

The 52nd Street Project Presents

Punch It Up!

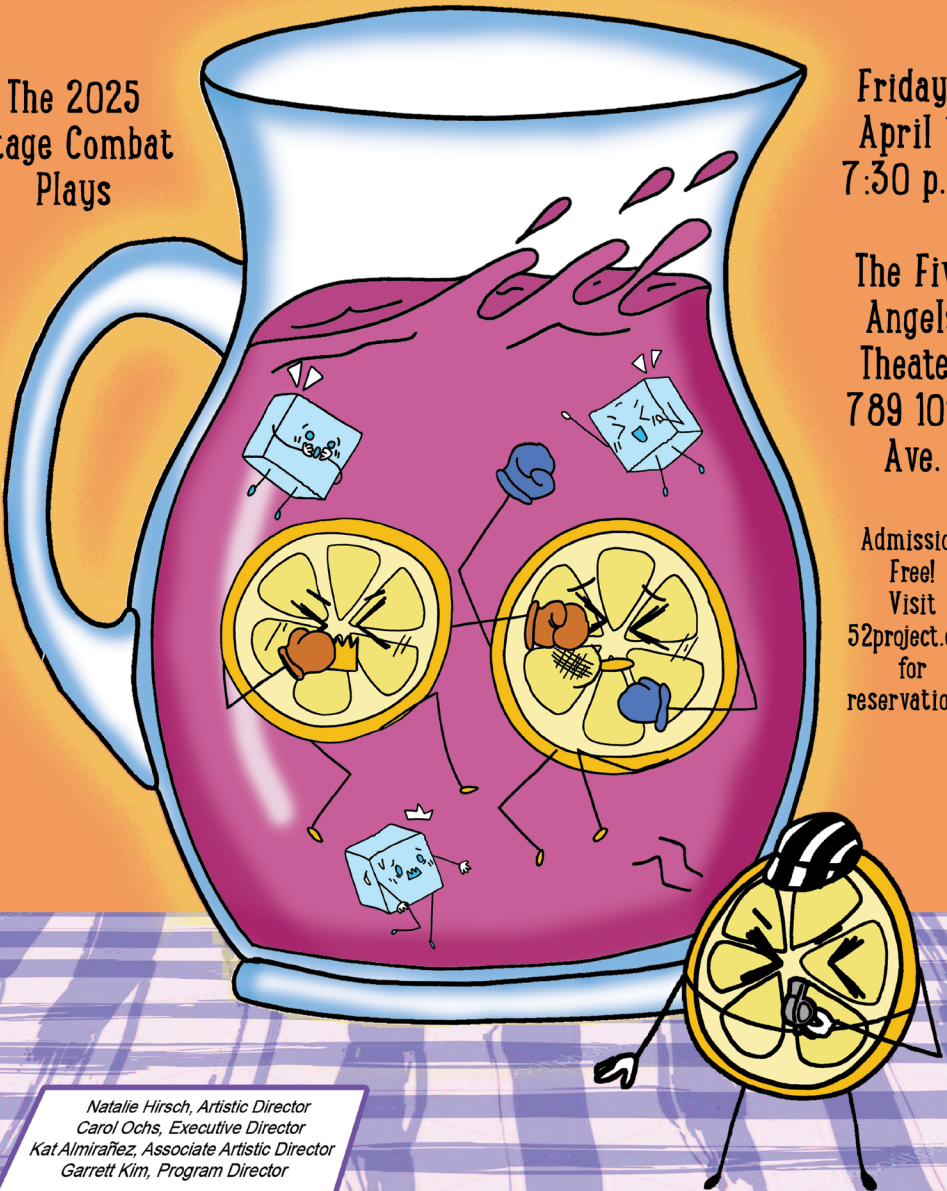
The 2025
Stage Combat
Plays

Friday,
April 11
7:30 p.m.

The Five
Angels
Theater
789 10th
Ave.

Admission
Free!
Visit
52project.org
for
reservations.

