

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

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: When being uncomfortable is comfortable.

Originally produced in *The Dare Project # 8 as Interrupting Murtle*

New work developed by Wendy Bagger, Robert W. McMaster & Rebekah Nelson

Alignment

written by Wendy Bagger, Robert W. McMaster & Rebekah Nelson

directed by David Castro

Dr. Ken: Robert W. McMaster

Michelle: Rebekah Nelson

DARE: A ten-minute love story involving senior citizens.

Originally produced in *The Dare Project #9 as Family Values*

New work developed by Sara Antkowiak, Amanda Ladd & Shannon Michael Wamser

Monkey Up

written by Sara Antkowiak

directed by Amanda Ladd

Xavier: John Lampe

Penelope: Sara Antkowiak*

Ghost of Grandfather: Jon Freda*

Special Thanks to Shannon Michael Wamser

DARE: Write an action play where no character moves from their original mark.

Originally produced in *The Dare Project #9 as Trigger Happy*

New work developed by Jed Aicher, Ursula Anderman & Scott Casper

Shortcuts

written by Jed Aicher

directed by Scott Casper

Evelyn: Ursula Anderman

Doctor: Eric C. Bailey*

Tom: Kyle Groff*

* 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: Shannon Michael Wamser

Board Operators: Scott Casper, Lesslie Dodge Crane

Production Photographer: Nicholas Alexiy Moran

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

Robert Choiniere, The Chain Theatre, Tom Fazio,

Kyle Groff, Queens Council on the Arts,

Josh Rowe, Shetler Studios, Spaceworks Studios,

& Variations Theatre Group



Jed Aicher (writer, *Shortcuts*) Jed Aicher is an actor, singer, teacher, and voice-over artist. Jed has a B.A. in Theater from Muhlenberg College, and a M.F.A. in Acting from Florida State University. Recent favorite roles include Lennie in *Of Mice and Men* and Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. jedaicher.com

Ursula Anderman (Evelyn, *Shortcuts*) Ursula is psyched be performing in *The Dare Project* again! You may have seen her in previous dares as Princess Leia or as a teenage girl (2x). You can catch her in the upcoming film *Laugh Killer Laugh* or on Discovery ID's "*Unraveled: Countdown to a Kill*." ursulaanderman.com

Sara Antkowiak (Penelope/writer, *Monkey Up*)[†] 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!* (Kraime); 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). Feb 2015: *Pretty Babies* at 13th Street Rep. Faculty at New York Film Academy. www.SaraAntkowiak.com

Wendy Bagger (co-writer, *Alignment*)[†] 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.

Eric C. Bailey (Doctor, *Shortcuts*)[†] Eric has toured nationally with School House Rock Live! and The American Shakespeare Center. Favorite roles include: Harry Fatt in *Waiting for Lefty* (ETC), Lucky in *Waiting for Godot* (Fleetwood Stage), The Teacher in *Blood on the Cat's Neck* (Gemini CollisionWorks) and Sam et al. in *Fully Committed* (Fleetwood Stage). For more information follow him on twitter @EricCBailey

Melissa Boatright (Emily, *The Other Hand*) Melissa Boatright is thrilled to appear on stage again 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, and appeared in an episode of A&E's "Dead Again". 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 special thanks to you dear audience member! Enjoy!

Scott Casper (director, *Shortcuts*)[†] 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, and for helping us reach our Silver Anniversary!

David Castro (director, *Alignment*)[†] David Castro 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. He is thrilled to be involved in *The Dare Project 25* and looks forward to many more.

Nora Chester (Rachel Kim, *In a Woman's Place*)[†] is delighted to accept the "Dare" and join this intrepid band of actors/writers/directors/producers in their brave and wildly creative project. Regionally: Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Alliance, The Alley, The Asolo, Long Wharf, McCarter, Syracuse Stage, GeVa, Stage West, Delaware Theatre Co. New York: Numerous Off and Off-Off Broadway productions, most recently: *Happy Birthday* at The Beckett. Nora is a member of TACT and serves on its Art Board, appearing in over 40 productions. Proud member of Actors' Equity since 1977.

Brian A. Costello (Greg Blevins, *In a Woman's Place*)[†] 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 third Dare.

Lesslie Dodge Crane (writer, *In a Woman's Place*)[†] 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 25 *Dare Projects* with us and joining us to celebrate our Silver Anniversary! And they said it wouldn't last.... For Marti.

