

The 52nd Street Project Presents

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Scrumptious Plays

See
8
New
Plays

By
8
Young
Playwrights



THE FALL, 2023 PLAYMAKING SHOW

Friday, Dec. 8 - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9 - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 10 - 3:00 p.m.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Ave.
Between 52nd and 53rd St.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT; THE SCRUMPTIOUS PLAYS, ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

ESCAPE

Written by Mamadou Diaw, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Don Nguyen.

Tim, a crypto investor Michael Braun
Lim, a doctor..... Grace Rex
Hapless travelers.....Christian Santoni, Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez

Advice lyrics by Mamadou Diaw

65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH

Written by Aidan Gleeman, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: John Sheehy.

Delta, a Tyrannosaurus Rex Ben Katz
Sindy, a Triceratops Angelica Toledo
Delta's dad..... George Babiak

The Hard Song and *I'm Not Getting Eaten Tonight* lyrics by Aidan Gleeman

THE TWIST

Written by Shaddai Blake-Soden, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Krystal Lucas.

Heidi Ray, a farmer Jasmin Johnson
Anastasia Brie, an actress and celebrity Margaret Odette
Farm animals.....The Crew

Thankful for Yourself lyrics by Shaddai Blake-Soden

SALT AND PEPPER

Written by Angela Muca, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Joanna Parson.

Pepper Stephen Wallem
Salt Edie Falco
Salt's Mom..... Evan Schultz

Be Yourself lyrics by Angela Muca



FOOD FOR THOUGHT; THE SCRUMPTIOUS PLAYS, ACT 2

NOT MY SPRINKLES

Written by Julian Wilder, age 9. Dramaturge/Director: Nolan Doran.

Berrei, a strawberry doughnut with sprinkles..... Omar Metwally
Bucket, a horse..... Bill Camp

What Do I Do? lyrics by Julian Wilder

GETTING CLOSER

Written by Cataleya Bernardo, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Kaaron Briscoe.

Eliana, a butterfly Roma Maffia
Bailey, a human Sophie von Haselberg
The Doctor Amanda Freedman

Emotional Damage lyrics by Cataleya Bernardo

JUDGEMENT

Written by Naresa Bernier, age 11. Dramaturge/Director: Ciana Proto.

Luar, a turtle..... Raul Castillo
Atel, a tiger Leta Levy
Guitar..... Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez
Keyboard Abby Dziura

Approval lyrics by Naresa Bernier

DREAMS COME TRUE

Written by Walter Rochez, age 10, Dramaturge/Director: Mat Hostetler.

Light Bulb.....Sathya Sridharan
Floor Hank Azaria
Other light bulb Abby Dziura
Piano Pro.....Amanda Freedman

Getting Chased and *You Are Clean Now* lyrics by Walter Rochez



“FOOD FOR THOUGHT” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Greg MacPherson

Costume Designer

Ally Thomas

Costume Assistant

Amirah Hancock

Sound Designer

Hannah Birch Carl

Stage Manager

Aaron Conover

Projection Designs

George Babiak and

The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

Backstage Crew

Abby Dziura, Amanda Freedman,

Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez, Christian Santoni,

Evan Schultz

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

George Babiak & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caioli

Camera Ops:

Katie Bartz, Lauren Rae Vega,

Nikolai Alvarez

Interns

Abby Dziura, Chris Rubingh

Weekend-Away Chef

Kim D. Sherman

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*

George Babiak, Director of Design and Production

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Julia Feenstra, Education Assistant

Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Bri Weintraub, Production Manager

Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

See the rest of the program!

