

FEBRUARY 22-MARCH 9, 2013



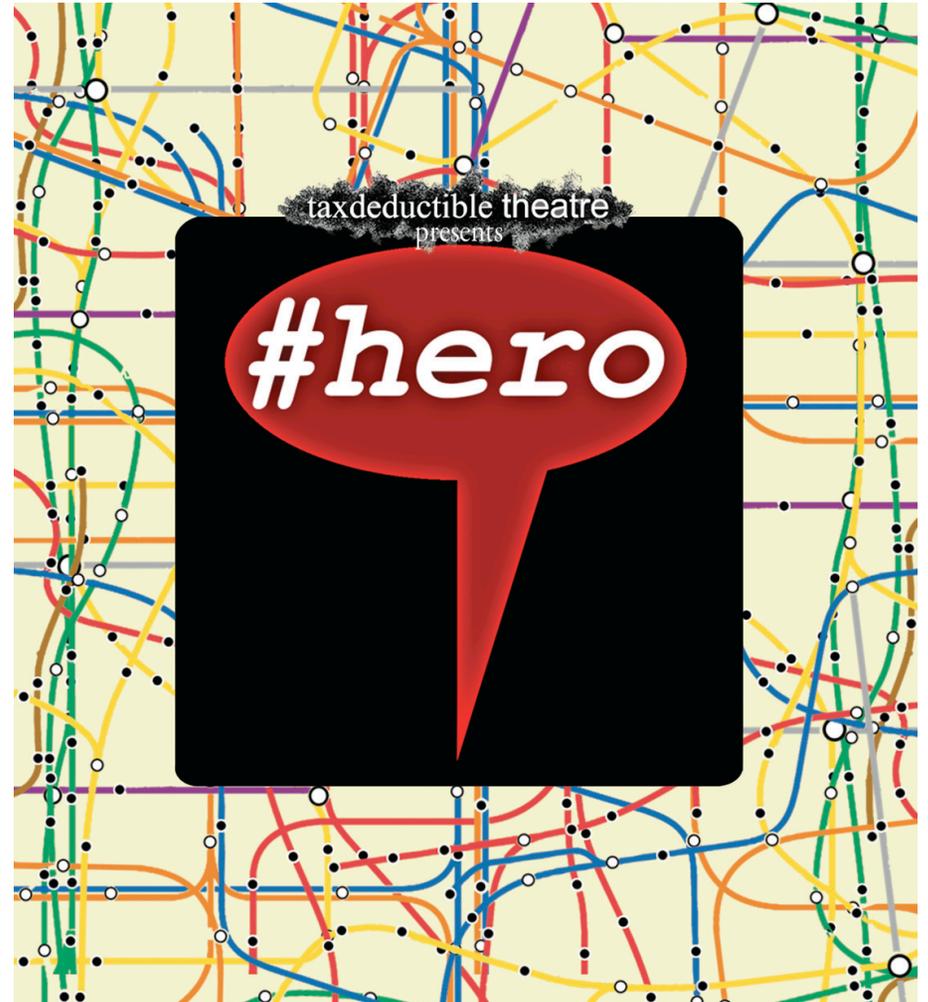
We are dedicated to developing the uniquely theatrical voices of our community of collaborative artists. We choose to celebrate the theatrical event of sharing a physical space with the audience; we honor their impact from as soon as they enter our lobby until after the show is over and the last drink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

taxdeductible theatre will continue to use the techniques discovered in our work, and expand our seasons to include new full-length plays developed in collaboration between writer, company and audience. We find new voices. We create memorable experiences. Most importantly, we 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/>

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



THE CHAIN THEATRE  
21-28 45<sup>TH</sup> ROAD, LIC

*Missed Connections* by Robert W. McMaster

Why do we still go to the theatre?

One common view holds that theatre is about human connections—that we go to be reminded of the things that hold us together (or the things that keep us apart). But in the early months of 2013, we are seemingly more connected to more humans than at any other time in history. Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare, Tumblr, Instagram, Pinterest. Email, IM, text, cell, FaceTime. We know what our friends (and our "friends") had for breakfast, what their dog had for breakfast, and where they got the organic eggs and cruelty-free artisanal bacon. We find instant gratification on any question, without the need to put on clothes: Google, Wikipedia, eBay, Yelp, TripAdvisor, Expedia. Whether it's an anonymous fling or a life-long soul-mate, we can even find love (or a reasonable facsimile) through technology: craigslist, Adult FriendFinder, Grindr, Match.com, eHarmony, ChristianMingle.

