

taxdeductible theatre

taxdeductible theatre

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

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



Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs / NYC Department of Sanitation / NYC Department of Education.

DARE: Fuckin' Ewoks.

The Father

written by David Castro
directed by Rebekah Nelson

Father Anthony: Michael Wikes*
Jason: Nathan L. Freeman*
Rick: Christopher Sutton*

DARE: Rhythm Method Acting

I Hope I Get It

written by Lesslie Dodge Crane
directed by Robert Larkin

Man #1: Steve French*
Woman #1: Allyson Briggs
Man #2: Brian A. Costello*
Woman #2: Laura Iris Hill

Special thanks to the cast and crew, Lesslie, Scott, Mac, all the writers and as always, Amy.

DARE: To write the Chewbopera: Episode 7

Millennium Falcon Crest

written & directed by Wendy Bagger

Princess Leia: Ursula Anderman
Chewbacca: Mark D. Garkusha

Special thanks to David Castro, Ryan Rossetto & Rich Fromm

* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

Front of House: Shannon Michael Wamser
Board Operators: Scott Casper, Lesslie Dodge Crane

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

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

Robert Choiniere, Tom Fazio
Nicholas Alexiy Moran



Ursula Anderman (Princess Leia, *Millenium Falcon Crest*) Ursula is delighted to take part in another *Dare Project*! Playing Princess Leia is a childhood dream come true, so many thanks to Scott and Wendy. Visit ursulaanderman.com to learn more about me!

Wendy Bagger (Writer/Director, *Millenium Falcon Crest*)[†] Wendy is an actor, voice over artist, and communications skills coach. She is pleased and distressed to plum the depths of her control issues on this, her first turn as a director for taxdeductible's *Dare Project*, her fourth turn as a playwright, and her last turn as both at the same time.

Jenna Bourgeois (Ida, *Fucking Hipsters*) I am grateful to be participating in *The Dare Project* and to be working with Lindsay and Alex for the first time and with Amanda for the second time, after having previously worked together on *Hans: A Case Study*. I am especially excited to be a part of Amanda's playwriting debut. What a fun project!

Allyson Briggs (Woman #1, *I hope I Get It*) Allyson is thrilled to be joining taxdeductible again! She would like to thank the gang for a fun place to explore, play, and create: I know I'm in my own little world, but it's ok, they know me here. www.allysonbriggs.com

Scott Casper (Director, *History, Revised*)[†] Scott is the Artistic Director of taxdeductible theatre, and has been involved as a writer, director or performer in every New York installment of *The Dare Project* to date. Thanks to all of you for coming out tonight, and for all of your support through our first 100 plays. We hope to see you for many more!

David Castro (Writer, *The Father*)[†] David has directed previous pieces but tonight he is debuting as a writer for *The Dare Project*. He is really grateful for the support he has been given and hopes to write more. A transplant from Chicago, David has been fortunate to work with The Artistic Home, The Playground, Theater Sports and Porchlight Music Theater.

Brian A. Costello (Man #2, *I hope I Get It*)[†] Brian has been acting for 25 years, is a graduate of SUNY Binghamton, has worked in stage and film, and spent five years as a Co-Artistic Director of the Phoenix Theatre Ensemble in the East Village. He lives in Astoria. He enjoys beer. This is his first Dare.

Lesslie Dodge Crane (Writer, *I hope I Get It*)[†] Lesslie is an Associate Artistic Director of taxdeductible theatre and has contributed to *The Dare Project* as an actor, director and the author of *A Sexy Time at the Holocaust*, *Jack and Jill*, *Pushing and Shoving*, *Here Comes the Bride*, *An Act of Heroism* and *There but For...* Thanks to everyone for sharing #hero and 100 Dares with us this season. For Marti.

