



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 Wings Theatre

*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](http://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.

School, Saeko Ichinohe Dance Company, Staten Island Ballet Company, Shen Wei Dance Arts, *The Youth America Grand Prix* **Events:** 7th Annual iStar Charity Shootout at Madison Square Garden, Nancy Pelosi's Inaugural Concert. Jack is a B.F.A. graduate of the Conservatory of Theatre Arts & Film at Purchase College.

**Dan Matisa** (George, *George, in Repose*; Writer, *Clown Stop*): Dare Project audiences may remember Dan as an actor from *Consuela*, *Allen Smith's 7A*, *Better Control Through Research*, and *Chip off the Old Block*. He's the guy, with the face, that does that thing you like. This is his first playwriting effort. Please forgive him if there's too much female nudity in it. He's just lonely, that's all. Theatre is the cause of, and solution to, all of Dan's problems.

**Mike Mihm** (Writer, *The Thin Line Between Love and War*): *The Dare Project* credits include *In Our Next Segment*, *Interrupting Murtle*, *Sculpture* and *The Portal*. Theatre credits include the world premiere of *The Brokenhearteds*, *Camino Real* at Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, *From Russia With Angst* with Workshop Theater, *Shakespeare in ACTION* and *The Birthmark* with Stages on the Sound, and *Mister Roberts*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Triumph of Love* while interning at Cincinnati Playhouse. Film: *The Taking of Pelham 123*, *The Dying Western*, *Killing the Joneses*.

**Michael Poignand** (Jeff, *The General, in Repose*): Michael is thrilled to return for his fifth production of *The Dare Project*. Since his last Dare, Michael was in *Pretención* at Performance Space 122, *Orange Flower Water* at Theatre 54, *Macbeth* at the Flamboyant Theatre, *Murder Most Naked* at The Bleecker Street Theatre, *Tartuffe* at Theatre Row and *Almost Maine* at both Polaris North and Access Theatre. Thanks to Scott, Kelly, Bryn and all the wonderful people of *The Dare Project*.

**Julian Rozzell, Jr.** (Ben, *The General, in Repose*): Julian is proud to be part of Bryn Boice's *The General, in Repose*. Julian is a former student of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London, the Rybinsk Theater Company, Rybinsk Russia and The Barter Theater of Virginia. Recent credits include the role of Macbeth in *Macbeth* with Hipgnosis Theatre Company. Julian was recently featured in a Michael Jackson Tribute Commercial for MTV's Video Music Awards, and will be in an episode of *Empire Boulevard* directed by Martin Scorsese.

**Erica Swindell** (Ellie, *The Thin Line Between Love and War*): Erica is delighted to be a part of *The Dare Project*! Recent projects include *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet) with the American Globe Theatre, *Hamlet* (Ophelia) with Acorn Productions, and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero) with the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Other roles include Rose of Sharon in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Eugenia in *The Old Law*, and Claire in *Boston Marriage* with Marymount Manhattan College where she received her BFA in Acting.

**Kristen Vaughan** (Doctor Hutchins, *The Thin Line Between Love and War*): Kristen can currently be seen as the first papally sanctioned female priest in Mac Roger's episodic play *Mother Sacramento* with Gideon/Vampire Cowboys. She played Rachel in David Ian Lee's *Sleeper* with Small Pond Productions, and was a New York Innovative Theater Award Leading Actress nominee for her work as Sunny in *Mill Fire* with Retro Productions. Her prior credits in New York include: *The Cocktail Party*, *Blue*, *Not In My Name* with The Living Theatre and *F* (Manhattan Theatre Source). More? [www.kristenvaughan.com](http://www.kristenvaughan.com). Thanks to Mike for inviting me to the Dare!

**Steve Wargo** (Director, *Go Ahead, Touch me all you Want!*): Steve is elated to return to *The Dare Project*, where he directed Bryn Boice's *Three Needs* in 2007. He is a director, producer, writer, performer, native of Pittsburgh, PA, and a proud graduate of Syracuse University's BFA Musical Theater program. He is currently developing a new musical with a shockheaded band from London, among other projects about which he has to keep his trap shut. You can follow his theatrical escapades and musings on Twitter at [twitter.com/wargodirects](https://twitter.com/wargodirects). Thanks to Rich and Scott for the invite and their trust.

