

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](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:** You run / You slide / You hit the bump / And take a dive.  
developed by Lesslie Dodge Crane, Amanda Ladd & Rebekah Nelson

## 13 and Under

written by Amanda Ladd  
directed by Rebekah Nelson

**Carrie:** Lesslie Dodge Crane\*  
**Brooke:** Amanda Ladd\*  
**Young Carrie:** Ursula Anderman  
**Young Brooke:** Melissa Boatright

---

**DARE:** A play about the most monumental dare ever where doing the dare seems completely awful & morally wrong, but the world ends up better off because of it.

developed by Alix McEachern Jones, Robert Larkin & Shannon Michael Wamser

## ...And Eat it Too

written by Shannon Michael Wamser  
directed by Alix McEachern Jones, Robert Larkin & Shannon Michael Wamser

**Charlotte:** Alix McEachern Jones\*  
**Rick:** Robert Larkin

Special Thanks to Sara Antkowiak & Scott Casper

---

\* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

*The Dare Project* is made possible (in part) by the Queens Council on the Arts with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

**Front of House:** Sara Ankowiak, David Castro, Rebekah Nelson  
**Board Operators:** Robert W. McMaster, Shannon Michael Wamser  
**Production Photographer:** Nicholas Alexiy Moran

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

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



**Ursula Anderman** (Young Carrie, *13 and Under*) is thrilled to be working with **taxdeductible theatre** again! Last summer she was Princess Leia in *Millennium Falcon Crest*. Her recent credits include *Crimes of the Heart* (Stage Door Theatre), *The Glass Menagerie* (Kentucky Stages), and *The Lion In Winter* (Kentucky Stages). For more tantalizing tidbits visit [ursulaanderman.com](http://ursulaanderman.com).

**Sara Antkowiak** (director, *The Mystery of Know*) Thrilled to be back with **taxdeductible theatre** after playing Snow White and 30 other Disney characters in *Noir + White*, and Terasa in *#hero*. Others: Genevieve on *One Life to Live*; Rosenstern in *Elsinore County* (Theatre Row); Callie in *Julio!* (Kraine); Dana in *Lustyness* (Under St. Marks); Aerial Soloist in *Pippin* (Goodspeed); *Tales of Hoffmann*, *Manon*, *Damnation of Faust*, *Armida* (The Metropolitan Opera); *Dancers Among Us* (Jordan Matter). Faculty at New York Film Academy. [www.SaraAntkowiak.com](http://www.SaraAntkowiak.com)

**Melissa Boatright** (Young Brooke, *13 and Under*) Melissa Boatright is thrilled to make her debut with *The Dare Project*! She hails from Kansas City, MO with a BFA in Theatre from Stephens College. Most recently, she finished a run of *Fancy Nancy the Musical* in the title role with Vital Theatre Company. Besides theatre, you can find her obsessing over craft beer, stray cats, and good friends. Thanks to everyone involved in *The Dare Project* for inviting me to play, to Kyle for being Kyle, and thanks to you dear audience member! Enjoy!

**Rachel Brill** (Janice, *The Mystery of Know*) Rachel is a NYC based actress, writer, and educator and Zumba® instructor. Her recent stage performances include *Dante's Inferno* at the Brick Theatre, *Vagina Monologues* at HERE Arts Space, and her self produced original play, *Wombanhood*. Recent films include *The Erotic Fire of the Unattainable*, *Whispering Pines*, and *Don Peyote*. Rachel is very excited to be a part of *The Dare Project*!

**Scott Casper** (Phil, *The Mystery of Know*)<sup>†</sup> 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** (writer, *The Mystery of Know*) 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. Although the feather in his cap was wearing a giant Elvis head for a Barry Manilow New Year's Eve show.

**Lesslie Dodge Crane** (Carrie, *13 and Under*)<sup>†</sup> 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*, *There but For...*, *Bed Center*, and *I Hope I Get It*. Thanks to everyone for sharing 24 Dare Projects with us! For Marti.