Scan the QR code at right to see the full program, which includes **biographies and photos of the directors, the performers, and the designers!**



The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original theater. **FOOD FOR THOUGHT** is a production of our Playmaking program. Young people participated in a playwriting course taught by **Kat Almirañez** and adapted for the Project by **Daniel Judah Sklar** from his book *Playmaking: Children Writing and Performing Their Own Plays*. At the end of the course, each child was matched with two actors and a dramaturg/director who guided him or her through the writing of a play during a weekend retreat in the country. For this round, we journeyed to the home of board member **Carolyn DeSena and her family** in Rumson, New Jersey.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides-Nelson	Valerie Kay
Rachel Chanoff	Noël Mihalow
Cathy Dantchik, co-chair	Carol Ochs
Carolyn DeSena	Margaret Odette
Louis P. Friedman, co-chair	Willie Reale, founder
Robert Goldberg	Shirley Rumierk, alumni member
Stephen Graham, chair emeritus	José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Annie Hausmann	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Natalie Hirsch	Alexandra Vassilaros
Korey Jackson	Mark Whatley

Special Thanks

In addition to the DeSena family we are grateful to our other Rumson hosts **Coco and Brian Forster, Deidre Metcalf, Nancy Bach, Lauren Cesario, Sarah Clark, and Denise McEvilly.**



The Playmaking Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

Want to make a donation to The 52nd Street Project?
Just visit www.52project.org and click "You Can Help."

Or make a gift via  @Fifty-Two-Project

COOL STUFF ON SALE IN THE LOBBY!

Fabulous Flyer Bars \$ 2 . 5 0

and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and Twoey" logo:

Two-tone Project Hoodie \$ 4 0 . 0 0

Monotone Project Hoodie \$ 3 0 . 0 0

Crew-neck sweatshirts \$ 2 0 . 0 0

Project Caps \$ 2 0 . 0 0

Project T-shirts \$ 1 5 . 0 0

Mugs \$ 5 . 0 0

Thank you for coming to **FOOD FOR THOUGHT!** If you are not on our mailing list, join on-line at www.52project.org. If you're interested in being a volunteer, fill out the form below and hand it to one of our staffers in the lobby.

PLEASE PUT ME ON YOUR LIST:

12/23

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

DAYTIME OR MOBILE PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MY OCCUPATION _____

MY HOBBIES _____

*WANT TO BE GREEN AND SAVE THE PROJECT MONEY ON POSTAGE?
CHECK THIS BOX TO RECEIVE OUR NOTICES EXCLUSIVELY VIA E-MAIL.*

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BE OF HELP. I CAN:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help load in and out for shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Draw and/or paint | <input type="checkbox"/> Help kids with homework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hang lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach kids a skill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work on a backstage crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Do office work | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a chef at an event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do graphic design | <input type="checkbox"/> Design sound | <input type="checkbox"/> Design and sew costumes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | |

MY SCHEDULE IS:

- Very flexible. I'm often available during weekdays.
- Somewhat flexible. I can help on the occasional morning or afternoon during the week.
- Not very flexible at all, but I've got some free time on evenings and weekends.

If you would like to mail this (and you're always welcome to enclose a tax-deductible contribution), you can send it to: The 52nd Street Project, 789 10th Avenue, New York, NY 10019. Or fax it to (212) 333-5598.

WHAT'S COMING UP?



IT'S MOVING TO BROADWAY, BUT YOU HAVE A CHANCE
TO SEE IT AT THE PUBLIC THEATER ON DEC. 13
...AND HELP THE PROJECT AT THE SAME TIME!

NEW BLOCK OF TICKETS AVAILABLE AT \$150 EACH!

Click this box NOW to book your tickets

The 52nd Street Project Presents

A FACE IN THE CROWD



The 2023 Character Workshop

Friday, Dec. 15, 2023 - 7:30 p.m.

BIOGRAPHIES



AVI A. AMON, (*Music Director, he/they*) is an award-winning Turkish-American composer, sound artist, and educator. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of The Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art.

Recent work includes music, songs, and sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Disney, Hulu, The O'Neill, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Theater Workshop, The New Victory, PlayCo, The Public Theater, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Some fun upcoming projects include: music and sound design for *A GOOD DAY TO ME AND NOT TO YOU* (dir. Lee Sunday Evans) at the Connelly Theater next month; music & sound design for *THE FOLLOWING EVENING* with the 600 Highwaymen (Perelman Performing Arts Center, Winter 2024); and music for *THROUGH THE SUNKEN LANDS* with Tim J. Lord (Kennedy Center, Spring 2024). Avi teaches a variety of collaborative art-making courses at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing.

www.aviamon.com.



