



SHOW PROGRAMS 2021

(Pandemic Year 2)

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

A ZOOM
PLAYMAKING SHOW

5 PLAYS WRITTEN
BY YOUNG PEOPLE
AND PERFORMED
BY ADULT ACTORS

NATALIE HIRSCH,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
KAT ALMIRÁÑEZ,
PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR
CAROL OCHS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 7:00 P.M.

ON YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER OR DEVICE

RESERVE AT 52PROJECT.ORG AND YOU'LL RECEIVE A ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL.

The Playmaking Program is made possible by funds from Consolidated Edison, Inc., The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The Project is a member of ART/NY and Theatre Communications Group.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, live performance
was cancelled in March, 2020.

Part 1 was finally presented on Zoom
in January of 2021.

SMOKE & MIRRORS: THE TRICKY PLAYS – PART I

Virtual Playmaking 2021 - January 28 - 7:00 p.m.

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

THE BULLY FRIEND

Written by Faith Mitchell, age 11

Dramaturge: Caylyn Wan-Creager. Director: Sarah Krohn

Madison Madeline DeFreece

Marcus John Manolis

I'm Sorry and Differences lyrics by Faith Mitchell

COMEDY SHOW

Written by Mason Berrios, age 19

Director/Dramaturge: George Babiak

Josh, a comedian Lee Aaron Rosen

Hecklerfeckler, a heckler Ariel Estrada

Mom Kat Almirañez

Comedy Song lyrics by Mason Berrios

THE BASKETBALL BOY AND DANCING GIRL

Written by Tremaine Batson age 10

Dramaturge: Kareem M. Lucas, Director: John Sheehy

Basketball Boy Motell Foster

Dancing Girl Arielle Goldman

Judge John Sheehy

Dancing Girl's Song lyrics by Tremaine Batson

REVOLUTION

Written by Gavin Kent, age 10

Dramaturge/Directors: Kat Almirañez and Gus Rogerson

Joe, a snake and potato farmer Carson Elrod

Sheen, a snake and tax collector Evan Schultz and Gus Reale

I'm Better Than You lyrics by Gavin Kent

MOKINA AND CUPY

Written by Jessica Elie-Pierre, age 9

Director/Dramaturge: Grace Rex

Mokina Jenelle Chu

Cupy Erin Neufer-Salt

Don't Lie lyrics by Jessica Elie-Pierre



**THE VIRTUAL TEEN ENSEMBLE
PERFORMANCE**

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

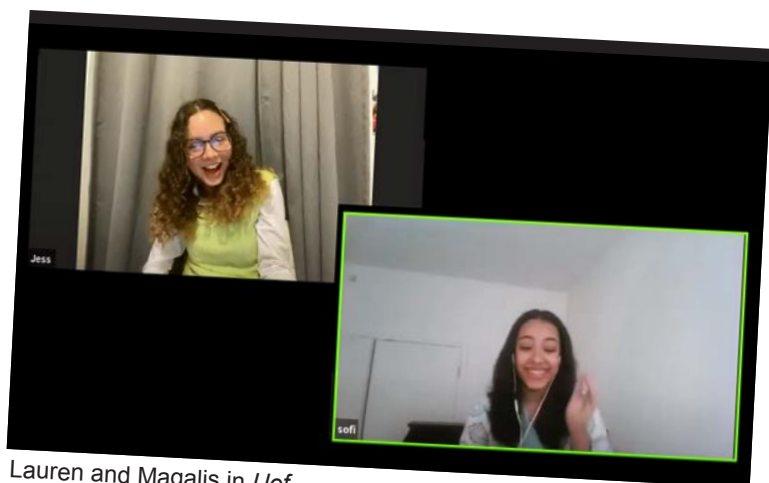
Teen Ensemble Teacher/Director: Kat Almiranez

Topic: Roomies!! Fall 2k21 planning seshhh, written by **Garrett David Kim** and directed by **Ciana Proto**, starred **Darby O'Donnell**, **Lakshmi DeJesus**, & **Nicole Quiles** as freshmen wondering what their dorm assignments would be like.

Uof written by **Caylyn Wan-Creager** and directed by **Danaya Esperanza**, featured **Lauren Amador-Cruz** as a student shocked by a sock on her doorknob. **Magalis Fabian** was the worldly Resident Advisor who helped teach Lauren's randy roommate a lesson in personal boundaries.



Nicole, Lakshmi, and Darby in *Topic: Roomies...*



Lauren and Magalis in *Uof*.

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

A ZOOM
PLAYMAKING SHOW

5 MORE PLAYS WRITTEN
BY YOUNG PEOPLE
AND PERFORMED
BY ADULT ACTORS

NATALIE HIRSCH,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRANEZ,
PLAYMAKING DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FREE!

BUT DONATIONS
ARE WELCOME!

SMOKE & MIRRORS

THE TRICKY PLAYS

PART 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 25 AT 7:00 P.M.

ON YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER OR DEVICE

RESERVE AT 52PROJECT.ORG AND YOU'LL RECEIVE A ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL.

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Due to COVID-19 pandemic, live performance
was cancelled in March, 2020.

Part 2 was finally presented on Zoom
in March of 2021.

SMOKE & MIRRORS: THE TRICKY PLAYS - PART II

Virtual Playmaking 2021 - March 25 - 7:00 p.m.

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

SWAP DAY

Written by Kylie Rose Rivera-Beato, age 9

Dramaturge: Ana Gonzalez-Soto. Director: Leta Renee-Alan

Crisabella..... Kendall Cafaro

Darlene..... Carolyn Holding

Validena..... Ana Gonzalez-Soto

My Sorrys lyrics by Kylie Rose Rivera-Beato

HOW ZOMBIES MAKE US FEEL?

Written by Olive Moayed, age 11

Director/Dramaturge: Ashley Marie Ortiz

Zara, a gardener..... Lynne Rosenberg

Sunny, a lifeguard..... Keshav Moodliar

Feelings lyrics by Olive Moayed

THE BATTLE BEGINS

Written by Matthew Berrios, age 9

Dramaturge: Julio Chavez, Director: Tim J. Lord

Mecenzy, a singer..... Marinda Anderson

Manny, a rapper..... Kyle Cameron

Space and *Back Up* lyrics by Matthew Berrios

DREAM ANOTHER DREAM

Written by Edgar Sinchi, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Kyle Fitzpatrick

Hana Stokes, a science student..... Cei Fernandez

Arnold Pit..... Micah Stock

A Heartbreaking Tragedy lyrics by Edgar Sinchi

THE MYSTERY SIBLINGS

Written by Khailey Peña, age 9

Director/Dramaturge: Alex O'Daly

Hayden Carson Renil, a construction worker Neil D'Astolfo

Amy Carson Renil, a Chipotle and Fro-Yo manager Adrienne C. Moore

Best Friends lyrics by Khailey Peña



**CAROL OCHS,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



**NANCY GILES,
HOST**



THE PERFORMERS:

ALLY BONINO
JESSICA CARVO
GREG HILDRETH
BELEN MOYANO
BONNIE MILLIGAN
RONALD PEET
JON-MICHAEL REESE
HEATH SAUNDERS
EMILY SKEGGS
SKYLER VOLPE
NATALIE WALKER
and more

THE COMPOSERS:

AVI A. AMON
UTSAV BHARGAVA
KAT CARTUSCIELLO
ERIKA JI
MASON MCDOWELL
SEAN PALLATRONI
BROOKE TRUMM
JULIO VAQUERO RAMOS



**NATALIE HIRSCH,
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR**



HIDDEN GEMS

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S 2021 VIRTUAL GALA

**AVI A. AMON,
MUSICAL
DIRECTOR**



THE YOUNG SONGWRITERS:

NASEEM ABDUL-MAJEED
AMARI DUBOSE
JESSICA ELIE-PIERRE
XAVIER ESPINAL
GAVIN KENT
SARAH LOPEZ
KYLIE ROSE RIVERA-BEATO
JAI-LYZZ RODRIGUEZ
AIDEN VASQUEZ



A glittering array of songs written by Project kids, set to music, and then performed by the best performers we know.

May 3-May 16

Eight music videos released once every couple of days.

Monday, May 17

A special LIVE online performance livestreamed from the **Power Station at BerkleeNYC.**

HOW DO I ATTEND?

Easy! On or after May 3, just go to
www.52projecthiddengemsgala.org

and you'll be able to watch and stream all the recorded and live performances.

All we ask is that you make a donation of any size!

THE 52ND STREET
PROJECT PRESENTS

LIVE!

LIVE!

ARTWORK BY PATRICK JONES



THE VERY FIRST SUMMER PLAYMAKING SHOWS!

PLAYS WRITTEN BY KIDS AND PERFORMED **LIVE ONSTAGE** BY ADULT ACTORS

STEP ONE:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13
AT 5:00 AND 7:30 P.M.

FOUR ALL-NEW PLAYS BY ALL-NEW KIDS

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED FROM
THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10TH AVE., BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

WALKING ON SUNSHINE: THE RADIANT PLAYS. STEP ONE!

Summer Playmaking, - Friday, August 13, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*

George Babiak, Director of Design and Production

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“WALKING ON SUNSHINE - STEP ONE” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Greg MacPherson

Costume Designer

Michael Piatkowski

Sound Designer

Alicia Moeller

Stage Manager

Margo Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak and

The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak,

Caylyn Wan-Creager

Backstage Crew

Evan Schultz,

Ana Soto,

Alex Torres

House Management

Carol Ochs,

John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Patrick Jones



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WALKING ON SUNSHINE: THE RADIANT PLAYS - STEP 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

THE FRIENDSHIP

Written by Evelyn Meyers, age 11
Dramaturge/Director: Kaaron Briscoe

Hernandez, a college student..... Grace Fojtik
Alex, another college student..... Greg Hildreth
Ms. K, the principal..... Evan Schultz

My Ruined Dreams lyrics by Evelyn Meyers

CARING

Written by Payton Jones, age 10
Dramaturges: Sophia Zukoski and Caylyn Wan-Creager, Director: Alex O'Daly

Ava, a normal person, aged 11..... Vanessa Porras
John, a person who has good vibes..... Jose Duran
Customers..... The Crew

Forgiving and Funny Crazy lyrics by Payton Jones

THE FOREST

Written by Elisa Ramos, age 11
Dramaturge: Grace Fojtik. Director: Michael Propster

Nina, a French farmer..... Arielle Goldman
Eric, an ice cream entrepreneur..... Korey Jackson
Animals..... The Crew
The trees..... Evan Schultz and Ana Soto

What Do I Do to Save You? lyrics by Elisa Ramos

THE DANCING LIONS

Written by Gloria Sanchez, age 10
Dramaturge/Director: Molly Carden

Linda Gonzee, a “dabbing” lion..... Madeline DeFreece
Leslie Gonzee, a “flossing” lion..... Alex J. Gould
Principal..... Ana Soto

Remember the Treasure lyrics by Gloria Sanchez



The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides	Noël Mihalow
Rachel Chanoff	Roseline Michael Neveling
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	Merritt Tilney
Natalie Hirsch	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Valerie Kay	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. **WALKING ON SUNSHINE** is a production of our Playmaking program. Young people participated in a playwriting course taught by Kat Almirañez or Garrett Kim 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. This performance is the end result.

This edition marks the in-person return of children to The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse and The Five Angels Theater. We normally would have taken the students to the country, but this is not possible yet. However, we are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

Special Thanks

Gratitude must be paid to the Playmaking Class volunteers who helped out: Sophia Zukoski, Molly Carden, Kaaron Briscoe, and Gracie Fojtik

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation; Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund; Carnegie Corporation of New York; The CLAWS Foundation; Consolidated Edison; Dawkins Family Foundation; Dramatists Play Service, Inc.; The Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation; The Education Foundation of America; Flexis Capital, LLC; Goldman Sachs; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; The Stephen P. Hanson Foundation; Heisman Trophy Trust; The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts Lemle Pictures, Inc.; The Lotos Foundation; Frederick Loewe Foundation; The Rona & Randolph M. Nelson Foundation; Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation; The Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Par Plumbing Co., Inc.; The Pinkerton Foundation; Sawyer | Berson Architecture & Landscape Architecture; The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund; Showtime Networks; The Shubert Foundation; The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Susquehanna Foundation; Tiger Baron Foundation; John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc.; Yorke Construction Corp.; Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

Alexandra Vassilaros	Francine Borgenicht	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer
Alphonsa Vadakethalakel	Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary Pat Walsh
Amy Herzig	Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren	Megan Cramer
Andrea Johnson	Glen Gillen	Melissa Lowry
Annie & David Hausmann	Helen & Peter Randolph	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Becky & Dylan Baker	Henry Krieger & Robert Joy	Michael & Megan Crane
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Jacki Ochs & Jan Kroeze	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Peter Ackerman
Billy Crudup	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Peter Francis James
Bob Stockel	Jeff Arnold	Randy Weisenberger
Carl Capotorto	Jené LeBlanc & Willie Reale	Richard Sweren
Carol Ochs & Bruce MacVittie	Jeremy Smith	Rita Silver
Carole and Alan Howard	Jerry McGill	Ron & Judy Tierney
Carole Yass	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Rona & Randy Nelson
Carolyn DeSena	John Rossi	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Christina Morelli	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Roseline Michael
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Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Judy & Sam Berger	Ruth Nelson
Cynthia Vance-Abrams	Judy Taub Gold	Sarah Horowitz & David Venarde
& Robert Abrams	Karen & Paul Freitas	Seth Marx
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Karin & Tom Schall	Shari Goodstein
David Williams	Katie & Kelly Clark	Sherry Cohen
Deborah Kim	Katrina vanden Heuvel	Shirley Rumierk & Armando Riesco
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Kevin Ryder	Stephen Bernstein
Don Nickel	Kim & Jordan Dickstein	Stephen Graham
Douglas Kabel	Kimberly Grigsby	Stephen Sadove
Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Laura & David Ross	Steven & Lenora Satin
Ellen Chopay	Laura Jones	Susannah Keagle
Ellen Kroll	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Ellen Oshinsky	Laurel Durst	Tracy Wan & Carl Creager
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lewis Black	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Eric Brooks	Lisa Benavides & Tim Blake Nelson	Vicki & Craig Holleman
Eric Jungwirth	Lori O'Connor	Vicki & Mark Whatley
F. Richard Pappas	Lynne Rosenberg	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of Aug. 13, 2021

THE 52ND STREET
PROJECT PRESENTS

LIVE!

LIVE!

ARTWORK BY PATRICK JONES



THE VERY FIRST SUMMER PLAYMAKING SHOWS!
PLAYS WRITTEN BY KIDS AND PERFORMED **LIVE ONSTAGE** BY ADULT ACTORS

STEP TWO:
FRIDAY, AUGUST 20
AT 5:00 AND 7:30 P.M.
THREE ALL-NEW PLAYS BY ALL-NEW KIDS

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED FROM
THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVE., BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

WALKING ON SUNSHINE: THE RADIANT PLAYS. STEP TWO!

Summer Playmaking, - Friday, August 20, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*

George Babiak, Director of Design and Production

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“WALKING ON SUNSHINE - STEP TWO” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Emily Gardner Xu Hall

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Jade Barnett-Irons

Costume Designer

Jennifer Jones

Costume Assistant

Valentina Primrose

Sound Designer

John Sheehy

Stage Manager

Margo Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak and

The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

Backstage Crew

Evan Schultz,

Ana Soto,

Alex Torres

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy,

Kristina Nungaray

Flyer/Program Art

Patrick Jones

Livestream Team

Director: George Babiak

Camera Ops: Ahmed Attia,

Kristina Nungaray, Sofia Santoni



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WALKING ON SUNSHINE: THE RADIANT PLAYS - STEP 2

All original music composed by Emily Gardner Xu Hall

PASS THE MIC

Written by Brooke Pendleton, age 9

Dramaturge: Kristina Nungaray. Director: Helen Cespedes.

Ally, works at Radio Place Sarah Quigley

Allan, her brother, wants to work at Radio Place..... Jose-Maria Aquila

Radio Place Cameraman Alex Torres

Some Random Song lyrics by Brooke Pendleton

THE INCIDENT

Written by Rebeca Vanterpool, age 10

Dramaturge: Elli Stovall Brown. Director: Kerry Warren.

Dol, a green axolotl (a kind of cute salamander)..... Marchánt Davis

E, a living burrito..... Olivia Gilliatt

The Burrito Dance Song lyrics by Rebeca Vanterpool

THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE

Written by Valerie Lugo-Rodriguez, age 9

Dramaturge: Ana Gonzalez-Soto. Director: Monica LaBadia.

Max, a 17-year old tomboy Kate Abbruzzese

Maxine, a 15-year old tomboy Angelica Toledo

Riceerd (pronounced "Richard") Ana Gonzalez-Soto

Person Evan Schultz

Everything is Gonna Be Alright lyrics by Valerie Lugo-Rodriguez



The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides	Noël Mihalow
Rachel Chanoff	Roseline Michael Neveling
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Carolyn DeSena	Margaret Odette
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Cynthia Vance-Abrams	Judy Taub Gold	Sarah Horowitz & David Venarde
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Ellen Oshinsky	Laurel Durst	Tracy Wan & Carl Creager
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lewis Black	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Eric Brooks	Lisa Benavides & Tim Blake Nelson	Vicki & Craig Holleman
Eric Jungwirth	Lori O'Connor	Vicki & Mark Whatley
F. Richard Pappas	Lynne Rosenberg	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of Aug. 13, 2021

The 52nd Street Project Presents

HEAR ME OUT!

THE 2021 SONGMAKING CONCERT

10 original songs written
by young people and
composed and performed
by adult artists.

Directed by Avi A. Amon
and Garrett David Kim

Thursday, Nov. 18
7:30 p.m.
LIVE AND ONLINE

The Five Angels Theater
789 10th Avenue

PROGRAM ART BY LAILA SUERO LOYOLA



ALEX



JAI-LYZZ



KASSANDRA



KYLEE



MORGAN

HEAR ME OUT!

THE COMPANY

The Lyricists

Kylee Chester
Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez
Kassandra Sinchi
Morgan Smalls
Alex Torres

The Composers/Musicians

Utsav Bhargava
John Brautigam
Julio Vaquero Ramos
Raiah Rofsky
Joely Zuker

Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Songmaking Director

Garrett Kim

Lights

Jade Barnett-Irons

Photography

Winston Rodney

Fall 2021 Intern

Emma Giordano

The Singers

Jen Anaya
Allie Babich
Kyle Cameron
Marchánt Davis
Angel Desai
Ronald Peet
Vanessa Porras
Adrienne C. Moore
Jon-Michael Reese
Laura Riveros-Sefair
Natalie Walker

Sound and Video

BerkleeNYC at Power Station
Madison Adams
Fernando Firmino
Patrick Greeley
Linus Kairys
Jasmine Marie
Atticus Mulkey
Jenna Rosebrough
Yujie Xia

Special Thanks

The Songmaking Program has been established in collaboration with Fred Carl and the NYU Tisch School of the Arts Music Theater Writing Program. Thanks also to BerkleeNYC at Power Station, who are providing sound and video for this performance. Loudon Stearns of BerkleeNYC also earns a passel of thanks from us.

The Songmaking Program is made possible with public funds from 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.



The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit community-based arts organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional artists to create original art. The Songmaking program partners 52nd Street Project kids with adult composers to create original songs. Over the seven weeks of Songmaking, led by Avi Amon and Program Director Garrett David Kim, these young lyricists explore how their own words and ideas fit together with their composer's music to create songs. Near the end of the program, we bring in a company of singers to perform the completed songs, and share them with an audience.

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
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Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

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Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Valerie Kay	Mark Whatley

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

1. Para Mis Niños

Lyrics by Kassandra Sinchi

Music by John Brautigam

Sung by Laura Riveros-Sefair



Para mis niños [for my children]
I never told you about my life
The life I never want you to live
The impossible dreams

I wanted to be a dancer
I watched the girls twirl
And noticed how their dresses swirled
But I knew I could never be a dancer

You see my children
Money's not something that's easy to get
My parents worked hours
But hard as they worked, they could never pay the rent
The impossible dreams

So I watched the dancers from afar
I accepted that I could never show my skills
Or touch the dancers silky skirts
It was a dream I could never fulfill

And here I stand
I'm handing you the things I could only dream about
Hoping you would all do something great
Only to see you throw this opportunity away
Que Pérdida!

Mira mis niños [look my children]
Please be grateful for every class you take
And that you live a life that I've never seen
Oh, the impossible dreams.



2. What Do We Need? Hedgehogs!

Lyrics by Kassandra Sinchi

Music by John Brautigam

Sung by Natalie Walker



Attention everyone...

It seems we are missing something from our lives

We are missing

Spiky

Bouncy

Yet cuddly guys

We are missing hedgehogsss

Hedeghogssss

We don't need food

We only need

Hedgehogss

Give our world more hedgehogs

With their beady eyes

Expressive face

Spiky fur

And stubby legs

We need more hedgehogss

These creatures

Are all so cuddly

They are bound

To make you smile

Oh hedgehogsss

Look at their faces!

Doesn't that make you smile?

Our hedgehogs are really worth the while

So give us

Hedgehogsss

Hedgehogss

They're what we truly need



3. The Big Stage

Lyrics by Morgan Smalls

Music by Joely Zuker

Sung by Kyle Cameron and Angel Desai



*Kid runs off stage sad to confide in
the Dad because the kid gets scared.*

DAD

I knew you were going to embarrass
yourself!

Kid runs away.

Verse 1:

CAT

I hope he's ok
I hope that he sees another stage

DAD

I hope that he learned his lesson
Cause singing's not for him

Pre-chorus 1:

DAD

I hate seeing my son like that
Singing is for girls

CAT

Who told you that? Things have
changed
It's not the same world

Chorus 1:

CAT

He needs support so don't put him
down
He tried, he got scared, but he made
it on the stage

DAD

You're right but I still don't support his
singing
Though I hope he's okay, I hope he
doesn't see another stage
Verse 2:

DAD

I don't want my son to think I'm cruel
I don't want him to give up on his
dream,
but he needs to stay in school

Pre-chorus 2:

CAT

I know you hate seeing your son like
that
But singing is for him

DAD

Do you think I approached it wrong?
Should I make it up to my kid?

Chorus 2:

CAT

He needs support so don't put him
down
He tried, he got scared, but he made
it on the stage

DAD

You're right, I should support what
makes him happy
I learned my lesson that singing is for
him



4. Change

Lyrics by Morgan Smalls

Music by Joely Zuker

Sung by Adrienne C. Moore



Verse 1

We need more people who love not hate
The color of my skin is what makes me great
We all should stand, hand to hand,
So people can start to understand

Pre-chorus 1

The years will change again and again
But the real problem is what we did back then

Chorus 1

It doesn't matter if you're black or white
We're all humans, so alike
It doesn't matter if you're black or white
We're all humans, we're so alike.

Pre-chorus 2

The years will change again and again
But the real problem is what we did back then

Chorus 2

It doesn't matter if you're black or white
We're all humans, so alike
It doesn't matter if you're black or white
We're all humans, we're so alike.



5. Safety Blanket

Lyrics by Kylee Chester

Music by Raiah Rofsky

Sung by Vanessa Porras



I feel your hand slip away
And you disappear into the sea
Of laughter and music and
Eyes staring at me

But I have to keep calm
Before they see just how
Much I need you with me

But how dare you leave and
Let me become small when
There's people around me that
loom so tall

(chorus)

Because you're my safety blanket
The only familiar face in a space
Where I have no place

I'm suffocating in the corner,
With my world spinning fast,
But the only thing people see is the mask hiding the truth

My eyes dart around the room, searching for something to save me
I feel my heartbeat in my ears as my thoughts run screaming

I'm falling apart and I can't see you
I'm on the verge of tears and I need you

(chorus)

Because you're my safety blanket
The only familiar face in a space
Where I have no place



6. Light

Lyrics by Kylee Chester

Music by Raiah Rofsky

Sung by Allie Babich



I watch you wake up in the morning
With a grin on your loving face
Ripping me out of my darkened place

I watch you make breakfast with a smile,
Serving it to me along with your joy
I could've slept a year longer but I haven't eaten in a while

You wrap me in a hug of earth and security
And the bright glow inside me restores
and I no longer feel broken any more

I'm walking on air and light on my feet
Gleaming with a feeling that simply can't be beat
I feel my heart growing with the warmth of your smile
If fills me with an unknown energy and I could walk a mile

I think of you and my whole mood changes
I didn't know how contagious you would be
The whole world falls away living just enough space for you and me

For so long I've been alone, drowning in my thoughts
Unable to come up for air as my mind began to rot

I just can't explain why
I'm walking on air and light on my feet
Gleaming with a feeling that simply can't be beat

My head is spinning with the thrill of it all
The last time I wasn't happy, I can't quite recall
You are my everything and my everything is you
Our love story will never end because it's just us two

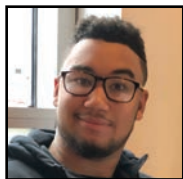


7. Kevin Hart

Lyrics by Alex Torres

Music by Utsav Bhargava

Sung by Marchánt Davis



Hello my name is Frank
And I gotta say that I have some
interesting tastes
I like music and I work everyday
It's a pretty normal life and I'm here
to stay.
I'm a studio producer
Working 9 to 5
Nothing is ever gonna break-a-my
stride

Then one day a man came bursting
through the door
Looking pretty sweaty from his head
to the floor.
Then I wondered then I pondered
what could the problem be
He screamed, He shouted saying all
this nonsense

Kevin Hart is at the front door
He wants to make a song but why did
it take him this gosh darn long
He wants to sing about his height and
how it doesn't matter
He finally came out into the light but
we all know he still needs a ladder

Bring him in I shouted
Looking at him he looked so delighted
With that big grin on his face
He told me the plans
Checking them, marking them
Figuring out what to do

Kevin Hart is crazy
Kevin Hart is funny
Deep in me wants to believe in him
But I just can't believe
This opportunity
Kevin Hart is pretty cool
Kevin Hart is a chill dude
When we got the call
I'll make sure this song won't fall

I get started and get to planning
Wondering how I could make this
great
Then it hits me
This will take the cake
Now I know what to do
BRING ME
Blue light wear jackets
Ginger ale
Small dish of fried chicken
And finally 1 rare pair of the Air Yeezy
2 Red Octobers.

Kevin hart is crazy
Kevin hart is funny
I made the best song for him
And all that he likes
There is no strifes
Finally here

Kevin Hart!



8. Jack and Tammery: The Mightiest Hammer

Lyrics by Alex Torres

Music by Utsav Bhargava

Sung by Jon-Michael Reese



There once was a lad his name was
Jack
He is hardworking and that's a fact
He's a construction Worker just like his
father and his Mother
He was working on the job until
one day a warlock came flying
Through the great Big Sky.
The Warlock dropped magic on Jack's
Hammer letting it come to life.

With the power of this mighty
Hammer he now became a brand new
Fighter. Now with this Hammer
now named Tammery Jack became
super
Crazy filled with excitement now
He can change his voice with this
power

Oooo I just want to go out and sing and
fill the world with so much glee.
Prove to others that anything is
possible.
Going up on stage will empower those
who just need a little push.
I'll be the one to raise my fist in the air
No more hiding
We'll keep on fighting and keep moving
forward
Till we can't sing any more.

Now it's time to gooooo
Get up on my feet
It's time to go and finally sing
This won't be a challenge now with this
talent

On Americas got talent
Standing on the stage sweating and
afraid
I sing my soul out trying to make
change
So people will finally know my name
With Tammery's power I'll show them
what I can do
Style and talent is my only proof

The crowd silence as a mouse
Thinking I was through
Thought I bring down the whole dang
house
Slowly and quietly I start to hear
applause
What's this, what's that
Am I being mocked?
I turn, I see the crowd is filled with glee.
I can't believe my eyes they love me
They cheered my name
Then took a bow
I was finally not that lame
With the judges final votes I was in!

There once was a lad his name was
Jack
He is hardworking and that's a fact
He got to the top with his own talent
better than all the others
He now sings with a beautiful voice with
Tammery by his side
He made his dreams come true and
has come out to light.



9. A Guide to Create Fun

Lyrics byJai-Lyzz Rodriguez

Music by Julio Vaquero Ramos

Sung by Jen Anaya



We have so many ordinary objects.
There are so boring, bland, plain.
We need more unique and new things.
Most of the things are lame.
We need...

Aliens, yeah I mean aliens
Not the good nor bad ones
We all could be friends

And instead having people at work as
your friends.
We could have aliens to be our new
friends.
We could meet new people

The aliens could take us on a trip to
their planet
This could be a fun trip for us

Then we need frogs, not just ordinary
frogs
Frogs that can dance, can sing, and
can talk
This could be a fun nap for us
These frogs could pop in your dreams
And pop up in real life.

The frogs could bring comfort to
Everyone who is stressing about
School or work.

We need rocket ships! Not like the
really big ones just rocket ships
that can fit in a parking garage.
We could ride them for everyone,
These rocket ships could be a getaway
from adults' work
The adults get to have fun,
maybe even the first fun they have had
in a while.

So the reason we need these things is
to have fun
Be ourself
Have no more stress
Have fun, or even more than before
there is many things
There is many things
Many things we need and could have
Instead of the things we have right now
We don't have many of these things
but if you just think we could imagine
anything with your imagination
If we put our mind to it.



10. You Don't Have to Be Scared

Lyrics by Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez

Music by Julio Vaquero Ramos

Sung by Ronald Peet



A

It's ok brother
It doesn't matter if we're small or big
They might be bigger
But we are wiser and we're gonna stay
We're special in our own way
You don't have to be scared

A

Think about it brother
We saw the world change with our own
eyes
We saw the things in the world
We saw people grow up and live their
lives.
We have cool things like a magical
garden
Leaves on us, no other building has that
There are a lot of buildings out there.
You don't have to be scared

B

When I was little I wanted to be just like
everyone else.
I was amazed of how shiny their
windows were.
I wanted to be big and tall, the building
looked so mighty, up so high.
But then I noticed something , I was
special inside,
I didn't want to be like the others, like
no one.
I just wanted to be my own self
I have wisdom, I have beauty

A

You don't have to be scared
You don't have to be scared
You don't have to be scared
You don't have to be scared
You don't have to be scared
You don't have to be scared
Just love yourself



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation; Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund; Carnegie Corporation of New York; The CLAWS Foundation; Consolidated Edison; Dawkins Family Foundation; Dramatists Play Service, Inc.; The Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation; The Education Foundation of America; Flexis Capital, LLC; Goldman Sachs; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; The Stephen P. Hanson Foundation; Heisman Trophy Trust; The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts Lemle Pictures, Inc.; The Lotos Foundation; Frederick Loewe Foundation; The Rona & Randolph M. Nelson Foundation; Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation; The Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Par Plumbing Co., Inc.; The Pinkerton Foundation; Sawyer | Berson Architecture & Landscape Architecture; The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund; Showtime Networks; The Shubert Foundation; The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Susquehanna Foundation; Tiger Baron Foundation; John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc.; Yorke Construction Corp.; Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

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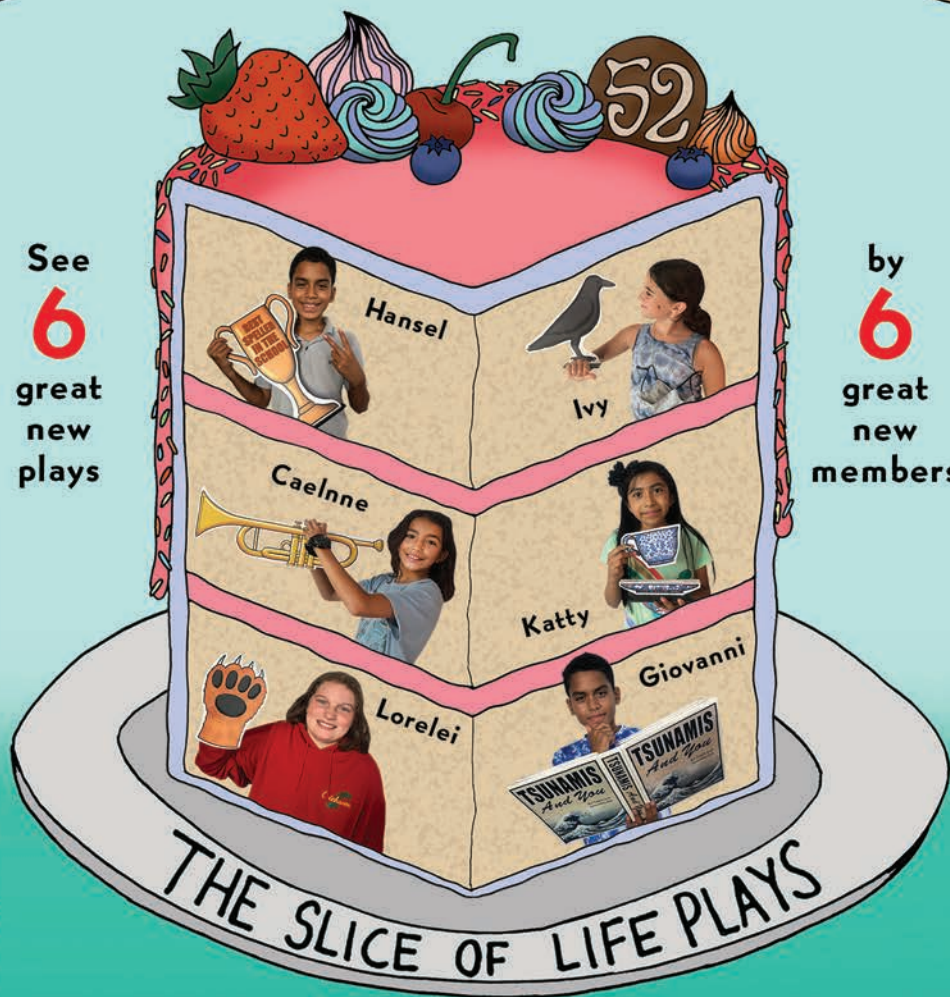
List current as of Aug. 13, 2021

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

PIECE OF CAKE

See
6
great
new
plays

by
6
great
new
members



ARTWORK BY CAYLYN WAN-CREAGER. LAYOUT BY GEORGE BABIAK

THE FALL 2021 PLAYMAKING SHOWS

Friday, Dec. 10th at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11th at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

LIVE AND ONLINE

PIECE OF CAKE: THE SLICE OF LIFE PLAYS

Fall 2021 Playmaking - December 10 & 11, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
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Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
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Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“PIECE OF CAKE” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Greg MacPherson

Costume Designer

Lara De Bruijn

Sound Designer

Evan Schultz

Stage Manager

Jenny Peek

Projection Designs

George Babiak and
The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

Backstage Crew

Xavier Espinal, Emma Giordano,
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Tina Hughes

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy,
Kristina Nungaray

Flyer/Program Art & Photography

Caylyn Wan-Creager
George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz
Camera Ops: Enrique Caballero,
Emmanuel Goicuria

Intern

Emma Giordano



The Playmaking Program is made possible with public funds from 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.

PIECE OF CAKE: THE SLICE OF LIFE PLAYS

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

FURNITURE AND TREES

Written by Katty Lopez, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Lisa Benavides-Nelson

Lindy, an office chair.....Krystel Lucas

Adam, a tree.....Christian DeMarais

The Boss, a lamp..... John Sheehy

There For Me lyrics by Katty Lopez

SUN AND MOON

Written by Hansel Benedicto, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Nolan Doran

Sunset, daughter of the Sun and the Moon.....Ashley Marie Ortiz

Blok O. Cheese, a block of cheese Sullivan Jones

The Sun Xavier Espinal

Cloud Princess Ana Gonzalez-Soto

What I Do lyrics by Hansel Benedicto

UNTITLED

Written by Caelnne Arango-Ramirez, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Therese Barbato

Oliver Nick Mills

Carol Annie Henk

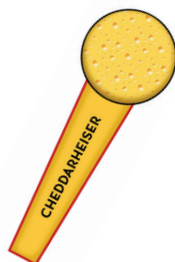
Oliver's Mom Tina Hughes

Brandy, a bully Emma Giordano

Kim, another bully Ana Gonzalez-Soto

Teacher..... Tina Hughes

No One To Someone and *Beautiful* lyrics by Caelnne Arango-Ramirez



OF FLIGHTS AND FIGHTS

Written by Lorelei de Campi, age 10
Dramaturge/Director: Marielle Young

Fenyx, an owl barista.....Betsy Hogg
Zephyr, a fisherman..... Keshav Moodliar
Squirrel George Babiak
Evil MonstersEmma Giordano, Tina Hughes
Nice Monsters.....Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Xavier Espinal
Skullmancer..... John Sheehy
Skullton..... Emma Giordano

A Recollection lyrics by Lorelei de Campi

RANDOM FRIENDS

Written by Giovanni Benedicto, age 10
Dramaturge/Director: Sean Kenealy

Blum, a ten-year old girl..... Stephanie Jean Lane
Teleovor, an old-fashioned TV set Mitchell Winter

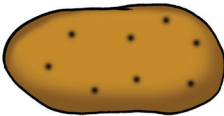
Forgive lyrics by Giovanni Benedicto

WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM

Written by Ivy Moayed, age 10
Dramaturge/Director: Lynne Rosenberg

Stella Shorehouse, a dolphin.....Daiva Deupree
Leo Pesto Neil D’Astolfo
Taxi Driver.....Xavier Espinal
Stella’s Mom, also a dolphin.....Tina Hughes

But Then I Met You lyrics by Ivy Moayed



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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. **PIECE OF CAKE** 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. This performance is the end result.

This edition continues our in-person return of children to The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse and The Five Angels Theater. We normally would have taken the students to the country, but this is not possible yet. However, we are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

Special Thanks

Gratitude must be paid in full to Tina Hughes for assisting with the Playmaking Class.

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Carolyn DeSena	John Rossi	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Christina Morelli	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Roseline Michael
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Josie Merck	& Dennis Neveling
Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Judy & Sam Berger	Ruth Nelson
Cynthia Vance-Abrams	Judy Taub Gold	Sarah Horowitz & David Venarde
& Robert Abrams	Karen & Paul Freitas	Seth Marx
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Karin & Tom Schall	Shari Goodstein
David Williams	Katie & Kelly Clark	Sherry Cohen
Deborah Kim	Katrina vanden Heuvel	Shirley Rumierk & Armando Riesco
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Kevin Ryder	Stephen Bernstein
Don Nickel	Kim & Jordan Dickstein	Stephen Graham
Douglas Kabel	Kimberly Grigsby	Stephen Sadove
Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Laura & David Ross	Steven & Lenora Satin
Ellen Chopay	Laura Jones	Susannah Keagle
Ellen Kroll	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Ellen Oshinsky	Laurel Durst	Tracy Wan & Carl Creager
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lewis Black	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Eric Brooks	Lisa Benavides & Tim Blake Nelson	Vicki & Craig Holleman
Eric Jungwirth	Lori O'Connor	Vicki & Mark Whatley
F. Richard Pappas	Lynne Rosenberg	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of Aug. 13, 2021



SHOW PROGRAMS

2022

(Pandemic Year 3)

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

FLYING

**Original Spoken
Word Pieces**

**Written and Performed
by Project Members**

SOLO



Friday, February 11, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.

**Live at the Five Angels Theater and on
The 52nd Street Project's YouTube Channel**

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Christian Corpening, Intern
Layla Diaz, Intern
**Project Alumni*

“FLYING SOLO” Production Staff

Lighting and Sound Designer

Bri Weintraub

Backstage Crew

Christian Corpening, Layla Diaz

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy,
Kristina Nungaray

Flyer/Program Art

Wilhelmina Ohene Kari-kari

Livestream Team

Director: George Babiak
Camera Operator: Christian Corpening



FLYING SOLO 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.

KIARA'S POTENTIAL

Written and Performed by Melanie Correa

Directed by Michael Propster



WHY ARE WE FRIENDS?

Written and Performed by Kailey Caton

Directed by Kendall Cafaro



AL AND THE LIBRARY

Written and Performed by Amari DuBose

Directed by José Gamo



CHARLIE'S NEW WORLD

Written and Performed by Hannah Leon

Directed by Adaire Kamen



I AM...

Written and Performed by Xavier Espinal

Directed by Ronald Peet

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides	Noël Mihalow
Rachel Chanoff	Roseline Michael Neveling
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	Merritt Tilney
Natalie Hirsch	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Valerie Kay	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. **FLYING SOLO** is part of our New Platforms series of programs that add additional creative outlets to our members.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

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Becky & Dylan Baker	Henry Krieger & Robert Joy	Michael & Megan Crane
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Jacki Ochs & Jan Kroeze	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Peter Ackerman
Billy Crudup	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Peter Francis James
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Eric Jungwirth	Lori O'Connor	Vicki & Mark Whatley
F. Richard Pappas	Lynne Rosenberg	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
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List current as of Aug. 13, 2021

The 52nd Street Project Presents

The 2022
2-on-2
Remix Plays

In The Same Boat!

