

The 52nd Street Project Presents

TO THE MOON!

Plays That Blast Off



The Fall 2024 Playmaking Show

8 young playwrights
8 original plays
8 veteran directors
1 gifted composer
16 seasoned actors

Five Angels Theater
789 10th Ave. (between 52nd & 53rd)
Friday, Dec. 13 - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14 - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15 - 3:00 p.m.

TO THE MOON: PLAYS THAT BLAST OFF!, ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

WISHES

Written by Ishi Saint Louis Taveras, age 10

Dramaturge: Garrett Kim, Director: Steven Stocking

Maria Sanchez a 16-year old deli owner Natalie Woolams-Torres
Allian Sanchez, her younger brother Jose-Maria Aguila
Dad George Babiak
Ms. Fernandez Jasminn Johnson
Students The Crew

Grounded lyrics by Ishi Saint Louis Taveras

GHOSTLY MUSIC

Written by Matilda Weidner, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Ciana Proto

Annikki, a ghostly ghost piano player Lynne Rosenberg
Moppity Mop Mopperson, an archaic wooden mop Nick Mills
Elderly ghosts Anna Phillips, Julia Feenstra

Chaotic Ghost Music lyrics by Matilda Weidner

FATE CAN BE STRANGE

Written by Liesl Pereira, age 11

Dramaturge/Director: Tasha Gordon-Solmon

Lizzy, a rabbit princess Sasha Diamond
Mike, a snow leopard pharmacy worker Michael Propster
The King George Babiak
Prisoners The Crew

Day and Night lyrics by Liesl Pereira

PERFECT AND MESSY

Written by Ariane Alcide, age 11

Dramaturge: Kennedy Dider, Director: Annabelle Cousins

Jadine, a track star and tomboy Arielle Goldman
Gabby, an aspiring young veterinarian Jasminn Johnson
The victim Anna Phillips

A Loves Freedom lyrics by Ariane Alcide



TO THE MOON: PLAYS THAT BLAST OFF!, ACT 2

SODA!

Written by Ethan Tejada, age 11.

Dramaturge/Director: Jose Gamo, Fight Director: Alex J. Gould

Bloxer Sam Gravitte
Spirit King Jose Duran/Jose Gamo
Soul Warriors The Crew

LOL, No Name for You lyrics by Ethan Tejada

CORY AND MICHEL TOGETHER

Written by Darius Beans, age 10

Dramaturge: Michael Propster, Director: Marchánt Davis

Cory, a CEO of a book company Grantham Coleman
Michel, a house flipper Paton Ashbrook
Michel's Dad Stuart Green

We All Did It lyrics by Darius Beans

PICKLEBALL LEGENDS

Written by Kaison Walker, age 10;

Dramaturge/Director: Korey Jackson

KJown, a saber tooth tiger and pickleball player Bjorn DuPaty
Matin, a gorilla and pickleball player Matt Dallal

I Shouldn't Have Told Him What to Do lyrics by Kaison Walker

THE BEST FRIENDS DREAM

Written by Mia Gordon, age 10, Dramaturge/Director: Lila Rachel Becker

Bella, a tall pig Nancy Giles
Ronny, a cow who is an emotional support buddy Ben Mehl

Should We Be Friends Again? lyrics by Mia Gordon



“TO THE MOON” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Katie Bartz

Costume Designer

Christianne Bakewell

Sound Designer

Hannah Birch Carl

Stage Manager

Emma Giordano

Projection Designs

George Babiak, Diego Caoili, and
The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

Backstage Crew

Julia Feenstra, Stuart Green
Anna Phillips, Hannah Santos,
Aiden Vasquez

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Design

George Babiak & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caoili
Camera Ops:
Christian Santoni, Kaytie Gil

Intern

Anna Phillips

Weekend-Away Chef

John Sheehy

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
Diego Caoili, Assistant Production Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Ana Soto-Gonzalez, Marketing and Events Manager
Liz Sweeney, Director of Education
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Yazzy Wilder, Operations 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. **TO THE MOON** 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 Dramaturge/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
Rachel Chanoff
Cathy Dantchik, co-chair
Carolyn DeSena
Louis P. Friedman, co-chair
Robert Goldberg
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Annie Hausmann
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Valerie Kay
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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 DeSena family we are grateful to our other Rumson hosts **Michael Bloom, Victoria Bowley, Laura Oncea, Edward Swikart, and Gail van Winkle**.

