

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.

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. As a voice over artist she has been heard in everything from children's books to plugging Comcast Cable.

**Amanda Ladd** (writer, *Hope Stands Up*)<sup>†</sup> Amanda Ladd is an actress, writer, and director. She is a member of **taxdeductible theatre**. This summer Amanda will be performing in a staged reading of *Mrs. Hank*, a new musical, at NYSSA in Delhi, NY. She will also perform in *Greater Tuna* at Okoboji Summer Theatre. Favorite credits include *Peterpat* with Grand Ninja Productions, *Carolina Breeze* with NYU, *The Complaint* with CEO Theatre, & *The Hans Project* with NY Theatre Ensemble. Amanda recently acted in the TV pilot *Vetted* with ADD Productions. She is a proud member of Equity.

**Robert Larkin** (writer, *Tomorrow Happens*)<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. Finally, thank you to my favorite set of ears. Love you C.

**Robert W. McMaster** (director, *Hope Stands Up*)<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, and is honored to be writing the second one, whatever it will be. You, the person reading this program note right now, you are the one who has made these things possible. Thank you.

**Nicholas Alexiy Moran** (George, *Tomorrow Happens*)<sup>†</sup> Nicholas spent his formative years in the mud and snow of Vermont, and began his career as a performer when he ran away from home at the age of 17 to join Vermont's Home Grown Country Circus, Circus Smirkus. After sampling the circus life, he decided that it would be best to have a more stable vocation as a backup, and so enrolled at Wesleyan University to study theater. Since escaping academia, Nicholas has been involved with various productions in various capacities from New York to Tokyo, and many places in-between. When not directly involved in the performance, Nicholas has been known to moonlight as a production photographer, including for **taxdeductible theatre**. Nicholas is very grateful to TXD for offering him the opportunity to play in such a challenging, exciting environment.

**Rebekah Nelson** (writer, *Eliza and Elijah*)<sup>†</sup> A Queens native, Rebekah has been pursuing a career in theatre and film since the age of 15. Majoring in drama at The Professional Performing Arts School, she continued to study theatre at Marymount Manhattan College (B.A. in Theatre Arts). For the past couple of years, Rebekah has contributed to *The Dare Project* as a writer, director, and actor. She is the associate artistic director of The Wild Rumpus Theatre Development Group. She is also the producer of the indie feature *Living with the Dead* and starred in the film *American Bomber*.

**Kevin Rose** (Anthony, *Out of Nowhere*) A native New Yorker, graduate of the Hunter College theater program and SAG/AFTRA member. Humbled and happy to share in this experience. Visit [www.Kev-Rose.com](http://www.Kev-Rose.com).

**Carolyn Williams** (Eliza, *Eliza and Elijah*) Carolyn hails from Watertown, South Dakota and is so excited to be involved with **taxdeductible theatre** and participating in her first *Dare Project*. She earned her BFA in Theatre Arts from Stephens College in Columbia, MO, where she cultivated her passion and desire to create original works. Thank you for supporting bold theatre.

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

## THE DARE PROJECT

June 23, 2015

Welcome to the twenty-sixth installment of *The Dare Project*.

Part of the joy in producing these events is that, despite having done so many, each evening allows us to do something new; to clear a path and start fresh at the foundation. We are always trying to create something never before seen and do it in such a way that connects all of our voices in that creation together.

And to be clear...it's TERRIFYING! We put in all of the effort and until the night we share that work, we have no idea what it will become. But we push forward anyway, because what keeps **taxdeductible theatre** going is this pursuit of something new, and the (often blind) faith that what we discover will be illuminating to share.

And towards that end, this installment of *The Dare Project* is the beginning of another new and terrifying journey. We are developing a new full-length play, a new stand-alone work, built on the foundation of plays **taxdeductible theatre** develops in *The Dare Project* between now and the end of 2016.

Starting tonight the work you see from us will all be the foundation of a new something new. What will it be? We've got no idea. But we will all find out together.

With that in mind, the very appropriate starting point for all four of the plays tonight, and for our next full-length play, is the dare:

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**There are many towns named hope, but none named fear.**

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### Eliza and Elijah

written by Rebekah Nelson  
directed by Scott Casper

**Eliza:** Carolyn Williams  
**Elijah:** Brian A. Costello\*

Developed by Scott Casper, Brian A. Costello & Rebekah Nelson

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### Tomorrow Happens

written by Robert Larkin  
directed by David Castro

**George:** Nicholas Alexiy Moran\*  
**Rosanna:** Laura Iris Hill

Developed by David Castro, Robert Larkin & Nicholas Alexiy Moran

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## Out of Nowhere

written by Lesslie Dodge Crane  
directed by Alix McEachern Jones

**Tim:** Eddie Andrews  
**Anthony:** Kevin Rose  
**Jane:** Lesslie Dodge Crane\*  
**Peter:** Eric C. Bailey\*

Developed by Sara Antkowiak, Lesslie Dodge Crane & Alix McEachern Jones

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## Hope Stands Up

written by Amanda Ladd  
directed by Robert W. McMaster

**MC, Doctor, et al:** Bridget Harvey\*  
**Hope:** Melissa Boatright

Developed by Melissa Boatright, Amanda Ladd & Robert W. McMaster

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\* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

