

taxdeductible theatre

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demand bold theatre

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

www.taxdeductibletheatre.org

taxdeductible theatre is a fully recognized 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. All donations to **taxdeductible theatre** are, well...tax deductible.

The **DARE** Project

new ten-minute plays
written on a dare



An Actors' Equity Approved Showcase

Urban Stages Theater

The Dare Project began in April 2006 when three members of **taxdeductible theatre** stumbled upon a method of inspiring new work: *dare* the writer.

That night, over shots of tequila, they each dared another to write a ten-minute play. They were free to write whatever they liked, so long as it was true to the dare. Two months later, these three plays were presented as the first Dare Project. Since that time, *The Dare Project* has grown into one of the fundamental ways in which we pursue our mission.

Here's how it works: Each writer is dared to write a ten-minute play. The dare can be anything—a genre, a line of dialogue, a character—as long as it challenges the writer. Once dared, a writer has a month to write, and then a month to rehearse. Then, ready or not, the play is presented in front of a packed house as a one-night-only event.

The Dare Project has become a laboratory for collaborative artists to develop a play from the raw idea all the way through a finished production. We expect everyone to put the play before themselves—to work collectively to pursue the dare.

Working this way is risky, it's bold, it's daring... and it's not always perfect. But it is worth a shot.



As we continue with *The Dare Project*, **taxdeductible theatre** will use the techniques discovered here, and expand our seasons to include new full-length plays developed in collaboration between writer, company and audience. We hope to continue to find new voices. We hope to create memorable experiences for all involved. Most importantly, we hope to challenge ourselves and our community to follow one basic rule:

demand bold theatre

Visit our website for more information on us, and what's next:
<http://www.taxdeductibletheatre.org/>



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, is the labor union that represents more than 45,000 Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans, for its members. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorequity.org

taxdeductible theatre wishes to thank



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Alix McEachern Jones[†] (Gail, *There but For...*): Alix, a Florida native, received her MFA in Acting from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and her BA in Theatre from Florida State University. Favorite regional credits include: *Richard III* (Anne), *Sylvia* (Sylvia), *I Hate Hamlet* (Deidre), *Star Spangled Girl* (Sophie), *Jane Eyre* (Jane), *What the Butler Saw* (Geraldine), *Pericles* (Dionysa/Bawd), *A Few Good Men* (Joanne), and *Pride and Prejudice* (Jane). She has been happily collaborating with **taxdeductible theatre** and *The Dare Project* for the past several years.

Amanda Ladd (Pam, *The Fix*): This is Amanda's second *Dare Project* and she's stoked to be a part of it! Most recently she was seen in *The Complaint* with CEO Theatre and *The Hans Project* at The West End Theatre. She the best actress honor at The American Globe Theatre's 2011 Turnip Festival for playing the role of Jason in *The Bar Mitzvah of Jesus Goldfarb*. She received the same award in 2010 in *Puppet Love* as Gina. In 2011 Amanda has also worked with Artistic New Directions as Patti in the world premiere of *The Rubber Room*. Favorite roles include Rachel in *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, Helena in New York Stage Original's musical *Dream*, and Princess Di in *Charles & Diana the musical*. Amanda has toured with TheatreWorks/USA & performed on Disney Cruise Lines. Ms. Ladd is a member of the Cockeyed Optimists Theatre Co. where she was seen as Gayle in *Almost, Maine* at The Access Theatre.

Robert Larkin[†] (Old Dudes I, II & Old Billy, *The Place to Be*): Robert is proud to be part of **taxdeductible theatre**. He is a native of Boston, MA and was one of the original members of Industrial Theatre. Robert is an Irene Ryan Award winner and has received a Special Artistic Achievement Award for Outstanding Performance from the Kennedy Center for his role in William Donnelly's award winning play *Oswald's Case*. He hopes to create something good, true and lasting in his time with this group. Thanks to all my students for making me just crazy enough to keep motivated so I don't become a 21st Century Mr. Holland's Opus.

Dan Matisa (writer/Albert, *Sails*): Dan is honored to be a part of *The Dare Project* once again. He has performed with Tennessee Rep, Asolo Rep, Arkansas Shakespeare, Vermont Shakespeare, Nebraska Shakespeare, Pennsylvania Centre Stage, American Stage, Florida Studio Theatre, Public Theatre of Maine, Stonington Opera House, American Globe, Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, and many more. He has appeared on television in 'Law and Order: Criminal Intent', and 'Ed'. He holds a BA from Hofstra University and an MFA from Florida State/Asolo Conservatory. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Love to my family, and to my lemon pie.

Robert W. McMaster[†] (writer/Travis, *The Fix*; director, *My Father's Hand*): Mac is the Associate Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre** and is grateful to have been involved with so many *Dare Project* nights. You, the person reading this program note right now, are the one who keeps us daring ourselves, and the inspiration for the work we're doing on our first full-length production. Thank you.