The Buoyant Plays

Adults and
young people
performing
together!

One Night Only!
Friday, Feb. 25
7:30 p.m.

Live on our stage
and on YouTube!

ARTWORK BY PATRICK JONES

IN THE SAME BOAT: THE BUOYANT PLAYS

The Two-on-Two Remix Plays - February 25, 2022, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Receptionist
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Christian Corpening and Layla Diaz, Interns

**Project Alumni*

“IN THE SAME BOAT” Production Staff

Stage Manager

Kate Gulden

Lighting and Sound Designer

Bri Weintraub and the Project Sound Archive

Projection Designs

George Babiak and The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy, Kristina Nungaray

Flyer/Program Art

Patrick Jones

Livestream Team

Director: George Babiak

Camera Ops: Christian Corpening, George Kielty



The Project's programs are made possible with public funds from 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.

IN THE SAME BOAT Theme Song

Lyrics by John Sheehy, Music by Avi A. Amon

THE SHOWDOWN

Written by Sung Rho

Directed by Kyle Cameron

The Kalifornia Kid Aiden Vasquez

Lucky Seven Kyle Cameron

First produced 2014 in *By Degrees: 6 Plays of Separation*

FORMER WIVES OF REGGIE

Written by Max Posner

Directed by Alex J. Gould

Holley Hannah Santos

Debbie Alex J. Gould

First produced 2014 in *By Degrees: 6 Plays of Separation*

BUNKER BROTHERS

Written by Jesse Liebman

Directed by Tina Hughes

Simon Logan Goicuria

Tomas Tina Hughes

First produced 2017 in *Shine a Light: The Hopeful Plays*

FROZEN FISH

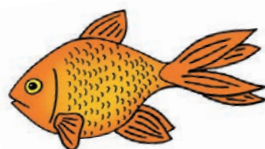
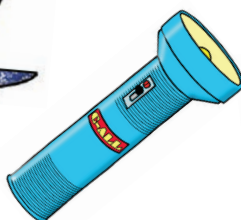
Written by Sarah Hammond

Directed by Carina Goebelbecker

Jessie Hanna Brea

Marella Carina Goebelbecker

First produced 2016 in *The Nick of Time: The Punctual Plays*



PET PEEVE

Written by Sean Kenealy
Directed by Jon-Michael Reese

Jess John Muca
Doctor Jon-Michael Reese
First produced 2013 in *Nobody’s Perfect: Plays with Tragic Flaws*

WHAT WE DO, WE DO FOR TRUE

Written by Beto O’Byrne
Directed by Korey Jackson

WadeNaseem Abdul-Majeed
James Korey Jackson
First produced 2016 in *The Nick of Time: The Punctual Plays*

FLOWER CHILDREN

Written by Melisa Tien
Directed by Emily Gardner Xu Hall

RlnaKylie Rose Rivera-Beato
Lamb..... Emily Gardner Xu Hall
Original music by Emily Gardner Xu Hall
First produced 2016 in *The Nick of Time: The Punctual Plays*



The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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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. **IN THE SAME BOAT** employs a new format for our members tailored to their week off from school this month. We took past scripts from our Two-on-Two program, condensed them, and matched our young people up with adult volunteers. The teams began rehearsing these shows on Monday and are presenting them to you today (Friday).

This program continues the in-person return of children to **The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse** and **The Five Angels Theater**. We normally would have taken the students to the country to rehearse these shows, but this is not possible yet. However, we are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

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Don Nickel	Kim & Jordan Dickstein	Stephen Graham
Douglas Kabel	Kimberly Grigsby	Stephen Sadove
Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Laura & David Ross	Steven & Lenora Satin
Ellen Chopay	Laura Jones	Susannah Keagle
Ellen Kroll	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Ellen Oshinsky	Laurel Durst	Tracy Wan & Carl Creager
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Eric Jungwirth	Lori O'Connor	Vicki & Mark Whatley
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Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Yared Yawand Wossen

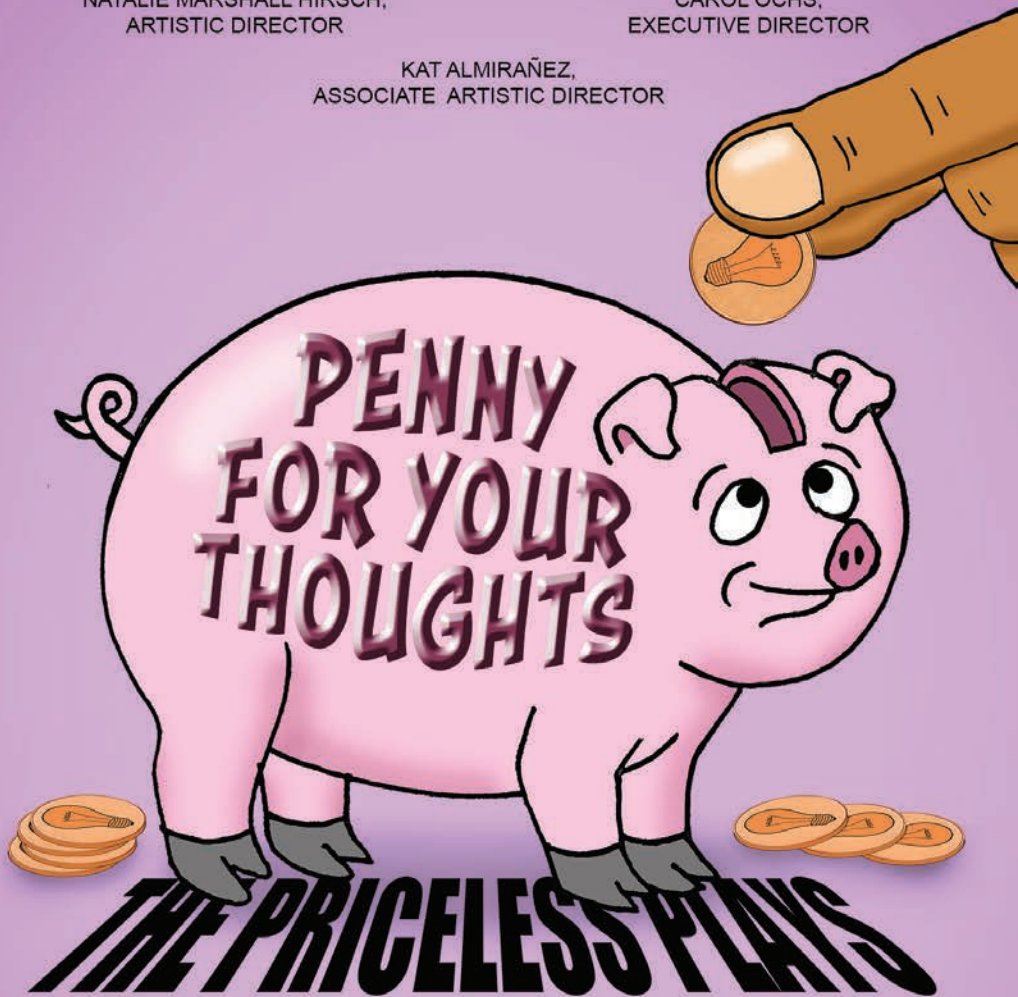
List current as of Aug. 13, 2021

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

NATALIE MARSHALL HIRSCH,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRANÉZ,
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



THE PRICELESS PLAYS

THE SPRING 2022 PLAYMAKING SHOW

LIVE AT THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER AT 789 10TH AVE
AND LIVE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
FRIDAY, APRIL 1 - 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, APRIL 2 - 3:00 & 7:30 P.M.

PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS: THE PRICELESS PLAYS

Spring 2022 Playmaking - April 1 & 2, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Receptionist
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“PENNY” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Erica Ji

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designers

Jade Barnett-Irons

Aaron Conover

Costume Designer

Taylor Barnett

Sound Designer

Evan Schultz

Stage Manager

Jenni Swan

Projection Designs

George Babiak and

The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

Backstage Crew

Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Leo Layla Diaz,

Jayleen Velez, George Babiak

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz

Camera Ops: Christian Corpening,

Tina Hughes

Interns

Christian Corpening, Leo Layla Diaz



The Playmaking Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. 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 \$2.50

and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and 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 \$12.00/\$20.00

Project Mugs \$5.00

Project Notebook \$5.00

Project Pencil 3-pack \$1.00

Thank you for coming to **PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS!** 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:

12/19

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:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Help load in and out for shows | ☐ Draw and/or paint | ☐ Help kids with homework |
| ☐ Hang lights | ☐ Help with mailings | ☐ Teach kids a skill |
| ☐ Work on a backstage crew | ☐ Do office work | ☐ Be a chef at an event |
| ☐ Do graphic design | ☐ Design sound | ☐ Design and sew costumes |
| ☐ 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 BOARD OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT, ALONG WITH THE STERLING FOUNDATION
AND EVENT HOSTS BILLY CRUDUP AND FRANCES McDORMAND,
INVITE YOU TO MOISTURIZE, HYDRATE, AND **SAVE THE DATE** FOR:

52 IS THE NEW 40

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 - 7:00 P.M. AT
CAPITALE
BOWERY AND GRAND STREET
COCKTAILS, DINNER, AND AN ARRAY OF NEW SONGS WITH LYRICS
BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES BY ADULTS.
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JOHN "FOUR-OH" SHEEHY AT SHEEHY@52PROJECT.ORG

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!

A monthly online event created by Garrett Kim, John Sheehy, and your favorite kid/adult team-ups. Go to the podcast section of the iTunes Store and search for "The 52nd Street Project" or "PROJcast."



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 Summer and Fall of 2022. Thanks!

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

Noël Mihalow
Roseline Michael Neveling
Carol Ochs
Margaret Odette
Willie Reale, founder
Shirley Rumierk, alumni member
José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Merritt Tilney
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. **PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS** 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. This performance is the end result.

This edition continues our in-person return of children to The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse and The Five Angels Theater. We normally would have taken the students to the country, but this is not possible yet. However, we are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS: ACT 1

All original music composed by Erica Ji

MACK AND MACHINE

Written by Anthony Zappa, age 11
Dramaturge/Director: Mat Hostetler

Mack, a Macbook laptop..... Shirley Rumierk
B.O.B., an old arcade video game..... Carson Elrod
Arcade operator..... Ana Gonzalez-Soto
Customer..... Jayleen Velez

Let's Be Friends Again lyrics by Anthony Zappa

LAMAR'S SHOCKING ADVENTURE

Written by Logan Centeno, age 9
Dramaturge/Director: Sathya Sridharan

Lamar James..... Reggie White
Jessie James..... Stephanie Linas
Cloud Princess..... Ana Gonzalez-Soto

Just Like Me and I'm Pretty Nervous lyrics by Logan Centeno

AN UNLIKELY PERFORMANCE

Written by Oliver Tanner, age 9
Dramaturge/Director: Gaven Trinidad

Hairy Bobby, a mountain goat with a chameleon tail..... Jimmy Kenna
Mozzerella, an acrobatic monkey..... Helen Cespedes
Terrible Ravenous Atrocious Beast (T.R.A.B.)..... Leo Layla Diaz
Announcer..... Ana Gonzalez-Soto

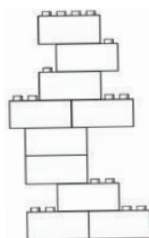
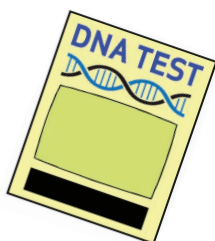
The T.R.A.B. lyrics by Oliver Tanner

DAISEY AND TONY

Written by Annabelle Yam, age 10
Dramaturge/Director: Jen Anaya

Daisey, a girl snow leopard..... Arielle Goldman
Tony, a boy seal..... Molly Carden

Do You Want to Come With Me? lyrics by Annabelle Yam



PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS: ACT 2

HARD TO LIVE TO EASY TO LIVE

Written by Christiana Rose Keorajavongsay, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Anne Troup

Jacob Ali Sohaili
Mark, Jacob's son Mallory Portnoy
Monkeys The Crew
Realtor Ana Gonzalez-Soto

Heartbroken lyrics by Christiana Rose Keorajavongsay

FRIENDSHIP STRUGGLE

Written by Ramsis Ramirez, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Austin Regan

Thuraya Grace Rex
Dushaun José Maria Aquila
Customer George Babiak
Bullies The Crew

Friends For Ever lyrics by Ramsis Ramirez

THE HOLE

Written by Isabella Taveras, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Annabelle Cousins

Learl, a shark Ceci Fernandez
LABS, Learl's Dad, a crab Marchánt Davis
Mermaids The Crew

Don't Give Up lyrics by Isabella Taveras

THE TURTLE AND THE TORTOISE

Written by Alyssa Garcia, age 11

Dramaturge/Director: Arielle Goldman

Lisa, a turtle, last of her kind Sasha Diamond
Leah, a tortoise, last of her kind Ben Mehl
Clownfish Leo Layla Diaz
Other fish The crew

Missing My Best Friend lyrics by Alyssa Garcia



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation; Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund; Carnegie Corporation of New York; The CLAWS Foundation; Consolidated Edison; Dawkins Family Foundation; Dramatists Play Service, Inc.; The Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation; The Education Foundation of America; Flexis Capital, LLC; Goldman Sachs; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; The Stephen P. Hanson Foundation; Heisman Trophy Trust; The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts Lemle Pictures, Inc.; The Lotos Foundation; Frederick Loewe Foundation; The Rona & Randolph M. Nelson Foundation; Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation; The Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Par Plumbing Co., Inc.; The Pinkerton Foundation; Sawyer | Berson Architecture & Landscape Architecture; The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund; Showtime Networks; The Shubert Foundation; Susquehanna Foundation; Tiger Baron Foundation; John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc.; Yorke Construction Corp.; Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

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Amy Herzig	Henry Krieger & Robert Joy	Melissa & Lee Briggs
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Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Laura Jones	Stephen Graham
Don Nickel	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig	Stephen Sadove
Douglas Kabel	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Steven & Lenora Satin
Drew McCoy & Amy Aquino	Laurel Durst	Sunil Arora
Eddie Falco	Laurie Becker	Susan Isaacson
Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Lewis Black	Susannah Gray & John Lyons
Ellen Chopay	Lisa Benavides	Susannah Keagle
Ellen Kroll	& Tim Blake Nelson	Suzen Murakoshi
Ellen Oshinsky	Lori O'Connor	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lori Tan Chinn	Tina Galley
Eric Brooks	Lynne Rosenberg	Todd Herman
Eric Jungwirth	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Tracy Wan & Carl Creager
F. Richard Pappas	Marion Koltun	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Mary & Lionel Allan	Vicki & Craig Holleman
Francine Borgenicht	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary Lin & James Yoshimura	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
	Mary Lou Teel	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of April 1, 2022

Knuckle Sandwich!

ARTWORK BY ANTONELLA SUERO LOYOLA



**THE 2022
STAGE COMBAT PLAYS**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17
7:30 P.M.**

**THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVE.**

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Receptionist
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Christian Corpening and Layla Diaz, Interns

**Project Alumni*

“Knuckle Sandwich” Production Staff

Stage Manager

Jenni Swan

Lighting and Sound Designer

Bri Weintraub

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Leo Layla Diaz

House Management

John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Antonella Suero Loyola

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz

Camera Ops: Ahmed Attia and Leo Layla Diaz



The Project's programs are made possible with public funds from 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.

KNUCKLE SANDWICH

THE 2022 LORRAINE COHEN STAGE COMBAT SHOW

Stage Combat Instructor
Kerry Warren

Program Instructor
Garrett Kim

HANGRY

Group fight choreography by Kerry Warren.
Performed by the Stage Combat 2022 Company

2013 REMATCH

Fight choreography by Lanai Blake-Soden, with Aishling Pembroke
Esparanza La Blaire, pro kickboxer and "bodyguard" (ninja) Lanai Blake-Soden
Emedaiya L'acaire, mercenary Aishling Pembroke

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE BATHROOM, STAYS IN THE BATHROOM

Fight choreography by Denisse Xolocotzi, with Betsy Hogg
Jess, 15, chill but will throw hands Denisse Xolocotzi
Stephiney, 17, a bully Betsy Hogg

BATTLE OF GODS

Fight choreography by Peter Muca, with Zach Fike Hodges
Sam Jackson, professional boxer Peter Muca
Andrew, King of Spartans Zach Fike Hodges

ANGER

Fight choreography by Maria Alcides, with Andrea Abello
Lani, 15, high school student Maria Alcides
Anger, one of Lani's emotions Andrea Abello

NINJA WARRIORS

Fight choreography by Aiden Vasquez, with Conor Proft
Shinzo Kyojiro, a pacifist Ninja Aiden Vasquez
Daikatsu, an Oni Conor Proft

CRUMBS VS. RACHEL

Fight choreography by Kaytie Gil, with Evan Schultz
Crumbs, 14, a high school student Kaytie Gil
Rachel, 17, a high school student Evan Schultz

THE CURE FOR ANGER

Fight choreography by Daniel Henk, with Jason Alexander Wilks
William, a yoga student Daniel Henk
Chad, a yoga teacher Jason Alexander Wilks
Yoga students Aengus O'Donnell, Garrett Kim

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

Noël Mihalow
Roseline Michael Neveling
Carol Ochs
Margaret Odette
Willie Reale, founder
Shirley Rumierk, alumni member
José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Merritt Tilney
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. **KNUCKLE SANDWICH** 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.

This program continues the in-person return of children to **The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse** and **The Five Angels Theater**. We are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

The 52nd Street Project Presents

ARE WE THERE
YET?

THE QUESTION PLAYS N.Y.C.

THE JULY 2022 ONE-ON-ONES



**6 NEW PLAYS FEATURING PROJECT KIDS
PERFORMING WITH ADULT PARTNERS!**

FRIDAY, JULY 22 AT 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, JULY 23 AT 3:00 AND 7:30 P.M

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10TH AVE., BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

ARE WE THERE YET? THE LOCATION PLAYS

The July 2022 One-on-Ones - July 22 & 23, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Director*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager
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Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“ARE WE THERE YET?” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Greg MacPherson

Costume Designer

Michael Piatkowski

Sound Designer

Alicia Moeller

Stage Manager

Margaret Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak, Caylyn Wan-Creager
and The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and
Caylyn Wan-Creager

Backstage Crew

Evan Schultz, Leo Layla Diaz,
Xavier Espinal

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Patrick Jones

Color and Layout

George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz

Camera Ops:

Sarah Lopez, Kassandra Sinchi

Intern

Leo Layla Diaz



The One-on-One Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. 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 \$2.50

and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and 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 \$12.00/\$20.00

Project Mugs \$5.00

Project Notebook \$5.00

Project Pencil 3-pack \$1.00

Thank you for coming to **ARE WE THERE YET?** 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:

07/22

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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?

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director The 52nd Street Project Presents Carol Ochs, Executive Director

ARE WE THERE YET?

THE LOCATION PLAYS

N.Y.C.

ARTWORK BY PATRICK JONES. COLOR AND LAYOUT BY GIBB

THE AUGUST 2022 ONE-ON-ONES

8 NEW PLAYS
FEATURING
PROJECT KIDS
PERFORMING
WITH ADULT
PARTNERS!

PART 2

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 AT 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 AT 3:00 AND 7:30 P.M.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVE., BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

ADMISSION FREE, BUT SEATING IS LIMITED.
VISIT [52PROJECT.ORG](https://52project.org) TO MAKE A RESERVATION
OR GET THE LINKS FOR THE
LIVESTREAM ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

THE WAY IT WORKS:
Each of the 8 plays is custom-written for a team of one adult and one young Project member. Before writing the plays, each adult playwright must pick, from a hat, one of the Project's classic background projections and, in the writing, incorporate that scenic location at some point in the play.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!

A monthly online event created by Garrett Kim, John Sheehy, and your favorite kid/adult team-ups. Go to the podcast section of the iTunes Store and search for "The 52nd Street Project" or "PROJcast."



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 2022 and the Spring of 2023. Thanks!

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
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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. **ARE WE THERE YET?** is a production of our One-on-One program, which is designed to give children the opportunity to enjoy the undivided attention of a professional theater artist who serves as friend, mentor, and collaborator.

This edition continues our in-person return of children to The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse and The Five Angels Theater. We normally would have taken the students to the country, but this is not possible yet. However, we are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

ARE WE THERE YET?

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

PA-PA PARAZZI

Written by Nina Braddock
for Kylie Rose Beato-Rivera and Gracie Fojtik

Picked projection: A trendy bar



Queen K, a famous actor.....Kylie Rose Beato-Rivera
Ella, a paparazza.....Gracie Fojtik

Mad Dash lyrics by Nina Braddock

THE HAMMER

Written by Ana Soto
for Jessica Elie-Pierre and Ana Soto

Picked projection: A private library in a mansion



Ashley Lorraine..... Jessica Elie-Pierre
Alice Elizabeth Ana Soto
Ferdinand the Butler John Sheehy
Passersby..... The Crew

Me Gusta Ayudar lyrics by Ana Soto

THE HARROWING HISTORY HITCH

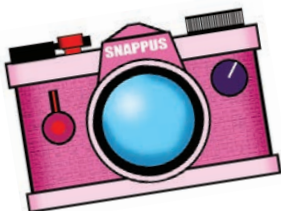
Written by Tim J. Lord
for Xavier Valentin and Michael DeSouza

Picked projection: A beach with cabanas



Perseus Peregrine..... Xavier Valentin
Anibal Andrada Michael DeSouza

A History Mystery lyrics by Tim J. Lord



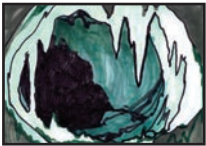
BELIEVE

Written by Caylyn Wan-Creager
for Evelyn Myers and Jasminn Johnson

Picked projection: A cave interior

Dora, a young painter Evelyn Myers
Linda, a zebra elephant Jasminn Johnson
Tiger Panda Leo Layla Diaz
The Lizard of Ev John Sheehy

Breathe, Believe lyrics by Caylyn Wan-Creager



DARTS AND COASTERS

Written by Michael Propster
for Edgar Sinchi and Michael Propster

Picked Projection: A roller coaster

Arch Edgar Sinchi
Tag Michael Propster
Customers Evan Schultz and Xavier Espinal
Ghosts The Crew

Ups, Downs, All Arounds lyrics by Michael Propster



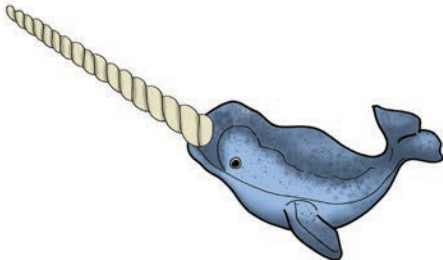
CHOICES

Written by Jed Clarke
for Aiden Vasquez and Christian DeMarais

Picked projection: A post office

Young Spice Aiden Vasquez
Stamps Christian DeMarais
Corporate Steel Xavier Espinal

Battle to Battle lyrics by Jed Clarke



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	Mary Lou Teel	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of April 1, 2022

The 52nd Street Project Presents

ARE WE THERE
YET?

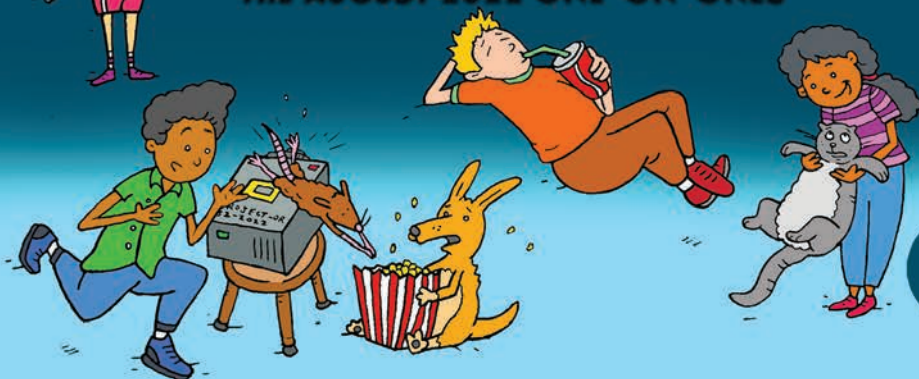
THE

LOCATION

PLAYS

N.Y.C.

THE AUGUST 2022 ONE-ON-ONES



PART
2

**9 NEW PLAYS FEATURING PROJECT KIDS
PERFORMING WITH ADULT PARTNERS!**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 AT 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 AT 3:00 AND 7:30 P.M

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10TH AVE., BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

ARE WE THERE YET? THE LOCATION PLAYS, PART 2

The August 2022 One-on-Ones - August 19 and 20, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Director*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
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Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“ARE WE THERE YET? PART 2”

Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Raiah Rofsky

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Katie Bartz

Costume Designers

Taylor Barnett for all plays
except *Wild Wild West BFF*,
which was by Michael Piatkowski.

Sound Designer

Evan Schultz

Stage Manager

Betsy Hogg

Projection Designs

George Babiak, Caylyn Wan-Creager
and The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak, Bri Weintraub, and
Caylyn Wan-Creager

Backstage Crew

Daniel Henk, Kassandra Sinchi,
Ally Thomas

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Patrick Jones

Color and Layout

George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz

Camera Ops:

Ella Lieberman, Gianna Sheppard



The One-on-One Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. 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 \$2.50

and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and 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 \$12.00/\$20.00

Project Mugs \$5.00

Project Notebook \$5.00

Project Pencil 3-pack \$1.00

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YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BE OF HELP. I CAN:

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| ☐ Hang lights | ☐ Help with mailings | ☐ Teach kids a skill |
| ☐ Work on a backstage crew | ☐ Do office work | ☐ Be a chef at an event |
| ☐ Do graphic design | ☐ Design sound | ☐ Design and sew costumes |
| ☐ 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.

ARE WE THERE YET? THE LOCATION PLAYS - ACT 1

All original music composed by Raiah Rofsky, except where noted.

Are We There Yet? Theme Song lyrics by John Sheehy

GIMME SOME SPACE

Written and Directed by George Babiak for Hannah Santos (age 12)

Picked Projection: An office at NASA Headquarters

General DiSorda/Spork Hannah Santos

Tuck Meager..... George Babiak

Voice of Mission Control John Sheehy

Zoombangan Song of Friendship lyrics by George Babiak

CURE FOR HEADACHE

Written by Max Posner for Jojo Perez (age 12) and Emma Ramos.

Directed by Emma Ramos. *Picked Projection: A mansion on a cliff*

Peter-Michael Jojo Perez

Victoria..... Emma Ramos

Dr. Hughes..... John Sheehy

Hey, Sometimes lyrics by Max Posner

THE MOST AMAZINGEST SHOW ON EARTH

Written by Helen Cespedes for Giovanni Benedicto (age 11) and Alex J. Gould.

Directed by Alex J. Gould. *Picked Projection: A Circus Big Top*

P. T. Penguin, a penguin ringmaster Giovanni Benedicto

Maurice the Mighty, a kangaroo strongman Alex J. Gould

Kitty Kyoot, a cat..... Cassandra Sinchi

Thaddeus Barnacle, a Sea Lion Ally Thomas

Big Top Fever lyrics by Helen Cespedes

HAPPIER THAN EVER

By Molly Carden for Arianna Casiano (age 12) and Aishling Pembroke.

Directed by Aishling Pembroke. *Picked Projection: A village in Tibet*

Aila..... Arianna Casiano

Winnie Aishling Pembroke

Find Your Own Way lyrics by Molly Carden

THE CURSE OF HOO-RA-RA

Written by Garrett David Kim for Alyssa Garcia (age 11) and Jasminn Johnson.

Directed by Olivia AbiAssi. *Picked Projection: A school auditorium*

Holly Howlback, a werewolf..... Alyssa Garcia

Iris Lookalot, a cyclops Jasminn Johnson

Aboogail, a poltergeist..... Cassandra Sinchi

Zombelia, a zombie Ally Thomas

Horace, a demon Daniel Henk

The Countercurse Dance lyrics by Garrett David Kim

ARE WE THERE YET? THE LOCATION PLAYS - ACT 2

BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE

Written by Cynthia Kaplan for Khailey Peña (age 11) and Marinda Anderson.
Directed by Marinda Anderson. *Picked Projection: A hardware store.*

Pam, a caterpillar and later, a butterflyKhailey Peña
Nancy, also a caterpillar and butterfly.....Marinda Anderson
HaroldJohn Sheehy

Harold, Get Me Out of Here lyrics by Cynthia Kaplan

THE CHEESE TYCOON

Written by Sean Kenealy for Hansel Benedicto (age 11) and Mat Hostetler.
Directed by Mat Hostetler. *Picked Projection: A rundown old shack*

Jerry, a cheese tycoon..... Hansel Benedicto
Maurice, an old man Mat Hostetler

Cheese Capital of the World lyrics by Sean Kenealy

COQUITO LIBRE

Written and Directed by José Duran for Ethan Cruz (age 13).
Picked Projection: A messy living room

Coquito, a would-be wrestlerEthan Cruz
Don Pepe, a has-been trainer Jose Duran
Gym Bros..... Daniel Henk and Cassandra Sinchi
Mama Goya Emma Ramos
El Chupacabra.....John Sheehy

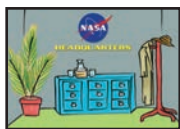
Heart of a Champion lyrics by José Duran

WILD WILD WEST BFF

Written and directed by Arielle Goldman for Faith Mitchell (age 12).
Picked Projection: A main street in the Old West

Cora.....Faith Mitchell
Dora..... Arielle Goldman
George the Boss..... George Babiak
John.....John Sheehy
Business WomanMarinda Anderson
Police officer.....Kassandra Sinchi

It Starts with a Rumble lyrics by Arielle Goldman, music by Avi A. Amon.
Costumes by Michael Piatkowski.



The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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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. **ARE WE THERE YET? - PART 2** is a production of our One-on-One program, which is designed to give children the opportunity to enjoy the undivided attention of a professional theater artist who serves as friend, mentor, and collaborator.

This edition continues our in-person return of children to The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse and The Five Angels Theater. We normally would have taken the students to the country, but this is not possible yet. However, we are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

THE 2022 PLAYBACK PLAYS

The reverse of the One-on-Ones!
Project members write plays for themselves
and an adult partner to perform together.

October 14th and 15th right here at

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!

A monthly online event created by
Garrett Kim, John Sheehy, and your
favorite kid/adult team-ups. Go to the
podcast section of the iTunes Store and
search for "The 52nd Street Project"
or "PROJcast."



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INTERNS!



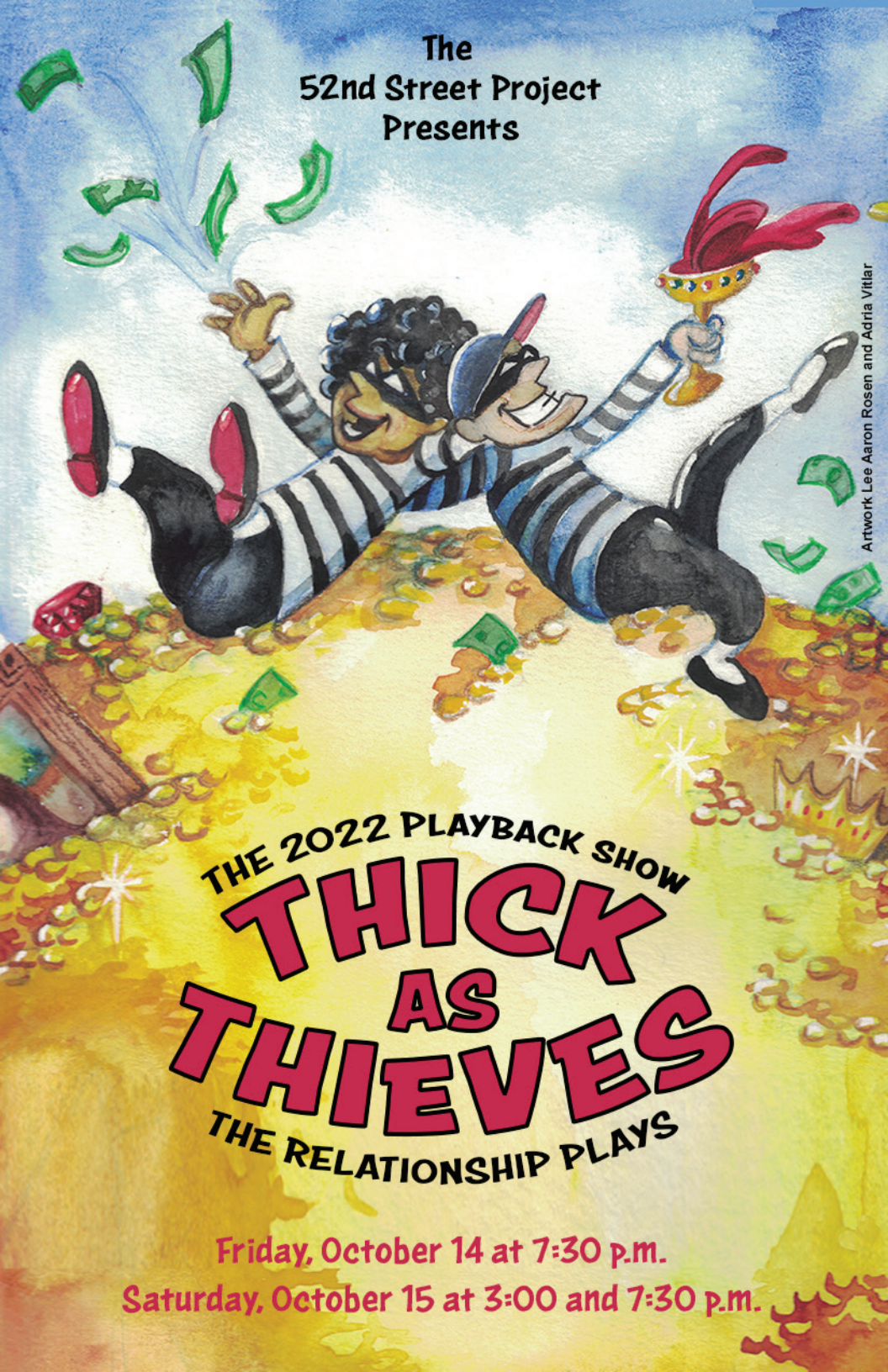
If you know of any college or graduate students
who might enjoy working with us and playing
with us for a semester, please have them contact
Caylyn Creager (creager@52project.org). We are
currently looking for interns for the Fall of 2022
and the Spring of 2023. Thanks!

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation; Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund; Carnegie Corporation of New York; The CLAWS Foundation; Consolidated Edison; Dawkins Family Foundation; Dramatists Play Service, Inc.; The Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation; The Education Foundation of America; Flexis Capital, LLC; Goldman Sachs; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; The Stephen P. Hanson Foundation; Heisman Trophy Trust; The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts Lemle Pictures, Inc.; The Lotos Foundation; Frederick Loewe Foundation; The Rona & Randolph M. Nelson Foundation; Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation; The Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Par Plumbing Co., Inc.; The Pinkerton Foundation; Sawyer | Berson Architecture & Landscape Architecture; The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund; Showtime Networks; The Shubert Foundation; Susquehanna Foundation; Tiger Baron Foundation; John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc.; Yorke Construction Corp.; Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

Alexandra Garrison	Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren	Mary Pat Walsh
Alexandra Vassilaros	Glen Gillen	Matthew Jones
Alphonsa Vadakethalake	Helen & Peter Randolph	Megan Cramer
Amy Herzig	Henry Krieger & Robert Joy	Melissa & Lee Briggs
Andrea Johnson	Jacki Ochs & Jan Kroeze	Melissa Lowry
Anna Li & Frank Sposato	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Anne M. Bacon	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Michael & Megan Crane
Annie & David Hausmann	Jeff Arnold	Omar Metwally
Becky & Dylan Baker	Jené LeBlanc & Willie Reale	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Jeremy Smith	Peter Ackerman
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	Jerry McGill	Peter Francis James
Billy Crudup	Jessica Bauman & Ben Posel	Rachel & Larry Norton
Billy Dreskin	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Randy Weisenberger
Bob Stockel	John Rossi	Richard Sweren
Buzz Bovshow	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Rita Silver
Carl Capotorto	Josie Merck	Ron & Judy Tierney
Carol Ochs & Bruce MacVittie	Judy & Sam Berger	Rona & Randy Nelson
Carole and Alan Howard	Judy Kuhn & David Schwab	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Carole Yass	Judy Taub Gold	Roseline Michael
Carolyn DeSena	Karen & Paul Freitas	& Dennis Neveling
Cathy Dantchik	Karen Powell	Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin
Cecilia Arana & Kevin Grant	Karin & Tom Schall	Ruth Nelson
Christina Morelli	Katie & Kelly Clark	Sarah & Paul Ardire
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Katrina vanden Heuvel	Sarah Horowitz & David Venarde
Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	Seth Marx
Cynthia Vance-Abrams & Robert Abrams	Kevin Ryder	Shari Goodstein
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Kim & Jordan Dickstein	Sherry Cohen
David Aldridge	Kimberly Grigsby	Shirley Rumierk
David Williams	Laura & David Ross	& Armando Riesco
Deborah Kim	Laura Ewing	Stephen Bernstein
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Laura Jones	Stephen Graham
Don Nickel	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig	Stephen Sadove
Douglas Kabel	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Steven & Lenora Satin
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Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Lewis Black	Susannah Gray & John Lyons
Ellen Chopay	Lisa Benavides	Susannah Keagle
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Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lori Tan Chinn	Tina Galley
Eric Brooks	Lynne Rosenberg	Todd Herman
Eric Jungwirth	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Tracy Wan & Carl Creager
F. Richard Pappas	Marion Koltun	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Mary & Lionel Allan	Vicki & Craig Holleman
Francine Borgenicht	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary Lin & James Yoshimura	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
	Mary Lou Teel	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of April 1, 2022

The
52nd Street Project
Presents



Artwork Lee Aaron Rosen and Adria Vitlar

THE 2022 PLAYBACK SHOW
**THICK
AS
THIEVES**
THE RELATIONSHIP PLAYS

Friday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 15 at 3:00 and 7:30 p.m.

THICK AS THIEVES: THE RELATIONSHIP PLAYS

The 2022 Playback Show - October 14 and 15, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Director*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Diego Caoili and Julia Feenstra, interns

**Project Alumni*

“THICK AS THIEVES” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Kim Jinhyoung

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Bri Weintraub

Costume Designer

Ana Gonzalez-Soto

Sound Designer

Ally Thomas

Stage Manager

Gianna Sheppard

Projection Designs

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Katie Bartz, Diego Caoili,
Magalis Fabian, Sarah Lopez

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Lee Rosen and Adria Vitlar

Flyer/Program Layout

George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director: Ella Lieberman
Camera Ops:
Eli Gutierrez, Sarah Brownstein



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THICK AS THIEVES: THE RELATIONSHIP PLAYS

All original music composed by Kim Jinhyoung

PEEPS AND PULITZERS

Written by Lanai Blake-Soden, age 14. Directed by Jenelle Chu.

Relationship: Co-workers

Liv Lanai Blake-Soden

Ginny Jenelle Chu

Voice of Boss Katie Bartz

We're Waiting lyrics by Lanai Blake-Soden

FUNKY 48

Written by Andrew Moore, age 13. Directed by Jonathan Dimas.

Relationship: Neighbors

Calvin Andrew Moore

Crazy John Jonathan Dimas

Boss George Babiak

MC Katie Bartz

Mark Diego Caoili

Mark's Rap and John and Calvin's Rap lyrics by Andrew Moore

BROKEN LEG

Written by Hanna Brea, age 13. Directed by Kendal Hartse.

Relationship: Teammates

Alyica Hanna Brea

Jonah, Alyica's boyfriend Kendal Hartse

Coach Diego Caoiliz

Teammates The Crew

Soccer Fights lyrics by Hanna Brea

A MORTAL MORAL DILEMMA

Written by Alex Breton, age 14. Directed by Gardiner Comfort.

Relationship: Partners in crime

Jeeves Alex Breton

Alucard Gardiner Comfort

More to Life lyrics by Alex Breton



THICK AS THIEVES: THE RELATIONSHIP PLAYS

MONEY DEFINITELY POSITIVELY 100 PERCENT DOESN'T BUY HAPPINESS

Written by Olive Moayed, age 13. Directed by Angel Desai.

