



# December 2008 Newsletter

*Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year  
from the  
Early Stage Board of Directors and Staff*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the New Year approaches, we want to take a moment to thank all of you for contributing to Early Stages accomplishments. Each of you has played a crucial role in allowing us to integrate arts education into the lives of New York City's public school children. Thank you to our funders, the theater community and the many school principals, students, teachers and parents we work with. This has been a wonderful fall and we have much we want to tell you.

**Live Theater:** This fall we have taken more students, to more shows, from more schools, than we have in the last two years. Since September we have recruited **10 new schools** as participants in the program. **Thank you to the Producers** who make this possible.

**Storytelling:** This fall, thanks to a generous grant from New York State Assemblymember **Mark Weprin** we have introduced our Storytelling Program to **12 new schools** in Queens.

**Celebration Event:** Early Stages honored four time Tony Award winning actress and Founding Board Chair, **Zoe Caldwell**, at our first benefit.

I look forward to sharing more Early Stages news with you in the spring.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a very happy New Year!

Jackie Pine,  
Executive Director



***Special Thanks to Our Major Donors:***

Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust \* Maurice Amado Foundation/Next Generation \* Jeffrey M. & Barbara Picower Foundation \* Shubert Foundation \* Harkness Foundation for Dance \* Conde Nast/ Porfolio \* The Bookkeeping Company, Inc. \* New York State Council on the Arts \* National Endowment for the Arts\* New York City Department of Cultural Affairs\*

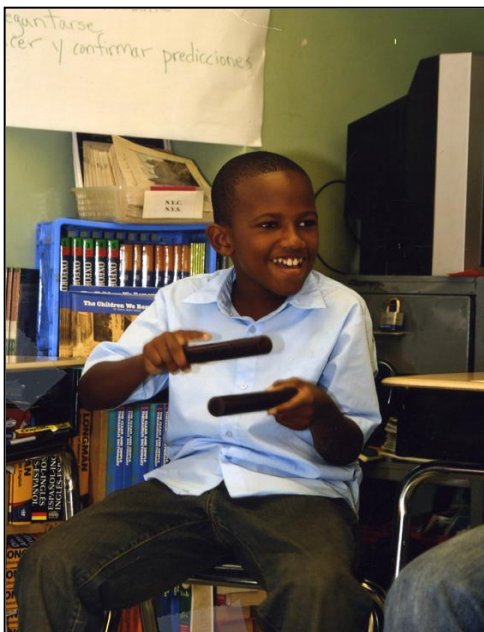


Students from Baruch College Campus High School outside of *Slava's Snowshow*

***3,000 shows seen  
by students  
since September***

- **Shrek the Musical**
- **Slava's Snowshow**
- **Phantom of the Opera**
- **Mary Poppins**
- **Wicked**
- **Boeing Boeing**
- **A Tale of Two Cities**
- **Hairspray**
- **13, A New Musical**
- **Spring Awakening**
- **Legally Blonde**
- **Taking Over**
- **Gazillion Bubble Show**

**Over 50 schools in all 5 boroughs participate in the *Early Stages Live Theater Program!***



**MS 145 Talking Drums**, a Storytelling and Drumming Program  
 Drummer Roderick Jackson teaching a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. This year we have expanded our program to include the entire 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This program is funded in part by the New York Council on the Arts.



*"We wanted to let you know what a fabulous gift Early Stages has given our students and families with both the Storytelling Residency and the Broadway ticket opportunities. As you know, our community is quite ethnically diverse. Many of our students are the first generation being educated in this country. To see not only our students but their parents participating and sharing their own stories is nothing short of awe-aspiring!"*

**-Principal, PS 186**

Students from the Bronx waiting to see **Shrek The Musical**.

*Thank you so much for providing tickets to students and families who are not familiar with theater. The work you do helps to awaken and stimulate the creative juices for so many of New York City's urban youth*

**-D. Prester, Parent**



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**New York State Assemblymember Mark Weprin**