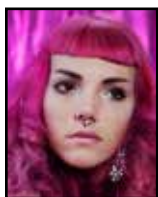
HANK AZARIA (*Floor, DREAMS COME TRUE by Walter*) is a six-time Emmy Award winner, Screen Actors Guild Award winner, and Tony Award nominee. Azaria is well known for being a principal voice actor on *THE SIMPSONS*, voicing over 100 characters including the iconic Moe Szyslak, Police Chief Wiggum and ComicBook Guy. On the big screen, Azaria starred as the scene-stealing housekeeper, Agador Spartacus, in Mike Nichols' *THE BIRDCAGE*. Other film credits include: *GODZILLA*, *AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS*, *LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS*, *SHATTERED GLASS*, *HEAT*, *THE WIZARD OF LIES*, *QUIZ SHOW*, *THE SMURFS* and *THE SMURFS 2*, *NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN*, *ALONG CAME POLLY*, *DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY*, *NOW AND THEN*, *ANASTASIA*, and *PRETTY WOMAN*.



CATALEYA BERNARDO (Playmaker, *GETTING CLOSER*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Cataleya can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*.



NARESA BERNIER (Playmaker, *JUDGEMENT*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Naresa can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*.



HANNAH BIRCH-CARL (*Sound Designer*) is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Brooklyn by way of San Francisco and Oakland, CA. She has been sound designing theatrical productions since 2010 and this is her first time providing sound for The 52nd Street Project. She appreciates that kids have better imaginations than adults and she's just happy to be involved. When she's not making art or theatre, she can typically be found at home singing songs in the direction of her cat, Pino, who only sometimes sings back.



SHADDAI BLAKE-SODEN (*Playmaker*, *THE TWIST*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Shaddai can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*.



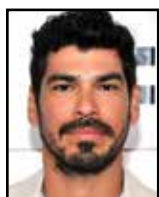
MICHAEL BRAUN (*Tim*, *ESCAPE by Mamadou*) Film credits include *The Tender Bar* (Dir. George Clooney), *The Courtroom* (Dir. Lee Sunday Evans), and *Deep Water* (Dir. Adrian Lyne), Chris Morris's *The Day Shall Come*, *Dark Water*, *Incoming*, *Dare*, *Igby Goes Down* and *Drinks!* Television credits include the third season of "The Sinner," EJ in the final season of Showtime's "The Affair" opposite Anna Paquin; "Succession"; "The Night Of," "High Maintenance," "Mozart in the Jungle," "The Good Wife," "Nurse Jackie," "Law & Order," "The Blacklist," "Blue Bloods," "Unforgettable," "Do No Harm," "Comedy Bang! Bang!" the ABC pilot "Awkward Situations for Men," and the Apple show "Dickinson." He has appeared on Broadway in *The Crucible* (Dir. Ivo Van Hove), *War Horse* at Lincoln Center; as well as *The Bridge Project: Winter's Tale/Cherry Orchard*, (Dir. Sam Mendes) at BAM and the Old Vic in London. Other New York theater credits include shows at The Signature Theater, The Public Theater and Second Stage as well as work across the country at the McCarter, NY Stage and Film, Williamstown Theater Festival, Yale Rep, Centerstage, and Seattle Rep. MFA, Yale School of Drama. Recipient of the Princess Grace Award.



KAARON BRISCOE (*Director/Dramaturg, GETTING CLOSER by Cataleya*) is a Brooklyn based writer, performer, director and creative admin. As a playwright her work has been featured by Project Y, Classical Theater of Harlem, InViolet Theater, and others. She is a former member of Project Y's Playwriting Group. Her play, "Tallahassee" was a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's Conference. Recently, "How Can I Help You?", a 2021 semi-finalist for Seven Devils Playwright's Conference, was workshopped at Pioneer Theater in Salt Lake City, Utah. Kaaron is also an accomplished actor, having performed on stages in London and Moscow, as well as on screen. She often works with Little Lord and the Working Theater. She has directed for various organizations around New York, as well as the Playwright's Center in Minnesota. A member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild, she is also a proud member of The 52nd Street Project community. Kaaron is a New Orleans native with an MFA from ART/MXAT/IATT at Harvard University.



