, but now this century-old tree, (what's left of it) was chopped down piece by piece this week.

TREE YOU LATER

80th St. nabes watch as old tree is felled

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

As developers continued to work out kinks surrounding the aesthetics of a controversial new condominium being built on the site of a recently razed 100-year-old house on 80th Street, contractors this week finished chopping away at a towering London Plain tree in the yard.

While the exact age won't be determined until its rings can be counted, the tree is widely believed to be more than 100 years old. Some neighbors, like Bay Ridge merchant and Community Board 10 member Greg Ahl, who grew up in the old house that used to stand at 435 80th St., believe the 80-foot-tall sycamore was even older.

"I don't think there's any tree with a better track record for a street tree than the London Plain," said Bill Logan, the president of Urban Arborists, who added that such trees can live up to 350 years. The tree was so large that it took lumberjacks five days to completely chop it down and teams of 10 or more were needed for the job. While two or three were lifted to branches 40 feet above, a ground crew worked below.

"It's a science to watch these men take the tree down," Peg Parker, a member of the 80th Street Block Association who lives next door to

the site, said on Tuesday. "But now it's completely down and they're sawing it up in pieces." Despite neighborhood outrage over the summer after developer Joseph Cammarata announced that he had secured a demolition permit for the old house, the newest twist to happen to historic 80th Street hardly registered a peep.

Residents between Fourth and Fifth avenues rose in opposition to Cammarata's purchase of the house. The sale even sparked a bidding war between Ahl, who sought to reclaim it, and Rosemarie O'Keefe, a former Giuliani commissioner and City Council candidate who also sought to buy it back from Cammarata.

Now, however, most residents are coming to terms with the multiple-unit condominium. "We're making the best of it," said Parker, who added that Cammarata had agreed to install a skylight on her house because of the sunlight his condominium will block. "They seem to be interested in doing a very good job," she said.

Indeed, members of the 80th Street Block Association met last week with Councilman Vincent Gentile and Cammarata to discuss the finer points of the condominium, which is expected to be completed by June. According to Parker, members voted on the color of brick to be used. See **TREE FALLS** on page 5

Bridge 'builder' gets due

13th Av. span named for Dominick Sabatino

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Some 70 years ago, Dominick Sabatino owned a grocery store and deli in Borough Park. There, on the corner of 59th Street and 13th Avenue, the self-made merchant, an Italian immigrant known in the neighborhood for his handlebar moustache, sold salami and prosciutto by the pound.

Problem was, a gulch separating 61st and 62nd streets was scaring business away. White avenues on either side straddled the dirt-filled gap, motorists traveling 13th Avenue ended up at a dead end, an oversight that left some unsuspecting drivers skidding



Joseph Sabatino, 96, son of Dominick Sabatino, holds sign honoring his father. With him is his son, Robert.

down off-road terrain. To Sabatino the butcher, this was pure bologna. So he spent seven years lobbying city officials to build a bridge over the divide.

In 1937, the city built it. Seven decades later, they named it after the businessman who, born 133 years ago, nudged it into reality. On Nov. 22, a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon, Councilman Vincent Gentile and a slew of Sabatino's relatives gathered on the corner of 61st Street and 13th Avenue to celebrate their patriarch's compelling life and contributions to his community. A street sign on the northwest corner was unveiled. It reads, "Dominick Sabatino Bridge-1937."

See **BRIDGE** on page 6

Scorsese: Re-open Lady Liberty

By Verena Dobnik
Associated Press

Martin Scorsese on Tuesday offered his moviemaking talent to a campaign aimed at reopening the Statue of Liberty to the public.

The director is to produce and narrate a television documentary on Lady Liberty to air in January, as part of a fund-raising campaign for new security measures.

The federal government has spent millions on upgrades, but about \$5 million of work must still be done before visitors can climb the 151-foot-high statue.

The Statue of Liberty National Monument, a 58-acre island in New York Harbor, was closed to the public immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The island was reopened in December 2001, after airport-type metal

detectors were installed to screen visitors boarding the ferry from lower Manhattan. But the statue itself has remained closed.

Planned upgrades to the statue include fire and emergency notification systems and more exits from the monument.

Once the security improvements are made, the National Park Service must ask Interior Secretary Gale Norton for permission to reopen the

statue to visitors. No timetable has been set.

On Tuesday, American Express pledged at least \$3 million to The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, which is overseeing the project. After the terrorist attack, the company's offices in the World Financial Center were vacated for nine months.

The coffee-maker Folgers also has pledged funding for the campaign.

TROLLEY WAR



Trolley cars owned by Bob Diamond sit dormant in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Who'll return streetcars to B'klyn roads?

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

When the city put an end to the dream of a trolley linking Red Hook to Downtown Brooklyn this year, nobody thought the borough would ever hear the clattering of trolleys again.

Now news that the planners of Brooklyn Bridge Park are considering a trolley that would take visitors around the planned waterfront development has not only sparked interest, it has started a war.

The two combatants, who each have proposed plans for a trolley line that would encircle the park and connect to surrounding neighborhoods, were briefly partners in the Red Hook trolley plan.

On one side is Bob Diamond, a Brooklyn Heights resident and transit buff who has dreamed of bringing trolleys back to Brooklyn for the past 20 years. Diamond, who says he has, over the years, put nearly \$300,000 of his own money into the plans, came close to realizing his vision when his organization, the Brooklyn Historic Railway Association (BHRA), won city approval and public funds to lay tracks connecting Red Hook to Atlantic Avenue.

Those plans fell through and Diamond is now trying to push for a trolley around the planned park. See **TROLLEY** on page 5

Red Hook's Ikea ready to hire

Despite lack of approval, employment policy already in place

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Ikea may still be a year or more away from winning city approval to build a Red Hook store, but that hasn't stopped the Swedish furniture manufacturer from announcing its hiring policy to fill the approximately 600 jobs they expect the store to create.

In letters sent to more than 1,000 residents, community groups, civic leaders and news outlets, Ikea announced its "one-of-a-kind, Red Hook-specific" policy for new hires, which focuses on neighborhood residents.

As part of that plan, Ikea has committed to only accept applications at the Red Hook site — at Columbia and Van Brunt streets — and to open up the hiring process to residents in the



The plan for an Ikea on the Erie Basin.

11231 ZIP code two weeks before the general public. The company has also said it will host job fairs to prepare Red Hook residents to apply.

While Ikea supporters touted the stated hiring policy this week, claiming

INSIDE THE PAPER

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Independence buys S.I. Bank

The Associated Press
Brooklyn-based Independence Community Bank Corp. agreed to acquire Staten Island Bancorp Inc. for \$1.5 billion in stock and cash in a move to expand in the competitive New York and New Jersey banking market.

Under the agreement, expected to close in the spring, Independence will pay \$369

million in cash plus about 29 million shares for Staten Island Bancorp.

The offer values each Staten Island Bancorp share at about 0.62 of an Independence share, or \$23.88, based on Independence's Friday closing stock price of \$38.32.

That is a premium of 19 percent to Friday's closing price for Staten Island Bancorp shares of \$20.08, and a 16 percent premium to Monday's closing price of \$20.58.

News of the deal sent shares of the acquired company, which is based in Staten Island, up \$2.15, or 10.4 percent, to \$22.73 in Tuesday morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Shares of Independence Community Bank fell \$2.04, or 5.3 percent, to \$36.67 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The deal will create a combined banking company with

assets of about \$17 billion and 116 full-service branches.

Independence expects the merged company to have a loan portfolio of about \$9 billion, with 60 percent derived from commercial loans, plus a deposit base of about \$9 billion.

The merged bank will have 51 branches in New Jersey, plus additional locations in Staten Island and Brooklyn.

The branches of the com-

bined bank on Staten Island will operate under the S.I. Bank & Trust name as a unit of Independence.

Independence Community Bank expects the deal to add more than 3 percent to its anticipated 2004 earnings per share, and 8 percent to projected 2005 earnings.

For 2002, Independence earned \$2.24 a share. Staten Island Bancorp posted net income of \$1.72 a share.

ADVERTISER FOCUS

A new hotel on Hamilton



The new Brooklyn Motor Inn on Hamilton Avenue near the Battery Tunnel.

There's a new hotel in Brooklyn... and it's not the Marriott.

The Brooklyn Motor Inn, located near the toll plaza of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, opened last week at 140 Hamilton Ave. near Woodhull Street in Red Hook.

With 60 guestrooms and lots of parking available, residents of Brownstone Brooklyn can go ahead and invite their families and friends for the holidays, knowing they'll have a close and safe place to accommodate them.

Rooms are small but comfortably and attractively appointed, renting for \$110 per night plus tax.

Security is a feature that manager Sal Faronese is proud of. Surveillance cameras are aimed in all public areas at all times, and no one but the guests themselves are allowed up to the rooms. All food deliveries must be picked up from the lobby.

In addition to the 25 indoor and four outdoor parking spaces, Van Brunt Street, along the rear of the hotel, is available for parking daily after 5 pm.

Faronese expects business to come from many different quarters. Construction companies with crews doing work locally are housing their workers at the motor inn, and they are already accommodating overflow from the Marriott in Downtown Brooklyn and the Best Western (formerly Comfort Inn) in Bay Ridge. Visiting sports teams and performance staff for venues like BAM, and Faronese's connections with the transportation and cruise industries, will likely bring additional guests.