Lauren Orkus (Margot, *Sails*): Lauren is excited to be finally teaming up with *The Dare Project* and her Asolo pals. Most recently she was seen as Gerda in *The Snow Queen* at Portland Stage Company and in last summer's season at PA Shakespeare.

Alex Pappas (Johnny, *The Place to Be*): After originating the role of Hamlet at the Globe Theatre in London, Alex made his film debut as Don Vito Corleone in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather*. As a pioneer of American artistic expression, he is credited for bringing the concept of "theatre" to the United States. He is also the lead singer of the British rock band Led Zepplin, and author of various books such as the *Twilight* series and *The Holy Bible*.

Michael Poignand[†] (writer/Mickey, *The Place to Be*): Michael is wicked-psyched to be one of the writers and performers for this DARE. Thanks to the real Johnny, Bryan and Billy. michaelpoignand.com

Stefan Schuette (Wheezy, *The Fix*): This is Stefan Schuette's debut in **taxdeductible theatre's** *The Dare Project*. Other shows in and around NYC include *The Crook*, *Unbound*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Showboat*, *Peter and the Wolf*, *The Snow Queen*, *Pictures at An Exhibition*, *The Story of Jumping Mouse*, *O Pioneers!*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *You Can't Take It With You*.

Shannon Michael Wamser (writer/Father James, *My Father's Hand*): Recent Credits include: Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Jimmy in *The Rainmaker*. Past Dare credits include: *The Hand Job* (writer/director), *Deep Purple*, *Mood Indigo* (writer), *Bare Naked Lady* (actor), *The Cure* (writer/actor) and *A La Fed Ex* (director). He is a proud founding member of **taxdeductible theatre**. He holds an MFA from Ohio University and is a member of AEA.

THE DARE PROJECT

January 25, 2012

Welcome to the most daring night of theater in New York.

For our nineteenth installment, along with our world premiere ten minute plays, we'll include a ten minute adaptation of the work in progress on **taxdeductible theatre's** first ever full length play, which is in development and opening this fall.

One of the underlying themes of that full length play is also going to run as a thread through this evening, tying each of the pieces to one another, creating new ten minute works that can stand alone AND contribute to the development of **taxdeductible theatre's** larger project.

The theme for *The Dare Project #19* is: **DENIAL HAS A PLACE**

Enjoy the show.

DARE: The least interesting use of time travel possible.

The Fix

written by Robert W. McMaster
fights by Lesslie Dodge Crane
directed by Scott Casper

Travis: Robert W. McMaster
Pam: Amanda Ladd*
Casey: Lesslie Dodge Crane*
Wheezy: Stefan Schuette

DARE: To write a play that is backwards.

My Father's Hand

written by Shannon Michael Wamser
directed by Robert W. McMaster*

Jeannie: Ashley Hesse*
Father James: Shannon Michael Wamser*

special thanks to Kyle Groff

[†] indicates a member of **taxdeductible theatre**

DARE: Beginning with the line "This belongs to you, doesn't it?" And ending with the line "Tomorrow, Tomorrow. I'll bury him tomorrow."

The Place to Be

written by Michael Poignand
directed by Bryn Boice

Bryan: Josh Clayton*
Johnny: Alex Pappas*
Patrick: Brett Essenter*
Old Dudes I, II & Old Billy: Robert Larkin
Mickey: Michael Poignand*

DARE: Present mediocre is better than future exceptional.

Sails

written by Dan Matisa
directed by Scott Casper

Margot: Lauren Orkus*
Leo: Christopher Catalano*
Edward: Kyle Groff*
Albert: Dan Matisa*

DARE: A ten minute adaptation of the work towards a full length project, currently in development with **taxdeductible theatre**.

There but For...

written by Lesslie Dodge Crane
directed by David Castro

Grace: Wendy Bagger
Nurse: Bryn Boice*
Gail: Alix McEachern Jones*

* denotes actor appears courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

* denotes associate member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Front of House: Ursula Anderman, Kendra Kay, Carly Rappaport
Booth Operator: Scott Casper/Robert W. McMaster

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

The Church of Immaculate Conception in Astoria

Kyle Groff: www.kylegroffphoto.com

Bob Choinere St. Patrick's Church

Tom Fazio Urban Stages Theater



Wendy Bagger[†] (Grace, *There but For...*): Wendy was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada where she earned her BFA in Theatre Arts at University of Nevada Las Vegas. (Go Rebels!) Wendy then earned her Masters in Acting at The Ohio State University. (Go Bucks!) Wendy has acted regionally in Columbus, St. Louis (Go Cardinals!), Sarasota, and St. Petersburg, Florida. Here in New York (Go Jets!), Wendy is a voice over artist, a communication skills trainer, and regular contributor to *The Dare Project* as a writer and actor. She regularly cheers her various hometown teams to victory the first year she lives there, and cheers them to mediocrity and/or shame the following year. Yes, she is the one to blame.

