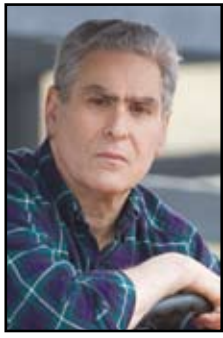


# Due to Poor Leadership, New York State Budget Dead on Arrival



By Steve Katz

It's finally arrived! Not the fully completed New York State budget, heaven forbid, but State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's assessment of the \$134.4 billion budgetary behemoth. New York's top accountant is making official what we taxpayers already knew; that this budget is a testimony to incompetent leadership and cowardly, re-election-driven legislators.

This is a budget that INCREASES spending by \$5.4 billion, twice the rate of inflation at 4.2 percent. They expect

Washington to give back the \$1.1 billion in Medicaid aid they had taken away from us for THEIR own budgetary constraints. This is how our legislators expect to plug the \$9.2 billion budget gap. Add in unrealistic expectations for increased state income. Now pile on one time savings gimmicks of over \$14 billion instead of truly cutting costs ANYWHERE within the State government.

This budget expects to see \$500 million in savings from concessions by the public employee unions in pension relief, overtime, and hiring practices. Who knows, since the unions have not yet agreed to one dollar worth of concessions. And let's not forget that the legislators left for vacation without voting on a bill to raise \$1 billion in new taxes for us all.

I think you get the picture. We the citizens

of New York State are witnessing the most incompetent, cowardly, sorry excuses for lawmakers in our long history. It is impossible to expect New York to become a place that people will want to live in and that businesses will want to move to without a complete purge of every incumbent occupying a seat in the current legislature. It is humiliating that we have allowed these people to squander our hard earned tax dollars. How dare they spend money they knew we didn't have. We're paying over \$8 in taxpayer money for every dollar put in by a public employee's union worker. I propose a matching pension fund contribution with a yearly ceiling.

The legislators did not put a property tax increase limit in the budget. I propose a property tax freeze. I also propose that we

rid ourselves of all these people who have breached the public trust by firing them all on November 3rd. They have failed us by destroying our wonderful state by making it a cruel burden to choose to live here. I love New York and will fight to save it from going the way of Greece. It will take 230 new Citizen Legislators, dedicated to cutting the size of government and government spending, dedicated to making New York a magnet for new businesses, and dedicated to their own term limits, to begin turning New York back into a place we all are proud to live in.

Steve Katz is a veterinarian running for the New York State 99th Assembly seat. He is a Republican also seeking the Conservative and Independence lines. For more information, his website is [www.katz4ny.com](http://www.katz4ny.com).

Guest  
Column

## Swingin' Bard goes Hip-Hop: 'Bomb-itty of Errors' at Shakespeare Fest

By Abby Luby

It's amazing to witness four men tirelessly sing a hip-hop version of Shakespeare while shimmying in and out of wild and wacky male and female roles. This hilarious, staged schizophrenia takes place in the "Bomb-itty of Errors," now playing at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

"Bomb-itty" is the rap music adaptation of Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" and is guaranteed to appeal to teens and young adults, hopefully reigning them in with an accessible lingo and turning them on to the magic of Shakespeare. Bard aficionados will appreciate the plots' twists and turns in this wonderful, zany interpretation.

Director Christopher Edwards, also one of the festivals' actors, has fine-tuned his cast - and check out these stage names - Michael Borrelli as Hot Ice, Wayne T. Carr as Black Light, Patrick Halley as Wintry Mix and Christian Jacobs as Phantom of the Choppera. DJ iPhool, (the DJ) is played by Christopher Joshua McCardle, who is perched on a small sound stage hovering over the audience, spinning records as the omniscient fulcrum of percussive beats accompanying the actor's live rap. The DJ is randomly acknowledged in the play and rap music is interspersed with the spoken word throughout.

The story of mistaken identity in "Comedy of Errors" is the springboard for "Bomb-itty" but quickly diverges to bawdy, back-street shuffles and tawdry bumps and grinds. The story starts with two sets of identical twins with one pair as designated servants of the other pair. The twins were separated at birth, and to complicate the story even further, each of the four have the same name as his twin. Wishing to find their brothers, Antipholus and his servant Dromio of Syracuse rock and roll and rap through gang-ridden streets and black-light dance clubs to find Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus.

How could this not be fun?

With the search under way, a host of characters are pumped out by the four actors from a Hassidic Jeweler a la Mel

Brooks (Borrelli) to a literary tone-deaf bike messenger (Carr), who fails at his attempt to utter simple rhymes.

In the course of the story Antipholus of Syracuse (Borrelli) falls in love with Luciana (Halley), the squeaky, dumb blonde, stamping her foot, hands on hips, an act that literally brought the house down. Halley later morphs into a cop who spews a stream of x-rated rap.

Antipholus of Ephesus is played by Carr, who also, convincingly, plays that character's wife, Adriana. At one point both characters kiss - a brilliant maneuver of smooching into the wife's wig cleverly sandwiched between the curtains.

Jacobs, who plays Dromio of Syracuse, doubles as a saucy temptress flaunting high-drag by way of exaggerated, black-laced cones for breasts incongruously resting on Jacobs Chest hairs. He also plays a Rasta healer.

High kudos should go to the myriad of stage hands for their

lightning-fast costume changes. All this happens behind the graffiti emblazoned set; although it blocks the exquisite view of the river, the view is hardly missed; we imagine the frenzied action behind the set, action that assuredly is as fascinating as the action in front.

"Bomb-itty" was written in 1998 by four NYU students: Jordan Allen-Dutton, Jason Catalano, GQ and Erik Weiner. All music is written by J.A.Q. The show has been performed in New York City (Off-Broadway), London (West End), Chicago, Dublin, Edinburgh, Florida, Aspen, Syracuse, and Los Angeles. It has been nominated alongside Stephen Sondheim for Best Lyrics at the Drama Desk Awards, nominated for Outer Critics Circle Awards, and received the Jefferson Award in Chicago and the Grand Jury Prize at the HBO US Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen.

"Bomb-itty of Errors" runs through September 3. Check out the schedule of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival at [www.hvshakespeare.org](http://www.hvshakespeare.org).



Wayne T. Carr (left), or Black Light, plays a tone-deaf bike messenger while Patrick Halley, aka Wintry Mix, plays the lead's ditzy blond love interest in "Bomb-itty of Errors."



Michael Borrelli (left) and Christian Jacobs, aka Hot Ice and Phantom of the Choppera respectively, star in "Bomb-itty of Errors."



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