



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

BOUNCE Hits The Courts!

BOUNCE Outreach Event in Kaiser Park

On September 14, Ardea Arts went down to Coney Island for our first *BOUNCE* Outreach workshop, in collaboration with City Parks Foundation and sponsored by Modell's Sporting Goods. The workshop was led by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) and Charles R. Smith Jr., the composer and librettist, respectively, for *BOUNCE*, with the help of Shay Berry, head coach of men's basketball at CUNY Hunter College, and his student athletes, Lester Anim and Ishmael Nauserdeen. We worked with about 50 kids ages 8-16 from the community, teaching them music terms such as *forte*, *vivace*, and *moderato*. The kids also created their own poetry, utilizing Charles's original piece, "B-Ball Be," and discussed the importance of self expression and sharing thoughts and emotions through art. We would like to send a special shout-out to our friends who helped make this a reality: Monique Martin, Eric Wyche, Melissa Garcia, Bobby Jackson, Aaron Purdey, Gail Wein, and to all who volunteered from City Parks Foundation.

Stay tuned for our next workshop! To learn more about *BOUNCE* and register your child to participate in our upcoming *BOUNCE* workshops, click [HERE!](#)



Bouncing Into Opera Fundraiser

Brunch Fundraiser at Cornelia Street Cafe



On September 14, Ardea Arts held our first annual brunch fundraiser, *Bouncing Into Opera*, at the Cornelia Street Cafe in the West Village. The benefit featured performances from Antonina Ermolenko and Jia-Jun Hong, our Russian and Chinese astronauts from *The Three Astronauts* libretto reading, each performing a classical piece in their native languages. Additionally, Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) and Charles R. Smith Jr.-- librettist and composer-- presented and premiered two pieces from our latest work in progress, *BOUNCE: The Basketball Opera*, featuring Donovan Singletary as Ike "The Flight" Harris and Kristin Young as Trina "Money" Banks.

Rachel Katz from WWFM stopped by for an interview with the Ardea Arts Executive Director; Grethe Barrett Holby, *BOUNCE* Producer; Torrie Allen; DBR and Charles R. Smith Jr. The interview can be heard by clicking [HERE.](#)

A special shout-out to our steering committee; Sophie Elgort, Carolyn Pride and Nneya Richards; Aaron Purdey, Gail Wein and Oliva Baltimore for making this event a smash hit!

THE THREE ASTRONAUTS IN NEW MEXICO

This October, Ardea Arts took *The Three Astronauts* to Las Cruces, New Mexico to present the first tastes of the opera at the Rio Grande Theater, in partnership with the Dona Ana Arts Council, on the 14th, and the International Symposium for Personal and Commercial Space (ISPCS) on the 15th.

The performances featured Donovan Singletary as the American astronaut, Jia-Jun Hong as the Chinese astronaut, Jessica Medoff as the Russian as the Russian astronaut, Jodn Carlo Pierce as Mission Control, four-time award winning ABC News reporter Sam Donaldson as himself and Mikhail Hallak on Piano.

The shows went off without a hitch! Members of the space community who attended ISPCS were astounded, and many recorded the performance using their cell phones. Dr. Patricia Hynes believes *The Three Astronauts* "has potential to reach, engage and inspire our communities, our students- sparking the new STEM & STEAM initiatives- and awaken our citizens to embrace space travel and exploration as a human imperative," and physicist, engineer and executive in the aerospace industry said, " The opera was very cool."

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Paul Hallsted, Carolyn Hoffman-Schneider, Neil Singh & the AP Science class at LaGuardia High School, Tomás Doncker, Lael Summer, Li Shaosheng, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Dr. Patricia Hynes, Joylynn Watkins, Steve Struble, the ISPCS staff, Kathleen Albers, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Medoff, Torrie Allen, Robert Gilder & Co., Gloria Parker, Geri Brink, Dan Delany, Bruce Ven, Rosie Mandel, Shay Munson Mcgee, Andrea Fellows Walters, the University of the State of New Mexico and the entire Ardea Arts staff for taking our journey beyond Planet Earth and closer to our Mission to Mars!

Welcome Knox!

We would like to welcome our new administrative volunteer, Knox Martin, to the Ardea Arts Team! Knox is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina, where he received his degree in music. He is a South Carolina native and new to New York! Knox will be assisting us with our projects *BOUNCE: The Basketball Opera* and *The Three Astronauts*.

BOUNCE Libretto Reading

Now that the libretto has been completed, Ardea Arts has begun planning for the first reading of *BOUNCE: A Basketball Opera*. Stay tuned for more details!

To learn more about *BOUNCE*, click [HERE!](#) [GBH to address in Letter from the Exec Artistic Director]

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We thank all of our donors for supporting us and making our visions a reality! It is through your generosity and support that we are able to create new opera for audiences inside and outside the opera house.

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