The 52nd Street Project would like to thank the members of **52 Futures** for their additional support in making this weekend possible:

Avi Amon & Molly Theobald
Caylyn Wan-Creager
Rachael Goldberg & Arthur Pearsall
Natalie Hirsch
Micah Kroeze
Christine Kurda
Margaret Odette
Yazzy Wilder



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.

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 **TO THE MOON!** 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:

12/24

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?

The 52nd Street Project Presents

SETTING THE TONE

THE 2025 CHARACTER WORKSHOP

Project Members
create original
characters and
present monologues!

FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10th Ave, between 52nd and 53rd St

Friday, January 31 - 7:30 p.m.

For information and reservations, visit 52project.org



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT INVITE YOU TO
CELEBRATE ART AND DESIGN AT THE PROJECT
AT OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

DRAWING THE LINE

HONORING
IRIS A. BROWN ~~AND~~ GEORGE BABIAK'S
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE DECADES

SAVE THE DATE → MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

6-8pm, Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Desbrosses Street, New York City

For details, contact Ana "The Ruler" Soto at (212) 333-5252 or asoto@52project.org



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 2025. Thanks!

BIOGRAPHIES



Jose-Maria Aguila (*Allian, WISHES* by Ishi) has been a Project volunteer since 2015. During this time Jose-Maria has been an In-Class Volunteer, Actor, Lead Instructor (Stage Combat), Guitarist, Fight Director, Writer, Smart Partner, Dramaturge, and Teaching Artist. This is Jose-Maria's second time directing The Teen Ensemble, having directed *The Comedy of Errors* in 2017 that toured in San Francisco and NYC. The 52nd St. Project has been a fundamental part of his journey as an actor in New York City and he hopes to continue to share his love for theater-making and mentorship with all the amazing staff, volunteers, and project members for many more years to come. WABWAGA. "Enseñales quienes."



Ariane Alcide (*Playmaker, PERFECT AND MESSY*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is her playmaking debut. Ariane can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, "Playmakers Go TO THE MOON."



Paton Ashbrook (*Michel, CORY & MICHEL TOGETHER*, by Darius) is an actor, producer, filmmaker, somatic teaching artist and coach based in Brooklyn and Los Angeles. She is DELIGHTED to be back at The 52nd Street Project! Her past Project credits include: WATCH THIS (2019), ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM (2020), and OFF THE WALL (2022).



Christianne Bakewell (*Costume Designer*) is delighted to be working with The 52nd Street Project for the first time. Christianne's love of new works and experience in theatre for young audiences made costume designing for this fall's playmaking show a perfect match. She is especially excited about all the fun and unique characters she was asked to costume. When not designing, Christianne works as a Costume Department Coordinator and Assistant Costume Designer in both live theatre and film.



Katie Bartz (*Lighting Designer, she/her*) is thrilled to return for her 3rd year at The Project! Having studied lighting design and acting at Sarah Lawrence College, Katie is an experienced NYC lighting designer and lighting technician currently employed by a renowned national news station. A self-proclaimed personality hire and comedienne, she enjoys making herself and others laugh and feels incredibly fortunate to work with dynamic young talent.



Darius Beans (*Playmaker, CORY & MICHEL TOGETHER*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is his playmaking debut. Darius can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Lila Rachel Becker (*Dramaturge/Director, THE BEST FRIENDS DREAM, by Mia*) Lila is a Brooklyn-based director of new plays. She is thrilled to be working with the next generation of theatermakers at The 52nd Street Project. She’s grateful to Mia and the rest of the playmakers for reminding her that the kids are alright.



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 second 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.