Relationship: BFFs

D-748315269.....Olive Moayed
Ezra Angel Desai
A-647321 Magalis Fabian

Well, This Is Fun lyrics by Olive Moayed

THE TRUTH ABOUT DRAGONS AND POLAR BEARS

Written by Adolfo Sinchi, age 13. Directed by Kyle Cameron.

Relationship: Family

Tim, a would-be polar bear tamer.....Adolfo Sinchi
George, a dragon tamer Kyle Cameron
Mrs. Flamesalot (Mom)..... Katie Bartz
Mr. Flamesalot (Dad)..... George Babiak
Billy, a 10 year-old dragon tamer..... Diego Caoili

Earth or Polar Bears lyrics by Adolfo Sinchi

OLD FRIENDS

Written by Peter Muca, age 15. Directed by Charlie O'Rourke.

Relationship: Old Friends

Jack, a samurai Peter Muca
Sam, a mafia boss..... Charlie O'Rourke
Henchman Sarah Lopez

Violence Always Finds a Way lyrics by Peter Muca



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Merritt Tilney

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WHAT'S COMING UP?

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT



Come see what kids can do when they team up with adult professional performers!

**Friday, Nov. 18
at 7:30 p.m.**

OFF THE WALL!

The Zany Plays

The Fall 2022 Playmaking Show

8 Plays written by kids and performed by adult actors!

Friday, December 9th & Saturday, Dec. 10th

Live at the Five Angels Theater or livestreamed on YouTube!

Visit www.52project.org for more details!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!

A monthly online event created by Garrett Kim, John Sheehy, and your favorite kid/adult team-ups. Go to the podcast section of the iTunes Store and search for "The 52nd Street Project" or "PROJcast."



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 for a semester, please have them contact Caylyn Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Spring and Summer of 2023. Thanks!

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

Adriana Trigiani & Tim Stephenson	Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer
Alan Krevis & Gary Horowitz	Glen Gillen	Mary Lin & James Yoshimura
Alexandra Garrison	James & Hannelore McDaniel	Mary Lou Teel
Alexandra Vassilaros	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Mary Pat Walsh
Amanda Green & Jeffrey Kaplan	Janey Feingold	Matthew Jones
Amy Herzig	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Megan Cramer
Andrea Johnson	Jenni Swan	Megan Thompson
Anna Li & Frank Sposato	Jenny & Jon Steingart	Meg Simon
Anne M. Bacon	Jenny Gersten	Melissa & Lee Briggs
Annie & David Hausmann	Jeremy Smith	Melissa Lowry
Arin Chilcote	Jerry Levine & Nina Tassler	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Barnaby Harris & Suzie Kondi	Jessica Bauman & Ben Posei	Mickey Lemle
Becky & Dylan Baker	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Michael & Megan Crane
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Joe White & Iris Brown	Michael Herzig
Beth & Ray Abbott	John Lee	Neena Beber
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	John Rossi	Noël & Joe Mihalow
Beth Crookham	John Turturro & Kathy Borowitz	Omar Metwalli
Bettina S. Buschel	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Bill Camp & Elizabeth Marvel	Jonathan Marc Sherman	Peter & Marsue MacNicol
Billy Crudup	& Alexandra Shiva	Rachel & Larry Norton
Billy Dreskin	Jon Ecker	Randi Puccio
Betsy and Bob Goldberg	Joseph Nigro	Rebecca & Richard Dresser
Brenda Wehle & John C. Lynch	Josie Merck	Richard Langan
Buzz Bovshow	Judy & Sam Berger	Richard Sweren
Carl Capotorto	Judy Dennis	Robert Shore
Carol Bell	Judy Kuhn & David Schwab	Robert Shwartz
Carole Yass	Judy Taub Gold	Ron & Judy Tierney
Carolyn DeSena	Kali Crandall	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Cathy Dantchik	Karen Hauser & Warren Leight	Roseline Michael & Dennis Neveling
Cecilia Arana & Kevin Grant	Karen Powell	Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin
Chris Ceraso	Karin & Tom Schall	Ruth Nelson
Christine Ziegler-Sullivan	Kate Burton & Michael Ritchie	Sarah & Paul Ardire
Christopher Randolph	Katie & Douglas Jordan	Sarah Horowitz
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	& David Venarde
Courtney & Lowell Pettit	Kerry Pfingst & Russell Dodson	Shari Goodstein
Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Laura & David Ross	Sherry Cohen
Cynthia Vance-Abrams & Robert Abrams	Laura Ewing	Shirley Rumierk & Armando Riesco
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Laura Jones	Stephen Bernstein
David Aldridge	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig	Stephen Graham
David Williams	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Sunil Arora
Debbie & Lawrence Catena	Lauren Weiner	Susan Isaacson
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Laurie Becker	Susannah Gray & John Lyons
Douglas Kabel	Lewis Black	Susan Wallace
Drew McCoy & Amy Aquino	Lili Taylor	Suzen Murakoshi
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Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Lisa Cohen & David Hillman	Terry Belanger & Ken Giese
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Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Wendy Ettinger
Frances Strauss	Marion Koltun	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen

The 52nd Street Project Presents

JELLY OF MY JAMS

**SONGS WRITTEN BY
YOUNG PEOPLE AND PERFORMED BY
ADULT MUSICIANS AND SINGERS!**



THE 2022 SONGMAKING CONCERT

Friday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Live onstage and live-streamed to your home.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER

789 10th Ave. (Between 52nd and 53rd St.)

Admission FREE! For information and reservations, visit 52project.org

JELLY OF MY JAMS

THE COMPANY

The Lyricists

Caelnne Arango-Ramirez
Logan Centeno
Brooke Pendleton

The Composers/Musicians

Rowan Blackwood
Fouad Dakwar
Lorenzo Pipino

The Singers

Kendall Cafaro
Lilli Cooper
Tommy McDowell
Sahar Milani
Ronald Peet
Neil Tyrone Pritchard
Angie Toledo
Natalie Walker

Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Songmaking Director

Garrett Kim

Lighting Designer

Katie Bartz

Stage Manager

Kate Gulden

Photography

Winston Rodney

Fall 2022 Interns

Diego Caoili
Julia Feenstra

Audio Engineer

Atticus Mulkey

Livestream Camera

Julia Feenstra

Special Thanks

The Songmaking program has been established in collaboration with the **Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program** at NYU's **Tisch School Of The Arts**, and **Writing and Design for Musical Theater** at **BerkleeNYC**. We'd also like to thank **Fred Carl** and **Danny Larsen** at NYU, and **Tiffany Chen**, **Loudon Sterns**, **Stephen Webber**, **Connor White**, and **Julianne Wick Davis**, of **Berklee NYC**.

The Songmaking Program is made possible with public funds from 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.



The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit community-based arts organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional artists to create original art. The Songmaking program partners 52nd Street Project kids with adult composers to create original songs. Over the seven weeks of Songmaking, led by Avi Amon and Program Director Garrett David Kim, these young lyricists explore how their own words and ideas fit together with their composer's music to create songs. Near the end of the program, we bring in a company of singers to perform the completed songs, and share them with an audience.

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
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Carol Ochs, Executive Director
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Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
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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

NEW FAVORITE PASTRY

Lyrics by Logan Centeno

Music by Fouad Dakwar

Sung by Natalie Walker

I wanna become a pastry
I wanna become a pastry!
Maybe a cute lil cupcake...
They're so sweet and small...

I wanna become a pastry
I wanna become a pastry
So I won't be bullied
For being way too savory
I dream that I'll be sugary
But back to reality
Look to reality...

I sneak into the chef's bakery
And steal some frosting silently
(Don't do this at home!)
I dump it on my head
Even though it's a mess
Suddenly I hear a bell
The chef puts me out at front

I think I've become a pastry
I think I've become a pastry
'Cause the kids are pointing at me
And their mouths are watering

I'm their new favorite pastry now
Bells are ringing out
I'm their new favorite pastry now
Cupcakes, get out of town

Yeah ya bakery bullies!!!



SUNDAY MORNIN', IN OUTER SPACE

Lyrics by Logan Centeno

Music by Fouad Dakwar

Sung by Tommy McDowell

(In grandma voice)

Get back to dreamin'

Get back to dreamin'

Sunday mornin' in outer space

Inside my dream

It's 8:22

Outside my dream

Tingling stars

From my bedroom

Smelling the void

Tastin' the moon!!!

Get back to dreamin'

Get back to dreamin'

Get back to dreamin'

Don't let the dream end

Get back to dreamin'

Get back to dreamin'

Sunday mornin', it's getting darker

And I'm feeling weirder

It's 10:22

When will I wake up?

Tingling stars

From my bedroom

I smell the void

Tastin' the moon!!!

Feelin' like deja vu



Get back to dreamin'

Get back to dreamin'

Get back to dreamin'

Don't let the dream end

Get back to dreamin'

Get back to dreamin'

Uh oh...

Stars crumblin'

Solar system evaporatin'

Until it all came to an...

END...

I just woke...up



52

Lyrics by Logan Centeno

Music by Fouad Dakwar

Sung by Ronald Peet

The 52nd Street Project

The 52nd Street Project

Power o' love

Making songs,

Writing plays,

Creativity every day

The 52nd Street Project

There's a strength

From stepping into someone else's shoes...

Whether they be real o' fiction

Sad or joyful, yeh heh

There is a strength in that

Seeing people change the world

The 52nd Street Project

The 52nd Street Project

Power of us

Making friends,

Visiting places,

Inspiration's always at hand

There's a strength

From stepping into someone else's shoes...

Whether they be Fivey or Twoey

You or me, yeh he he he

We're the people who will change the world

Only at the expense of our time

The 52nd Street Project

That's us



BIRTHDAY LETTER

Lyrics by Caelnne Arango-Ramirez

Music by Rowan Blackwood

Sung by Sahar Milani

Looking through my window in my room
Reminds me of my birthday with you
When we took photographs in my house...
Spread them in my room...
Those good times, they were true

All those sleepless nights
While dreamin' with my eyes,
Only reminds me how bad it hurts
And while you party here
My memories disappear
Of all the times I was with you in my mind

Now I'm lying in my bed
With all of the things that you said...
In my mind, in my mind...
Those days, weeks, hours & months of being alone
Without you, without you

Sometimes in those days I can't live
Without you, I think about you
Whenever I dream or even think I lose sleep
About you, about you
I start to dance around in my head
Pirouetting, dancing

All those sleepless nights
While dreamin' with my eyes,
Only reminds me how bad it hurts
And while you party here
My memories disappear
Of all the times I was with you in my mind.



THE RESCUE

Lyrics by Caelnne Arango-Ramirez

Music by Rowan Blackwood

Sung by Angie Toledo

Sometimes all you need is a little push to fall
over the edge
To blindly leap is not a leap but a jump...
To somewhere unknown, is the savior or your
doom...

Is there someone to help me
Let me breathe...
Let me breathe

Once you're there is there a turning back...
Or can you even go back?
When you're there can you even be there
Or a trapped place by someone else's side

Oh can someone help me
Let me breathe
Can someone help me
Let me breathe

The help is a rescue
The way is dark
The light will come
Just wait, can you wait?

Grab my hand, hold me tight,
Go away, please come back.
When I'm sad, I think of you
Can someone help me

Can someone help me
Let me breathe
Let me breathe

Maybe someday I can breathe
And maybe take a break.
Come stay with me...
Please stay



FOR GRANTED

Lyrics by Brooke Pendleton

Music by Lorenzo Pipino

Sung by Neil Tyrone Pritchard

I see kids having fun
But they don't know how it feels
Don't know when I might be torn down,
Living in the shadows as if I'm unreal
I don't get birthday cakes
And wake up feeling loved
Not even have a name just sit above
They view my art without a second glance.
See me just as a bench.
They use me as a seat.
Blocking my view of neighborhood
If only I was more than a bench
If only I was more than a bench
I feel kids who are crying cause
They can't get a happy meal..
Sitting on me throwing a fit.
I wish I could feel the same.
Having someone to cry to
Even if it's lame.
What if I were more than a bench?
Maybe I'm just a bench.
I hear kids talking how I look really cool
Makes me feel brighter than I am
If only I could say thanks
But I'll just be a bench
I'll be their seat
What if I'm seen more than a bench
I am more than a bench
Ooo
I am more than a bench



AVOCADO TOAST

Lyrics by Brooke Pendleton

Music by Lorenzo Pipino

Sung by Kendall Cafaro

Garnished wrong, all alone,
What would you call worse?
Thrown around by a baby,
What could hurt more?
I just wanna be with my friends on the same plate
Yada, yada, yada
“And I swear if this baby cries one more time!!”
I HATE WATA’

Stuck alone, with a baby
What could you call worse?
Giggling, from all my friends
What could be more annoying?
If only I had legs to walk believe me I would
“What are you doing over there guys?”
Forgetting I’m ever here

Since I’m burnt, I will do
what all burnt toast does
That is roll cause I can
What’s my other option?
Hopefully I don’t get spotted
That would be bad
Probably would get thrown
In the trash.
“Yuck!”

Oh no I’m seen
Just keep rolling, rolling, rolling
Oh no
I’m going to be thrown in the trash
What are they doing?
Please put me down
I’ve whirled so hard

Huh?
They put me down with my friends?
Mission success!



PUMPKIN SPICE

Lyrics by Brooke Pendleton

Music by Lorenzo Pipino

Sung by Lilli Cooper

almost as the leaves regrew just to fall.
the different shades of orange just in eyes' view.
as if the previous green leaves left taking the
warmth too.
different shapes and sizes of jackets, scarves,
and hats.
in shades of brown, burgundy, and black.
Pumpkin spice all around makes it feel like fall.



come surround the fireplace
decorate cookies too
watch movies made way before 2022
enjoy the pumpkin spice
makes everything so nice
I think it feels like fall don't you?

almost as winter is approaching later than expected.
sunny days ended with breezy nights feels quite right.
Thanksgiving knocking at the door
hello fall summer no more

come surround the fireplace
decorate cookies too
watch movies made for fall ooooo
enjoy the pumpkin spice
makes everything all nice
I think it feels like fall don't you

All the leaves come to brown.
More smiles turn into frowns.
Freezing temperatures came with heavier coats.
All black no more color shown
No gold, no red, no yellow, no orange



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

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Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen

The 52nd Street Project Presents



Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director Carol Ochs, Executive Director Kat Almirañez, Playmaking Director

OFF THE WALL!

The
Zany
Plays

The Fall 2022
Playmaking Show

8 plays written by
kids and performed
by adults



Friday, Dec. 9
at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10
at 3:00 and 7:30 p.m.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Ave.

Live and live-streamed

FREE!

Visit 52project.org to get
information and reserve seats.

OFF THE WALL: THE ZANY PLAYS

Fall 2022 Playmaking - December 9 & 10, Five Angels Theater

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Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
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John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“OFF THE WALL” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Katie Bartz

Costume Designers

Madelene DeLeon and
Michael Piatkowski

Sound Designer

Liz Stanton

Stage Manager

Margo Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak, Dana Ruby, Ana Soto,
and The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

Backstage Crew

Alex Breton, Xavier Espinal,
Julia Feenstra, Betsy Hogg

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

George Babiak & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz

Camera Ops:

Lauren Rae Vega, Amari DuBose

Interns

Diego Caoili and Julia Feenstra



The Playmaking Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. 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 \$2.50

and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and 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 \$12.00/\$20.00

Project Mugs \$5.00

Project Notebook \$5.00

Project Pencil 3-pack \$1.00

Thank you for coming to **OFF THE WALL!** 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:

12/22

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:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Help load in and out for shows | ☐ Draw and/or paint | ☐ Help kids with homework |
| ☐ Hang lights | ☐ Help with mailings | ☐ Teach kids a skill |
| ☐ Work on a backstage crew | ☐ Do office work | ☐ Be a chef at an event |
| ☐ Do graphic design | ☐ Design sound | ☐ Design and sew costumes |
| ☐ 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?

HOSTS ZOË CHAO AND BILLY CRUDUP

JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT TO INVITE YOU TO
COME IN FROM THE COLD, GRAB A HOT DRINK, AND SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

JUST CHILLIN'!

A Very Cool Benefit for
The 52nd Street Project

Our first
Winter Gala!



SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, FEB. 13, 2023 AT CAPITALE - BOWERY & GRAND ST.
COCKTAILS AT 6:30 - DINNER AND SHOW AT 7:30 P.M.



HONORING OUR LONG-TIME PALS
NANCY GILES & MICHAEL POTTS



For information and reservations, contact Ahmed "Frosty" Attia
attia@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 Summer and Fall of 2022. Thanks!

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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Carolyn DeSena
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José Soto, Jr., alumni member
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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 WALL** 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. This performance is the end result.

This edition continues our in-person return of children to **The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse** and **The Five Angels Theater**. We normally would have taken the students to the country, but this is not possible yet. However, we are delighted and grateful to be working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

Extra Special Thanks

We are grateful to Kat Abbruzzese, Natalie Paul, and Jake Pino.

OFF THE WALL! THE ZANY PLAYS, ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

THE WITCH'S CAT

Written by Bella Galindo, age 11. Costumes by Madelene DeLeon.

Dramaturge/Director: Ciana Proto

Mary, a witch..... Morgan Everitt
Jacob, a werewolf..... Noah Gaynor
Mob member Betsy Hogg
The Mob The Crew

The Meet and Greet lyrics by Bella Galindo

SNOW DAY

Written by Angel Drew Welsh, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Jeremy Stoller. Costumes by Madelene DeLeon.

Bob Grant Harrison
Olivia..... Elia Monte-Brown
Ping Pong Player..... Betsy Hogg

Argument and I Could Have Went There lyrics by Angel Drew Welsh

THE BIG ADVENTURE OF TIMMY THE T-REX

Written by Mateo Santoni, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Kareem Lucas. Costumes by Madelene DeLeon.

Timmy, a 10-year old T-Rex..... Devin E. Haqq
Ms. Cobra, a 20-foot snake Kaileela Hobby
King Kong, Timmy's dad..... Michael Propster
G.U.R.D.'s The Crew
Mommy Timmy Julia Feenstra

Fire lyrics by Mateo Santoni

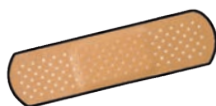
THE CHANGE

Written by Emily Ponce, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Kaaron Briscoe. Costumes by Madelene DeLeon.

Grace, a metal water bottle Paton Ashbrook
Max, a clear plastic water bottle Omari Chancellor

Soda Bottle lyrics by Emily Ponce



OFF THE WALL! THE ZANY PLAYS, ACT 2

DREAM COME TRUE

Written by Khloe Castillo, age 9.

Dramaturge/Director: Krystel Lucas. Costumes by Michael Piatkowski.

Eli (Foxy) Krystel Lucas

Alex (Tigah) James Yaegashi

Teacher Julia Feenstra

Does Not Recognize lyrics by Khloe Castillo

PINEAPPLE AND CUPCAKE

Written by José Luján, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Kyle David. Costumes by Michael Piatkowski.

Pineapple, a rabbit D.J. Jose Gamo

Cupcake, a human who is Pineapple's mom..... Precious Sipin

The Map Xavier Espinal

Son and Mother lyrics by José Luján

BACK TO THE PAST

Written by Chloe Torres, age 11

Dramaturge/Director: Dara Silverman. Costumes by Madelene DeLeon.

Jenna Vive Arielle Goldman

Milo KeiLyn Durrel Jones

Milo's Mom Betsy Hogg

How It Feels to be Alone lyrics by Chloe Torres.

JOURNEY OF THE DEATH POTION

Written by Samaria Alkandi, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Monica LaBadia. Costumes by Madelene DeLeon.

Queen Flowerina the Flower Tina Chilip

King Kubabi the Cheetah..... Neil D'Astolfo

Amazon Guy..... Alex Breton

Family voices The Crew

Time for Revenge lyrics by Samaria Alkandi



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Just Chillin'!

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S FIRST WINTER GALA



The Honorees

Nancy Giles and Michael Potts



Our Hosts

Zoë Chao and Greg Hildreth

The Lyricists

Caelnne Arango-Ramirez, Logan Centeno,
Kylee Chester, Brooke Pendleton, Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez,
Kassandra Sinchi, Morgan Smalls, Alex Torres

The Composers

Avi A. Amon, Rowan Blackwood, Fouad Dakwar, Lorenzo Pipino

The Singers

Rebecca Naomi Jones, Sahar Milani,
Mallory Portnoy & Greg Hildreth, Jon-Michael Reese

Music Director/Piano

Avi A. Amon

Bass

Lizzie Hagstedt

Guitarist

Beth Callen

Drums

Shelby Blezinger-McCay

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Avi A. Amon, Utsav Bhargava,
Lorenzo Pipino

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and Caylyn Wan-Creager

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Kate Gulden

Livestream Engineer

Thom Herron

Invitation/Program Designs

Iris A. Brown

Director

Natalie Hirsch

Pumpkin Spice

Lyrics by Brooke Pendleton

Music by Lorenzo Pipino

Sung by Rebecca Naomi Jones

Almost as the leaves regrew just to fall.
The different shades of orange just in eyes' view.
As if the previous green leaves left taking the
warmth too.

Different shapes and sizes of jackets, scarves,
and hats.

In shades of brown, burgundy, and black.
Pumpkin spice all around makes it feel like fall.



Come surround the fireplace
Decorate cookies too
Watch movies made way before 2022
Enjoy the pumpkin spice
Makes everything so nice
I think it feels like fall don't you?

Almost as winter is approaching later than expected.
Sunny days ended with breezy nights feels quite right.
Thanksgiving knocking at the door
Hello fall summer no more

Come surround the fireplace
Decorate cookies too
Watch movies made for fall ooooo
Enjoy the pumpkin spice
Makes everything all nice
I think it feels like fall don't you

All the leaves come to brown.
More smiles turn into frowns.
Freezing temperatures came with heavier coats.
All black no more color shown
No gold, no red, no yellow, no orange



New Favorite Pastry

Lyrics by Logan Centeno

Music by Fouad Dakwar

Sung by Jon-Michael Reese

I wanna become a pastry
I wanna become a pastry!
Maybe a cute lil cupcake...
They're so sweet and small...

I wanna become a pastry
I wanna become a pastry
So I won't be bullied
For being way too savory
I dream that I'll be sugary
But back to reality
Look to reality...

I sneak into the chef's bakery
And steal some frosting silently
(Don't do this at home!)
I dump it on my head
Even though it's a mess
Suddenly I hear a bell
The chef puts me out at front

I think I've become a pastry
I think I've become a pastry
'Cause the kids are pointing at me
And their mouths are watering

I'm their new favorite pastry now
Bells are ringing out
I'm their new favorite pastry now
Cupcakes, get out of town

Yeah ya bakery bullies!!!



Birthday Letter

Lyrics by Caelnne Arango-Ramirez

Music by Rowan Blackwood

Sung by Sahar Milani

Looking through my window in my room
Reminds me of my birthday with you
When we took photographs in my house...
Spread them in my room...
Those good times, they were true

All those sleepless nights
While dreamin' with my eyes,
Only reminds me how bad it hurts
And while you party here
My memories disappear
Of all the times I was with you in my mind

Now I'm lying in my bed
With all of the things that you said...
In my mind, in my mind...
Those days, weeks, hours & months of being alone
Without you, without you

Sometimes in those days I can't live
Without you, I think about you
Whenever I dream or even think I lose sleep
About you, about you
I start to dance around in my head
Pirouetting, dancing

All those sleepless nights
While dreamin' with my eyes,
Only reminds me how bad it hurts
And while you party here
My memories disappear
Of all the times I was with you in my mind.





Where Has the Time Gone?

Lyrics by Kylee Chester,
Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez, Kassandra Sinchi,
Morgan Smalls, and Alex Torres

Composed by Avi A. Amon

Performed by Mallory Portnoy
and Greg Hildreth

ALEX:

FIVEY

(Excited) Hey Twoey

TWOEY

(Shy) Hey Fivey

FIVEY

(Spoken) Just wanted to say do you...

(Sung) Remember that time

Where you fell down the stairs

TWOEY

We laughed it off and got stares

BOTH

But we just don't even care

We've been around for forty years

I know we are very consistent

TWOEY

And yet I still have so many fears

BOTH

Where

has

the

time

gone?

KYLEE:

TWOEY (Nervous, anxious)

& FIVEY (Excited, mischievous)

There are people coming in

The show's about to begin

TWOEY

I think I'm gonna die

FIVEY

(With mischievous grin) Oh come on
don't be shy

TWOEY

(Nervous, quiet, shy) Everyone to your
places

FIVEY

(Excited, mischievous) Can't wait to
see their faces!

TWOEY

Lights, camera

FIVEY

Action!

(Glitter falls from the sky)

TWOEY

(Upset, horrified, shocked) Oh no

FIVEY

(Excited, pleased) Oh yes

TWOEY

(Upset, angry) Fivey what have you
done

FIVEY

(Playful, kind of regretful) I was just
having some fun

TWOEY

(Upset, angry) There's glitter
everywhere, on everyone!

FIVEY

(Regretful, guilty) I just want to put a
smile on your face

TWOEY

(Frustrated) You have no control

FIVEY

You need to let go

TWOEY

Why can't you be more like me?

FIVEY

Cause you're never happy

TWOEY

(Regretful at the end) I would if you
were different

FIVEY

(Hurt, shocked) What does that mean?

BOTH

Where
has
the
time
gone

KASSANDRA:

TWOEY

I know it's silly but a moment I will
always remember was
The first time I ventured alone
I was looking for a snack
The pantry doors began to close
I was under attack!

FIVEY & TWOEY

I thought you finally left me
I thought I would die
you were supposed to be backstage

TWOEY

So I screamed and cried for help
Something I never thought I'd do

FIVEY

I remember hearing all that ruckus
And came to the rescue
I never thought I would be so happy
to see
Someone who always has a frown
I couldn't stand to be alone
And being left to drown

BOTH

I remember from that day forward
I could never leave you behind
Oh Wooooow
Where
Has
The
Time
Gone?

MORGAN:

FIVEY

We can paint the room blue
We need to think of a color that we
would like

TWOEY

How about red

FIVEY

Think of a color that's really bright
Or green

TWOEY

No!!
We need the members to be alive.
So they can write

BOTH

What's your fav color?
Orange
Me too

FIVEY

Let's call it

BOTH

The orange room

JAI-LYZZ:

BOTH

It's been 40 years

40!

We did not always get along

We were different in our own way

TWOEY

Fivey was loud, proud

FIVEY

Twoey didn't like the crowd

TWOEY

We found something in common

BOTH

Then there was the stage

Our eyes lit up

We realized our differences

It took some time

But we got to know each other

Over 40 years we have always

Taught the Project Members

That we all get along, we all belong

Where

Has

The

Time

Gone?



Alex



Kylee



Kassandra



Jai-Lyzz



Morgan



Greetings, Cool Peeps! Thanks for coming in out of the cold to **Capitale** to warm up with some posh grub and some clever tunes. Don't fall asleep in front of the fire, though, because the Project's witty and urbane Founder, **Willie Reale** and actress and Project alum **Shirley Rumierk** will soon bound onto the stage to auction off the one-of-a-kind packages described on the following pages. Be bold on your bids! It all goes to a good cause.

1. *Nora's Package*

See a Broadway show that puts a new spin on an old classic! This package features two tickets (courtesy of **Stephen Lewin** and the **Ambassador Theater Group**) to see Academy Award winner **Jessica Chastain** in a reinvention of **Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House***. It's directed by Tony nominee **Jamie Lloyd** and adapted by acclaimed playwright **Amy Herzog**. The offer begins TONIGHT, February 13 and is good until June 4. BONUS: One hour before the show, you may arrive at the **Hudson Theater**, check your coat, and enjoy cocktails in the **Ambassador Lounge**! In addition, you get gift cards for **Cookshop** and **Rosie's**, two fine restaurants in the **Bowery Group**. Each card is worth \$150.

VALUE: \$720



2. *Start Spreading the News Package*

If you like the Big Apple, you should bid on this bundle! Four tickets to **New York, New York** (courtesy of **Foresight Theatrical**) the big new production with direction and choreography by **Susan Stroman** and extra lyrics by **Lin-Manuel Miranda**! It starts at the St. James on March 24. "Be a part of it" and then have a "Meet and Greet" with **Sharon Washington**, the co-writer and a honest-to-gosh Project veteran.

There's more! You get a gift card worth \$150 to **Shukette**, a lively Bowery Group Middle Eastern spot in Chelsea AND a special VIP private tour of the brand-new **Museum of Broadway** with one of its co-founders.

VALUE: \$1500



3. Baubles and Bubbles Bundle

Diamonds are a girl's best friend, and what better gift to give your girlfriends for Galentine's Day than the chance to drape themselves in the world's most extraordinary jewels (at least for an exclusive afternoon!). **Sotheby's**, the legendary auction house that sold **Jackie O's** pearls, will host you and seven of your best friends for a private, behind-the-scenes jewelry experience. Sip on champagne and nibble on truffles while you try on treasures from notable and noble collections with the impossibly elegant **Catharine Becket**, the Head of **Sotheby's Magnificent Jewels** auctions.

The bundle also comes with a chef's tasting menu for four at the **Tao Group's** exclusive **LAVO**. You'll get a sommelier-selected wine pairing and a table visit from their executive management team or chef.

Value: Priceless! (or the \$35,000,000 it would cost to buy these rare and iconic jewels so your friends can play with them.)



4. The Sports Spectacular Special

You and your best golf pal get to play as a foursome on May 18 with Project Celebs **Billy Crudup** (*The Morning Show*) and **David Costabile** (*Billions*) at the **Quaker Ridge Golf Club** in Scarsdale. You'll be a part of **The 52nd Street Project's Annual Golf Outing**. This fun day includes lunch, top-flight golf, scintillating conversation, jokes galore, cocktails, and a nice dinner with your new buddies.

You'll also get four **New York Rangers** tickets at **Madison Square Garden** in section 111, row 21, seats 7, 8, 9, & 10. Date/game to be agreed on by owner of the tickets.

Finally, you get a gift card worth \$150 at **Vic's Restaurant**, another fine eatery in the **Bowery Group**.

VALUE: Incalculable!



5. *A Piece of Greece*

Ikaria, a beautiful island in the Aegean Sea, is renowned for the longevity of its natives. You'll spend a week in the tiny and beautiful village of **Faros** in the three bedroom home of the **Vassilaros Family**, just 20 feet from the sea and with easy access to the airport.

The proceeds from this package will benefit **The Johnny Fund**, a special fund that honors the memory of **John Vassilaros** and supports the Teen Leadership Program at the Project.

This is for a week in June or July, 2023 (exact dates to be determined).

You'll have to wait for your trip to the Aegean Sea, but you'll be able to have a Mediterranean-style meal at **Shuka** on MacDougal St. The Piece of Greece package includes a gift card worth \$150 to this **Bowery Group** gem.

VALUE: Olympian! Well, \$6,000.



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Oh, Hail, Yeah! Seats

Becky & Dylan Baker

Beth Barry

Neena Beber

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Liz Bell
Carl Capotorto
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Lisa B Cohen
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Camera Operators

Katie Bartz, Diego Caioli

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The programs of The 52nd Street Project are made possible with public funds from 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.

The 52nd Street Project Presents

A WHALE OF A TALE!

6
plays
written by
kids and
performed
by adults

Natalie Hirsch,
Artistic Director

Carol Ochs,
Executive Director

Kat Almirantez,
Playmaking
Director

PLAYS THAT
MAKE A *SPLASH!*

ART WORK BY CAYLYN WAN-CREAGER, PHOTOGRAPHY AND LAYOUT BY GEORGE BABIAK

THE SPRING 2023 PLAYMAKING SHOW
THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER 789 10th Ave., between 52nd and 53rd St.

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.

WHALE OF A TALE: PLAYS THAT MAKE A SPLASH

Spring 2023 Playmaking - Mar. 31 to April 2, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*
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Dara Silverman

Projection Designs

George Babiak and
The Project Projection Archive

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George Babiak and Diego Caioli

Backstage Crew

Diego Caioli, Kylee Chester,
Melanie Correa, Yovely Ramirez,
Evan Schultz

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

George Babiak & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Katie Bartz

Camera Ops:

Amirah Hancock, Sarah Lopez

Intern

Diego Caoili



The Playmaking Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

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Carol Ochs
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Willie Reale, founder
Shirley Rumierk, alumni member
José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Merritt Tilney
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. **WHALE OF A TALE** 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. This performance is the end result.

This edition is very special because the children in this program were able to write the plays you're seeing on a weekend writing retreat in Bridgehampton, Long Island in the home of **Alex Vassilaros**. This was the first overnight trip for Project kids since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

Extra Special Thanks

We are extremely grateful to our friends who opened up their homes to us for our weekend away: **Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family**; **Cathy Dantchik**, and **Laurie Becker**.

WHALE OF A TALE: PLAYS THAT MAKE A SPLASH - ACT 1

All original music composed by Julio Vaquero Ramos

CLASH OF GUITARS AND THE AGREEMENT

Written by Jason DeVoe, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: George Babiak

Guitar Hero Jeremy Rishe
Mustachio Man Matt Saldivar
Tournament Director Melanie Correa
Random Guy #1 Diego Caioli
Random Guy #2 Evan Schultz

Clash and Bash lyrics by Jason DeVoe

ENCOURAGE

Written by Jaelannie Rodriguez, age 9

Dramaturge: Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Director: Alex O'Daly

Lee, a chef Jake Pino
Briana, a 90's style photographer Lynne Marie Rosenberg
Lee's Dad, also a chef George Babiak

Briana is Mad at Lee and *Wish* lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez

THE RACE

Written by Zion King Lamonge, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Alex J. Gould

Debby, a young Cheetah/Eagle Madeline DeFreece
Luke, an eagle Sergio Mauritz Ang
Dad Diego Caioli
Mom Evan Schultz

I Wish to Tell You lyrics by Zion King Lamonge



WHALE OF A TALE: PLAYS THAT MAKE A SPLASH - ACT 2

THE BAD WITCH AND LITTLE MAIKI

Written by Katherine Chauca, age 10

Dramaturge/Director: Natalie Martin

Valentina, a witch who speaks Spanish.....Jennifer Mogbock

Maiki, a 10-year old boy who speaks Italian..... Micah Stock

Evidence lyrics by Katherine Chauca

TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN LIVES

Written by Diana Abrajan, age 10

Dramaturge: Vanessa Porras, Director: Rachel Lin

Shym, a business person and influencer..... Sahar Milani

Ciara, Shym's friend and roommate Alex Templer

Friendships Can Be Fixed lyrics by Diana Abruja

LION AND BEAR FRIEND PROBLEMS

Written by Josiah Perez, age 9

Dramaturge/Director: Michael Propster

Ms. Bear, a bear Daiva Deupree

Isaac, an older lion Carl Hendrick Louis

Bullies Kylee Chester, Melanie Correa, Yovely Ramirez

The Friend Song lyrics by Josiah Perez



WHAT'S COMING UP?

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT
PRESENTS

Flying Sala 2023

ORIGINAL
SPOKEN-WORD
PIECES...

...BY
PROJECT
MEMBERS

FRIDAY,
APRIL 21
7:30 P.M.

THE
FIVE ANGELS
THEATER

789 10TH AVE.
BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD

VISIT
52PROJECT.ORG
FOR INFO AND
RESERVATIONS

ARTWORK BY
JESSICA ELIE-PIERRE



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 Summer and Fall of 2023. Thanks!

COOL STUFF ON SALE IN THE LOBBY!

Fabulous Flyer Bars	\$ 2 . 5 0
<i>and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and Twoey" logo:</i>	
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 2 . 0 0 / \$ 2 0 . 0 0
Project Mugs	\$ 5 . 0 0
Project Notebook	\$ 5 . 0 0
Project Pencil 3-pack	\$ 1 . 0 0

Thank you for coming to **WHALE OF A TALE!** 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:

04/23

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MY HOBBIES _____

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| ☐ Help load in and out for shows | ☐ Draw and/or paint | ☐ Help kids with homework |
| ☐ Hang lights | ☐ Help with mailings | ☐ Teach kids a skill |
| ☐ Work on a backstage crew | ☐ Do office work | ☐ Be a chef at an event |
| ☐ Do graphic design | ☐ Design sound | ☐ Design and sew costumes |
| ☐ Other (please specify) _____ | | |

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The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

Adriana Trigiani & Tim Stephenson	Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer
Alan Krevis & Gary Horowitz	Glen Gillen	Mary Lin & James Yoshimura
Alexandra Garrison	James & Hannelore McDaniel	Mary Lou Teel
Alexandra Vassilaros	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Mary Pat Walsh
Amanda Green & Jeffrey Kaplan	Janey Feingold	Matthew Jones
Amy Herzig	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Megan Cramer
Andrea Johnson	Jenni Swan	Megan Thompson
Anna Li & Frank Sposato	Jenny & Jon Steingart	Meg Simon
Anne M. Bacon	Jenny Gersten	Melissa & Lee Briggs
Annie & David Hausmann	Jeremy Smith	Melissa Lowry
Arin Chilcote	Jerry Levine & Nina Tassler	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Barnaby Harris & Suzie Kondi	Jessica Bauman & Ben Posel	Mickey Lemle
Becky & Dylan Baker	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Michael & Megan Crane
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Joe White & Iris Brown	Michael Herzig
Beth & Ray Abbott	John Lee	Neena Beber
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	John Rossi	Noël & Joe Mihalow
Beth Crookham	John Turturro & Kathy Borowitz	Omar Metwally
Bettina S. Buschel	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Bill Camp & Elizabeth Marvel	Jonathan Marc Sherman	Peter & Marsue MacNicol
Billy Crudup	& Alexandra Shiva	Rachel & Larry Norton
Billy Dreskin	Jon Ecker	Randi Puccio
Betsy and Bob Goldberg	Joseph Nigro	Rebecca & Richard Dresser
Brenda Wehle & John C. Lynch	Josie Merck	Richard Langan
Buzz Bovshow	Judy & Sam Berger	Richard Sweren
Carl Capotorto	Judy Dennis	Robert Shore
Carol Bell	Judy Kuhn & David Schwab	Robert Shwartz
Carole Yass	Judy Taub Gold	Ron & Judy Tierney
Carolyn DeSena	Kali Crandall	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Cathy Dantchik	Karen Hauser & Warren Leight	Roseline Michael & Dennis Neveling
Cecilia Arana & Kevin Grant	Karen Powell	Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin
Chris Ceraso	Karin & Tom Schall	Ruth Nelson
Christine Ziegler-Sullivan	Kate Burton & Michael Ritchie	Sarah & Paul Ardire
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Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	& David Venarde
Courtney & Lowell Pettit	Kerry Pflingst & Russell Dodson	Shari Goodstein
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Cynthia Vance-Abrams & Robert Abrams	Laura Ewing	Shirley Rumiak & Armando Riesco
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Laura Jones	Stephen Bernstein
David Aldridge	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig	Stephen Graham
David Williams	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Sunil Arora
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Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Laurie Becker	Susannah Gray & John Lyons
Douglas Kabel	Lewis Black	Susan Wallace
Drew McCoy & Amy Aquino	Lili Taylor	Suzen Murakoshi
Drew Milstein	Lindsay Fram & Mason Pettit	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
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Elaine Musselman	Liz Bell & J. Andrew Stein	Tina Galley
Elizabeth & Eric Berman	Lois Smith	Todd Herman
Ellen Chopay	Lori O'Connor	Tony Goldwyn & Jane Musky
Ellen Kroll	Lori Tan Chinn	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lynda Hughes	Vicki & Craig Holleman
F. Richard Pappas	Lyn Hejninian & Larry Ochs	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Frances & Fred Langbecker	Lynne Rosenberg	Vicki de Klerk-Rubin
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Wendy Ettinger
Frances Strauss	Marion Koltun	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of October 14, 2022

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ARTWORK BY
JESSICA ELIE-PIERRE

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Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Diego Caioli, Intern

**Project Alumni*

“FLYING SOLO” Production Staff

Program Director

Garrett Kim

Lighting and Sound Designer

Bri Weintraub

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Jessica Elie-Pierre



FLYING SOLO 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.

David Slays

Written and Performed by Ethan Cruz
Directed by Nico Grelli



Flashback!

Written and Performed by Loyal Jones
Directed by Jason Alexander Wilks



Not Compatible

Written and Performed by Kaytie Gil
Directed by Kendall Cafaro



Curiosity

Written and Performed by Elisa Ramos
Directed by Joanna Parson



Stand Proud

Written and Performed by John Muca
Directed by Grant Harrison



Wait What...Huh?

Written and Performed by Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez
Directed by Jen Anaya

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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

What's Going On Here?

