

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.

Louise. In the past Amanda has worked for Disney Cruise Lines, Theatre Works USA, and NY Stage Originals. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

**John Lampe** (Aaron, *Something Old, Something New*) John is glad to be back for another *Dare Project*, after having appeared last in *The Dare Project 25*. He has acted and directed in theatres across the country, having worked with everything from new plays to classics to dancing fruitcake numbers. Many thanks to the wonderful company here at **taxdeductible theatre**. [www.johnlampe.com](http://www.johnlampe.com)

**Robert Larkin** (director, *Ramen at Forty*)<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. Lastly, thanks to C for being the jewel that she is.

**Robert W. McMaster** (director, *Something Old, Something New*)<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.

**Adair Moran** (Toni, *Something Old, Something New*)<sup>†</sup> Adair Moran has performed with NYC theatre companies including Nylon Fusion Collective (company member), Variations Theatre Group, and The Red Fern Theatre Company. She is also a stunt performer who can be spotted on TV shows such as *Gotham* (stunt double for Bruce Wayne), *Jessica Jones*, *House of Cards*, and *Royal Pains*. Adair has performed as an aerialist at venues including The Muse, Dixon Place, and Streb, and she teaches aerial arts and harness skills at The Muse in Brooklyn. She is a graduate of The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre. Learn more at [www.adairmoran.com](http://www.adairmoran.com).

**Nicholas Alexiy Moran** (Tony, *Something Old, Something New*; writer/Darrell, *A Square to Spare*)<sup>†</sup> Nicholas grew up in the mud and snow of Vermont, beginning his performing career at the age of seventeen when he ran away to join Vermont-based Circus Smirkus. After sampling the circus life, he enrolled at Wesleyan University to study theater. Since escaping academia, Nicholas has been a part of productions from New York to Tokyo and many places in-between. In addition to performing, directing, and writing, Nicholas has been known to moonlight as a production photographer, including for **taxdeductible theatre**. Nicholas is very grateful to **taxdeductible theatre** for offering him the opportunity to create in such a challenging, exciting environment. For more, visit [NicholasMoran.com](http://NicholasMoran.com).

**Rebekah Nelson** (collaborator, *A Square to Spare*)<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 directed the short film *The Shoulder*, produced the indie feature *Living with the Dead* and starred in the film *American Bomber*.

**Alex Pappas** (George, *Ramen at Forty*)<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 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.

**Kevin Rose** (Spiderman, *Love Me Tender*) 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).

## THE DARE PROJECT

December 8, 2015

With this production of *The Dare Project*, we continue the journey towards our next full-length play.

The plays we presented in June started with a single dare: There are many towns named hope, but none named fear. All of the plays that night somehow connected back to family and to finding a home.

Since 2013, we've been incredibly fortunate at **taxdeductible theatre** to have found a home here at the Chain Theatre. As you may have heard, this venue has lost their lease, and tonight is our last production here. We will move on to find another venue, hopefully one run by Variations Theatre Group, but wherever we go, our aim is to make whatever space we are in a home we can share with our community.

Tonight, we build off of the stories we began in June, by asking our company to use those original plays as jumping off points for their new works. We hope you hear and see the connections from our June production as you watch tonight.

As it is our ongoing mission to cultivate the company and community's voice together, the theme tonight came again from you. We asked you to think about yourself at your most *unreasonable*, and then tell us:

### WHO, WHERE, WHEN, WHY

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**WHO:** A man and his two girlfriends.

#### Ramen at Forty

written by Scott Casper  
directed by Robert Larkin

**Cecilia:** Paige Gilbert

**George:** Alex Pappas\*

Developed by Scott Casper, Robert Larkin & Alex Pappas

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**WHERE:** The front door of my building.

#### Something Old, Something New

written by David Castro  
directed by Robert W. McMaster

**Aaron / Erin:** John Lampe and Amanda Ladd\*

**Toni / Tony:** Adair Moran\* and Nicholas Alexiy Moran\*

Developed by David Castro, Amanda Ladd & Robert W. McMaster

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

**WHY: They are united by their love of Karaoke, but divided by everything else**

## A Square to Spare

written by Nicholas Alexiy Moran  
directed by Sara Antkowiak

**SSN:** Bridget Harvey\*

**SKS:** Rachel Brill

**Darrell:** Nicholas Alexiy Moran\*

Developed by Sara Antkowiak, Nicholas Alexiy Moran, and Rebekah Nelson

**WHEN: Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> (Elvis' birthday).**

## Love Me Tender

written by Melissa Boatright  
directed by Brian A. Costello

**Julie:** Lesslie Dodge Crane\*

**Aron:** Brian A. Costello\*

**Elmo:** Mark D. Garkusha

**Spiderman:** Kevin Rose

Developed by Melissa Boatright, Brian A. Costello & Lesslie Dodge Crane

\* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

**Front of House:** Wendy Bagger, Alix McEachern Jones

**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



**Sara Antkowiak** (director, *A Square to Spare*)<sup>†</sup> Thrilled to be back with **taxdeductible theatre** after playing Snow White and 30 other Disney characters in *Noir and White*, and Terasa in *#hero*. Other credits: Genevieve on *One Life to Live*; Babs Kogan on *Secret Lives of Stepford Wives*, film *Have You Seen Calvin?*, Rosenstern in *Elsinore County* (Theatre Row); Callie in *Julio!*; Randi in *Pretty Babies*, Dana in *Lustyness*; 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 and The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts . [www.SaraAntkowiak.com](http://www.SaraAntkowiak.com)

**Melissa Boatright** (writer, *Love Me Tender*)<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.

**Rachel Brill** (SKS, *A Square to Spare*) Rachel is a NYC based actress, writer, 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** (writer, *Ramen at Forty*)<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** (writer, *Something Old, Something New*)<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** (director/Aron, *Love Me Tender*)<sup>†</sup> Brian 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. This is his fifth DARE.

**Lesslie Dodge Crane** (Julie, *Love Me Tender*)<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*, *I Hope I Get It* and *Out of Nowhere*. Thanks to everyone for sharing 27 *Dare Projects* with us and joining us on the journey to our second original full-length work! For Marti.

**Mark Garkusha** (Elmo, *Love Me Tender*) Mark is a graduate of the Hartt school who always enjoys working with these crazy *Dare Project* kids.

**Paige Gilbert** (Cecilia, *Ramen at Forty*) Paige hailing from Detroit, Michigan and a recent graduate of the BFA Acting program at SUNY Purchase, is excited to be making her **taxdeductible theatre** debut with such a relevant and personal piece.

**Bridget Harvey** (SSN, *A Square to Spare*)<sup>†</sup> is so happy to return to *The Dare Project*. Career highlights include Dame Hannah in *The House of Murgatroyd* at the International 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.

**Amanda Ladd** (Erin, *Something Old, Something New*)<sup>†</sup> Amanda Ladd is an actress, singer, writer, and director in NYC. Recent credits include *Greater Tuna* at Okoboji Summer Theatre, *Peterpat* with Grand Ninja Productions, *The Complaint* with CEO Theatre & *The Hans Project* with NY Theatre Ensemble. On screen Amanda can be seen in the TV pilot *Vetted* with ADD Productions and as Jean Harlow in the award winning short film *Mary and*