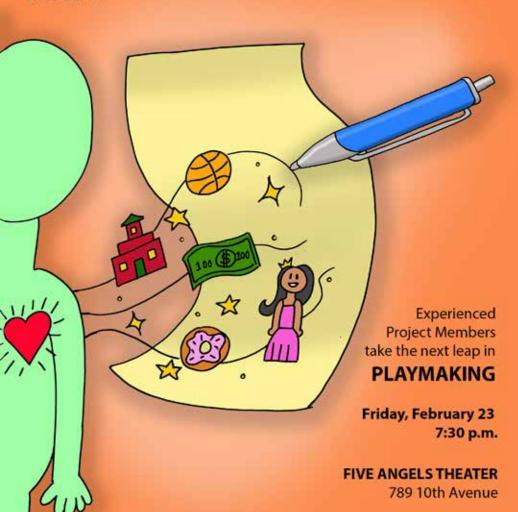
The 52nd Street Project Presents





ARTWORK BY PROJECT MEMBER CHLOE TORRES

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*Project Alumni

Who are all these people?

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



PEN TO PAPER: REPLAY 2024

SEEN OR SEED Written by Aiden Vasquez, age 14. Dramaturge/Director: Andy Ingalls
Tomato Kendal Hartse Commander Cob Michael Propster Lettuce Larry Betsy Hogg Peashooter Andy Ingalls Onion John Maddaloni Scarecrow Raquel Chavez Guard Betsy Hogg
RISE FROM THE LOWEST Written by Ramsis Ramirez, age 12. Dramaturge/Director: Adaire Kamen
Jinxzy
THE GREAT CHICKEN NUGGET Written by Giovanni Benedicto, 12. Dramaturge/Director: Austin Regan
Scientist Nico Grelli Raisin Neil Tyrone Pritchard Mom Nico Grelli Girls Betsy Hogg
FRIENDSHIP OF SPIES Written by Evelyn Myers, age 13. Dramaturge/Director: Raquel Chavez
Aza Evan Isabella Emma Meredith Garretson Zahar Raquel Chavez
GOOD COMEDIAN Written by Hansel Benedicto, 12. Dramaturge/Director: John Maddaloni
James Hugo

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.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides-Nelson Rachel Chanoff Cathy Dantchik, co-chair Carolyn DeSena Louis P. Friedman, co-chair Robert Goldberg Stephen Graham, chair emeritus Annie Hausmann Natalie Hirsch Korey Jackson

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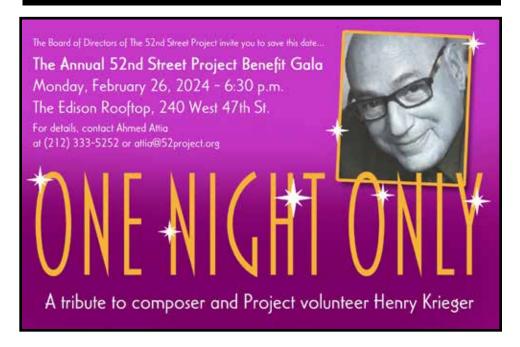
The Replay Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national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



@Fifty-Two-Project

WHAT'S COMING UP?



A Breath of Fresh Air: The Breezy Plays

The Spring 2024 Playmaking Extravaganza

8 plays written by brand-new members and directed and performed by adult volunteer theater professionals

Right here at The Five Angels Theater Friday, April 5 - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 6 - 3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 7 - 3:00 p.m.

BIOGRAPHIES



Giovanni Benedicto (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with his debut play RANDOM FRIENDS, dramaturgy & direction by Sean Kenealy, starring Stephanie Jean Lane and Mitchell Winter, as part of PIECE OF CAKE, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Giovanni made his acting debut opposite Alex J. Gould in Helen Cespedes' THE MOST AMAZING SHOW ON EARTH, as a part

of ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*, our August 2022 One-on-Ones. He can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 39 "The Writers of PIECE OF CAKE, The Slice of Life Plays."