**Front of House:** Amanda Ladd  
**Projection Design:** Jonathan Spencer  
**Production Photography:** Nicholas Alexiy Moran  
**Board Operators:** Scott Casper, Robert W. McMaster

### taxdeductible theatre company

**Artistic Director:** Scott Casper

**Associate Artistic Directors:** Lesslie Dodge Crane & Robert W. McMaster

Sara Antkowiak, Wendy Bagger, Melissa Boatright,  
David Castro, Brian A. Costello, Alix McEachern Jones,  
Amanda Ladd, Robert Larkin, Nicholas Alexiy Moran,  
Rebekah Nelson & Alex Pappas

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

Robert Choiniere, The Chain Theatre, Tom Fazio,  
Shetler Studios, Spaceworks Studios, &  
Variations Theatre Group



**Eddie Andrews** (Tim, *Out of Nowhere*) is thrilled to be a part of *The Dare Project*! New York credits include *Cherries*, *Pellets*, and *Lies: The PacMan Story* (Junior) and *The Worthmores* (Moppet). Favorite regional: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Leaf), *The Foreigner* (David), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert Martin), *Almost Maine* (Jimmy/Randy/Dave), *A Catered Affair* (Ralph Halloran). Graduate, Stephens College.

**Eric C. Bailey** (Peter, *Out of Nowhere*) Eric C. Bailey has now been in 3 Dares, and is happy to be back. Some favorite roles include: Roland Maule in *Present Laughter* (Dorset Theatre Festival), Paul Unger in *The Country Girl* (Fleetwood Stage) and Trotsky/Swift in *All in the Timing* (Repertory Theatre of America).

**Melissa Boatright** (Hope, *Hope Stands Up*)<sup>†</sup> Melissa hails from Kansas City, MO and is thrilled to be taking shots... and creating new works with **taxdeductible theatre** this season. Recently, you may have seen her on the June Havoc stage with The Worldwide Plays Festival, and Nancy in *Fancy Nancy: The Musical*. BFA in Theatre, Minor in Music from Stephens College. Thanks to all those who dare.

**Scott Casper** (director, *Eliza and Elijah*)<sup>†</sup> Having been with the company from its inception, Scott has been involved as a writer, performer or director in every New York City production of *The Dare Project*. He also was the lead writer in **taxdeductible theatre's** first full-length play, *#hero*, which received its world premiere here at the Chain Theatre in March 2013. Thank you all for being a part of our community.

**David Castro** (director, *Tomorrow Happens*)<sup>†</sup> David arrived to New York via Chicago, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. With a BA in theater from UNLV and a graduate of the Second City Training Center, David is thrilled to be a member of **taxdeductible theatre**. He has been fortunate to have been involved in several *Dare Projects* as a writer and director and hopes to continue until they cart his dead cold body off.

**Brian A. Costello** (Actor, *Eliza and Elijah*)<sup>†</sup> Brian has been acting for over 25 years, is a graduate of Suffolk College and 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. He's been DARE-ing for three years.

**Lesslie Dodge Crane** (writer/Jane, *Out of Nowhere*)<sup>†</sup> Lesslie is an Associate Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre** and since 2007 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*, *I Hope I Get It*, and *In a Woman's Place*. She is a graduate of the B.F.A. program at VCU and the M.F.A. program at FSU's Asolo Conservatory and since then has been working as an actor and fight director along the eastern seaboard and this one time in France, which was really neat. She is incredibly excited for this landmark season for txd and can't wait to be a part of it with this community and this talented company. For Marti.

**Bridget Harvey** (MC, Doctor, et al, *Hope Stands Up*)<sup>†</sup> is thrilled to be making her live character debut with *The Dare Project*. Career highlights include Dame Hannah in *The House of Murgatroyd* Gilbert & Sullivan Festival, Corine in *Triumph of Love* at the Lincoln Center and Whina in *Cinderella's Mice* at the Vital Theater where her performance was hailed as "infantile and obsessed with ponies" by the New York Times. Much love to Mac.

**Laura Iris Hill** (Rosanna, *Tomorrow Happens*) Laura Iris Hill is delighted to return for the third time to *The Dare Project*. NYC credits: *Richard III* (Hamlet Isn't Dead), *Cupid and Psyche* (Turn to Flesh), *Cosi* and *Speaking in Tongues* (Australian Made Entertainment). Regional: *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Macbeth* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). Laura also had a recurring guest role on Aussie prime time soap, *Neighbours*.

**Alix McEachern Jones** (director, *Out of Nowhere*)<sup>†</sup> Alix, a Florida native, received her MFA in Acting from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and her BA in Theatre from Florida State