BILL CAMP (*Bucket, NOT MY SPRINKLES by Julian*) is best known for his Emmy-nominated performance in HBO's critically acclaimed limited series "The Night Of" as well as his SAG-nominated performance as Mr. Shaibel in the hit Netflix limited series "The Queen's Gambit." A veteran of the stage, Camp received a 2016 Tony Award nomination for his performance as Reverend John Hale in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, directed by Ivo Van Hove. He also received a Drama Desk nomination for his role as Charley in Mike Nichols's production of *Death of a Salesman* (Tony Award for Best Revival). Additional theater credits include *Coram Boy*, *Heartbreak House*, *Jackie*, *The Seagull*. Off-Broadway: *Homebody/Kabul* (Obie Award winner), *The Misanthrope*, *Olly's Prison*. Camp is a graduate of the Juilliard School. He can currently be seen starring alongside Jamie Foxx and Tommy Lee Jones in Amazon Studios "The Burial" and up next, he will star in Netflix's "Man in Full" alongside Jeff Daniels and Diane Lane as well as in the film adaptation of Stephen King's "Salem's Lot."



RAÚL CASTILLO (*Luar, JUDGEMENT by Naresa*) is an actor across the film, television, and theater mediums. He lives in Brooklyn and loves volunteering with The 52nd Street Project. He is super proud of his playwright, Naresa, and of all the playwrights in tonight's lineup. You can currently see Raúl in the Amazon Prime film *Cassandra*, on the new season of FX's *American Horror Stories*, and on Hulu in the more "family-friendly" movie *Miguel Wants to Fight*.



AARON CONOVER (Lighting) is a freelance lighting designer and digital performance technician based in New York City. He is so grateful to be working again at The 52nd Street Project on TUNE IN! His designs last graced the Five Angels stage during Tune In, the 2023 Songmaking production.



MAMADOU DIAW (*Playmaker, ESCAPE*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Mamdou can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



NOLAN DORAN (*Director/Dramaturg, NOT MY SPRINKLES by Julian*) is a writer, director, mentor and producer. He brings a unique 360 degree view of how theater is created from his early years performing on stage to writing pop songs charting in the top 100 Billboard Charts to working on Broadway with Legendary Tony Award Winning Producer, Margo Lion (*HAIRSPRAY*), and Tony Award winning Director, Michael Mayer (*SPRING AWAKENING*). His Broadway & Off-Broadway credits include: Co-Producer and Video Director of *The Museum of Broadway*, Associate Director and Co-Producer of “Head Over Heels,” Associate Director of Michael Moore’s “The Terms of My Surrender,” Associate Director of “Chess” at Kennedy Center, Executive Producer of “The Golden Girls Musical Parody,” Associate Director of “Stronger Together: Hillary on Broadway” and Assistant Director of “Jamboree” at NY City Center. Writing credits: “We Will Win” (Effectors II - Wonder of the Seas and Icon of the Seas), “Thunder Beings” (New Victory LabWorks), “The Lesson” (Theatre Barn’s New Works Series & Choreography Lab, The Johnny Mercer Writer’s Grove at Goodspeed, Rhinebeck Writers’ Retreat and a 2020 Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow), Ayodele Casel’s, “While I Have the Floor” (Spoleto), “My Eclectic Life” (HERE), “Woody - A New Fairy Tale” (Main Street Musicals), and “The King” (L.A. Indie Film Festival). Nolan holds an M.F.A. from The Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU Tisch. www.nolandoran.com @nolandoran.nyc



EDIE FALCO (*Salt; SALT & PEPPER by Angela*) is best known for her roles as Diane Whittlesey on the HBO series *Oz*, Carmela Soprano on *The Sopranos*, and the title role of Showtime’s *Nurse Jackie*. For her television work she has received multiple Emmy, Golden Globe, and SAG Awards, as well as the American Film Institute’s Award for Female Television Actor of the Year. Broadway credits include the Tony Award-winning play *Sideman*, *Frankie and Johnny in The Clair De Lune*, *Night Mother*, and *The House of Blue Leaves*, for which she received

a Tony Award Nomination. Off-Broadway she has appeared in *The Madrid*, *This Wide Night*, *The True*, and *Morning Sun*. Her work in feature film includes *Cost of Living* (American Film Institute's Best Actress Award), *Laws of Gravity* (Independent Spirit Award nomination), *Sunshine State*, *Landline*, *Hurricane*, *The Funeral*, *The Addiction*, *Freedomland*, *The Land of Steady Habits*, *Judy Berlin*, and the Avatar sequels.