All these tools are supposed to make human connection simple. They promise to make relationships as easy as ordering shoes.

Mostly, they fail.

But *#hero* is not a play about the evils of social networking; nor about the dangers of celebrity; nor about the rise and fall of modern heroes in the 24/7 news machine. In fact, there are no villains here. A villain, like a hero, is an easy thing, "a clear and simple fairy tale."

*#hero* is a story of connection. Two people, married to each other but alone and desperate to feel some sense of belonging. A third, who has built a life around manipulating that desire. All three, crashing into each other in different ways, but running blindly in the direction they hope will get them closer to one another. *#hero* is about that need, where it comes from, and the ways we all try to fill it.

It is not simple. Often, we fail.

But the struggle to find that connection is worth it. So we try again. Some of us sign up for another online dating service. Some of us update our status. Some of us order shoes.

Some of us go to the theatre.

taxdeductible theatre

Artistic Director: Scott Casper  
Associate Artistic Director: Robert W. McMaster  
Producing Director: Lesslie Dodge Crane

The Company

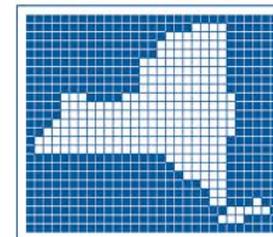
Jed Aicher	Wendy Bagger	Bryn Boice	David Castro
Christopher Catalano		Rich Fromm	Kyle Groff
Ashley Hesse	Alix McEachern	Jones	John Keitel
Aaron Kliner	Amanda Ladd	Robert Larkin	Mike Mihm
Michael Poignand		Shannon Michael	Wamser



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.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

taxdeductible theatre wishes to thank

State of the Arts



NYSCA

New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program

taxdeductible theatre wishes to thank...

The Chain Theatre  
Variations Theatre Group  
Shetler Studios, St. Patrick's Church of LIC



Kyle Craner, Robert Choiniere, Tom Fazio,  
Kyle Groff, Robert Ian Mackenzie, Nicholas Alexiy Moran,  
Addy Parent, Michael Poignand

Our #heroes!

Tim Aumiller	Mary Jo Bagger	Wendy Bagger	Bryn Boice
Courtney Brown	David Castro	Martin & Harriet Casper	
W. Collingswood	Peter & June Crane	Tristan Crane	Jolie Curtsinger
Lystine Cush	Susan Falen	Richard Fromm	Elizabeth Gerber
Bridget Harvey	Brad Hesse	Kate Holgate	Robert Larkin
Susan C. Larkin	Robert & Barbara Mackenzie	Judy Mann	
David & Jacqueline Manning	Robert W. McMaster	Dan Matisa	
Kevin Mui	Max & Alice Neufeld	Holmes A. Onyekwere	
Dorian Palumbo	Anthony P. Pennino	Michael Poignand	
Lenore Schlossberg	Kimberly A. Stoltzfus	Anna Stone	

And everyone else who has supported us to make this project a reality!

**Sara Antkowiak\*** (Woman #1): Featured credits: *One Life to Live*, Genevieve; *Les Contes D'Hoffmann* dir: Bartlett Sher, *Olympia Dancing Doll* (The Metropolitan Opera, Great Performances on PBS); *Russian Tea*, Klara (Metropolitan Playhouse); *Pippin*, Aerial Soloist (Goodspeed); *Armida* dir. Mary Zimmerman, Principal Aerialist Understudy (Met Opera); *Peter and the Wolf and Cinderella* (Avery Fisher Hall); *La Damnation de Faust* dir: Robert LePage, Swing (Met Opera); *Broadway Bares*; *Oklahoma!*, Dream Laurey; webseries *Bad Kitty* and *Going Up*; short film *Deal Travis In*, modeling for Jordan Matter and Howard Schatz. Sara loves sailing and animals. Love to Mom, Dad, Karl.

**Wendy Bagger<sup>†</sup>** (Grace): Wendy Bagger is an actor, voice over artist, and member of **taxdeductible theatre**. She earned her BA at UNLV, and her MFA in Acting at the Ohio State University. Working regionally in Ohio, Missouri, and Florida and now as a resident of New York City, favorite roles include Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, and Colonel Morelli in the video game *Command and Conquer*. Wendy is very grateful for the generosity and creativity of everyone who has supported **taxdeductible's** journey to this moment. Thank you donors, directors, designers, cast, crew and YOU there... much obliged.

**Bryn Boice<sup>†</sup>** (Cory): Bryn is an actress, producer and freelance director, and is one of the original three co-creators of *The Dare Project*. Ms. Boice most recently directed the critically-acclaimed production of *Speaking in Tongues*, by Andrew Bovell, for Australian Made Entertainment. She can be seen in the upcoming web series, *Bostontowne*, and can be heard as a voiceover artist at Tiffany.com. She is the Artistic Director of Anthem Theatre Company. Graduate of FSU's Asolo Conservatory. Follow her @brynboice and @anthemtheatre for updates and shenanigans. Love to MP, Daph, family, and NYC & Boston friends.

**Allyson Briggs** (Woman #2): Allyson Briggs is an actor-singer-dancer-voiceover artist with a well-stocked arsenal of voices. If she's not on stage playing 6 characters, she's recording 12 in the booth. She is thrilled to be a part of *#hero* and thanks the cast and crew of **taxdeductible theatre** for such a fun place to create, explore, and play. Thank you Mom, Bruce, Lissy, Wei, Emmy, and Mike for supporting me and allowing me to sing in the shower every time I do a show. [www.allysonbriggs.com](http://www.allysonbriggs.com)

**Scott Casper<sup>†</sup>** (writer): Scott is the Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre**, and has been involved as a writer, director or performer in every project we have done to date. Thanks to all of you for coming out tonight!

**Lesslie Dodge Crane<sup>†</sup>** (Producing Director/Stage Manager): Has been a company member since 2007 and has contributed as a writer, actor, director, and fight choreographer for the company. Among her most recent writings for *The Dare Project* was a 10-minute adaptation of the work in progress on *#hero* and she is beyond grateful to be a member of this company, this production team and this project. Love you, Cranes. Miss you, Mom.

**Darwin Gilmore** (Projection Designer): Darwin L Gilmore is a multi disciplinary artist whose primary medium is theatrical design. He received his Associate of Arts in theatre from Lone Star College North Harris and then moved on to receive his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with an emphasis in design and technology from The University of Texas at Austin. For the past five years Darwin has studied the art of illusion and how it can be further intertwined into theatrical production. During this time he has had the opportunity to perform both Harry Houdini's under water torture cell as well as his famous milk can escape.

He has strived to develop skills that bridge inner theatrical disciplines including design, direction, and acting, with the intent of being as versatile an artist as possible.

Darwin is also a co-founder of the Austin based company the Duplicates. He continues to work closely with the company on developing the particular style of object based theatre for which they are known.

His personal research is in how to use and develop skills that can better manipulate primal human emotion through visual stimulation and study its effect on everyday life.

**Robert Larkin**<sup>†</sup> (Norman): 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 Wendy. You've been the best scene partner a guy could ask for. 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. Finally, thanks as always to Amy.

**Robert W. McMaster**<sup>†</sup> (director): Mac is Associate Artistic Director at **taxdeductible theatre**, and deeply honored to be part of *#hero*. Mac has taken part in nearly every iteration of *The Dare Project* since #3 in some capacity, including directing over a dozen dares, writing a couple, and occasionally appearing on stage. Mac would like to thank Scott and Lesslie, the *#hero* cast and designers, the **taxdeductible theatre** company members, everyone at The Chain, and most especially you. Thank you for being part of our community. We literally could not do this without you. Love and thanks to Bridget, Butch, Jane, and Ward.

**Alex Pappas**\* (Man #1): After founding the Moscow Art Theatre with Konstantin Stanislavski, Alex received the Nobel Prize for Theatre for his portrayal of Stickybuns Magoo at the Steaks 'n' Starlets Dinner Theater in Lump, Nebraska. He is currently developing his role of Magoo into a two-person drama with Fiona Shaw as Queen Wealthow of *Beowulf*. An inventor in his spare time, he owns patents on inventions such as meat glue, the numbers 1 and 0, and the wheel.

**Ryan Rossetto** (Costume Designer): Ryan Rossetto is a designer and artist based in New York City. NYC credits include: designer/associate designer for Broadway, off Broadway, Disney, Universal Theme Parks, Fringe Festival, NYMF and various concert tours. Regional: Westport County Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. ryanrossettodesigns on facebook and etsy.com.

**Christopher Sutton**\* (Man #2): Christopher recently appeared as Jack in David Ives' *Ancient History* at 45th Street Theatre, and as John in the new Peter Michalos' play *Lola-Lola*. He played Prince Herbert in *Monty Python's Spamalot* under the direction of Mike Nichols, and created the title role in *Flight of the Lawnchair Man* at Goodspeed/NYMF (Outstanding Actor Award). Christopher received the Barrymore Award for *The Buddy Holly Story* and is a recipient of the Louis B. Sudler National Prize in the Arts. Other NYC: *I Love You, You're Perfect...*, *Golf, The It Girl* with Jerry Zaks. Regional: *Of Mice and Men* (George), *Desire Under the Elms* (Eben), *The Sea Gull* (Treplev), *Henry IV Part I* (Prince Henry). www.ChristopherSutton.net *For my amazing wife Lyn...*

**Christopher Thompson** (Scenic Designer): Recent: *Cosi* (Australian Made Entertainment), *Proof*, *An Ideal Husband* (Sink or Swim Rep), *Underground* (Wild Project) *The Woman Standing On The Moon* (Urban Stages), *The Magician, Feathers...*, *The May Festival of One Acts* (Axial Theatre), *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Bronx Kiss* (Purchase Rep), *The Mock Tempest* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz). Assistant Design: *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *Fall to Earth* (59E49), *The How & The Why*, *The Hound of The Baskervilles* (Penguin Rep), *Macy's Christmas Windows 2010*, *For Colored Girls...* (Tyler Perry Studios). Christopher's Design for *Lady Windermere's Fan* was exhibited at the 2011 Prague Quadrennial.

**Joseph Thompson** (Lighting Designer): Joseph Thompson is very excited to be working with **taxdeductible theatre** on this fantastic project. He is a recent transplant to NYC, after graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University. His other credits include *Gentlemen of Kentucky* (Dixon Place), *Kane and Habi* at the *Pizza Parlor* (La Mama Club), *Late Night Cabaret* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), and *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (TheatreVCU). He would also like to thank his mother for putting up with his ludicrous life choices.

\* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association;

† indicates a member of **taxdeductible theatre**

Welcome to **taxdeductible theatre's** first full-length play, developed in collaboration with our company and community over our last season.

*#hero* originated out of our recurring series of ten minute plays, *The Dare Project*. Since 2006, we have produced 21 of these events and created nearly 100 short plays in the process. The plays are written on a dare: a raw idea given to us by our community, which we use as the foundation to develop the plays on the page and in the rehearsal hall.

Building on what we learned, we started our first full-length project with a dare as well:

“We fight about the little things, so we can ignore the big things.”

Over a year and a half, we developed that idea in the rehearsal hall, incorporating the voice of every member of our company. We also put the work in front of our community, showing you parts of the work as it progressed at each *Dare Project*—and adding your feedback into the story at every chance.

Thank you so much for coming, and we hope you enjoy the show you helped create.

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## #hero

written by Scott Casper, authored by **taxdeductible theatre**  
directed by Robert W. McMaster

**Grace:** Wendy Bagger  
**Norman:** Robert Larkin  
**Cory:** Bryn Boice\*  
**Woman #1:** Sara Antkowiak\*  
**Woman #2:** Allyson Briggs  
**Man #1:** Alex Pappas\*  
**Man #2:** Christopher Sutton\*

\* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

*#hero* is an approved Actors' Equity Showcase Production

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### Production Team:

**Production Stage Manager:** Lesslie Dodge Crane  
**Camera Operator:** Kyle Craner  
**Projection Designer:** Darwin Gilmore  
**Costume Designer:** Ryan Rossetto  
**Scenic Designer:** Christopher Thompson  
**Lighting Designer:** Joseph Thompson