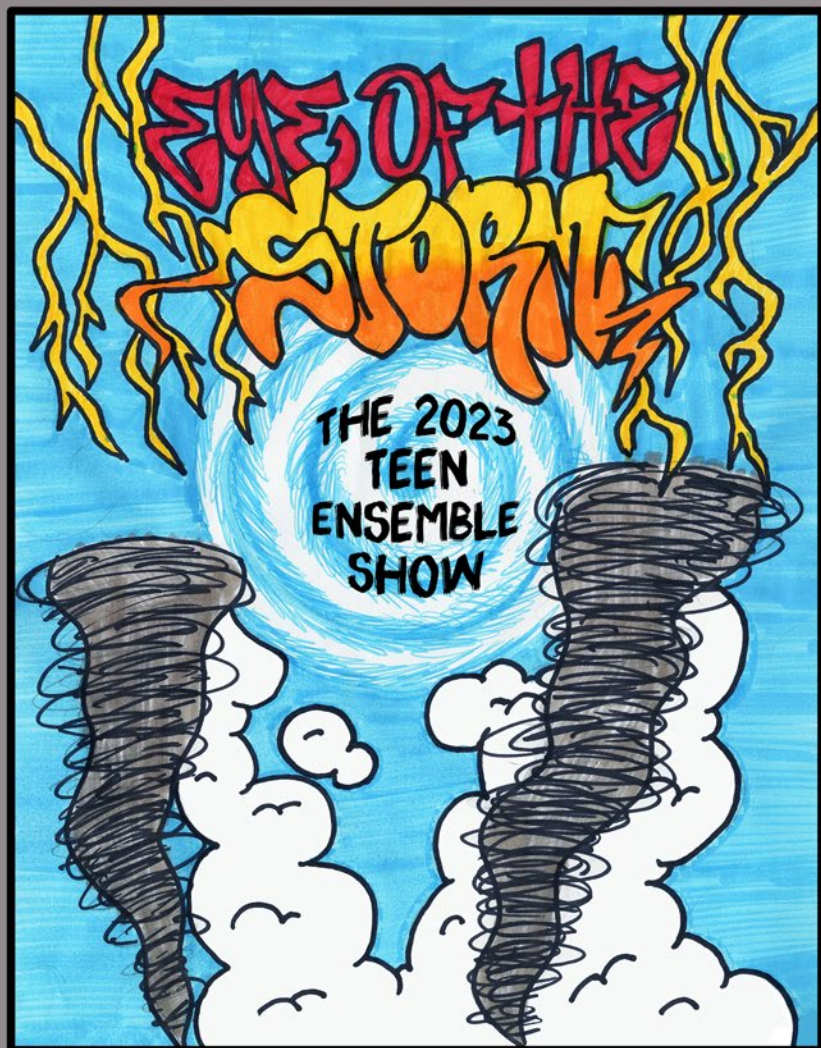
The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original theater. **FLYING SOLO** is part of our New Platforms series of programs that add additional creative outlets to our members.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

NATALIE HIRSCH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | KAT ALMIRANÉZ, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



CAROL OCHS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ARTWORK BY JAYDEN ALVARADO

FRIDAY, JUNE 2 AT 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 3 AT 3:00 PM

THE FIVE ANGELS
THEATER

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
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Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Francie Brewster, Intern

**Project Alumni*

“EYE OF THE STORM” Production Staff

Teen Ensemble Director

Kat Almirañez

Eye of the Storm Co-Directors

Mars Gleberman and Ana Gonzalez-Soto
(with an assist from Xavier Espinal on “Aftermath”)

Lighting Designer

Bri Weintraub

Sound Designer

Evan Schultz

Costume Designer

Ally Thomas

(with assists from Amirah Hancock and Ana Gonzalez-Soto)

Backstage Crew

Gus Reale

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy



EYE OF THE STORM 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.

The 52nd Street Project Teen Ensemble

Naseem Abdul-Majeed

Kylee Chester

Melanie Correa

Xavier Espinal

Amirah Hancock

Daniel Henk

Sarah Lopez

Aengus O'Donnell

Yovely Ramirez

Christian Santoni

Ahmed Shabana

Kass Sinchi

Faith Villanueva

Over the course of the academic year, the Teen Ensemble, which is made up of Project members in high school, have been meeting once a week and practicing collaborative theater process. This has included improvisation, theater design, technical theater, and playbuilding. The culmination of all their work is EYE OF THE STORM, an original play devised and performed by the Teen Ensemble and co-directed by adults. In this production, the Teen Ensemble explores the questions: What are the storms in our lives? Who is impacted by these storms? How are we preparing for what's ahead?

PLEASE NOTE: This show contains mature language, talk of self-harm, and depictions of drug use and violence. Recommended for ages 13 and older.

LE INFORMAMOS: Este programa contiene lenguaje maduro, conversaciones sobre autolesiones y representaciones de uso de drogas y violencia. Recomendado para mayores de 13 años en adelante.

Opening: Entire cast

Stage 1: Christian Santoni

Relationship

Peter Daniel Henk

Mia Kass Sinchi

Jenelle Kylee Chester

Carlie Melanie Correa

Monologue: Sherman (Xavier Espinal)

Growing Up

Friend Ahmed Shabana

Friend Daniel Henk

Storm Kass Sinchi

Storm Kylee Chester

Monologue: JazLinn (Melanie Correa)

(Cycl)one, part 1 & 2

Ross Aengus O'Donnell
Becca..... Kylee Chester
Rodrigo..... Christian Santoni
Max..... Xavier Espinal
Teacher..... Kass Sinchi

Monologue: Carla (Sarah Lopez)

Under Pressure

Ross Aengus O'Donnell
Gameshow Host..... Amirah Hancock
Ensemble..... Ahmed Shabana, Naseem Abdul-Majeed,
and Yovely Ramirez

Breaking Point, part 1 & 2

Father Daniel Henk
Mother Melanie Correa
Draymond, friend Naseem Abdul-Majeed
Nikki..... Yovely Ramirez

Stage 2: Kass Sinchi

Monologues: Carla (Sarah Lopez), Mohammed (Ahmed Shabana), and Beau (Faith Villanueva)

Higher than the Clouds

Beau Faith Villanueva
JazLinn Melanie Correa
Jayden..... Naseem Abdul-Majeed
Alice..... Sarah Lopez

(Cycl)one, part 3

Ross Angus O'Donnell
Becca..... Kylee Chester
Rodrigo..... Christian Santoni
Max..... Xavier Espinal
Teacher..... Kass Sinchi

Breaking Point, part 3

Draymond, friend Naseem Abdul-Majeed
Nikki..... Yovely Ramirez

Stage 3: Melanie Correa

(Cycl)one, part 4 & 5

Ross Angus O'Donnell
Becca..... Kylee Chester
Rodrigo.....Christian Santoni
Max.....Xavier Espinal
Teacher..... Kass Sinchi

Over/Under

ReiraAmirah Hancock
Max.....Xavier Espinal
Rodrigo.....Christian Santoni
Ensemble..... Aengus O'Donnell, Yovely Ramirez

Breaking Point, part 4

Mother Melanie Correa
Nikki..... Yovely Ramirez

Aftermath

Rodrigo.....Christian Santoni
Ms. V., teacher..... Faith Villanueva
CarlaSarah Lopez
Mohammed..... Ahmed Shabana

Closing: Entire Company



Special Thanks

Gabe Acevedo, Taylor Barnett, Diego Caoili, Ray Harold and *MJ, The Musical*, Fitz Patton, and John Van Arsdale and PRG Design

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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Elaine Musselman	Liz Bell & J. Andrew Stein	Tina Galley
Elizabeth & Eric Berman	Lois Smith	Todd Herman
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Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lynda Hughes	Vicki & Craig Holleman
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Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of October 14, 2022

**THE 52ND STREET
PROJECT PRESENTS**

NATALIE HIRSCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRANÉZ
ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

GARRETT KIM
STAGE COMBAT DIRECTOR



**THE 2023
STAGE COMBAT SHOW
FRIDAY JUNE 16 - 7:30 PM
THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER**

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*

George Babiak, Director of Design and Production

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager

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John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Bri Weintraub, Production Manager

Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

Francie Brewster, Intern

**Project Alumni*

“Boom! Wham! Pow!” Production Staff

Stage Manager

Jenni Swan

Lighting Designer

K8 August

Sound Designer

Bri Weintraub

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

House Management

John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Oliver Tanner

Livestream Team

Director: Aaron Conover

Camera Ops: Christian Santoni and Kass Sinchi



The Project's programs are made possible with public funds from 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.

BOOM! WHAM! POW!

THE 2023 LORRAINE COHEN STAGE COMBAT SHOW

Stage Combat Instructor

Kerry Warren

Fight Captain

Kendall Cafaro

Program Instructor

Garrett Kim

THE BIG APPLE RUMBLE

Fight choreography by Hannah Santos, with Stephanie Linas

Newton Yorkin, a New Yorker

and a professional boxerHannah Santos

Tor Istin, touring food

blogger from The South.....Stephanie Linas

Sam, works at the bodega.....Jayden Alvarado

BATTLE OF THE CRYSTAL SHOP

Fight choreography by Adolfo Sinchi, with Sebastian Arroyo

Issac, hopeful lawyer in need of spiritual

alignment before the bar exam..... Adolfo Sinchi

Gnome, crystal shop owner

and energy healer..... Sebastian Arroyo

BATTLE OF BATTLES

Fight choreography by Logan Goicuria, with Michael Propster

Gregorious the Gladiator, a Gladiator..... Logan Goicuria

Propernicus the Gladiator, a Royal Gladiator Michael Propster

I'M BETTER!!!

Fight choreography by Evelyn Myer, with Lennox T. Duong

Max, aspiring gymnast from New Jersey.....Evelyn Myer

Sam, aspiring gymnast from 52nd Street Lennox T. Duong

HIGH SCHOOL

Fight choreography by Ethan Cruz, with Kyle Cameron

Jack, high school student, jerk Ethan Cruz

James, high school student, nerd.....Kyle Cameron

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides-Nelson	Noël Mihalow
Rachel Chanoff	Roseline Michael Neveling
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	Merritt Tilney
Natalie Hirsch	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Valerie Kay	Mark Whatley

What's Going On Here?

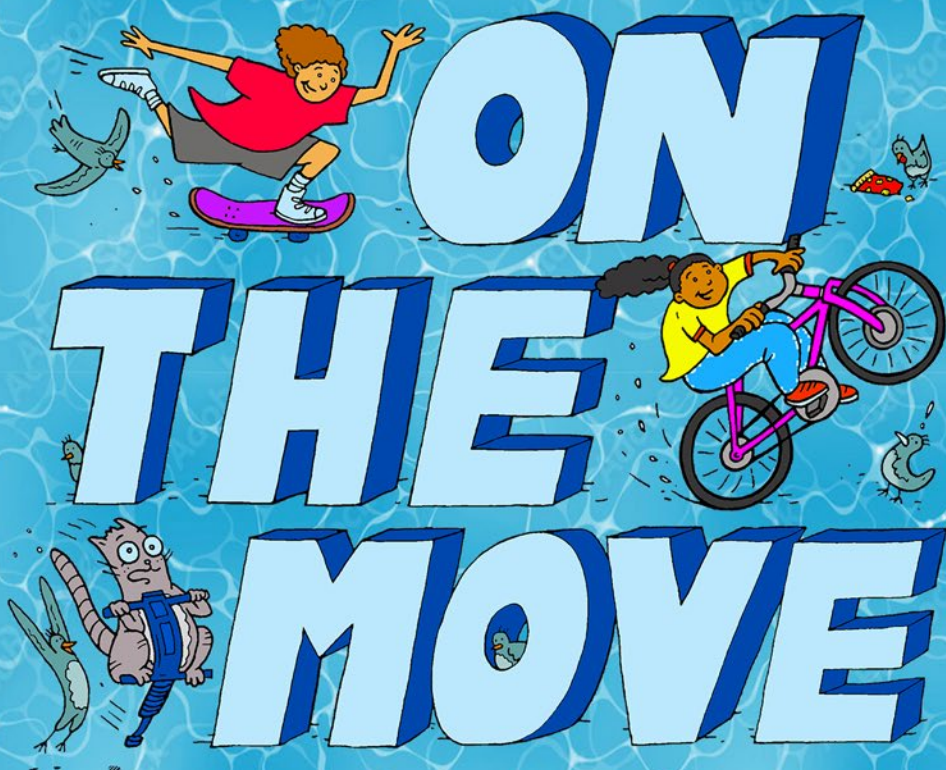
The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original theater. **BOOM! WHAM! POW!** is a Stage Combat show, one of our New Platforms series. In it, young members learned some of the 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.

This program continues the in-person return of children to **The 52nd Street Project Clubhouse** and **The Five Angels Theater**. We are delighted and grateful to be once again working with them in a live, present way.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; Cellar 53; William Curran, A Curran Affair; The Daily Show's Trevor Noah; Michael Dorf & City Winery; Dormify.com; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; Michter's Distillery, LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; The Watkins Company; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS



**PLAYS THAT WILL
TRANSPORT YOU!**

**THE 2023 JERSEY SHORE
ONE-ON-ONES**

**FRIDAY, JULY 21 @ 7:30
SATURDAY, JULY 22 @ 3:00
SUNDAY, JULY 23 @ 3:00**

**THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVE.
BETWEEN 52ND AND 53RD ST.**

ON THE MOVE! PLAYS THAT WILL TRANSPORT

The July 2023 One-on-Ones - July 21-23, Five Angels Theater

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Development Director*
George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Francie Brewster, Yvanna Tassy, Interns

**Project Alumni*

“ON THE MOVE!” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Katie Bartz

Costume Designer

Lara DeBruijn

Sound Designer

Elisabeth Weidner

Stage Manager

Margo Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak, Diego Caoili
and The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

Backstage Crew

Maria Alcides, Francie Brewster,
Amirah Hancock, Yvanna Tassy,
Xavier Espinal

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Patrick Jones

Color and Layout

George Babiak

Livestream Team

Directors: Aaron Conover (Friday)
Katie Bartz (Saturday and Sunday)
Camera Ops:
Sarah Lopez, Christian Santoni



The One-on-One Program is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

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Rachel Chanoff	Roseline Michael Neveling
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	Merritt Tilney
Natalie Hirsch	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Valerie Kay	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. **ON THE MOVE** is a production of our One-on-One program, which is designed to give children the opportunity to enjoy the undivided attention of a professional theater artist who serves as friend, mentor, and collaborator.

This year, for the first time since the pandemic began in 2020, we were able to take the young members you see tonight to the country (**Rumson, NJ**) for a week of rehearsing, swimming, tubing, great food, and all sorts of fun!

We have to thank **Carolyn DeSena** for being our primary host during this week. We're also grateful to **Kim Giblin, Sarah Rossbach and Doug Fleming**, and **Kim Walsh** for housing some of our adult staff members and volunteers. We also want to express our gratitude to **Coco Forster, Kris and Don Bunnell, Irene and Tom Hall**, and **Deirdre and George Spiropoulos** for being gracious host families to our young members.

Additional thanks must be handed out to **Sandy Mulheren** and the **Chapel Beach Club, Danny Martins**, and **Maddy, Neil, Jack and Charlie DeSena**.

In-Kind Contributions

Abbeville Press; Ambassador Theatre Group; Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; William Curran, A Curran Affair; Sean Feeney, MISI; Haru Restaurant of Hell's Kitchen; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; The Neveling Family; Lauren Friedman, Pharma/Omni Printing; Winston Rodney Photography; Signature Bank; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

ON THE MOVE! PLAYS THAT WILL TRANSPORT YOU – ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

T-TIME

by George Babiak for Angel Drew Welsh and Korey Jackson
(Transportation: Model T Ford)

Barnaby J. Terwilliger, a salesmanAngel Drew Welsh
Josiah Smith, a farmer.....Korey Jackson
Chickens.....The Crew

“Go, Go, Go” lyrics by George Babiak

SHRED OF DESTINY

by Caylyn Wan-Creager for Kat Chauca & Raquel Chavez
(Transportation: Skateboard)

Sol, a pro skateboarder lion who lives in Paris.....Kat Chauca
Luna, an otter who lives in the river Seine.....Raquel Chavez
Announcer Yvanna Tassy
Sol’s mom..... Francie Brewster
Brother Otter..... Xavier Espinal

“Just Live Today” lyrics by Caylyn Wan-Creager

THE ADVENTURES OF JAY AND WESTON!

by Cody Wilson for Jason Devoe & Cody Wilson
(Transportation: Freight Train)

Weston, a genius, inventor, and explorer Jason Devoe
Jay, Weston’s brother..... Cody Wilson

“Dangerous Places” lyrics by Cody Wilson

PICKLE SPACEBALL

by Nina Braddock for Katty Lopez and Precious Sipin
(Transportation: Spaceship)

Aurora..... Katty Lopez
Jupiter, the Roman god Precious Sipin
Spaceship Store clerk..... John Sheehy

“Jupiter Dreams” lyrics by Nina Braddock

WIGGLE BASH

by Jed Clarke for Logan Centeno & Michael Propster
(Transportation: Subway)

Edward Hollywood, a former dancer Logan Centeno
Michael Burner, Edward’s former partner Michael Propster
JT Watercress, the host..... Xavier Espinal
Dance Crew Rocky Road Yvanna Tassy & Francie Brewster

“The Wiggle Bash” lyrics by Jed Clarke

ON THE MOVE! PLAYS THAT WILL TRANSPORT YOU - ACT 2

SOMEWHERE IN THE GALAXY

by Garrett David Kim for José Luján & Andy Ingalls

(Transportation: A Teleporter)

Agent Z, the galaxy's last hope José Luján
Joe Rowe, the galaxy's most normal guy Andy Ingalls
Teletron 9000: The voice of Agent Z's teleporter John Sheehy
Agent M: Agent Z's two-headed boss George Babiak and Xavier Espinal
The Overlord: The galaxy's number 1 enemy Andy Ingalls

"Somewhere in the Galaxy" lyrics by Garrett David Kim

BE THE MONSTER

By Sathya Sridharan for Evelyn Myers & Kaileela Hobby

(Transportation: Citibike)

Monster, the actor Kaileela Hobby
Mykaela, the director Evelyn Myers
Doreen, the assistant director Yvanna Tassy

"Be the Monster" lyrics by Sathya Sridharan

PIZZA FRIENDS MWAHAHA!

by Neil D'Astolfo for Mateo Santoni & Neil D'Astolfo

(Transportation: Scooter)

Guy Random, pizza-maker Neil D'Astolfo
BC-292, an escaped robot Mateo Santoni
Robot Factory Guards George Babiak & Xavier Espinal

"Friends are the Best!" lyrics by Neil D'Astolfo

LOVE IS LIKE AN OCEAN

by Stephanie Jean Lane for Bella Galindo & Stephanie Jean Lane

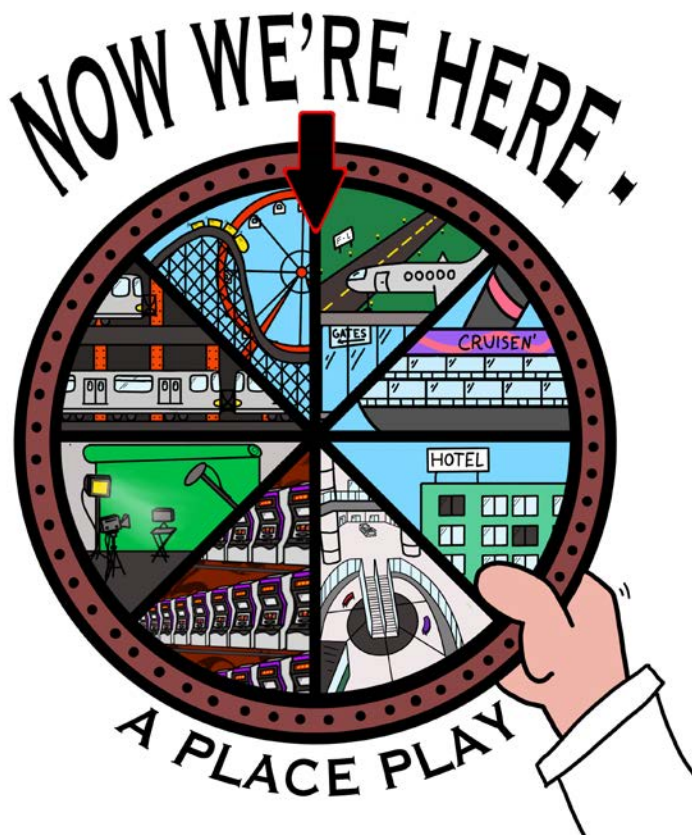
(Transportation: Submarine)

Kiki Cruz, a very famous teen pop star Bella Galindo
Helga, a whale Stephanie Jean Lane
Mama Whale Francie Brewster

"Love Is Like an Ocean" lyrics by Stephanie Jean Lane



WHAT'S COMING UP?



ART BY DIEGO CAOILI

An improvised play performed by young Project Members.

Directed by Kat Almirañez

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

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!

A monthly online event created by Garrett Kim, John Sheehy, and your favorite kid/adult team-ups. Go to the podcast section of the iTunes Store and search for "The 52nd Street Project" or "PROJcast."



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 2022 and the Spring of 2023. Thanks!

COOL STUFF ON SALE IN THE LOBBY!

Fabulous Flyer Bars \$2.50

and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and 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 \$12.00/\$20.00

Project Mugs \$5.00

Project Notebook \$5.00

Project Pencil 3-pack \$1.00

Thank you for coming to **ON THE MOVE!** 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:

07/23

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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.

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation; Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund; Carnegie Corporation of New York; The CLAWS Foundation; Consolidated Edison; Dawkins Family Foundation; Dramatists Play Service, Inc.; The Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation; The Education Foundation of America; Flexis Capital, LLC; Goldman Sachs; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; The Stephen P. Hanson Foundation; Heisman Trophy Trust; The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts Lemle Pictures, Inc.; The Lotos Foundation; Frederick Loewe Foundation; The Rona & Randolph M. Nelson Foundation; Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation; The Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Par Plumbing Co., Inc.; The Pinkerton Foundation; Sawyer | Berson Architecture & Landscape Architecture; The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund; Showtime Networks; The Shubert Foundation; Susquehanna Foundation; Tiger Baron Foundation; John A. Vassilaros & Sons, Inc.; Yorke Construction Corp.; Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

Alexandra Garrison	Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren	Mary Pat Walsh
Alexandra Vassilaros	Glen Gillen	Matthew Jones
Alphonsa Vadakethalake	Helen & Peter Randolph	Megan Cramer
Amy Herzig	Henry Krieger & Robert Joy	Melissa & Lee Briggs
Andrea Johnson	Jacki Ochs & Jan Kroeze	Melissa Lowry
Anna Li & Frank Sposato	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Anne M. Bacon	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Michael & Megan Crane
Annie & David Hausmann	Jeff Arnold	Omar Metwally
Becky & Dylan Baker	Jené LeBlanc & Willie Reale	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Jeremy Smith	Peter Ackerman
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	Jerry McGill	Peter Francis James
Billy Crudup	Jessica Bauman & Ben Posel	Rachel & Larry Norton
Billy Dreskin	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Randy Weisenberger
Bob Stockel	John Rossi	Richard Sweren
Buzz Bovshow	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Rita Silver
Carl Capotorto	Josie Merck	Ron & Judy Tierney
Carol Ochs & Bruce MacVittie	Judy & Sam Berger	Rona & Randy Nelson
Carole and Alan Howard	Judy Kuhn & David Schwab	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Carole Yass	Judy Taub Gold	Roseline Michael
Carolyn DeSena	Karen & Paul Freitas	& Dennis Neveling
Cathy Dantchik	Karen Powell	Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin
Cecilia Arana & Kevin Grant	Karin & Tom Schall	Ruth Nelson
Christina Morelli	Katie & Kelly Clark	Sarah & Paul Ardire
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Katrina vanden Heuvel	Sarah Horowitz & David Venarde
Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	Seth Marx
Cynthia Vance-Abrams & Robert Abrams	Kevin Ryder	Shari Goodstein
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Kim & Jordan Dickstein	Sherry Cohen
David Aldridge	Kimberly Grigsby	Shirley Rumierk
David Williams	Laura & David Ross	& Armando Riesco
Deborah Kim	Laura Ewing	Stephen Bernstein
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Laura Jones	Stephen Graham
Don Nickel	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig	Stephen Sadove
Douglas Kabel	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Steven & Lenora Satin
Drew McCoy & Amy Aquino	Laurel Durst	Sunil Arora
Eddie Falco	Laurie Becker	Susan Isaacson
Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Lewis Black	Susannah Gray & John Lyons
Ellen Chopay	Lisa Benavides	Susannah Keagle
Ellen Kroll	& Tim Blake Nelson	Suzen Murakoshi
Ellen Oshinsky	Lori O'Connor	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lori Tan Chinn	Tina Galley
Eric Brooks	Lynne Rosenberg	Todd Herman
Eric Jungwirth	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Tracy Wan & Carl Creager
F. Richard Pappas	Marion Koltun	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Mary & Lionel Allan	Vicki & Craig Holleman
Francine Borgenicht	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary Lin & James Yoshimura	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
	Mary Lou Teel	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of April 1, 2022

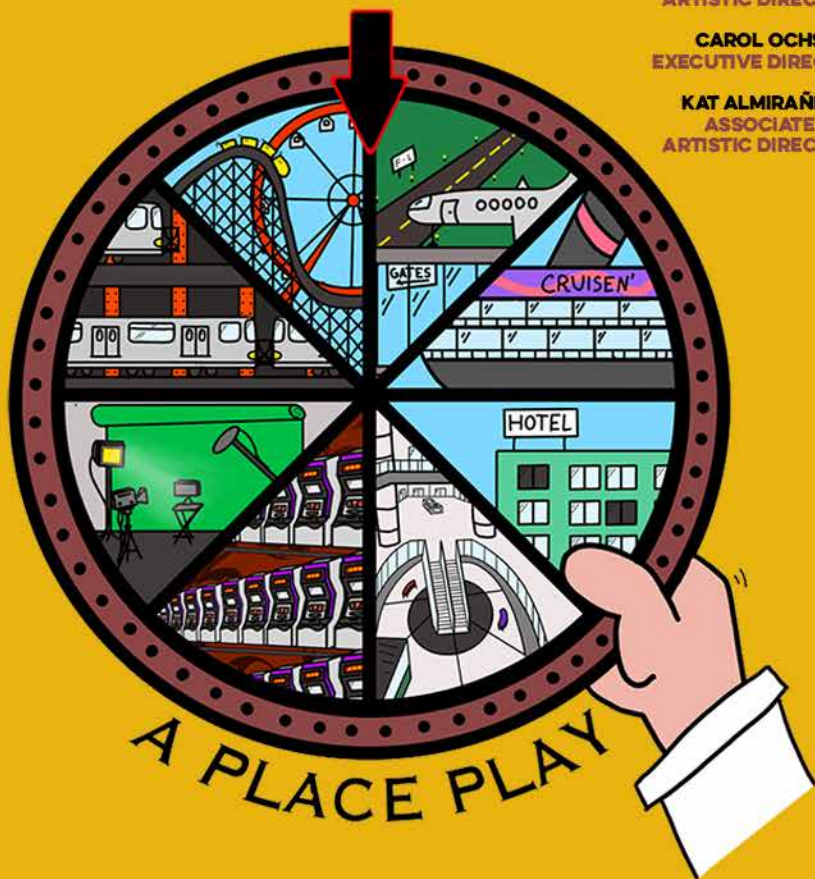
THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

NOW WE'RE HERE!

NATALIE HIRSCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRANEZ
ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**A ONE-TIME PERFORMANCE
BY PROJECT MEMBERS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 - 7:30 PM
THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVE,
BETWEEN 52ND AND 53RD**

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, Office Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director
Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager
Carol Ochs, Executive Director
John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Production Manager
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Francie Brewster and Yvanna Tassy, Interns

**Project Alumni*

“NOW WE’RE HERE!” Production Staff

Director

Kat Almirañez

Assistant Director

Caylyn Wan-Creager

Composer/Music Director

Kim D. Sherman

Lighting Designer

Bri Weintraub

Sound Designer

Diego Caoili

Costume Designers/Backstage Crew

Francie Brewster and Yvanna Tassy

Prop Designer

George Babiak

Livestream Team

George Babiak, Director.

Christian Santoni, Alice Strom; Camera Operators

House Management

John Sheehy



NOW WE'RE HERE! 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.

Now We're Here!, the show you're seeing tonight, is an original play created over a period of 5 days! Five 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 AIRPORT!

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 this first-time endeavor at the Project!

Opening: Entire Company

Storylines and Characters:

“VIP STRUGGLES”

Claudia, a flight attendant..... Rebeca Vanterpool
Nadia, a flight attendant Jasminn Johnson

“FAN-ANTIC”

Chelsie “Chelcandowell” Sanchez,
celebrity rapper..... Hannah Santos
Cassie, 17 year old super fan of
Chelsie “Chelcandowell” Sanchez..... Adaire Kamen

“THE DEAL OF ALL DEALS”

Greg Megladio VI, CEO.....Logan Goicuria
Bianca Debizzy, Assistant..... Betsy Hogg

“TWIN SISTER TWIST”

Selena, Beatrice’s identical twin,
a Flight attendant..... Jessica Elie-Pierre
Beatrice, Selena’s identical twin,
works at muffin factory.....Molly Carden

“THE TWO BIG TOURNAMENTS”

Lilly Blank (L. B.), a Math genius..... Samaria Alkandi
Lydia Blank (L. B.), a ping pong whiz Kendall Cafaro

Closing: Entire Company

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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

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. **NOW WE'RE HERE** is a unique production that brings together several age groups into one company.

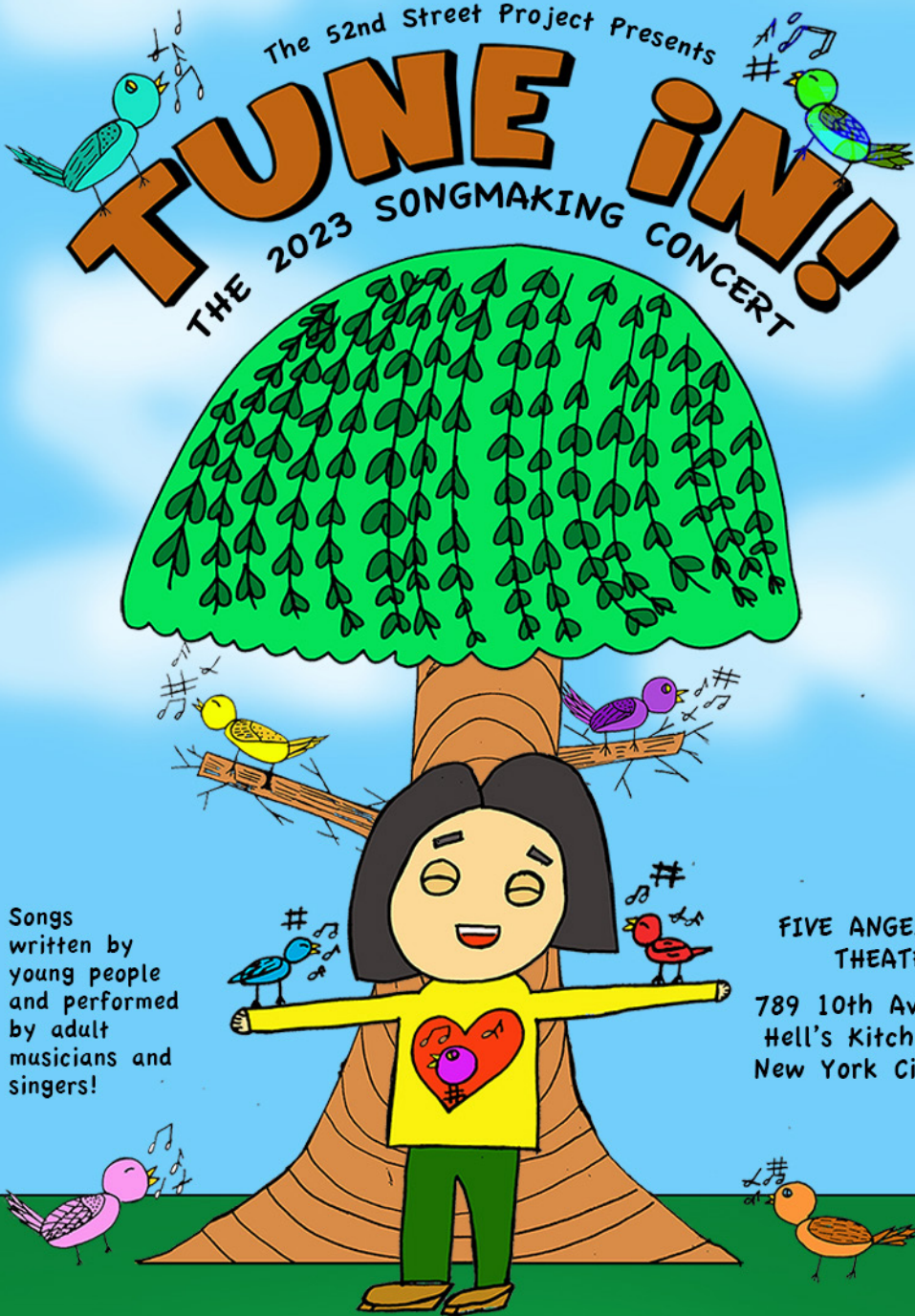
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The 52nd Street Project Presents

TUNE in!

THE 2023 SONGMAKING CONCERT



Songs
written by
young people
and performed
by adult
musicians and
singers!

FIVE ANGELS
THEATER

789 10th Ave.
Hell's Kitchen
New York City

Friday, October 27
at 7:30 p.m.



THE LYRICISTS

Angel Drew Welsh

Anthony Zappa

Bella Galindo

Jaelannie Rodriguez

Josiah Perez

THE COMPOSERS/MUSICIANS

Adam LaPorte

Paige Menneci

Jonja Merck

Madeline Mondrala

Mikey Rosenbaum

Percussion: Ajay Raghuraman

THE SINGERS

Jessica Carvo

Major Curda

Angel Desai

Ali Ewoldt

Bella Galindo

Yonatan Gebeyehu

Kendal Hartse

Doron JéPaul

Jared Loftin

Mallory Portnoy

Michael Potts

Angie Toledo

Natalie Walker

Tatiana Wechsler

Mitchell Winter

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Avi A. Amon

SONGMAKING DIRECTOR

Garrett Kim

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Aaron Conover

PHOTOGRAPHY

Deneka Peniston

STAGE MANAGER

Bri Weintraub

FALL 2023 INTERNS

Chris Rubingh

Abby Dziura

AUDIO ENGINEER

Chopin Indra-Payoong

LIVESTREAM CAMERA

Abby Dziura

THE CONCERT

LIFE LIKE THIS

Lyrics by Anthony Zappa
Music by Mikey Rosenbaum
Sung by Tatiana Wechsler

THE FIGHT

Lyrics by Anthony Zappa
Music by Mikey Rosenbaum
Sung by Jared Loftin

GARY'S DOJO

Lyrics by Anthony Zappa
Music by Mikey Rosenbaum
Sung by Doron JéPaul



MY LIFE SONG

Lyrics by Bella Galindo
Music by Madeline Mondrala
Sung by Angie Toledo

ANIMAL SONG

Lyrics by Bella Galindo
Music by Madeline Mondrala
Sung by Bella and Madeline

YOUNG AGAIN

Lyrics by Bella Galindo
Music by Madeline Mondrala
Sung by Jessica Carvo



NEW THINGS

Lyrics by Josiah Perez
Music by Jonja Merck
Sung by Mitchell Winter

THE FEELING LONELY TO EXCITING

Lyrics by Josiah Perez
Music by Jonja Merck
Sung by Yonathan Gebeyehu

KING OF THE HELP

Lyrics by Josiah Perez
Music by Jonja Merck
Sung by Michael Potts



HI, I'M ROSIE

Lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez
Music by Paige Menneci
Sung by Angel Desai

IS IT MY TIME YET?

Lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez
Music by Paige Menneci
Sung by Ali Ewoldt

JUMPING FROGS

Lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez
Music by Paige Menneci
Sung by Mallory Portnoy



BIRD CITY

Lyrics by Angel Drew Welsh
Music by Adam Laporte
Sung by Natalie Walker

TRAITORS

Lyrics by Angel Drew Welsh
Music by Adam Laporte
Sung by Major Curda

TAPE THE PHONE TO MY FACE

Lyrics by Angel Drew Welsh
Music by Adam Laporte
Sung by Kendal Hartse

The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit community-based arts organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional artists to create original art. The Songmaking program partners 52nd Street Project kids with adult composers to create original songs. Over the seven weeks of Songmaking, led by Avi Amon and Program Director Garrett David Kim, these young lyricists explore how their own words and ideas fit together with their composer's music to create songs. Near the end of the program, we bring in a company of singers to perform the completed songs, and share them with an audience.

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Development Manager*

George Babiak, Director of Design and Production

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Ana Soto-Gonzalez, Receptionist

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

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LIFE LIKE THIS

Lyrics by Anthony Zappa
Music by Mikey Rosenbaum
Sung by Tatiana Wechsler

My name's Bud, the palm tree
And I live on an island in the
 sea
I bask in the sunlight
And have all the fun

I ain't got no troubles, I'm living
 at ease
Life like this is a breeze
I got no jobs, I watch the trees
 grow all day
Life like this is a-okay

Living on an island is the best
You'll never be put to the test!
Sippin' on coconuts, it's easy to
 rest.

Boats and planes pass me by
 every day
But it don't make me feel afraid
Cause life like this is a-okay
When you live like me, you'll
 always be free
Every day will feel like May
Cause life like this, life like this
 is a-okay

So as you can see, I'm truly at
 ease
I hope nobody takes this feeling
 away from me
People been gettin' awfully
 closer
I hope I don't turn into a poster
But I've got to stay calm
Cause life's the best when
 you're a palm

Think of everything, think of
 everything
Think of everything in a life like
 this
Think of everything that could
 happen
Think of everything that could
 happen
Think of everything that could
 happen in a life like this



THE FIGHT

Lyrics by Anthony Zappa
Music by Mikey Rosenbaum
Sung by Jared Loftin

It was all so silly
This fight with Billie
She asked "What's better,
carpets or rugs?"
Then out came Doug, looking
so smug
Saying "You seriously think a
carpet's better than a rug?"
"Yes I do, what's wrong with
that?"
Ask anyone, even my cat!"
That was his final straw!
Everyone started to shout
Billie even got smacked with a
trout
Chairs were flying
I was crying
When will this madness end!

Oh why, oh why do my
roommates have to be like
this
They can never go a day
without throwin' a fist
They're constantly shouting
After that they're always
pouting
Oh why do my roommates have
to be like this?

Doug said, "We're definitely
going to need a broom"
This caused a laughing fit
Then Billie said, "I think our
battles should quit.
I'm sorry for fighting with you."
Billie said, "Maybe we should
stop losing our heads."
Then Doug said "That was a
very dumb fight.
I feel so embarrassed I could
have died."

I'm so glad that my roommates
ended their fight
We can finally relax and have a
good night
We should celebrate and eat
some pizza
I'm so glad that my roommates
ended their fight
I'm so glad that my roommates
ended their fight
We can finally relax and have a
good night
We should celebrate and eat
some pizza
I'm so glad that my roommates
ended their fight

But suddenly the fighting
ceases
Have they finally made peace?
As soon as he looked around
the room



GARY'S DOJO

Lyrics by Anthony Zappa
Music by Mikey Rosenbaum
Sung by Doron JéPaul

Welcome to Gary's Dojo
Where everything is fun!
Kids of every age can join
Where you'll love us a ton!
You can kick, box, fight or scream!
Just make sure to follow your dream!
For a low low price of twenty dollars
With a price like that you'll scream and holler

Gary's Dojo is the best!
Gary's Dojo is the best!
Gary's Dojo is the best Yippee!
Call 1-800-Gary's Dojo!