Brett Essenter (Brian, *History, Revised*)[†] Proudly returns for his fourth *Dare Project*! NYC Credits: *NJ Trapezoid* (Mint Theater), *Tartuffe* (Theater Row), *Macbeth* (Flamboyant). National Tour: *Godspell*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere). Regional: *The Tempest* (Ariel), *1776* (u/s Rutledge), *A Wonderful Life* (Martini Brother), *My Fair Lady* (Harry), *The Man of LaMancha* (Barber), *West Side Story* and a few more here and there and such.

John Fennessy (Old Man, *History, Revised*)[†] **Broadway:** *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Frankenstein*, *Got Tu Go Disco*, *Over Here*, *Grease*; **Off Broadway:** *The Boss*, *Obama in Naples*, *Orange Alert*, *The Last Dream of Arky Malarky*, *Baby Marty*, *The Philosophers*, *Grease* (Original Company), *Greenwillow* (ELT); **Film:** *Old Monster*, *Perfect Lies*, *Sam and Sara*, *Elm Gardens*, *Futureproof*. Director/Production Stage Manager of over one thousand Industrials, (Business Theater). For Susi Wuennenberg.

Nathan L. Freeman (Jason, *The Father*)[†] is back at The Chain where he previously played and sang several roles in *A Christmas Carol*. National Tour: *The 39 Steps* (Clown 1&2). Regional: *The Light in the Piazza* (Priest), *Forever Plaid* (Sparky). *The Father* marks Nathan's debut as an Equity performer! www.nathanfreeman.com

Steve French (Man #1, *I hope I Get It*)[†] Steve is psyched to be joining his friends at *The Dare Project* again, having last appeared as Jake in *Mraz*. NYC credits include Playwrights Horizons, Primary Stages, NY Neo-Futurists, Zootopia Theatre Co. Steve does voice-overs, is trying to learn to tap dance, and plays a pretty mean clawhammer banjo.

Mark D. Garkusha (Chewbacca, *Millenium Falcon Crest*) Mark, a graduate of the HARTT school, is thrilled to be involved in *The Dare Project's* 100th dare. Theatre audiences have probably never seen him, T.V. audiences almost certainly haven't. Check him out on twitter @markgarkusha.

Lindsay Hicks (Tiffany, *Fucking Hipsters*) Lindsay is a writer/actor from Texas. She is currently working on two web series, one called "Red" by playwright A. John Boulanger and another called

"*The Better Half*" which she co-created and co-wrote. Both release later this summer! Thanks to Amanda for creating such a fun play and giving me the opportunity to throw butt toys around! Big thanks to Amy!

Laura Iris Hill (Woman #2, *I hope I Get It*) Laura trained at BAPA in her native Australia. New York theatre includes *Jack London: His Lives and Loves* (Marvel Rep) as well as Australian Made Entertainment's *Cosi* and *Speaking in Tongues*. Laura also had a recurring guest role on Aussie prime time soap, *Neighbours*.

John Keitel (Adam, *History, Revised*)[†] John hails from California and received a BFA from Stephens College for Women (Male Theatrical Scholarship). He has performed extensively in California, throughout the Midwest and in NYC. He is a regular contributor to *The Dare Project* as a performer and had the pleasure of writing *Walls, Johnny!, Vocab You, Larry* and *Walk A Mile*.

Amanda Ladd (Writer/Director, *Fucking Hipsters*)[†] This is Amanda's 5th *Dare Project*, but her first as a writer with **taxdeductible theatre**. Recently she starred in *Peterpat* at the Producer's Club with Grand Ninja Productions. Huge thanks to the company of taxdeductible for urging me to write my very first play. It's been amazing! www.amandaladd.com

Robert Larkin (Director, *I hope I Get It*)[†] 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.

Robert W. McMaster (Associate Artistic Director)[†] Mac is the Associate Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre** and is grateful to have been involved with so many *Dare Project* nights, including this one. He directed *#hero*, our first original full-length production. You, the person reading this program note right now, are the one who has made these things possible. Thank you.