AIDAN GLEEMAN (*Playmaker*, *65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Aidan can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



AMIRAH HANCOCK (*Assistant Designer; Lead Costume Designer for THE TWIST by Shaddai, & JUDGEMENT by Naresa*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays* which featured her playwriting debut THE DOLL & THE PENDANT, directed by Krystel Lucas. She next starred in Jed Clarke's THE RETURN OF AGENT MARKS VS. TURKEY VULTURE with Annabelle Cousins for the 2018 One-on-Ones GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show CRYBABY with Molly Carden for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. She wrote and performed in her Playback show COLLEGE ADVENTURES alongside Arielle Goldman for HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE in 2019. She performed in MADAME PRESIDENT AND THE GOLDEN GIRL by Tahnee Freda, directed by Paton Ashbrook for the 2020 Two-on-two production ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, *Plays You Can't Ignore*. Amirah is a member of the current Teen Ensemble and performed in, and assisted with the costumes for EYE OF THE STORM in 2023. She can be heard on episode #45 of the PROJcast.



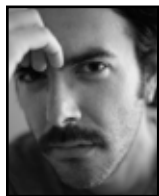
SOPHIE VON HASELBERG (*Bailey, GETTING CLOSER by Cataleya*) is thrilled to be making her debut with The 52nd Street Project with this very special group of playwrights! TV: Pose, Versace: American Crime Story, Halston, American Horror Story, House of Cards, American Princess (a show about Renaissance Faires, not about Megan Markle). FILM: Give Me Pity!, Irrational Man, Equity, A Woman A Part. RECENT STAGE: World premiere of Nathan Englander's What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank (Old Globe) UPCOMING FILM: Merry Good Enough, Love Reconsidered, Fantasy Life, The Fabulous Four. She has also produced some short films – YOYO (Tribeca Film Fest), East Coast Park Lovers (SGIFF). Once upon a time, she was the co-host of HAVING A NIGHT, a podcast dedicated to all things culinary, so the title FOOD FOR THOUGHT really hits home! Sophie holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama and a BA from Yale College and is a proud lifelong New Yorker.



MAT HOSTETLER (*Director/Dramaturg, DREAMS COME TRUE by Walter*) is thrilled to be back at the Project with his favorite people in the world! An actor, director and producer, Mat's recent credits include *The Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help* at Penguin Rep and the recent Broadway production of *Death of a Salesman*. Other credits include the National tour and Japanese production of *War Horse*, *Terminus* at NYTW *Next Door*, *The Royale* at Lincoln Center and several regional productions including Hartford Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, KC Rep and Denver Center. TV credits Include "The Gilded Age," "City on a Hill," "FBI: Most Wanted," "The Blacklist," "Smash," "Boardwalk Empire," "Six Feet Under." Education: MFA, National Theatre Conservatory. BA, University of Kansas. Mat lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Ali and their adorable dog, Mia. Mat is a member of Actor's Equity Association.



JASMINN JOHNSON (*Heidi Ray, THE TWIST by Shaddai*) loves The 52nd Street Project. At the Project she has played an uptight flight attendant from Queens named Naudia, a time traveling Dragon-Ballerina whose best friend is an earthworm, a Cyclops who runs city-council in a pink power suit, and an upper-class Zebra-Elephant from the far away land of Ev. Jasmynn's Smart Partner Evelyn would describe her as "extra....a 12 out of 10 to be exact"....and Evelyn is probably right about that. Volunteering at the project has made her a better human being. You can find her professional bio at www.jasminnjohnson.com



BEN KATZ (*Delta, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH by Aidan*) is an NYC-based actor and teacher. Off-Broadway: *THE COMMONS* (59E59th); Regional: *Private* (Mosaic Theatre Company); TV: *Evil* on Paramount+. He is an alumnus of the prestigious NYU Graduate Acting Program (Class of 2019) where he performed the title role in Mark Wing-Davey's *Hamlet*. Voice and Speech faculty at University of California Santa Barbara.