Jon Freda (Ghost of Grandfather, *Monkey Up*)† Jon is glad to be back working with a great cast and director with *The Dare Project* for a third time. Jon recently had a supporting role in *The Family* with Robert De Niro, and in *Run* with Eric Roberts. His sci-fi musical *Alien Adventure the Adventure* recently won 4 awards at the Midtown International Theatre Festival; and his performance received critical acclaim for his solo show about Jimmy Durante, *Imagine Dat!* More information at jonfreda.com. Proud member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA.

Kyle Groff (Tom, *Shortcuts*)† Kyle is no stranger to *The Dare Project*, most recently in Rebekah Nelson's *Three Card Brag*. 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.

Amanda Ladd (director, *Monkey Up*)† Amanda is an actor, writer, and director. She loves *The Dare Project* and continues to grow and stretch and learn in every iteration of the project. Credits include *The Complaint* with CEO Theatre and *The Hans Project* at The West End Theatre. She won best actress honor at The American Globe Theatre's 2011 Turnip Festival in *The Bar Mitzvah of Jesus Goldfarb*. She received the same award in 2010 in *Puppet Love*. 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*. amandaladd.com

John Lampe (Xavier, *Monkey Up*) This is John's first *Dare Project*. Other New York credits include *Many Mansions* at the Tank Theatre and *The Holiday Hop* at the Stonewall Inn. Favorite regional credits include *Lovers* (West End Players Guild), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Okoboji Summer Theatre), and *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes...* (Seven Angels Theatre), amongst others. Many thanks to Scott and Amanda for being so welcoming. BFA: Stephens College

Robert Larkin (Max/writer, *The Other Hand*)† Robert is proud to be part of **taxdeductible theatre**. He is a native of Boston, MA and an original member 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. Also, thanks to C. The best part of ...everything.

Robert W. McMaster (Dr. Ken/co-writer, *Alignment*)† Mac is an Associate Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre** and is grateful to have been involved with so many *Dare Project* nights, including this Silver Anniversary. 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 (director, *In a Woman's Place*)† Nick is back for his fourth *Dare Project*. Thanks to **taxdeductible theatre** for the opportunity, and additional thanks to wife Adair and canine companions Oliver and Tala for emotional support and insightful feedback.

Rebekah Nelson (Michelle/co-writer, *Alignment*)† Previous Dares include: *13 & Under*, *The Father*, *Tweeds*, *Wise Men* (Director) and *Three Card Brag* (Playwright). She is producing the upcoming feature *Living With the Dead* and starred in the indie feature *American Bomber*. She is the associate artistic director of the Wild Rumpus Theatre Development Group & received a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Marymount Manhattan College.

Alex Pappas (director, *The Other Hand*)† 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.

Shannon Michael Wamser (collaborator, *Monkey Up*)† has done more *Dare Projects* than you could shake a stick at. Thanks for coming to this one. Enjoy. www.shannonmichaelwamser.com

* denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association. † denotes a member of **taxdeductible theatre**

THE DARE PROJECT

November 25, 2014

Welcome to our Silver Anniversary installment of *The Dare Project!*

We're about to complete our twenty-fifth production. That seems absurd. Where does the time go?

We've actually tried to address that question in our plays over the years (*The Fix* with its time-travel device - *Dare Project 19*; *What Comes Next* with its recycling eternity - *Dare Project 14*; *Howard Coward* with its subway stops along the space-time continuum - *Dare Project 7*), but now that we're actually looking back...all we know is that the arrow of time only points forward.

At the end of this season of work, we've succeeded in pushing our collaborative process forward by partnering a writer, a director and an actor before the dares are even drawn, and then tasking this trio of artists to find some element of another play in the evening to incorporate into their own, connecting it all together. But, of course, it all starts with the dare.

Tonight, we revisit some of the old dares you've given us, and we've created brand new plays to move us forward into next season.

2014 has been a banner year, and tonight's celebration of 25 *Dare Projects* so far couldn't be possible without your support. Thank you for everything. As you continue to challenge us, we continue to challenge ourselves.

We look forward to 2015 and beyond.

Enjoy the show!

DARE: A play about an old woman who walks into walls.

Originally produced in *The Dare Project #10* as *Walls*

New work developed by Brian Costello, Lesslie Dodge Crane & Nicholas Alexiy Moran

In a Woman's Place

written by Lesslie Dodge Crane
directed by Nicholas Alexiy Moran

Rachel Kim: Nora Chester*
Greg Blevins: Brian A. Costello*

Special Thanks to Amanda Ladd, Michael Rock & Christopher Sutton

DARE: A play about Johnny Depp being gay.

Originally produced in *The Dare Project #12* as *JOHNNY*

New work developed by Melissa Boatright, Robert Larkin & Alex Pappas

The Other Hand

written by Robert Larkin
directed by Alex Pappas

Max: Robert Larkin
Emily: Melissa Boatright
