



FEATURED ARTIST: SCOTT CASPER

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This is a series of posts featuring our artists who are making things happen in and around our great borough of Queens. Please check back weekly for new posts.



Scott Casper

Title\Occupation

Artistic Director, **taxdeductible theatre**;
Writer, *#hero*

Which Queens neighborhood do you live in and for how long?

I've lived in Astoria since 2003, it will be ten years come August! Where does the time go?

How did you get involved in theater?

When I was a kid, I went to a small Jewish Day School from K-4th grade. There were only about 60 kids in the whole school. Every week, they pulled us out of class to have a Friday Shabbat service, and as a part of it, each grade would do a short skit for the teachers and parents, etc. Each class would do one every 6 weeks or so. As a kid, I guess I just had a good memory for learning the words, and I ended up getting onstage and being featured a lot. It just kind of stuck from there.

Tell us a little more about your theater company?

We are dedicated to developing the uniquely theatrical voice of our community of collaborative artists. We celebrate the theatrical event of sharing a physical space with the audience, and we honor their impact as soon as they enter our lobby until after the show and the last drink is served.

We share new voices. We create memorable experiences. We challenge ourselves and our community to follow one basic rule: demand **bold** theatre.

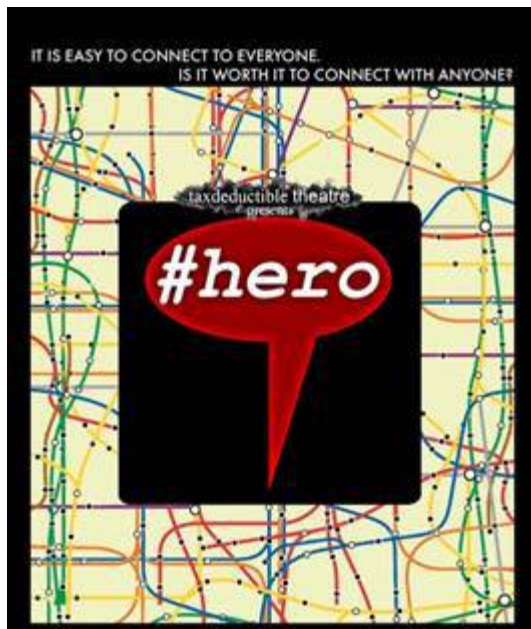
What do you love most about Queens?

I love that the neighborhood can still feel like a *neighborhood*, even with the amount of people and the diversity of the cultures all around us. Every time I walk past my barber's window, or my dry cleaner's, or pass the cashier at my local wine shop in the street, and I can share a friendly smile and nod in recognition, I think to myself, "I really do love living in Queens."

Your top Queens picks (food, entertainment, sights, etc)?

I'm a big fan of the Gantry Park in LIC and the neighboring bars and restaurants in that growing community. I love going out to Break on weekends for a couple of hours of pool and some beers. Of course, the Bohemian Beer Garden. I am eager for spring to come so I can head back out to their picnic tables over too many pitchers. Likewise, Studio Square. Also, I'm quite fond of the new place on Broadway, the Strand. Finally, I think it's important to know that The Chain Theatre has just opened in Long Island City, and that the venue promises to bring another home for Off-Off Broadway plays right in our backyard. I'm very excited about the possibilities that having the space will afford to the variety of theater artists and companies who are based out of Queens.

Current/Upcoming projects?



#hero opened Feb 22 and runs until March 9

Wed-Saturdays at 8PM

Sundays at 2PM

at the Chain Theater

21-28 45th Road, LIC

#hero follows NYPD Officer Norman Burrows and his wife Grace. After Norman saves a woman who falls on the subway tracks, he becomes a social media sensation. As his public profile grows, their private life unravels, until the hero must expose his own myth.

Have we lost touch with ourselves in a hyper-connected world? Do our public acts define our private lives? It's easy to connect with everyone; but is it worth it to connect with anyone?

For tickets and more info: www.taxedeductibletheatre.org