

many voices, one movement



FIRST GENERATION

performing arts and youth leadership

A newsletter for ensemble, families and friends of First Generation

MARCH 2011



Another chance to
experience

Ripple Effect

at our

ANNUAL BENEFIT
PERFORMANCE

April 30th at 7 p.m. at
Northampton Center
for the Arts!

ANNUAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE!

We are extremely proud to invite you to our next performance of Ripple Effect, which will be featured in our upcoming Annual Fundraising event. **This year's benefit performance will be held at the Northampton Center for the Arts on April 30th at 7 p.m.** Join us in celebrating another year of original, transcendent work from an ever-growing group of young artists. The evening will also feature musicians Jo Sallins, Julissa Lee Rodriguez and Irene I-SHEA Shaikly, and include several surprise performances.

Ripple Effect

SO MUCH has been going on with **First Generation!** The ensemble is at the height of performing our new show Ripple Effect, with three amazing performances behind us at Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield College, and Hampshire College.

Ripple Effect is based on the personal narratives of the ensemble members' life stories. Through the use of poetry, movement, monologue and storytelling, the ensemble shares the strengths and struggles of their journeys, families and communities. Ripple Effect spans four languages and three continents. The ensemble transforms the stage into a meeting point of their lives in the present day. In Ripple Effect, the audience is transported from Springfield, MA to a U.S. army base, through a refugee camp in Tanzania, to a Nepali family's struggle for recognition, and the groups' fantasy world and dreams for the future. The ensemble has phenomenal courage and wild energy in this performance piece. All of them are enormously talented and have huge hearts!

Our goal is to continue to develop and improve Ripple Effect in the coming months!

First Generation ensemble says:

"Working on Ripple Effect has changed me because I have a lot more confidence in myself and I have a lot more faith in my writing and in the fact that my story can change people and touch different people's lives."

"The best moment for me of working on Ripple Effect so far would be the connections I've made and overcoming the different obstacles that the group has had."



THANK YOU! Thank you to all our friends, families, and community supporters for all your efforts in sustaining First Generation. We are immensely grateful for your encouragement, talents, time and participation. A big thank you to the families of the First Generation Ensemble for their support and understanding of all the long hours spent in rehearsal!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To Support First Generation:

Please send a check or go online at <http://www.performanceproject.org/donate.html>.

Friends of First Generation have discovered "Network for Good" at

<http://www1.networkforgood.org/>

This allows you to make a regular monthly donation! No amount is too small. Everything helps us tremendously!

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

This is both an exciting and critical time for **First Generation**. As we are extended new honors and opportunities, such as the chance to perform at the KO Festival, we also face many challenges. At this moment we need your support more than ever.

We are asking for your assistance in raising \$10,000 so that **First Generation** can continue to create insightful, original performances, and maintain creative spaces that nourish the young artists in our community. Any amount no matter how large or small will help us reach our goal!



First Generation ensemble says:

"I've loved working with everyone, hearing people's stories and seeing how they connect together...."

"Ripple effect is something that brought each and every one of us together and it's something that everyone can really relate to and something that's gonna move people."



First Generation at Ko! Festival

We are SO excited to announce that **First Generation** has been invited to further develop, and then perform *Ripple Effect* at the 20th anniversary of the prestigious KO! Theater Festival this summer.

During July of 2011 First Generation will be in residence at Ko and will have the privilege of meeting world-renowned director **Ping Chong**. This weeklong participation in the KO Festival is an opportunity for **First Generation** ensemble members to further build their performance skills, be immersed in an artistic community, work with theater professionals. The week will culminate in three performances of *Ripple Effect* at the Festival.

Since 1991 KO Theater Works has been fostering artistic collaborations in performance, design and technology, supporting community dialogue about social and personal issues, and providing quality theater for the Pioneer Valley. We are thrilled and honored by this invitation!

ANNOUNCING: First Generation Study Group

Springfield College student Ashley Farra, and Smith College students Katherine Fallon, Ashley Urrutia and Caroline Arcos have taken the initiative to start an exciting new academic mentoring program. Several **First Generation** members are gaining one-on-one academic support from the college students. They meet at the Springfield College library twice a week for this new study group. Through this mentoring, students are getting assistance with schoolwork, study and organizational skills, and college applications. The academic mentors are enjoying building relationships one-on-one with **First Gen** youth and supporting them to exceed in all aspects of their lives. Central to our mentoring work is the belief that we hang in with our mentees offering constant support through thick and thin!

- *Katharine Fallon, First Generation intern (Smith College)*



This program is supported by the Springfield Cultural Council and the Northampton Arts Council.

First Generation is an intensive, arts and youth leadership program in Springfield, Massachusetts that provides a platform for young people to have a public voice in their community, and beyond.

The Performance Project creates theater about oppression and liberation. Through our multi-generational collaborations we examine the effects of racism, economic oppression, bigotry, and violence, and create compelling works of theater, movement, and spoken-word. Our performances engage audiences in dialogue about critical social and cultural issues.

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