

The 52nd Street Project Presents

# SETTING THE TONE

THE 2025 CHARACTER WORKSHOP

Project Members  
create original  
characters and  
present  
monologues!



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

**FIVE ANGELS THEATER**

## **“SETTING THE TONE” Production Staff**

### **Class Volunteers**

Helen Cespedes, Omari Chancellor, Anna Crivelli, Noah Gaynor,  
Mat Hostetler, Adam LaPorte, Michael Propster, Precious Sipin

### **Set Designer**

Burke Brown

### **Stage Management**

Jenni Swann

### **Lighting, Sound, and a few costume bits**

Bri Weintraub

### **Prop Design and Construction**

George Babiak

### **House Management**

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

### **Flyer/Program Art & Layout**

Aiden Vasquez and George Babiak

### **Livestream Team**

Director: Diego Caoili

Camera Operator: Nikolai Alvarez

### **Interns**

Charlie Zuckerman and Lexi Fujita

### **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  
performers, volunteers, and the designers!**



**Delilah**

A 3-year-old from Manhattan  
Written & performed by Jaelannie Rodriguez  
Dramaturged & directed by Precious Sipin

**Eli**

A banana-selling orangutan  
Written & performed by Mateo Santoni  
Dramaturged & directed by Helen Cespedes

**Zeke**

A 15-year-old hunter  
Written & performed by Milo Phelps  
Dramaturged & directed by Noah Gaynor

**Ashly**

A rat activist  
Written & performed by Cataleya Bernardo  
Dramaturged & directed by Anna Crivelli

**Mark**

A 16-year-old barista artist  
Written & performed by Zion King Lamonge  
Dramaturged & directed by Adam LaPorte

**Turgoek**

A scientist turkey  
Written & performed by Atif Dowidar  
Dramaturged & directed by Michael Propster

**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. **Setting The Tone** is a format we call Character Workshop and is part of our New Platforms series of programs for young people. We hope you enjoy tonight's offering!

## **The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors**

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## **Special Thanks**

The 52nd Street Project would like to thank the members of **52 Futures** for their additional support:

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



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# 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 **SETTING THE TONE!** If you are not on our mailing list, join on-line at [www.52project.org](http://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:

01/25

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

## THE 2025 REPLAY PROGRAM

Experienced Project Members  
take the next leap in playwriting.

See staged readings  
of the final plays on  
**Friday, February 21**  
at 7:30 p.m.

**FIVE ANGELS THEATER**  
789 10th Avenue

Admission free!  
For more info and reservations,  
visit [52project.org](http://52project.org)

ARTWORK BY PROJECT MEMBER ANNABELLE YAM



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** & **GEORGE BABIAK'S**  
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE DECADES

Hosted by  
Hank Azaria and  
Sharon Washington

SAVE THE DATE → MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

8:30pm, Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Desbrosses Street, New York City  
For details, contact Ana "The Ruler" Soto at (212) 333-5232 or [asoto@52project.org](mailto:asoto@52project.org)

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Cataleya Bernardo** (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with her playwriting debut, *GETTING CLOSER*, dramaturg/directed by Kaaron Briscoe, starring Roma Maffia & Sophie von Haselberg, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. She made her performing debut with *TIME DOG*, by Jihae Park, directed by and co-starring Maryn Shaw, as a part of LOOK WHO'S TALKING, *Plays That Speak to You*. Cataleya can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 "Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT."



**Helen Cespedes** (*Team Mateo*) is an actor, writer, and teacher. Project: *Director*, *MISSION 212*, *THE GAME TO GET THE GEM*, by Eliza; *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*, *The Breezy Plays*, Playmaking Spring 2024. 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.



**Anna Crivelli** (*Team Cataleya*) is a San Francisco Bay Area native currently residing in Brooklyn. Project: *Dramaturge/Director/Actor*, *THUNDER GIRLS* by Faith, *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*, *Playback*, Jan. 2024. Off-Broadway: *53% Of* (Second Stage), *Doll's House Part 3* (Exponential Festival), *Drink with Death* (La Mama) Regional: *How to Defend Yourself* (Victory Gardens, 43rd Humana Festival), *Private Lives* (Dorset Theatre Festival), *Once Five Years Pass*, *Dental Society Midwinter Meeting* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Appropriate* (Westport Country Playhouse), *Blithe Spirit* (White Heron Theatre Company), *Airness*, *Steel Magnolias* (Geva Theatre Center) Television: *Evil* (CBS) Film: *Desert Window*, *The Falling World* M.F.A: Yale School of Drama B.A: Fordham University Lincoln Center.



**Atif Dowidar** (*Project Member*) joined the Project in January, 2024 with his playwriting debut, *MELLOW AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN*, dramaturged and directed by Tim J. Lord, starring Armando Riesco & Meredith Garretson as a part of *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*, *The Breezy Plays*. He made his performing debut with *RUFFLY SPEAKING*, by Cindy Kaplan, directed by and co-starring Christian DeMarais, as a part of LOOK WHO'S TALKING, *Plays That Speak to You*. Atif can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 "Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR."



