



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.

**Robert Larkin** (The Chief, *Exposed*): A native of Boston, MA Robert has previously been seen as another member of law enforcement in several episodes of NBC's *Law and Order*. He has also starred in several theatrical productions, most recently as Berlin in *The Gashouse*, which he also produced. Robert is thrilled to be joining *The Dare Project* and would like to thank Jimmie G for the opportunity.

**Robert Ian Mackenzie** (Merlin, *Drawing Jack*): Robert's career encompasses Theatre, Musicals, Opera, Operetta and Film: Theatre - West-End, Off-Broadway, Regional, numerous roles including Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*), King Arthur (*Camelot*), Emile de Becque (*South Pacific*). Opera - Several major Verdi baritone roles and Escamillo in *Carmen*. Operetta - Pooh Bah (*The Mikado*), Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*). Film - *A Fish Called Wanda*, *A View to a Kill*, *The Good Shepherd*. Television - *All My Children*, *Guiding Light*. Also Voice-overs, Commercials and Audio Books.

**Robert W. McMaster** (writer, *Drawing Jack*): Mac remains terrified at his first writing contribution to *The Dare Project*, and is grateful to his magical collaborators.

**Alejandro Rodriguez** (Jack, *Drawing Jack*): Alejandro graduated from the Juilliard School Drama Division, where he was the recipient of the Michel St. Denis Prize. Since then, he's made his professional debut at the Metropolitan Playhouse, premiered the play *First Day* at The Kitchen Theatre, and played Romeo for the Shakespeare Center of LA. Alejandro is also a performance poet, a member of the Mechanicals Theatre Group, and a teaching-artist who volunteers regularly with Artists Striving to End Poverty (A.S.T.E.P.).

**Navida Stein** (Mother, *Opera Goggles*): Navida has worked Off-Broadway and regionally (Actors Theater of Louisville, Cleveland Playhouse, Virginia Stage) doing musicals, new plays and Shakespeare. She's been on *Law & Order*, done spots for Nickelodeon and is a professional storyteller - *Urban Zen* is her newest solo piece. She's also an accomplished violinist and experienced teaching artist.

**Anna Stone** (Midwife, *Pushing and Shoving*; director, *Opera Goggles*): Anna is thrilled to be back for her second *Dare Project* as an actor and first as a director. Anna does Shakespeare, TV, and everything in between (including singing and audiobooks). MFA, FSU/Asolo Conservatory. [www.anna-stone.com](http://www.anna-stone.com)

**Steve Wargo** (director, *Drawing Jack*): As Director: Dares *Three Needs*; *Go Ahead... Touch Me All You Want!* (*A Memoir*) and *Scooby-Doosical* Also: *Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"*; *Don Juan in Chicago*; *Orchidelirium*; *The Duchess... a.k.a. Wallis Simpson*; *Air Guitar*; *I Will Follow*; *All's Well That Ends Well*. As Producer: *BecauseHeCan*; *rogerandom*; *Nicotine*; *MURDER*; *Myth America*. Upcoming: Executive Producer for *I Got Fired* (by *Scooby-Doosical's* Keith Varney) (2010 NYMF); Bookwriter for *Jurassic Parq: The Broadway Musical* with Marshall Paillet (2010 Fringe); Getting Hired By YOU for Something Awesome. Tweet me, baby: [wargodirects](http://wargodirects). Member: SDC & DG and loving it.

**Cammie West** (Mrs. Toupee, *Opera Goggles*): Cammie is a transplant to the Big Apple from the Big Easy! Favorite roles include 'Helen' in the southeast regional premiere of *Fat Pig*, 'Phebe' in *As You Like It* and 'Jeannie' in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. She's appearing onstage now, in the Heights Players' production, *Fiorello!*.

**Sarah Beth-Lee Williams** (writer, *Exposed*): Sarah Beth-Lee Williams has been involved with *The Dare Project* since the very beginning, both as a performer (Dan Schultz's *A Memoir* and Bryn Boice's *The General in Repose*) and as a writer (*Howard Coward* and *C.W.C.*) Many thanks to Scott, Jimmie and Robert for all their help. And sincerest apologies to the Catholic Church.

**Gwendolyn Wottowa** (Lydia, *Vocab you, Larry*): Gwendolyn is new to *The Dare Project* and **taxdeductible theatre**. She hails from St. Louis and has appeared on stages throughout the Midwest. Gwen has one dog and one cat...and it doesn't get any better than that!

## THE DARE PROJECT

June 2, 2010

Some of tonight's writers received their dares at our last production on March 10th. The others selected their dares from online submissions on March 29th.

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.

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### Dare: Last resort: midwifery

#### *Pushing and Shoving*

written by Lesslie Dodge Crane

directed by Scott Casper

**Mother:** Lesslie Dodge Crane\*

**Father:** Rich Fromm\*

**Midwife:** Anna Stone\*

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### Dare: Impoverished writer trying to confess his love in a world where vocab- is heavily taxed.