LETA LEVY (*Atel, JUDGEMENT by Naresa*) is a proud native New Yorker, actor, and teaching artist with Voices of a People's History in collaboration with Lincoln Center. NY theater credits include: The Weasel Festival (The Public Theater); Outer Banks (Signature Theatre); 48 Hour Forum (Noor Theatre); The Animals (JACK); The Place We Built (The Flea, dir. Danya Taymor). She's also a long time volunteer at The 52nd Street Project and loves being a part of this community! BA: Brown University, Ethnic Studies with a focus on Race in Performance. MFA: Brooklyn College, Graduate Acting. IG: @LetaHLevy www.LetaLevy.com



KRYSTEL LUCAS (*Director/Dramaturg, THE TWIST by Shaddai*) received her MFA from NYU's Grad Acting Program after attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and attaining her BA from UNC-Asheville. She is a freelance actor, director and teaching artist. Some theatrical credits include *Dial M For Murder* (Westport Country Playhouse); *Galboss Power Hour* (Primary Stages); *Hamlet* (Shakespeare Theatre DC); *Pride and Prejudice, Good People* (Dorset Theatre Festival); *Couriers and Contrabands* (Barrow Group Theatre); *Our Town* (Triad Stage); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare in the Park(ing) Lot); *Twelfth Night, The Christians* (Denver Center); *Disgraced* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *Twelfth Night Short Shakespeare* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Book of Will* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); *In the Next Room* (Syracuse Stage and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice* (Old Globe Theatre); *Good People, Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (Alley Theatre); *Death and the King's Horseman, Macbeth* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *The Sty of the Blind Pig* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *The Summer House* (Passage Theatre Company). On television, she appeared in *Jessica Jones* (Netflix) and *The Blacklist* (NBC). She is a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project and a long-serving member of NYU's Grad Acting Alumni Association.



GREG MACPHERSON (*Lighting Designer*) is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre where he designed the annual Marathon of One-Act Plays from 1985 through 2003 and again in 2010, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Other designs include *Killer Joe* at Soho Rep, *The Hotel Play* at LaMama ETC, *The Pitchfork Disney* at Here and *Easter for Naked Angels*. He recently designed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Cinderella* for Ballet Memphis, *The Cradle Will Rock* as a benefit for The Acting Company, *Meet Me at the Plaza* for Shuffles, and *Halcyon Days* at ART NY. Greg has designed for The 52nd Street Project since 1986 and taught lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College from 1990 through 2022.



ROMA MAFFIA (*Elliana, GETTING CLOSER by Cataleya*) began her career in New York theater and has performed in scores of iconic plays, and television shows and movies for the past 30 years. Roma is a born and bred New Yorker. Roma is most happy to be back where she enjoys working the most, The 52nd Street Project.



OMAR METWALLY (*Berrei, NOT MY SPRINKLES, by Julian*) is an actor and director. He is very happy to be returning to The 52nd Street Project. Notable stage work in New York includes *Guards at the Taj* (Atlantic,) *Epiphany* (LCT,) *The Fever Chart* (Public) among others. Some of his film/tv work includes *The Affair, Big Sky, Mr Robot, RAMY, Munich, Rendition, Non-Stop* and *Miral*. He is a graduate of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.