MY LIFE SONG

Lyrics by Bella Galindo
Music by Madeline Mondrala
Sung by Angie Toledo

I love it when I see the moon
I love to see the sunset too
I speak with my gorgeous voice
By taking my Polaroids

I sit by my windowsill
I see the moon bright and still
I go through my photographs
They always make me laugh

These memories are mine to
keep
My camera and me, we are
besties
Photos of my mom and dad
My dogs and cat
My brothers and sister
Summer and winter
These memories were made for
me
They're mine to keep

I love when we go to the beach
I go there with my family
We take pictures of the sea
We smile in the summer breeze

I look up at my ceiling
My photographs appear to me
They each have their own
meaning
That give me a good feeling

These memories are mine to
keep
My camera and me, we are
besties
Photos of my mom and dad
My dog and cats
My brother and sister
Summer and winter
These memories were made for
me
My school semester
My joy and laughter
My soul, my pride
My whole life
These memories were made for
me
They're mine to keep



ANIMAL SONG

Lyrics by Bella Galindo
Music by Madeline Mondrala
Sung by Bella and Madeline

I'm friends with the animals
They see what I see
They sit with me
They look at me
They listen when I speak
They don't judge me at all
Cus they can't even talk

That's why I'm friends with
animals
They treat me better than most
people
But I love cats the most
Because they're cute and small

My black cat is my spirit friend
She sees what I hear
Her yellow eyes look at me
And then she appears
Some might say she's bad luck
But we have so much fun

She's my favorite animal
She treats me better than most
people
I love the way she meows
When I'm feeling down

Animals are so sweet and kind
You can be your true self
And they won't mind
Whether you're out or inside
They will be with you
And they love you

You can take them out for a joy
ride
Or a road trip
You can pick

They hide in tiny places
Like in a box
Or under your bed
Sometimes when they get the
zooms
They go really fast
And jump at you
Also dogs are cool too

That's why I'm friends with
animals
They treat me better than most
people
But I love cats the most
Because they're cute and small



YOUNG AGAIN

Lyrics by Bella Galindo

Music by Madeline Mondrala

Sung by Jessica Carvo

Before I died

I wished I was young again

The trees are turning back into saplings

I look in the mirror and see my young self again

When I look at others they seem so small

Now I wish I was a child

Connected to the memories of my old life

My smile brings my joy

My joy brings my smile

The light I share goes on for miles and miles

As time goes by

I think of the ones I love

They each have their own meaning to me

My mom took care of me in another life

The love we share spans all of time

Now I wish I was a child

Connected to the memories of my old life

My smile brings my joy

My joy brings my smile

The light I share goes on for miles and miles



NEW THINGS

Lyrics by Josiah Perez

Music by Jonja Merck

Sung by Mitchell Winter

I see a lot of farms
I hear a lot of cars
I'm at a new place
I'm at a new place

I smell a farm
I smell fresh mango and coconuts
I'm at a new place
I'm at a new place

Hey my name is Ozzy
And I'm at a new place
I smell, I hear, I have no fear
I also taste fresh food
No, I'm not done, I feel all the pools
I walk through to the pools
Next thing you know
I feel very cool

I'm at a new place
I'm at a new place
I felt cool from the swimming pool
After I feel lazy as a daisy

But then I wake up to realize
It was just a dream
Wait! It's just a dream?
Come on, now I'm so angry!



THE FEELING LONELY TO EXCITING

Lyrics by Josiah Perez

Music by Jonja Merck

Sung by Yonatan Gebeyehu

I was just a lonely person, lonely
I waited all this long
I was just a lonely person,
I waited all this long
It's so lonely, lonely

I wish somebody can just find me
It's so lonely, lonely
But I just keep going on and on, and on and on and on

Somebody came for me...why?
I thought was gonna stay lonely
Why did this miracle happen?
I was just a lonely boy
Sike! Not no more

I was just a lonely boy
I'm so excited!
Oop! My mom came!
Okay bye!



KING OF THE HELP

Lyrics by Josiah Perez

Music by Jonja Merck

Sung by Michael Potts

I just want to complete my wish
Have some fun, play around
Because I need to become King of the Signs!

So I help and I try and I try and I try to conquer my wish
Not to wash the dish
But to become King of the Help!
King of the Help

Yes my name is Max!
I just want to become famous
So people can respect me, know me,
And they can know how nice I am

I try to conquer my wish
Not to wash the dish
I'm zero years old
But I still want to become King of the Help!
King of the Help!
King of the Help!
King of the Help!



HI, I'M ROSIE

Lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez

Music by Paige Menneci

Sung by Angel Desai

"Hi I'm Rosie!"

I've been out here for so long
I can't wait to be picked
You should pick a flower
Why don't you come join me

Kids always see me, all by myself
In the garden at the car wash
They never pick me
But they pick flowers like the white daisies
But I want my exciting moment
Remember Rosie you just want your exciting moment



IS IT MY TIME YET?

Lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez

Music by Paige Menneci

Sung by Ali Ewoldt

Is it my time yet?
I don't quite know
Is it too late
I don't want to go yet
I can't do this

I'm scared my mom won't like that
I'm scared if I don't move out my mom won't be proud of me
Scared I'm gonna lose my job
I'm scared I'm gonna be homesick
Homesick

I wanna go because I need that important feeling
To see the kids have fun because of me

But I'm scared my mom won't like that
I'm scared if I don't move out my mom won't be proud of me
Scared I'm gonna lose my job
I'm scared I'm gonna be homesick
Homesick

Mm, mm

Don't worry
It's okay if you mess up
Just go and try it
I'll like it or not
As long as I try



JUMPING FROGS

Lyrics by Jaelannie Rodriguez

Music by Paige Menneci

Sung by Mallory Portnoy

“Uh where am I?
Is this where the party is?”

I smell pizza
Where’s my sister’s party!
But first
Let’s go get pizza

Mm that was good
The bread bubbles and the pepperoni made it even better
Should I go to the front desk
I don’t know
Fine I’ll just go

So I go to the front desk
And I ask for songs
They give me Jumping Frog socks
They’re not really soft
But they’re Jumping Frog socks

I see trampolines
Where’s my sister’s party!
But first
Let’s go jump on trampolines
Phew that was tiring
Let’s go get water

Where’s my sister’s party?
Where’s my sister’s party?

“Oh it’s mom
I’m at the wrong Jumping Frogs!
Are you serious?!”



BIRD CITY

Lyrics by Angel Drew Welsh

Music by Adam LaPorte

Sung by Natalie Walker

Well this is bird city
I'm at the bird gate
All I have to do is
Show my bird passport to the
bird

I show my passport
The bird takes it and flies away
But the bird bumps into the
gate
And it opens anyway

I see a sign that says
'Come to bird city
We got birds we got bird
houses
We got bird trees and bird food
Come to bird city
We got bird free pillows
We've got crows and robins,
pigeons, chicken and eagles
too'

I go to the restaurant
And it's made for birds
It's not very pleasant
There's bird poop and bird food

There's too many pigeons
And way too much bread
And when I try to order I realize
All the food is on the floor

I don't think Bird City lives up to
the chirping

I think I have to go
I think that my friends were up
to something
And maybe they were joking
but I don't know

Everything looks like garbage
Everything smells like a zoo
Everything feels as soft as a
feather
And I also hate that too

It sounds like I'm in the amazon
forest
And there's too many trees
I don't think this is very good
For a human like me

Wait just a minute, to my
surprise
I see a bird house except its
human size
Maybe bird city isn't so bad
Now I have a home here and
there's no reason to be sad

"Come to bird city
We got birds we got bird
houses
We got bird trees and bird food
Come to bird city
We got bird free pillows
We've got crows and robins,
pigeons, chicken and
humans too"



TRAITORS

Lyrics by Angel Drew Welsh

Music by Adam LaPorte

Sung by Major Curda

You and me were two brothers
We weren't making enough
money
We decided to make a new car
I made the plans but you stole
them
Went and started your own
company
Left me hanging, this is so
unfair

How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?
Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams
How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?
Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams

You were my brother, now
you're a traitor
You stole all your ideas from
me
Now you'll see me taking back
control
You made millions off my
brilliance
But I have something up my
sleeve
All will see who you really are

How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?

Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams
How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?
Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams

I'll take all my worst ideas and
leave them where you can
find them. They're all yours.
You won't realize they're
horrible until it's too late.
And then you'll be the one
saying...

How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?
Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams
How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?
Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams
How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?
Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams
How could you do this to me?
How could you do this to me?
Your own brother,
You crashed my dreams



TAPE THE PHONE TO MY FACE

Lyrics by Angel Drew Welsh

Music by Adam LaPorte

Sung by Kendal Hartse

I got a new phone, I always
wanted it
I'll never be alone with
electronics
But I can't ever put it down
Yeah I'm getting addicted now
It's a problem, but I am solving
it

It's always in my hands
But I have got a plan

I'm gonna tape, tape my phone
to my face
Put this phone in its place
That will solve the case
I'm gonna tape, tape my phone
to my face
Put this phone in its place
With a lotta lotta buncha tape

I've solved the problem, hold on
now wait a minute
The phone is stuck to my face, I
didn't think about this
My eyes are burning now
Yeah this is concerning now
I am panicking, is this gonna
be it?

I know what to do
I know what to do!

I'm gonna break, break this
phone off my face
No need to take off the case
It was really just a waste
I'm gonna take, take this
hammer and break
This phone right off my face
This phone will be erased

After I was done picking glass
out of my skin
I decided to go outside and
take a deep breath in
I saw a group of people,
thought that I might make a
friend
When I walked up to them
Oh no!
They're all on their phones!!

I'm gonna ask, ask my mom for
a phone
Tell her mine is broke
I don't wanna be alone
Then I'm gonna tape, tape that
phone to my face
Put my phone in it's place
And I'll always be up to date
With a phone stuck to my face



BIOGRAPHIES



AVI A. AMON (Music Director, *he/they*) is a Turkish-American composer, sound artist, and educator. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of The Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Recent work includes music, songs, and sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Atlantic Theater, The Civilians, Disney, HBO Films, HERE Arts, Hulu, The Kennedy Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Theater Workshop, The New Victory, PlayCo, Roundabout Theater, SoHo REP, Spotify/Gimlet, St. Louis REP, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Avi is the recipient of the Thom Thomas Award and a Jonathan Larson Grant. He is also a Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow, a New Jewish Culture Fellow, and an inaugural fellow with THE WORKSHOP. Avi teaches a variety of collaborative art-making courses at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing. www.aviamon.com.



JESSICA CARVO (Singer, *Young Again*) is a singer, songwriter, and producer with a musical journey encompassing classical, jazz, rock, and electronic genres. She first gained recognition as an artist under the EMI Manhattan/Blue Note label, with notable PBS television performances. Subsequently, her versatile musical talents opened doors to high-profile opportunities, including appearances on NBC's 'The Sing-Off' and collaborations with esteemed composers for TV and film. Jessica finds inspiration in creative interactions both in the writing room and on stage. In 2015, she formed the duo Satellite Mode, which quickly gained viral acclaim with its first independent record release, accumulating over 30 million streams. The duo has gone on to tour nationally with artists such as The Band Perry, Guster, LAUV and more. After a nine-year hiatus from solo work, Jessica is gearing up to release her EP 'Cold Case', in 2024. She is absolutely thrilled to be working with the 52nd Street Project!



AARON CONOVER (Lighting) is a freelance lighting designer and digital performance technician based in New York City. He is so grateful to be working again at The 52nd Street Project on TUNE IN! His designs last graced the Five Angels stage during Penny for Your Thoughts, the 2022 Playmaking production.



MAJOR CURDA (Singer, *Traitors*) 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 (SAG-AFTRA 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



ANGEL DESAI (Singer, *Hi, I’m Rosie*) has been a volunteer with the 52nd St Project since 2002. Her recent TV credits include “Poker Face”, an upcoming Amazon series, “Blue Bloods”, “Law and Order” (reboot), “For Life”, “NCIS: NOLA”, “FBI: Most Wanted”, “City on a Hill”, “Bull” and many others. Film includes: “*Peas and Carrots*” (upcoming), *klutz.*, “*Lady Apsara*”, *The Oh-Gees*, *This Time Next Tuesday*, *The Clique*, *The War Within*, *Heights*, *Black Knight*, *Robot Stories*. She is the voice of Dana Singh in Hulu’s 2nd season of “*Dicktown*” and First Minister Jinn in “*Gears of War*” 4 & 5. Broadway: “*Company*” (2006 Revival). Off-Broadway: MTC, MCC, NYTW, CSC, Playwrights Horizons, The Public/NYSE, The Women’s Project, Ma-Yi Theatre Company. Regional: Yale Rep, George St. Playhouse, Berkshire Theater Festival, Old Globe, McCarter Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse, Long Wharf, Arena Stage, Playmakers Rep. Angel co-founded the Asian American Performers Action Coalition, AAPAC, which won a 2020 Obie and a 2022 Tony Award for excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.



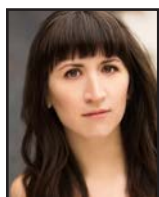
ALIEWOLDT (Singer, *Is It My Time Yet?*) has appeared as Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway, Cosette in *Les Miserables* (Broadway, National Tour), in *The King and I* (Lincoln Center, Lyric Opera of Chicago), and as Luisa in *The Fantasticks* (Off-Broadway). Regionally, she has played Amalia in *She Loves Me* (Signature Theatre, Helen Hayes nomination), Yook Mei in *Gold Mountain* (Utah Shakes), Rose in *The Secret Garden* (CTG; FITC concert with Rebecca), Philia in *A Funny Thing... (The Munny)*, Fan/Mrs. Bonds in *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre), and Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* (Sacramento Music Circus). Concert/symphony work includes: Alice Tully Hall, The Town Hall, NY Pops at Carnegie Hall, APO, Houston Symphony, Kaohsiung Symphony and The Boston Pops. TV/Film credits include “The Michael J. Fox Show,” *Yield*, and the short films *Mia* and *The Cactus*. Ali has a BA in psychology from Yale University and is a proud Filipina American. @aliewoldt



BELLA GALINDO (Songmaker, Singer, *Friends with the Animals*) 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. Bela and Ciana became Smart Partners in October 2023. Bella can also be heard on the PROJcast (episodes 41 & 47).



YONATAN GEBEYEHU (Singer, *The Feeling Lonely to Exciting*) is an actor based in Brooklyn, New York. In New York, he's performed at TFANA, Moliere in the Park, Bedlam, New Georges and MTC. On TV, he's appeared on *Prodigal Son* on Fox, *Elementary* on CBS, and *Madame Secretary* on CBS. He has an MFA in acting from University of California San Diego, and a B.A in English from Columbia University.



KENDAL HARTSE (Singer, *Tape the Phone to My Face*) 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.



CHOPIN INDRA-PAYOON (Engineer) Born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand, Chopin's musical interests started from his father, who was a guitar collector. Chopin's first instrument was piano at age 6; he switched to guitar at age 8. He attended Bangkok Patana School in Thailand, where he got the support that he needed in order to pursue his musical dreams. In middle school, he was in Jazz Band where he also further developed his music theory and guitar playing. From 2014-2015, he was selected by Thailand's Ministry of Culture to represent the country as a guitarist in Thailand's top youth big band "Ruam Smai Bigband", playing international venues in Japan and Hong-Kong. He attended Berklee's five-week program in 2018 on scholarship and got his first taste of a contemporary music school. He was a part of the funk-fusion ensemble and the production workshop in which he fell in love with music production and engineering. He graduated with a magna cum-laude with a bachelor's in music production & engineering at Berklee College of Music and a Master's of creative media and Technology with a concentration in songwriting & production.



DORON JÉPAUL (Singer, *Gary's Dojo*) is a Creative Architect: using acting, writing, directing and producing to tell innovative and thought-provoking stories that expand the kingdom of God in an avant-garde way. Originally an aspiring mathematics teacher and basketball playing carpenter from Colorado by way of Germany, he forwent a doctorate scholarship to pursue an artistic career in

New York City. He graduated from NYU Graduate Acting Program and has performed on Broadway in *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *The Piano Lesson*, as well as starred in award-winning films, all while writing and producing for theater, television and film. His production company Thermostat Media specializes in producing both scripted and unscripted content that not only entertains but also inspires and provokes. He loves finding opportunities to go fishing, drink coffee, and expand the curiosity and joy of the communities he comes in contact with.



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 developed work with 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.



ADAM LAPORTE (Composer/Band, team Angel) is a composer, lyricist, and playwright originally from Murfreesboro, TN. 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.



JARED LOFTIN (Singer, *The Fight*) OFF-BROADWAY/NEW YORK: *The Panic of '29*, *Gigantic* (Vineyard Theatre), *Saturday Night* (York Theatre), *Gary Goldfarb: Master Escapist* (NYMF). REGIONAL: *AD16* (Olney Theatre), *Nikola Tesla Drops the Beat* (ATF), *Peter Pan*, *All Shook Up*, *Fame*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Artpark). FILM/TV: *tick, tick...BOOM!* (Netflix), *Little America* (Apple), *Red Oaks* (Amazon).

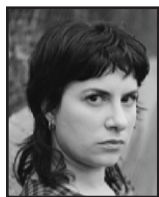


PAIGE MENNECCI (Composer/Band, team Jaelannie) is a New York-based composer/lyricist and a second year MFA candidate at the NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. She is passionate about using the power of theatre to create funny stories about empathy, growth and faith using rock influences. Currently

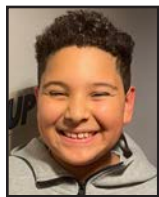
under development, her thesis musical explores the intersection of art, authenticity and body image. It follows a woman (and the younger versions of herself) who travels to her hometown to address the unresolved relationships she left behind in her search for identity as an artist. Paige has a B.S. in Music Industry from the College of Saint Rose where she recorded, produced and released her debut pop-rock album, *Hell of a Start*. Paige music-directed her debut song cycle *Laws of Motion*, about the obsessive fear of wasting time and potential, at the Saint Rose Musical Theatre Workshop in 2021, and is developing it as a narrative piece. Paige has years of experience as a Music Ministry leader at multiple churches across New York. She also serves as the Special Projects Manager for the national nonprofit, *Music to Life*, which connects socially conscious artists with the resources to create music-driven community change projects. @paigemenneci



JONJA MERCK (Composer/Band, team Josiah) is a music director, pianist, composer, and conductor from Berlin, Germany. He is a second year composer at NYU's Musical Theatre Writing Program. He has volunteered as a music assistant for BCEFA's *Broadway Backwards* since 2020. His first original musical, *An Artist, Now* premiered at the Fisher Center at Bard in February 2022. Two new original musicals are currently under development. Jonja is a proud member of MUSE (Musicians United For Social Equity). Bachelor of Arts from Bard College, NY. @jonjamerck



MADELINE MONDRALA (Composer/Band team Bella) [she/they] is a singer/songwriter and content creator based in Brooklyn New York. Madeline has a degree in Studio Composition from The Music Conservatory at SUNY Purchase, and is currently getting her Masters in Musical Theater Writing and Design at Berklee NYC. As a creator she is best known for her viral TikToks featuring her celebrity vocal impressions and comedic sketches. Madeline's solo music project "That Brunette" has garnered critical acclaim from noteworthy blogs such as Ladygunn and Billboard among others. Her latest EP "Dark Cute" dropped in 2021 under the moniker "That Brunette." Her newest collection of songs comes out later this year.



JOSIAH PEREZ (Songmaker) joined the Project in the spring of 2023. His first play was *Lion and Bear Friend Problems*; dramaturged and directed by Michael Propster; with Daiva Deupree as Ms. Bear, a bear; and Carl Hendrick Louis as Isaac, an older lion. It was part of the production *A WHALE OF A TALE, Plays That Make a Splash*, in March/April 2023. Josiah can also be heard on the PROJcast (episodes 42 & 47).

The 52nd Street Project Presents

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Scrumptious Plays

See
8
New
Plays

By
8
Young
Playwrights



THE FALL, 2023 PLAYMAKING SHOW

Friday, Dec. 8 - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9 - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 10 - 3:00 p.m.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Ave.
Between 52nd and 53rd St.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT; THE SCRUMPTIOUS PLAYS, ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

ESCAPE

Written by Mamadou Diaw, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Don Nguyen.

Tim, a crypto investor Michael Braun
Lim, a doctor..... Grace Rex
Hapless travelers.....Christian Santoni, Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez

Advice lyrics by Mamadou Diaw

65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH

Written by Aidan Gleeman, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: John Sheehy.

Delta, a Tyrannosaurus Rex Ben Katz
Sindy, a Triceratops Angelica Toledo
Delta's dad..... George Babiak

The Hard Song and *I'm Not Getting Eaten Tonight* lyrics by Aidan Gleeman

THE TWIST

Written by Shaddai Blake-Soden, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Krystel Lucas.

Heidi Ray, a farmer Jasmin Johnson
Anastasia Brie, an actress and celebrity Margaret Odette
Farm animals..... The Crew

Thankful for Yourself lyrics by Shaddai Blake-Soden

SALT AND PEPPER

Written by Angela Muca, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Joanna Parson.

Pepper Stephen Wallem
Salt Edie Falco
Salt's Mom..... Evan Schultz

Be Yourself lyrics by Angela Muca



FOOD FOR THOUGHT; THE SCRUMPTIOUS PLAYS, ACT 2

NOT MY SPRINKLES

Written by Julian Wilder, age 9. Dramaturge/Director: Nolan Doran.

Berrei, a strawberry doughnut with sprinkles..... Omar Metwally
Bucket, a horse..... Bill Camp

What Do I Do? lyrics by Julian Wilder

GETTING CLOSER

Written by Cataleya Bernardo, age 10. Dramaturge/Director: Kaaron Briscoe.

Elliana, a butterfly..... Roma Maffia
Bailey, a human..... Sophie von Haselberg
The Doctor..... Amanda Freedman

Emotional Damage lyrics by Cataleya Bernardo

JUDGEMENT

Written by Naresa Bernier, age 11. Dramaturge/Director: Ciana Proto.

Luar, a turtle..... Raul Castillo
Atel, a tiger..... Leta Levy
Guitar..... Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez
Keyboard..... Abby Dziura

Approval lyrics by Naresa Bernier

DREAMS COME TRUE

Written by Walter Rochez, age 10, Dramaturge/Director: Mat Hostetler.

Light Bulb..... Sathya Sridharan
Floor..... Hank Azaria
Other light bulb..... Abby Dziura
Piano Pro..... Amanda Freedman

Getting Chased and *You Are Clean Now* lyrics by Walter Rochez



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. **FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 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 board member **Carolyn DeSena and her family** in Rumson, New Jersey.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides-Nelson	Valerie Kay
Rachel Chanoff	Noël Mihalow
Cathy Dantchik, co-chair	Carol Ochs
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Annie Hausmann	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Natalie Hirsch	Alexandra Vassilaros
Korey Jackson	Mark Whatley

Special Thanks

In addition to the DeSena family we are grateful to our other Rumson hosts **Coco and Brian Forster, Deidre Metcalf, Nancy Bach, Lauren Cesario, Sarah Clark, and Denise McEvilly.**



The Playmaking Program 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.

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

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 **FOOD FOR THOUGHT!** 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:

12/23

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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?



IT'S MOVING TO BROADWAY, BUT YOU HAVE A CHANCE
TO SEE IT AT THE PUBLIC THEATER ON DEC. 13
...AND HELP THE PROJECT AT THE SAME TIME!

NEW BLOCK OF TICKETS AVAILABLE AT \$150 EACH!

Click this box NOW to book your tickets

The 52nd Street Project Presents

A FACE IN THE CROWD



The 2023 Character Workshop

Friday, Dec. 15, 2023 - 7:30 p.m.

BIOGRAPHIES



AVI A. AMON, (*Music Director, he/they*) is an award-winning Turkish-American composer, sound artist, and educator. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of The Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art.

Recent work includes music, songs, and sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Disney, Hulu, The O'Neill, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Theater Workshop, The New Victory, PlayCo, The Public Theater, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Some fun upcoming projects include: music and sound design for *A GOOD DAY TO ME AND NOT TO YOU* (dir. Lee Sunday Evans) at the Connelly Theater next month; music & sound design for *THE FOLLOWING EVENING* with the 600 Highwaymen (Perelman Performing Arts Center, Winter 2024); and music for *THROUGH THE SUNKEN LANDS* with Tim J. Lord (Kennedy Center, Spring 2024). Avi teaches a variety of collaborative art-making courses at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing.

www.aviamon.com.



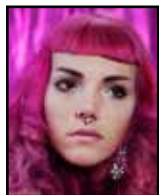
HANK AZARIA (*Floor, DREAMS COME TRUE by Walter*) is a six-time Emmy Award winner, Screen Actors Guild Award winner, and Tony Award nominee. Azaria is well known for being a principal voice actor on *THE SIMPSONS*, voicing over 100 characters including the iconic Moe Szyslak, Police Chief Wiggum and ComicBook Guy. On the big screen, Azaria starred as the scene-stealing housekeeper, Agador Spartacus, in Mike Nichols' *THE BIRDCAGE*. Other film credits include: *GODZILLA*, *AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS*, *LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS*, *SHATTERED GLASS*, *HEAT*, *THE WIZARD OF LIES*, *QUIZ SHOW*, *THE SMURFS* and *THE SMURFS 2*, *NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN*, *ALONG CAME POLLY*, *DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY*, *NOW AND THEN*, *ANASTASIA*, and *PRETTY WOMAN*.



CATALEYA BERNARDO (Playmaker, *GETTING CLOSER*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Cataleya can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*.



NARESA BERNIER (Playmaker, *JUDGEMENT*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Naresa can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



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 first 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.



SHADDAI BLAKE-SODEN (*Playmaker, THE TWIST*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Shaddai can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



MICHAEL BRAUN (*Tim, ESCAPE by Mamadou*) Film credits include *The Tender Bar* (Dir. George Clooney), *The Courtroom* (Dir. Lee Sunday Evans), and *Deep Water* (Dir. Adrian Lyne), Chris Morris's *The Day Shall Come*, *Dark Water*, *Incoming*, *Dare*, *Igby Goes Down* and *Drinks!* Television credits include the third season of "The Sinner," EJ in the final season of Showtime's "The Affair" opposite Anna Paquin; "Succession"; "The Night Of," "High Maintenance," "Mozart in the Jungle," "The Good Wife," "Nurse Jackie," "Law & Order," "The Blacklist," "Blue Bloods," "Unforgettable," "Do No Harm," "Comedy Bang! Bang!" the ABC pilot "Awkward Situations for Men," and the Apple show "Dickinson." He has appeared on Broadway in *The Crucible* (Dir. Ivo Van Hove), *War Horse* at Lincoln Center; as well as *The Bridge Project: Winter's Tale/Cherry Orchard*, (Dir. Sam Mendes) at BAM and the Old Vic in London. Other New York theater credits include shows at The Signature Theater, The Public Theater and Second Stage as well as work across the country at the McCarter, NY Stage and Film, Williamstown Theater Festival, Yale Rep, Centerstage, and Seattle Rep. MFA, Yale School of Drama. Recipient of the Princess Grace Award.



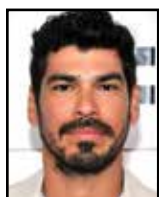
KAARON BRISCOE (*Director/Dramaturg, GETTING CLOSER by Cataleya*) is a Brooklyn based writer, performer, director and creative admin. As a playwright her work has been featured by Project Y, Classical Theater of Harlem, InViolet Theater, and others. She is a former member of Project Y's Playwriting Group. Her play, "Tallahassee" was a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's

Conference. Recently, "How Can I Help You?", a 2021 semi-finalist for Seven Devils Playwright's Conference, was workshopped at Pioneer Theater in Salt Lake City, Utah. Kaaron is also an accomplished actor, having performed on stages in London and Moscow, as well as on screen. She often works with Little Lord and the Working Theater. She has directed for various organizations around New York, as well as the Playwright's Center in Minnesota. A member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild, she is also a proud member of The 52nd Street Project community. Kaaron is a New Orleans native with an MFA from ART/MXAT/IATT at Harvard University.



BILL CAMP (*Bucket, NOT MY SPRINKLES by Julian*) is best known for his Emmy-nominated performance in HBO's critically acclaimed limited series "The Night Of" as well as his SAG-nominated performance as Mr. Shaibel in the hit Netflix limited series "The Queen's Gambit." A veteran of the stage, Camp received a 2016 Tony Award nomination for his performance as Reverend

John Hale in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, directed by Ivo Van Hove. He also received a Drama Desk nomination for his role as Charley in Mike Nichols's production of *Death of a Salesman* (Tony Award for Best Revival). Additional theater credits include *Coram Boy*, *Heartbreak House*, *Jackie*, *The Seagull*. Off-Broadway: *Homebody/Kabul* (Obie Award winner), *The Misanthrope*, *Olly's Prison*. Camp is a graduate of the Juilliard School. He can currently be seen starring alongside Jamie Foxx and Tommy Lee Jones in Amazon Studios "The Burial" and up next, he will star in Netflix's "Man in Full" alongside Jeff Daniels and Diane Lane as well as in the film adaptation of Stephen King's "Salem's Lot."



RAÚL CASTILLO (*Luar, JUDGEMENT by Naresa*) is an actor across the film, television, and theater mediums. He lives in Brooklyn and loves volunteering with The 52nd Street Project. He is super proud of his playwright, Naresa, and of all the playwrights in tonight's lineup. You can currently see Raúl in the Amazon Prime film *Cassandra*, on the new season of FX's *American Horror Stories*, and on Hulu in the more "family-friendly" movie *Miguel Wants to Fight*.



AARON CONOVER (Lighting) is a freelance lighting designer and digital performance technician based in New York City. He is so grateful to be working again at The 52nd Street Project on TUNE IN! His designs last graced the Five Angels stage during Tune In, the 2023 Songmaking production.



MAMADOU DIAW (*Playmaker, ESCAPE*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Mamdou can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



NOLAN DORAN (*Director/Dramaturg, NOT MY SPRINKLES by Julian*) is a writer, director, mentor and producer. He brings a unique 360 degree view of how theater is created from his early years performing on stage to writing pop songs charting in the top 100 Billboard Charts to working on Broadway with Legendary Tony Award Winning Producer, Margo Lion (HAIRSPRAY), and Tony Award winning Director, Michael Mayer (SPRING AWAKENING). His Broadway & Off-Broadway credits include: Co-Producer and Video Director of The Museum of Broadway, Associate Director and Co-Producer of “Head Over Heels,” Associate Director of Michael Moore’s “The Terms of My Surrender,” Associate Director of “Chess” at Kennedy Center, Executive Producer of “The Golden Girls Musical Parody,” Associate Director of “Stronger Together: Hillary on Broadway” and Assistant Director of “Jamboree” at NY City Center. Writing credits: “We Will Win” (Effectors II - Wonder of the Seas and Icon of the Seas), “Thunder Beings” (New Victory LabWorks), “The Lesson” (Theatre Barn’s New Works Series & Choreography Lab, The Johnny Mercer Writer’s Grove at Goodspeed, Rhinebeck Writers’ Retreat and a 2020 Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow), Ayodele Casel’s, “While I Have the Floor” (Spoleto), “My Eclectic Life” (HERE), “Woody - A New Fairy Tale” (Main Street Musicals), and “The King” (L.A. Indie Film Festival). Nolan holds an M.F.A. from The Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU Tisch. www.nolandoran.com @nolandoran.nyc



EDIE FALCO (*Salt; SALT & PEPPER by Angela*) is best known for her roles as Diane Whittlesey on the HBO series Oz, Carmela Soprano on The Sopranos, and the title role of Showtime’s Nurse Jackie. For her television work she has received multiple Emmy, Golden Globe, and SAG Awards, as well as the American Film Institute’s Award for Female Television Actor of the Year. Broadway credits include the Tony Award-winning play *Sideman*, *Frankie and Johnny in The Clair De Lune*, *Night Mother*, and *The House of Blue Leaves*, for which she received

a Tony Award Nomination. Off-Broadway she has appeared in *The Madrid*, *This Wide Night*, *The True*, and *Morning Sun*. Her work in feature film includes *Cost of Living* (American Film Institute's Best Actress Award), *Laws of Gravity* (Independent Spirit Award nomination), *Sunshine State*, *Landline*, *Hurricane*, *The Funeral*, *The Addiction*, *Freedomland*, *The Land of Steady Habits*, *Judy Berlin*, and the Avatar sequels.



AIDAN GLEEMAN (*Playmaker*, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Aidan can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



AMIRAH HANCOCK (*Assistant Designer; Lead Costume Designer for THE TWIST by Shaddai, & JUDGEMENT by Naresa*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays* which featured her playwriting debut THE DOLL & THE PENDANT, directed by Krystel Lucas. She next starred in Jed Clarke's THE RETURN OF AGENT MARKS VS. TURKEY VULTURE with Annabelle Cousins for the 2018 One-on-Ones GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show CRYBABY with Molly Carden for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. She wrote and performed in her Playback show COLLEGE ADVENTURES alongside Arielle Goldman for HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE in 2019. She performed in MADAME PRESIDENT AND THE GOLDEN GIRL by Tahnee Freda, directed by Paton Ashbrook for the 2020 Two-on-two production ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, *Plays You Can't Ignore*. Amirah is a member of the current Teen Ensemble and performed in, and assisted with the costumes for EYE OF THE STORM in 2023. She can be heard on episode #45 of the PROJcast.



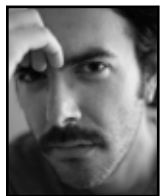
SOPHIE VON HASELBERG (*Bailey, GETTING CLOSER by Cataleya*) is thrilled to be making her debut with The 52nd Street Project with this very special group of playwrights! TV: Pose, Versace: American Crime Story, Halston, American Horror Story, House of Cards, American Princess (a show about Renaissance Faires, not about Megan Markle). FILM: Give Me Pity!, Irrational Man, Equity, A Woman A Part. RECENT STAGE: World premiere of Nathan Englander's What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank (Old Globe) UPCOMING FILM: Merry Good Enough, Love Reconsidered, Fantasy Life, The Fabulous Four. She has also produced some short films – YOYO (Tribeca Film Fest), East Coast Park Lovers (SGIFF). Once upon a time, she was the co-host of HAVING A NIGHT, a podcast dedicated to all things culinary, so the title FOOD FOR THOUGHT really hits home! Sophie holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama and a BA from Yale College and is a proud lifelong New Yorker.



MAT HOSTETLER (*Director/Dramaturg, DREAMS COME TRUE by Walter*) is thrilled to be back at the Project with his favorite people in the world! An actor, director and producer, Mat's recent credits include *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 Brooklyn with his wife, Ali and their adorable dog, Mia. Mat is a member of Actor's Equity Association.



JASMINN JOHNSON (*Heidi Ray, THE TWIST by Shaddai*) loves The 52nd Street Project. At the Project she has played an uptight flight attendant from Queens named Naudia, a time traveling Dragon-Ballerina whose best friend is an earthworm, a Cyclops who runs city-council in a pink power suit, and an upper-class Zebra-Elephant from the far away land of Ev. 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



BEN KATZ (*Delta, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH by Aidan*) is an NYC-based actor and teacher. Off-Broadway: *THE COMMONS* (59E59th); Regional: *Private* (Mosaic Theatre Company); TV: *Evil* on Paramount+. He is an alumnus of the prestigious NYU Graduate Acting Program (Class of 2019) where he performed the title role in Mark Wing-Davey's *Hamlet*. Voice and Speech faculty at University of California Santa Barbara.



LETA LEVY (*Atel, JUDGEMENT by Naresa*) is a proud native New Yorker, actor, and teaching artist with Voices of a People's History in collaboration with Lincoln Center. NY theater credits include: The Weasel Festival (The Public Theater); Outer Banks (Signature Theatre); 48 Hour Forum (Noor Theatre); The Animals (JACK); The Place We Built (The Flea, dir. Danya Taymor). She's also a long time volunteer at The 52nd Street Project and loves being a part of this community! BA: Brown University, Ethnic Studies with a focus on Race in Performance. MFA: Brooklyn College, Graduate Acting. IG: @LetaHLevy www.LetaLevy.com



KRYSTEL LUCAS (*Director/Dramaturg, THE TWIST by Shaddai*) received her MFA from NYU's Grad Acting Program after attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and attaining her BA from UNC-Asheville. She is a freelance actor, director and teaching artist. Some theatrical credits include *Dial M For Murder* (Westport Country Playhouse); *Galboss Power Hour* (Primary Stages); *Hamlet* (Shakespeare Theatre DC); *Pride and Prejudice*, *Good People* (Dorset Theatre Festival); *Couriers and Contrabands* (Barrow Group Theatre); *Our Town* (Triad Stage); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare in the Park(ing) Lot); *Twelfth Night*, *The Christians* (Denver Center); *Disgraced* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *Twelfth Night Short Shakespeare* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Book of Will* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); *In the Next Room* (Syracuse Stage and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Old Globe Theatre); *Good People*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (Alley Theatre); *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Macbeth* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *The Sty of the Blind Pig* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *The Summer House* (Passage Theatre Company). On television, she appeared in *Jessica Jones* (Netflix) and *The Blacklist* (NBC). She is a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project and a long-serving member of NYU's Grad Acting Alumni Association.



GREG MACPHERSON (*Lighting Designer*) is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre where he designed the annual Marathon of One-Act Plays from 1985 through 2003 and again in 2010, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Other designs include *Killer Joe* at Soho Rep, *The Hotel Play* at LaMama ETC, *The Pitchfork Disney* at Here and *Easter for Naked Angels*. He recently designed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Cinderella* for Ballet Memphis, *The Cradle Will Rock* as a benefit for The Acting Company, *Meet Me at the Plaza* for Shuffles, and *Halcyon Days* at ART NY. Greg has designed for The 52nd Street Project since 1986 and taught lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College from 1990 through 2022.



ROMA MAFFIA (*Elliana, GETTING CLOSER by Cataleya*) began her career in New York theater and has performed in scores of iconic plays, and television shows and movies for the past 30 years. Roma is a born and bred New Yorker. Roma is most happy to be back where she enjoys working the most, The 52nd Street Project.



OMAR METWALLY (*Berrei, NOT MY SPRINKLES, by Julian*) is an actor and director. He is very happy to be returning to The 52nd Street Project. Notable stage work in New York includes *Guards at the Taj* (Atlantic,) *Epiphany* (LCT,) *The Fever Chart* (Public) among others. Some of his film/tv work includes *The Affair*, *Big Sky*, *Mr Robot*, *RAMY*, *Munich*, *Rendition*, *Non-Stop* and *Miral*. He is a graduate of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.



ANGELA MUCA (*Playmaker, SALT & PEPPER*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is her playwriting debut. Angela can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



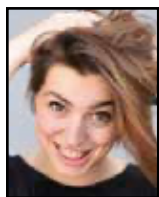
DON NGUYEN (*Director/Dramaturg, ESCAPE by Mamadou*) is a NYC based playwright. Don's work has been developed or produced at The Public Theater, Roundabout, Labyrinth, The Alley Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, A.C.T, Ojai Playwrights Conference, New York Stage & Film, The Civilians, Ma-Yi Theatre, and The Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Recipient of the 2015 GAP Prize from the Aurora Theatre and a NYSAF Founder's award. Finalist for The O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, The Princess Grace Award, and The Woodward International Playwriting Prize. Don spends his free time stargazing and photographing the night sky. You can see his astro photos at theinterstellarfeller.com



MARGARET ODETTE (*Anastasia Brie, THE TWIST by Shaddai*) is a proud volunteer and board member of The 52nd Street Project! Theater: *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Public Theater, PBS, AUDELCO nom), *The Convent* (Rattlestick), *Black Mother Lost Daughter* (National Black Theatre), *She Kills Monsters* (Flea Theater), *Revenge Song* (Geffen Playhouse), *Paradise Blue* (Long Wharf Theatre). Film: *The Independent* (Peacock), *Boogie* (Focus Features), *Sleeping with Other People* (IFC Films). TV: *Sex/Life* (Netflix); *Step Up* (Starz), *Elementary* (CBS), *Blindspot* (NBC). Margaret assistant-edited *Monologues for Actors of Color*, 2nd Edition (Routledge). BA Brown University, MFA NYU Tisch.



JOANNA PARSON (*Director/Dramaturg, SALT & PEPPER by Angela*) is an actor, creator, and audiobook narrator who has happily volunteered at The 52nd Street Project since she stepped off the bus to NY a million years ago. Recent theater credits include the Script to Stage reading series at Westport Country Playhouse, and work with off-Broadway's White Horse Theatre Co. Her 60-minute solo musical *A Transcriber's Tale*, produced at AMT Theater and Bellingham TheatreWorks (WA), will go to Edinburgh next summer. TV/Film includes: *FBI: Most Wanted*; *L&O:SVU*; *Red Oaks*, and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.



CIANA PROTO (*Director/Dramaturg, JUDGEMENT by Naresa; 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 6 years, and to be a part of this year's Playmaking adventure.



GRACE REX (*Lim, ESCAPE by Mamadou; she/her*) Theatre credits: *53% Of* (Second Stage Uptown), *Nantucket Sleigh Ride* (Lincoln Center), *Life and Limb* (Steppenwolf), *Ed, Downloaded* (Denver Center), *Pumpgirl* (A Red Orchid). Her TV credits include 'Severance', 'Mindhunter', 'Manifest', 'Master of None', 'Blindspot', 'The Good Wife' and 'Boardwalk Empire'. Film credits include *Contagion*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Women Who Kill*, *Inspector Ike* and *The Dilemma*.



