

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](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 **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](http://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:** To ride the grey horse.

developed by Jed Aicher, Amanda Ladd & Robert Larkin

## Delays Ahead

Or, How I Stopped Worrying About the Train and Just Moved

written by Robert Larkin

directed by Amanda Ladd

**Robin:** Laura Iris Hill

**Andy:** Christopher Catalano\*

**Subway Woman:** Lindsay Hicks

**Subway Man:** Alex Pappas\*

Special Thanks to Brian Ravitsky and Lindsay Hicks for lending their support.

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**DARE:** To authenticate my findings, and then fall in love with me.

developed by Scott Casper, Rich Fromm & John Keitel

## Shift Change

written & directed by Scott Casper

**He:** Brian A. Costello\*

**She:** Amanda Ladd\*

Special Thanks to Krystal L. Washington & Lesslie Dodge Crane

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**DARE:** A Quixotic Quest

developed by Wendy Bagger, Lesslie Dodge Crane & Alex Pappas

## Kelly & Josh vs. The Apartment

written by Alex Pappas

directed by Lesslie Dodge Crane

**Kelly:** Wendy Bagger

**Josh:** Dale Thomas Krupla

Special thanks to Christopher Catalano, Nicholas Alexiy Moran, Sara Antkowiak & Doug Young

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\* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

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taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

The Chain Theatre, Variations Theatre  
Group, Queens Council on the Arts,  
Robert Choiniere & Tom Fazio



**Jed Aicher** (collaborator, *Delays Ahead*) Jed is an actor, singer and teacher living in Tarrytown, NY. His last role was Dag Hammarskjold in *A Season in the Congo*. He hopes to return to *The Dare Project* as a bionic man.

**Sara Antkowiak**<sup>†</sup> (The World, *Noir + White*) Thrilled to be back with **taxdeductible theatre** after playing Terasa (one of her favorites!) in *#hero*. Others: Genevieve on *One Life to Live*; Rosenstern in *Elsinore County* (Theatre Row); Dana in *Lustyness* (Under St. Marks); Aerial Soloist in *Pippin* (Goodspeed); *Tales of Hoffmann*, *Manon*, *Damnation of Faust*, *Armidia* (The Met Opera), *Dancers Among Us* (Jordan Matter). Faculty at New York Film Academy. [www.SaraAntkowiak.com](http://www.SaraAntkowiak.com).

**Wendy Bagger**<sup>†</sup> (Kelly, *Kelly & Josh vs. The Apartment*) 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.

**Scott Casper**<sup>†</sup> (writer/director, *Shift Change*) Scott is the Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre**, and has been involved as either an actor, director or writer in every New York installment of *The Dare Project* to date. Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our work.

**David Castro**<sup>†</sup> (director, *Three Card Brag*) David was raised on the west coast and has been steadily moving east. A graduate from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas he then moved to Chicago where he studied improvisational theater at Second City, IO and The Annoyance Theater. He has had the opportunity to work with The Playground Theater, Smash Theater, GayCo, Theater Sportz and The Artistic Home. David is excited to be participating in *Dare #23* and looks forward to more.

**Christopher Catalano**<sup>††</sup> (Andy, *Delays Ahead*) This is the 504th *Dare Project* for Chris. In previous Dares, he's been a writer, a kangaroo, a clown, and a naked man among other things. He regularly drops the funny on twitter @lotterydude. IFLTSOOYEEK.

**Brian A. Costello**<sup>†</sup> (He, *Shift Change*) 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 second Dare.

**Lesslie Dodge Crane**<sup>†</sup> (director, *Kelly & Josh vs. The Apartment*) Lesslie is an Associate Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre** and has contributed to *The Dare Project* as an actor, director, fight 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 23 great *Dare Projects* with us! For Marti.

**Rich Fromm**<sup>†</sup> (collaborator, *Shift Change*) A Long Time Ago, In A Galaxy Far, Far Away... Rich came into this world for one reason. Rescue the Princess. At least that's what he thought! Turns out he was to be born in Texas, moved to Florida where he lived as a fat child and then to graduated to NYC...and after that? TAKE ON THE EMPIRE! Well, the Empire won...however, in the meantime, he met a fantastic group of people who wanted to do nothing more than to collaborate and produce real, authentic theatre. He is forever thankful to **taxdeductible theatre** for crafting that spark to a raging forest fire! Break a leg to all of the performers and collaborators tonight. May the Force be with you. Always!

**Kyle Groff**<sup>††</sup> (Todd, *Three Card Brag*) Kyle is no stranger to *The Dare Project*, most recently in Christopher Catalano's *Mraz*. 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.