Grantham Coleman (*Cory, CORY & MICHEL TOGETHER, by Darius*) Project debut. Grantham can currently be seen starring in “Emperor of Ocean Park,” on MGM+. Prior, he appeared in “Bass Reeves” on Paramount+, and in George C. Wolfe’s film “Rustin.” He was also featured in the third season of the hit Starz drama “Power Book III: Raising Kanan,” and director Alejandro Iñárritu’s film, “Bardo.” On Broadway, he played MacDuff in Sam Gold’s “Macbeth,” alongside Daniel Craig and Ruth Negga. In 2019, he portrayed the iconic role of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Broadway’s “The Great Society,” alongside Brian Cox; and played the commitment-shy Benedick opposite Danielle Brooks in The Public Theater’s “Much Ado About Nothing”, which Kenny Leon directed for Shakespeare in the Park. In the short time between the two productions, Grantham shot the independent film “Black Bear” with Chris Abbot and Aubrey Plaza, which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. He starred as Shakespeare’s Danish prince in the Old Globe’s production of “Hamlet” and received outstanding praise for his role of Tarell in Alvin McCraney’s play “Choir Boy” at the Geffen, just as he did in the original version at The Manhattan Theatre Club in New York.



Annabelle Cousins (*Director, PERFECT AND MESSY*, by Ariane; she/her) 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. Outside of theatre, Annabelle is a Training & Performance Specialist for Aesop. The 52nd St. Project is her favorite place to be, and she is thrilled to be back directing for this round of Playmaking.



Matt Dallal (*Matin, PICKLEBALL LEGENDS*, by Kaison) This is my first time at The 52nd Street Project, and what a joy it's been. I'm so excited to be working on Kaison's play. I delved deep into the pickleball scene of the greater tri-state area in preparation, competing in underground competitions with various zoo animals. I learned a lot and hope it comes across on stage. Thanks Avi for reaching out, it's been so much fun.



Marchánt Davis (*Dramaturge/Director, CORY & MICHEL TOGETHER*, by Darius) is a Brooklyn based actor, writer and producer originally from Philadelphia, PA. He has been volunteering at the Project since 2016. He can recently be seen in Tina Satter's HBO feature film, REALITY. He also starred in Chris Morris's long awaited sophomore feature THE DAY SHALL COME (IFC Release). Other film credits: A JOURNAL FOR JORDAN (dir. Denzel Washington), TUSCALOOSA, and INCOMPLETE. He received Lucille Lortel and Audelco Award nominations for his 2019 performance in AIN'T NO' MO' at The Public Theater. Broadway credits: Ain't No Mo', The Great Society, and Good Night Oscar. He holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch Graduate Acting Program.



Sasha Diamond (*Elizabeth "Lizzy" Diamond, FATE CAN BE STRANGE*, by Liesl) is an actor and photographer, but most importantly, she's a huge fan of The 52nd Street Project. She's very excited to be here!



Kennedy Didier (*Dramaturge, PERFECT AND MESSY*, by Ariane) is delighted to be a first-time Dramaturge at The 52nd Street Project. When she is not helping Ariane bring her singularly cinematic imagination to the stage, she spends her time writing, reading, watching the Mets, coding, studying Stoic philosophy, and running around New York City with her best friends.



Bjorn DuPaty (*KJown*, *PICKLEBALL LEGENDS*, by Kaison) is happy to come back to The 52nd Street Project after being away for a while. Previous Project Shows: *THE BACON AND THE CHEESE BREAK OUT* (2014), *SUPERHEROES AND VILLAINS* (2014), *PEANUT BUTTER AND PHONES* (2015), *THE TOURNAMENT* (2017), *THE WARRIOR'S DEATH* (2017) & *I WAS BORN IN QUEENS* (2019).



José Duran (*Spirit King*, *SODA!* by Ethan) is an actor and filmmaker who was born in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and grew up in Miami. In 2015 he moved to New York City to study acting at the William Esper Studio. As an actor he's appeared on NBC's "The Blacklist" and starred in "Tu Me Manques", Bolivia's entry for Best International Feature at the 92nd Academy Awards. Through his production company, Luminous Path Films, he's worked on several short films and documentaries which have screened at film festivals around the world. His most recent project, "Coney Island Baby", premiered at the Chinese Theatre last year and won the Audience Award and Jury Award at the FilmGate Miami Film Festival. He's been volunteering at The 52nd Street Project since 2017.



Julia Feenstra (*Crew*) is so excited to be a part of *TO THE MOON, Plays that Plast Off*, that she is, quite literally, bouncing off the walls. Julia began as an intern with the Project in the fall of 2022 and they cannot get rid of her! Previously, she was crew for the Fall 2022 Songmaking production, *JELLY OF MY JAMS*, and the Fall 2022 Playmaking production, *OFF THE WALL, The Zany Plays*. Here's to many more!



