

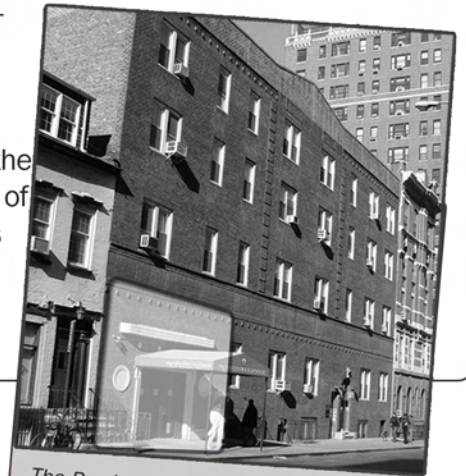
NYU's Playhouse Act Has a Lot of Holes in It

The REAL Truth About the Provincetown Playhouse:

NYU says that with the Wilf Hall/Provincetown Playhouse project, they preserved a historically significant site.

FACT

NYU demolished more than 94% of the Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments, a building eligible for the State and National Register of Historic Places. They demolished the parts of the building which housed the original Provincetown Playhouse theater, the Provincetown Apartments (where Bernice Abbott, Eli Wallach, Anne Jackson, and Dorothy Gillespie, among others, lived) and a set of bookstores, restaurants, and political clubs which were interconnected with the Playhouse and where some of the most influential cultural figures of the 20th century worked. Historians called this collection of spaces (now demolished) “the cornerstone of bohemia” and “the locus of cultural activity and the gathering places of all the figures associated with the Greenwich Village Renaissance that began the era of Modernism in the U.S.”

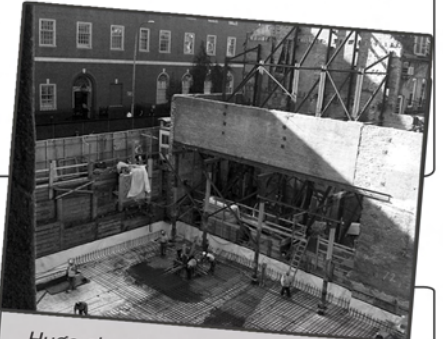


The Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments in 2008, with the area NYU proposed to preserve highlighted

NYU says they kept their commitments regarding preserving the Provincetown Playhouse theater.

FACT

Hidden behind construction walls, NYU actually secretly demolished large chunks of the walls of the theater which they promised to preserve and keep standing at all times. This was exposed by neighbors and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. NYU also promised that the theater seat row ends, which dated to the early days of the theater, would be re-used for the new rows of seats in the theater. This never happened, and they were entombed in the walls of the theater instead. In fact, almost nothing of the historic Provincetown Playhouse remains in the space NYU has given that name. Much of the theater's historic features were actually destroyed by NYU in the 1980s and 90s, but NYU has not restored any of those features as promised.



Huge chunks of the theater's "preserved" walls were demolished by NYU

NYU says they have preserved a working theater.

FACT

NYU has consistently refused to commit to keep this space in use as a theater in perpetuity. After it purchased the Playhouse NYU had previously sought to shut down the theater and turn it into classrooms, and has a very poor track-record of keeping promises it makes to the public.

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Continued from the front...

NYU says the new Law School building in which the Playhouse is located is 20% smaller than it could be, and their voluntarily giving up this space shows them to be a good neighbor.

FACT

NYU has also consistently refused to commit not to use these air rights in the future, and thus could increase the size of the building at any time. NYU has a long history of saying they will not to build on sites and then doing exactly that a few years down the road.

NYU says their plan to demolish 94% of the Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments for their new law school offices had strong support in the local community.

FACT

At the public hearings on the plan, by far the majority of speakers strongly opposed NYU's plans. NYU was roundly condemned when the demolition of the theater walls -- a key element of their "preservation plan" -- was exposed.

NYU has a long record of breaking its commitments when it comes to its development projects, and of calling token efforts "preservation" when they are really largely demolition and new construction.



Three Recent NYU "preservation" projects:

NYU's Wilf Hall with Provincetown Playhouse facade (l.); NYU Law School with fake Poe House facade (m.); NYU Founders Hall with steeple of St. Ann's church (r.)

This is critical to remember as NYU seeks multiple public approvals for its massive 20-year, 3 million sq. ft. expansion plan.

Sponsored by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, the Historic Districts Council, Greenwich Village Block Associations, Downtown Independent Democrats, the Union of Clerical, Administrative, and Technical Staff at NYU Local 3882, Mercer Street Block Association, LaGuardia Corner Gardens, 88 Bleecker Street Board (list in formation).

Find out more at gvshp.org/nyu and gvshp.org/ptown.