Hansel Benedicto (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with his debut play SUN AND MOON, dramaturgy & direction by Nolan Doran, starring Ashley Marie Ortiz and Sullivan Jones, as part of PIECE OF CAKE, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Hansel made his acting debut opposite Mat Hostetler in Sean Kenealy's THE CHEESE TYCOON, as a part of ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*, our August 2022 One-on-Ones. He can be heard on

the PROJcast Episode 39 "The Writers of PIECE OF CAKE, The Slice of Life Plays."



MaYaa Boateng (Performer) A lover of theatre and the magic of the stage, starred in and originated her role in the Pulitzer Prize winning production, Fairview, by Jackie Sibblies Drury; As well as her multiple characters in the Public Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park production of Merry Wives, adapted by Jocelyn Bioh. Other notable NYC theatre credits include Lynn Nottage's Fabulation, Or the Reeducation of Undine (Signature Theatre), Exception to the

Rule (Roundabout) and Fairview originally at (Soho Rep). On screen, MaYaa recurs on Netflix's "Orange is the New Black" and the Showtime series, "City on a Hill" and stars in "High Maintenance" on HBO. MaYaa is the 2023 Best Actress Film Award recipient at Bronzelens Film Festival for her role in "Reunion". She is a graduate of NYU's Graduate Acting program.



Raquel Chavez (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Evelyn, she/they) is an actor, director and occasional accordionist. Recent credits include Epiphany & The Coast Starlight at Lincoln Center and the O'Henry Production's Uncle Vanya in Flatiron. She will be directing Smith Street Stage's production of Love's Labour's Lost in Carroll Park this summer. She is very excited for Evelyn to share her lovely piece

with an audience!



Neil D'Astolfo (Performer, he/him) is an actor, writer and comedian who relishes each and every moment he spends at The Project. He most recently spent three seasons as a series regular on Comedy Central's Emmy-nominated Stephen Colbert Presents Tooning Out the News and recurred as Anthony Fauci on Showtime's Our Cartoon President. Other TV and film credits include Hulu's Fire

Island, High Fidelity and The Path. His critically-acclaimed solo show, Mister Miss America, premiered off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and earned Neil an Off-Broadway Alliance Award Nomination for his performance. Other theater credits include Classic Stage Company's The Comedy of Errors, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Macbeth. Neil is a house performer at The Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) and his short film series, NORA..., was a recipient of Film Independent's Fiscal Sponsorship. Neil received his MFA from Columbia University, and now serves as an adjunct professor at Pace University's BFA Acting Program for Film, TV and Voiceover (FTVC). He has been a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project since 2017. WABWAGA!



Meredith Garretson (Performer) is thrilled to be back at The 52nd Street Project! Currently, you can catch her starring in Resident Alien (Netflix, Syfy and Peacock), and in the upcoming feature film Friendship. Past TV projects include: The Offer, Fosse/Verdon, Chicago Med, New Amsterdam, Stargirl, Elementary, Prodigal Son, The Good Fight. Some favorite past stage performances include: As

You Like It (The Old Globe), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Two River Theater), *Robin Hood* (The Old Globe). Meredith is a founding member of SOCIETY Theatre Company and a proud alumni of NYU Grad Acting, Class of 2017.\



Nico Grelli (*Performer*, they/them) is a filmmaker, screenwriter, theatremaker, and actor. As an actor, Nico has been nominated for a Jeff Award, and is the recipient of a New York Innovative Theatre Award. Nico has also been a teaching artist for many years, and working with The 52nd Street Project on various shows, classes, and programs for the past decade has been one of their great joys in

life. Nico also loves to skate, is the parent of a beautiful Rottweiler Doberman, is a not terrible musician, and makes a mean bowl of pasta. More at www.nicgrelli.com.



Kendal Hartse: (*Performer*) Kendal loves The 52nd Street Project and couldn't be happier to be here tonight! Credits include Broadway/National Tours: The Band's Visit (Iris), Summer, Cinderella, On a Clear Day..., Cabaret. Select Regional/NYC: Once (Reza), Hedwig and The Angry Inch (Yitzhak), Pericles (Thaisa), Taming of the Shrew (Baptista/Lucentio), Cabaret (Sally Bowles).