**Jordan Gwiastowski** (Marc, *Three Card Brag*) recently moved to NYC from MKE, WI; leaving behind his position as the Artistic Director of theatre troupe Fools for Tragedy. He has been lucky enough to collaborate with other young artists since his relocation; playing Hamlet and taking first place in Manhattan Rep's Spring Short Festival. Come March Jordan will be starring in the first installments of the 5-part play cycle *Death and Straight Boys*. For more information: [www.jordangwiaz.com](http://www.jordangwiaz.com)

**Lindsay Hicks** (Subway Woman, *Delays Ahead*) Lindsay Hicks is so happy to be performing in *The Dare Project* for a second time. Lindsay is a writer/performer most recently seen in her web series

*The Better Half*. A selection of her short plays will be seen this summer in Lone Star Theater Company's *The Capitol Plays*. Thanks to Amanda, Alex, Laura, and Chris for being great company on the crazy train. Check out her series at: [www.thebetterhalfseries.com](http://www.thebetterhalfseries.com)

**Laura Iris Hill** (Robin, *Delays Ahead*) Laura is delighted to return for the second time to The Dare Project. NYC credits: *Cupid and Psyche* (Turn to Flesh), *Jack London: His Lives and Loves* (Marvel Rep) *Cosi* and *Speaking in Tongues* (Australian Made Entertainment). Regional: *Macbeth* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). Laura also had a recurring guest role on Aussie prime time soap, *Neighbours*. (57w)

**John Keitel**<sup>†</sup> (collaborator, *Shift Change*) 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*.

**Dale Thomas Krupla** (Josh, *Kelly & Josh vs. The Apartment*) Dale is an actor and video artist living in New York city. Most recently he has been seen in this years New York Fringe Festival's *Breaking Kayfabe* and the International Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Dale is also the owner of Fez Empire, a boutique video production and editing start up located in Brooklyn.

[www.vimeo.com/fezempireproductions](http://www.vimeo.com/fezempireproductions)

**Amanda Ladd**<sup>†</sup> (director, *Delays Ahead*; She, *Shift Change*) Amanda loves being a member of **taxdeductible theatre!** This is her 5th *Dare Project*. She is an actor and director currently directing *Comedy of Errors* and *Into the Woods* with young actors in TriBeCa. Amanda has most recently been seen in *Peter Pat* at the Producer's Club. Favorite roles include Gayle in *The Complaint*, Helena in *Dream*, and lots of short plays with friends and fabulous creatures living the New York dream.

**Robert Larkin**<sup>†</sup> (The Detective, *Noir + White*; writer, *Delays Ahead*) 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. Thanks as always to my Southern muse, Amy. xo

**Robert W. McMaster**<sup>†</sup> (writer, *Noir + White*) Mac is an 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.

**Nicholas Alexiy Moran**<sup>\*</sup> (Anthony, *Three Card Brag*) is excited to appear in his second *Dare Project*. His performing career is entirely the fault of a broken leg he suffered at the age of eleven, which terminated his rather mediocre prospects as a soccer player and led him to spend his recreational time with circus clowns, musicians, theater artists and other malcontents. [www.NicholasMoran.com](http://www.NicholasMoran.com).

**Rebekah Nelson** (writer, *Three Card Brag*) Rebekah is excited to be contributing to *The Dare Project* as a playwright. Her previous dares as a director include *The Father*, *Tweeds* and *Wise Men*. She is a member of the Wild Rumpus Theatre Development Group. She stars in the indie feature *American Bomber* and has produced the upcoming feature *Living With The Dead*. She received her B.A. in theatre from Marymount Manhattan College and majored in drama at the Professional Performing Arts School.

**Alex Pappas**<sup>\*</sup> (writer, *Kelly & Josh vs. The Apartment*; Subway Man, *Delays Ahead*) 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 Theayter 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.

**Shannon Michael Wamser**<sup>†</sup> (director, *Noir + White*) Blah blah blah founding member blah blah blah countless *Dare Projects* blah blah blah actor/writer/director yadda yadda yadda [www.shannonmichaelwamser.com](http://www.shannonmichaelwamser.com)

\* denotes actor appears courtesy of Actors Equity Association

† denotes a member of **taxdeductible theatre**

## THE DARE PROJECT

February 25, 2014

Welcome to a new season of *The Dare Project!*

This season we are sharpening the focus of the project to serve our mission, that is, to develop the uniquely theatrical voice of our company and community through collaboration.

The collaboration is happening this season by partnering a writer, a director and an actor before the dares are even drawn. These three will develop the play from your raw idea, all the way through to the final production.

Further, we're asking this trio of artists to engage with all of the other plays in the evening, and find some connecting through-line from their piece to the one which follows it in production.

The goal remains to develop a company of collaborative artists who respond to, and create from, the voice of our community. Our partnership with you is the reason we continue to evolve the process of *The Dare Project*. As you continue to challenge us, we continue to challenge ourselves.

We look forward to enriching the dialogue with you over the rest of this season, and to seeing where your voice is a bigger part of everything **taxdeductible theatre** produces in 2014, and beyond.

Enjoy the show!

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**DARE:** To write a play with one actor playing at least 30 characters.

developed by Sara Antkowiak, Robert W. McMaster & Shannon Michael Wamser

### Noir + White

written by Robert W. McMaster  
directed by Shannon Michael Wamser

**The Detective:** Robert Larkin  
**The World:** Sara Antkowiak\*

Special Thanks to Lesslie Dodge Crane

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**DARE:** To write a docu-play about a rape victim.

developed by David Castro, Nicholas Alexiy Moran & Rebekah Nelson

### Three Card Brag

written by Rebekah Nelson  
directed by David Castro

**Anthony:** Nicholas Alexiy Moran\*  
**Todd:** Kyle Groff\*  
**Marc:** Jordan Gwiazdowski

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