Repair Hero: Adam Jacobs

by Leah Koenig | February 25, 2010 | 1 comment

Adam Jacobs is in the business of empowering kids.

He is the Executive Director and co-founder, along with his brother Stephen, of Kids Creative – an arts non-profit that engages students from pre-K through high school in writing and performing their own live theatre and musical events. The programs, which run after school and at camps during the summer, empower participants to create something they’re proud of, and help build leadership and communication skills.

The organization's vision of “a better, more peaceful future...through the arts,” is focused around what the Jacobs brothers call the 6 C’s of peacemaking in youth: confidence, creativity, conflict resolution, community, collaboration and – of course – cookies. Kids Creative has worked with more than 2,000 students in NYC to create over 85 original productions and countless songs – like this one about dancing robots.

Kids Creative was founded shortly after Adam graduated from the JTS/Columbia joint program in 2001. "I had been working with my brother Stephen on a summer arts camp and a media project for kids. I didn't think that it would turn into a career, but by being open to a variety of experiences, we ended up realizing that we had started a program that we could build up into something bigger," Jacobs wrote for JTS's newsletter.

In addition – and really in collaboration – with their work at Kids Creative, both Jacobs brothers are members of the Dirty Sock Funtime Band, which was voted “best kids rock band,” by Time Out New York Kids. The brothers' ultimate vision is to
someday create a K-8 school that integrates their holistic approach to education into its curriculum. It’s a big dream, but at Kids Creative, dreaming big is the whole point. Check out some of Kids Creative’s productions here and the Dirty Sock Funtime Band’s tunes here.

Leah Koenig is a freelance writer and editor whose work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Saveur, Every Day with Rachael Ray, Hadassah Magazine, Lilith, Edible Brooklyn and Beliefnet. She contributes a monthly column on food to The Forward and a bi-weekly column to Saveur.com. She is also the former editor of Hazon’s award-winning blog, The Jew & The Carrot. Leah joined Repair the World as a contributing editor in late 2009.

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I have met Adam and I can tell you he lives his philosophy every day. He has the patience of Job with a great sense of humor. And he runs a great children’s program.

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