Kendal has developed work with Vineyard Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company,

New York Stage and Film, and Center Theatre Group. She has a BFA from The Boston Conservatory and was a student of Michael Howard.



Andy Ingalls (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Aiden) is delighted to be working with The 52nd Street Project for the second time, where he is also lucky enough to assist the Homework Help team, who are true champions. Some favorite theatre credits include Sam Phillips in *Million Dollar Quartet* (National Tour), Lord Aster in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (National Tour), Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and*

Guildenstern are Dead (dir. Arin Arbus), and Beautrix in the World Premiere of 'Tis Pity She's a Housewife (dir. Stevie Walker-Webb). Andy is an Earphones Awardwinning audiobook narrator as well, and his TV credits include *The Gilded Age* and *Daredevil: Out the Kitchen*. MFA: NYU.



Evan Isabella (*Performer*) is so excited to be part of PEN TO PAPER! She has volunteered with the Project since 2019 as Intern, Sound Designer, Stage Crew, Dramaturg/Director, and has treasured every second of it! Evan is currently pursuing a professional performance career, most recently fulfilling a dream, performing "Let It Go" onstage with Idina Menzel in support of her

charity. Evan is Assistant Director for Pivot Theatre Company's youth performing arts in NJ, just finishing a production of Beauty and the Beast. She is a recent graduate of Muhlenberg College, with a major in Theatre. Evan is so grateful for her times with the Project!



Adaire Kamen (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Ramsis) is a New York based playwright, teaching artist, and occasionally a performer by accident. Her 52nd Street playwriting credits include *A-Ghost-A-Phobia* and *The Great Goat BAA-eauty Pageant*. She and her smart partner, Katty, appeared in the Projecast episode #43 "My Amazing Ice Cream Achievement," in which they explored a wide array of

topics, including their participation in the project's Amazing Race competition. Tragically, they were later robbed of the first place title despite being in the lead most of the year, but they graciously accepted second place. Adaire was recently tricked into acting by Kat Almirañez for the improvised play *Now We're Here*, in which she played a star-struck fan-girl-turned-stalker. Some have claimed she was not in fact acting, just playing an exaggerated version of herself, but Adaire refutes those claims.



John Maddaloni (Performer) John is so excited to be returning to The 52nd Street Project for the Replay Program. John is an actor, writer, composer and also works extensively in voiceover and as an audiobook narrator. Here are some of his favorite credits! NYC: Sally and Tom [stage reading] (The Public), Entertaining Mr. Sloane (Gene Frankel Theatre) Regional: The Winter's Tale (Hartford Stage), Forbidden Broadway (Arc Stages), The Power of Hypnotism

(Williamstown) NYU: Romeo and Juliet (Juliet), An Upset (Player 1), Dance Nation (Dance Teacher Pat) and Gloria (Dean) directed by Doug Hughes. John recently won Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play from the CT Critics Circle for his role as the Clown in *The Winter's Tale*. Training: NYU MFA Acting '22. www.johnmaddaloni.com



Evelyn Myers (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the summer of 2021 with her debut play THE FRIENDSHIP, with dramaturg/director Kaaron Briscoe, starring Grace Fojtik and Greg Hildreth, as part of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, *The Radiant Plays* - Step One. Evelyn made her acting debut in ESCAPE by Caylyn Wan-Creager with Jasminn Johnson co-starring and directing, as a part

of ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*, July 2022 One-on-Ones. Evelyn battled Lennox T. Duong in I'M BETTER, a part of the BOOM! WHAM! POW! Stage combat presentation. Evelyn was most recently seen in Sathya Sridharan's BE THE MONSTER, with Kaileela Hobby co-starring and directing, as a part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays That Will Transport You*, the July 2023 One-on-Ones. Evelyn can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 37, "The Writers of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, Step One."



Jake Pino (*Performer*) is an actor and software engineer based out of NY for the last 10 years. He has worked with the Project for 4 years and they are easily the highlight of his acting career. Thank you so much for supporting this amazing program and please consider donating after the show. Enjoy!