**Noah Gaynor** (*Team Milo*) is thrilled to be back at the Project. He was previously seen battling Mateo in *Video Bros*; and as Jacob the werewolf in Bella's play *THE WITCH'S CAT*. Thank you to Milo for setting the tone by being a baller.



**Kaytie Gil** (*Teen Counselor*) joined the Project in the fall of 2018 with her playwriting debut *The 2 Best Friends*, dramaturged & directed by Danaya Esperanza with RJ Brown and Sol Crespo, as a part of *HEAD IN THE CLOUDS*, *The Ambitious Plays*. She made her acting debut in Allicia Moeller's *Rita and Starbot*, directed by and co-starring Payton Ashbrook as a part of *WATCH THIS*, *Ten Time Pieces*, the Block Island 2019 One-on-Ones. Kaytie wrote *Please Stop Polluting, People*, dramaturged & directed by Rachel Pickup, performed by David Starry & Kathy Staats for a zoom Playmaking presentation in May, 2020. Kaytie battled Evan Schultz in *Crumbs vs. Rachel*, as a part of *KNUCKLE SANDWICH*, the 2022 Stage Combat show. She is a member of the current Teen Ensemble, and helped devise and performed in *MORE THAN WORDS*, in spring 2024



**Mat Hostetler** (*In-Class Volunteer*) is thrilled to be back at the Project with his favorite people in the world! Recent Project: *Director/Dramaturg*, *DREAMS COME TRUE* by Walter: *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*, Playmaking Fall 2023. An actor, director and producer, Mat's credits include *Corruption* at Lincoln Center, *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 Hell's Kitchen with his wife, Ali and their adorable dog, Mia. Mat is a member of Actor's Equity Association.



**Garrett Kim** (*Program Director*; 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.





**Zion King Lamonge** (*Project Member*) 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*. He made his acting debut in the summer Place Play, OFF THE MAP, devising the piece “*Everything Goes Big*,” with Korey Jackson. Zion can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil.



**Adam LaPorte** (*Team Zion*) is a composer, lyricist, and playwright originally from Murfreesboro, TN. He was the Composer and Music Director for last summer’s place play, OFF THE MAP; and 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.



**Milo Phelps** (*Project Member*) joined the Project in January, 2024 with his playwriting debut, *THE HIDDEN SCIENTIST*, starring Forrest Malloy and Emma Ramos, dramaturgy and direction by Michael Propster, as a part of A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*. This marks his performing debut. Milo can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50, “Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.”



**Michael Propster** (*Team Atif*) 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](http://michaelpropster.com)



**Jaelannie Rodriguez** (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the spring of 2023. Her first play was *ENCOURAGE*; dramaturged by Ana Gonzalez-Soto and directed by Alex O’Daly; starring Jake Pino & Lynne Marie Rosenberg, as part of the production A WHALE OF A TALE, *Plays That Make a Splash*. Jaelannie was a Songmaker in the fall of 2023, collaborating with composer Paige Menneci on the songs “*Hi, I’m Rosie*,” performed by Angel DeSai; “*Is It My Time*

Yet?” performed by Ali Ewoldt; and “*Jumping Frogs*,” performed by Mallory Portnoy; all as a part of the TUNE IN Songmaking concert. She made her performing debut with *HUMANS ARE TRICKY*, written by, directed by, and co-starring Molly Carden as a part of LOOK WHO’S TALKING, *Plays That Speak to You*. She can also be heard on the PROJcast episodes 42 & 47.



**Mateo Santoni** (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. His first play was *THE BIG ADVENTURE OF TIMMY THE T-REX*; dramaturgy and direction by Kareem Lucas; with Devin E. Haqq, Kaileela Hobby, and Michael Propster, as a part of OFF THE WALL, *The Zany Plays*. Mateo made his acting debut in *PIZZA FRIENDS MWAHAHA*, a one-on-one, written by, directed by, and co-starring Neil D’Astolfo, as a part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays that Will Transport You*. He battled Noah Gaynor in “*Video Bros*” as a part of THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT, Stage Combat 2024. Mateo can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, “*Zany Playmakers*.”



**Precious Sipin** (*Team Jaelannie*) is thrilled to be back at The 52nd Street Project...one of her favorite places in NYC! Precious is an Actor, Filmmaker, & Facilitator. She is also a Teaching Artist and works with several Arts Organizations including The 52nd Street Project! The 52nd Street Project credits include: OFF THE WALL! The Zany Plays, ON THE MOVE the 2023 One-on-Ones, and THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT, Stage Combat 2024. For more information feel free to visit: [www.PreciousSipin.com](http://www.PreciousSipin.com) Thanks to Lannie for being an awesome and hilarious partner...watching and rooting you on from the West Coast!



**Sophia Zukoski** (she/they; *Team Atif*) fought Jessica in *Cut-astrophe*; part of THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT, Stage Combat 2024. She has supported Tiniah’s (Episode 21) & Alex’s (Episode 36) PROJcast production for Radiologues, Teen Ensemble in 2019-2020, and Playmaking with Payton. Her favorite part of working with The 52nd Street Project Playmakers is witnessing their stories, joys, reflections, and interests take flight during rehearsal processes and come to life onstage!



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