ARTWORK BY REBECA VANTERPOOL AND ALLY THOMAS



Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director

“PUNCH IT UP” Production Staff

Class Volunteers

Kate Abbruzzese, Raquel Chavez, Gardiner Comfort, Jose Gamo,
Olivia Gilliatt, Betsy Hogg, John Maddaloni,
Jennifer Mogbock, Jacob Presson, & Kerry Warren

Set Designer

Burke Browne

Stage Management

Jenni Swan

Lighting & Sound

Bri Weintraub

House Management

John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

Rebeca Vanterpool and Ally Thomas

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caoili

Cam Ops: Kaytie Gil & Jessica Elie-Pierre

Interns

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

Anna Phillips, Homework Help Assistant

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!**



PUNCH IT UP: STAGE COMBAT 2025

Stage Combat Instructor

Kerry Warren

Program Director

Garrett Kim

THE PLAYGROUND TRAGEDY

Fight choreography by Logan Centeno, with Jacob Presson

Timothy, popular kid, spoiled, hateful, cruel.....Logan Centeno

Harold, envious for attention, lonely, new kidJacob Presson

OUR (TOTALLY NORMAL) SCHOOL ROUTINE

Fight choreography by Gloria Sanchez, with Olivia Gilliatt

Naomi, the responsible younger sisterGloria Sanchez

Sasha, very normal but not normal.....Olivia Gilliatt

LOTTERY BRAWL

Fight choreography by Edgar Sinchi, with Jose Gamo

Silvester, a gambler, has good luck, wants expensive toilet.....Edgar Sinchi

Harold, middle-aged man, has wife & kids, wants promotion at work..Jose Gamo

EVIL VS. GOOD KNIGHT

Fight choreography by Caelnne Arango-Ramirez, with Kate Abbruzzese

Lancelot, Knight, courageous, wants to save his sister..Caelnne Arango-Ramirez

Bartholemew, Evil Knight, wants to kill Lancelot.....Kate Abbruzzese

THE BREAK UP

Fight choreography by Samaria Alkandi, with Betsy Hogg

Molly, truthful, likes AhmedSamaria Alkandi

Audrey, “likes” Ahmed for the wrong reasons.....Betsy Hogg

SISTER SISTER

Fight choreography by Bella Galindo, with Raquel Chavez

Lilac, 15, trying to live lifeBella Galindo

Rosa, 18, trying to get to college.....Raquel Chavez

And an extra special thanks to Gardiner Comfort, Kirstin Louie,
John Maddaloni, Jennifer Mogbok, & Charlie Zuckerman!

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. **PUNCH IT UP** is a Stage Combat show, one of our New Platforms series. In it, young members learned some of the basic moves of Fight Choreography and created short plays in which to frame them. Although the plays have the veneer of violence, the ironic twist is that the performers are trained to take care of each other and avoid harm of any kind. Tonight you are viewing the results of this training.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides-Nelson	Micah Kroeze
Rachel Chanoff	Noël Mihalow
Cathy Dantchik, co-chair	Carol Ochs
Carolyn DeSena	Margaret Odette
Louis P. Friedman, co-chair	Willie Reale, founder
Robert Goldberg	Shirley Rumierk, alumni member
Stephen Graham, chair emeritus	José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Annie Hausmann	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Natalie Hirsch	Alexandra Vassilaros
Korey Jackson	Mark Whatley
Valerie Kay	



The Stage Combat 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 "Support Us."

Or make a gift via **venmo** @Fifty-Two-Project

COOL STUFF ON SALE IN THE LOBBY!

Flyer Bars	\$ 2 . 5 0
Boxed Water	\$ 2 . 5 0
Vassilaros & Sons Coffee	\$ 2 . 5 0

Project Gear

Ear-Things™ (New!)	\$ 10 . 0 0
Mugs	\$ 10 . 0 0
Thermal Mugs	\$ 15 . 0 0
WABWAGA T-shirts	\$ 15 . 0 0
Sweatshirts	\$ 35 . 0 0
Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts	\$ 40 . 0 0

Thank you for coming to **PUNCH IT UP!** 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:

04/25

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?

WRITING ON THE WALL

The Teen Ensemble One-Acts

Friday, May 30th - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31st - 3:00 p.m.

TWIST & SHOUT

Dancemaking 2025

Friday, June 13 - 7:30 p.m.

The Place Play

Saturday, July 12 - 7:30 p.m.

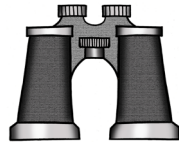
One-On-Ones

The 2025 Rumson One-on-Ones

Friday, August 15 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 16 - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 17 - 3:00 p.m.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INTERNS!

If you know of any college or graduate students who might enjoy working and playing 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 2025. Thanks!