Jose Gamo (*Dramaturge/Director*, *SODA!* by Ethan) is a Filipino artist born and raised in Indonesia. He first worked with the Project as an intern in Fall 2015, and he's been fortunate to participate in a wide variety of programming here since then, including Playmaking, One-on-One's, Playback, Stage Combat, Flying Solo, Dancemaking, Teen Ensemble, and Smart Partners. Thanks to his playwright, Ethan, for granting us this gift of a play, and many thanks to the Project for providing so many opportunities to combine his passions for art and education.



Nancy Giles (*Bella*, *THE BEST FRIENDS DREAM*, by Mia, *In-class Volunteer*) has been a stalwart volunteer for The 52nd Street Project since 1988. She has written, dramaturged, directed, performed, and mentored in nearly every program that the Project runs. She has traveled with the teen ensemble, hosted the gala, been an honoree at the gala, and has frequently volunteered in-class with the Playmakers. This is her 23rd production with the Project. When not with the

Project, she can be heard in many voice-overs on television, on her own podcast “The Giles Files,” and is a frequent on-air contributor to *CBS Sunday Morning*.



Emma Giordano (*Stage Manager*) is thrilled, as always, to be returning to The 52nd Street Project. She began her journey with the Project as the Fall 2021 intern, where she was a part of backstage crew for Songmaking 2021, *Hear Me Out!*, and the Fall 2021 Playmaking Show, *PIECE OF CAKE*, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Most recently, she was the sound designer of the Spring 2024 Playmaking Show, *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*, *The Breezy Plays*. Emma is so grateful to the Project for having her back and cannot wait for audiences to see the show.



Arielle Goldman (*Jadine*, *PERFECT AND MESSY*, by Ariane) is an actress, writer, director and filmmaker. She is honored to be appearing in Ariane’s debut play alongside long time collaborator Jasminn Johnson and directed by Annabelle Cousins. Past performances include a chatty Chicken in *PROBLEM SOLVING* by Charde, 7 year old Jenny in *THE WINGS AND THE DJ* by Beyonce, 8 year old Abigail who just wants to be loved and Abigail’s mean Twin in *THE BAD UNCLE* by Xavier, a French person named Nina who turns into a tree in *THE FOREST* by Elisa, a snow leopard named Daisey in *DAISEY AND TONY* by Alyssa, and Jenna Viva, a no nonsense Scottish girl in *BACK TO THE PAST* by Chloe. Arielle has performed off-Broadway, in multiple world premier plays, on national television and in award winning films. She is a founding member of Mafia Live. @mafialivenyc www.ariellegoldman.com



Mia Gordon (*Playmaker*, *THE BEST FRIENDS DREAM*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is her playmaking debut. Mia can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Tasha Gordon-Solmon (*Dramaturge/Director*, *FATE CAN BE STRANGE* by Liesl; she/her) is extremely thrilled to be back at The 52nd Street Project! Her credits include three Playmaking shows as Dramaturge/director: *THE HAUNTED MANSION* by Siara, *LIARS IN THE FAMILY* by Sasha, and *TWO LOVERS AND A CURSE* by Ginaija. She has written two One-on-One plays, one each for project stars Leah and Jasmine, and has been a classroom volunteer and performer for the Replay class. Tasha spent seven years as a Smart Partner to Leah, during which time they published their extensive research on neighborhood ice cream shops in *Fivey*. Shout-out to my Most Important Being, Jackson.



Alex J. Gould (*Fight Choreographer*, for *SODA!*, by Ethan) is an actor and fight/intimacy director based in NYC. Since 2018, Alex has been involved with The 52nd Street Project in numerous roles. Smart Partner program since 2018. Playmaking: *DREAM BIG*, *The Possibility Plays*, Spring 2018 (In-class volunteer/actor), *HEAD IN THE CLOUDS*, *The Ambitious Plays*, Fall 2018 (actor/fight director), *WALKING ON SUNSHINE*, *The Radiant Plays*, 2021 (actor), *WHALE OF A TALE*, *Plays That Make A Splash*, Spring 2023 (director/Dramaturge). Playback: *STRANGER FLINGS*, *Plays About New Holidays*, 2018 (director/Dramaturge/actor), *Virtual Playback 2020* (Director/Actor). 2-on-2: *ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM*, *Plays You Can't Ignore*, 2020 (Director), *IN THE SAME BOAT*, *2-on-2 Remix*, 2022 (Director/Actor). 1-on-1: *ARE WE THERE YET?* *The Location Plays*, 2022 (Director/Actor). *STAGE COMBAT*, 2018 (Actor), *THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT*, 2024 (Instructor/Fight Director).



