

## P.A.W. Programs at a Glance



**Artists-in-Schools** places artists in Bay Area public school classrooms and community sites, where they teach residencies in Creative Movement, Theater Arts, and World Dance for students from preschool through high school. Children of all abilities enjoy an exhilarating and affirming introduction to artistic expression while building skills such as critical thinking, communication, cooperation, and aesthetic and kinetic awareness.

**Professional Development Workshops** give educators ways to strengthen concentration, enhance verbal and non-verbal communication skills, and encourage their students' participation and imagination through the arts.

**Artist and High School Internships** train artists to teach the creative process to young people using P.A.W.'s methodology. Internships provide mentorship and observation opportunities in conjunction with our Artists-in-Schools program.

**The Paul Robeson and Diego Rivera Academy** is a pilot collaborative, creative learning middle school program for highly at-risk young people. P.A.W.'s integrated arts curriculum helps the students build essential problem solving, interpersonal, and academic skills to help them meet the challenge of successfully transitioning into adulthood.

**Artists-in-Community** residencies complement the efforts of organizations whose work addresses issues affecting our youth. We are pleased to partner with the Richmond District After School Collaborative, CultureCore, and Hamilton Family Center.

For more information about our programs, please contact us at 415.673.2634 or paw@pawsf.org.



Performing Arts Workshop  
Fort Mason Center, C-265  
San Francisco, CA 94123

# WORKSHOP *Notes*

Newsletter of the Performing Arts Workshop  Fall 2002

## NEW ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM TO LEAD P.A.W.

The Board of Directors of Performing Arts Workshop is pleased to announce a reorganization of the Administrative staff. For the past year, the Board's Planning Committee has been working on a five-year strategic plan. In assessing the opportunities and challenges for the future of the 37-year-old non-profit organization, Gary Draper, who for the past three years has served as both Executive and Artistic Director, consulted with the Committee to come up with a new administrative structure. Gary proposed that his job be divided into two positions, and that he retain the role of Artistic Director. This would allow him to concentrate on the artistic aspects of his job – training artists in the P.A.W. method – which is the heart and soul of P.A.W.'s mission. Gary and the Board felt that a new structure would produce a stronger administrative team, allowing for better community relations, artistic development, and the growth of programs serving the community.

Tom DeCaigny, who has served so skillfully for the past three years as the Program Manager for Robeson and Rivera Academy, was hired as Executive Director. He has a B.A. in Dramatic Arts from Macalester College in St. Paul, and has over seven years of non-profit experience in youth organizing, education, and the arts. Gary Draper has been with Performing Arts Workshop for over 20 years, working as a classroom artist, Deputy Director, and Executive/Artistic Director. Gary and Tom began co-directing the organization on October 1st, 2002.



Tom DeCaigny, Executive Director, and Gary Draper, Artistic Director

### P.A.W. Forms Samba Line for Fort Mason's Birthday

On October 2nd, three Performing Arts Workshop residency classes from Paul Revere Elementary School kicked off Fort Mason Center's 25th Anniversary Party with a spirited performance. Fort Mason Center has been P.A.W.'s home for 22 years.

P.A.W. artist, Josephine Morada, along with percussionists Rudy Ortiz and Boca Rum, led approximately 60 second and third grade students in a Brazilian samba dance called "Tudo Bem," which translated from Portuguese means "Everything is Okay." The performance was part of Performing Arts Workshop's World Dance Project which is funded by the San Francisco Arts Commission.



P.A.W. artists lead the celebration

World Dance residencies introduce children to music and traditional dance forms from around the world. World dance artists teach the movements, rhythms, and cultures of China, Brazil, Cuba, Japan, the Caribbean, and the Philippines.

Continued on page 3



Visit the P.A.W. Web site! [www.pawsf.org](http://www.pawsf.org)

Performing Arts Workshop (P.A.W.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping young people develop critical thinking, creative expression, and basic learning skills through the arts.

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**Change in P.A.W.'s Role at Robeson and Rivera**

Robeson and Rivera Academy (RRA), the successful pilot program begun by the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department in collaboration with Performing Arts Workshop, is undergoing a change of administration. After three years providing leadership, including a supervisory role for the multi-disciplinary staff, P.A.W.'s Board of Directors has decided that running the administration of the school was beyond the mission upon which P.A.W. was founded. The Board came to the conclusion that managing the school's administrative role, which included supervising staff who weren't artists or educators, had grown outside the organization's charge. At an April meeting, members voted to focus on Performing Arts Workshop's original vision, which is described as, "helping young people develop critical thinking, creative expression, and basic learning skills through the arts."

