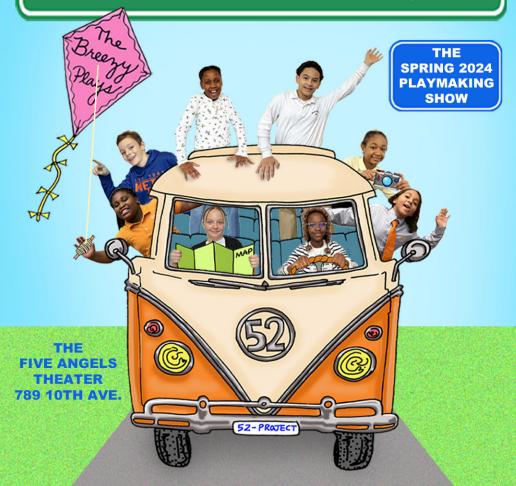
# A BREATH OF FRESH AIR



FRIDAY, APRIL 5 @ 7:30 P.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 6 @ 3:00 P.M. SUNDAY, APRIL 7 @ 3:00 P.M.

# A BREATH OF FRESH AIR: THE BREEZY PLAYS, ACT 1

All original music composed by Fouad Dakwar

#### **2 LIONS WITH DIFFERENT GOALS**

Written by Isaac Delgado, age 11; Dramaturg/Director: Gracie Fojtik

Madness and Sadness lyrics by Isaac Delgado

#### FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND A WHOLE LOT OF FEELINGS

Written by Lola (Charlotte) Peterson, age 10

Dramaturg/Director: Dalia Ashurina

Imaginary Friends Have a Lot of Feelings lyrics by Lola Peterson

#### THE LIAR AND THE GIRL

Written by Selena Smith, age 10

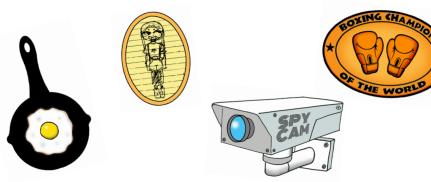
Dramaturg: Caylyn Wan-Creager; Director: Annabelle Cousins

Friends? lyrics by Selena Smith

#### MELLO AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN

Written by Atif Dowidar, age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Tim J. Lord

Never Give Up, Never Back Down lyrics by Atif Dowidar



# A BREATH OF FRESH AIR: THE BREEZY PLAYS, ACT 2

#### **MISSION 212: THE GAME TO GET THE GEM**

Written by Eliza Richardson, age 10.

Dramaturg: Diego Caoili; Director: Helen Cespedes

Data Anderson, a detective	Major Curda
Katarina Maria Vera Alno, a criminal mastermind	Daiva Deupree
The Docent/Narrator	Stuart Green
Guards	Kaytie Gil, Helena Franco

Not So Different lyrics by Eliza Richardson

#### THE HIDDEN SCIENTIST

Written by Milo Phelps, age 11; Dramaturg/Director: Michael Propster

Anthony, a pro basketball player ......Forrest Malloy Ganeen, a photographer ......Emma Ramos

Stupid Men lyrics by Milo Phelps

#### THE BEST FRIENDS

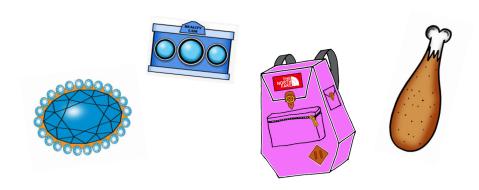
Written by Makiyah Gray, age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Kaileela Hobby

A Break in Trust lyrics by Makiyah Gray

### KFC, YOU HAD TO BE THERE

Written by Grace Guity-Reyes, age 9, Dramaturg/Director: Olivia Gilliatt

Let's Be Evil lyrics by Grace Guity-Reyes



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. A BREATH OF FRESH AIR 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 Kimiye Corwin, Jesse Liebman, and their daughters Ruby and Maxine in Roxbury, Connecticut.

## 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

Valerie Kay Micah Kroeze Noël Mihalow Carol Ochs Margaret Odette Willie Reale, founder Shirley Rumierk, alumni member José Soto, Jr., alumni member Wendy vanden Heuvel Alexandra Vassilaros Mark Whatley

#### **Special Thanks**

In addition to the Corwin/Liebman family we are grateful to our other Roxbury hosts Julie and Jason Martinelli, Dan and Stephanie Demole, Anne Coffin, Jenny Kuenzle, Wendy Walker, and Marla Truini.













The Playmaking Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York Legislature, 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."

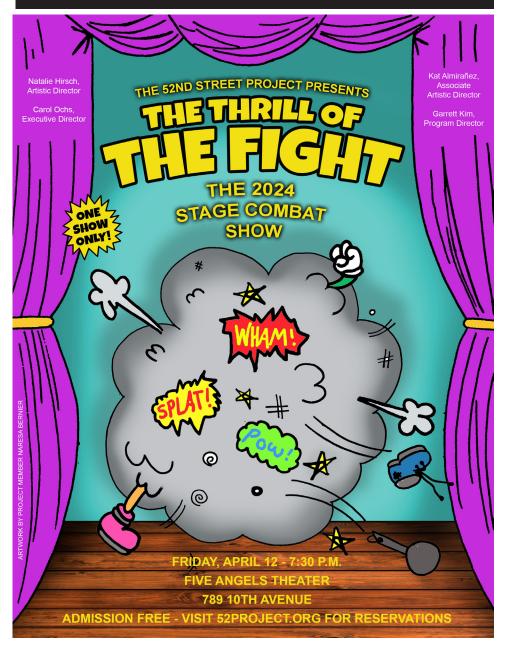


COOL STUFF ON SALE IN 1	THE LOBBY!
Fabulous Flyer Bars	\$2.50
and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey ar	nd Twoey" logo:
Two-tone Project Hoodie	\$40.00
Monotone Project Hoodie	\$30.00
Crew-neck sweatshirts	\$20.00
Project Caps	\$20.00
Project T-shirts	\$15.00
Mugs	\$5.00

Thank you for coming to **A BREATH OF FRESH AIR!** 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.

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WANT TO BE GREEN AND S CHECK THIS BOX TO RECE  YES, I WOULD LIKE TO B  Help load in and out for shows Hang lights Work on a backstage crew Do graphic design Other (please specify)	EAVE THE PROJECTIVE OUR NOTICES  E OF HELP. I CAI  Draw and/or paint Help with mailings Do office work Design sound  during weekdays.	I MONEY ON POSTAGE?  EXCLUSIVELY VIA E-MAIL.  Help kids with homework  Teach kids a skill  Be a chef at an event  Design and sew costumes

# WHAT'S COMING UP?





# 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!

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



**Dalia Ashurina** (*Director/Dramaturg*, *FRIENDS*, *FAMILY*, *AND A WHOLE LOT OF FEELING*, by Lola) is a theater director based in NYC. This is her first show at the Project, and she wants to thank her collaborator and friend Avi Amon for bringing her into this wonderful space. She currently serves as the Associate Director of Sweeney Todd on Broadway. @your\_gal\_dal



**Kyle Cameron** (*Jackson*, in *THE LIAR AND THE GIRL*, by Selena) has performed over a dozen times on the Five Angels stage, playing everything from a singing worm to a magic wolf, a scheming ping pong player, a few rappers and a whole lot of mechanics. This year marks his 10th anniversary working with the Project, and he couldn't be happier to call the Clubhouse home. And come closing

night, he can't wait to add another one-of-a-kind foamcore prop to his collection.



**Diego Caoili** (*Dramaturg, MISSION 212: THE GAME TO GET THE GEM*, by Eliza) is a Bay Area native, about to graduate from Marymount Manhattan College with a BFA in Acting and a minor in Environmental Studies. Through growing up competitive dancing with Spark of Creation Studios, and engineering in Design Tech High School, he continues to lead a life of learning thanks to

The 52nd Project's opportunities!



Helen Cespedes (*Director/Dramaturg*, *MISSION 212: THE GAME TO GET THE GEM*, by Eliza) is an actor, writer, and teacher. Acting credits include Broadway: The Cripple of Inishmaan. Off-Broadway: Fefu and Her Friends and Timon of Athens (TFANA), Paul Swan is Dead and Gone (Civilians), The School For Scandal (Red Bull). Selected Regional: Williamstown, The Guthrie, The Old Globe,

Hartford Stage, The Goodman. Selected Film/TV: Law & Order; The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel; Search Party; The Knick. Helen trained at The Juilliard School where she received the John Houseman Prize.



**Raquel Chavez** (she/they; *Jake in TWO LIONS WITH DIFFERENT GOALS*) 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.



Annabelle Cousins (she/her; *Director, THE LIAR AND THE GIRL*, by Selena) is a Brooklyn-based theatre artist who has worked with The 52nd Street Project for the last 7+ years. Annabelle first joined the Project as a volunteer for the 2017 Playmaking Class, where she met her fabulous Smart Partner, Faith. Since then, Annabelle has been involved with Playmaking, One-on-One, Stage Combat, Teen

Ensemble, as well as Playmaking for our WIN partners- and of course baking every version of a brownie in the Project kitchen. 52nd St. is her favorite place to be, and she is thrilled to be back directing for this round of Playmaking.



Major Curda (Data Anderson, in MISSION 212: THE GAME TO GET THE GEM by Eliza) is a multi-disciplinary storytelling artist who has appeared & collaborated on various projects for Theatre, Tv/Film, and Voiceover. Recently, Major finished filming "You Don't Belong Here" a new horror film with Shane West (SAGAFTRA IA), had their Off-Broadway debut as Romeo in NAATCO's

off-broadway production of Romeo & Juliet, and showed off their live-camera skills in the Original Broadway Cast of KPOP! Major can be seen in the CW's hit series RIVERDALE as Dilton Doiley, and in Netflix's ATYPICAL as Arlo. In addition to other Broadway, touring, regional, and developmental theatre credits, Major has recurred on multiple Nickelodeon shows, starred in web-series, and hosted an AwesomenessTV game show. Major is a recent graduate of the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama and a member of One Year Lease Theatre Company. Instagram: @Majorly.MC. Website: MajorCurda.Art



Fouad Dakwar (Composer) is a Palestinian musical theater writer and Jonathan Larson Grant finalist whom Playbill aptly describes as "a darkly comic pop-punk composer on the rise." He is Assistant Director of the New York Youth Symphony's Musical Theater Songwriting program and earned his Master's in Writing and Design for Musical Theater from Berklee NYC, where he is currently

a Postgraduate Fellow. Fouad first volunteered with The 52nd Street Project during the "Jelly of My Jams" 2022 Songmaking Concert and is honored to be in community with this year's Playmaking cohort as both a volunteer and composer!



**Isaac Delgado** (*Playmaker*, 2 LIONS WITH DIFFERENT GOALS) joined the Project in January, 2024. This is his playwriting debut. Isaac can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



**Daiva Deupree** (*Katarina Maria Vera Alno*, in *MISSION 212: THE GAME TO GET THE GEM*, by Eliza) This is Daiva's 8th show with The 52nd Street Project. Previous roles include: Video Store Clerk Fighting a Zombie Apocalypse, Madame President's Little Sister, Farmer with the Power of the Sun, Teen Learning the Dangers of Social Media, Bear, and Dolphin Trying to Find Her Family. She was also Education

Assistant to Liz Bell and Smart Partner to the one in a million, Jayleen. She would like to thank Liz for getting her involved, Jayleen for accepting her for exactly who she is, and the staff at The Project for always making her feel so darn welcome.



**Atif Dowidar** (*Playmaker, MELLO AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN*) joined the Project in January, 2024. This is his playwriting debut. Atif can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



Christy Escobar (*Ava*, in *THE BEST FRIENDS*, by Makiyah) is an actor, writer, and soon-to-be mother of two. She has previously volunteered at The 52nd Project as part of the playmaking class, and is thrilled to appear in her first show here, playing a teddy bear no less! Select TV and film credits include Blindspot (NBC), Dietland (AMC), Loser Leaves Town (HBO), The Man in the

Woods, Who We Are Now, Untitled Short Film About White People, Anomalous. Select theatre: GNIT (Theatre for a New Audience), Beginning Days of True Jubilation (SOCIETY Theatre), Queen of Basel (Studio Theatre), Scissoring (INTAR), Bad Jews (Long Wharf), Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train (Atlantic), The Great Gatsby (Virginia Stage Company). She received the New Dramatists Charles Bowden award for her contributions in developing new plays in the American theatre and is a proud member of SOCIETY Theatre. MFA - NYU Graduate Acting, BFA - UC Santa Barbara. Love to Mat and Amaia!



Gracie Fojtik (she/her; Director/Dramaturg, 2 LIONS WITH DIFFERENT GOALS, by Isaac) is thrilled to be directing Isaac's play. She was previously seen on the Project's stage in the One-on-One show Are We There Yet? The Location Plays with Kylie in PA PA RAZZI by Nina Braddock, and the Playmaking show WALKING ON SUNSHINE, The Radiant Plays; in The Friendship by Evelyn.

Fojtik has volunteered at the Project since 2017 and has the honor of participating in classes and dramaturging shows. Gracie is so appreciative Isaac trusted her to direct '2 Lions with Different Goals' and has had a blast with this awesome team. Rawr!



Meredith Garretson (Kyan, in MELLO AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN, by Atif) 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, Foss/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.



Olivia Gilliatt (*Director/Dramaturg*, KFC, YOU HAD TO BE THERE, by Grace) is a Brooklyn-based actor, theater devisor, and educator. Off-Broadway: Partnership (The Mint); Chains (The Mint); Mother of the Maid (The Public); Pushkin (american vicarious); Negative Liberty/Positive Liberty (Invisible Dog); CasablancaBox (HERE). Regional: Ken Ludwig's MORIARTY: A

New Sherlock Holmes Adventure (Cleveland Play House); The 39 Steps (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); Dial M for Murder (Bucks County Playhouse); Disgraced (Denver Center and Northern Stage); A Doll's House (Northern Stage); Buried Child (Palm Beach Dramaworks); Tomorrow in the Battle (Stageworks/Hudson); Boeing Boeing (Seven Angels). TV and film: *Rare Objects*, directed by Katie Holmes; Ken Burns' and Lynn Novick's PBS documentary "Hemingway;" *The Bit Player*; *Tyrel*; "The Path;" "The Mysteries of Laura," and the forthcoming feature *Hello, Beautiful*. Olivia is a member of the multidisciplinary art collective The New Wild. She hosts a devised theater and games laboratory called Book Club, which is finishing its first short film, "You Are Very Special (and We Are Highly Selective)." BA: Dartmouth College, MFA: NYU. www.bookclubtheater.org.



Makiyah Gray (*Playmaker, THE BEST FRIENDS*) joined the Project January, 2024. This is her playwriting debut. Makiyah can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



**Grace V. Guity-Reyes** (*Playmaker, KFC, YOU HAD TO BE THERE*) joined the Project January, 2024. This is her playwriting debut. Grace can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



Kaileela Hobby (*Director/Dramaturg*, *THE BEST FRIENDS*, by Makiyah) is thrilled to be directing Makiyah's fantastic play. Kaileela's journey started at The 52nd Street Project last year, volunteering in the Playmaking class. She next made her Project acting debut in Mateo's action packed "The Big Adventure of Timmy the T-Rex," where she played Ms. Cobra (a 20-foot snake).

