



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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May 14, 2008

John Sexton
President, New York University
70 Washington Square South, rm. 1216
New York, NY 10012

**Re: Plans to Demolish the Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments,
133-139 MacDougal Street**

Dear President Sexton:

We are deeply concerned about NYU's plans to demolish the Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments at 133-139 MacDougal Street.

The Provincetown Playhouse is widely considered one of the most important sites in the history of American Theater in the 20th century. It is considered the birthplace of Off-Broadway and alternative theater, and its contributions to theater extended throughout the Playhouse's lifetime, both before and after the 1940 renovation of the theater's façade.

Demolition of this building would be seen as a devastating act to many historians, preservationists, theater advocates, and Village residents. It would also be seen as an abrogation of NYU's commitment to "prioritize re-use before new development" in its plans for its campus core, as well as its support for the proposed South Village Historic District, of which the Playhouse is a key and integral part.

We hope that NYU will reconsider its plans to demolish the Provincetown Playhouse and instead preserve this incredibly important historic site.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Adler, Actor/Writer

Michael Arkin, Actor, Screen actors Guild Board 1997-2001

Jon Robin Baitz, playwright

Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director, Historic Districts Council

Courtney Baron, playwright

Jack W. Batman, Executive Producer, White Plains Performing Arts Center

Silvia Beam, VanDam Street Block Association

Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Mark Blankenship, Variety

Peter Bogyo, General Manager, The Sprecher Organization

Phebe A. Bowditch, Vice President/ Director, Brown Harris Stevens Residential Sales, LLC

Guy Boyd, actor

Mary Elizabeth Brown, Author, *From Italian Villages to Greenwich Village*

Michael Burlingame, Sadowski Professor of History Emeritus, Connecticut College

Dr. Linda Burson, Director and Playwright

Charles Busch, actor/playwright

Michele Campo, Vice-Chair, Bowery Alliance of Neighbors

Lucy Cecere, Co-Founder, Caring Community

David Chandler, actor

Linda Chapman, Associate Artistic Director, New York Theatre Workshop

Dorothy Chansky, Ph.D., NYU

Gail Cohen, Former Director of the Hedgerow Theatre Collection, Theatre Historian and Archivist

James Comtois, Co-Founder, Nosedive Productions.

Terri Cook, Author, *Sacred Havens: A Guide To Manhattan's Spiritual Places*

David Cote, Theater Editor, Time Out New York

Tandy Cronin, Actress

Sean Cullen, Founder, American National Theatre and Equity Actor, Broadway's "South Pacific"

Tim Cusack, Co-artistic director, Theatre Askew

Tish Dace, Theatre critic and Chancellor Professor, UMass Dartmouth

Blythe Danner, Actor

Laurie M. Deredita, Curator, Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection, Connecticut College

Jay DiLorenzo, Executive Director, Preservation League of New York State

Robert M. Dowling, Associate Professor of English, Central CT State University

Carol Feinman, Chair, Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront & Great Port

Dr. Anne Fletcher, Theater Dept, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Tom Fontana, Writer/Producer

Sharon Friedman, New York University Faculty and Susan Glaspell Society

J. Ellen Gainor, Professor of Theatre, Cornell University

Margaret Halsey Gardiner, Executive Director, Merchants House Museum

David Handelman, Journalist and TV writer

Paul Hecht, Actor

Susan Kathryn Hefti, Co-Chair, 93rd Street Beautification Association

Jamie Heinlein, Ethyl Eichelberger Solo Show Project Director, TOSOS II Theater Company

Shawn-Marie Garrett, Associate Professor of Theater, Barnard College, Columbia University

Jonathan Geballe, South Village Advisory Board

Gina Gionfriddo, playwright

Christabel Gough

John Guare, Playwright

Erik Haagensen, Richard Rodgers Award-winning Off-Broadway playwright-lyricist, NYU Tisch School MFA graduate, Dramatists Guild member

