

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

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

Urban Stages Theater

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.actorsequity.org

taxdeductible theatre wishes to thank



Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs / NYC Department of Sanitation / NYC Department of Education.

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.

Brad Makarowski* (Wade, *Wise Men*): Recent Credits: *The Time of Your Life*, *Moonchildren* (Attic Theatre Co.); *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Hudson Warehouse); *Raft of the Medusa* (Secret Theatre); *Caesar & Cleopatra* (Resonance Ensemble); *Our Country's Good* (Folding Chair Classical Theatre); *A Doll's House* (Banyan Theatre); *A Few Good Men* (Asolo Repertory) MFA - FSU/Asolo Conservatory www.BradMakarowski.com

Bethany McNamara (Elvita, *God is an Atheist and He/She/It Wants us to be one Too*): Bethany McNamara is excited to be taking part in her first *Dare Project*. New York credits include: *One Night* (Equality Inc.), *Little Red Riding Hood* (Manhattan Children's Theatre), *The Tracks Are Electrified* (Looking Glass), *Butchering the Bard* (Coffee Black Prod.), and *Mythologie* (Genesis Engine). Education: BFA Hofstra University 2010.

Blake Merriman (Sheldon, *Sacrifices*): Blake is thrilled to be working on his very first *Dare Project*! He trained at Northwestern University, the School at Steppenwolf, and the Maggie Flanigan studio. He can be seen performing long-form improv on Wednesday nights at the Magnet Theater with house team "Featherweight." For more info, visit BlakeMerriman.com

Travis Mitchell (Johnny, *Wise Men*): Travis is thrilled to be making his *Dare* debut! Recent Theatre: *Spring Awakening* (Second National Tour), *The Bus* (59E59). Upcoming: *Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* (TriArts), *Sound of Music* (TriArts). *Catch Me If You Can* (First National Tour). www.travistravistravis.com. Much love to Jules.

Rebekah Nelson (director, *Wise Men*): This is Rebekah's second time around working with *The Dare Project*! She assistant directed the 2010 dare *Scooby-Doosical* and is excited to return as a director. She has written & directed several original pieces across the city, often in collaboration with the Alternative Arts Association. A native New Yorker, she's hard as steel.

Alex Pappas* (Matt, *Wise Men*): The biography of Alex Pappas starts back when all the matter of the universe was compressed into a tiny ball and then exploded during what became known as the "Big Bang." As galaxies started to form, the solar system began[EDITED FOR LENGTH - Producer]which finally led him to playing the role of Matt in this show. Love to Mya.

Anthony P. Pennino (writer/director, *Sacrifices*): Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama, University of London. M.F.A. in Playwriting, Columbia University. Fulbright Scholar, 2008, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey. Assistant Professor of Literature, Stevens Institute of Technology. Fellowship from New Jersey Council of the Arts. 7 published plays. OOB Award for Directing. Member: Dramatists Guild of America.

Ayanna Siverls (Mesa, *The Dead Horse*): This is Ayanna's first *Dare Project*. She is grateful to work with Bryn whom she has had the pleasure of previously working with in the Scottish play. Ayanna is a Brooklyn native with over a decade's worth of theatre and film projects. She recently collaborated with fellow actors to write, produce and direct *Sorry for Laughing*, an evening of social conscious sketch comedy.

Shannon Michael Wamser* (Ares, *Sacrifices*): Founding member, txd. This bio is supposed to be 50 words long. So, in honor of our play, and chosen just for you, Scott, I include:

Lopadotemachoselachogaleokraniroleipsanodrimhypotrimmatosilphiparaomelitokatakechymenokichl epikossphophattoperisteralektryonoptekephallioikiglopeleiolagoiosiraobaphetraganopterygon.

This is an actual word, from *Lysistrata*, meaning a goulash composed of all the leftovers from the last two weeks. 50 words, exactly.

Steve Wargo (writer, *Wise Men*): *Dare Projects: Three Needs; Meshach; Drawing Jack* (Director); *Scooby-Doosical* (Book/Direction, with Music & Lyrics by Keith Varney.) Latest project: the Off-Broadway Premiere of *Triassic Parq - The Musical* (Writer, with Marshall Paillet and Bryce Norbitz) at the SoHo Playhouse starting June 12. www.triassicparq.com. It's great to be Dared again. Thanks to Bryn, Scott and Beks.

* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

† indicates a member of **taxdeductible theatre**

THE DARE PROJECT

May 16, 2012

Welcome to our milestone twentieth installment of world premiere ten minute plays, written on a dare. By the end of tonight, we will have created 90(!) new short plays in collaboration with our company and community. And we're just getting started...

Tonight's program will include a ten minute adaptation of the work in progress on **taxdeductible theatre's** first ever full length play, which will mark the next phase of our growth and will open this fall. In fact, all of the plays you will see tonight will contribute to the development of our larger project.

Shortly after our writers received their dares, they all met to hear an early draft of this fall's new play. From that draft, we asked the writers to incorporate one of its theatrical questions into their own plays. This has tied each of tonight's pieces to one another and to our project this fall. As such, the "theme" for *The Dare Project #20* is:

HERO COMPLEX

Thank you so much for coming, and we hope you enjoy the show.

DARE: To write an up with people play already.

Sacrifices

written & directed by Anthony P. Pennino

Sheldon, a human sacrifice: Blake Merriman

Ismene, a student at NYU: Amanda Ladd*

Hades, god of the dead: Christopher Catalano*

Ares, god of war: Shannon Michael Wamser*

Artemis, goddess of the moon: Jolie Curtsinger*

DARE: A play where a scientific concept well-known to most people is portrayed as something controversial.

