



JEFF MANN

El Puente Presents 27th Annual Three Kings Day Show

by Jeff Mann

Community group El Puente outdid itself Sunday with its 27th Three Kings Day/El Día De Los Trés Reyes presentation, “Una Canción de Dos Tierras.”

Around 1,500 people gathered at the Grand Street Campus for two performances of the original show. Written by Jana Lynne Umipig and Ana O’Keefe, “Una Canción de Dos Tierras” told the story of Rafa, a young boy from the Dominican Republic who is given an opportunity to study in New York City. Along the way, Rafa, his friends, Dominican as well as New Yorker, and the audience get a lesson in preserving your heritage and the absurdity of stereotyping – using music as the bridge between Rafa’s old and new homes.

A cast of 135 El Puente youth performed the original story, which featured live music by Jose “Dr. Drum” Ortiz of BombaYo, Pa’lo Monte, and guitarist Marcos Antonio Gonzalez, dynamic choreography, including several forays into the audience, by Lisa Aronowitz, Arkadiusz “Erock” Lesniak, Jessenia Mera, Bryan Pacheco, Afaliah Tribune and WaAaK One, incredible sets – including a replica of the J train station – designed by Rolando Almonte, Joe Matunis, Ana O’Keefe and Clara Waloff and colorful costumes and make-up by Jahziel Lazala.

Before each presentation, El Puente recognized a longtime supporter, Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna at the first show and Assemblyman Joe Lentol at the second.