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62/68 BLOTTER

Man, 65, killed on Fourth Ave

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

A man was struck and killed by a car while walking in the intersection of 86th Street and Fourth Avenue.

The Nov. 22 accident happened around 3 a.m. as the 65-year-old man was crossing the street. The driver of the car, who was not charged with a crime, was driving southbound on Fourth Avenue, according to police reports.

Police say a witness reported seeing the victim staggering near the sidewalk just before stepping from the curb, where he was hit as the driver proceeded with a green light. The man had apparently walked to the curb from the 86th Street R-line subway station, police said.

According to Deputy Inspector Matthew Pontillo, commanding officer of the 68th Precinct, the driver passed a Breathalyzer test, was driving within the speed limit and had no previous traffic infractions.

Police declined to give further details until the victim's family was notified.

BB gun sniper

A 40-year-old Bay Ridge woman armed with a BB gun inflicted some serious pain on an innocent passerby and two police officers on Nov. 22.

Perched from the window of her home on Ridge Boulevard at 72nd Street sometime around 3 a.m., the woman allegedly aimed at, and hit, a 37-year-old man in the head as he exited the driver's seat of a friend's car.

The man was rushed to Lutheran Medical Center, but the gunplay wasn't over yet. When cops arrived on the scene, the woman allegedly shot at them, too. Neither officer was reported injured.

Police arrested the suspect and say she expressed surprise at all the fuss, reportedly admitting that she fired the shots but protesting that "it was only a BB gun."

Wild ride

A 13-year-old boy waiting in a running car was taken on a brief, but wild, ride Oct. 21.

Police say the boy was sitting in the backseat of the car, parked on 86th Street at Bay 29 Street, while his older brother ran into a store on 86th Street. All of a sudden, a 27-year-old man hopped into the driver's seat.

Before the boy had a chance to react, the car-jacker drove a block and then, after slapping him and punching him about the head, tossed the kid out of the car. He drove a little further before cops caught up to him and made an arrest.

Inside job?

Police are hunting for a suspect in the Nov. 7 burglary at a clothing store on 86th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

The incident, which took place around 6 p.m., happened after somebody entered a safe and took off with \$1,241 in cash and \$103 in checks. Police say no arrests have yet been made.

Seek stabber

Police are searching for a thug who stabbed a 21-year-old man on the corner of 64th Street and 19th Avenue on Nov. 22 at around 11 p.m.

Described by police as 5-foot-9 and 190 pounds, the 25-year-old man fled on foot after stabbing the man in the right side of the neck with a small knife.

Unhappy return

A Bay Ridge woman came home from work to discover that her apartment was in the process of being burglarized.

The 35-year-old woman returned to her Ovington Avenue at Fifth Avenue home around 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 18, but stopped short of the door after she heard rustling. As she ran inside, she heard the burglar crawling out the window, which she had left open earlier that morning.

Police say the bandit fled with a Dell laptop computer.

Rides off

A woman's bike was swiped right from under her nose.

Police say the woman, 25, watched as a man casually rode away from her backyard with her prized Mongoose mountain bike. It was only later, however, that she realized that it was indeed her bike, stolen from her garage on 73rd Street between 13th and 14th avenues at around 11:15 p.m.

The woman also reported to police that the bike thief fled with two other objects in his hands. What they were, however, she couldn't really say.

No protection

Ignoring an order of protection, an 18-year-old man was arrested after storming into his mother's home and allegedly beating the 50-year-old woman with a stick.

The man began whacking his mother on the leg and arm, say police, causing bruising and bumps. Police could not say why the order of protection had been issued. The Nov. 22 incident happened around 6 p.m. at the mother's home on 70th Street at 19th Avenue.

Dry-cleaned out

A dry cleaning business on 11th Avenue at 66th Street was robbed Nov. 19 after the owner closed up shop for the night sometime around 8 p.m. When he arrived the next morning, he discovered \$400 in cash missing from the register and an exhaust vent forced open near the side of the building.

See **BLOTTER** on page 4

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9-11 exhibit focuses on landfill recovery

By Deepti Hajela
Associated Press

For hour after hour, day after day, month after month, they kept at it.

From the original mountains of debris down to the last quarter-inch, workers at the Fresh Kills landfill sifted through 1.8 tons from the decimated World Trade Center over 10 months, looking to recover whatever they could.

Some of what they found, from car parts to building remnants, makes up an exhibit chronicling the massive effort. "Recovery: The World Trade Center Recovery Operation at Fresh Kills" opened at the New York Historical Society in Manhattan on Tuesday and runs through March 21.

The exhibit — featuring more than 50 objects and 65 photographs — is part of "History Responds," the institution's program that collects historical materials relating to the 9-11 attacks.

The work at Fresh Kills, miles from Ground Zero and closed to the general public, is an important part of the 9-11 story that most people don't know about, organizers said.

"I don't think people have a good sense of the extraordinary lengths to which every single worker there went to find human remains, personal property, anything to bring some comfort to the families who lost people on Sept. 11," said Amy Weinstein, assistant curator at the Historical Society.

"It's a glimpse of something that very few people see," said Mark Schaming, director of exhibitions for the New York State Museum, which put the exhibit together. "It's a remarkable thing, the extent that they went to. They sorted things down to the size of a dime."

The items in the show range from a paperweight found during the sifting process to vehicle parts and the equipment, like rakes and a bucket, used to do the searching.

There are doors from a fire engine and the trunk lid from a destroyed police car; remnants of elevator floor numbers and a beam from the twin towers.

There are pieces of fuselage and a seat belt from the airplanes that crashed into the buildings. There's also a slew of small items, like keys, found in the rubble.

The photographs record the daily activities at the site, from the huge piles that had to be sorted, to images of those who worked there, spending hours at conveyor belts watching for the smallest fragment of something vital to come by.

Closed by the city in March 2001, Fresh Kills was re-opened a day after 9-11. The landfill was the last stop for debris hauled by trucks and barges to be sifted one last time for remains, personal property and criminal evidence.

At the height of the operation, 7,000 tons of material were processed each day as workers in respirators manned conveyor belts, poised to stop the flow when they spotted a bone fragment or other remains. More than 54,000 pieces of personal property, including rings, watches, wal-

lets and ID cards, were found.

Of the nearly 20,000 human remains recovered from the twisted ruins, more than 1,400 were found at the landfill, the city medical examiner's office has said.

"I hope that the families see this, that they understand the amount of detail and concern

that was put forth to recover their loved ones, to recover their personal property, and that's basically what the whole thing is about," said Police Inspector James Luongo, the site commander.

The show is a collaboration between the Historical Society and the New York State Museum

in Albany, which has a permanent collection of artifacts related to 9-11. Many of the items in this exhibition have already been shown there, and the show will be traveling. It has already been seen in Cleveland, and is slated to go to Cleburne, Texas; Buffalo, N.Y., and Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Cops nab bank manager in theft

The Brooklyn Papers

An assistant manager at a North Fork Bank branch in Bensonhurst was arrested Tuesday, authorities

said, on charges that over the course of a year she transferred more than \$30,000 into her private savings account.

Giovanna DiStefano, 38, was charged Nov. 18 with petty larceny, attempted grand larceny and grand larceny, according to a complaint filed by the Brooklyn District Attor-

ney's Office.

A security investigator for the branch on Avenue U at West Sixth Street had caught wind of her alleged scheme, which involved moving loans from one account to another and then financing a passbook account, according to the district attorney's complaint.

On Sept. 5, 2002, DiStefano debited \$22,500 from loans

and \$2,500 from a customer's account, the complaint states. She allegedly used her gains to fund a savings book account, according to the report. Likewise, she moved more than \$7,050 in December, the complaint alleges.

"My understanding is that she's speaking with the bank and working things out," said Martin Marshak, her attorney.

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BLOTTER...

Continued from page 3
Demands raise

A man who'd been employed at an auto repair shop for all of two days apparently thought it was time for a raise around quitting time on Nov. 20.

But cops say that when the owner of the business on Bay 37th Street at Bath Avenue refused, the 25-year-old Bensonhurst man allegedly took the law into his own hands, which were strapped with brass knuckles. The owner told police the man struck him with his brass-knuckled fists after demanding "more money." The incident occurred at 5 pm.

No arrests had been made at press time.

Bar snack

Things might have turned out differently for two Bay Ridge men had the bar they were visiting served snacks.

Instead of pretzels, however, a 53-year-old woman had to settle for flesh, and that, cops say, is what got her arrested on Nov. 23.

The alleged man-eater, who by day is a school safety agent, bit one of the men on the back, police say, which caused bleeding and swelling. After allegedly punching the other man in the face, the safety agent bit his hand.

Dinner started sometime around 8:30 at a bar on 86th Street near Gelston Avenue. What caused the woman to attack, however, is still unclear.

64th St. stab

An altercation on the corner of 64th Street and 19th Avenue turned bloody after a 25-year-old man revealed a knife and then stabbed a 21-year-old man Oct. 22 at around 11 pm.

After the stabbing, the man fled in an unknown direction by foot, say cops, who wouldn't say how the fight began.

Got in middle

A man was stabbed in the left shoulder and chest after intervening in a fight between a man and a woman on the corner of 11th Avenue and 67th Street.