BIOGRAPHIES



Kate Abbruzzese (*Bartholemew*, *EVIL VS. GOOD KNIGHT*, with Caelnne) has been lucky enough to volunteer at The 52nd Street Project since 2015, where she has played a nerdy vampire, emo girl, cat, and poodle sister to great acclaim. She tells anyone who will listen that the Project is the safest and happiest most loving place in NYC. WAGWABA 4eva.



Samaria Alkandi (*Molly*, *THE BREAK UP*) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. Her first play was JOURNEY TO THE DEATH POTION; dramaturged/directed by Monica LaBadia and starring Tina Chilip & Neil D'Astolfo; as part of the production OFF THE WALL, The Zany Plays. She made her performing debut in a piece she improvised "The Two Big Tournaments" with Kendall Cafaro as a part of our first Place Play, NOW WE'RE HERE!, in August 2023. She was a Dancemaker in 2024, creating and performing the piece "Friends Going Through Life," with Aishling Pembroke, for the WITH THE FLOW Dancemaking concert. She starred in BEST FRIENDS...FOREVER?, written & directed by Betsy Hogg, alongside Evan Isabella, as a part of LOOK WHO'S TALKING, Plays That Speak to You, Summer One-on-One 2024. Samaria can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, "Zany Playmakers."



Caelnne Arango Ramirez (*Lancelot*, *EVIL VS. GOOD KNIGHT*) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with her debut play UNTITLED, dramaturg/directed by Therese Barbado, starring Nick Mills and Annie Henk, as part of PIECE OF CAKE, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Caelnne was a Songmaker in 2022 collaborating with Rowan Blackwood. Their songs were presented in the concert JELLY OF MY JAMS: *Birthday Letter* sung by Sahar Milani, & *The Rescue* sung by Angelica Toledo. Caelnne's acting debut was in A FACE IN THE CROWD, Character Workshop 2023, performing her own piece "Jolene." Caelnne can be heard on episode 39 of the PROJcast, The Writers of "Piece of Cake."

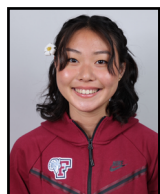


Logan Centeno (*Timothy*, *THE PLAYGROUND TRAGEDY*) joined the Project in the spring of 2022 with his debut play LAMAR'S SHOCKING ADVENTURE, dramaturg/directed by Sathya Sridharan, starring Reggie White and Stephanie Linas, as part of PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, *The Priceless Plays*. Logan was a Songmaker in 2022 collaborating with Fouad Dakwar. Their songs were presented in the concert JELLY OF MY JAMS, "New Favorite Pastry" sung by Natalie Walker, "Sunday Mornin'", in Outer Space" sung by Tommy McDowell & "52" sung by Rondald Peet.

Logan made his acting debut in Jed Clarke's WIGGLE BASH, directed by and co-starring Michael Propster, as a part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays That Will Transport You*, The 2023 Jersey Shore One-on-Ones. He performed his own piece, "Robert" coached by Kyle Cameron as a part of A FACE IN THE CROWD, the 2023 Character Workshop. Logan performed his own choreography with Major Curda in "A Goofy Brother Summer" as a part of WITH THE FLOW, Dancemaking 2024. He can be heard on episode 40 of the PROJcast, "Spring 2022 Playmakers", and Episode 46, "Mid' History with Logan & John."



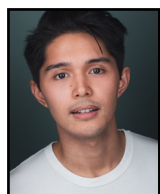
Raquel Chavez (*Rosa, SISTER SISTER*, with Bella) is an actor, director and occasional accordionist. Most recent Project show: actor, A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*, spring Playmaking 2024. Recent credits include Epiphany & The Coast Starlight at Lincoln Center and Uncle Vanya in Flatiron. Upcoming: Farm Project at Northern Stage VT. Thrilled to be working with Bella!



Lexi Fujita (*Crew*) Aloha, I am one of the new interns at the Project and I'm soooo excited to be a part of Stage Combat! This is my very first performance that I got to be a part of. My role was to be a friendly face supporting the most amazing Project Members and volunteers during every punch, kick, and ear pull.