WALTER ROCHEZ (*Playmaker, DREAMS COME TRUE*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Walter can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



JOHN SHEEHY (*Director/Dramaturg, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH by Aidan*) is a writer, director, actor, & lyricist; and has been a full-time employee of The 52nd Street Project since 1998. At the Project, he has written, performed and directed dozens of shows, stage-managed, and sound designed; as well as being the chef on program retreats. He is a producer/editor and occasional

host of the Project's podcast, The PROJcast. He has an MFA in Dramatic Writing from Brandeis University. His plays have been seen in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Louisville. He is married to the composer, and frequent Project volunteer, Kim D. Sherman.



SATHYA SRIDHARAN (*Lightbulb, DREAMS COME TRUE by Walter*) Broadway: *Life of Pi*. Off-Broadway: *Wives* (Playwrights Horizons), *An Ordinary Muslim* (New York Theater Workshop), *India Pale Ale* (Manhattan Theater Club), *Richard II* (Public Theater/WNYC), *Winter's Tale* (Public Theater Mobile Unit), *Two*

Brown Porters (The Pool Plays), *Two Mile Hollow* (WP Theater), *Ultimate Beauty Bible* (Page 73), *Frontieres Sans Frontieres* (Bushwick Starr). Regional: *Life of Pi* (A.R.T.), *Our Town* (Portland Center Stage), *Hapgood* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The Philadelphia Story* (Chautauqua Theatre Company). TV: “Little America”, “Succession”, “Kaleidoscope”, “Blindspot”, “Elementary”, “Prodigal Son”, “Two Sentence Horror Stories”; Film: *The Whale*, *Minor Premise*, *Ben and Suzanne: A Reunion in 4 Parts*, *Black And White and Red All Over*, *Bikini Moon*, *Dastaar*. Awards: Princess Grace Award (Grace Le Vine). MFA: NYU. A proud and longtime member and volunteer of The 52nd St Project. Sixteen-time Project Ping Pong tournament champion. [Ed. note: The truth of this last sentence is disputed.]



ALLY THOMAS (*Costume Designer, she/her*) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist and educator with a focus on community care and accessibility. Her work as a director, writer, and performer has been seen in NYC and across the country. Most recently, she directed for Florida Rep, and shared her original solo show *Karen & Cass* at Tampa Fringe. Ally currently teaches in NYC public schools as a teaching artist with ArtsConnection and Children’s Museum of the Arts. Here at the Project, she’s volunteered in classes, backstage, as a designer, and she’s currently a Smart Partner. Playmaking is one of her favorite programs at the Project, and she thanks you for supporting student-created works! Please enjoy!



ANGELICA (ANGIE) TOLEDO (*Sindy, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO ON EARTH by Aidan, she/her*) has been working with The 52nd Street Project family since 2017 when she started as an intern and is thrilled to be back again at the Project! Regional: *Now Becomes Then* at the Actors Theatre of Louisville; *HOME(s)* Actors Theatre of Louisville - Humana festival for new plays. NYC Credits include *Dipped in Honey* (Sol) at Ensemble Studio Theatre New Play Festival; *Women Who March* (soloist) at Feinstein’s 54 Below; *Terminal 5* (Beth) at New York Theatre Festival directed by Ciana Proto; *Special* (Marge) at New York New Work Festival; *LORDES* (ensemble) at Columbia University Stages directed by Katherine Wilkinson. Television: CBS: *The Equalizer*, Apple TV: *WECrashed*, *Joyfully Jaded* available on Amazon Prime. Video/YouTube; *Eden* (Pilot). Additional Credits: Toledo is a proud graduate of the American Musical Dramatic Academy and received a B.F.A from The New School.



STEPHEN WALLEM (*Pepper, SALT & PEPPER by Angela*) is a SAG Award-nominated actor best known as Thor Lundgren on the Emmy-winning Showtime series “Nurse Jackie”. He’s delighted to return to The 52nd Street Project with his pal Edie Falco after co-starring with her in *Jabba the Hut* by Evaluna, in 2018. He recurred as Winston on “The Resident” (Fox) and Rudy on “Law and Order: SVU” (NBC). Other TV credits include “Difficult People,” “Divorce,” and “Horace

and Pete.” Stephen made his feature film debut in the hit romantic comedy *Marry Me* starring Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson. NYC stage credits include *Pipe Dream* (Encores!) *Anna Nicole* (New York City Opera/BAM), and teaming with Edie Falco for the original cabaret *The Other Steve and Edie* at the Laurie Beechman Theater. For The Muny in St. Louis, Stephen appeared as Shrek (*Shrek the Musical*), Horton the Elephant (*Seussical*), the Cowardly Lion (*The Wizard of Oz*), and the Beadle (*Sweeney Todd*). For Farmers Alley Theatre, he starred as Max Bialystock in *The Producers* and as Buddy the Elf in *Elf* for Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts. National tours include *Forever Plaid* (2500 performances as both Jinx and Sparky in various companies), *Into The Woods* and *Scrooge* with Richard Chamberlain.



JULIAN WILDER (*Playmaker, NOT MY SPRINKLES*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023. This is his playwriting debut. Julian can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



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!

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

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Beth Crookham	John Turturro & Kathy Borowitz	Omar Metwally
Bettina S. Buschel	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Patrice & Louis Friedman
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F. Richard Pappas	Lyn Hejninian & Larry Ochs	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Frances & Fred Langbecker	Lynne Rosenberg	Vicki de Klerk-Rubin
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Wendy Ettinger
Frances Strauss	Marion Koltun	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen

List current as of October 14, 2022

The 52nd Street Project Presents

A FACE IN THE CROWD



Isabella Johnson
Most likely to be remembered

The 2023 Character Workshop
Friday, December 15 - 7:30 P.M.
The Five Angels Theater
789 10th Ave.

“FACE IN THE CROWD” Production Staff

Class Volunteers

Nina Braddock, Kyle Cameron, Omari Chancellor, Carina Goebelbecker,
Maddie Kasten, Lynne Marie Rosenberg, Mirirai Sithole

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Costume Consultant

Ally Thomas

Stage Management, Lighting, and Sound

Bri Weintraub

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

Love Jones and George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director: George Babiak

Interns

Abby Dziura, Chris Rubingh

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

Julia Feenstra, Education Assistant

Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Bri Weintraub, Production 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!**



Marisol

A colorful mummy.

Written and performed by Katherine Chauca

Supported by Kat Almirañez

Paris

A spy dog detective.

Written and performed by Emily Ponce

Supported by Mirai Sithole

Jolene

A nervous comedian with asthma.

Written and performed by Caelnne Arango-Ramirez

Supported by Maddie Kasten

Lilee

A maid living in Arizona.

Written and performed by Ivy Moayed

Supported by Nina Braddock & Lynne Marie Rosenberg

Ronaldo

An Eagle-Dragon soccer player with electric legs.

Written and performed by Ramsis Ramirez

Supported by Omari Chancellor

Bob the Mop

A deliveryman at Italy Dude's Pizza.

Written and performed by Gloria Sanchez

Supported by Carina Goebelbecker

Robert

A crop farmer.

Written and performed by Logan Centeno

Supported by Kyle Cameron

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 **FACE IN THE CROWD!** 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:

12/23

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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?

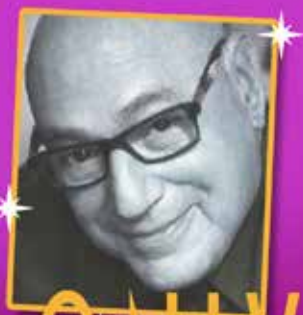
The Board of Directors of The 52nd Street Project invite you to save this date...

The Annual 52nd Street Project Benefit Gala

Monday, February 26, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

The Edison Rooftop, 240 West 47th St.

For details, contact Ahmed Attia
at (212) 333-5252 or attia@52project.org



ONE NIGHT ONLY

A tribute to composer and Project volunteer Henry Krieger

BIOGRAPHIES



KAT C. ALMIRAÑEZ (*Team Kat*) is a formerly undocumented Filipino, youth rights advocate, multi-medium storyteller and theatre director. Kat is grateful to be a member of The 52nd Street Project community.



CAELNNE ARANGO-RAMIREZ (*Project Member, Jolene*) 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. Tonight marks Caelnne's acting debut. Caelnne can be heard on episode 39 of the PROJcast, *The Writers of "Piece of Cake."*



NINA BRADDOCK (*Team Ivy*) is a NY-based playwright, screenwriter and television writer. Most recently, she was a Co-Executive Producer on ‘The Untitled Ava Duvernay, Joshua Jackson and Lauren Ridloff Project’ for Starz. Previously she served as Executive Producer on ‘The Sinner’ (USA), a Co-Executive Producer for ‘Saint X’ (Hulu), a writer/producer on ‘Servant’ (Apple), and wrote on ‘The Bell Jar’ (Showtime), ‘Brave New World’ (Peacock), and ‘Berlin Station’ (Epix). Her play UNTITLED BABY PLAY received its world premiere at IAMA Theater Company at Atwater Village Theater in Spring 2022. She has developed plays with Clubbed Thumb, where she was a member of the 2016/17 Early Career Writers’ Group, and HB Studios, and has been commissioned by Manhattan Theatre Club. She received an MFA in Dramatic Writing at Tisch where she was awarded the John Golden Playwriting Prize. She is so thrilled to be able to play and make things with The 52nd Street Project!



KYLE CAMERON (*Team Logan*) is a Canadian-born actor who’s been working with The 52nd St Project for nearly 10 years. He’s performed across North America and in Australia, and has been nominated for awards in Toronto, Vancouver, Denver and San Francisco. Local credits include plays at the Sheen Center and Theatre Row, and episodes of “Orange Is the New Black”, “Law & Order: SVU” and “FBI: Most Wanted”. He holds an MFA from NYU’s Grad Acting program.



LOGAN CENTENO (*Project Member, Robert*) 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 Morning in Outer Space* sung by Tommy McDowell & 52 sung by Ronald 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. Logan can be heard on episode 40 of the PROJcast, Spring 2022 Playmakers, and Episode 46, “Mid” History with Logan & John.



OMARI K. CHANCELLOR (*Team Ramsis*) is a Brooklyn-based actor, filmmaker, and teaching artist. They are so excited to be spending another season with the young theater-makers of The 52nd Project. Omari can be seen in Peter Farrelly’s film *The Greatest Beer Run Ever* on Apple+ which had its world premiere at TIFF. They have also appeared in *amani* for the National Black Theatre

Off-Broadway as well as the Williamstown Theatre Festival and UCB Los Angeles. Chancellor is a 2021 graduate of the NYU Grad acting program.



KAT CHAUCA (*Project Member, Marisol*) 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. Kat can be heard on episode 42 of the PROJcast, *Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil*.



CARINA GOEBELBECKER (*Team Gloria, she/her*) is a New York City based Theatre Artist and Educator. She is a multidisciplinary choreographer for stage and film projects. Carina has collaborated on productions with the New York City Players (NYC & France Tour), Mabou Mines, Torn Out Theater, Playdate Theatre, and more. She teaches with Arts Ignite, Project Rousseau, and as a rotating supporting artist for CO/LAB. In her free time, Carina enjoys surfing, line dancing, and learning ASL. MA Human Rights Studies Columbia University, BA Theatre Barnard College.



MADDIE KASTEN (*Team Cae*) I am so excited to be part of the Project. Growing up, theater and art gave me the tools to express myself. I graduated from NYU Gallatin in 2021, where I studied writing, performing, and discovered how the performing arts can shape a young person's identity. Since graduating, I've been doing sketch comedy and improv, seeing movies, and taking long walks in the city. I love New York and think it can be a wonderful place for a young person's self discovery.



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 developed work with 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.



IVY MOAYED (*Project Member, Lilee*) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with her debut play **WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM**, dramaturg/directed by Lynne Rosenberg, starring Daiva Deupree and N Neil D'Astolfo, as part of **PIECE OF CAKE**, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Tonight marks Ivy's acting debut. Ivy can be heard on episode 39 of the PROJcast, *The Writers of "Piece of Cake."*



EMILY PONCE (*Project Member, Paris*) joined the Project in the fall of 2022 with her debut play **THE CHANGE**, dramaturg/directed by Kaaron Briscoe, starring Paton Ashbrook and Omari Chancellor, as part of **OFF THE WALL**, *The Zany Plays*. Tonight marks Emily's acting debut. Emily can be heard on episode 41 of the PROJcast, *Zany Playmakers - Behind The Pencil*.



RAMSIS RAMIREZ (*Project Member, Ronaldo*) joined the Project in the spring of 2022 with his debut play **FRIENDSHIP STRUGGLE**, dramaturg/directed by Austin Regan, starring Grace Rex and José Maria Aguila, as part of **PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS**, *The Priceless Plays*. Tonight marks Ramsis' acting debut. Ramsis can be heard on episode 40 of the PROJcast, *Spring 2022 Playmakers*.



LYNNE MARIE ROSENBERG (*Team Gloria, she/her*) is a performer turned advocate turned content maker turned visual artist. Lynne is the host and creator of Emmy-nominated "Famous Cast Words" on the PBS affiliate network ALL ARTS, plays Dinah on HBO's "High Maintenance", and is the artist behind the Etsy store, Hungry Bodhisattva. www.LynneMarieRosenberg.com



GLORIA SANCHEZ (*Project Member, Bob the Mop*) 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*. Tonight marks Gloria's acting debut. Gloria can be heard on episode 37 of the PROJcast, *The Writers of "Walking on Sunshine - Step One."*



MIRIRAI SITHOLE (*Team Emily*) is happy to be here. She has worked at Actors Theatre of Louisville, MCC, New York Stage & Film, Dorset Theatre Festival, Atlantic Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and more. TV credits include: "Broad City" "Bull" "Russian Doll" and "Black Mirror: Smithereens". She received a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Adelphi University and trained at TEMPLE143, The Flourishing Center, Shakespeare & Company, and Fiasco Theater to name a few. www.AyeDefy.net

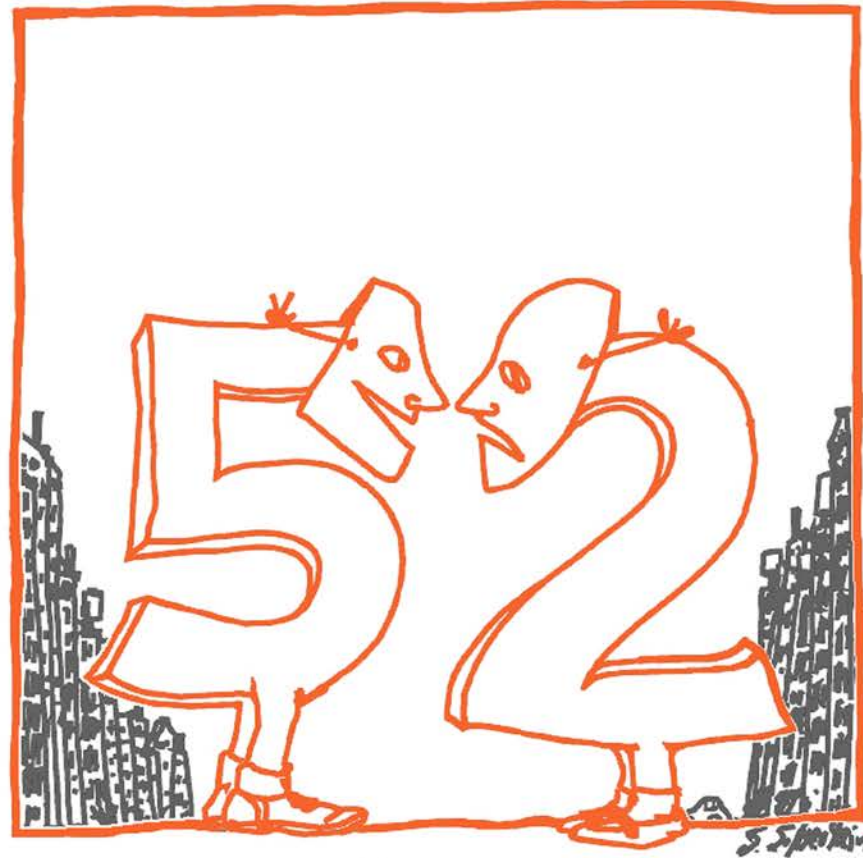


ALLY THOMAS (*Costume Consultant, she/her*) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist and educator with a focus on community care and accessibility. Her work as a director, writer, and performer has been seen in NYC and across the country. Most recently, she directed for Florida Rep, and shared her original solo show *Karen & Cass* at Tampa Fringe. Ally currently teaches in NYC public schools as a teaching artist with ArtsConnection and Children's Museum of the Arts. Here at the Project, she's volunteered in classes, backstage, as a designer, and she's currently a Smart Partner. She thanks you for supporting student-created works! Please enjoy!



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Amanda Green & Jeffrey Kaplan	Janey Feingold	Matthew Jones
Amy Herzig	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Megan Cramer
Andrea Johnson	Jenni Swan	Megan Thompson
Anna Li & Frank Sposato	Jenny & Jon Steingart	Meg Simon
Anne M. Bacon	Jenny Gersten	Melissa & Lee Briggs
Annie & David Hausmann	Jeremy Smith	Melissa Lowry
Arin Chilcote	Jerry Levine & Nina Tassler	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Barnaby Harris & Suzie Kondi	Jessica Bauman & Ben Posel	Mickey Lemle
Becky & Dylan Baker	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Michael & Megan Crane
Beth & Bob Ollwerther	Joe White & Iris Brown	Michael Herzig
Beth & Ray Abbott	John Lee	Neena Beber
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	John Rossi	Noël & Joe Mihalow
Beth Crookham	John Turturro & Kathy Borowitz	Omar Metwally
Bettina S. Buschel	Jonathan & Clara Cohen	Patrice & Louis Friedman
Bill Camp & Elizabeth Marvel	Jonathan Marc Sherman	Peter & Marsue MacNicol
Billy Crudup	& Alexandra Shiva	Rachel & Larry Norton
Billy Dreskin	Jon Ecker	Randi Puccio
Betsy and Bob Goldberg	Joseph Nigro	Rebecca & Richard Dresser
Brenda Wehle & John C. Lynch	Josie Merck	Richard Langan
Buzz Bovshow	Judy & Sam Berger	Richard Sweren
Carl Capotorto	Judy Dennis	Robert Shore
Carol Bell	Judy Kuhn & David Schwab	Robert Shwartz
Carole Yass	Judy Taub Gold	Ron & Judy Tierney
Carolyn DeSena	Kali Crandall	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff
Cathy Dantchik	Karen Hauser & Warren Leight	Roseline Michael & Dennis Neveling
Cecilia Arana & Kevin Grant	Karen Powell	Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin
Chris Ceraso	Karin & Tom Schall	Ruth Nelson
Christine Ziegler-Sullivan	Kate Burton & Michael Ritchie	Sarah & Paul Ardire
Christopher Randolph	Katie & Douglas Jordan	Sarah Horowitz
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	& David Venarde
Courtney & Lowell Pettit	Kerry Pflingst & Russell Dodson	Shari Goodstein
Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Laura & David Ross	Sherry Cohen
Cynthia Vance-Abrams & Robert Abrams	Laura Ewing	Shirley Rumierk & Armando Riesco
Danielle Mindess & Robert Cohen	Laura Jones	Stephen Bernstein
David Aldridge	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig	Stephen Graham
David Williams	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman	Sunil Arora
Debbie & Lawrence Catena	Lauren Weiner	Susan Isaacson
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Laurie Becker	Susannah Gray & John Lyons
Douglas Kabel	Lewis Black	Susan Wallace
Drew McCoy & Amy Aquino	Lili Taylor	Suzen Murakoshi
Drew Milstein	Lindsay Fram & Mason Pettit	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Edie Falco	Lisa Benavides & Tim Blake Nelson	Tara Elwin & Andre Meade
Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke	Lisa Cohen & David Hillman	Terry Belanger & Ken Giese
Elaine Musselman	Liz Bell & J. Andrew Stein	Tina Galley
Elizabeth & Eric Berman	Lois Smith	Todd Herman
Ellen Chopay	Lori O'Connor	Tony Goldwyn & Jane Musky
Ellen Kroll	Lori Tan Chinn	Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham
Emily Grishman & Susan Sampliner	Lynda Hughes	Vicki & Craig Holleman
F. Richard Pappas	Lyn Hejninian & Larry Ochs	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Frances & Fred Langbecker	Lynne Rosenberg	Vicki de Klerk-Rubin
Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Margaret & Peter O'Brien	Wendy Ettinger
Frances Strauss	Marion Koltun	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen



THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

SHOW PROGRAMS
2024

The 52nd Street Project Presents

SKELETON IN THE CLOSET

THE SECRETIVE PLAYS



8 NEW PLAYS WRITTEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND PERFORMED
BY THE AUTHORS WITH ADULT PARTNERS!

Friday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 pm  Saturday, Feb. 10 at 3:00 pm
Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3:00 pm

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER

SKELETON IN THE CLOSET: THE SECRETIVE PLAYS - ACT 1

All original music composed by Lorenzo Pipino

THE ROOMMATES

Written by Elisa Ramos, age 13. Dramaturge/Director: Evan Isabella

Scarlett, a student and guitar enthusiast Elisa Ramos

Ellie, a student who enjoys baking Evan Isabella

Conflict lyrics by Elisa Ramos

MAGICKS

Written by Logan Goicuria, age 14. Dramaturge/Director: Gaven Trinidad

Dr. Angus, a maker of potions Logan Goicuria

Aviane, his apprentice Gaven Trinidad

Stuck Together lyrics by Logan Goicuria

THE FLIGHT

Written by Loyal Jones, age 15. Dramaturge/Director: Marchánt Davis

Finn, an aspiring airline pilot Loyal Jones

Flinn, his fearful brother Marchánt Davis

Grandpa George Babiak

Mother's Wise Words lyrics by Loyal Jones

ECLIPSIA

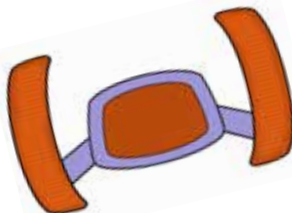
Written by Ayah Musa, age 15. Dramaturge/Director: Molly Carden

Sunestia, the Sun Ayah Musa

Celestia, the Moon Molly Carden

Farmers Xavier Espinal, Sarah Lopez, Kylee Chester

Eon of Learning lyrics by Ayah Musa



SKELETON IN THE CLOSET: THE SECRETIVE PLAYS - ACT 2

EXPLOSIVE BIRTHDAY

Written by Hannah Santos, age 14. Dramaturge/Director: Kerry Warren

Exo, an aspiring Lego builder Hannah Santos
Grandmama, Exo's granny Kerry Warren
Mother Echaka Agba
Father George Babiak
Nurse Sarah Lopez

Reverse this Curse lyrics by Hannah Santos

TWINVALRY

Written by Edgar Sinchi, age 13. Dramaturge/Director: JJ Wilks

Jack, a 13-year old farm boy Edgar Sinchi
Theodore, Jack's twin brother JJ Wilks
Susanne, their mom Echaka Agba
Voice of teacher Xavier Espinal

Twinvals lyrics by Edgar Sinchi

ADVERTISING TIME TRAVEL TOUR GUIDE

Written by Xavier Valentin, age 13. Dramaturge/Director: Jose Duran

Claudius III, a tax collector in 79 A.D. Xavier Valentin
Tor Guy, a time-travel tour guide Jose Duran
Gladiators John Sheehy and George Babiak
Time Tourists Echaka Agba, Xavier Espinal

Watch It Burn lyrics by Xavier Valentin

THUNDER GIRLS

Written by Faith Mitchell, age 13, Dramaturge/Director: Anna Crivelli

Hope Lene, a 14-year old basketball player Faith Mitchell
Lucky Brooke, her teammate Anna Crivelli
Coach Kylee Chester
Lucky's Dad Xavier Espinal

Forgiving lyrics by Faith Mitchell



“SKELETON IN THE CLOSET” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Lorenzo Pipino

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Katie Bartz

Costume Designer

Ana Gonzalez-Soto

Sound Designer

Alicia Moeller

Stage Manager

Marty Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak and

The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

Backstage Crew

Echaka Agba, Kylee Chester,

Xavier Espinal, Sarah Lopez

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art & Layout

Hannah Leon & George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caoili

Camera Ops:

Nikolai Alvarez, Peter Muca

Intern

Helena Franco

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

Julia Feenstra, Abby Dziura, Education Assistants

Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Kristina Nungaray, Marketing and Events Manager

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Bri Weintraub, Production Manager

Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

Who are all these people?

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. ***SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*** is a production of our Playback program. Each Project member was matched with adults who served as dramaturges, directors, and co-stars to our young authors. The whole company did a weekend writing retreat on beautiful **Lake Lucille** in Rockland County over the Martin Luther King Day weekend. Once back in the city, the teams rehearsed over the last couple of weeks and are proud to present the final results to you tonight!

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
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

Our Main House hosts were **Wendy vanden Heuvel, Brian Mertes, and Melissa Kievman**. Our satellite hosts in nearby Nyack were **Suzanna Styron and John-Paul Newport and Polly King**.



The Playback Program 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.

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

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 **SKELETON IN THE CLOSET!** 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:

02/24

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ Other (please specify) _____

MY SCHEDULE IS:

☐ Very flexible. I'm often available during weekdays.

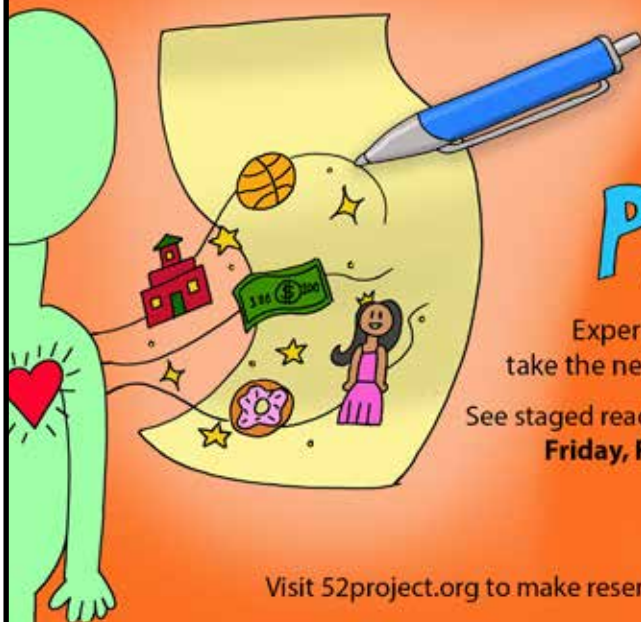
☐ Somewhat flexible. I can help on the occasional morning or afternoon during the week.

☐ 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 Return of **THE REPLAY PROGRAM**



Pen To PaPer

Experienced Project Members
take the next leap in **PLAYMAKING**

See staged readings of the final plays on
Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.

FIVE ANGELS THEATER

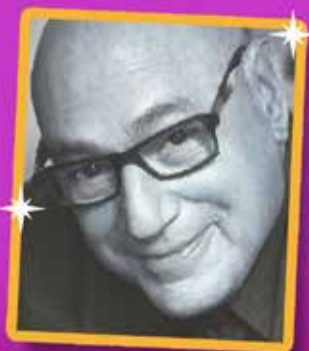
789 10th Avenue

Visit 52project.org to make reservations. **Admission free!**

The Board of Directors of The 52nd Street Project
invite you to save this date...

The Annual 52nd Street Project Benefit
Monday, February 26, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.
The Edison Rooftop, 240 West 47th St.

For details, contact Ahmed Attia
at (212) 333-5252 or attia@52project.org



ONE NIGHT ONLY

A tribute to composer and Project volunteer Henry Krieger

BIOGRAPHIES



Echaka Agba (Crew) is an on-stage/screen performer and filmmaker as well as teaching artist now based in New York and Chicago. 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



Molly Carden (*Celestia*, *Dramaturg/Director*, *ECLIPSIA* by Ayah) New York credits include: Emotional Creature (Signature Theatre), Please Continue (Ensemble Studio Theater), How To Live On Earth (Colt Coeur), Cherry Smoke (Working Theater), Downtown Race Riot (NYSF/Powerhouse Theater). Regional credits include: Midwives (George Street Playhouse), Indecent (Weston Playhouse), The Carpenter (Alley Theatre), Translations (Studio Theatre), Frankenstein (Denver Center) Film: Motherland (MPI Choice Films). Molly has been developing her solo show I Came Back For Molly, which she has presented at NY Stage and Film, the TANK, United Solo Fest, and Durango Playfest. Proud member of Colt Coeur, EST, and The 52nd Street Project. B.F.A. from UNCSA.



Anna Crivelli (*Lucky Brooke*, *Dramaturge/Director*, *THUNDER GIRLS* by Faith) is a San Francisco Bay Area native currently residing in Brooklyn. 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.



Marchánt Davis (*Flinn, Dramaturg/Director, THE FLIGHT* by Loyal) a Brooklyn based actor, writer and producer originally from Philadelphia, PA. He can recently be seen in Tina Satter's HBO feature film, *REALITY*, which premiered on the platform this May. Based on the stage play *Is This A Room*, *REALITY* is a riveting, 80-minute three-hander with a script based entirely on actual transcripts of the unedited recording of the FBI interrogation of notorious whistleblower Reality Winner. He also starred in Chris Morris's long awaited sophomore feature *THE DAY SHALL COME* (IFC Release) which made its world premiere at the 2019 SXSW Film Festival, produced by Iain Canning, Emile Sherman and Anne Carey. Other film credits include: *A JOURNAL FOR JORDAN* (dir. Denzel Washington), *TUSCALOOSA*, *DOMINANT SPECIES* and *INCOMPLETE* (2023 NAACP Image Award Nom. for Outstanding Short-Form Live Action). He received Lucille Lortel and Audelco Award nominations for his 2019 performance in *AIN'T NO' MO'* (written by Jordan Cooper) at The Public Theater. Some of his other theater credits include but are not limited to *Ain't No Mo'* on Broadway (2023 GLAAD Media Nom. for Outstanding Broadway Production), *The Great Society* on Broadway, *Mad Forest* at Williamstown Theater Festival (dir. Lila Neugebauer) and *Good Night Oscar* on Broadway starring Sean Hayes. He's a huge advocate of self-care and centers his work around the reclamation of joy. His artistic motto is "Be louder than your fear, faster than your worry, moving at the speed of fun." He holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch Graduate Acting Program.



José Duran (*Tor Guy, Dramaturg/Director ADVERTISING TIME TRAVEL TOUR GUIDE* by Xavier) 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.



Marty Gleberman (*Stage Manager*): is a naturally-occurring fungus that puts out its mushrooms in a variety of seasons. It can be found in the Five Angels Theater and similar biomes. While not harmful if ingested, extreme caution should be taken not to accidentally track Marty spores into your own home. Please check your shoes carefully upon leaving the theater.



Logan Goicuria (*Dr. Angus*, in his play *MAGICKS*) joined the Project in the fall of 2019 with his debut play *BILL, JR. AND BARRY'S MISHAP-ADVENTURE*, with dramaturg/director John Sheehy, starring Jon-Michael Reese and Jake Pino, as part of *UPSIDE-DOWN, The Topsy-Turvy Plays*. His next play was *CATS AND WATER DON'T MIX*, with dramaturg/director Ryan Spahn,

starring Zabryna Guevara & Michael Frederic as a part of our first Pandemic Playmaking over zoom. Logan made his acting debut opposite Tina Hughes in *BUNKER BROTHERS* by Jesse Liebman, as a part of *IN THE SAME BOAT, The Buoyant Plays* a Two-on-Two Remix production in February 2022. He fought Michael Propster in *BATTLE OF BATTLES*, part of the *BOOM! WHAM! POW! Stage Combat* show; and appeared in our first place-play production *NOW WE'RE HERE* with Betsy Hogg in August 2023. Logan can be heard on the *PROJcast*, Episode 18 "Project Brothers;" and on our latest Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*."



Ana Gonzalez-Soto (*Costume Designer*, she/they) is a Mexican-born theater enthusiast and purveyor of the arts. She moved to New York in 2019 to attend Pace University and shortly after found The 52nd Street Project where she became an intern and volunteer. Ana has participated as a dramaturg, backstage crew, and in-class volunteer for many programs such as Playmaking and Teen

Ensemble. Throughout her youth, Ana spent her time studying and practicing different performing arts in Arizona, Southern Texas, and NYC. Her other interests include fashion, travel, carbohydrates, sports that are mostly stretching, and films about immigrants. She lives in Hell's Kitchen with her husband and her two cats, Elliot and Lana.



Evan Isabella (*Ellie*, *Dramaturg/Director*, *THE ROOMMATES* by Elisa) is so excited to be making her *Playback* debut! She has volunteered with the Project since 2019 as Intern, Sound Designer, and Stage Crew and has treasured every second of it! Evan is currently pursuing a professional performance career, most recently fulfilling a dream, performing "Let It Go" onstage with

Idina Menzel in support of her charity. Evan is Assistant Director for Pivot Theatre Company's youth performing arts in NJ, just finishing a production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She is a recent graduate of Muhlenberg College, with a major in Theatre. Evan has had a blast with her "Cali-Style Bestie" *Playback* partner, Elisa, and is so proud of her for her hard work, creativity and dedication!



Loyal Jones (*Finn*, in his play *THE FLIGHT*) joined the Project in the winter of 2019 with his debut play *BULLY TO NERD*, with dramaturg/director Cody Wilson, starring Sullivan Jones and Margaret Odette, as part of *OUT OF THE BLUE*, *The Unpredictable Plays*. His next play was *ENEMIES 2 FRIENDS*, with dramaturg/director Christian DeMarais, starring Annabelle Cousins & Conor

Proft as a part of our third Pandemic Playmaking over zoom. Loyal's performing debut was presenting his own spoken-word piece "Flashback!" directed by JJ Wilks, in *FLYING SOLO 2023*. He can be heard on our latest PROJcast Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*."



Faith Mitchell (*Hope Lene*, in her play *THUNDER GIRLS*) joined the Project in the winter of 2020 with her debut play *THE BULLY FRIEND*, dramaturged by Caylyn Wan-Creager & directed by Sarah Krohn, starring Madeline DeFreece and John Manolis, as part of the zoom presentation *SMOKE & MIRRORS*, *The Tricky Plays - Part I*. Faith's acting debut was *WILD WILD WEST BFF*,

written by, directed by, and co-starring Arielle Goldman as a part of *ARE WE THERE YET?*, *The Location Plays*, the August 2022 One-on-Ones. Faith can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 32, "The Writers of *SMOKE & MIRRORS*, Part I;" and our most recent Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*."



Ayah Musa (*Sunestia*, in her play *ECLIPSIA*) joined the Project in the winter of 2019 with her debut play *ACCEPTION*, with dramaturg/director Alexandra O'Daly, starring Meredith Garretson and Jennifer Ikeda, as part of *OUT OF THE BLUE*, *The Unpredictable Plays*. Ayah was a Songmaker in 2019 collaborating with Enzo Veiga. Their songs were presented in the concert *TAKE IT FROM*

THE TOP, *Sugar and Spice* sung by Marinda Anderson, *Playground Drama* sung by Angel Desai, & *Dreamland* sung by Natalie Walker. This marks Ayah's official acting debut, she originally wrote a Playback show, *THIS TOWN IS BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US* with Oliva Gilliat for the *THICK AS THIEVES* production, but was unable to perform in that show. Ayah can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 12, "Spring Back (Playmaking);" Episode 31, "Family, Late Nights, & Baking;" and our most recent Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*."



Lorenzo Pipino (*Composer/Music Director*) A New York-based composer, lyricist, singer, actor, pianist, and music director, Lorenzo Pipino holds his BM from Northwestern University in voice and musical theater, with an additional concentration in musical theater writing and music direction. He holds his MFA from NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, where he

developed his thesis musical THE ANGEL MAKERS. THE ANGEL MAKERS was performed as part of the @Abrons Series in August 2023, and has upcoming readings at NYU (March 2024) and Western Connecticut State University. His original musical CHANGE MY MIND was developed by the American Musical Theatre Project and the Dolphin Show at Northwestern University. Lorenzo served as the music director for The Dolphin Show, the largest student-produced musical in the country. Lorenzo works as an MD, pianist, and freelance singer in New York.



Elisa Ramos (*Scarlett*, in her play *THE ROOMMATES*) joined the Project in the summer of 2021 with her debut play THE FOREST, with dramaturg/director Michael Propster, starring Arielle Goldman and Korey Jackson, as part of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, *The Radiant Plays* - Step One. Elisa's performing debut was presenting her own spoken-word piece "Curiosity" directed by

Joanna Parson, in FLYING SOLO 2023. Elisa can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 37, "The Writers of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, Step One;" and our most recent Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of SKELETON IN THE CLOSET."



Hannah Santos (*Exo*, in her play *EXPLOSIVE BIRTHDAY*) joined the Project in the fall of 2019 with her debut play KITTY AND STEVEY, with dramaturg/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; and last summer was in our first place-play production NOW WE'RE HERE with Adaire Kamen. She can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of SKELETON IN THE CLOSET."

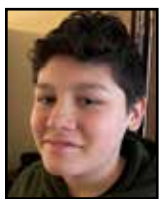


Edgar Sinchi (*Jack*, in his play *TWINVALRY*) joined the Project in the winter of 2020. His debut play, DREAM ANOTHER DREAM, with dramaturg/director Kyle Fitzpatrick, starring Ceci Fernandez and Micah Stock, was part of the zoom presentation SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays* - Part II. Edgar made 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. 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."



Gaven D. Trinidad (*Aviane*, *Dramaturg/Director*, *MAGICKS* by Logan; they/he/siya) is a first-generation Fil-Am theatremaker. This is the first time in 10 years that they are acting and singing on stage! And they are honored to return to the stage with Logan! Outside of The 52nd Street Project, their work examines the intersections of race, immigration, queerness, ritual, and community. They've collaborated with folx in various administrative and artistic positions at places such as The Juilliard Drama Division, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York Theatre Workshop, and May-Yi Theater Company. TCG 2021 Rising Leaders of Color Cohort; Ma-Yi Writers Lab member and co-coordinator. <https://www.gaventrinidadtheatre.com>



Xavier Valentin (*Claudious III of Chesterbury*, in his play *ADVERTISING TIME TRAVEL TOUR GUIDE*) joined the Project in the fall of 2019 with his debut play *THE BATTLE OF MINERALS*, dramaturgy by Ana Soto & Karen Tineo, and directed by Nick Mills, starring Erin Felgar and Chelsea Malone, as part of *UPSIDE-DOWN*, *The Topsy-Turvy Plays*. His next play was *THE ARGUE*, with dramaturg/director John Sheehy, starring Ana Soto & Veronika Chernitska as a part of our third Pandemic Playmaking over zoom. Xavier made his acting debut opposite Michael DeSouza in Tim J. Lord's *THE HARROWING HISTORY HITCH*, as a part of *ARE WE THERE YET?*, *The Location Plays*, our July 2022 One-on-Ones. He can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 49, "Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*."



Kerry Warren (*Grandmama*, *Dramaturge/Director*, *EXPLOSIVE BIRTHDAY* by Hannah) NYC-based actor, teaching artist, and advocate for teaching artists and arts education as the 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

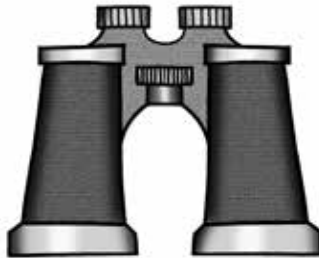


JJ Wilks (*Theodore*, *Dramaturg/Director*, *TWINVALRY* by Edgar; he/him/his): JJ is a wildly famous actor with many accolades and accomplishments. Don't even bother trying to search them all up – there are too many. He is perhaps best known for listening to over 30,000 minutes of Taylor Swift in 2023. Endless gratitude to the Project for having him be part of the family!

