



Monti volunteers to help students' life skills

by Dolly Malik

Monti Montanez, former member of Latino boy-band Menudo is continuing his successful musical career alongside producer Jadion. Currently, he has an amazing EP out on iTunes containing four tracks. The Trumpet got a chance to catch up with this busy artist to talk a little about his new EP as well as his time with Menudo.

The four tracks on the EP, My Dreams, include "So Hot" and its remix, perfect for the dance floor, as well as the song "My Dreams" in both English and Spanish. But beyond its innovative beats and tracks flavored with cultural diffusion, the EP is so much more. 1

Monti's song "My Dreams" was written for the FCCLA's "Dig It!" campaign, which is benefiting the Children's Miracle Network. The FCCLA is the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America which is a nonprofit organization for students through twelfth grade that hopes to better students' life skills and character.

The Children's Miracle network is also a nonprofit organization that raises funds for children's hospitals around the world, saving the lives of millions of sick children each year and educating families about family safety.

As Monti said, "The Children's Miracle Network is amazing. All their funds go to families that can't afford medical payments. Kids that need help, the Children's Miracle Network is there. [Helping the organization] is definitely a dream come true.

Since I was a little kid, I've always wanted to help an amazing charity."

The Children's Miracle Network loves the song "My Dreams" so much that they even made a video for it which can be found online at the Children's Miracle Network's YouTube channel, www.Youtube.com/ChildrensMiracleNet. It is an extremely touching song with an equally touching video.

Monti's favorite song off the EP is "My Dreams". Monti said, "My Dreams is very personal. [I] literally locked myself up in my room, lit candles, and started writing."

Monti has had the opportunity to meet many of the children benefited by the network and has been able to witness how much the Children's Miracle Network truly does help children. He spoke of one of the children he got to meet and said, "She's been through so much, and is now laughing and enjoying life - all because of the Children's Miracle Network.

One thing Monti learned through working with Children's Miracle Network is not to take life for granted. He said, "Enjoy every second of [life]. Love, live, laugh with your family and friends."

It is always nice to know that there are artists out there that use their talent to benefit others. This kindhearted musician also shed some light on how he entered his musical career.

He said he loved singing since he was little and for the future, he said, "I want to be a successful artist, performing world-wide and inspiring lives."

He entered Menudo through auditioning

for MTV's show Making Menudo. Ever since he got into Menudo, Monti's been loved by fans globally and they are still

and SayNow. He tries to keep in touch as much as possible. "He said the best part about being in Menudo was in fact meeting the fans.

While with Menudo, Monti had the opportunity to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and on that, he said, "It was seriously like a dream. There were millions of people around you, cameras everywhere. It was probably one of the best experiences of my life."

When asked if he enjoyed working in the boy band, he said, "I sure did. It was fun, fun fun! Tons of laughing with four other crazy guys."

Monti was great in Menudo, and his solo career will be sure to match. His producer said that his album will be out soon, so keep a lookout on iTunes and be sure to check out the EP. Remember that all purchases benefit the Children's

Miracle Network. The EP is full of incredible songs helping a wonderful organization with a great goal. There is no reason to not get them!



photo courtesy of Monti

Monti benefits the Children's Miracle Network.

supporting him. Even though he is really busy, he loves to keep in touch with his fans via MySpace, Facebook, Twitter

Pulitzer-winning author Frank McCourt dies

by Sydney Moyer

This past July, former educator and best-selling author Frank McCourt passed away. He was 78 years of age and suffered from severe melanoma. McCourt penned the Pulitzer-prize winning memoir *Angela's Ashes*, which chronicles his tough childhood in a decadent Limerick during the Depression.

As a child, McCourt suffered at the lowest echelon of poverty in Ireland. His father could not keep a job and drained what little money the family had on, as McCourt called it, "the drink." Growing up in one of the worst areas of the country, three of McCourt's siblings passed away at a young age due to disease, and McCourt himself acquired severe cases of both typhoid fever and conjunctivitis as a child. In *Angela's Ashes*, McCourt is famously quoted as having said on the first page of his novel, "Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood."

Despite his traumatic childhood, McCourt managed to escape the dead-end streets of Limerick and immigrate to America at age nineteen. After a bout in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, McCourt returned to the city and at-

tended New York University, majoring in education, although he never officially finished secondary school in Ireland. He became an English teacher, working first at McKee Vocational High School on Staten Island, and later at the prestigious Stuyvesant High School, teaching creative writing.

In fact, Bonnie Sheinberg, mother of Trumpet editor Katie Sheinberg, had Mr. McCourt as a teacher at Stuyvesant, and had nothing but positive things to say about McCourt as both a teacher and a person.

"He was very patient with his students and was always available to talk to. Often students would arrive at class a few minutes early just

to talk to him. His personality was very easygoing and understanding."

This past summer, AP English students were given *Angela's Ashes* to read for their summer assignment. Those who read it were pleasantly surprised by McCourt's informal, bare-bones writing style.

"The way he wrote was intriguing," said

literature, but it was oddly compelling."

McCourt was known for his whimsical style both on paper and inside the classroom. Said Mrs. Sheinberg, "He had an Irish accent and his lectures drifted to stories from his past. At the time we didn't know if they were related to the curriculum or if the class material was initiating his memories. His stories were very realistic and interesting and we got absorbed into the details of his life."

So, apparently, did the Pulitzer board. After much literary fanfare, McCourt's heartfelt memoir was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography in 1997.

McCourt's legacy, it seems, will outlive him by a long time. This is the Trumpet staff's tribute to an inspirational writer and educator, an incredible man who was living proof

of man's power to overcome adversity and come out of it still smiling.



photo courtesy of nytimes.com

McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* won the Pulitzer Prize.

senior Jonathan Yuan. "It was written so simply, without any kind of embellishment that you normally see in