



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.

Alix McEachern Jones[†] (Woman, *Walk a Mile*): Alix, a Florida native, 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 (Dionyza/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.

John Keitel[†] (writer, *Walk a Mile*): John hails from California and received a BFA from Stephens College for Woman (Male Theatrical Scholarship). He has performed extensively in California, throughout the Midwest and in NYC. He is a regular contributor to *The Dare Project* as a performer and had the pleasure of writing *Walls*, *Johnny!* and *Vocab You, Larry*.

Shelleen Kostabi (Ash, *Moon Rocks*): Shelleen is so pleased Greg invited her to join the talented cast of "Moon Rocks," making her first appearance with *The Dare Project*. Favorite roles in NY include, Saint Joan, Lady M and Tybalt (also with Greg Cicchino). When not on-stage, Shelleen is a fitness professional and can be found at Flywheel Sports or even in your own home in the RevAbs DVD workout program.

Robert Larkin[†] (Parker, *Moon Rocks*): 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.

Gary Lee Mahmoud (Trevor, *Moon Rocks*): An American University graduate, Gary Lee Mahmoud worked in Congress for six years before moving to New York in 2007 to pursue his passion as a full-time actor. He recently played a supporting role in the new "Bourne Legacy" movie (August 2012) and performed as Jeremy Fleischman in The Cell Theatre production of "Bad Evidence." Over the past two years, he has emceed Showtime's Nurse Jackie "Rx Games," hosted the Onion News Network's mock debate show "IN THE KNOW," appeared as the featured dancing businessman in the Saturday Night Live music video "Boombox," and had the privilege of performing in a staged reading of the screenplay *Mona's Dream* with Oscar nominee Shohreh Aghdashloo (House of Sand and Fog). When not in a play, in front of a camera, or simply making a public spectacle of himself, Gary can be found playing with his improv comedy friends. If the acting thing doesn't work out, Gary plans to change his name to Ragnar Danneskjold and become a pirate.

Dan Matisa (Captain Awesome, *An Act of Heroism*): Dan is honored to be a part of *The Dare Project* once again. He has performed with Tennessee Rep, Asolo Rep, Arkansas Shakespeare, Vermont Shakespeare, Nebraska Shakespeare, Pennsylvania Centre Stage, American Stage, Florida Studio Theatre, Public Theatre of Maine, Stonington Opera House, American Globe, Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, and many more. He has appeared on television in 'Law and Order: Criminal Intent', and 'Ed'. He holds a BA from Hofstra University and an MFA from Florida State/Asolo Conservatory. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Love to my family, and to my lemon pie.

Robert W. McMaster[†] (Ian, *Moon Rocks*; director, *Compound Break*): Mac is the Associate Artistic Director of **taxdeductible theatre** and is seriously grateful to you, personally, for being here tonight. He has (mostly) directed and (once) written for many previous iterations of *The Dare Project*, and yet is somehow surprised every single time.

Mike Mihm[†] (Man, *Walk a Mile*): Mike has been a contributor to **taxdeductible theatre** for the past five years as an actor and writer. New York credits include *Ajax In Iraq* with Flux Theatre Ensemble, *In God's Hat* (Off-Broadway) with Apothecary Theatre Company, *Lady Drug Dealer* and *The Brokenhearteds* with I Mean! Productions, *Saturday Night Saloon* with Vampire Cowboys, Workshop Theater, Stages on the Sound, Retro Productions, and Red Fern. Regional credits include *Camino Real* at Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival and *Mister Roberts* and *A Christmas Carol* at Cincinnati Playhouse. Film: *Let It Be War*, *A Box For Rob*, *The Taking of Pelham 123*, *Cold Storage*, *The Dying Western*, *Killing The Joneses*.

Michael Poignand[†] (director, *Cave Relations*): Michael is not accustomed to seeing "director" by his name in a program. Always an honor and a thrill to work with TXD. Thanks to Catalano and Bryn.

[†] indicates a member of **taxdeductible theatre**

THE DARE PROJECT

November 22, 2011

Tonight's production is our eighteenth installment of the most daring night of theater in New York, and this time around we're trying something a little different.

Instead of five writers each working from five different dares, we selected just ONE dare for all of our writers to cover, with that sole idea being the starting point for all of the plays you are about to see tonight.

And as if that wasn't enough, that same dare and the work from all of these five plays will provide the foundation for a new full length play **taxdeductible theatre** will develop, culminating in a world premiere production in the fall of 2012.

Tonight is just the beginning of a full year's worth of work, which you will get to see develop every step of the way. We can't wait to share it all with you!

Enjoy the show.

The Dare is:

We fight about the little things, so we can ignore the big things.

Cave Relations

written by Bryn Boice
directed by Michael Poignand

Ooga: Bryn Boice*
Booga: Christopher Catalano*

Compound Break

written by Wendy Bagger
directed by Robert W. McMaster

Alexandria: Ashley Hesse*
Mother: Jolie Curtsinger*

Moon Rocks

written by Christopher Catalano
directed by Greg Cicchino

Ian: Robert W. McMaster
Trevor: Gary Lee Mahmoud
Ash: Shelleen Kostabi
Parker: Robert Larkin

Walk a Mile

written by John Keitel
directed by Scott Casper

Woman: Alix McEachern Jones*
Man: Mike Mihm

Special thanks to Wendy Bagger

An Act of Heroism

written by Lesslie Dodge Crane
directed by Scott Casper

Captain Awesome: Dan Matisa*
Hobo Joe: Jed Aicher*
The Nag: Lesslie Dodge Crane*

Special thanks to MEC for dedication to fashionable couture.
Special thanks to HJC for dedication to the mission.

