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LOCAL ARTISTS ORGANIZE MUSIC PERFORMANCE FOR SANDY VICTIMS

NEW YORK (November 11, 2012) — Brain Fry Productions, an Astoria based production company spearheaded by independent filmmaker & comedian Kristen Kress, is hosting an evening of music and dancing for the 498 evacuation shelter residents currently living at Queens College in Flushing, NY.

“This is a chance for local artists who can’t financially contribute to relief efforts to aid in a different way.”

Kress is a 2nd year MFA Director from the Actors Studio Drama School with recent national commercial credits including assistant directing for Scope and the American Cancer Society. She is working on the upcoming independent feature film “Coach of the Year,” and just signed on to direct and produce a short film featuring Colin Quinn.

She visited the shelter last week to drop off donations including canned foods, coats, clothing & dishes, and had hopes of cooking a meal for the shelter residents. Upon discovering there were nearly 500 still displaced and living in the Fitzgerald Gym, Kress began talking with the residents. “They told me they miss music,” she recounts. “I thought: there must be something we can do.”

Kress and fellow actors, singers & dancers from the Actors Studio Drama School, as well as the greater New York area banded together to create a program they hope the residents, mostly elderly, will enjoy. Set to begin at 7:15pm tonight, the evening will include Sinatra favorites, classic Broadway show tunes, some jazz standards; holiday tunes, and culminate with an interactive line dancing session.

“We just hope to see some smiles,” said Kress. “And maybe, meet some new dance partners!”

Local DJ Anthony Cacioppo has agreed to donate his time & equipment to the cause, though he himself has been without power for nearly two weeks. Kress hopes the artists can make small donations to both the shelter & Cacioppo, to help defer his generator fuel costs.

Reflecting on this, Kress said, “I think it’s really important we all do whatever we can.”

Artists include Actors Studio Drama School actors including Ben Sheedy, Byron Hagan, Melanie Bernier, Ted Watts, Ciena House & Elizabeth Anderson, as well as NY artists Rafael Cuesta, Tsahalla Kessari & even two ambitious high school singers, Emily Joyce & Alice He, from the Bronx High School of Science. The event will be filmed by high school filmmaker & winner of the New York Film Festival’s 2012 “On Buzz” Young Filmmaker’s Award, Sofie Somoroff.

All are invited to come by the Queens College performance tonight, slated to last about 90 minutes, and are encouraged to bring some of the things needed most at the shelter, including: store bought cookies, winter coats, XL sweat suits, or cat litter. You can also contribute financially to the Red Cross, who will soon take over shelter operations in the coming weeks.

About Brain Fry Productions

Brain Fry Productions is an upcoming NYC based production company specializing in the creation of short films, reality & documentary style commercials, and music productions. For more information, visit <http://www.vimeo.com/kristenkress>

About the Actors Studio Drama School

The Actors Studio Drama School is the only MFA program officially sanctioned and supervised by the legendary Actors Studio. It is the only school that offers the authenticity, continuity and authority of the Stanislavski System and the Method. The curriculum has been designed and supervised by the leadership of the Actors Studio, including the Presidents of the Actors Studio, Ellen Burstyn, Harvey Keitel and Al Pacino. The MFA is a 3-year program, focusing in acting, directing or playwriting. For more information, visit [ASDS at Pace University](#).

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