**Jordan Gwiazdowski** (Sam, *Reaching a Chord*) Jordan is happy to be back with *The Dare Project* for a second time and ecstatic to be returning to the life diva once again after recently starring in *Hedwig...* with Smithereen Productions. For further credits and info: [www.thebrutalkind.com](http://www.thebrutalkind.com)

**Lauren Hennessy** (Precious, *Reaching a Chord*) Won the fringeNYC award for Outstanding Performance (*Ampersand the musical*); Audience Choice award at The Looking Glass & was the only foreigner nominated for 2011 Icelandic Academy Awards for the film *Clean* (which won). Host of bi-weekly podcast under the Keith and The Girl network called *Bottoms Up With Hennessy* & blogs/interviews for Huffington Post. Currently trying to get seen for Orange is the New Black...anyone know Jen Euston? - [LaurenHennessy.com](http://LaurenHennessy.com); @LaurenHennessy

**Lindsay Hicks** (Izzy, *Reaching a Chord*) Lindsay is a writer/actor/improviser currently residing in Brooklyn. She came to New York five years ago with dreams of performing Shakespeare in the streets but soon found this to be dangerous and financially unideal. Her series, *The Better Half*, can now be seen on Pivot TV!

**Amanda Ladd** (writer, Brooke, *13 and Under*)<sup>†</sup> Amanda loves **taxdeductible theatre** and has been an actor, writer, and director for six *Dare Projects*. This is the second *Dare Project* she has written. She may never have picked up a pen without taxdeductible's belief and support. Amanda has most recently been seen in *Peter Pat* at the Producer's Club. Favorite roles include Anna in *Hans*, Gayle in *The Complaint*, Helena in *Dream*.

**Robert Larkin** (co-director/Rick, *...And Eat it Too*)<sup>†</sup> 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.

**Alix McEachern Jones** (Charlotte/co-director, *...And Eat it Too*)<sup>†</sup> A Florida native, Alix 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.

**Robert W. McMaster** (director, *Reaching a Chord*)<sup>†</sup> 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** (writer, *Reaching a Chord*) Has appeared as an actor in previous *Dare Projects*, but this his first go-round with *The Dare Project* as a writer. Thanks to **taxdeductible theatre** for offering him the opportunity to wear a different hat, and additional thanks to wife Adair and canine companions Oliver and Tala for emotional support and insightful feedback.

**Rebekah Nelson** (director, *13 and Under*) Rebekah's previous dares include *Three Card Brag* (playwright), *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** (Ryan, *The Mystery of Know*)<sup>\*</sup> 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 Theatre 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.

**Rachael Small** (Kelly, *The Mystery of Know*) Favorite regional credits include: *Death of a Salesman*, *South Pacific*, *As You Like It*, *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, *Evita*, and *Urinetown*. Rachael is grateful to be involved with *The Dare Project*!

**Shannon Michael Wamser** (writer/co-director, *...And Eat it Too*)<sup>†</sup> has done more *Dare Projects* than you could shake a stick at. Thanks for coming to this one. Enjoy. [www.shannonmichaelwamser.com](http://www.shannonmichaelwamser.com)

<sup>\*</sup> denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association. <sup>†</sup>denotes a member of **taxdeductible theatre**

## THE DARE PROJECT

July 1, 2014

Welcome to the twenty-fourth installment 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!

---

**DARE:** ...in the lounge, with the candlestick.

developed by Sara Antkowiak, Scott Casper & David Castro

### The Mystery of Know

written by David Castro

directed by Sara Antkowiak

**Phil:** Scott Casper\*

**Janice:** Rachel Brill

**Ryan:** Alex Pappas\*

**Kelly:** Rachael Small

---

**DARE:** To create a play where the only language used is music.

developed by Lindsay Hicks, Robert W. McMaster & Nicholas Alexiy Moran

### Reaching a Chord

written by Nicholas Alexiy Moran

directed by Robert W. McMaster

**Sam:** Jordan Gwiazdowski

**Izzy:** Lindsay Hicks

**Precious:** Lauren Hennessy

Special thanks to Bryn Boice and Rebekah Nelson

---