Although the 24-year-old was treated at Victory Memorial Hospital, he refused to cooperate with police, who say the man was drunk and unwilling to press charges or provide any details about his attacker.

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TROLLEY WAR RAGES DOWNTOWN...

Continued from page 1
Brooklyn Bridge Park that would also connect to Borough Hall in Downtown Brooklyn.

On the other side is Arthur Melnick, a former BIRA spokesman who had a falling out with Diamond and left to form the Brooklyn City Streetcar Company Inc., which has already submitted a detailed, five-page proposal to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC), the agency formed to build the park.

But according to Diamond, that proposal is based on information, maps and plans stolen off of his computers.

"Brooklyn City Streetcar is a sham consisting of stolen documents," said Diamond, who said he fired Melnick after catching him downloading documents and printing files in the dead of night.

"We're the ones who came up with the idea way back when," said Diamond. "Basi-

cally, anything they have was stolen off our computers."

Diamond also accuses Melnick of spreading a rumor that he was dead, plotting to steal his dozen trolleys stored at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and being a "corporate trader with some murky political connections to the Brooklyn 'machines' and to Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr., who heads the Kings County Democratic Committee."

Melnick, a Midwood native who met Diamond two years ago when he stumbled upon his Red Hook office while following some of the trolley track that Diamond had laid, said he was shocked by the accusation.

"Calling these [allegations] absurd is being very mild," said Melnick. "These are out of this world."

"What can I say if there is no semblance of truth? He's getting further and further away with each story," Melnick said.

As for his political ties, Melnick said he knows Borough President Marty Markowitz from his tenure as a tenant advocate, but he's never met Norman.

"It's this kind of behavior that led us to leave the project," Melnick said.

While both men have a passion for old trolley cars, they have differing views on how to run an organization. The split left a bad taste in Diamond's mouth, who said he is prepared to sue Melnick's company if they use any of his plans.

Diamond purchased 16 trolley cars, but 11 of those are sitting in storage at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which, because of lack of payment, now considers them abandoned.

And Independence Community Bank has a lien on the cars for \$85,000, according to Diamond, who took out loans to buy them.

While Brooklyn City Street Car does not own any trolleys, Melnick and his partner, Jan Lorenzen, say they can get some from Milan, Italy, and Philadelphia.

BIRA has already plunked more than \$800,000 in public and private funding into the Red Hook trolley idea, according to Diamond, who received more than \$300,000 in federal funds and \$50,000 from the City Council. Dia-



Bob Diamond with one of his vintage trolleys.

Corporation, told The Brooklyn Papers this week. Moogan said he has discussed trolley plans with both Diamond and Melnick. He was not sure if the agency would have to put out a request for proposals before it hired a contractor to build a line.

Two years ago, Rep. Nydia Velazquez secured \$1 million in federal funding to study transportation and access issues at the park.

"If the question is one or the other, she's not taking sides," said Velazquez spokeswoman Wendy Belzer when asked about the Melnick versus Diamond debate. "She is committed to not one group but a good idea, the idea of making something that works well and works for the community."

Assemblywoman Joan Millman is also a proponent of the trolley project and has even sent a letter of support on behalf of Melnick's proposal.

"I am very enthusiastic about the possibility of returning trolley cars to the streets of Brooklyn," Millman said. While Diamond continues to seethe over the alleged betrayal by Melnick, he is also moving ahead with his life-long dream.

As for Melnick, he says he just wants to put the whole dispute behind him and a find a way to make the proposed trolley route a reality.

TREE FALLS...

Continued from page 1
which would be made to look like old-fashioned brownstone.

"When you go carpet shopping, you have a book with different patterns," said Scott Gastel, a spokesman for Gentile. "We went through books looking at brick colors."

In keeping with the style of the neighborhood, the condominium will appear connected to the other houses on the block, said Parker. But as a three-level, six-family structure, the new addition will extend one level higher than the buildings around it.

Block association members agreed at the meeting that the western side of the condominium closest to Parker will feature bricks called "Winter Rose," a standard red color. Bricks on the eastern side, would be "Desert-blend," or beige.

"We didn't want the block to be in this position," said Gastel. "The councilman's first choice was always to keep the house. But it's a sign of the council and the community working together. You don't know what would've been built had it not been for the community input."

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Overweight?

BRIDGE...

Continued from page 1

"Today we do something that publicly should have been done long ago," said Gentile, who helped organize the bridge naming after Sabatino's grandson Dominick approached him and community boards 11 and 12.

Sabatino came to New York as a 10-year-old in 1880 from Foggia, a villa 162 miles from Rome in southeastern Italy. Through a master butcher for most of his life, he earned his first American dollar cutting hair in the basement of the building that eventually became his deli, which he named

Sabatino's.

"I used to sit and curl his moustache," said Cathy Fanto, a great granddaughter. "He was a gorgeous looking man."

In fact, Sabatino was a jack-of-all-trades. He built grandfather clocks from scratch, said relatives, and also picked ragtime on the guitar while his musically inclined family filled the rhythm section. His wife, Mary, played the concertina, a small, accordion-like instrument. Another relative played the harp.

"Everyone in the family played an instrument," said Anthony Sabatino, a great

grandson who lives in Staten Island. "When we had parties, we never hired a band."

More importantly, however, Sabatino was a member of the 13th Avenue Merchants Association, which explains his interest in building a bridge that would connect consumers to his deli and other businesses on the block.

The 200-foot bridge is, itself, nondescript — solid-concrete, four-lanes and walled in by olive-gray barriers. Today, the gulch it traverses carries the N subway line. Built for \$200,000, it yearly connects 6,893 drivers north of 62nd Street on 13th Avenue to the Amico Senior Center, a Pathmark supermarket and, at the spot where Sabatino's deli

once stood, the 59th Street Supermarket, according to the city Department of Transportation.

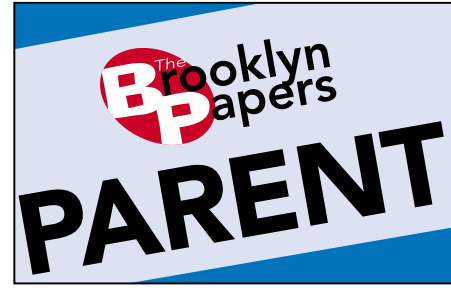
In 2007, the Dominick Sabatino Bridge will undergo a \$741,000 reconstruction project.

Dominick Sabatino, the grandson, died last year that his grandfather needed to be memorialized. But because the bridge straddles Bensonhurst and Borough Park, he had to convince both community boards that naming the bridge after his grandfather, who died while Dwight Eisenhower was still president, would be worth the effort. But unlike his grandfather, who struggled for eight years and through three borough presi-

dents to win approval for the bridge, the younger Dominick's proposal was met with unanimous excitement.

The announcement Saturday was met with raucous applause from a crowd of nearly a hundred Brooklynites who listened as Frank Pedulla's Italian Band performed classic ragtime. Conspicuously, however, the crowd was overtaken by Sabatino's relatives, many of whom sojourned from Washington, D.C., upstate New York and as far away as Oregon.

At least 20 family members attended, many of them employed as police officers, firefighters and, in one case, the Federal Bureau of Investiga-



Invisible handicap leaves some kids out of sync

Q: "My granddaughter, 12, can't sit any little repetitive thing like crunching on Cheerios or tapping fingers. It must drive her crazy inside. She is fussy at her siblings all the time to stop. This has gone on for years. What can we do?"

A: Cheerios crunching. Cheerios crunching. Cheerios crunching. She eats snacks and nibbles at dinner, and my daughter usually says, "If you don't eat, you cannot have dessert." She has yelled back at her mother. "If you don't give me dessert, I'm going to kill you." At a friend's house, the boy did eat but accepted he wasn't getting dessert. My granddaughter didn't accept it and started a big scene. How can my daughter handle the not eating and the anger? — a grandmother

What does help: Peace of mind to get there, reduce the stimuli that bombard your child's senses every day, says Kranowitz, who spent several years as a preschool teacher puzzling out quirky behaviors.

A preschool teacher realized a bright 3-year-old boy in her class tuned in at reading time, but tuned out during clapping games at circle and music time. To him, silence truly was golden. Now 4 years old, he's in occupational therapy to help his central nervous system regulate incoming sounds.

What kids lack in today's overloaded lifestyles: Quiet zones. Not just a reduced noise level but a calmness that comes with jumping on a trampoline with nowhere to be or bear hugs from Dad without his cell phone or rolling down hills at a nearby park.

Seek out ways to cut the noise level in your home. All the senses will settle down toward what Kranowitz calls a "just-right state" with less noise and lots of movement such as climbing and jumping to stimulate joints and muscles.

"It's annoying to be so annoyed over what other people think is minor," says a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, grandmother who is particularly bothered by the crunching of chips or popcorn, and gum smacking.

As with many problems, the concern is a matter of degree: Is my child's hypersensitivity interfering with her daily life? If yes, an occupational therapist may be able to help.

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

When problems such as overactive hearing get past minor annoyances, the label is long and the subject complex: Sensory Integration Dysfunction, SID, is the brain's inability to correctly process information brought in by the senses.

Kranowitz, who also authored the follow-up book "The Out-of-Sync Child: Has Fun Activities for Kids With Sensory Integration Dysfunction" (Petigree, 2003), has made it her life's work to educate parents and teachers about the importance of early detection and treatment of sensory challenges. Her Web site is www.out-of-sync-child.com.

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IKEA...

Continued from page 1

It would ensure much-needed jobs for neighborhood residents, opponents — most of who oppose the store based on projected traffic congestion — accused Ikea of using the policy to bolster support and make the store's opening appear imminent.

John McGrettrick, co-chair of the Red Hook Civic Association and a vocal opponent of Ikea coming to the waterfront neighborhood, blasted the announcement of the hiring policy.

"This premature announcement by Ikea only highlights the fact that residents of Red Hook and surrounding com-

munities are not guaranteed jobs, they are only guaranteed pollution and gridlocked traffic if the store were to ever win government approval," McGrettrick said.

On the other side, Dorothy Shields, president of the Red Hook Houses East Tenants Association, who has lived in the neighborhood for 47 years, said she can't wait for Ikea to come.

"I think that it's great and I'm in favor of it all the way," Shields said. "Jobs are one of the things we really need so bad in Red Hook. Once upon a time we had nothing but unemployment and so many of the businesses have moved out."

Ikea is proposing to build a \$70 million, 346,000-square-foot store on the 22-acre former New York Shipyard, between Dwight and Columbia streets along the Erie Basin. The company would also build 1,400 parking spaces and Ikea has proposed running ferry service to the store from downtown Manhattan.

The store would create 500 to 600 part- and full-time jobs that pay "competitive wages," according to Ikea real estate manager Patrick Smith.

"There are not a lot of qualifications necessary. We don't necessarily look for retail experience. We're basically looking for people who will show up and have a good attitude," Smith said.

Employees working 20 or more hours a week are eligible

for full medical and dental coverage as well as education reimbursement for up to two courses per semester, he said.

As for the Red Hook hiring policy, Smith said it was above and beyond what Ikea normally does, but said he was surprised that it was getting any attention.

"We're just putting in writing what we've been saying all along," Smith said, noting that the company has been working with the community for more than a year.

"We're not guaranteeing jobs, we're just making sure that people in the area have access," he added.

Phaedra Thomas, director of the Red Hook and Gowanus programs for the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation, said the

Ikea hiring policy was a step in the right direction for the community.

"Red Hook is desperate for jobs," said Thomas, who also praised the Ikea employee benefits package.

The Red Hook Houses public housing project, which comprises 75 percent of the neighborhood's population, has an unemployment rate of 20 percent, Thomas said.

But Ikea, which must pass through the city's rigorous land use review process, is at least two years from becoming a reality in Red Hook, even if approved.

In the meantime, a Fairway supermarket is being built at 480-500 Van Brunt St., and a Lowe's home improvement store is planned for the former U.S. Postal Service site on

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Judge halts shelter foes

By Kristen Hinman for The Brooklyn Papers

A Brooklyn judge this week refused to bar a shelter for homeless Asian women and children from setting up shop in a Carroll Gardens brownstone.

In an emergency hearing in Kings County Supreme Court downtown, Judge Lawrence Knipel swiftly dismissed a request by 14 Carroll Gardens residents for an order barring the New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC) from housing up to 20 clients in the brownstone.

The NYAWC did not need to call any witnesses in its defense before Knipel ruled in the organization's favor Nov. 19, saying that because the building was not yet occupied, the court could not determine whether its use violated zoning regulations.

Knipel said the court should have been the last resort for the plaintiffs, who, he said, must first take their complaint that the shelter violates zoning regulations to the city Department of Buildings. If they disagree with the Buildings Department's ruling they can appeal the decision before the city Board of Standards and Appeals, Knipel said.

The ruling means NYAWC can begin operations at the facility, tentatively called Rose House, either in the closing days of this month or in early December as planned.

"We're really happy that the court established that they have no legal grounds to be harassing us in this way," said Kyung Yoon, the organization's chairwoman. "We're hopeful that we can show the community that there is no basis for all the fear-mongering."

Yoon said the installation of staff and setting of families would be gradually "phased in."

City Councilman Bill De Blasio and Assemblywoman Joan Millman, whose districts include the planned shelter, applauded the ruling.

In a joint statement, the two legislators said: "We are pleased to see the court act with prudence and restraint in addressing this legal challenge. If the proposed facility is legal, and believing that the legitimate concerns of the neighborhood will be addressed, we continue to hope and urge that community residents treat the families and staff of the residence as they would treat any other neighbor — with civility and respect."

The officials had declined requests to join the lawsuit against the shelter.

Wednesday's court appearance was the latest episode in a bitter, public showdown between a core group of Carroll Gardens opponents and the Manhattan-based NYAWC.

"This is just the opening round," said Salvatore Russo, one of the plaintiffs, after the hearing ended. "Expect it to be a 15-round battle."

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 1, 2003

Good sports

Keith Hernandez rallies his fans & friends for Cobble Hill center

By Lisa J. Curtis
SO Brooklyn Editor

It's nothing short of amazing that New York Mets great **Keith Hernandez** continues to throw his support behind the Cobble Hill Health Center and its annual "Field of Dreams" gala.

The latest benefit was held on Nov. 19 in the spacious ballroom of the New York Hilton in Manhattan.

Even more amazing is the fact that the ballplayer is so beloved by celebrity friends of all walks of life — from actress **Kathleen Turner**, to former "Gong Show" host **Chuck Barris** to his beleaguered '86 Mets teammate **Darryl Strawberry** — that he gets them all to turn out for his annual fete to benefit the construction of an Alzheimer's assisted-living center near the health center.

It's no secret to his celeb pals that Hernandez lost his mother, Jacquelyn, to Alzheimer's disease in 1989, at the age of 59. Hernandez has already lent his support to help raise funds to expand Field of Dreams gala programs, including an Adult Day Health Center for Alzheimer's patients, named in memory of Jacquelyn Hernandez.

"I am proud to be the chairman of the Field of Dreams gala and to be associated with the Cobble Hill Health Center," said Hernandez. "There is a tremendous need to create alternatives for a growing number of people with Alzheimer's disease who cannot remain safely at home, yet do not require expensive nursing home care."

Mets pitching ace **Al Leiter** told GO Brooklyn he came out to support the health center "because like so many charities and important causes [Cobble Hill Health Center] makes this world a better place.

"Keith's a good guy who gets it," said Leiter. "People who give back do it because we know how fortunate we are. It's not just

our money, it's our time and our money that's needed."

YES network sportscenter **Michael Kay** told GO Brooklyn, "This is a great cause. Keith asked me to come and it's hard to argue with this cause. It seems like more and more people are affected by the disease in some way."

The gala honored **Gary Carter**, a newly inducted baseball hall of famer and former Mets World Series teammate of Hernandez; the loquacious **Nachamah Jacobovits**, senior vice president of the New York Mercantile Exchange (who had jocular TV sportscenter **Warner Wolf** announcing after her acceptance speech concluded that breakfast was about to be served); and **Joe O'Neill**, executive vice president of the New York Board of Trade.

The celebs were good sports about signing autographs — and they should be, as tickets were \$1,000 a pop. And in their wake the popping flashbulbs of paparazzi lit up the room. Among Hernandez's friends were former Met and Yankee **Dwight "Doc" Gooden**, Brooklyn-born Mets reliever **John Franco**, former Met and Brooklyn Cyclones manager **Howard Johnson**, Met legend **Rusty Staub**, artist **LeRoy Neiman**, '86 Mets manager **Davey Johnson**, former Mets pitcher and Brooklyn Cyclones pitching coach **Bobby Ojeda**, 1969 Amazin' Met **Ed Charles**, former '60s-era Met and Yankee **Phil Litz**, former New York Ranger hockey great **Rod Gilbert**, Lafayette High School grad and CEO of the New York Mets **Fred Wilpon** and former New York Giants Super Bowl winner **Phil McCoin**.

"There are so many celebrities here tonight, I'm the only one I've never heard of," joked Wolf.

Upon accepting his award, Carter said, "It's a tribute to Keith for all the ballplayers to be here tonight. I continue to say he was the best first baseman I've ever played with."

Carter also pointed out Strawberry in the audience.

"There's a united feeling amongst all of us of how terrific it is to see Darryl Strawberry here tonight. I'm so proud of you, to see you here tonight."

Carter also thanked his wife of 29 years, Sandy, and thanked the Cobble Hill Health Center for honoring him.

"I know how much this means to Keith Hernandez," said Carter. "It's a dread disease that I hope they one day find a cure for."

And if sports gents aren't your thing, the elegant affair had swinging music provided by the Mark Stevens Star Light Orchestra and a bar carved from ice. Bartenders passed the libations via the bar's frozen chutes into martini glasses. Those drinks must have had a hand in making it easier to bid high at the silent auction overflowing with coveted sports memorabilia.

"This event means the world to Keith," Hernandez's girlfriend of two and a half years, **Kal Thompson**, told GO Brooklyn. "His mother died of Alzheimer's at a very, very young age and ever since he's retired he's been working tirelessly — for 10 years — for this cause. We're hoping as of tonight to have



(1) Honoree Gary Carter with Cobble Hill Health Center CEO Olga Lipschitz at the Field of Dreams gala benefit at the New York Hilton in Manhattan. Among the attendees were (2) New York Met John Franco, (3) actress Kathleen Turner and (4) former New York Met and Yankee Darryl Strawberry.