Bryn Boice[†] (director, *The Place to Be*; Nurse, *There but For...*): Bryn is one of the original three co-creators of *The Dare Project*, and since its inception, has written, directed and/or acted in over 25 Dare plays. Favorites include: *A Helicopter Snorkeling*, *The General in Repose*, and *The Merry Way*. Her New York acting credits include Dorine in *Tartuffe* (BTW Productions, Theatre Row), Grete in *Sight Unseen* (InProximity Theatre Company, directed by Dorothy Lyman) and Barbara/Janie/Waitresses/Pilot in *Wonder of the World* (Pull Together Productions). Recent directing credits include *The Complaint* (CEO Theatre), *Navy Pier* and *Orange Flower Water* (both for InProximity Theatre). She holds an MFA in Acting from FSU's Asolo Conservatory.

Scott Casper[†] (director, *The Fix & Sails*): Scott is the Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre**, and has been involved as an actor, director or writer in every NY installment of *The Dare Project* to date. Thanks to everyone for coming out tonight, and for your continued support.

David Castro (director, *There but For...*): David Castro is as happy as a crack head at a crack house to be working with **taxdeductible theatre** again. Hailing from Chicago David has worked as an improviser and director with IO Chicago, The Playground Theater, The Artistic Home and Smash Theater. Thanks to Lesslie Dodge Crane for trusting me to not screw this up.

Christopher Catalano[†] (Leo, *Sails*): This is Chris' umpteenth Dare Project as an actor. Fun fact: He enjoys pistachio muffins. Chris has played a kangaroo, a naked person, Shaggy, an alcoholic clown, a caveman and now an atomic physicist. IFLTSOYEK. christophercatalano.com

Josh Clayton (Bryan, *The Place to Be*): Josh hails from Jackson, Missouri. He then moved east to receive his Master of Fine Arts in Acting at Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts. On the stage, he recently appeared in *Treasure Island*, which is slated to move to Broadway this year. Other New York credits include *Navy Pier* (directed by Bryn Boice), *Maiden's Prayer*, *Marko the Prince*, and *Night*. Regional credits include Tom Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Plainsong*. Film/TV credits include *Law and Order: SVU*, *Ghost Town*, *Bang*, and *Gary*. For more information, visit www.joshaveryclayton.com.

Lesslie Dodge Crane[†] (Casey, *The Fix*; writer, *There but For...*): Lesslie is a native of Virginia, which is really no one's fault, and a graduate of the B.F.A. program at Virginia Commonwealth University and the M.F.A. program at Florida State University's Asolo Conservatory, for which she assumes there will eventually be a reckoning. Lesslie is a long-time contributor to *The Dare Project* as a writer, actor and director and can frequently be found buying a drunk a drink.

Brett Essenter (Patrick, *The Place to Be*): Brett is excited to be back with this fantastic group of people returning for his second *Dare Project*! NY Credits: *Tartuffe* (Theatre Row), *Macbeth* (Hypnosis Theatre Co.) Regional: *The Man of LaMancha* (Barber), *The Tempest* (Ariel), countless productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and National Tour of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* as Lumiere. Many thanks to Bryn and Michael.

Kyle Groff (Edward, *Sails*): Kyle is no stranger to *The Dare Project*, when he's not onstage he is often taking pictures. Kyle is an alumni of Stephens College for Women (male apprenticeship program). Some recent roles include; Johnny in *Psychomachia*, Hal in *Proof*, Mr. Darcy in *Pride & Prejudice*, The Baker in *Into the Woods*, among others. Proud member of Actors Equity.

Ashley Hesse[†] (Jeannie, *My Father's Hand*): Ashley has her Masters in Vocal Performance: NYU Steinhardt School and BFA in Musical Theatre: SUNY Fredonia. Recently she has been seen at The Laurie Beechman Theatre in *Dis-Enchanted*, Sondheim *Unplugged* and *Simply Streisand*. She has done two National Tours with ArtsPower. Theatre credits include *NO TELLING* (Rachel) in the Harvest Festival, *THE BOYFRIEND* (Nancy), *GUYS AND DOLLS* (Sarah Brown), *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN* (Sally: Winner Outstanding Performance TANY'S Festival), *CAROUSEL* (Julie Jordan), *WEST SIDE STORY* (Maria), *THE LEARNED LADIES* (Henriette), *CASH ON DELIVERY* (Brenda Dixon), *GODSPELL* (Peggy), *OKLAHOMA!*, *THE LARAMIE PROJECT*, *EVITA*, *ON THE TOWN*. She is excited to be working with such an amazing group of people and would like to thank her family for their unconditional love and support!