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

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List current as of October 14, 2022



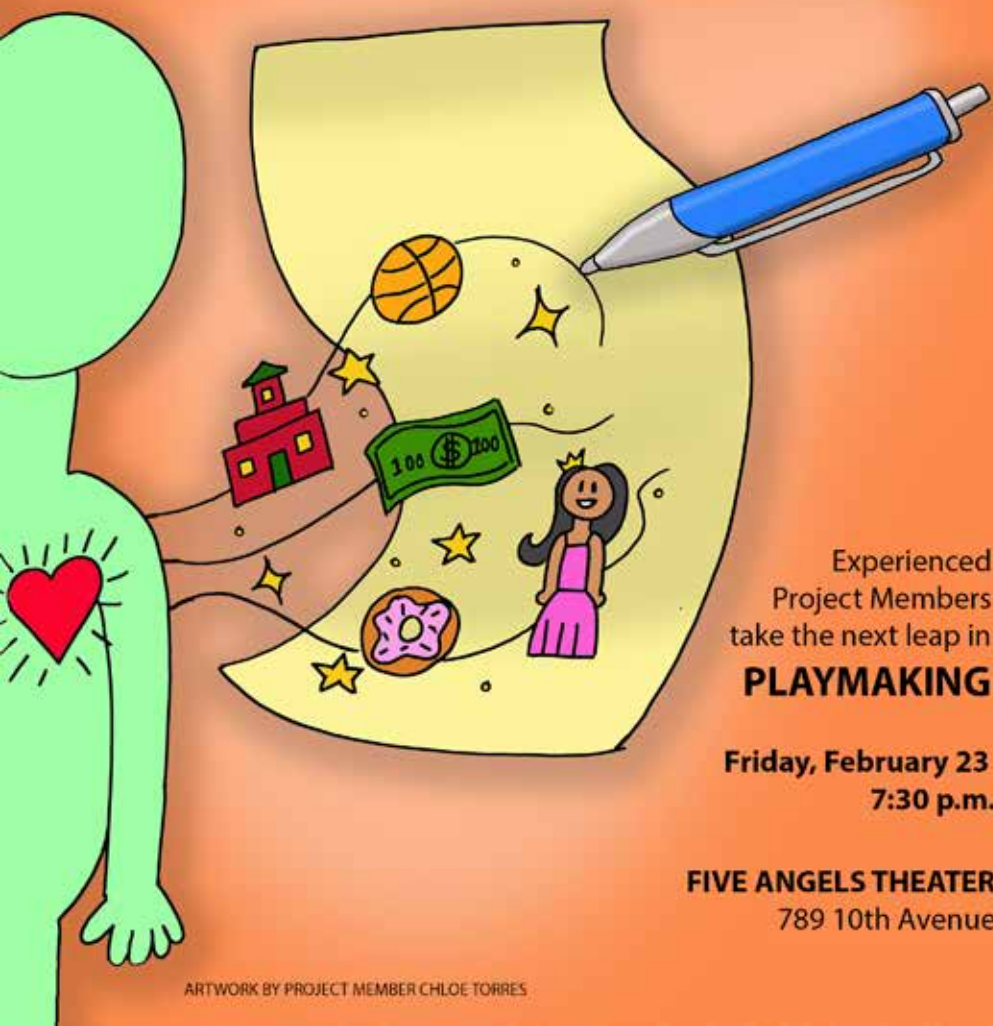
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INTERNS!

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 Summer and Fall of 2024. Thanks!

The 52nd Street Project Presents

Pen To PaPer

The Return of
**THE REPLAY
PROGRAM**



Experienced
Project Members
take the next leap in
PLAYMAKING

Friday, February 23
7:30 p.m.

FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Avenue

ARTWORK BY PROJECT MEMBER CHLOE TORRES

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Lighting and Sound Designer

Bri Weintraub

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Chloe Torres

Livestream Camera

George Babiak

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**Project Alumni*

Who are all these people?

Scan the QR code at right to see the full program, which includes **biographies and photos of the directors, the performers, and the designers!**



SEEN OR SEED

Written by Aiden Vasquez, age 14. Dramaturge/Director: Andy Ingalls

Tomato.....	Kendal Hartse
Commander Cob	Michael Propster
Lettuce Larry.....	Betsy Hogg
Peashooter	Andy Ingalls
Onion	John Maddaloni
Scarecrow.....	Raquel Chavez
Guard.....	Betsy Hogg

RISE FROM THE LOWEST

Written by Ramsis Ramirez, age 12. Dramaturge/Director: Adaire Kamen

Jinxzy.....	Mitchell Winter
Case Oh	Jake Pino
Teacher.....	Adaire Kamen
Coach	Betsy Hogg
Families	Betsy Hogg and Adaire Kamen

THE GREAT CHICKEN NUGGET

Written by Giovanni Benedicto, 12. Dramaturge/Director: Austin Regan

Scientist.....	Nico Grelli
Raisin.....	Neil Tyrone Pritchard
Mom.....	Nico Grelli
Girls	Betsy Hogg

FRIENDSHIP OF SPIES

Written by Evelyn Myers, age 13. Dramaturge/Director: Raquel Chavez

Aza	Evan Isabella
Emma	Meredith Garretson
Zahar	Raquel Chavez

GOOD COMEDIAN

Written by Hansel Benedicto, 12. Dramaturge/Director: John Maddaloni

James Hugo	Neil D'Astolfo
Jasman Armany.....	MaYaa Boateng
Heckler	Betsy Hogg

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.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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The Replay Program 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.

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

WHAT'S COMING UP?

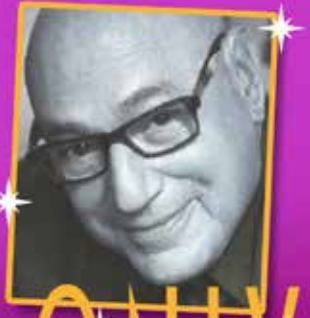
The Board of Directors of The 52nd Street Project invite you to save this date...

The Annual 52nd Street Project Benefit Gala

Monday, February 26, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

The Edison Rooftop, 240 West 47th St.

For details, contact Ahmed Attia
at (212) 333-5252 or attia@52project.org



ONE NIGHT ONLY

A tribute to composer and Project volunteer Henry Krieger

A Breath of Fresh Air: The Breezy Plays

The Spring 2024 Playmaking Extravaganza

**8 plays written by brand-new members
and directed and performed by
adult volunteer theater professionals**

Right here at The Five Angels Theater

Friday, April 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 6 - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 7 - 3:00 p.m.

BIOGRAPHIES



Giovanni Benedicto (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with his debut play *RANDOM FRIENDS*, dramaturgy & direction by Sean Kenealy, starring Stephanie Jean Lane and Mitchell Winter, as part of *PIECE OF CAKE, The Slice of Life Plays*. Giovanni made his acting debut opposite Alex J. Gould in Helen Cespedes' *THE MOST AMAZING SHOW ON EARTH*, as a part of *ARE WE THERE YET, The Location Plays*, our August 2022 One-on-Ones. He can be heard on the *PROJcast* Episode 39 "The Writers of *PIECE OF CAKE, The Slice of Life Plays*."



Hansel Benedicto (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with his debut play *SUN AND MOON*, dramaturgy & direction by Nolan Doran, starring Ashley Marie Ortiz and Sullivan Jones, as part of *PIECE OF CAKE, The Slice of Life Plays*. Hansel made his acting debut opposite Mat Hostetler in Sean Kenealy's *THE CHEESE TYCOON*, as a part of *ARE WE THERE YET, The Location Plays*, our August 2022 One-on-Ones. He can be heard on the *PROJcast* Episode 39 "The Writers of *PIECE OF CAKE, The Slice of Life Plays*."



MaYaa Boateng (*Performer*) A lover of theatre and the magic of the stage, starred in and originated her role in the Pulitzer Prize winning production, *Fairview*, by Jackie Sibblies Drury; As well as her multiple characters in the Public Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park production of *Merry Wives*, adapted by Jocelyn Bioh. Other notable NYC theatre credits include Lynn Nottage's *Fabulation, Or the Reeducation of Undine* (Signature Theatre), *Exception to the Rule* (Roundabout) and *Fairview* originally at (Soho Rep). On screen, MaYaa recurs on Netflix's "Orange is the New Black" and the Showtime series, "City on a Hill" and stars in "High Maintenance" on HBO. MaYaa is the 2023 Best Actress Film Award recipient at Bronzelens Film Festival for her role in "Reunion". She is a graduate of NYU's Graduate Acting program.



Raquel Chavez (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Evelyn, she/they) 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. She is very excited for Evelyn to share her lovely piece with an audience!



Neil D'Astolfo (*Performer, he/him*) is an actor, writer and comedian who relishes each and every moment he spends at The Project. He most recently spent three seasons as a series regular on Comedy Central's Emmy-nominated *Stephen Colbert Presents Tooning Out the News* and recurred as Anthony Fauci on Showtime's *Our Cartoon President*. Other TV and film credits include Hulu's *Fire Island*, *High Fidelity* and *The Path*. His critically-acclaimed solo show, *Mister Miss America*, premiered off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and earned Neil an Off-Broadway Alliance Award Nomination for his performance. Other theater credits include Classic Stage Company's *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*. Neil is a house performer at The Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) and his short film series, *NORA...*, was a recipient of Film Independent's Fiscal Sponsorship. Neil received his MFA from Columbia University, and now serves as an adjunct professor at Pace University's BFA Acting Program for Film, TV and Voiceover (FTVC). He has been a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project since 2017. WABWAGA!



Meredith Garretson (*Performer*) 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*, *Fosse/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.\



Nico Grelli (*Performer, they/them*) is a filmmaker, screenwriter, theatremaker, and actor. As an actor, Nico has been nominated for a Jeff Award, and is the recipient of a New York Innovative Theatre Award. Nico has also been a teaching artist for many years, and working with The 52nd Street Project on various shows, classes, and programs for the past decade has been one of their great joys in life. Nico also loves to skate, is the parent of a beautiful Rottweiler Doberman, is a not terrible musician, and makes a mean bowl of pasta. More at www.nicgrelli.com.



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.



Andy Ingalls (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Aiden) is delighted to be working with The 52nd Street Project for the second time, where he is also lucky enough to assist the Homework Help team, who are true champions. Some favorite theatre credits include Sam Phillips in *Million Dollar Quartet* (National Tour), Lord Aster in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (National Tour), Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (dir. Arin Arbus), and Beatrix in the World Premiere of *'Tis Pity She's a Housewife* (dir. Stevie Walker-Webb). Andy is an Earphones Award-winning audiobook narrator as well, and his TV credits include *The Gilded Age* and *Daredevil: Out the Kitchen*. MFA: NYU.



Evan Isabella (*Performer*) is so excited to be part of PEN TO PAPER! She has volunteered with the Project since 2019 as Intern, Sound Designer, Stage Crew, Dramaturg/Director, and has treasured every second of it! Evan is currently pursuing a professional performance career, most recently fulfilling a dream, performing “Let It Go” onstage with Idina Menzel in support of her charity. Evan is Assistant Director for Pivot Theatre Company’s youth performing arts in NJ, just finishing a production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She is a recent graduate of Muhlenberg College, with a major in Theatre. Evan is so grateful for her times with the Project!



Adaire Kamen (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Ramsis) is a New York based playwright, teaching artist, and occasionally a performer by accident. Her 52nd Street playwriting credits include *A-Ghost-A-Phobia* and *The Great Goat BAA-eauty Pageant*. She and her smart partner, Katty, appeared in the Projcast episode #43 “My Amazing Ice Cream Achievement,” in which they explored a wide array of topics, including their participation in the project’s Amazing Race competition. Tragically, they were later robbed of the first place title despite being in the lead most of the year, but they graciously accepted second place. Adaire was recently tricked into acting by Kat Almirañez for the improvised play *Now We’re Here*, in which she played a star-struck fan-girl-turned-stalker. Some have claimed she was not in fact acting, just playing an exaggerated version of herself, but Adaire refutes those claims.



John Maddaloni (Performer) John is so excited to be returning to The 52nd Street Project for the Replay Program. John is an actor, writer, composer and also works extensively in voiceover and as an audiobook narrator. Here are some of his favorite credits! NYC: *Sally and Tom* [stage reading] (The Public), *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* (Gene Frankel Theatre) Regional: *The Winter's Tale* (Hartford Stage), *Forbidden Broadway* (Arc Stages), *The Power of Hypnotism* (Williamstown) NYU: *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *An Upset* (Player 1), *Dance Nation* (Dance Teacher Pat) and *Gloria* (Dean) directed by Doug Hughes. John recently won Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play from the CT Critics Circle for his role as the Clown in *The Winter's Tale*. Training: NYU MFA Acting '22. www.johnmaddaloni.com



Evelyn Myers (Playwright) joined the Project in the summer of 2021 with her debut play THE FRIENDSHIP, with dramaturg/director Kaaron Briscoe, starring Grace Fojtik and Greg Hildreth, as part of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, *The Radiant Plays* - Step One. Evelyn made her acting debut in ESCAPE by Caylyn Wan-Creager with Jasmin Johnson co-starring and directing, as a part of ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*, July 2022 One-on-Ones. Evelyn battled Lennox T. Duong in I'M BETTER, a part of the BOOM! WHAM! POW! Stage combat presentation. Evelyn was most recently seen in Sathya Sridharan's BE THE MONSTER, with Kaileela Hobby co-starring and directing, as a part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays That Will Transport You*, the July 2023 One-on-Ones. Evelyn can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 37, "The Writers of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, Step One."



Jake Pino (Performer) is an actor and software engineer based out of NY for the last 10 years. He has worked with the Project for 4 years and they are easily the highlight of his acting career. Thank you so much for supporting this amazing program and please consider donating after the show. Enjoy!



Neil Tyrone Pritchard (Performer) is a Liberian-American, New York City -based Actor/Singer/Teaching Artist. Credits include: *Dia Y Noche* (Labyrinth Theater Company) *Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven* (Atlantic Theater/LAByrinth Theater Company), *The Berlin Electric* (Park Avenue Armory), *The Prizefighter of P.S. 217* (New Victory LabWorks), *The Stowaway* (Classic Stage Company), *Clover* (La MaMa), *Queen Latina* and *Her Power Posse* (Cherry Lane Theater), *The Mendelssohn Electric* (Park Avenue Armory), *AT BUFFALO* (New York Musical Theatre Festival) and workshops at Tectonic Theater Project,

Sundance Theater LAB, Goodman Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Dorset Theater Festival, Lincoln Center Theater, & Primary Stages. He is currently on staff at The Park Avenue Armory where he brings Arts Education to public schools throughout the five boroughs. He is A Proud New York City Public School Kid, A Member of LAByrnth Theater Company, where he serves as Associate Artistic Director.



Ramsis Ramirez (*Playwright*) joined the Project in the spring of 2022 with his debut play FRIENDSHIP STRUGGLE, dramaturg/directed by Austin Regan, starring Grace Rex and José Maria Aguila, as part of PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, *The Priceless Plays*. Ramsis made his performing debut as Ronaldo (an eagle/dragon soccer player with electric legs); coached by Omari Chancellor in our first ever Character Workshop presentation FACE IN THE CROWD, December 2023. Ramsis can be heard on episode 40 of the PROJcast, Spring 2022 Playmakers.



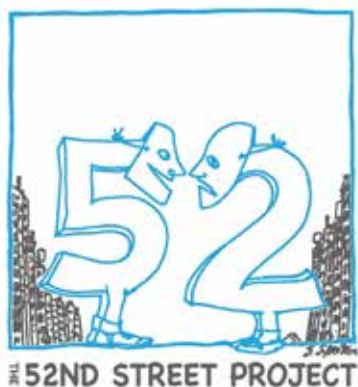
Austin Regan (*Dramaturg/Director*, team Giovanni) is a NYC-based theater and opera director who has been volunteering with the amazing 52nd Street Project since 2015! In New York, he is the associate director of the Neil Diamond musical A BEAUTIFUL NOISE on Broadway and the resident director of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Off-Broadway. Other recent directing includes the world premiere of *YousaidHesaidShesaid* with Opera Ithaca, and the experimental performance piece *Left and Right* at National Sawdust and De Singel. Their work collaborating with members of The 52nd Street Project includes plays by Aramis Jimenez, Adolfo Sinchi, Ramsis Ramirez, and Joel Gokalp.



Aiden Vasquez (*Playwright*) 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.



Mitchell Winter (Performer) is thrilled to be back at the Project! Theater credits include: *Hamlet* (dir. Kenny Leon, Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park), *Wolf Play* (dir. Dustin Wills, MCC & Soho Rep), *Dracula* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (dir. David Auburn, Berkshire Theatre Group), *Frontieres Sans Frontieres* (Bushwick Starr), *A Winter's Tale*, *A Doctor In Spite of Himself*, *American Night* (Yale Rep), *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk), Cameron Mackintosh's *Miss Saigon* (Australian National Tour), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (The Production Company), *Normativity* (NYMF), *Die Fledermaus* (Australian Opera Studio) and *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (Really Useful). Film/TV credits include: *Mr. Robot* (USA Network), *Oh Jerome No* (FX), *If Not Love* (official Sundance selection). Mitchell is a proud member of The Pack theater company. MFA: Yale School of Drama.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INTERNS!

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Frances Strauss	Marion Koltun	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Francine Borgenicht	Marjorie & Michael Loeb	Will Keigler
Frank Wood & Kay Gayner	Mary & Lionel Allan	Yared Yawand Wossen

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S

ONE NIGHT ONLY

TRIBUTE TO HENRY KRIEGER

Monday, February 26
6:30 p.m.

The Rooftop at Edison Ballroom
Show Program and
Auction Catalogue

ONE NIGHT ONLY SPONSORS

CLAWS Foundation
Morgan Stanley
Flagstar Bank
Waterloo Sparkling Water
Yorke Construction Company

Morgan Stanley

PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

ONE NIGHT ONLY CO-CHAIRS

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Louis & Patrice Friedman
Margaret Odette
Noël Mihalow

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES...

The Bowery Group
Iris A. Brown Design
William Curran, A Curran Affair
Stephen Lewin, Ambassador Theatre Group
Noël Mihalow, Prime Films
Willie Reale
Shirley Rumierk
David Costabile
Liz Bell
Mark Whatley
Jim & Jeannie Gaffigan



The Board of Directors of The 52nd Street Project and the CLAWS Foundation proudly presents

ONE NIGHT ONLY

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT'S TRIBUTE TO HENRY KRIEGER

OUR HONOREE

Henry Krieger

OUR HOST

Anika Noni Rose

THE SINGERS

Lilli Cooper, Melanie Correa

Jon-Michael Reese, Stephen Wallem, Natalie Walker

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANO

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LIGHTING DESIGNER

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Deneka Peniston

"HENRY'S VIDEO" PRODUCTION

Noël Mihalow/Prime Films

DIRECTOR

Natalie Hirsch



THE SONGS

I LOVE THAT PIG

Music by Henry Krieger
Lyrics by James Ryan
Sung by Lilli Cooper

WHY AM I SO...YOU KNOW?

Music by Henry Krieger
Lyrics by Willie Reale
Sung by Stephen Wallem

LEARN EVERY SYNONYM

Music by Henry Krieger
Lyrics by Willie Reale
Sung by Natalie Walker & Jon-Michael Reese

PASTA MI AMORE

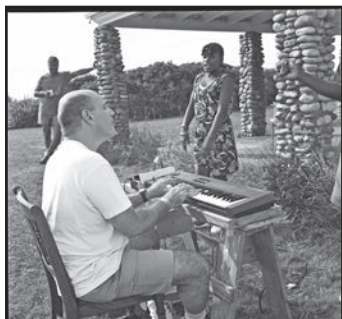
Music by Henry Krieger
Lyrics by Willie Reale
Sung by Natalie Walker & Jon-Michael Reese

YOU GOT ME AND I GOT YOU

Music by Henry Krieger
Lyrics by Cindy Lou Johnson
Sung by Lilli Cooper and Project Member Melanie Correa

HENRY ON LOCATION

In the early 90's, Henry accompanied us on several week-long trips in which he composed and taught music to our young members. Here he is in Block Island. Photos by Stephanie Berger.



THE LIVE AUCTION CATALOGUE



Greetings, fans of Henry and The 52nd Street Project!

Thanks for joining us here at **The Rooftop at Edison Ballroom** to take a stroll down memory lane. Stay ready for action, though, because the Project's witty and urbane Founder, **Willie Reale** and vivacious actress and Project alum **Shirley Rumierk** will soon bound onto the stage to auction off the one-of-a-kind packages described on the following pages. Be bold on your bids! It all goes to a good cause.

1. THE "BARELY ALIVE" PACKAGE

Jim Gaffigan is not just a really good friend to The 52nd Street Project, he is also a damn good stand-up comic. We've scored a couple of tickets to his show at the **Beacon Theater** on **Friday, April 26**. Here's a chance to snap them up! What makes this package even more special is a meet-and-greet with Jim at the show!

Along with your tickets, you get a gift card worth \$200 at Shukette, a lively Bowery Group Middle Eastern spot in Chelsea.

VALUE: Astronomical



2. THE SPORTS SPECTACULAR PACKAGE

Win this item and you and your best golfing pal get to play as a foursome on **Thursday, May 16** with Project Celeb **David Costabile (Billions)** and our frolicsome founder **Willie Reale** at the **Quaker Ridge Golf Club** in Scarsdale. You'll be part of **The 52nd Street Project's Annual Golf Outing**, a fun day that includes lunch, top-flight golf, scintillating conversation, cocktails, and a great meal with your new buddies.

You'll also get a \$200 gift card to **Cookshop**, a fine Bowery Group eatery, and four **New York Rangers** tickets at **Madison Square Garden** in section 111, row 21, seats 7, 8, 9, & 10. Date/game to be agreed on by owner of the tickets.

VALUE: So high we can't see the top!



3. "COME TO THE CABARET, OLD CHUM" PACKAGE

At this very moment, the interior of the **August Wilson Theater** is being rebuilt to house a thrilling new production of **Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club** that originated in London. The show stars **Eddie Redmayne** and **Gayle Rankin** and begins its run in April. We're offering two **stage-side dining tickets** to this intimate and electrifying show.

This package also includes a \$200 gift card to **Vic's Restaurant**.

Valid for any performance through August 31, 2024. Please note following dates will not be available: April 10-12, 16, and 20-21, May 8, 21, and 23. All tickets are subject to availability and prior sale. Please note: Beginning June 17, Eddie Redmayne will not appear at the Monday evening performances.

VALUE: \$1600



4. A SONG JUST FOR YOU

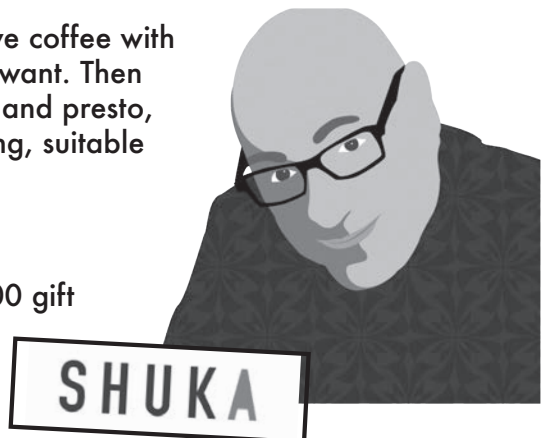
For the person who thinks they have everything. You don't. Because you don't have a **Henry Krieger** song written especially for you. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Henry and his trusty lyricist, Project Founder **Willie Reale**, will write a song just for you.

And the song will be written to your specs. It could be your family's theme song, your company fight song, your kid's school anthem, or a love song to that special someone. It could be an ode to the family dog, or the best Mother's Day gift you will ever give. The possibilities are staggering.

Here's how it works. You have coffee with Willie, and tell him what you want. Then Willie and Henry will go at it and presto, you get sheet music of the song, suitable for framing.

You also be able to have a Mediterranean-style meal on MacDougal Street with a \$200 gift card from **Shuka**.

VALUE: Ya gotta ask?



OUR DONORS

"OH, HENRY!" TABLE

The CLAWS Foundation

"KRIEGER? I HARDLY KNOW HER!" TABLES

Patrice & Louis Friedman

Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden

"SIDE BY SIDE/SHOW" TABLES

Emily Giske/Bolton-St. Johns

Glen Gillen

Annie & David Hausmann

Kim Katz & Frances Langbecker

Valerie Kay & Bruce Graham

Anne Torsiglieri

Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley

Alexandra Vassilaros, Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Co.

"HONK IF YOU KNOW HENRY" TABLES

Beth & Eric Berman

Lisa Benavides and Tim Blake Nelson

Denise Burse & Peter J. Fernandez

Sarah Horowitz

Jane & Greg MacPherson

Karin and Thomas Schall

Audrey Shapiro, Aline Shapiro

Jodi Sheeler & Andrew Sherman

Carole Yass

"DREAMGIRLS" SEATS/"TAP DANCE KIDS" SEATS

Becky & Dylan Baker

Beth Barry

Neena Beber

Emily Benton-Morgan

Liz Bell
Carl Capotorto
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THE 52ND STREET PROJECT STAFF

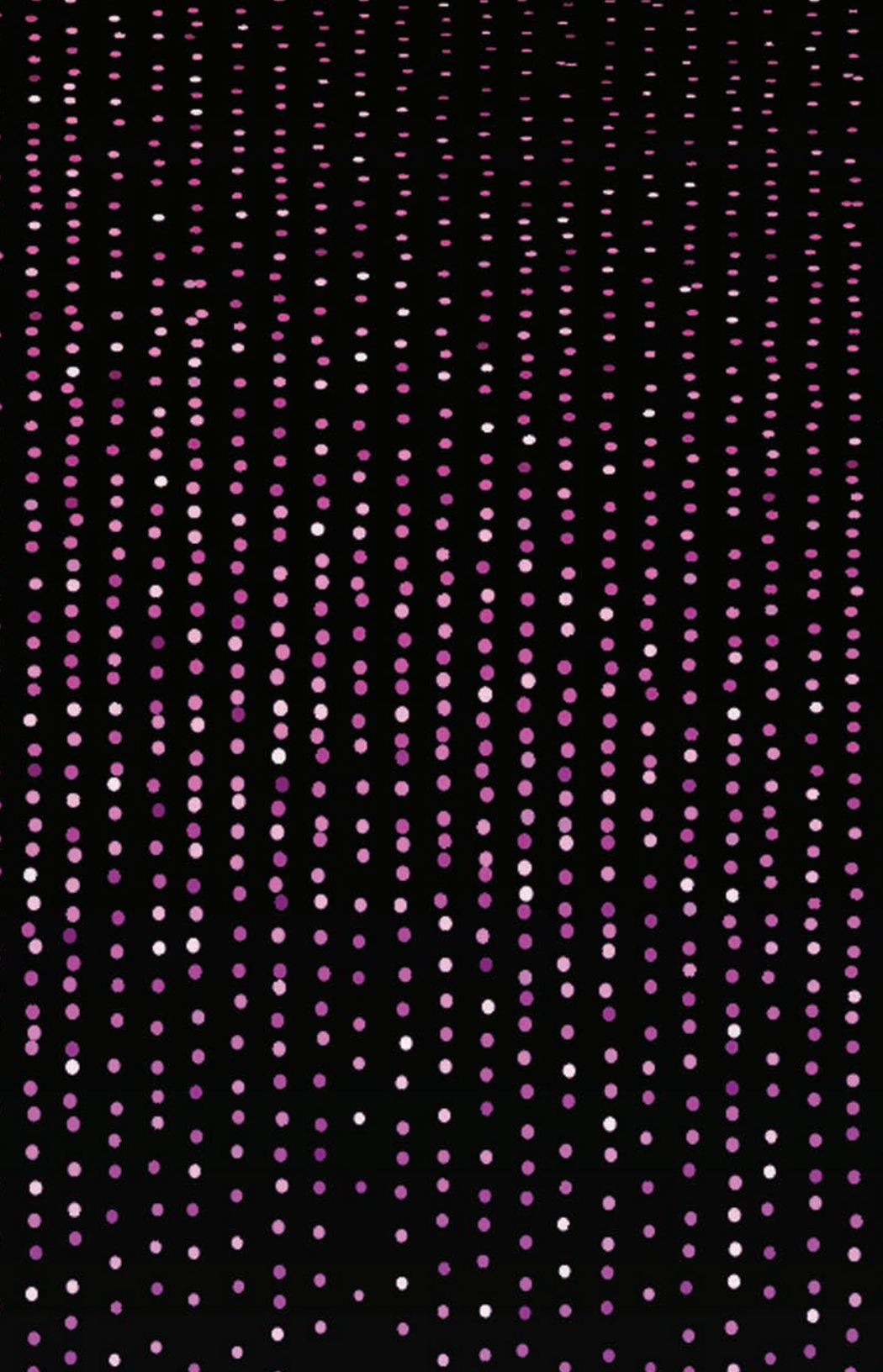
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BENEFIT VOLUNTEERS

Michael Propster, Evan Schultz, Vanessa Valdes



The programs of The 52nd Street Project are made possible with public funds from 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.

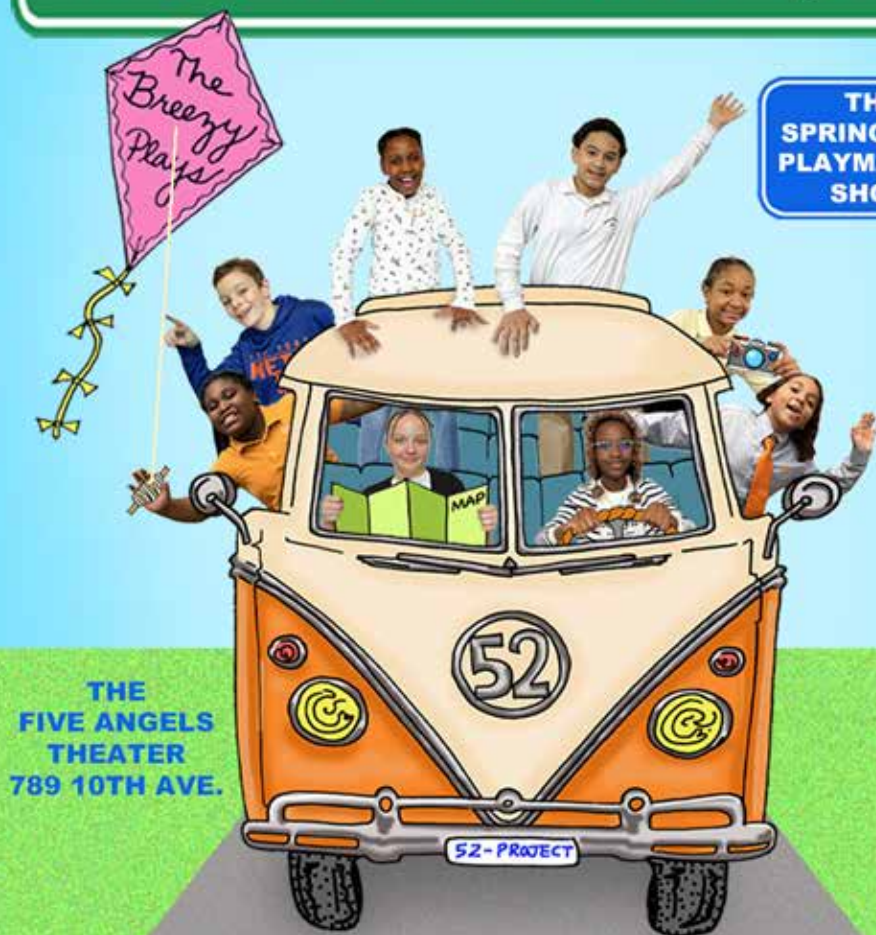


THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR



THE
SPRING 2024
PLAYMAKING
SHOW



THE
FIVE ANGELS
THEATER
789 10TH AVE.

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

Jack, a lion who loves to cook Mitchell Winter

Jake, a rock star lion.....Raquel Chavez

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

Andy Whinston, a schoolboy Stephen Stocking

Riley, an imaginary friendJennifer Ikeda

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

Dani, a spy.....Dela Meskienyar

Jackson, a CEO.....Kyle Cameron

Eli, Jackson's sonNikolai Alvarez

Bodyguards Stuart Green, Kaytie Gil

Friends? lyrics by Selena Smith

MELLO AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN

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

Mello, a basketball player and boxerArmando Riesco

Kyan, a track star and powerlifter Meredith Garretson

Retired NBA pro..... George Babiak

The kids..... Kaytie Gil, Nikolai Alvarez

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 detectiveMajor Curda
Katarina Maria Vera Alno, a criminal mastermind..... Daiva Deupree
The Docent/NarratorStuart 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 playerForrest Malloy
Ganeen, a photographerEmma Ramos

Stupid Men lyrics by Milo Phelps

THE BEST FRIENDS

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

Ava, a stuffed teddy bear.....Christy Escobar
Snowball, a 6-year old bunnyShaunette Renée Wilson
Dad bear.....Stuart Green

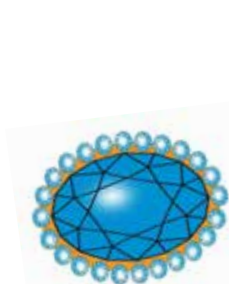
A Break in Trust lyrics by Makiyah Gray

KFC, YOU HAD TO BE THERE

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

Sarah Sushi, a California Roll..... Erin Neufer
Freedy Chicken, a fried chicken leg Carl Hendrick Louis

Let's Be Evil lyrics by Grace Guity-Reyes



“A BREATH OF FRESH AIR” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Fouad Dakwar

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

K8 August

Costume Designer

Carisa Kelly

Costume Assistant

Amirah Hancock

Sound Designer

Emma Giordano

Stage Manager

Bri Weintraub

Projection Designs

George Babiak, Diego Caoili, and
The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

Backstage Crew

Nikolai Alvarez, Helena Franco,
Kaytie Gil, Marty Gleberman,
Stuart Green

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Design

George Babiak & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caioli

Camera Ops:

Gilbert Rosario, Peter Muca

Intern

Helena Franco

Weekend-Away Chef

John Sheehy

The 52nd Street Project Staff

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Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*

George Babiak, Director of Design and Production

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Abby Dziura, Education Assistant

Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office Manager

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

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John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement

Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Bri Weintraub, Production 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. ***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

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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."

Or make a gift via



@Fifty-Two-Project

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 **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.

PLEASE PUT ME ON YOUR LIST:

04/24

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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?

Natalie Hirsch,
Artistic Director

Carol Ochs,
Executive Director

Kat Almiranlez,
Associate
Artistic Director

Garrett Kim,
Program Director

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT

THE 2024
STAGE COMBAT
SHOW

ONE
SHOW
ONLY!

WHAM!

SPLAT!

POW!

ARTWORK BY PROJECT MEMBER MARISA BERNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 - 7:30 P.M.
FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVENUE

ADMISSION FREE - VISIT [52PROJECT.ORG](https://52project.org) FOR 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 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 (SAG-AFTRA 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 deviser, 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 (*Fredy 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 playwrights 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.



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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List current as of April 5, 2024

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT

Natalie Hirsch,
Artistic Director

Carol Ochs,
Executive Director

Kat Almiraflez,
Associate
Artistic Director

Garrett Kim,
Program Director

THE 2024
STAGE COMBAT
SHOW



FRIDAY, APRIL 12 - 7:30 P.M.

FIVE ANGELS THEATER

“THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT” Production Staff

Stage Manager

Jenni Swan

Lighting and Sound Designer

Bri Weintraub

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak

House Management

John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Naresa Bernier

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caoili

Camera Ops: Nikolai Alvarez, Sarah Lopez

Teen Counselor

Amirah Hancock

Intern

Helena Franco

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

Abby Dziura, Education Assistant

Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Office 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

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!**



THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT!

THE 2024 LORRAINE COHEN STAGE COMBAT SHOW

Stage Combat Instructor

Alex Gould

Program Instructor

Garrett Kim

VIDEO BROS

Fight choreography by Mateo Santoni, with Noah Gaynor

Tom, a really good gamer who wants to be a professional.....Mateo Santoni

David, a famous streamer gamer who wants to be richNoah Gaynor

GREED

Fight choreography by Rebeca Vanterpool, with Precious Sipin

Reese, a teen trying to get money for her cat's treatment.....Rebeca Vanterpool

Opal, a teen that just wants moneyPrecious Sipin

JEFFERSON AND SPONGEBOB FIGHT

Fight choreography by José Luján, with Andy Jean-Gilles

Spongebob, plays basketball.....José Luján

Jefferson, also plays basketball.....Andy Jean-Gilles

NOT SO FAST

Fight choreography by Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez, with Kirstin Louie

Grouchy, a nonchalant mechanicJai-Lyzz Rodriguez

Whitney, an ambitious driver who only cares about winningKirstin Louie

TOO MUCH FOOD

Fight choreography by Jason Devoe, with Sam Gravitte

Ivan, a Wendy's employeeJason Devoe

Case Oh, who lives behind the Wendy'sSam Gravitte

Wendy's manager.....Amirah Hancock

WORLD MATH CUP

Fight choreography by Katty Lopez, with Maryn Shaw

Mandy.....Katty Lopez

Leah.....Maryn Shaw

GAMER RAGE

Fight choreography by Angel Welsh, with Christian DeMarais

Steve, a 14-year old aspiring adventurer.....Angel Welsh

Alex, a 14-year old aspiring mayorChristian DeMarais

Gamers.....Amirah Hancock, Helena Franco

CUT-ASTROPHE

Fight choreography by Jessica Elie-Pierre, with Sophia Zukoski

Selena, a hairstylist with her own way of doing thingsJessica Elie Pierre

Leslie, a micromanager that thinks she knows best.....Sophia Zukoski

Customer.....Amirah Hancock

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. **THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT** 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

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Noël Mihalow

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Shirley Rumierk, alumni member

José Soto, Jr., alumni member

Wendy vanden Heuvel

Alexandra Vassilaros

Mark Whatley



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 “You Can Help.”

Or make a gift via  @Fifty-Two-Project

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

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Crew-neck sweatshirts \$ 2 5 . 0 0

Project Caps \$ 2 0 . 0 0

Project T-shirts \$ 1 5 . 0 0

Mugs \$ 5 . 0 0

Thank you for coming to THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT! 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:

04/24

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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.

COMING UP AT THE FIVE ANGELS

MORE THAN WORDS

The Teen Ensemble Production

Fri., May 31 - 7:30 p.m.

Sat., June 1 - 3:00 p.m.

DANCEMAKING

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

OFF THE MAP: THE PLACE PLAYS PART 1

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

OFF THE MAP: THE PLACE PLAYS PART 2

Friday, July 26 - 7:30 p.m.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING: PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU

The 2024 Rumson One-on-Ones

Friday, August 16 - 7:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, August 18 - 3:00 p.m.



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



Christian DeMarais (*Alex*, in *Gamer Rage*, with Angel) is so excited to be back working at the Project in the form of getting yelled at + beat up by Angel. You may recognize Christian from his most recent stint as the super-hero Stamps in *Choices*, where he directed and performed alongside Project Legend Aiden Vasquez. Or perhaps you may remember Christian as a Tree who just wants to get a job so he can move out of his parents house in Queen Katty Lopez's play *Furniture & Trees*. Regardless, Christian is super grateful to be here and help bring these wonderful kiddos vast creativity + brilliance to life!



Jason DeVoe (*Ivan*, in *Too Much Food*, with Sam Gravitte) joined the Project in the spring of 2023. His first play was *Clash of Guitars and The Agreement*; dramaturged and directed by George Babiak; with Jeremy Rishe and Matt Saldívar. It was part of the production *A WHALE OF A TALE, Plays That Make a Splash*, in March/April 2023. Jason made his acting debut in *The Adventures of Jay and Weston*, a one-on-one written by, directed by, and co-starring Cody Wilson, as a part of *ON THE MOVE, Plays that Will Transport You*, in July 2023. Jason can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, "Splish-Splash Playmakers."



Jessica Elie-Pierre (*Selena*, in *Cut-astrophe*, with Sophia Zukoski) joined the Project in the winter of 2020 with her debut play *Mokina and Cupy*, with dramaturg/director Grace Rex, starring Jennelle Chu and Erin Neuffer, as part of the zoom Playmaking presentation *SMOKE & MIRRORS, The Tricky Plays, Pt. I*, presented in January 2021. Jessica made her acting debut in *The Hammer*, a one-on-one written by, directed by, and co-starring Ana Soto, as a part of *ARE WE THERE YET, The Location Plays*, August 2022. Jessica collaborated with composer Avi Amon for their song "Caught in a Trap," performed first by Emily Skeggs, and then reprised by Bonnie Milligan as part of the Hidden Gems online gala, June 2020. Jessica can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 32, "The Writers of 'Smoke & Mirrors, Pt. I'".



Noah Gaynor (*Performer*, team Mateo) is thrilled to be back at the Project for this epic fight. He was previously seen as Jacob the werewolf in Bella's play *THE WITCH'S CAT*. Thank you to Mateo for taking it easy on me, and the medical staff here at the Project.



Alex J. Gould (*Stage Combat Lead Instructor*) 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/dramaturg). PLAYBACK: STRANGER FLINGS, Plays About New Holidays, 2018 (director/dramaturg/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). Alex is excited and honored to take on a new role of lead instructor for THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT, Stage Combat Works.



Sam Gravitte (*Case Oh*, in *Too Much Food*, with Jason) is an actor and writer. Productions include Wicked, White Rose, Sweeney Todd, the original cast of Almost Famous at the Old Globe, and more. This is his first time working with The 52nd Street Project, and he's thrilled to have taken a swing at stage combat. All his life he had to fight. He had to fight his daddy, he had to fight his

brothers, his uncles and cousins too, but he never thought he'd have to fight a child (and lose). Sam is a Lifetime Member of The Actors Studio and a graduate of Princeton University.