Neil Tyrone Pritchard (*Performer*) is a Liberian-American, New York City -based Actor/Singer/Teaching Artist. Credits include: Dia Y Noche (Labyrinth Theater Company) Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven (Atlantic Theater/LAByrinth Theater Company), The Berlin Electric (Park Avenue Armory), The Prizefighter of P.S. 217 (New Victory LabWorks), The Stowaway (Classic Stage

Company), Clover (La MaMa), Queen Latina and Her Power Posse (Cherry Lane Theater), The Mendelssohn Electric (Park Avenue Armory), AT BUFFALO (New York Musical Theatre Festival) and workshops at Tectonic Theater Project,

Sundance Theater LAB, Goodman Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Dorset Theater Festival, Lincoln Center Theater, & Primary Stages. He is currently on staff at The Park Avenue Armory where he brings Arts Education to public schools throughout the five boroughs. He is A Proud New York City Public School Kid, A Member of LAByrinth Theater Company, where he serves as Associate Artistic Director.



Ramsis Ramirez (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the spring of 2022 with his debut play FRIENDSHIP STRUGGLE, dramaturg/directed by Austin Regan, starring Grace Rex and José Maria Aguuila, as part of PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, *The Priceless Plays*. Ramsis made his performing debut as Ronaldo (an eagle/dragon soccer player with electric legs); coached by Omari

Chancellor in our first ever Character Workshop presentation FACE IN THE CROWD, December 2023. Ramsis can be heard on episode 40 of the PROJcast, Spring 2022 Playmakers.



Austin Regan (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Giovanni) is a NYC-based theater and opera director who has been volunteering with the amazing 52nd Street Project since 2015! In New York, he is the associate director of the Neil Diamond musical A BEAUTIFUL NOISE on Broadway and the resident director of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Off-Broadway. Other recent directing includes the

world premiere of *YousaidHesaidShesaid* with Opera Ithaca, and the experimental performance piece *Left and Right* at National Sawdust and De Singel. Their work collaborating with members of The 52nd Street Project includes plays by Aramis Jimenez, Adolfo Sinchi, Ramsis Ramirez, and Joel Gokalp.



Aiden Vasquez (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the fall of 2019 with his debut play THE ADVENTURE OF SHADOWCLAW AND NIBLEHOUND, dramaturgy & direction by Jose Gamo, starring Christian DeMarais and Genesis Oliver, as part of UPSIDEDOWN, *The Topsy-Turvy Plays*. He next wrote a Radiologue for our PROJCast which can be heard on Episode 36. Aiden made his

acting debut opposite Kyle Cameron in Sung Rno's THE SHOWDOWN, as a part of IN THE SAME BOAT, *The Buoyant Plays*, our February 2022 Two-on-Two Remix. He battled Conor Proft in NINJA WARRIORS, as part of KNUCKLE SANDWICH, the June 2022 Stage Combat Show. He appeared in Jed Clarke's CHOICES opposite Christian DeMarais as a part of ARE WE THERE YET, The Location Plays, our July 2022 One-on-One.



Mitchell Winter (Performer) is thrilled to be back at the Project! Theater credits include: Hamlet (dir. Kenny Leon, Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park), Wolf Play (dir. Dustin Wills, MCC & Soho Rep), Dracula and The Importance of Being Earnest (dir. David Auburn, Berkshire Theatre Group), Frontieres Sans Frontieres (Bushwick Starr), A Winter's Tale, A Doctor In Spite of Himself,

American Night (Yale Rep), Sleep No More (Punchdrunk), Cameron Mackintosh's Miss Saigon (Australian National Tour), Thoroughly Modern Millie (The Production Company), Normativity (NYMF), Die Fledermaus (Australian Opera Studio) and Joseph... Dreamcoat (Really Useful). Film/TV credits include: Mr. Robot (USA Network), Oh Jerome No (FX), If Not Love (official Sundance selection). Mitchell is a proud member of The Pack theater company. MFA: Yale School of Drama.





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 Summer and Fall of 2024. Thanks!

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman rust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

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