ANGELA MUCA (*Playmaker, SALT & PEPPER*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Angela can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



DON NGUYEN (*Director/Dramaturg, ESCAPE by Mamadou*) is a NYC based playwright. Don's work has been developed or produced at The Public Theater, Roundabout, Labyrinth, The Alley Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, A.C.T, Ojai Playwrights Conference, New York Stage & Film, The Civilians, Ma-Yi Theatre, and The Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Recipient of the 2015 GAP Prize from the Aurora Theatre and a NYSAF Founder's award. Finalist for The O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, The Princess Grace Award, and The Woodward International Playwriting Prize. Don spends his free time stargazing and photographing the night sky. You can see his astro photos at theinterstellarfeller.com



MARGARET ODETTE (*Anastasia Brie, THE TWIST by Shaddai*) is a proud volunteer and board member of The 52nd Street Project! Theater: *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Public Theater, PBS, AUDELCO nom), *The Convent* (Rattlestick), *Black Mother Lost Daughter* (National Black Theatre), *She Kills Monsters* (Flea Theater), *Revenge Song* (Geffen Playhouse), *Paradise Blue* (Long Wharf Theatre). Film: *The Independent* (Peacock), *Boogie* (Focus Features), *Sleeping with Other People* (IFC Films). TV: *Sex/Life* (Netflix); *Step Up* (Starz), *Elementary* (CBS), *Blindspot* (NBC). Margaret assistant-edited *Monologues for Actors of Color*, 2nd Edition (Routledge). BA Brown University, MFA NYU Tisch.



JOANNA PARSON (*Director/Dramaturg, SALT & PEPPER by Angela*) is an actor, creator, and audiobook narrator who has happily volunteered at The 52nd Street Project since she stepped off the bus to NY a million years ago. Recent theater credits include the Script to Stage reading series at Westport Country Playhouse, and work with off-Broadway's White Horse Theatre Co. Her 60-minute solo musical *A Transcriber's Tale*, produced at AMT Theater and Bellingham TheatreWorks (WA), will go to Edinburgh next summer. TV/Film includes: *FBI: Most Wanted*; *L&O:SVU*; *Red Oaks*, and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.



CIANA PROTO (*Director/Dramaturg, JUDGEMENT by Naresa; she/her*) is a singer-songwriter, director and a generative theatre artist. Along with many other self-directed projects, Ciana is a lead creator and playwright of The Goddess Project, a metatheatrical play with a live, alt-rock soundtrack. She is the lyricist and composer of said soundtrack. A graduate of Drew University with a BA in

Theatre Arts, she has presented original work at Teatro LaTea, Dixon Place, The Duplex, Hudson Guild, Bowery Electric, and various other venues in New York and across the country. Ciana can also often be found in theatrical classrooms around New York; she is currently teaching at the Broadway Training Center of Westchester. She is so incredibly grateful to have been volunteering with The 52nd Street Project for the last 6 years, and to be a part of this year's Playmaking adventure.



GRACE REX (*Lim, ESCAPE by Mamadou; she/her*) Theatre credits: *53% Of* (Second Stage Uptown), *Nantucket Sleigh Ride* (Lincoln Center), *Life and Limb* (Steppenwolf), *Ed*, *Downloaded* (Denver Center), *Pumpgirl* (A Red Orchid). Her TV credits include 'Severance', 'Mindhunter', 'Manifest', 'Master of None', 'Blindspot', 'The Good Wife' and 'Boardwalk Empire'. Film credits include *Contagion*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Women Who Kill*, *Inspector Ike* and *The Dilemma*.



WALTER ROCHEZ (*Playmaker, DREAMS COME TRUE*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Walter can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



JOHN SHEEHY (*Director/Dramaturg, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH by Aidan*) is a writer, director, actor, & lyricist; and has been a full-time employee of The 52nd Street Project since 1998. At the Project, he has written, performed and directed dozens of shows, stage-managed, and sound designed; as well as being the chef on program retreats. He is a producer/editor and occasional

host of the Project's podcast, The PROJcast. He has an MFA in Dramatic Writing from Brandeis University. His plays have been seen in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Louisville. He is married to the composer, and frequent Project volunteer, Kim D. Sherman.



