

PLAYWRIGHTS

FOR A CAUSE



PLANET CONNECTIONS
THEATRE FESTIVITY

planet connections theatre festivity

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Planet Connections Festivity is New York's premiere socially-conscious arts festival. It was founded in 2009 by Glory Kadigan. The Festivity is designed to invoke the power of art in motivating philanthropy, community outreach and social change. Within the Festivity are multiple theater, film and music festivals. Planet Connections' artists use their work to shed light on the causes that matter, while inspiring audiences to get involved. All of our artists raise awareness for an organization/topic of their own selection. We are also the country's first eco-friendly arts festivity as all our artists work to create eco-conscious art by revising their marketing, design and rehearsal techniques. Planet Connections artists are introduced to a community of like-minded theater makers, film makers and music makers. The relationships formed during the festivity allow our artists to find new audiences and forge new partnerships.



PLAYWRIGHTS FOR A CAUSE

In 2013 Glory Kadigan decided to found the "Playwrights For A Cause" benefit in an attempt to inspire renowned artists and their fans to use their talent and intelligence to make a difference for the causes they believe in. Playwrights who have presented world premiers with the Planet Connections "Playwrights For A Cause" event include Wendy MacLeod, Winter Miller, Regina Taylor, Erik Ehn, Dominique Morriseau, Lyle Kessler Jose Rivera, Catherine Filloux, and Halley Feiffer. Performers have included Jolly Abraham (Coram Boy, Bombay Dreams), Eric Lenox Abrams (All The Way), Krystina Alabado (American Idiot, Spring Awakening), Jenni Barber (Wicked, Nance, Putnam County Spelling Bee), Kate Benson (Good Person of Szechwan), Soroya Broukhim (Madame Secretary), Lynn Cohen (The Hunger Games, Sex In The City), Peter Collier (Planet Connections Award Winner), David Deblinger (Co-founder of LAByrinth Theatre Company), Lucy Devito (It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia), Ivette Dumeng (Planet Connections Award Winner), Dominique Fishback (Planet Connections Award Winner, The Deuce), Andrew Garman (Drama Desk Winner, Lucille Lortel Award Winner), Craig 'muMs' Grant (Birdman, Oz), Alex Hanna (The Flick at Playwrights Horizons), Mary Beth Hurt (Three time Tony Nominee), Ed Jewet (Boardwalk Empire), Russell Jordan (Planet Connections Award Winner), Lori Kee (Planet Connections Award Winner), Celia Keenan-Bolger (Three time Tony Nominee), Dustin Kerns (Wolf of Wall Street), Melissa Leo, (Oscar winner) Caissie Levy, (Les Miserables, Murder Ballad, Ghost, Hair, Wicked, Hairspray), Abraham Makany (Homeland), Kelly McAndrew (Cat On a Hot Tin Roof), Felix Monge (On Your Feet), Kellie Overbey (The Coast of Utopia parts 1, 2, & 3), Estelle Parsons, (Oscar Winner, Tony Nominee), Postell Pringle (Rescue Me), Stacey Karen Robinson (Quiet Frenzy), Jenny Seastone (The Wooster Group and the Obie-Award winning play Stay), Michael Serratore (The Sopranos), Imran Sheikh (Planet Connections Award Winner) Phoebe Strole (Spring Awakening, Glee, Hamlet 2), Harold Suratt (Orange Is The New Black) Myra Lucretia Taylor (Unfaithful). Courtney Thomas (Eve Ensler's Emotional Creature), John William Watkins (Sleep No More), Jonathan Walker (Rocky, The Assembled Parties), Donna Vivino (Wicked, Fame Becomes Me)

"Lots of people create art and lots of people create social change; thankfully Planet Connections is at the center of just such a Venn diagram. From start to finish, a great experience with smart and determined collaborators."

Winter Miller

"The Planet Connections team knows what they're doing, who they're doing it for and how to do it. That's a lotta knowledge, knowledge in action, playfully realized, compassionately convened, and impactfully propelled, leading always to more consideration, and a celebration of the good graces of empathy"

Erik Ehn

"Planet Connections Fund Raising efforts under Glory Kadigan's direction, attracts world class actors and playwrights. It was an honor to participate in such a worthy cause."

Lyle Kessler

PAST PARTNERS

*More than 365 ...
and counting!*

Adam R. Spector Foundation * ASPCA Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids
Brooklyn/NY Public Library * CEDARS * Children's Aid Society * City Harvest * Democracy Now * Food Bank for New York City * GEMS Girls, Inc. * GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) * Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services Corporation (GCNSSC) * Heifer International * Joyful Heart Foundation * Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center * Michael J. Fox Foundation * More Gardens! * National Director of Communications, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America * National Eating Disorders Association * National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation * Planned Parenthood * Rainforest Alliance * RAINN * RESCU Foundation * Safe Horizon Sanctuary for Families * Suicide Prevention International * The AIDS Quilt * The Ali Forney Center * The Arc * The Innocence Project * The Long Island Crisis Center * The Mercy Center in the South Bronx * UJA of New York United Nations Environment Program (www.unep.org) * Urgent Pets on Death Row * Visible Inc * Visiting Nurse Service of New York Hospice and Palliative Care * WIN [Women in Need] * Women for Women International * World Wildlife Fund



CONNECTING NEW & EXPERIENCED ARTISTS

Planet Connections is still a place that shelters new and experienced artists who want to use their art to make a difference. Since its inception, Planet Connections Festivity has presented 236 theatrical productions, 85 staged readings, 58 films and 67 bands- all while benefitting more than 305 different charitable organizations. The staff works to inspire all of these artists to learn how to use their talents to give back to their community, while being environmentally responsible.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US

"Planet Connections is the place to go to, to find the Pulitzer and Tony winners of tomorrow."

*Michael Roderick,
Broadway Producer*

"I was delighted to be part of the Planet Connections Festivity this year. It is a beacon in the art world connecting human creativity with our obligations as citizens of the world to work together to protect and nurture our social and physical environments."

Marco Calvani, Playwright

"The Planet Connections Festivity provides the kind of supportive environment that gives an artist the freedom to showcase their work while taking creative risks, as they invite you to join them in their quest to make the world a better place."

*Mark William Butler,
Playwright & Composer*

"If you want to be surrounded by the most supportive, creative artists, the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity is the community for you. I've never felt as appreciated or welcomed in a theatre where everyone knows my name."

Danielle Patsakos, Actress



A photograph of a theater stage. The background is a red brick wall. In the foreground, there is a wooden chair on the right and a microphone stand on the left. The lighting is dramatic, with strong red and black tones.

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MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

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