Sam Gravitte (*Bloxxer*, *SODA!*, by Ethan) was first seen on the legendary 52nd Street Project stage performing in *The Thrill of the Fight*, where he was mercilessly stage-combated by an eleven-year-old. After working with these wonderful playwrights this fall, he's thrilled to make his Playmaking debut in Ethan's brilliant play, which features more stage combat. He believes that with one more stage combat feature on the Five Angels Theater stage, he is legally allowed to add "stuntman" to his resume. Please contact his representation if you're a Project Member with ideas.



Stuart Green (*Dad*, *CORY & MICHEL TOGETHER* by Darius; *Spirit Warrior*, *SODA!*, by Ethan; *Crew*) is an Actor, Writer and Director. He recently appeared in the film "Party of One" and will be off to St. Louis to film "Omi and Opa" next week. Selected Credits: *Brecht on Brecht* (TBTB, Japan), *My Funny Quarantyne* (Everett Quinton), *Three Little Words* (Neil LaBute), *Our Kiki* (FringeNYC), the Upright Citizens Brigade, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Director's Company and Queens Theatre. He is delighted to be back working with this wonderful group! Fun fact: Dominick Dunne once said Stuart reminded him of Keanu Reeves. www.Stuart-Green.com



Korey Jackson (*Dramaturge/Director*, *PICKLEBALL LEGENDS*, by Kaison) 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 Dramaturge include, *STAND BY ME*, *The Reliable Plays*; *MAKE IT SNAPPIER*, *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.



Jasminn Johnson (*Ms. Fernandez*, *WISHES*, by Ishi; *Gabby*, *PERFECT AND MESSY*, by Ariane) loves The 52nd Street Project. At the Project she has played a farmer with big Hollywood dreams, an uptight flight attendant from Queens, a time traveling Dragon-Ballerina whose best friend is an earthworm, a Cyclops who runs city-council, and an upper class Zebra-Elephant from a far away land. Jasminn'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



Garrett Kim, (*Dramaturge*, *WISHES*, by Ishi; he/him) is a theater-maker and educator based in New York City. He joined the staff in 2015 after interning and volunteering at The Project. He has taught at First Stage Children's Theater in Milwaukee for their Theatre Academy and their Next Steps program for students on the autism spectrum. As a playwright, Garrett has written several plays for The Project, and he has developed work with Page 73, Ars Nova, Rattlestick Theater, The New Harmony Project, The Parsnip Ship, Leviathan Lab, and Piper Theatre Company, to name a few. When he's not involved with theater-related shenanigans, Garrett can be found tending his plants, cooking, or playing tabletop games with his friends. B.A. Fordham University.



Ben Mehl (*Ronny*, *THE BEST FRIENDS DREAM*, by Mia) is OVER THE MOON to be doing his 6th Playmaking show! Other theater includes: The Public Theater, Red Bull Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Cleveland Playhouse, Two River Theater, Wheelhouse Theater, Fault Line Theatre. TV includes: You (Netflix), The Good Wife (CBS), Supernatural Investigator(Vision). Films include: My Christmas Guide (Hallmark), Viral Beauty, The Fly Room, Off- Duty. Mehl is a passionate acting teacher, member of The Actors Center and holds an MFA from the NYU Graduate Acting Program.



Nick Mills (*Moppity Mop Moperson*, *GHOSTLY MUSIC*, by Matilda) is ridiculously grateful to be back at The Project! Since 2011, he has volunteered as an actor, writer, director, backstage crew member, and a Smart Partner. He is the proud dad of Ava, Marlowe, and Stella, and he hopes to one day win The 52nd Street Project pre-show raffle!



Liesl Pereira (*Playmaker*, *FATE CAN BE STRANGE*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is her playmaking debut. Liesl can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Anna Phillips (*Crew*) is a proud intern at The 52nd Street Project and is thrilled to be a part of the Playmaking magic. She is a writer and actor who has graduated from Corcoran School of Arts and Design at George Washington University with a degree in English and Theatre. In her time at Corcoran, she performed in productions such as *A Chorus Line*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and *Little Women*. She was also head writer and president of receSs, the collegiate sketch comedy and improv group. Anna is currently training at the Upright Citizen’s Brigade writing center.