#### *Vocab you, Larry*

written and directed by John Keitel

**Larry:** Aaron Kliner

**Lydia:** Gwendolyn Wottowa\*

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### Dare: An agoraphobic street magician

#### *Drawing Jack*

written by Robert W. McMaster

directed by Steve Wargo<sup>†</sup>

**M.:** Robert Ian Mackenzie\*

**J.:** Alejandro Rodriguez

Special thanks to Jeff Grow

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**Dare: To write a play about your first kiss, and how it impacts the arrest of The Pope**

### ***Exposed***

written by Sarah Beth-Lee Williams  
directed by Jimmie Galaites

**Maria:** Madeleine Burns\*  
**The Chief:** Robert Larkin\*  
**Elizabeth:** Alix MacEachern Jones\*

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**Dare: To write about people who are Bitchy, Stupid, AND Ugly but still have fun with opera**

### ***Opera Goggles***

written by Wendy Bagger  
directed by Anna Stone

**Frank:** John Hashop\*  
**Tara:** Liz Dailey  
**Mr. Toupee:** Scott Casper\*  
**Mrs. Toupee:** Cammie West  
**Jerry:** Christopher Catalano\*  
**Mother:** Navida Stein\*

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\* denotes actor appears courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

† denotes director is a member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

**Front of House:** Ursula Anderman, Ashley Hesse, Kendra Kay  
**Light Board Operator:** John Keitel  
**Sound Board Operator:** Robert W. McMaster

**taxdeductible theatre** also wishes to thank...

The Wings Theatre      The Church of Immaculate Conception in Astoria  
St. Patrick's Church      James Beeler Photography: [www.jamesbeeler.us](http://www.jamesbeeler.us)

Bob Choinere

Tom Fazio



Take your career to the next level.  
Meet the people who can help you do it.



The Director is a member of the  
STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

**Wendy Bagger** (writer, *Opera Goggles*): Wendy is writing for the first time for **taxdeductible theatre**. After having played an alien leading lady doing *Ibs in Space* and the wife of an alcoholic party clown in last October's *Clown Stop*, 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."

**Madeleine Burns** (Maria, *Exposed*): Madeleine is excited to be part of *The Dare Project*. Past credits include: Regional: *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Miss Preen), *Twelfth Night* (Maria), *Wild Honey* (Sofya), and *Hair!* (Ensemble). National tour: *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* (Rachel Revere/Randall). NYC: TRU Voices New Works, Director's Guild of America, and Manhattan Children's Theater. Thanks to Scott, Mac, Jimmie and **taxdeductible theatre** for the chance to get up and play.

**Scott Casper** (Mr. Toupee, *Opera Glasses*; director, *Pushing and Shoving*): Scott is the Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre**, and has been involved as an actor, director or writer in every NY installment of *The Dare Project* to date. Thanks to everyone for coming out to support us tonight.

**Christopher Catalano** (Jerry, *Opera Goggles*): Chris has played a kangaroo, a clown, death and Norville "Shaggy" Rogers, et al. He has written plays about dying children, aliens, icebergs, and turtles. He is currently part of the team behind [www.itsasickness.com](http://www.itsasickness.com). IFLTSOOYEK.

**Lesslie Dodge Crane** (writer, *Mother*, *Pushing and Shoving*): Lesslie 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.

**Liz Dailey** (Tara, *Opera Goggles*): Liz is thrilled to Dare again after vomiting blood three years ago. In NYC: *Lyza*, *Riding the Bull*; Brickles, *Rue* (Flux Theatre Ensemble) and Luciana, et al, *Comedy of Errors* (Stages on the Sound) among others. Love to Will and her 20 month old twins, Liam and Maddie. Om Shanti.

**Rich Fromm** (Father, *Pushing and Shoving*): Rich is thrilled to be a part of *Dare Project 15*. Originally from Florida, Rich holds a BFA and MFA from Florida State University. Rich fantasizes about being Don Draper and flying the Millenium Falcon. BEAN!

**Jimmie Galaites** (director, *Exposed*): Jimmie has been with txd since its first production way back when Ella was still in her momma's belly. That night he was in full drag and looked bagorgeous!

**John Hashop** (Frank, *Opera Goggles*): John had so much fun performing at his last *Dare Project*, what with all the miniature Rich Fromms and Dan Matisas exploding out of people, that he had to lie down for three and a half years until he could go again. He is extremely pleased to be back amongst such talented people.

**Alix McEachern Jones** (Elizabeth, *Exposed*): A fellow Asolo graduate, Alix has more in common with this character than she would like to admit.

**John Keitel** (writer, *Vocab you, Larry*): John Keitel has appeared in several installments of *The Dare Project* including *Mommy Dearest* by Kelly Howe along with *The Hopeful Ones* and *Love Story* by Aaron Kliner. As a writer for *The Dare Project*, John has previously penned two plays: *Walls* and *Johnny*.

**Aaron Kliner** (Larry, *Vocab you, Larry*): Aaron is very pleased to be collaborating once again with **taxdeductible theatre**. He has participated in several prior installments of *The Dare Project* as an actor and as a writer. Aaron is from West Virginia where he received his BA from Shepherd College; also, he was awarded an MFA from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory.