

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

OFF THE MAP

THE JULY 2024 PLACE PLAY

A ONE-TIME **FREE** PERFORMANCE

BY PROJECT MEMBERS

SATURDAY, JULY 13 - 7:30 PM



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
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Marketing and Events Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Yazzy Wilder, Operations Manager*
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Manny Jacobson, Intern
Rhys Luke, Intern

**Project Alumni*

“OFF THE MAP!” Production Staff

Director

Kat Almirañez

Composer/Pianist

Adam LaPorte

Lighting Designer

Bri Weintraub

Sound Designer/Backstage Crew

Manny Jacobson

Costume Designer/Backstage Crew

Rhys Luke

Prop Designers

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

Livestream Team

Diego Caoili, Director.

Christian Corpening, Nikolai Alvarez; Camera Operators

House Management/Chef

John Sheehy



OFF THE MAP! 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.

OFF THE MAP!, the show you're seeing tonight, is an original play created over a period of 5 days! Six Project members were each matched with a Project volunteer and the pairs met for the first time this past MONDAY! We brainstormed locations where many different kinds of people could be found. The final choice was CRUISE SHIP!

The pairs then separated to create individual storylines through improvisation that are revealed in stages. At certain moments, all the characters coalesce to create an overall saga. We hope you enjoy the latest addition to the Project repertoire!

Opening: Entire Company

Storylines and Characters:

"The Royal Mess"

The Bandit Eliza Richardson
Queen Amelia of the Bermuda Triangle Echaka Agba

"Everything Goes Big"

Zane, a famous actor Zion King Lamonge
Ravey, a social influencer Korey Jackson

"Our Quince"

Maria Teresa Kat Chauca
Adela Ashley Marie-Ortiz

"TOTO'S REVENGE"

WaJJ Walter Rochez
Timmy McGraw JJ Wilks

"Not Who They Seem"

Avery, a model Makiyah Gray
Jo, a personal assistant Kaileela Hobby

"Spies in Disguise"

Jamie Band Gloria Sanchez
Jane Bend Kendal Hartse

Closing: Entire Company

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

What's Going On Here?

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. **OFF THE MAP** is a unique production that brings together several age groups into one company.

Special Thanks

The Ensemble Studio Theatre, Fairview Lake YMCA Camps, Susie Fuller, LCT3 at Lincoln Center Theater & Kaaron Briscoe, Museum of Broadway & Nolan Duran, PRG & John Van Arsdale.

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

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!**



COMING UP ON OUR STAGE!

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU

THE 2024
JERSEY SHORE
ONE-ON-ONES

THE GIMMICK:

Each team picks a mode of communication out of a hat and must employ it somewhere within their play.



NATALIE HIRSCH
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRÁÑEZ
ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

YOUNG PROJECT
MEMBERS STARRING
WITH ADULT PARTNERS
IN PLAYS WRITTEN
BY ADULTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 AT 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 AT 3:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 3:00 P.M.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10TH AVE.

BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

ADMISSION FREE! VISIT 52PROJECT.ORG FOR DETAILS AND RESERVATIONS.



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 Fall of 2024. Thanks!

BIOGRAPHIES



Echaka Agba is an on stage/screen performer and filmmaker as well as teaching artist now based in New York and Chicago. At the Project she was a member of the cast and crew of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*, *The Secretive Plays*, *Playback 2024*. She has performed on various stages in Chicago including Steppenwolf Theater Company, Goodman Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Writers Theater. In front of the camera, she has appeared on several network and cable programs including *South Side (MAX)*, *Work In Progress* and *The Chi (Showtime)* and *The Red Line (CBS)*. As a filmmaker she actively works in independent series development as well as co-creating/producing/directing the experimental short film collection, *Where Could We Go: A Map Of Finding Home*. Film festival selections include *Film Diary NYC (2024)*, *NewFest Film Festival (2022)*, *Afrikana Independent Film Festival (2021, 2022)* and *Black X Film Festival (2021)* *Lagos Film Festival (2021)* (*Rome, Italy*). She received a teaching fellowship at *Acting Studio Chicago* where she is a member teacher today.



Kat Chauca (*Performer*) joined the Project in the spring of 2023 with her debut play *The Bad Witch And Little Maiki*, dramaturg/directed by Natalie Martin, starring Jennifer Mogbok and Micah Stock, as part of *WHALE OF A TALE, Plays That Make A Splash*. Kat made her acting debut in Caylyn Wan-Creager's *Shred Of Destiny*, co-starring and directed by Raquel Chavez, as a part of *ON THE MOVE, Plays That Will Transport You* *The 2023 Jersey Shore One-on-Ones*. Most recently she was seen in *A FACE IN THE CROWD*, the *Character Workshop 2024*, performing her own piece *Marisol*, supported by Kat Amirañez. She can be heard on the *PROJcast*, *Episode 42, Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil*.



Makiyah Gray (*Performer*) joined the Project in January, 2024 with her Playmaking debut *The Best Friends*, dramaturged and directed by Kaileela Hobby, and starring Christy Escobar and Shaunette Renée Wilson, as a part of *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, The Breezy Plays*. This is her acting debut. Makiyah can be heard on the *PROJcast*, *Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*.



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



Kaileela Hobby (*Performer*) began her journey at The 52nd Street Project in fall 2022, 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. Most recently, she was dramaturg/director for Makiyah's *The Best Friends*, as a part of A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*. She is always overjoyed to get to work on a Project show.



Korey Jackson (*Performer*) is a frequent volunteer with The 52nd Street Project since 2012, when he played a grim reaper who hated ghosts in a riveting Playmaking play about reincarnation written by Project alum Steven Baez-Padilla. Since then, some of the other Project shows he's been a part of as a performer, director and/or dramaturg include, *STAND BY ME*, *The Reliable Plays*; *MAKE IT SNAPPY*, *Plays in a New York Minute*; *WHAT'S MY LINE?*, *The Professional Plays*; *MAKE A BRAVE SHOW*, *The Courageous Plays*; *LARGER THAN LIFE*, *the Supersized Plays*; *ALL TOGETHER NOW*, *The United Plays*; *STUFF AND NONSENSE*, *Plays from the Prop Closet*; *DREAM BIG*, *The Possibility Plays*; *OUT OF THE BLUE*, *The Unpredictable Play*; *HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE*, *The Surprising Plays*; *WALKING ON SUNSHINE*, *The Radiant Plays*; *IN THE SAME BOAT*, *The Buoyant Plays*; and most recently *ON THE MOVE*, *Plays That Will Transport You*. He has also performed in Songmaking Concerts and galas. In addition to his work on The 52nd Project stage, he has also been a Smart Partner to project alum Chayse Peña, and currently serves on the Board of the Project.



Manny Jacobson (*Intern*) is thrilled to be part of his first show at The 52nd Street Project. He spent the week designing sound effects, assisting with costumes, and appears in the show as the cruise's captain. For the last month, he's spent time getting to know the young people and staff at the project and is very excited to continue being a part of the programs over the summer.



Adam LaPorte (*Composer/Music Director*) is a composer, lyricist, and playwright originally from Murfreesboro, TN. He composed for TUNE IN, the Songmaking concert in 2023. He is the author of six musicals and two plays, including *The Baseball Play* (Freshpaint Performance Lab), *June by the Sea* (OCU Stripped), and *Courtship* (The Tank). He received his Bachelor of Music from Oklahoma City University in 2020 and a Masters of Fine Arts from NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program in 2023.



Zion King Lamonge (*Performer*) joined the Project in the spring of 2023 with his debut play *The Race*, dramaturg/directed by Alex J. Gould, starring Sergio Mauritz Ang and Madeline DeFreece, as part of WHALE OF A TALE, *Plays That Make A Splash*. This is his acting debut. Zion can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil.



Rhys Luke (*Costume Design; he/they*) is super excited to be one of the summer interns here at The 52nd Street Project. He spent the week costume designing “Off the Map”, and was so overjoyed with all the wonderful character stories they get to bring to life. He is beyond proud of all of the Project members this week and is looking forward to seeing their journeys here at the Project continue.



Ashley Marie Ortiz (*Performer*) is a NYC based Actor and is beyond thrilled to be returning to The 52nd St. Project, where her credits include: WHADDAYA NEED?, *Plays Made to Order*; HEADS OR TAILS, *The Chancy Plays*; DANCEMAKING 2013; MAKE A BRAVE SHOW, *The Courageous Plays*; BE AGGRESSIVE, *The Competitive Plays*; GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays with Sound Foundations*; AGAINST THE GRAIN, *Plays That Fight Back*; STEP ON IT, *Dancemaking 2019*; Pandemic Playmaking 2020; SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays*; and PIECE OF CAKE, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Additional credits: Las Borinqueñas (Ensemble Studio Theatre); the beautiful land i seek (la linda tierra que buscó yo) (Faultline Theatre).



Eliza Richardson (*Performer*) joined the Project in January, 2024 with her Playmaking debut *Mission 212: The Game To Get The Gem*, dramaturged by Diego Caoili, directed by Helen Cespedes, and starring Major Curda and Daiva Deupree, as a part of A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*. This is her acting debut. Eliza can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50, Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



Walter Rochez (*Performer*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with his Playmaking debut *Dreams Come True*, dramaturged and directed by Mat Hostetler, starring Hank Azaria and Sathya Sridharan, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. This is his acting debut. Walter can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 48, Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



Gloria Sanchez (*Performer*) joined the Project in the summer of 2021 with her debut play THE DANCING LIONS, dramaturg/directed by Molly Carden, starring Madeline DeFreece and Alex J. Gould, as part of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, *The Radiant Plays*. Gloria made her acting debut in A FACE IN THE CROWD, Character Workshop 2024, performing her own piece *Bob the Mop*, supported by Carina Goebelbecker. Gloria can be heard on episode 37 of the PROJcast, The Writers of “Walking on Sunshine - Step One.”



JJ Wilks (*Performer; he/they*): JJ is a wildly famous actor with many accolades and accomplishments. Don't even bother trying to search them all up – there are too many. JJ made his Project debut as an actor, dramaturg and director of *A Twinvalry*, by Edgar, as a part of SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET, *The Secretive Plays*, Playback 2024. He is perhaps best known for listening to over 30,000 minutes of Taylor Swift in 2023 (it will probably be more in 2024--yikes). Endless gratitude to the Project for having him be part of the family!