**Sarah Beth-Lee Williams** (Madison, *The General, in Repose*): Sarah performed in *A Memoir* by Dan Schultz at the very first Dare Project ever. Since then, she has written a couple of Dare plays herself (*Howard Coward* and *Coping with Christians*) and acted in several others. She plays the ukulele in subway stations and Grace Wright on the web series "The Underlings." ([www.jointheunderlings.com](http://www.jointheunderlings.com)) Many thanks to **taxdeductible theatre**.

## THE DARE PROJECT    October 28, 2009

Tonight's writers received their dares on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

They had four weeks to write a ten-minute play and then had another month to choose a director, a cast, and rehearse. These are the results of their collaborative efforts.

Enjoy the show.

---

**Dare: The inspired erection.**

### *Love Story*

by Aaron Kliner  
directed by Scott Casper

Woman: Lesslie Dodge Crane\*  
Man: John Keitel\*

---

**Dare: George Washington introduced to the sweatshirt.**

### *The General, in Repose*

written and directed by Bryn Boice

Madison: Sarah Beth-Lee Williams\*  
Jeff: Michael Poignand\*  
George: Dan Matisa\*  
Ben: Julian Rozzell, Jr.\*

special thanks to James J. Fenton, painter

---

**Dare: Write a play about love as an alarm clock, but not a tank of gas.**

### *The Thin Line Between Love and War*

by Mike Mihm  
directed by Jimmie Galaites

Doctor Hutchins: Kristen Vaughan  
Doug: John Keitel\*  
Ellie: Erica Swindell

---

Dare: To write about refusing tips in a massage parlour.

***Go Ahead, Touch me all you Want!***  
***(A Memoir)***

by Rich Fromm  
directed by Steve Wargo\*

Rich: Rich Fromm\*

---

Dare: A retired, alcoholic party clown wins the lottery.

***Clown Stop***

by Dan Matisa  
directed by Scott Casper

Kat: Wendy Bagger  
Charlie: Christopher Catalano\*  
Lotto Girl: Kendra Kay

---

\* denotes actor appears courtesy of Actor's Equity Association  
\* denotes member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Front of House: Joe Ardizzone, Lesslie Dodge Crane, Kendra Kay and Sarah Mucho  
Lights: Jack F. Lynch  
Sound: Robert W. McMaster

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

St. Patrick's Church      The Church of Immaculate Conception in Astoria  
The Wings Theatre      Tom Fazio      Bob Choinere  
James Beeler      web.mac.com/tibaultthedog/iWeb/jamesbeelerphoto

Wine provided by the West Bank Cafe and the Laurie Beechman Theatre  
Beer provided by Joey Pier: Pier Pressure Music

Professional recording, voiceovers, and music demos  
offered at very reasonable rates.

pierpressuremusic@gmail.com or see the bar for more information

---

**Who's Who**

**Wendy Bagger** (Kat, *Clown Stop*): Wendy Bagger is making her 2nd appearance with **taxdeductible theatre**. After having played an alien leading lady doing *Ibs in Space* last time, Wendy is looking forward to a real stretch this time around. Wendy has an MFA in Acting from The Ohio State University and a BA from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Wendy is currently writing a memoir of her experiences in New York entitled "That Lapdog is Wearing the Same Coat as Me."

**Bryn Boice** (Writer/director, *The General, in Repose*): Bryn Boice is a multi-tasking theatre artist and an original member of **taxdeductible theatre** and *The Dare Project*. In its first two seasons, she wrote, acted in, and/or directed a dozen of these original scripts! Directing credits include *Orange Flower Water* by Craig Wright, the inaugural production for InProximity Theatre Co., and *Sunday on the Rocks* by Theresa Rebeck for Ampersand Theatre Co. Bryn also sings and enjoys pancakes, French bulldogs, fishnets, and re-pronouncing her name for everyone. It rhymes with 'gin'.

**Scott Casper** (Director, *Clown Stop & Love Story*): Scott couldn't be more excited to bring back *The Dare Project* after the hiatus. He is the associate artistic director of **taxdeductible theatre**, and has been involved as an actor, director or writer in every installment of *The Dare Project* to date. Thanks to everyone for coming out to the show tonight.