God is an Atheist and He/She/It wants us to be one Too

written & directed by Robert Larkin

Elvita: Bethany McNamara

Mr. Martin: Scott Casper*

Mrs. Adams: Alix McEachern Jones*

Mr. Adams: Jed Aicher*

Anne: Ursula Anderman

Special thanks to any scientist or science teacher ever as well as Hogan, Bryn, Scott, Rich, Billy, Thrasher, Bonaparte, Kyle, Lauren, Jed, Bethany, Alix, Ursula and of course... Amy.

DARE: Beautifully bound failures.

Beautifully Bound Failures

written by Ashley Hesse
directed by Lesslie Dodge Crane

Sarah: Ashley Hesse*
Jack: Brett Essenter*
Jake: Christopher Catalano*

DARE: To write a play w/ the 3 amigos, 3 musketeers and 3 men and a baby.

Wise Men

written by Steve Wargo
directed by Rebekah Nelson

Matt: Alex Pappas*
Wade: Brad Makarowski*
Johnny: Travis Mitchell

DARE: A ten minute adaptation of the work towards a full length project, currently in development with **taxdeductible theatre**.

The Dead Horse

written & directed by Bryn Boice

Mesa: Ayanna Siverls
Norman: Robert Larkin

Special thanks to Sharon Woodley, Roxana Tejada, and Maria Leite for hours of idiom discussions.

* indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association

Front of House: Ursula Anderman
Booth Operator: Robert W. McMaster

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

Shetler Studios

St. Patrick's Church

Robert Choiniere

Kyle Groff: www.kylegroffphoto.com

Tom Fazio

Urban Stages Theater



Jed Aicher* (Mr. Adams, *God is an Atheist and He/She/It Wants us to be one Too*): Jed has an MFA from Florida State University. He most recently played Mitch at the Gulfshore Playhouse. This is his fourth *Dare Project*.

Ursula Anderman (Anne, *God is an Atheist and He/She/It Wants us to be one Too*): Ursula is delighted to be a part of *The Dare Project*! She's currently filming a new series called "Stereotypes" which you'll be able to watch online and on Queen's public TV this fall. New York credits include Carnegie Hall Vocal Jazz Festival, *The Deathly Ones*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Oly*, and *The 8: Reindeer Monologues*.

Bryn Boice† (writer/director, *The Dead Horse*): Bryn is one of the original three co-creators of *The Dare Project* and is ecstatic to be a part of #20. Follow her for updates, theatrical and otherwise, on Twitter @brynboice and her new venture @anthemtheatre. Love to MP, friends, family, and Daphne.

Scott Casper†† (Mr. Martin, *God is an Atheist and He/She/It Wants us to be one Too*): Scott is the Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre** and has been involved as an actor, writer or director in every NY installment of *The Dare Project* to date. Thanks to everyone for coming out tonight!

Christopher Catalano†† (Hades, *Sacrifices*; Jake, *Beautifully Bound Failures*): One of these things is true of Chris; (1) Brian Williams on NBC's Rock Center recently called him, "The man who makes dreams come true." (2) He invented a time machine and used it to sell Winston Churchill a piano playing baby hippo. Find the answer at www.christophercatalano.com IFLTSOOYEK

Lesslie Dodge Crane† (director, *Beautifully Bound Failures*): Lesslie is a long time contributor to **taxdeductible theatre** as an actor, director and the writer of *A Sexy Time at the Holocaust*, *Jack and Jill*, *Pushing and Shoving*, *Here Comes the Bride*, and *There but For...* in DP #19 - a 10 minute adaption of txd's full-length work in progress. Thanks to everyone to coming and sharing the year's work with us.

Jolie Curtsinger* (Artemis, *Sacrifices*): Jolie is thrilled to be a part of *The Dare Project* again. She was recently seen in InProximity Theatre Company's productions of *The Fall to Earth* at 59E59 Theaters and *Navy Pier* at Theater Row.

Brett Essenter* (Jack, *Beautifully Bound Failures*): Proudly returning for his third *Dare Project*! NYC Credits: *NJ Trapezoid* (Mint Theater), *Tartuffe* (Theater Row), *Macbeth* (Flamboyan). National Tour: *Godspell*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere). Regional: *The Tepest* (Ariel), *1776* (u/s Rutledge), *A Wonderful Life* (Martini Brother), *My Fair Lady* (Harry), *The Man of LaMancha* (Barber), *West Side Story* and a few more here and there and such. BFA, Syracuse University.

Ashley Hesse†† (writer/Sarah, *Beautifully Bound Failures*): Ashley has her Masters in Vocal Performance: NYU Steinhardt School and BFA in Musical Theatre: SUNY Fredonia. Recently she has been seen at The Laurie Beechman Theatre in *Sondheim Unplugged* and *Simply Streisand*. She has done two National Tours with ArtsPower. Theatre credits include *No Telling* (Rachel) in the Harvest Festival, *The Boyfriend* (Nancy), *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Sally: Winner Outstanding Performance TANYS Festival), *Carousel* (Julie Jordan), *West Side Story* (Maria), *The Learned Ladies* (Henriette), *Cash on Delivery* (Brenda Dixon), *Godspell* (Peggy), *Oklahoma!*, *The Laramie Project*, *Evita*, *On the Town*. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be collaborating with such a talented group of theatre innovators. Much love to her family and CM.

Alix McEachern Jones†† (Mrs. Adams, *God is an Atheist and He/She/It Wants us to be one Too*): 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* (Dionya/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.

Amanda Ladd* (Ismene, *Sacrifices*): This is Amanda's 3rd *Dare* experience and loving it! She was most recently seen in *The Complaint* with CEO Theatre and *HANS* at the West End Theatre. Amandaladd.com

Robert Larkin† (writer/director, *God is an Atheist and He/She/It Wants us to be one Too*; Norman, *The Dead Horse*): 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