Bella Galindo (*Lilac, SISTER SISTER*) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. Her first play was *The Witch's Cat*, dramaturged and directed by Ciana Proto with Morgan Everitt as Mary, a witch and Noah Gaynor as Jacob, a werewolf. It was part of the production OFF THE WALL, *The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. Bella starred in *Love Is Like an Ocean*, by Stephanie Jean Lane, who also co-starred and directed as part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays That Will Transport You*, in July 2023. She collaborated with Madeline Mondrala for the Songmaking Concert TUNE IN, November 2023. Their songs included "My Life Song" performed by Angie Toledo, "Animal Song" performed by Bella & Madeline, and "Young Again" performed by Jessica Carvo. Bella and Ciana became Smart Partners in October 2023. Bella can also be heard on the PROJcast (episodes 41 & 47).



Jose Gamo (*Harold, LOTTERY BRAWL*, with Edgar) 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, Replay, Dancemaking, Teen Ensemble, and Smart Partners. Many thanks to the Project for providing so many opportunities to combine his passions for art and education.



Olivia Gilliatt (*Sasha, OUR (TOTALLY NORMAL) SCHOOL ROUTINE*, with Gloria) is a Brooklyn-based actor, theater deviser, and educator. Most recent Project show: dramaturge/director, A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*, spring Playmaking 2025. 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: Dial M for Murder (Two River Theater); 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); 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," *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. BA: Dartmouth College, MFA: NYU. www.bookclubtheater.org.



Betsy Hogg (*Audrey, THE BREAK UP*, with Samaria) has been an enthusiastic volunteer at The 52nd Street Project since 2019. She's been in class with Playmaking, Dancemaking, Artmaking, and Stage Combat; in production as a crew member and stage manager; and on stage as a dancer, a fighter, a harried assistant, and an ancient/formerly magical snowy owl, among other juicy roles. Outside of the Project, she is a professional actor who's been seen on Broadway, TV, Film, and at regional theaters across the country. Betsy's thrilled to be part of this show & proud to be Samaria's Smart Partner.



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.



Jacob Presson (*Harold, THE PLAYGROUND TRAGEDY*, with Logan, he/him) is a multidisciplinary creative and arts educator who is honored to join The 52nd Street Project community with PUNCH IT UP. He has enjoyed collaborating with the soul-igniting humans of this community and can't wait to see them shine. He has taught theatre for various organizations across academic, extracurricular, and non-professional spaces, including HVSF, Stagedoor Manor, Treasure Trunk Theatre, and more. He is an associate artist for Less Than Rent Theatre and holds an MFA in Acting from The New School of Drama.



Gloria Sanchez (*Naomi, OUR (TOTALLY NORMAL) SCHOOL ROUTINE*) 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. She was seen as a *Spy in Disguise*, with Kendal Hartse in the devised piece OFF THE MAP, July 2024. Gloria can be heard on episode 37 of the PROJcast, The Writers of "Walking on Sunshine - Step One."



Edgar Sinchi (*Silvester, LOTTERY BRAWL*) joined the Project in the winter of 2020. His debut play, DREAM ANOTHER DREAM, with dramaturg/director Kyle Fitzpatrick, starring Ceci Fernandez and Micah Stock, was part of the zoom presentation SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays - Part II*. Edgar made his acting debut in Michael Propster's DARTS & COASTERS, as a part of ARE WE THERE YET?, *The Location Plays - The 2022 July One-on-Ones*. He wrote and performed TWINVALRY, with JJ Wilks, as a part of SKELETON IN THE CLOSET, *The Secretive Plays*, Playback 2024. Edgar can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 35, "The Writers of SMOKE & MIRRORS, Part II;" and our most recent Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of SKELETON IN THE CLOSET."



Jenni Swan (*Stage Manager*) After first volunteering as a stage manager in 2005, Jenni got the Project bug and has been juggling volunteer opportunities with her corporate life ever since. She is excited to be back for the stage combat showcase, as it is one of her favorite nights of the year. Most recent Project show: stage

manager, SETTING THE TONE, Character Workshop 2025.



Kerry Warren (*Lead Instructor*) NYC-based actor, teaching artist, and advocate for teaching artists and arts education as the former Co-Executive Director of the national nonprofit (TAG) the Teaching Artist Guild. Trained by Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, she holds certifications in mental health and trauma-informed teaching. A Juilliard graduate, who has performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and regionally. Kerry collaborates with various organizations, teaching theater at ArtsConnection, NYTW and teachwithgive.org. She is excited to return to The 52nd Street Project stage, where she began as a volunteer in 2016. She has diverse roles, including Smart Partner, Stage Combat Instructor and the WIN Exchange teaching artist. You can see her in the film Our Son on Apple TV as Miss Jennifer. kerrywarren.com

