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BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

**The Brooklyn Historical Society
And
City Lights Youth Theatre
Present
Dirty Dough**

**Written and performed by the students of the 2004 *Origins Project*,
Under the guidance of Playwright Kent Jackman
Directed by Damaris Webb
Thursday August 12: 11:00 am & 2:00 pm
Friday August 13: 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm
Saturday August 14: 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm**

**The Brooklyn Historical Society
128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, New York
Adults: \$8 Society Members, Seniors, and Students: \$6**

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New York, NY, August 4, 2004 – City Lights Youth Theatre and the Brooklyn Historical Society are proud to host the 9th season of the *Origins Project* presenting **Dirty Dough! Dirty Dough!** is (a satiric comedy) about the power of collaboration and creative action. Workers at a fictitious Brooklyn Bakery discover that the company’s relocation threatens to terminate their jobs. They organize to improve productivity levels, employment conditions, and workers benefits by implementing new production strategies that are inspired by “childhood” resources. With the assistance of local media outlets they also succeed in exposing corrupt management practices that have been jeopardizing personal safety, as well as opportunities for career stability.

The Brooklyn Historical Society’s current exhibits, “**BROOKLYN WORKS: 400 Years of Making a Living in Brooklyn!**” and “**100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall: Brewing in Brooklyn**” offered the students a rich historical resource upon which they were able to draw for keen insight into the operations of such influential Brooklyn industries as Drakes Cakes, Dominoes Sugar, Rheingold Beer, and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The examination of this historical data provided the students with an insider’s perspective, allowing them to create a fictional play based on the challenges of work in an industrial age, and the power that solidarity has to elicit progressive and positive change.

The *Origins Project* began in the summer of 1996 with **Hope**, based on the Confino family, former residents of 97 Orchard Street. **The Whole Megilla** in 1997, dramatized the Rogarshevsky family, who resided at 97 Orchard from 1910 to 1941. In 1998, the Baldizzi family (residents from 1928-1935) took center stage in **Caro Diario**. In 1999, the theatrical history lesson encompassed larger social issues: **Might Makes Right** used the stories of 97 Orchard Street's first Civil War draftees to tell the largely forgotten saga of the New York City's Civil War draft riots. 2000's **Forward into Light** was a provocative examination of the fight for women's suffrage. 2001's **Ancestor's Breath** was performed at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church on Henry Street and was based on the story of the church's 1828 slave gallery, the inaugural site of the Lower East Side's Community Preservation Project. 2002's **Home-Work: A Journey into the Garment Industry** told the story of the Levine family, Polish immigrants who operated a dress-making shop and raised their 4 children at 97 Orchard Street from 1890-1905. Last summer's **Letters of Approval** told the story of the conflicting relationships between New York City landlords, tenants, housing inspectors, and reformers at the dawn of the 20th century.

The innovative theatrical collaboration between the Brooklyn Historical Society and City Lights Youth Theatre provides an opportunity for junior high and high school students to develop a visceral understanding of their city's past. This year, **thirteen** students, ages 12-16, from all 5 boroughs were selected during citywide auditions. After exploring the history of Brooklyn through investigative field trips and analysis of primary source material, the cast used improvisation and character work to bring the material to life. In keeping with the Brooklyn Historical Society's focus on historical context and City Lights' dedication to multicultural theatre experiences, the *Origins Project* teaches tolerance for people of different backgrounds, the universality of the immigrant experience, and the enduring legacy of the past.

City Lights Youth Theatre, founded in 1991, is a non-profit educational organization providing theatre arts programs for young people of diverse backgrounds. City Lights programs engage New York City youth ages 3-19 in the creation and performance of theatre through after-school and weekend classes, full-scale productions, and in-school residencies. Please call 212.262.0200 or visit our website at www.clyouththeatre.org for more information on our programs.

The Brooklyn Historical Society "is a museum, library and educational center dedicated to encouraging the exploration and appreciation of Brooklyn's rich heritage. The Brooklyn Historical Society fulfills this mission by collecting, preserving and making available important materials representative of Brooklyn's diverse peoples and cultures both past and present. The Brooklyn Historical Society places the materials it collects in a meaningful context by presenting innovative exhibitions and public programs." For more information regarding exhibits, tours, or school visits, please call 718.222.4111 or visit the Brooklyn Historical Society's website at <http://www.brooklynhistory.org>