* denotes actor appears courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

Front of House: Ursula Anderman, Melissa Boatright, Jenilyn Rodriguez
Booth Operator: Shannon Michael Wamser

taxdeductible theatre also wishes to thank...

The Church of Immaculate Conception in Astoria

Kyle Groff: www.kylegroffphoto.com

Bob Choinere St. Patrick's Church

Tom Fazio Urban Stages Theater



Jed Aicher (Hobo Joe, *An Act of Heroism*): Jed is a Real Househusband of Westchester County. He has an M.F.A. from Florida State/Asolo Conservatory. On weekends he works children's birthday parties as Kaleidoscope the Clown. Thanks to Scott, Lesslie, Dan, and Merideth.

Wendy Bagger[†] (writer, *Compound Break*): Wendy was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada where she earned her BFA in Theatre Arts at University of Nevada Las Vegas. (Go Rebels!) Wendy then earned her Masters in Acting at The Ohio State University. (Go Bucks!) Wendy has acted regionally in Columbus, St. Louis (Go Cardinals!), Sarasota, and St. Petersburg, Florida. Here in New York (Go Jets!), Wendy is a voice over artist, a communication skills trainer, and regular contributor to *The Dare Project* as a writer and actor. She regularly cheers her various hometown teams to victory the first year she lives there, and cheers them to mediocrity and/or shame the following year. Yes, she is the one to blame.

Bryn Boice[†] (writer/Ooga, *Cave Relations*): Bryn is one of the original three co-creators of *The Dare Project*, and since its inception, has written, directed and/or acted in over 25 Dare plays. Favorites include: *A Helicopter Snorkeling*, *The General in Repose*, and *The Merry Way*. Her New York acting credits include Dorine in *Tartuffe* (BTW Productions, Theatre Row), Grete in *Sight Unseen* (InProximity Theatre Company, directed by Dorothy Lyman) and Barbara/Janie/Waitresses/Pilot in *Wonder of the World* (Pull Together Productions). Recent directing credits include *The Complaint* (CEO Theatre), *Navy Pier* and *Orange Flower Water* (both for InProximity Theatre). She holds an MFA in Acting from FSU's Asolo Conservatory.

Scott Casper[†] (director, *Walk a Mile & An Act of Heroism*): 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 tonight, and for your continued support.

Christopher Catalano[†] (writer, *Moon Rocks*; Booga, *Cave Relations*): This is Chris' umpteenth Dare Project as an actor, and his 6th-ish as a writer. Fun fact: He enjoys pistachio muffins. Chris has played a kangaroo, a naked person, Shaggy, an alcoholic clown, and now a caveman. IFLTSOYEEK. christophercatalano.com

Greg Cicchino (director, *Moon Rocks*): Greg is so happy to be getting dared again. His work will next be seen in the Choral Chameleon's holiday multimedia piece *Summoning Light* (www.choralchameleon.com) He has worked in commercial theater at every level in New York, and extensively in the non-profit arena. He has taken several shows through the reading and workshop stages into full development, the most successful being the musical *The Unusual Suspects*, through the New York International Fringe Festival, which was one of *Backstage's Picks of the Fringe*. Associate member of SDC. www.gregcicchino.com

Lesslie Dodge Crane[†] (writer/Nag, *An Act of Heroism*): Lesslie is a native of Virginia, which is really no one's fault, and a graduate of the B.F.A. program at Virginia Commonwealth University and the M.F.A. program at Florida State University's Asolo Conservatory, for which she assumes there will eventually be a reckoning. Lesslie is a long-time contributor to *The Dare Project* as a writer, actor and director and can frequently be found buying a drunk a drink.

Jolie Curtsinger (Mother, *Compound Break*): Jolie is so excited to be in another *Dare Project*. As Co-Artistic Director of InProximity Theatre Company, she was seen in the company's productions of John Corwin's *NAVY PIER* (Theatre Row), *ORANGE FLOWER WATER* (Theater 54) and *THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER* (directed by Terry Berliner at Theatre 54). Other New York stage credits include *ALMOST, MAINE* (Access Theater), Amy Fox's *ONE THING I LIKE TO SAY IS* (directed by Terry Berliner), *The Dare Project #14* (Wings Theater), and *ANYTHING FOR YOU & THE DIVIDE* (CEO Theatre). L.A. Stage credits include the West Coast premiere of Adam Boch's *SWIMMING IN THE SHALLOWS* (Third Street Theater), *LOOT* (The Complex), the World Premiere of *CHEYENNE* (Rogue Theatre), and the US Premiere of Emma Frost's *AIRSICK* (Studio Stage Theater).

Ashley Hesse[†] (Alexandria, *Compound Break*): 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), *GUY'S AND DOLLS* (Sarah Brown), *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN* (Sally: Winner Outstanding Performance TANY'S 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*. She is excited to be working with such an amazing group of people and would like to thank her family for their unconditional love and support!