Rebekah Nelson (Director, *The Father*) This is Rebekah's third *Dare Project* as director (*Tweeds, Wise Men*); assistant director (*Scooby-Doosical*). This is her second time at the Chain Theatre, (assistant director, *A Christmas Carol*). She stars in the indie feature *American Bomber* and is a producer on the upcoming film *Living With The Dead*. She would like to thank Tali Kat vas Payton, Clementine & Fonzy for their undying support. Yub Nub.

Alex Pappas (Todd, *Fucking Hipsters*)[†] The biography of Alex Pappas starts back when all the matter of the universe was compressed into a tiny ball and then exploded during what became known as the "Big Bang." As galaxies started to form, the solar system began[EDITED FOR LENGTH - Producer]which finally led him to playing the role of Todd in this show. Love to Mya.

Christopher Sutton (Rick, *The Father*)[†] Christopher will be playing Antony in Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* this Summer. Other NYC/1st Nat credits: *Flight of the Lawnchair Man* (Outstanding Actor Award), *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Ancient History*, *Four Messages*, *I Love You, You're Perfect...*, *Golf*, *The It Girl*, *Henry VI*, *#hero*. Regional: *Of Mice and Men*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Golden Boy*, *The Sea Gull*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*. Barrymore Award and Sudler Prize winner. www.ChristopherSutton.net. For Lynn timer, my love...

Shannon Michael Wamser (Writer, *History, Revised*)[†] This is Mike's fifth contribution to *The Dare Project* as a writer and he has participated in numerous others as an actor and producer as he is a founding member of the company. He is an active writer, director, actor and teaching artist. Please visit www.shannonmichaelwamser.com for more info, and a delicious gazpacho recipe.

Michael Wikes (Father Anthony, *The Father*)[†] In 2011, Michael returned to the NY theatre after a twenty year hiatus. Most recent NYC: *Look Homeward Angel*, Directed by Austin Pendleton; Film/TV: *Law and Order* (Pilot); Feature, *Reversal of Fortune*; CBS Movie, *Liberace: Behind the Music*; Regular in PBS Children's Series, *Powerhouse*; NY theatre includes: *Self Defense*, *Off Broadway and Old Business* at the Public; Regional includes: Long Wharf Theater, Arena Stage, Theater Company of Boston. BFA Acting, Boston University. MA Jewish Education, Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

[†] indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

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

THE DARE PROJECT

June 26, 2013

Exactly seven years ago, this all started.

taxdeductible theatre was looking to produce a new project and struggling to find our identity. All we knew at the time was that we wanted to create something different; to work with our friends and deepen our connection with our community. Without any good ideas, we got lucky. We decided to *dare* each other to write a play.

How did that lead us to one hundred plays?

The dares are only slips of paper, a starting point for conversation. Still, they have produced comedies, farces, dramas, musicals; choreographed fights and dances. They've demanded that Barack Obama, Scooby Doo, and tonight Chewbacca(!) appear; they've guided us to invent an alliterative clown, an unhinging body cast, a sexy holocaust. Over seven years, they've pushed us to work in so many genres, so many styles, so many directions, and still, it is as new today as it was on June 26, 2006.

The Dare Project has lasted because it is a joy to collaborate. What started as friends trying to put on a play has grown into a community of people so willing to engage with us, they donate their ideas so that we can create. We have become a group of artists so trusting of one another that we push outside our comfort zones to give without ego in support of raw, developing ideas.

We are only as good as the company we keep. And because of you and all of your support, we have been very good.

Thank you for one hundred plays so far. We look forward to many more!

Enjoy the show.

DARE: To punch a hipster

Fucking Hipsters

written & directed by Amanda Ladd

Tiffany: Lindsay Hicks

Todd: Alex Pappas*

Ida: Jenna Bourgeois

DARE: Write a two character play in which Character A's lines all start with the words "You know..." And Character B's lines all start with the words "Well, actually..."

History, Revised

written by Shannon Michael Wamser

directed by Scott Casper

Adam: John Keitel

Brian: Brett Essenter*

Old Man: John Fennessy*

Special thanks to Robert W. McMaster