Louise Kerz Hirschfeld, President, The Al Hirschfeld Foundation

Leonard Jacobs, National Theater Editor, Backstage; Chief Theater Critic, New York Press; Theater Historian

Jerome Krase, Ph.D., Emeritus and Murray Koppelman Professor, Brooklyn College

Elizabeth Langwith, St. Ann's Committee and member of the Borough President's NYU Community Task Force

James Lawson, Artistic Director, Manhattan TheatreSource and Associate Artistic Director, John Drew Theater at Guild Hall, East Hampton NY

John Leguizamo, actor

Gregg Levine, Thompson-Sullivan Coalition and South Village Advisory Board

Abby Marcus, Managing Director, Vampire Cowboys Theatre Company

Marshall W. Mason, Founding Artistic Director, Circle Repertory Company

Tom McCarthy, Writer/Actor

Francis Morrone, Writer/Historian

David Logan-Morrow (actor, director, playwright), Chicago, Illinois

Bob Ost, executive director Theater Resources Unlimited

Barbara Ozieblo, President of the Susan Glaspell Society

Catherine M. Perebinosoff, CEO/President, NewYorkCity Tours

Susan Marie Pierson, opera singer, actress and board member of TOSOS

John Pinckard, founding board member, League of Independent Theater; Commercial Producer, T Fellowship Recipient

Vickie Phillips, Award-Winning Actress/Singer and Director, New York

Andy Propst, theatre critic, Americantheatreweb.com

Lois Rakoff, Member, South Village Advisory Board

Armando Nascimento Rosa, Ph.D, Playwright and teacher, Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema (College of Dramatic Arts and Cinema) Lisbon, Portugal

The New York Innovative Theatre Foundation, Jason Bowcutt, Shay Gines, and Nick Micozzi, Co-Executive Directors

Mercedes Ruehl, Actor

Katherine Rosin, School of Continuing and Professional Studies, NYU

Stephen Rourke, Esq., co-founder, Friends of the Biltmore Theater, Baltimore

Andrew Ryder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theatre, Seattle Pacific University

Anna Sawaryn, Chair, Coalition to Save the East Village (member of the Borough President's NYU Community Task Force)

Diane Schinnerer, Secretary/treasurer, Eugene O'Neill Society; Past president, Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House; Current Library Director, Curator, and Archivist for the O'Neill Library at Tao House in Danville, CA; former Mayor, San Ramon, CA

Marian Seldes, Tony award-winning actress

Doug Silver, Founding Member, Manhattan TheatreSource

Teri Sheridan, Actor

Blair Singer, writer ("Weeds" on Showtime); Playwright; Founder of the Bronx Acting Ensemble

Charles Spence, West 44th Street Block Association

Jon Stancato, Producing Artistic Director, The Stolen Chair Theatre Company

Marilyn Stasio, VARIETY

Harriet Stella

Eric Stoltz, Actor/Director/Producer

Sean Sweeney, Chair, Landmarks Committee, Community Board #2*; Director, SoHo Alliance

** for identification purposes only*

Morgan Lindsey Tachco, Producing Director, Horse Trade Theatre Group and Founding Producing Director, FRIGID New York Festival

Daniel Talbott, actor and Artistic Director of Rising Phoenix Repertory

Martin Treat, Actor, Actors Equity Association

Kathleen McGee Treat, chair, Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association

Wendy vanden Heuvel, actor

Betsy Walker, former company manager of American Theatre Arts Project, housed in the Provincetown Playhouse

Ann Warner Arlen, Member, Historic South Village Preservation Project
Advisory Board

Doyle Warren, Former Producing Director, American Theater Arts Project (in
residence at The Provincetown Playhouse from 1978 to 1983)

Kim Whitener, Board President, 71 Sullivan Street Coop and member, South
Village Advisory Board

Don B. Wilmeth, Asa Messer Emeritus Professor, Emeritus Professor of Theatre
& of English, Brown University

Doric Wilson, Playwright

Zack Winestine and Katy Bordonaro, Co-Chairs, Greenwich Village
Community Task Force