**Christopher Catalano** (Charlie, *Clown Stop*): This is his 424th Dare Project. According to girls he is still, "Funnier and cuter than Justin Long." A New Orleans native and graduate of Florida State, his pilot *Open Bar* was a quarter-finalist in Bravo's *Situation: Comedy*. He is proud to be working again with **taxdeductible theatre**, which also produced and published three of his plays. Find out what else he's done at [www.christophercatalano.com](http://www.christophercatalano.com)

**Lesslie Dodge Crane** (Woman, *Love Story*): Lesslie Dodge Crane is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA and The Asolo Theatre/Florida State University Conservatory MFA Program, where she has performed with The Asolo Rep. She has worked with **taxdeductible theatre** and *The Dare Project* as an actor, director, and contributing playwright.

**Rich Fromm** (Writer/Rich, *Go Ahead, Touch me all you Want!*): Rich is thrilled to be returning to *The Dare Project* and **taxdeductible theatre**. It has been way too long since he's performed and written with these guys and couldn't be happier to returning to the family. Rich currently is a member of the Improv Company, *Immediate Regrets* and has also been seen locally performing Improv at Caroline's, Ha! Comedy Club and Times Square Arts Center. Love and thanks to his friends and family for undying support! BEAN!

**Jimmie Galaites** (Director, *The Thin Line Between Love and War*): This is Jimmie's seventh go-round with **taxdeductible theatre**. He has written three Dare Project plays (*Kaleidoscope the Clown's Consonant Caravan*, *Allen Smith's 7-A*, and *Don't Drop the Soap*) acted in three others, and now has stepped in to direct. "Thanks to Scott and Kelly for putting this wonderful idea back on its feet. And thanks to my girls for being girly-girl fantastica."

**Kendra Kay** (Lotto Girl, *Clown Stop*): In the past, Kendra Kay has been the resident bartender for **taxdeductible theatre**. Tonight she is so pleased to be appearing in one of plays of *The Dare Project*! She is also a 6-year running Colorado Trout gutting record holder.

**John Keitel** (Man, *Love Story*; Doug, *The Thin Line Between Love and War*): John Keitel has appeared in several installments of *The Dare Project* including *Mommy Dearest* by Kelly Howe and *The Hopeful Ones* by Aaron Kliner. As a writer for *The Dare Project*, John has penned two plays: *Walls* and *Johnny*.

**Aaron Kliner** (Writer, *Love Story*): Aaron is very pleased to be collaborating once again with **taxdeductible theatre**. Having participated in several prior Dare Projects as an actor, this is Aaron's second attempt as a writer. Wish him luck. Aaron is from West Virginia where he received his BA from Shepherd College; also, he was awarded an MFA from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. Special thanks to Scott Casper and the obviously inspiring erection conversation.

**Jack F. Lynch** (Stage Manager): Jack F. Lynch is very excited to be working on *The Dare Project*. Previous credits include **Theater**: Metropolitan Playhouse, Boomerang Theatre Company, Diverse City Theater Company, 92nd Street Y, Ensemble Studio Theatre **Dance**: Manhattan Ballet

taxdeductible theatre

Thanks the Laurie Beechman  
Theatre & West Bank Café

**WEST  
BANK  
CAFE**

*Established 1978*



THE *Laurie*  
BEECHMAN  
THEATRE

The Laurie Beechman Theatre is  
home to some of Broadway &  
New York Cabaret's most  
acclaimed performers. Every  
Friday the Beechman hosts

**The After Party**, a weekly musical shmoozefest for the  
theatrically inclined. Special Broadway Guests stopping  
by every week. Please check our full cabaret schedule at

[www.westbankcafe.com](http://www.westbankcafe.com)

*"The best place for eavesdropping  
post curtain; actors & theatre  
types gather at the long wood bar  
to dismember their colleagues'  
work over tuna tartare & pan  
seared salmon"*

– New York Magazine

THE *Laurie*  
BEECHMAN  
THEATRE

at

**WEST BANK CAFE**

407 west 42nd street • nyc  
p. 212.695.6909 f. 212.695.6919  
[westbankcafe.com](http://westbankcafe.com)

For their generous donation of wine this evening.

taxdeductible theatre

Thanks...

**Joey Pier and Pier Pressure Music**  
for his generous donation of beer  
this evening.

Professional recording,  
voiceovers, and music  
demos offered at very  
reasonable rates.

To learn more, contact:  
[pierpressuremusic@gmail.com](mailto:pierpressuremusic@gmail.com)

---

---

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

***The Dare Project: 2007-2008***

This book contains plays from our successful  
second season  
**22 World Premiere Plays**

visit [www.taxedeductibletheatre.org/book2.html](http://www.taxedeductibletheatre.org/book2.html)  
or purchase tonight at the ticket table!