During its tenure with RRA, Performing Arts Workshop's administration and artists gained valuable knowledge about the integration of the arts with academic subjects. The staff and board decided they want to use those lessons to reach a larger population of young people in at-risk communities. P.A.W. is working with new and existing community partners to help them expand services into community schools around the Bay Area. In addition, Performing Arts Workshop plans to continue providing arts instruction and curriculum consultation, using the P.A.W. methodology, to teach dance, and performing and visual arts at RRA.

P.A.W. is proud of the accomplishments its staff achieved at RRA and recognizes the honor and responsibility granted the organization through participation in such an important social project. Statistical evaluation, through data gathered by Davis Y. Ja and Associates working with a control group, documents the success of the program. The following results were reported in an interim report to the California Board of Corrections:

- Student attendance reached 82% at RRA, as compared with as little as 30% in other settings (All students had been expelled from at least one prior school);
- On average, RRA students progressed three academic grade levels over the course of their enrollment in the Academy;
- According to the POSIT test, Academy students had lower instances of substance abuse and aggressive behavior than their peers in the control group;
- Generally, students enrolled at the RRA got along better with their families, which was one of the goals of the program.

**P.A.W. Welcomes New Staff Member**

P.A.W. would like to welcome Elena White-Negrete to the position of Research/Program Assistant. Elena joined P.A.W. on October 23rd thanks to a Demonstration Project grant from the California Arts Council. Elena will be overseeing data collection from three school evaluation sites as well as assisting with program coordination and other administrative responsibilities. She has over five years of experience in the non-profit sector including extensive development and organizing work with the United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO), the Council of Latino Agencies, and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy. Most recently Elena was the Associate Director of the Center for Commercial-Free Public Education where she fought to keep corporate advertising out of public schools.



Elena White-Negrete

**Board News**

Performing Arts Workshop is fortunate in having an active and engaged Board of Directors dedicated to the mission outlined by Gloria Unti in founding the organization. This summer, two new members, each with specific skills and talents, joined the Board.

**Francine Prophet** is a Certified Public Accountant with 18 years experience in Public Accounting. She provides tax compliance and consulting services to individuals and small businesses. She is also site manager for Tax Aid at the Hamilton Recreation Center. TaxAid is a non-profit organization that provides free tax preparation services for low-income individuals.



Francine Prophet

Francine also volunteers for the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which includes walking with clients for exercise and assisting with their errands. Francine will be serving on P.A.W.'s Finance Committee.

**Manuelito Biag** holds a Master's Degree in Cross-Cultural Psychology from the University of Bristol, U.K., and for the past few years has worked with diverse populations of at-risk youth. He has been a teacher in a group home setting and a day treatment program, and was the Lead Arts Instructor at Robeson and Rivera Academy.



Manuelito Biag in *Falling Through Ice, Part 1* (2000)

Currently, he is the Gang Risk Intervention Program Coordinator at Enola Maxwell Middle School of the Arts, where he provides case management for youth, including academic tutoring, planning recreational activities, and promoting parental support. Manuelito is also an arts-education consultant with the University of San Francisco's Upward Bound Program where he develops and evaluates curriculum for local middle and high school students.

Manuelito is the Co-Founder and Director of SHIFT>>> Physical Theater, a company whose work has been showcased statewide and in the San Francisco Bay Area. Please check out [www.shiftdance.org](http://www.shiftdance.org) for more information and upcoming events. Most recently, Manuelito became a performer with the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company.

**New Officers Take Charge on Board of Directors**

At the October Board Meeting, members voted to elect the following officers to serve on the organization's 2002-2003 Executive Committee:

Michelle Angier, President  
Diane Downing, Vice President  
Rebecca Masisak, Treasurer  
Becky Jenkins, Secretary

**SAMBA LINE - Continued from page 1**

Residencies often end in colorfully costumed performances for parents and the school community.

Fort Mason Center is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and houses nearly fifty non-profit organizations. Over 250 people from around the city attended the celebration honoring Fort Mason, a National Historic Landmark.

**Arts Education - A Gift to Our Children  
Make Yours Now**

There isn't enough art in our schools and Performing Arts Workshop is working to change that. It is our mission to make sure that children, especially economically and educationally disadvantaged children, have the tools to develop creativity, critical thinking, self-discipline, confidence, and problem solving abilities. Skills that are necessary for all aspects of life. Studies show, as well, that parents believe dance, music and drama make their kids better students and better people.



This is the time of year that we approach our "family" of supporters and like-minded friends to help us bring the gift of art to the children and young people of our community. Our annual Holiday Campaign begins after Thanksgiving, but you don't have to wait. We have attached a contribution envelope to make it simple for you to join our cause right now.

*Thank you for your generosity.*