

June 21, 2007

*YO!*

I figured I'd start this letter with a proper South Philly salutation, since I have big news about GEMINI THE MUSICAL, the musical set in South Philly that Albert Innaurato and I wrote a few years ago. Many of you friends and stalwart supporters saw GEMINI THE MUSICAL when it was premiered at the Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia in the fall of 2004. This musical adaptation of Albert's hit Broadway comedy played for three weeks at the Prince, receiving enthusiastic reviews and audience response. (At the show's official website, [www.geminithe musical.com](http://www.geminithe musical.com), you can read reviews and see some pictures from that production.)



And now there's big news about GEMINI – something worth “yo”-ing about! Our musical will be presented in New York City this fall as part of the New York Musical Theater Festival ([www.nymf.org](http://www.nymf.org)). We open at the Acorn Theater (410 W. 42nd Street, in the heart of Theatre Row) on September 18, and perform at least six times between then and September 30.

This three-week festival, regarded in the industry as “the Sundance of musical theater,” has presented nearly one hundred new musicals in its first three years of operation, many of which have gone on to commercial productions off-Broadway and in regional theaters. As one of the selections in this fall's Festival, our show will be seen by industry insiders and reviewed by the New York theater press; it's a tremendously exciting break for us, and an opportunity that we feel confident will help the show move on to its next level of development.

With this opportunity, however, there comes a challenge – at the NYMF, each show is self-producing. While the festival provides an impressive array of services (promotion, box-office, scheduling, performance space, technical personnel and more) to all of the more than 30 participating shows, each show is responsible for raising the money that it will take to hire the actors, build the sets, rehearse the show and create its own publicity buzz.

Our goal is to assemble the best team we can for the NYMF production. Because the Festival is such a high-profile event in the New York



**Jeremiah Downes (Randy) and Barry James (Francis)**

theater season, many first-rate actors and other theater artists are willing to work for almost nothing. Still, the costs of mounting an ingenious, economical, effective production under the Festival's guidelines are projected to be about \$30,000, and the creators of the show are faced with the (somewhat daunting) task of raising that sum.

And so we're reaching out to our friends, those who have supported us in past endeavors and those we know would like to see us succeed. I'd like to ask you to consider making a financial contribution toward the NYMF production of GEMINI THE MUSICAL. If you prefer, you can make your contribution directly to NYMF, earmarked for GEMINI, and receive a tax deduction for your donation. (If you choose to do that, let me know about your contribution so that I can make sure you are showered with gratitude.) You can also make a donation directly to me, either via check or via credit card on the show's homepage at [www.geminithemusical.com](http://www.geminithemusical.com). All supporters will be acknowledged in our program, and generous angels will have the opportunity to attend special thank-you events hosted in conjunction with several of the performances.

In the final scene of GEMINI THE MUSICAL, as Francis prepares to leave with his friends Judith and Randy for a summer on Cape Cod, his father Fran calls out to their neighbor Bunny, "Yo Bun! We need some more money!" Bunny digs a fistful of cash out of her cleavage and replies, "Here's the house money, take what you need." I'm certainly not asking you to part with your "house money," but I hope you'll consider following Bunny's example by helping a friend who seeks your support. Thanks in advance for your generosity. See you on Broadway!

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**The cast of "Gemini the Musical" at the Prince Music Theater in 2004: Anne DeSalvo, Robert Picardo, Barry James, Jillian Louis, Todd Buonopane, Jeremiah Downes and Linda Hart.**