Gala chairman Keith Hernandez signs autographs for fans at the Nov. 19 fundraiser.

BOOKS

Not so solitary

Celebrated Brooklyn novelist Jonathan Lethem will read from his new novel, "The Fortress of Solitude" (Doubleday, 2003) at 7:30 pm on Dec. 4 at Halcyon, 227 Smith St. at Butler Street.

Boerum Hill figures prominently in Lethem's novel about two neighboring boys growing up, despite their single fathers' unorthodox parenting techniques, on the same block in Brooklyn in the 1970s. "Fortress" has bowled over many a book lover, and many more Brooklyn-o-philes (and comic book fans). The boys dabble in super powers, graffiti and worse while they try to survive their not-yet-gentrified "hood on their way to manhood.

This novel follows Lethem's critically acclaimed novel "Motherless Brooklyn" (Doubleday, 1999), which won the National Book Critic's Circle Award for fiction. In that equally unconventional work, the noir-like story is told from the viewpoint of an orphaned young man, Lionel Essrog, who has Tourette's syndrome.

Reading a Lethem book about Brooklyn is an eye-opening experience indeed.

The reading event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (718) 260-WAXY.

— Lisa J. Curtis

ART

In the details

Micro Museum will host a reception for Norwegian artist Britt Hennig Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm, at the gallery located at 123 Smith St. between Dean and Pacific streets in Boerum Hill.

Among the works on display is "Britt Hennig: Recent Paintings" is "Bjazzzo Hill," pictured. Most of her meticulous still-life paintings appear to be influenced by the Flemish and Dutch painters of the 14th to 16th centuries. The museum will also host an art discussion Dec. 7 from 4 pm to 5 pm. The exhibition is on display Dec. 1-14. For more information, call (718) 797-3116. These events are free and open to the public.



DANCE



What a doll

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts brings the Moscow Classical Ballet to Midwood for a performance of the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," on Nov. 30 at 3 pm.

The ballet company, under the artistic direction of Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilyov — former members of the Kirov Ballet, is one of three state-supported Russian ballet companies along with the Bolshoi and the Kirov. The choreography by Vasily Vainonin, Kasatkina and Vasilyov is set to Pyotr Tchaikovsky's thrilling score.

Tickets are \$30 and \$35. The performance will take place at the Walt Whitman Theater, 2900 Campus Road at Hill Place, one block west of the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush Avenues. For tickets and more information, call (718) 951-4500 or visit www.brooklyncenter.com.

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Biscuit

367 Flatbush Ave. at Sterling Place. (718) 398-2227 (Cash only) Entrees: \$14.50. *

Brooklyn Museum of Art Cafe

200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue. (718) 638-5000 (MC, Visa \$10 min). Sandwiches: \$6.25-\$7.25.

Garden Cafe

620 Vanderbilt Ave. at St. Marks Avenue. (718) 857-8863 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$20-\$30.

With winter fast approaching, the name of this 18-year-old restaurant recalls warmer times, sunshine and blooming flowers. Many of the dishes on Chef John Polcastro's menu incorporate warm, sunny flavors.

JRG Fashion Cafe

177 Flatbush Ave. at Pacific Street. (718) 399-7079 (DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$20. *

Mama Duke's Southern Cuisine

243 Flatbush Ave. at Bergen Street. (718) 857-8700 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$12.

If you can't get home to see your mama, you can get great home cooking here.

* = Full review available at



Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Biscuit chef Josh Cohen with a skewer full of hickory smoked pork ribs.

what takes in town," according to their menu, Mama Duke's is "soul food to go." All baking and cooking is from scratch.

New Prospect Cafe

302 Flatbush Ave. at St. Johns Place. (718) 638-2148 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.75-\$16.

The selections at the New Prospect Cafe are some well-traveled dishes indeed.

Sugarcane

238 Flatbush Ave. at Bergen Street. (718) 230-3954 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$18. *

Tavern on Dean

722 Dean St. at Underhill Street. (718) 638-3326 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$18.95. *

Terrace Cafe

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave. at Montgomery Street. (718) 623-7200 (Cash only) Menu: \$2.25-\$5.95.

Tom's Diner

732 Washington Ave. at Sterling Place. (718) 636-9738 (Cash only) Entrees: \$3.75-\$10.

Steeped in nostalgia, Tom's Diner serves food in a family environment with the gilded grace of Glenn Miller.



Get sauced

Park Slope's Paradou restaurant will warm you up with hearty seasonal fare

By Lisa J. Curtis

When the temperature drops and the snowflakes begin to swirl, look no farther for hearty, flavorful winter fare than Paradou. The stick-to-your-ribs French cuisine this Park Slope bistro is currently turning out is rich and saucy, and the generous portions are meant for diners with healthy appetites.

DINING

Paradou is located at 426A Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope. MasterCard and Visa accepted. Entrees: \$11-\$17. There is also a three-course, prix fixe dinner menu for \$25 and two-course, prix fixe brunch for \$15 on Saturdays and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m.

home of a good friend. We enjoyed the light, refreshing Paradou's signature cocktail — creme de cassis, Lillet and a splash of champagne — which arrived in a tall, slender beaker.



French connection: Paradou Chef Robert Ubhaus with his duck confit, casoulet and his poisson du jour, a corvina fish. (Above left) Ubhaus' crispy sea scallops served with fennel, potatoes and baby arugula.

Ubhaus' thoughtfully edited cheese platter and cluster of impossibly juicy Concord grapes. After easily sucking the ripe, explosively flavored fruits from their purple skins, I understood why those grapes had been immortalized in so many still-life paintings.

Call Gopher and Isaac

"It's Bohemian industrial," Jack Luu says in describing Shinjuku Japanese Cuisine, the restaurant he manages on Atlantic Avenue.

There's a hibachi section on the menu, too. "But," says Luu, "it's not like Benihana. We do the cooking in the kitchen."

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by PHILIP BARRY

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High seas terrorists

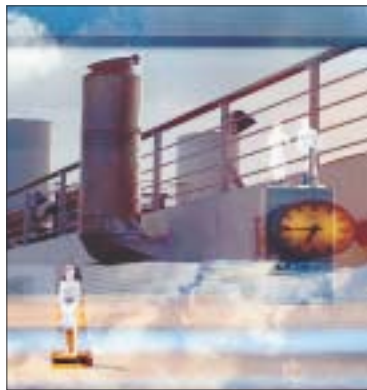
Bklyn Phil & Ridge Theater present John Adams' opera 'The Death of Klinghoffer'

By Kevin Filipksi
for The Brooklyn Papers

Who says opera is an artificial art form unable to deal with issues of today?

Surely not composer John Adams, whose operas continually tackle contemporary subjects. His first opera, "Nixon in China" (1987), dramatized that president's historic 1972 visit, and "I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky" (1995) was inspired by the large-magnitude Southern California earthquake of January 1994.

But Adams' most significant and prescient opera is 1991's "The Death of Klinghoffer," in which poet Alice Goodman's libretto tackles a complex subject that, sadly, remains relevant today—terrorism.



Rocking the boat: Director Bob McGrath (at left) brings John Adams' controversial opera, "The Death of Klinghoffer," to the Brooklyn Academy of Music Dec. 3, 5 and 6.

Specifically, "The Death of Klinghoffer" is about the October 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean Sea by four Palestinians. The title character is Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound Jewish American passenger murdered by the hijackers, who then tossed his body and wheelchair overboard.

Adams' music, which often recalls the stately elegance of Bach's choral works, lends itself to a stylized visualization of Goodman's libretto, which brings us to Obie award-winning stage director Bob McGrath, whose work with the experimental Ridge Theater makes him the perfect choice for the Brooklyn Academy of Music's "staged concert version" of "Klinghoffer," with Robert Spano conducting the Brooklyn Philharmonic on Dec. 3, 5 and 6 at the Howard Gilman Opera House.

"I'm sure one of the reasons they asked me to do it is because of our style, the way we use projections and lighting," McGrath told GO Brooklyn between rehearsals. "We often put our

performers in tableau situations, so this opera lends itself to this kind of staging. We can put big visuals on it with our films and projections. A lot of the movement of our pieces is not the performer moving, it's the media moving."

Ridge Theater has made a name for itself with its adventurous stagings of theater and opera, innovatively utilizing scrim and projections to create different planes of viewing for audiences. For "Klinghoffer," McGrath is again working with longtime collaborators Bill Morrison (film projections), Laurie Olinde (visual design), Kaye Voyce (costumes) and Matt Frey (lighting).

Notwithstanding the volatile politics that permeate this explosive piece, McGrath explains that his concept for this staging is very simple.

"I approach it as a drama," he says. "I try to focus on what happened on the ship over those couple of days. Our projectionist and filmmaker went out on a cruise ship and got a bunch of images and footage, and we're really trying to

place [the staging] within the ship it happened on. We're not trying to make it too abstract — we're keeping our focus on the reality."

Of course, since "Klinghoffer" has aroused such extreme passion, both pro and con — the latter typified by the New York Times critic's scree that the opera was essentially worthless — McGrath is aware that even avoiding taking sides is, to some people, a way of taking sides.

"It's such a hot issue," he says. "It's so inflammatory and incendiary that people have a lot of really strong feelings about this. That's just inherent in doing the thing. But this is an historical thing that happened, that's just how I'm approaching it."

McGrath actually found a kindred spirit from a most unlikely source — Penny Woolcock's acclaimed film of the opera, recently released on DVD by Decca. Woolcock reworked Adams and Hoffman's original concept to make it better suited to the film medium, and the results are stunning.

"I didn't think I was going to like it — I didn't know why — but I really thought it was great," says McGrath. "I pretty much had my whole concept together when I saw it, but I'm sure it im-

paired my ideas a little, because I was really impressed, especially by the way [Woolcock] did things I can't do — the created back stories for the terrorists and the passengers on the boat."

Woolcock's film used a recording of Adams conducting the London Symphony Orchestra; for BAM's version, McGrath is thrilled to be teaming with Spano and the Brooklyn Philharmonic for the first time.

"This is my 'debut' with a full orchestra," he says with a laugh. "It's been fantastic working with Bob Spano, because he's energetic, he's got great ideas, and he's been supportive of my concept from the start."

But, in the end, it all hinges on how audiences respond to this musical and dramatic recreation of an incident that will live in infamy for the many people that it impacted on.

His director wants to display everything except the essentials: what happened to 400 innocent passengers and crew at the hands of some violently misguided individuals.

"I don't want to fan any flames," McGrath insists. "I just want to show the horribly sad events that happened over these two days in this gorgeous spot in the Mediterranean."

MUSIC

Ridge Theater's production of "The Death of Klinghoffer" will be staged in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene) on Dec. 3, 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$40 and \$55, and they can be purchased by calling BAM Ticket Services at (718) 636-4100, or by visiting the Web site at www.bam.org.

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Where to GO Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

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Sat, Nov 29

OUTDOORS AND TOURS: NATURE PHOTO WALK: at Salt Marsh Nature Center... PERFORMANCE: OPERA: Regina Opera presents Humperdinck's 'Hansel and Gretel'...



Elsworth and Hicks will perform Dec. 5 at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture in Park Slope.

Sun, Nov 30

OUTDOORS AND TOURS: BIRDING THE CREEK: See the birds which reside in the Salt Marsh Nature Center... ECOLOGY TOUR: 'Naturalist' 'Wildman' Steve Brill hosts 'Wild Food and Ecology'...

Wed, Dec 3

MEETING: Bay Ridge Council on Aging meets, 9:30 pm, St. Ann's School... NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents 'Alladen'...

Thu, Dec 4

PERFORMANCE: CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents the Moscow Classical Ballet... BOXING MUSICAL: Cleanon's Jim presents 'Musical with Highlights: The Life and Career of Mike Tyson'...

Fri, Dec 5

SALE: The Partnership for the Homeless hosts a sale of the fabulous to the functional to the funky... BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Kids are invited to make an evergreen wreath...

Mon, Dec 8

LECTURE SERIES: Congregation B'nai Avraham hosts a talk, 'Resurrection Man'... MEETING: DUMBO BID Steering Committee meets...

Thurs, Dec 4

FILEM: St. Francis College presents 'Seabiscuit'... WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Economic Development Corp. offers a small business workshop...

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Where to GO, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., 5th floor, Brooklyn, NY 11242...

Sat, Dec 6

OUTDOORS AND TOURS: WILD TOUR: 'Wildman' Steve Brill leads the Brooklyn Wild Food and Ecology Tour... METRO TOUR: Mauricio Lorence hosts a walking tour of Brooklyn Heights...

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The family

Cousins II's Butch Ford hosts relaxed sets of live music

By Ed Beeson
for The Brooklyn Papers

After 36 years in the music business, guitarist Butch Ford says he has played with RCO Speedwagon, Billy Joel and The Eagles, and he's been a stage manager for Liza Minnelli, Bette Midler and George Benson. Now, as the weekend manager at Cousins II in Cobble Hill, Ford is waiting for his next talent to arrive.

It's 10 pm on Saturday and the restaurant's dinner crowd has thinned. And, like a rock star, Kibby doesn't seem to notice. He enters the room with energy that jumps off his slim frame, and a whiff of cigarette smoke follows his lead. He unzips his guitar case.

Tonight, Kibby and two backing musicians will play original New Orleans-influenced blues for Ford's weekly live music showcase. Although the restaurant — a sports bar and grill — seems an unlikely venue for live music, Ford has booked live acts here for nearly 20 years. A personal project, it allows him to promote a variety of professional musicians in a more intimate setting than, say, B.B. King's Blues Club & Grill in Times Square, where Kibby has performed with 90-year-old pianist Pinetop Perkins.

"That is why I'm here. It's my playhouse," Ford says.

The secret seems well kept. Cousins II attracts a diverse and well-groomed lot in their 30s and 40s who pack the place for karaoke on Fridays and football on Sundays. But tonight, Cousins is relaxed.

Kibby plays foot-og blues with spunky flair. The tip of his worn cowboy boot keeps time with hard snarls on the tile floor. His body crooks and creeps to the music and his clear, spirited vocals command attention. A slight Southern twang registers in his voice, which belies his native Anniston, Ala., although his personality is all New York. And he has made Williamsburg his home for much of the last 10 years.

His backing players, Steve Antonakos on guitar, and Ritt Henn on standup bass, keep pace with Kibby and take leads when they can.

The music is loud, but not too loud for conversation. Diners focus on another set of the music boomer in the background.

Those here for the music stand near the bar and by the doorway. Their heads bob up and down to Kibby and company's tuneless lures.

One man claps with wide, lazy sweeps of his hands.

Another, clad in a striped fedora and a necktie that dangles from his unbuttoned blue collar, silently mouths Kibby's lyrics.

The man who claps widely approaches Kibby after the first set. He has a request — Jimmy Buffet's "Margerville." Kibby hesitates, then scratches his forehead across his neck. He says he's not sure if he knows the lyrics.



Live from Cobble Hill, it's Saturday night: George Kibby Jr., guitarist Steve Antonakos and Ritt Henn on standup bass performed the blues at Cousins II on Nov. 15.

NIGHTLIFE

Cousins II Located at 140 Court St. at Amity Street in Cobble Hill, hosts live music on Saturday nights from 9 pm to 2 am. On Nov. 29, Roy Ramos will perform Caribbean pop, and on Jan. 10, George Kibby will return. On Dec. 6, The Ducks will perform pop. There is no cover charge. For more information, call 718 995-3514.

But the fan, Andre Blalock, insists. "You guys got to know 'Margerville.' It's a classic!"

Ford intercedes. He says he'll sing the song instead.

Then the man in the fedora leaves without waving goodbye.

Kibby rocks on, his shoulders slung into the strap of his guitar, his foot tapping on. It's a few minutes before the man in the fedora returns with a clarinet. His fellow head bobbies notice the instrument and wave to Kibby. Without a missed beat, Kibby asks his name.

"Jack," the man in the fedora says.

"Jack, come on stage," Kibby says. Jack walks forward and begins to play at Kibby's command like a Pied Piper in reverse. While Jack's rhythm isn't a solo, Jack plays over it, to which Kibby grunts and shakes his head, "ahhh," Kibby points to Antonakos for the next solo. Jack wisely keeps his clarinet quiet.

Kibby points his finger back at Jack.

Best with the most

Schmidt's 'Last Supper' still wines and dines 'em

By Andrew Clevenger
for The Brooklyn Papers

Many shows boast that they offer something for everyone, but how many can say they offer nourishment for the mind, body and soul?

As unlikely as it sounds, playwright-performer Ed Schmidt's "The Last Supper" accomplishes just that, with a heady mix of theater, comedy, religion and food. Yes, food — the playwright prepares a four-course meal for his audience during the performance.

Which is only fair, since you're sitting in his kitchen.

The evening starts off with a hymn — Schmidt has installed church pews, complete with hymnals, in his apartment to accommodate his numerous dinner guests — and the atmosphere is very much like that of a religious service, an impression only reinforced by a reading from the Bible.

But things quickly veer in unexpected — and frequently hilarious — directions. Schmidt is setting the proper mood for the performance of his play, "The Last Supper," a re-imagining of the most famous dinner party in history (complete with a betrayal by a small-time hood named Judas).

Schmidt, who plays all the parts himself, draws the audience in with his good-natured charm, only to interrupt himself repeatedly with amusing asides and convoluted explanations, all delivered with terrific comic timing. He alternates with his audience, probing the limits of what they will and will not believe.

Turns out this faith thing is trickier than it appears. "I've always found that fascinating, the notion of what you believe as an audience member, whether you will suspend your disbelief," Schmidt says as he relaxes briefly after a recent performance. (There are still a lot of dishes to eat.)

Dressed casually in a gray T-shirt, white pants and sneakers — he's still in costume — the performer smiles happily as we discuss the events of the evening, which culminated in a clever coup de theatre (which I won't divulge here).

Schmidt entertained and led 25 people that night, who chatted happily as they ate the delicious meal together, and waited eagerly for Schmidt to join the party so they could play him with questions about the performance.

The show originated in Schmidt's home in Park Slope,

that Schmidt isn't willing to ignore.

"I'm tweaking every single theoretical convention," he notes gleefully, "even the conventions of the program." In fact, the program is hilarious reading, particularly when Schmidt lists prestigious theater companies who have rejected his submissions, or when he expresses his gratitude to the public institutions and private corporations that have not provided financial support.

"Most people pass right by that little thing about the funding," he says, grinning mischievously. "They think, 'Oh, I've seen that a million times,' and they don't read it."

This could be tricky territory, playing fast and loose with audience expectations, especially where religious themes are involved. But Schmidt handles his material so deftly, and with so much intelligence and wit, that people are rarely offended.

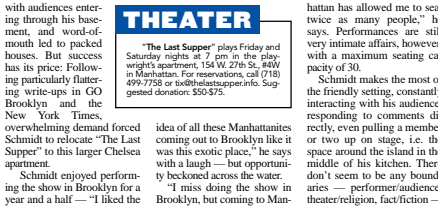
"I've had the Catholic priest who married us, I've had several rabbis, seminarians [at the performance] — and basically everybody is fine with it," he says. After all, this is a performer who is brave enough to sit down and break bread with his audience after every show.

Mostly, the audience goes home well fed and well entertained. On the way out, almost everyone stops by to shake Schmidt's hand and thank him for a wonderful evening. For his part, Schmidt seems to be genuinely enjoying himself. He'd have to be, to keep slaving over an hot stove, weekend after weekend, while a mess of strangers invade his home.

Schmidt's attitude is typical of his dinner party where I can actually be comfortable, which is pretty great."

hattan has allowed me to seat twice as many people," he says. Performances are still very intimate affairs, however, with a maximum seating capacity of 30.

Schmidt makes the most of the friendly setting, constantly interacting with his audience, responding to comments directly, even pulling a member or two up on stage, i.e. the space around the island in the middle of the kitchen. There don't seem to be any boundaries — performer/audience, theater/reality, fact/fiction —



Something's fishy: Actor-playwright Ed Schmidt with ingredients to "The Last Supper," which has outgrown his Park Slope kitchen and dining room.

THEATER

"The Last Supper" plays Friday and Saturday nights at 7 pm in the playhouse located at 154 W. 27th St. 40th in Manhattan. For reservations, call (718) 499-7758 or thelastsupperimpro.com. Suggested donation: \$50-\$75.

with audiences entering through his basement, and words coming mouthed to packed houses. But success has its price: Following particularly flattering write-ups in *GO Brooklyn* and the *New York Times*, overwhelming demand forced Schmidt to relocate "The Last Supper" to this larger Chelsea apartment.

Schmidt enjoyed performing the show in Brooklyn for a year and a half — "I liked the

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Barbes

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 856-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com
Nov. 28: The Moonlighters, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Tasty Menials' Two (Pete Galib, Darlene Rodman, and Greta Gierli), 8 pm, FREE; Nov. 30: The Hot Club of New York, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: Christine Bard and Steve Swell, 9 pm, \$8; Dec. 5: Django A Go Go celebration featuring the Hot Club of Philadelphia, 1 set for \$10 or both sets for \$15, 8 pm and 9:30 pm.

Bennett's Bar

7102 Fort Hamilton Parkway at 71st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-9493
Nov. 30: Skeleton Crew and DJ, 7 pm, FREE.

Blah Blah Lounge

501 11th St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 349-0180, www.blahblahlounge.com
Wednesdays: Open mic, 8:30 pm, FREE; Nov. 28: DJ Kerry Hinton, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Randy Kaplan, 9:30 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: James Miao, 7 pm, FREE; Dec. 5: DJ Kruish Pippy, 9 pm, FREE; Comedy Convoy w/Ray Field, 10:30 pm, \$5.

Boudoir Bar

41 East End Ensemble, 273 Smith St. at Sackett Street in East Williamsburg, (718) 424-8878, www.boudoirbar.com
Nov. 29: Brooklyn Brass Ho Ha comedy, 9:30 pm, \$5 with 2 drink minimum.

Chocolate Monkey

329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 813-1073
Mondays: Karen Gibson-Rock with Fluid, 8 pm, \$5; Thursdays: Karaoke with Terry Bill, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays: Happy Hour with DJ Clark, 5 pm, FREE.

Cousins

160 Court St. at Amity Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 995-3514
Fridays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Roy Ramos Caribbean pop, 10 pm, FREE.

Duplex

45 Park Avenue at Park Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 643-6400, www.theduplex.com
Fridays: Bang the Party deep underground house party in Brighton Beach, 510 1st Avenue, 9:30 pm, \$5; Saturdays: Island Vibes DJs spin R&B, hip-hop and reggae, 10 pm, FREE; Sundays: Reggie Roberts Caribbean music, 8 pm, FREE; after 9 pm, women pay \$5 and men pay \$10; Tuesdays: Caviar Tuesdays with karaoke and dancing, 8 pm, \$5-\$15; Wednesdays: Karaoke from 10 pm.

Five Spot

439 Washington Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0202, www.livestreetsofbrooklyn.com
Mondays: Open turntables bring your own needles and vinyl, 8 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Super Lowkey Bros. freestyle session with musicians, poets and singers, spin at 9 pm, \$5.

Frank's Lounge

65 West End Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 625-9339, www.FranksCocktailLounge.com
Thursdays: Blues with Lonnie Youngblood, 9 pm, FREE; Fridays: DJs Tyrone and Jules, 10 pm, \$5; DJ Kim Lightfoot (uptown), 11 pm, \$5; Saturdays: DJ's Tyrone and Jules, 9 pm, \$5; Sundays: Cassie Clayton Quintet, 6 pm, FREE; Mondays: DJ's Keith Porter and James Vincent; Tuesdays: DJ's CX Kidrona, 9 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Karaoke with Dewey B., 9 pm, FREE.

Franky's Bar & Backlot

485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7025, www.Fredysbacklot.com
Nov. 28: Dennis Mazzetti, The Pressure Mechanics, 9:30 pm, FREE.

Galapagos

70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosartspace.com
Nov. 28: Fluster, 8 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Actual Proof, 9 pm, \$5; DJ Jesse Knight, 10 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: Monday evening burlesque with Miss Saturn, Sekena Ryan, Henning Moon, 9:30 pm, FREE; Dec. 2: New rock weekly, 9 pm, \$6; Dec. 5: Floating Sauville, 10 pm, \$5.

Halcyon

227 Avenue C in Borsari Hill, (718) 260-9299, www.halcyon.com
Saturdays: Bingo-a-go-go, 9 pm, FREE; Sundays: Hangover Helpers, noon, FREE and Undercity with residents Sheldon Drake and DJ Spinosa, Clark or Situm, Maudie Kline, and Hamlet opening experimental and psychedelic chillout, 7 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: Chocolate Buddha Happy Hour party with Ron Paeley, 6 pm, FREE; Mixtape Sessions with The Almaynes, 7 pm, FREE.

The Hook

118 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in Red Hook, (718) 792-3007, www.thehookmusic.com
Dec. 4: Sam Krings; Amun Ra, 8:30 pm, \$7.

Jazz Spot Cafe

179 Marcellus Ct. at Kipsicuz Street in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 453-7825, www.the-jazz.com
Mondays: Jam session, 8 pm, \$5; Nov. 28: Eugene Jackson, Siciliano, Kim Clarke, 9 pm, \$15; Nov. 29: Rob Schaps, Ronnie Burarge, Kim Clarke, 9 pm, \$15.

JRG Fashion Cafe

171 Flatbush Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 399-7079, www.jrgentertainment.com
Thursdays: Live music 8 pm, FREE; Fridays: Damage Band, 9 pm, FREE; Saturdays: International Night, 9 pm, FREE; Sundays: The Damage Band, 8 pm, FREE; Mondays: Russ Morrow & the Trio, 8 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: DJs spin, 7 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Freddie Clark, 8 pm, FREE.

Kili Bar-Cafe

611 6th St. at State Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-5574
Tuesdays: Soul acoustic jam, 8 pm, FREE.

Lamour

1546 63rd St. at 15th Avenue in Borough Park, (718) 832-0566, www.lamour.com
Nov. 28: Dorcas, Sand 72, Kinetic, Thursday, 8 pm, \$TBAB; Nov. 29: Blue Rose Lar, Black Moon Rising, Moon dragons, Cobalt, and others, 7:30 pm, \$TBAB; Dec. 1: Full Bloom Chax, Through the Discipline, 51 A; Dec. 5: Chase, Jason, Desai, and others, 7:30 pm, \$TBAB.

Talk to Us...

To list your events in Brooklyn Nightlife, please give us as much notice as possible. Include name of venue, address with cross street, phone number for the public to call, email for press, dates, times and admission or ticket prices. Send listings and color photos of performers via e-mail to submit@brooklynpapers.com or via fax at (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

tryst will perform at Southpaw on Dec. 3.

Lillie's

46 Blvd St. at Driggs Street in Red Hook, (718) 856-9822
Tuesdays: Turntable Tuesdays with Gallagher, 9 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Sonny's Social Club, open mic, 9 pm, FREE.

Low Bar

Below Rick restaurant, 81 Washington St. at Front Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-1107, www.cny.com
Nov. 28: "The Low Below" old school hip-hop, funk and R&B, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Sam Baron, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: Many Charles and the Valentines, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 30: Jonathan Jenkins plays 1970s/80s funk music, 10 pm.