SATHYA SRIDHARAN (*Lightbulb, DREAMS COME TRUE by Walter*) Broadway: *Life of Pi*. Off-Broadway: *Wives* (Playwrights Horizons), *An Ordinary Muslim* (New York Theater Workshop), *India Pale Ale* (Manhattan Theater Club), *Richard II* (Public Theater/WNYC), *Winter's Tale* (Public Theater Mobile Unit), *Two*

Brown Porters (The Pool Plays), *Two Mile Hollow* (WP Theater), *Ultimate Beauty Bible* (Page 73), *Frontieres Sans Frontieres* (Bushwick Starr). Regional: *Life of Pi* (A.R.T.), *Our Town* (Portland Center Stage), *Hapgood* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The Philadelphia Story* (Chautauqua Theatre Company). TV: “Little America”, “Succession”, “Kaleidoscope”, “Blindspot”, “Elementary”, “Prodigal Son”, “Two Sentence Horror Stories”; Film: *The Whale*, *Minor Premise*, *Ben and Suzanne: A Reunion in 4 Parts*, *Black And White and Red All Over*, *Bikini Moon*, *Dastaar*. Awards: Princess Grace Award (Grace Le Vine). MFA: NYU. A proud and longtime member and volunteer of The 52nd St Project. Sixteen-time Project Ping Pong tournament champion. [Ed. note: The truth of this last sentence is disputed.]



ALLY THOMAS (*Costume Designer, she/her*) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist and educator with a focus on community care and accessibility. Her work as a director, writer, and performer has been seen in NYC and across the country. Most recently, she directed for Florida Rep, and shared her original solo show *Karen & Cass* at Tampa Fringe. Ally currently teaches in NYC public schools as a teaching artist with ArtsConnection and Children’s Museum of the Arts. Here at the Project, she’s volunteered in classes, backstage, as a designer, and she’s currently a Smart Partner. Playmaking is one of her favorite programs at the Project, and she thanks you for supporting student-created works! Please enjoy!



ANGELICA (ANGIE) TOLEDO (*Sindy, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH by Aidan, she/her*) has been working with The 52nd Street Project family since 2017 when she started as an intern and is thrilled to be back again at the Project! Regional: *Now Becomes Then* at the Actors Theatre of Louisville; *HOME(s)* Actors Theatre of Louisville - Humana festival for new plays. NYC Credits include *Dipped in Honey* (Sol) at Ensemble Studio Theatre New Play Festival; *Women Who March* (soloist) at Feinstein’s 54 Below; *Terminal 5* (Beth) at New York Theatre Festival directed by Ciana Proto; *Special* (Marge) at New York New Work Festival; *LORDES* (ensemble) at Columbia University Stages directed by Katherine Wilkinson. Television: CBS: *The Equalizer*, Apple TV: *WECrashed*, *Joyfully Jaded* available on Amazon Prime. Video/YouTube; *Eden* (Pilot). Additional Credits: Toledo is a proud graduate of the American Musical Dramatic Academy and received a B.F.A from The New School.



STEPHEN WALLEM (*Pepper, SALT & PEPPER by Angela*) is a SAG Award-nominated actor best known as Thor Lundgren on the Emmy-winning Showtime series “Nurse Jackie”. He’s delighted to return to The 52nd Street Project with his pal Edie Falco after co-starring with her in *Jabba the Hut* by Evaluna, in 2018. He recurred as Winston on “The Resident” (Fox) and Rudy on “Law and Order: SVU” (NBC). Other TV credits include “Difficult People,” “Divorce,” and “Horace

and Pete.” Stephen made his feature film debut in the hit romantic comedy *Marry Me* starring Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson. NYC stage credits include *Pipe Dream* (Encores!) *Anna Nicole* (New York City Opera/BAM), and teaming with Edie Falco for the original cabaret *The Other Steve and Edie* at the Laurie Beechman Theater. For The Muny in St. Louis, Stephen appeared as Shrek (*Shrek the Musical*), Horton the Elephant (*Seussical*), the Cowardly Lion (*The Wizard of Oz*), and the Beadle (*Sweeney Todd*). For Farmers Alley Theatre, he starred as Max Bialystock in *The Producers* and as Buddy the Elf in *Elf* for Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts. National tours include *Forever Plaid* (2500 performances as both Jinx and Sparky in various companies), *Into The Woods* and *Scrooge* with Richard Chamberlain.



JULIAN WILDER (*Playmaker, NOT MY SPRINKLES*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Julian can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INTERNS!

If you know of any college or graduate students who might enjoy working with us and playing with us with us for a semester, please have them contact Caylyn Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Spring and Summer of 2024. Thanks!

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List current as of October 14, 2022