Michael Propster (*Mike Lawster*, *FATE CAN BE STRANGE* by Liesl; *Dramaturge*, *CORY & MICHEL TOGETHER*, by Darius) 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



Ciana Proto (*Dramaturge/Director*, *GHOSTLY MUSIC* by Matilda; 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 7 years, and to be a part of this year's Playmaking adventure.



Lynne Marie Rosenberg (*Annikki*, *GHOSTLY MUSIC*, by Matilda; she/her) has been volunteering at The Project since Fall 2011. She started as a homework helper, and since then she has acted, directed, coached, made art, taught improv, and has been Smart Partners with Sarah since 2018. This is Lynne's 6th Playmaking show; she performed in *HOLLYWOOD IS HARSH* by Sarah, *KITTY & STEVEY* by Hannah, *HOW ZOMBIES MAKE US FEEL* by Olive, and *ENCOURAGE* by Jaelannie, and directed *WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM* by Ivy. Outside The Project she is the creator and host of the TV show *Famous Cast Words*, teaches at NYU Tisch/Playwrights Horizons Theater School, writes, draws, and looks for ways to help. www.LynneMarieRosenberg.com



Hannah Santos (*Crew*) joined the Project in the fall of 2019 with her debut play *KITTY AND STEVEY*, with Dramaturge/director Sol Crespo, starring RJ Foster and Lynne Rosenberg, as part of *UPSIDE-DOWN*, *The Topsy-Turvy Plays*. Hannah made her acting debut opposite Alex J. Gould in *FORMER WIVES OF REGIE* by Max Posner, as a part of *IN THE SAME BOAT*, *The Buoyant Plays* a Two-on-Two Remix production in February 2022. She appeared opposite George Babiak in his *GIMME SOME SPACE*, a part of *ARE WE THERE YET? The Location Plays* - August 2022 One-on-Ones. She fought Stephanie Linas in *THE BIG APPLE RUMBLE*, as part of the *BOOM! WHAM! POW! Stage Combat* show. She was in our first place-play production *NOW WE'RE HERE* with Adaire Kamen. Hannah performed in her own show *EXPLOSIVE BIRTHDAY*, opposite Kerry Warren for the Playback production, *SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET*, *The Secretive Plays*. She can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*."



Stephen Stocking (*Director*, *WISHES*, by Ishi) The 52nd Street Project is one of Stephen's favorite places to make theatre. He has appeared in many Project shows, both as an actor and a composer/musician, and now as a director. Some favorite roles at the Project include a 10-year-old Québécois business tycoon who runs a factory making exploding skunks, a middle schooler who is bad at basketball, 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*.



Ishi Saint Louis Taveras (*Playmaker, WISHES*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is his playmaking debut. Ishi can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Ethan Tejada (*Playmaker, SODA!*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is his playmaking debut. Ethan can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Aiden Vasquez (*Crew*) 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 *UPSIDE-DOWN, 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. His latest play, *SEEN OR SEED*, dramaturged & directed by Andy Ingalls, was a part of *PEN 2 PAPER, Replay 2024*.



Kaison Walker (*Playmaker, PICKLEBALL LEGENDS*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is his playmaking debut. Kaison can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Matilda Weidner (*Playmaker, GHOSTLY MUSIC*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is her playmaking debut. Matilda can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Natalie Woolams-Torres (*Maria Sanchez*, *WISHES*, by Isihi) is very excited to be making her debut at The 52nd Street Project with Ishi's beautiful new play! Off Broadway credits include: *The Fears* produced by Steven Soderbergh (Signature Theatre), *Novenas for a Lost Hospital* (Rattlestick), *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Julius Caesar* (The Public Theater). Regional: *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson*, *Apt 2B* (The Old Globe), *A Thousand Maids* (Two River Theater), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Men on Boats* (BCC). Television/film: "Difficult People," "Room 104," "High Maintenance," "Chicago Med," "New Amsterdam," "Succession," "Dead Ringers," Steven Soderbergh's *Presence*



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List current as of April 5, 2024