Kaileela was next seen in "Be the Monster" alongside Project member Evelyn, where she played a has-been monster movie star who gets her groove back under the expert direction of Evelyn's character. She is always overjoyed to get to work on a Project show.



Jennifer (Jenny) Ikeda (EEK-EH-DUH), (*Riley*, in *FRIENDS*, *FAMILY AND A WHOLE LOT OF FEELINGS*, by Lola) was born and raised in Oakland, California. She currently lives in Brooklyn with a rascal dog named Shirley. Jenny has lost count of how many shows she has done with The 52nd Street Project—but it's a lot! Some of her Project roles include a young goldfish, a French

hamster, the Earth, and a pig named Ponja who was obsessed with Elvis (see her head shot here!). She has worked at many theaters in NYC and around the country, and has also been on TV and in a few movies.



**Tim J. Lord** (*Director/Dramaturg*, *MELLO AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN*, by Atif) is an award-winning playwright whose plays have been produced and developed at theaters across the United States. A former Project staffer and volunteer since 2012, this is his sixth time dramaturg-directing Playmaking. He has written 10 plays for the kids of Hell's Kitchen, including "Men

of Science!!" (Here. Me. Now.), "Uprooted" (This Is How We Roll), and "The Harrowing History Hitch" (Are We There Yet?). Most recently he collaborated with Project Music Director, Avi Amon, to create Through the Sunken Lands, a new, original musical which premiered at the Kennedy Center this year.



Carl Hendrick Louis (Freedy Chicken, in KFC, YOU HAD TO BE THERE, by Grace). The 52nd Street Project: THE BAD AND THE GOOD by Leonel Perez in Larger Than Life, The Supersized Plays; HEAVEN ON EARTH by Alexander Breton in Stirring The Pot, The Spicy Plays; LION AND BEAR FRIEND PROBLEMS by Josiah Perez in Whale Of A Tale, Plays That Make A Splash. Carl is always

grateful and excited to be part of this special home of magical theatre for kids. This is dedicated to Lincoln.



**Dela Meskienyar** (*Dani*, in *THE LIAR AND THE GIRL*, by Selena) is so excited to be making her debut with The 52nd Street Project. A long time fan of the playmaking productions, she is absolutely blown away by the imagination, creativity, and genius of these young writers.



Erin Neufer (*Sarah Sushi*, in *KFC,YOU HAD TO BE THERE*, by Grace) is so happy to return to The 52nd Street Project! Theatre NY: Ink (Broadway), Buggy Baby (APAC), Conway (Theatrelab), Nathan the Wise (Classic Stage). Regional: Guthrie Theatre, CenterStage, Baystreet Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Pioneer Theatre. Television: Fellow Travelers (Showtime), Julia (Max),

Gypsy (Netflix), Blue Bloods (CBS), Law and Order SVU (NBC), The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (Prime). For Shanti.



**Lola Peterson** (*Playmaker, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND A WHOLE LOT OF FEELINGS*) joined the Project January, 2024. This is her playwriting debut. Lola can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



Milo Phelps (*Playmaker*, *THE HIDDEN SCIENTIST*) joined the Project in January, 2024. This is his playwriting debut. Milo can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



Michael Propster (*Director/Dramaturg*, *THE HIDDEN SCIENTIST*, by Milo) has been volunteering at The 52nd Street Project for as long as he can remember. It's his favorite place. The Project has given him the amazing opportunity to perform, direct, and write with some incredible kids and mega-talented adults. When not at the Project, Michael has worked as a theatre artist and

professor splitting time between New York, DC, New England, as well as regionally. Some professional credits include: Off-Broadway, Off-Off Broadway, NY Fringe, Trinity Rep, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Seacoast Rep, Round House Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Imagination Stage, Amios Theatre Company, and the National Players. Michael received his MFA from the Brown University/Trinity Repertory Acting Program. -michaelpropster.com