Magnetic Field

97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-0069, www.magneticfield.com
Nov. 28: Jive Turkey & Funky Chickens with DJ Soutzaker, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: DJ Migo, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: Rock in Roll; Exchange, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 5: Magnetic Lounge, 9 pm, FREE.

Meson Flamenco

135 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 628-7177
Fridays and Saturdays: Live flamenco music and dance performance, 7 pm and 11 pm, \$5.

Mezzo Cafe

208 Malcolm X Blvd. at Park Avenue in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-2202, www.mezzo cafe.com
Tuesdays: Comedy with Zev & Friends, 7:30 pm, \$10; Wednesdays: Musicians open mic, 9 pm, FREE; Saturdays: Melvin "Guitar" Williams, 9:30 pm, \$10.

National Restaurant

273 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Second Street in Brighton Beach, (718) 466-1225
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: Live Russian music and dance show, 9 pm, FREE.

Night of the Cookers

767 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 792-1197
Thursdays: Blues, 8:30 pm, FREE; Fridays and Saturdays: Jazz, 10:30 pm, FREE; Sundays: Jazz brunch, noon, FREE.

Northsix

66 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-5103, www.northsix.com
Nov. 29: Allan Arm Farm, From In Site Of, 9 pm, \$15; downstairs: Hi-Way Stars, The Eyes, 9 pm, \$6; Nov. 30: Mosaic C-14, Mosaic, Worlded E Eye, 9 pm, \$8; Dec. 3: Camp Five Girls, The Red And The Black, Essex, 9 pm, \$10; Dec. 4: Panthers, 90 Day Men, Vietnam, Chesebrough, 9 pm, \$8; advanced \$10; day of show, Dec. 5: World/Inferno Friendship Society, The Hold-Steers Co., 9 pm, \$10.

Peggy O'Neill's

1904 Surf Ave. at Kipsicuz Park in Coney Island, (718) 449-3200, www.peggyoneill.com
Nov. 29: The Rockinghams, 10 pm, FREE.

Pete's Candy Store

709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 303-3770, www.petes-candy.com
Nov. 28: A Kickin' Campaign Gathering with Liza Weir, 9 pm, FREE; Lot's Presents, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Miguel Yarnuzzi, Mad Cat, Patrick McGrath & Devin Delaney, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 30: Open mic, 8:30 pm, \$10; Dec. 1: Marianne Pillsbury, Flour Country, Katy Milk, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 2: Daniel Hightower Smith, Luke Temple, Chocoma Kendrick, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 3: Many Charles and the Valentines, 10 pm, FREE; Dec. 4: Amy Corrali, 9:30 pm, \$10; Dec. 5: Shappy the Neerl Post, Coats in Trees, Nath Lukash, Morgan Taylor, 9 pm, FREE.

Southpaw

122 11th St. at 13th Street in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236, www.southpaw.com
Nov. 28: Tim McCall, Mike Tichy, 9 pm, \$5; Nov. 29: The Rail with DJ Ayres, DJ Stevens, DJ Kage, 9 pm, \$5 for women, \$10 for men; Dec. 1: P.S. Marmalade, 9:30 pm, \$15; Dec. 2: The Rail with DJ Ayres, DJ Stevens, DJ Kage, 9 pm, \$10; Dec. 3: Shappy the Neerl Post, Coats in Trees, Nath Lukash, Morgan Taylor, 9 pm, FREE on weekends.

TJ Bentley's

710 Third Ave. at 71st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-0748
Fridays: Tom Daniels, 4:30 pm and Latin Night, 9 pm, FREE; Saturdays: Live big band music, 8 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Live big band music, 8 pm, FREE.

Toybox

256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000, www.dublab.com
Saturdays: Trago with DJ Gillette, 8 pm, \$5; Sundays: Playground with DJ Will and DJ Honey Dion, 9 pm, \$5; Mondays: Gotham indie rock night, 9 pm, \$10; Tuesdays: Borderline '90s dance party with DJ Ian, 8 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Gil night, 8 pm, FREE.

Two Boots

514 Second St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 492-2253, www.twobootsbrooklyn.com
Nov. 28: The Jug Addicts, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Gene Anthonis, 10 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: Ne's Virgin's Crespo, 10 pm, FREE.

200 Fifth

200 Fifth St. at Sackett Street in Park Slope, (718) 338-2925, www.200fifth.com
Saturdays: Trago with DJ Gillette, 8 pm, \$5; Sundays: Playground with DJ Will and DJ Honey Dion, 9 pm, \$5; Mondays: Gotham indie rock night, 9 pm, \$10; Tuesdays: Borderline '90s dance party with DJ Ian, 8 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Gil night, 8 pm, FREE.

Up Over Jazz Cafe

357 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 398-5413, www.upoverjazz.com
Mondays: Vincent Herzog Quartet, 9:30 pm, \$10; Tuesdays: Enos Payne Trio, 9:30 pm, \$10; Wednesdays: Robert Glasgow Trio's Annual Quartet, 9 pm, \$10; Thursdays: Robert Glasgow Trio, 9 pm and 11 pm, \$10; Nov. 28-29: Wyckoff Gordon Sextet, 9 pm, \$10; Wed. 30: \$18 plus \$5 minimum per set; Dec. 5: Marcus Strickland Quartet, 9 pm, 11 pm, 12:30 am, \$15 plus \$5 minimum per set.

Waterfront Ale House

155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-3274, www.waterfrontale.com
Nov. 29: Retaud Penant Trio, 11 pm, FREE.

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333 ADAMS STREET AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL 718 330-0007
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Size matters

Mabou Mines reconstructs Henrik Ibsen's 'A Doll's House' with unusual proportions

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In his time, Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen was considered something of a maverick. In fact, Ibsen, who moved from romanticism to naturalism in theater, is generally acknowledged as the founder of modern drama. Today his work has become part of the canon of dramatic literature.

Mabou Mines, a company noted for its deconstruction of the classics like the gender-reversed "King Lear," has taken Ibsen's "A Doll's House" and turned its weighty themes of confining marriages and the emancipation of women into the stuff of comedy and satire.

Lee Breuer, who adapted and directs Mabou Mines' "Dollhouse" (at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO until Dec. 7), has created a production that scintillates and titillates. It is arresting both visually (Narelle Sissons has designed a dollhouse set complete with miniature furniture, piano and tea set) and aurally (Ning Yu accompanies each scene with Eve Beglarian's Edward Grieg-inspired music, much like in the days of silent film).

But what really sets this production apart is Breuer's use of scale to mock traditional ideals of power. The male parts are all played by actors whose heights range from 3-foot-4 to 4-foot-5, while the women are all extremely tall. The excellent Honora Ferguson, who plays Nora's maid, Kristine, is 6 feet tall.

Much of the time the women are on their knees or backsides so they can meet the men eye-to-eye. When they are annoyed or amorous they even pick up



Short story: Director Lee Breuer's creative casting gives Henrik Ibsen's play a whole new look at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO.

the little guys and deposit them at a different spot on the stage. The men make up in bravado what they lack in stature. While the women caper about in crinolines and bustles, the men are stately and imposing in long coats, stiff collars and lavish

capes. Meganne George's costumes are nothing less than exquisite.

Mabou Mines' "Dollhouse" abounds with extraordinary acting — Mark Povinelli as Nora's overbearing husband, Torvald; Kristopher Medina as the vindictive Nils Krogstad;

and Ricardo Gil as the lovelick Dr. Rank. But it is Maude Mitchell as the petted and protected Nora who steals the show.

With her squeaky voice and miming steps, Mitchell is every inch the "doll" in Ibsen's drama. Yet she is also clever and determined — a bit like Lucy trying to trick Ricky with one of her hairbraided schemes in an "I Love Lucy" episode. And she's just as funny.

Beneath all the glitter, however, this production follows Ibsen's original drama rather faithfully. Nora has forged documents to get money necessary to save Torvald's life. Krogstad is in possession of those documents and threatens to expose Nora unless she convinces her husband not to fire him for (or all things) forgery.

In the meantime, Nora's old friend Kristine, who was at one time in love with and loved by Krogstad and is now a widow, appears just as Nora is prepar-

ing for Christmas. She asks Nora to persuade Torvald, who was just promoted to bank manager, to give her a job at his bank. And Dr. Rank, who believes he is dying of some unspecified disease, declares his love (or passion) for Nora.

In many ways, Mabou Mines' "Dollhouse" unfolds more like a dance than a straight drama. Indeed the choreography (created by Martha Clarke, Eamonn Farrell, Clove Galilee, Erik Liberman, Jane Catherine Shaw and Norman Snow) is essential in giving the play its humor, its satire, its excess and its passion.

It's hard to imagine what Ibsen, who lived an austere and mostly joyless life, would have made of Breuer's recasting of his highly moral and psychological ponderings on humanity. One can only hope that he would recognize in Breuer a kindred spirit, fully in tune with his rebellious, trail-blazing nature.

THEATER

"Mabou Mines Dollhouse" plays through Dec. 7, Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sundays at 4 pm, at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO). Tickets are \$22.50 Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 pm and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at \$27.50. For tickets, call (718) 254-8779. For more information, visit www.stannwarehouse.org.

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