Emma Ramos (*Ganeen*, in *THE HIDDEN SCIENTIST*, by Milo) cannot remember all of the titles of all of the shows that she's been lucky enough to do at the Project. Since 2015, she has appeared in One-on-Ones, directed Two-on-Twos and Playmaking, and appeared in Filmmaking. She is an actress whose credits include recurring roles on the hit TV dramas NEW AMSTERDAM, LAW &

ORDER: SVU, THE ENDGAME, UNFORGETTABLE, and IN THE SUMMERS who won the Grand Prix at Sundance 2024. She is also a comedy writer for Nickelodeon's ¡DORA! and is set to play the role of "Irasema" on Season 3 of Disney's animated series HAMSTER AND GRETEL. Ramos has received numerous industry honors, including an Imagen Award nomination, The Century Fox/Disney Women of Color TV Pilot Incubator Award, and the Warner Media 150 Award at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Born and raised in Culiacan Sinaloa, Mexico, Ramos draws from personal experiences to bring out her characters' emotional truths.



**Eliza Richardson** (*Playmaker, MISSION 212: THE GAME TO GET THE GEM*) joined the Project January, 2024. This is her playwriting debut. Eliza can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



**Armando Riesco** (*Mello*, in *MELLO AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN*, by Atif) has volunteered for the Project since 2002. He met his wife here, board member and Project alum Shirley Rumierk. Now they have a kid! He loves the Project like he loves his family.



**Selena Smith** (*Playmaker, THE LIAR AND THE GIRL*) joined the Project January, 2024. This is her playwriting debut. Selena can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



**Stephen Stocking** (*Andrew Whinston*, in *FRIENDS*, *FAMILY AND A WHOLE LOT OF FEELINGS*, by Lola) The 52nd Street Project is one of Stephen's absolute favorite places to perform. He has appeared in a whole bunch of Project shows, both as an actor and a composer/musician. Some favorite roles include a 10-year-old Québécois business tycoon who runs a factory making military-grade exploding skunks, a middle schooler who is bad at basketball (and friendship),

and a cyborg kid making his way through a post-apocalyptic city. Outside of the Project, Stephen has appeared in many plays, including Broadway's *Death of a Salesman* and several TV shows, including *The Good Fight*.



Caylyn Wan-Creager (*Dramaturg, THE LIAR AND THE GIRL*, by Selena) is the Education Associate at The 52nd Street Project. She enjoys playing Palace, Uno Flip, Blokus, and (most of all) Ping-Pong at the Project clubhouse with project members and volunteers. Caylyn has dramaturgued for a number of playmakers and is the co-creator of the posters for the playmaking shows! Most recently,

she wrote a One-on-one play, *SHRED OF DESTINY*, for project member Kat C. and volunteer Raquel.



Shaunette Renée Wilson (Snowball, in THE BEST FRIENDS, by Makiyah) The 52nd Street Project debut. Theater: Merry Me, La Race, The Caucasian Chalk Circle. Film & TV: Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny, Black Panther, "The Resident", "Billions", "Into the Dark". Upcoming: "Washington Black", BLKNWS, Press Your Luck. Education: Yale School of Drama. Princess Grace Award Recipient.



Mitchell Winter (*Jack*, in 2 *LIONS WITH DIFFERENT GOALS*, by Isaac) is absolutely stoked to be back at one of the greatest places in the world. He's loved working on: *Soccer* by Alex Torres (STIRRING THE POT, The Spicy Plays, Actor), *The Animals Dance* choreography by Amari Dubose (Dancemaking, Performer), *Worship* choreography by Alex Torres (STEP ON IT, Dancemaking,

Performer), Random Friends by Giovanni Benedicto (PIECE OF CAKE, The Slice of Life Plays, Actor), New Things lyrics by Josiah Perez, music by Jonja Merck (TUNE IN, Songmaking, Performer), Rise From The Lowest by Ramsis Ramirez (PEN TO PAPER, Replay, Actor). Mitchell has also had the privilege of being a Smart Partner.



**#52ND STREET PROJECT** 

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Sally Froelich