Amirah Hancock (*Teen Counselor*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *The Doll & The Pendant*, dramaturged & directed by Krystel Lucas with Mozhan Marnó and Jennifer Kim, as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Jed Clarke's *The Return of Agent Marks vs. Turkey Vulture* with Annabelle Cousins for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD

VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show *Crybaby* with Molly Carden for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. She wrote and performed in her Playback show *College Adventures* alongside Arielle Goldman for HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, *The Surprising Plays*, in October, 2019. She performed in *Madame President and the Golden Girl* by Tahnee Freda, directed by Paton Ashbrook for the 2020 Two-on-two production ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, *Plays You Can't Ignore*. Amirah is a member of the current Teen Ensemble and performed in, and assisted with the costumes for EYE OF THE STORM in 2023. She was Costume Assistant on FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*, in December 2023; and A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*, in April 2024. She can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 45, "Looking Into the EYE OF THE STORM."



Andy Jean-Gilles (*Jefferson*, in *Jefferson & Spongebob Fight* with José) is excited to be making his debut with The 52nd Street Project! He has enjoyed collaborating with José and looks forward to performing alongside him on show night! Andy wants to thank The 52nd Street Project team for being so welcoming throughout the entire process. Thanks a bunch!



Garrett Kim, (he/him; *Program Director*) 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.



Katty Lopez (*Mandy*, in *World Math Cup*, with Maryn Shaw) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with her debut play *Furniture and Trees*, dramaturg/directed by Lisa Benavides-Nelson, starring Krystel Lucas & Christian DeMarais, as part of *PIECE OF CAKE*, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Katty made her acting debut in Nina Braddock's *Pickle Spaceball*, a one-on-one, directed by and co-starring Precious Sipin, as a part of *ON THE MOVE*, *Plays That Will Transport You*, July 2023. She can be heard on Episode 39 of the PROJcast, *The Writers of "Piece of Cake,"* as well as Episode 43, *"My Amazing Ice Cream Achievement"* alongside her Smart Partner Adaire Kamen.



Kirstin Louie (she/her; *Whitney*, in *Not So Fast*, with Jai-Lyzz) is thrilled to be making her debut at The 52nd Street Project! Since moving to Hell's Kitchen and meeting all the great folks involved, she has been eager to jump into a program. Many thanks to Jai-Lyzz, who couldn't be a more awesome partner for her debut!



José Luján (*Spongebob*, in *Jefferson & Spongebob Fight*, with Andy Jean-Gilles) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. His first play was *Pineapple and Cupcake*; dramaturged and directed by Kyle David; with Jose Gamo and Precious Sipin. It was part of the production *OFF THE WALL*, *The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. José made his acting debut in Garrett David Kim's *Somewhere in the Galaxy*, a one-on-one, directed by, and co-starring Andy Ingalls, as a part of *ON THE MOVE*, *Plays that Will Transport You*, in July 2023. José can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, *"Zany Playmakers."*



Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez (*Grouchy*, in *Not So Fast*, with Kirstin Louie) joined the Project in the winter of 2019 with her debut play *The Secret*, with dramaturg/director George Babiak, starring Sam Dash, Angel Desai, & John Sheehy, as part of OUT OF THE BLUE, *The Unpredictable Plays*. Jai-Lyzz made her acting debut in *Quitting Time*, a one-on-one written by, directed by, and co-starring Anne

Troup, as a part of WATCH THIS, *Ten Time Pieces*, the Block Island 2019 shows. She performed spoken word pieces in Wordplay 2019 with the guidance of Jen Anaya and they teamed up again for FLYING SOLO in 2023. Her zoom play *Untitled* with Daiva Deupree and Matt Wilkas was a part of Pandemic Playmaking #2 in May 2020. Jai-Lyzz collaborated with composer Julio Vaquero Ramos for the Songmaking concert in 2021, their songs were performed by Jen Anaya, & Ronald Peet. For the Hidden Gems on-line gala, their song "I Don't Want You To Go, You Can Go," was performed by Belen Moyano. Jai-Lyzz can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 36, "Radiologues."



Mateo Santoni (*Tom*, in *Video Bros*, with Noah Gaynor) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. His first play was *The Big Adventure of Timmy the T-Rex*; dramaturged and directed by Kareem Lucas; with Devin E. Haqq, Kaileela Hobby, and Michael Propster. It was part of the production OFF THE WALL, *The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. 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*, in July 2023. Mateo can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, "Zany Playmakers."



Maryn Shaw (*Leah*, in *World Math Cup*, with Katty) is thrilled to be returning to The Project where she last participated in Dancemaking! She is an actor, director and writer who recently graduated with her MFA from NYU Grad Acting. Theater: *The Skin of our Teeth* (TFANA), Studio Theatre DC, Arena Stage, Baltimore Centerstage, Kansas CityRep, The Acting Company,

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. TV/ Film: *Friends from College* and various shorts. Training: Interlochen Arts Academy, Fordham Theater Program, NYU Grad Acting. She has had an absolute blast working with Katty and can't wait to get beat up!



Precious Sipin (*Opal*, in *Greed*, with Rebeca) is thrilled to be back at The 52nd Street Project...one of her favorite places in NYC! Precious is an Actor, Filmmaker and 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* and ON THE MOVE the

2023 One-on-Ones. Precious would like to thank Rebeca for being an awesome

scene partner and The 52nd Street Project staff for all the fun! For more information feel free to visit: www.PreciousSipin.com



Rebeca Vanterpool (*Reese*, in *Greed*, with Precious Sipin) joined the Project in the summer of 2022. Her first play was *The Incident*; dramaturged by Elli Stovall Brown and directed by Kerry Warren; with Marchánt Davis & Olivia Gilliatt. It was part of the production WALKING ON SUNSHINE, *The Radiant Plays, Step Two*, in August 2022. This marks Rebeca's performing debut. Rebeca can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 38, "The Writers of Walking on Sunshine, Step Two."



Angel Drew Welsh (*Steve*, in *Gamer Rage*, with Christian DeMarais) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. His first play was *Snow Day*, dramaturged and directed by Jeremy Stoller, with Grant Harrison as Bob, and Elia Monte-Brown as Olivia. It was part of the production OFF THE WALL, *The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. Angel starred in *T-Time*, by George Babiak, alongside Korey Jackson who also directed the show as part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays That Will Transport You*, in July 2023. Angel was a Songmaker for the 2023 concert TUNE IN, where he collaborated with Adam Laporte, and their songs were performed by Major Curda, Kendal Hartse, & Natalie Walker. Angel can also be heard on the PROJcast: Episodes 41, "Zany Playmakers" & Episode 47 - "Tuning In The Songmakers."



Sophia Zukoski (she/they; *Leslie*, in *Cut-astrophe*, with Jessica) is in the wings as everyone's worst manager, ready to spar! 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! If you've ever had a violent fantasy involving your boss, she hopes you enjoy Jessica's fight!



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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Sally Froelich	John and Marjorie North	Carole Yass

List current as of April 5, 2024

MORE THAN WORDS

**A Play Devised by
The 52nd Street Project
Teen Ensemble**

**Directed by Kat Almirañez,
José-Maria Aguila, Abby Dziura,
Ana Gonzalez-Soto, and Betsy Hogg**

Friday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 1, 3:00 p.m.

The Five Angels Theater

789 10th Ave.

Admission Free

52project.org for reservations

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
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**Project Alumni*

“MORE THAN WORDS”

Production Staff

Co-Directors

Kat Almirañez, Jose-Maria Aguila,
Abby Dziura, Ana Gonzalez-Soto, Betsy Hogg

Music Director/Pianist

Avi A. Amon

Lighting Designer

K8 August

Sound Designer

Eva Santoni (Teen Ensemble Member)

Costume Designer

Kass Sinchi (Teen Ensemble Member)

Livestream Team

Enrique Caballero, Evan Schultz

Live Feed Camera

Helena Franco

Photographer

Carin van der Donk

The 52nd Street Project Teen Ensemble

Naseem Abdul-Majeed

Maria Alcides

Kylee Chester

Melanie Correa

Xavier Espinal

Kaytie Gil

Amirah Hancock

Sarah Lopez

Aengus O'Donnell

Eva Santoni

Kass Sinchi

Over the course of the academic year, the Teen Ensemble, which is made up of Project members in high school, have been meeting once a week and practicing the collaborative theater process. This has included improvisation, theater design, technical theater, and playbuilding. The culmination of all their work is MORE THAN WORDS, an original play devised and performed by the Teen Ensemble and co-directed by adults.

Opening & Transitions: Ensemble

“A Night Out”

created and performed by Melanie Correa

“Zzzzzzzz”

created and performed by Kaytie Gil

“Making Faces”

created and performed by Xavier Espinal

“In Transit”

created by Naseem Abdul-Majeed, Maria Alcides,
Kylee Chester, Sarah Lopez, Aengus O'Donnell
and Eva Santoni

”True Love”

created and performed by Maria Alcides & Kylee Chester

“Working from Home”

created and performed by Amirah Hancock

“Ideal and the Real”

created and performed by Xavier Espinal & Aengus O'Donnell

Inspirations for More Than Words

These are some of the prompts that served to germinate the stories in our show.

I am forced to be speechless when...

- ...I am in the wrong.
- ...Someone yells at me.
- ...I'm entranced by someone/something.
- ...Somebody says something completely unexpected without warning.
- ...Seeing something I didn't want to see.
- ...There are many voices at the same time.
- ...No one else says anything.
- ...Being yelled at for something you cannot explain.
- ...I'm so scared and uncomfortable to the point where words refuse to leave my mouth.
- ...I'm speaking and nobody is listening, it's basically the same thing as saying nothing at all.
- ...I am underwater.

I am speechless when...

- ...There is no point in speaking if you do not believe nor understand what you are saying. I like to talk but don't like to say a bunch of nothing.
- ...People bring up trauma as a joke. (I don't know if I should laugh.)
- ...Helping someone grieve.
- ...I'm listening.

- ...Something unexpected happens.
- ...Finding out a secret you weren't supposed to see or hear.
- ...Confused about something.
- ...Witnessing the most stunning vision, and the most harmful atrocities.
- ...I look around and see all these people with their own lives and individuality.
- ...When I am hurt, physically or emotionally.

I choose to be speechless when...

- ...I am trying to learn and educate myself on something I don't know about or when I have nothing to contribute or say in that specific moment.
- ...People are laughing but nothing is funny.
- ... I am focused.
- ...Watching a movie/ show/ performance.
- ...Someone says something I don't agree with, but I don't want to spend energy rebutting it.
- ...I want to say something but feel as if nobody will agree.
- ...I witness a brutal act, rather than speak of it, I turn into yet another silent bystander.
- ...I need a moment to collect myself and my thoughts, sometimes silence is the most beautiful calming sound.

Special Thanks

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.

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!**



COOL STUFF ON SALE IN THE LOBBY!

Fabulous Flyer Bars	\$2.50
<i>and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey and Twoey" logo:</i>	
Two-tone Project Hoodie	\$40.00
Monotone Project Hoodie	\$30.00
Crew-neck sweatshirts	\$20.00
Project Caps	\$20.00
Project T-shirts	\$12.00/\$20.00
Project Mugs	\$5.00
Project Notebook	\$5.00
Project Pencil 3-pack	\$1.00

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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



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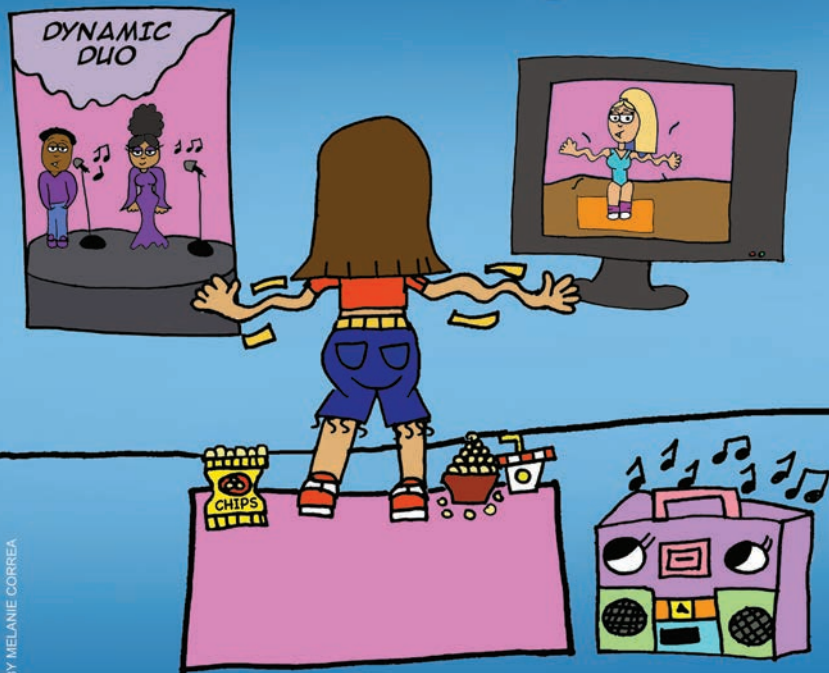
MORE THAN WORDS is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

COMING UP ON OUR STAGE!

The 52nd Street Project Presents

WITH THE FLOW

The 2024 Dancemaking Concert



FLYER ART BY MELANIE CORREA

Friday, June 7 - 7:30 p.m.
The Five Angels Theater
789 10th Ave.

For reservations, go to 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 Fall of 2024. Thanks!

BIOGRAPHIES



Naseem Abdul-Majeed (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2018 with his playwriting debut *Hacker's Deal*, dramaturged & directed by Marchánt Davis with Reynaldo Piniella and Jasmine Batchelor, as a part of HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, *The Ambitious Plays*. He made his acting debut in *Free and Wilde*, written by, directed by and co-starring Sam Dash as a part of WATCH THIS, *Ten Time Pieces*, the Block Island 2019 One-on-Ones. Naseem participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for "The Banana Robbery," music by Utsav Bhargava, which was performed by Emily Skeggs as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. He next appeared in Beto O'Byrne's *What We Do, We Do For True*, directed by and co-starring Korey Jackson, as a part of IN THE SAME BOAT, the Two-on-Two Remix from 2022. Naseem appeared in last year's Teen Ensemble devised production EYE OF THE STORM. He can be heard in PROJcast Episode 51 "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS."



Jose-Maria Aguila (*Co-Director*) 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, Dramaturg, 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 the all the amazing staff, volunteers, and project members for many more years to come. WABWAGA. "Enseñales quien eres."



Maria Alcides (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2018 with her playwriting debut *The Magical Necklace*, dramaturged & directed by Monica Trausch with Kate Abbruzzese and Shay Vawn, as a part of HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, *The Ambitious Plays*. She made her acting debut in George Babiak's *Reign of Error*, directed by and co-starring Marielle Young as a part of WATCH THIS, *Ten Time Pieces*, the Block Island 2019 One-on-Ones. Maria battled Andrea Abello in *Anger*, as a part of KNUCKLE SANDWICH, the 2022 Stage Combat show. Maria has been on backstage crew, and worked as a receptionist at the Project. She can be heard in PROJcast Episode 51 "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS."

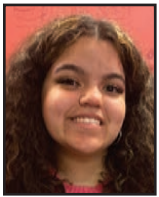


AVI A. AMON, *Music Director*, (*he/they*) is an award-winning Turkish-American composer, sound artist, and educator. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of The Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Recent work includes music, songs, and sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Disney, Hulu, The O'Neill, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Theater Workshop, The New Victory, PlayCo, The Public Theater, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Some fun upcoming projects include: music and sound design for A GOOD DAY TO ME AND NOT TO YOU (dir. Lee Sunday Evans) at

the Connelly Theater next month; music & sound design for THE FOLLOWING EVENING with the 600 Highwaymen (Perelman Performing Arts Center, Winter 2024); and music for THROUGH THE SUNKEN LANDS with Tim J. Lord (Kennedy Center, Spring 2024). Avi teaches a variety of collaborative art-making courses at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing. www.aviamon.com.



Kylee Chester (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *Stay*, dramaturged & directed by Monica Trausch with Kristen Adele and Mallory Portnoy, as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Tim J. Lord's *The Wild, Wild Sea* with Emma Ramos for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show *The Argent Life* with Aishling Pembroke for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. She teamed up with composer Raiah Rofsky for "Safety Blanket," sung by Vanessa Porras, and "Light" sung by Allie Babich, as a part of the HEAR ME OUT, Songmaking Concert 2021. She collaborated on the lyrics for "Where Has The Time Gone," music by Avi Amon for our 2023 gala JUST CHILLIN'. Kylee appeared in last year's Teen Ensemble devised production EYE OF THE STORM. She has been on backstage crew, as well as working as a receptionist and front of house at our shows.



Melanie Rose Correa (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *Happy Mother's Day*, dramaturged & directed by Chelsea Hackett with MaYaa Boateng and Charlotte Graham, as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Michael Walek's *How to Survive* with Jenelle Chu for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show *Friends* with Lydian Blossom for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. Her play *Porkchop Lettuce*, dramaturged by Evan Schultz, directed by Charlie O'Rourke and featuring Marielle Young & Steven Lee Johnson was a part of zoom Playmaking in March 2020. She performed her own piece "Kiara's Potential" directed by Michael Propster for FLYING SOLO 2022. Melanie appeared in last year's Teen Ensemble devised production EYE OF THE STORM. In February, she performed alongside Lilli Cooper singing "You Got Me & I Got You," music by Henry Krieger, lyrics by Cindy Lou Johnson at this year's gala ONE NIGHT ONLY. She has been on backstage crew, as well as working as a receptionist and front of house at our shows. She can be heard in PROJcast Episode 51 "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS."



Abby Dziura (*Co-Director*) joined the Project in October 2023 as an intern, supporting the Fall 2023 Songmaking, Playmaking, and Character Workshop programs. This year, she continued to work at the Project as an Education Assistant and as a volunteer for the Spring 2024 Artmaking and Playmaking programs. She is so honored to be a co-director for *More Than Words* that it (almost) leaves her speechless.



Xavier Espinal (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with his playwriting debut *The Bad Uncle*, dramaturged and directed by Michael Propster with Reynaldo Piniella and Arielle Goldman as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. He made his acting debut in *Three Little Pigs*, written by, directed by and co-starring Marchánt Davis, for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. He created the movement piece *Space Adventure Odyssey*

with Gardiner Comfort for the 2019 Dancemaking concert STEP ON IT. His play *Title (That's The Name)*, dramaturged and directed by Brisa Muñoz and featuring Biko Eisen-Martin & Kara Young was a part of zoom Playmaking, LIGHTING THE LAMP, *The Illuminating Plays*, in June 2020. He wrote and starred in *It's Just Business*, with Marchánt Davis for virtual Playback in 2020. He participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for "Just Found," music by Avi Amon, which was performed by Ronald Peet as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. He performed his own spoken word piece "I Am ...", directed by Ronald Peet for Flying Solo in 2022. He appeared in last year's Teen Ensemble devised production EYE OF THE STORM. He has been on backstage crew for many shows, and is a Smart Partner. Xavier can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 45 "Looking into the EYE OF THE STORM," and Episode 51 "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS."



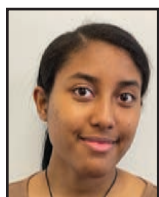
Kaytie Gil (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2018 with her playwriting debut *The 2 Best Friends*, dramaturged & directed by Danaya Esperanza with RJ Brown and Sol Crespo, as a part of HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, *The Ambitious Plays*. She made her acting debut in Allicia Moeller's *Rita 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 can be heard in PROJcast Episode 51 "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS."



Ana Gonzalez-Soto (*Co-Director, she/they*) is a Mexican-born theater enthusiast and purveyor of the arts. She moved to New York in 2019 to attend Pace University and shortly after found The 52nd Street Project where she became an intern and volunteer. Ana has participated as a dramaturg, backstage crew, and in-class volunteer for many programs such as Playmaking and Teen Ensemble. Throughout her youth, Ana spent her time studying and practicing different performing arts in

Arizona, Southern Texas, and NYC. Her other interests include fashion, travel, carbohydrates, sports that are mostly stretching, and films about immigrants. She lives in Hell's Kitchen with her husband and her two cats, Elliot and Lana.



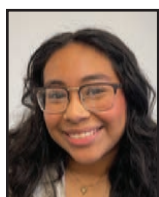
AMIRAH HANCOCK (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays* which featured her playwriting debut *The Doll and the Pendant* directed by Krystel Lucas. She next starred in Jed Clarke's *The Return Of Agent Marks Vs. Turkey Vulture* with Annabelle Cousins for the 2018 One-on-Ones GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show *Crybaby* with Molly Carden for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. She

wrote and performed in her Playback show *College Adventures* alongside Arielle Goldman for HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE in 2019. She performed in *Madame President And The Golden Girl* by Tahnee Freda, directed by Paton Ashbrook for the 2020 Two-on-two production ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, *Plays You Can't Ignore*. Amirah performed in, and assisted with the costumes for EYE OF THE STORM in 2023. She can be heard on episode #45 of the PROJcast "Looking into the EYE OF THE STORM," and Episode 51 "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS."



Betsy Hogg (*Co-Director*) 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

very proud to work with this awesome ensemble & to be Samaria's Smart Partner.



Sarah Lopez (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *Hollywood Is Harsh*, dramaturged by Carrigan O'Brian, directed by Sarah Krohn with Lynne Rosenberg and Chalia La Tour as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Dylan Dawson's *Cock-a-doodle-don't*, directed by and co-starring Daiva Deupree, for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the movement

piece *Dancing + Fighting = Fencing* with Madalyn Baker for the 2019 Dancemaking concert STEP ON IT. Her play *It All Started with Coffee and Tea*, dramaturged and directed by Ceci Fernandez and featuring Jennelle Chu & Eston Fung was a part of zoom Playmaking, LIGHTING THE LAMP, *The Illuminating Plays*, in June 2020. She participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for "Feeling a Purpose: (Full Picture)," music by Avi Amon, which was performed by Jessica Carvo as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. She appeared in last year's Teen Ensemble devised production EYE OF THE STORM. She has been on backstage crew, as well as working as a camera operator for our live streams, and is a Smart Partner. Sarah can be heard on episodes of the PROJcast, #13 "Making Change," and #44 "The Nature of Time with Sarah & Lynne," and Episode 51 "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS."



Aengus O'Donnell (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2015 with his playwriting debut *The Adventure of Snowball & Pine*, dramaturged & directed by Tim J. Lord with Michael Propster and Jose Joaquin Perez, as a part of INFINITY & BEYOND, *The Ultimate Plays*. He made his performing debut with a couple of his own pieces “Eleven” and “Flavour Tour” as a part of the spoken word presentation Wordplay in December 2017. He next appeared in *I Hate Tom Brady*, written, directed and co-starring Grant Harrison in GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*, the August 2018 One-on-Ones. He wrote and performed *The Lightning Ninja's Quarrel: The Ultimate Battle*, co-starring and directed by Jimmy Kenna for HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, *The Surprising Plays*, in October, 2019. He served as a crew member for KNUCKLE SANDWICH, the 2022 Stage Combat show. Aengus most recently performed in EYE OF THE STORM, The Teen Ensemble Devised Play in 2023. He can be heard in PROJcast Episode 51 “Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS.”



Eva Santoni (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *Jabba The Hutt*, dramaturged & directed by Alex O'Daly with Edie Falco and Stephen Wallem, as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. Her song from the show “I Got A Friend In Me,” music by Avi Amon, was reprised by Edie & Stephen as part of GAME CHANGERS, our 2020 on-line gala, and can be seen on the Project's YouTube channel. Eva has twice participated in our Artmaking program,

which resulted in gallery showings of her work,



Kass Sinchi (*Teen Ensemble Member*) joined the Project in the spring of 2018 with her playwriting debut *Fantasy Forrest*, dramaturged by Michelle Taliento & directed by Kel Haney with Ronald Peet and Amber Gray, as a part of DREAM BIG, *The Possibility Plays*. She made her acting debut in Arielle Goldman's *Warrior Sisters* with Leta Renée-Alan for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show *The Final Battle* with Rachel Skalka for the

2019 production SEEING STARS. She wrote and performed in her Playback show *We're All In This Together* alongside Eliza Huberth for Virtual Playback, in May, 2022. Cassandra teamed up with composer John Brautigam for “Para Los Niños,” sung by Laura Riveros-Sefair, and “What Do We Need? Hedgehogs!” sung by Natalie Walker, as a part of the HEAR ME OUT, Songmaking Concert 2021. She collaborated on the lyrics for “Where Has The Time Gone,” music by Avi Amon for our 2023 gala JUST CHILLIN'. She appeared in last year's Teen Ensemble devised production EYE OF THE STORM. She has also has been a camera operator on the live stream of our shows, and was on backstage crew for ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*. Kass can be heard on the PROJcast Episodes, “Mini #4: Veggies,” “Mini #5: April Foolin',” and Episode 51 “Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS.”



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

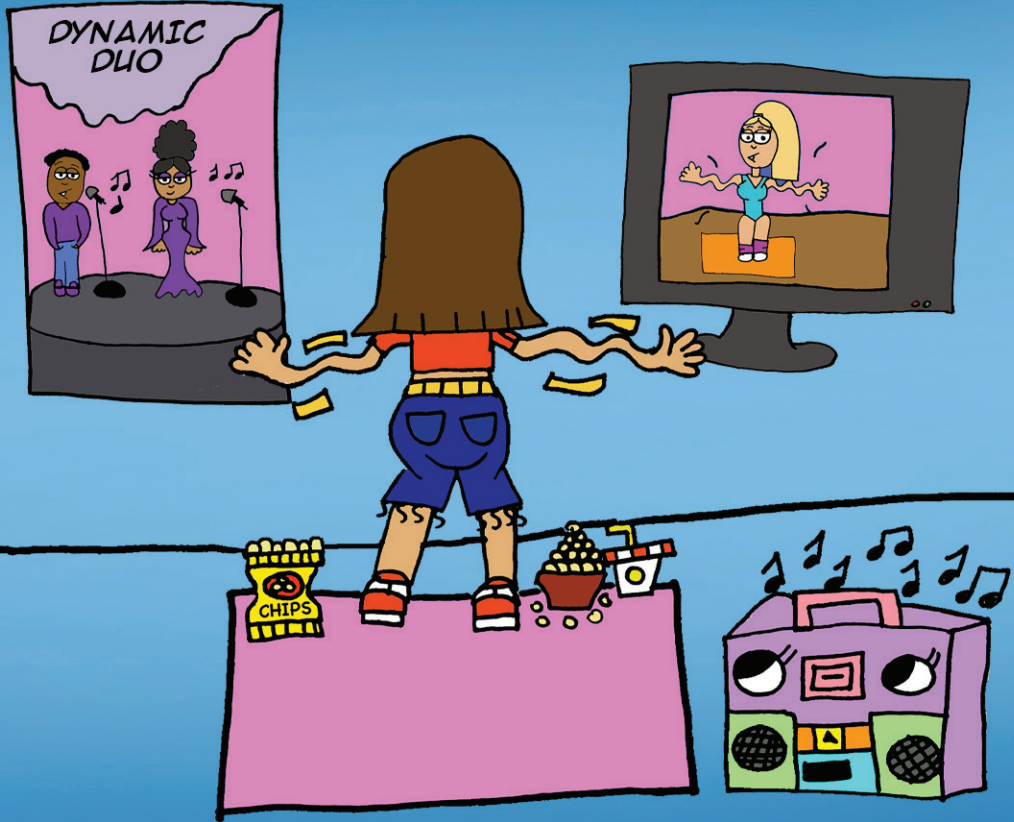
Beth & Ray Abbott	Jeannie & Jim Gaffigan	Carol Ochs
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Jesus Alvarez	Liz Giamatti	Rachel O'Connor
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Stephanie Berger & Paul King	Karen Hauser & Warren Leight	Helen & Peter Randolph
Elizabeth & Eric Berman	Annie & David Hausmann	Andrew Reynolds
Lewis Black	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Peter Robbins
Buzz Bovshow	Todd Herman	Lynne Rosenberg
Matthew Brewer & Kevin Lynch	Helen & Patrick Herssens	Mary Ann and Steven Rosenberg
Becky Browder & Ted Neustadt	Amy Herzig	Laura & David Ross
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Jane Hirschmann	Mary Beth Roth
Bettina S. Buschel	Tara Hobby	Shirley Rumierk & Armando Riesco
Carl Capotorto	Vicki & Craig Holleman	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig
Chris Ceraso	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	Gail Samuel & William Christian
Lauren & Tony Cesario	Kathleen Hughes	Karin & Tom Schall
Jill Chilsty	Nancy Jacobs & David Peterkin	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Rachel Chanoff	Andrea Johnson	Dr. Silk and Mrs. Cerdeiras-Silk
Kyung Choi & Peter Bordes	Laura Jones	Valerie Simmons
Rob Cohen	Matthew Jones	Jenny & Jon Steingart
Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin	Katie & Douglas Jordan	Andrew Stockel
Sherry Cohen	Douglas Kabel	Irwin and Mary Stockel
Maya Cohn & Tjebbo Penning	Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Neil Stockel
Bill Condon	Eric Karpeles & Mike Sell	Robert Stockel
Flanders Cook	Eileen Katz & Jordan Siev	Susanna Styron
Jace Cook	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer	Jenni Swan
Megan Cramer	Alan Krevis & Gary Horowitz	Richard Sweren
Billy Crudup	Micah Kroeze	Mary Lou Teel
Cathy Dantchik	Ellen Kroll	Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke
Carolyn DeSena	Florence Lau	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Daiva Deupree	Jen� LeBlanc & Willie Reale	Cynthia Vance-Abrams
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Wendy Ettinger	Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Mary Pat Walsh
Kyle Fletcher	Josie Merck	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Karina Fox	No�l & Joe Mihalow	Brenda Wehle & John C. Lynch
Angelina Fiordellisi & Matt Williams	Roseline Michael Neveling	Lauren Weiner
Lindsay Fram & Mason Pettit	& Dennis Neveling	Frank Wood & Kay Gayner
Sally Froelich	John and Marjorie North	Carole Yass

List current as of April 5, 2024

The 52nd Street Project Presents

WITH THE FLOW

The 2024 Dancemaking Concert



Friday, June 7 – 7:30 p.m.
The Five Angels Theater
789 10th Ave.

WITH THE FLOW

THE 2024 DANCEMAKING CONCERT

Dance Instructor
Elli Stovall Brown

Program Instructor
Garrett Kim

Smooth Moves (and Grooves)

The Company

MUSIC: "Mr. DG" by the Coleman Brothers

THEME: (Sneaky) smooth moves

Growing Pains

Olive Moayed with Rachel Skalka

MUSIC: "Fortune"

THEME: Sisterhood

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: A story told through a sibling's life, the ups and the downs. Shoutout to our sisters for inspiring this piece.

The Reopened Circus

Khloe Castillo with Stephanie Lane

MUSIC: "My Next Schtick"

THEME: The reopened circus

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: This dance will have lots of acrobatics, emotion, funny & different moments, and more!

Where Are We?!?!?

Adolfo Sinchi with John Maddaloni

MUSIC: "Mystic Dust"

THEME: Finding one's self

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: The day begins when the 2 macho bros are out by the sea when a strong gust of wind pushes them in during their warm-up. They endure the struggling of survival of the sea, the relentless wind, and the treacherous Earth when they finally enter the Earth realm. They find a way to escape, or do they? Some say they are still looking for an escape to this day.

A Goofy Brother Summer

Logan Centeno with Major Curda

MUSIC: "Malemolencia"

THEME: Goofball

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: The characters are friends. Goofy format. Chill vibes.

The Battle of Insecurity

Ethan Cruz with Nico Grelli

MUSIC: "Windfall"

THEME: Insecurity blocking out the mind

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: I wanted to convey a message of two people going through a hard time to show that struggling with insecurity and becoming open about it can lead to friendships.

Friends Going Through Life

Samaria Alkandi with Aishling Pembroke

MUSIC: "Closer"

THEME: Friends going through life

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: Different stages of long term friendships encounter many ups and downs (and in-betweens). What starts out as a happy friendship may experience times of being sad/mean but they always find their way back together to exciting things.



Special Thanks

Dan Demole and Slipstream for providing most of the music in this show,

“WITH THE FLOW” Production Staff

Lighting Designer

Finn Meyercord

Sound Designer/Dance Captain

Diego Caoili

Flyer/Program Art

Melanie Correa

Livestream Team

Director: George Babiak

Camera Ops: Gilbert Rosario, Manny Jacobson

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

Helena Franco and Manny Jacobson, Interns

**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!**



The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit arts organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional artists to create original art. The **Dancemaking** program gives 6 Project members a chance to express themselves creatively through movement. Over the nine weeks of Dancemaking class, led by **Elli Stovall Brown** with support from Program Director **Garrett Kim**, these young choreographers and performers developed their own movement vocabulary. With their adult partners, they explored shapes, pathways, actions, and choreographic elements to create their own original piece. The resulting dances are featured in tonight's performance.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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



The Dancemaking 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.”

Or make a gift via  @Fifty-Two-Project

COMING UP AT THE FIVE ANGELS



LOOK WHO'S TALKING: PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU

The 2024 Rumson One-on-Ones

Friday, August 16 - 7:30 p.m.

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

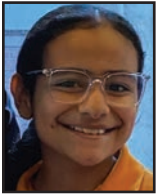
Sunday, August 18 - 3:00 p.m.



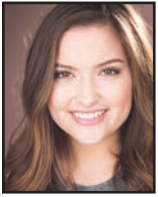
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INTERNS!

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



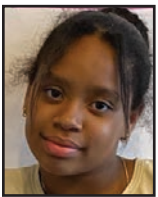
Samaria Alkandi (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. Her first play was *Journey of the Death Potion*; dramaturged by, directed by Monica LaBadia and starring Tina Chilip and Neil D'Astolfo, as part of the production OFF THE WALL, *The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. She made her 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. Samaria can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, "Zany Playmakers."



Elli Stovall Brown (*Lead Instructor*) is THRILLED to be back as the Dancemaking Instructor alongside Garrett leading this session. She began her time at the Project as a volunteer for Dancemaking 2017 & 2018 and was so honored to step into the instructor role for Dancemaking in 2019 culminating in the Dancemaking show, STEP ON IT. She has also participated in Artmaking, as well zoom Playmaking during the pandemic, and was a dramaturg for *The Incident*, by Rebeca, as a part of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, *The Radiant Plays*, in the summer of 2021. This current Dancemaking group of young people and volunteers are so special. They have so much freedom and creativity in their movement and she is so excited for you all to see them tell their stories through their new language of dance!



Diego Caoili (*Dance Captain/Sound Designer*) 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 Street Project's opportunities!



Khloe Castillo (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. Her first play was *Dream Come True*; dramaturged by, directed by and starring Krystel Lucas, with James Yaegashi, as part of the production OFF THE WALL, *The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. WITH THE FLOW marks her performing debut with the Project. Khloe can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, "Zany Playmakers."



Logan Centeno (*Project Member*) 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 can be heard on episode 40 of the PROJcast, "Spring 2022 Playmakers", and Episode 46, "Mid' History with Logan & John."



Ethan Cruz (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2018 with his playwriting debut *Music's Control*, dramaturged & directed by John Sheehy with Ben Mehl and Carolyn Kettig, as a part of HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, *The Ambitious Plays*. He made his onstage debut performing "Hate + Love," and "Fortune Cookies," in PUSH YOUR LUCK, Wordplay 2019. He next appeared in *Coquito*

Libre, written by, directed by, and co-starring José Duran, as a part of ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*, the August 2022 One-on-Ones. He performed his own piece "David Slays" in Flying Solo, 2023. He fought Kyle Cameron in *High School*, part of BOOM! WHAM! POW! Stage Combat 2023.



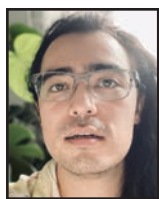
Major Curda (*Performer*) is a multi-disciplinary storytelling artist who has appeared & collaborated on various projects for Theatre, Tv/Film, and Voiceover. Recently, Major finished filming "You Don't Belong Here" a new horror film with Shane West (SAG-AFTRA IA), had their Off-Broadway debut as Romeo 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



Nico Grelli (*Performer, they/them*) is a filmmaker, screenwriter, theatremaker, and actor. As an actor, Nico has been nominated for a Jeff Award, and is the recipient of a New York Innovative Theatre Award. Nico has also been a teaching artist for many years, and working with The 52nd St. Project on various shows, classes, and programs for the past decade has been one of their great joys in life.

Nico also loves to skate, is the parent of a beautiful Rottweiler Doberman, is a not terrible musician, and makes a mean bowl of pasta. More at www.nicgrelli.com.



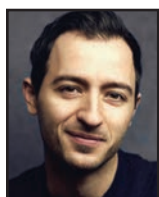
Garrett Kim, (*Program Director*; he/him) is a theater-maker and educator based in New York City. He joined the staff in 2015 after interning and volunteering at The Project. He has taught at First Stage Children's Theater in Milwaukee for their Theatre Academy and their Next Steps program for students 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.



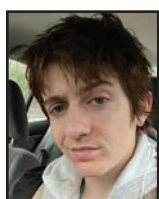
Stephanie Jean Lane (*Performer*) is an actor, director, writer, teacher, and dancer who has volunteered with The 52nd Street Project since 2016! She has played an older sister, a mermaid monster, a girl with a backpack, and a whale, and has directed kid-written plays about betrayal and redemption, friendship, and many a hero's journey. Her favorite Project memories include boogie

boarding out on Block Island, and getting beaten by 9-year-olds in epic card games in Rumson, NJ. This is her first Dancemaking class. It's been an honor to make a dance with the talented Khloe.



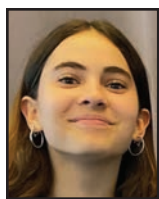
John Maddaloni (*Performer*) John is so excited to be returning to The 52nd Street Project for the Dancemaking Program. John is an actor, writer, composer and also works extensively in voiceover and as an audiobook narrator. Here are some of his favorite credits! NYC: *Sally and Tom* [stage reading] (The Public), *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* (Gene Frankel Theatre) Regional: *The Winter's Tale* (Hartford Stage), *Forbidden Broadway* (Arc Stages), *The Power of Hypnotism*

(Williamstown) NYU: *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *An Upset* (Player 1), *Dance Nation* (Dance Teacher Pat) and *Gloria* (Dean) directed by Doug Hughes. John recently won Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play from the CT Critics Circle for his role as the Clown in *The Winter's Tale*. Training: NYU MFA Acting '22 www.johnmaddaloni.com

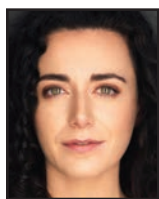


Finn Meyercord (*Lighting Designer*, he/him) is thrilled to be making his professional debut with The 52nd Street Project as the lighting designer for WITH THE FLOW. Currently a rising senior at Sarah Lawrence College, he is so grateful for this opportunity, thanks to SLC faculty alum and current production manager of The 52nd Street Project, Bri Weintraub. After many years of designing

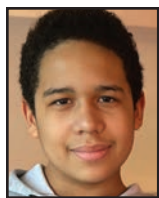
at school, as well as crew and internship work around the city, he is so excited to finally work professionally as a designer! Thank you Bri, Ella, and everyone at The 52nd Street Project! finnmeyercord@gmail.com



Olive Moayed (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the spring of 2020. Her first play was *How Zombies Make Us Feel?*; dramaturged by, and directed by Ashley Marie Ortiz, with Lynne Rosenberg and Keshav Moodliar, as part of the zoom playmaking production SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays*, ultimately presented in March 2021. Prior to that sharing, she wrote her second play *In Out and Through*, dramaturgy/directed by Kerry Warren, with Ka-Ling Cheung & Joe Osheroff as part of our fourth pandemic Playmaking over zoom in July 2020. Olive made her acting debut in her own play *Money Definitely Positively 100 Percent Doesn't Buy Happiness*, directed by and co-starring Angel Desai, as a part of THICK AS THIEVES, *The Relationship Plays*, Playback 2022. Olive can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 35, "The Writers of 'Smoke & Mirrors, Part II.'"



Aishling Pembroke (*Performer*) is so excited to be a part of Dancingmaking with this amazing group! Some other shows she has been involved with here at the Project are *The Argent Life*, as part of SEEING STARS, Stage Combat 2019; Project Exchange 2019, Win Playmaking; *2013 Rematch*, as part of KNUCKLE SANDWICH, Stage Combat 2022; *Happier Than Ever*, by Molly Carden, as part of ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*, August 2022.



Adolfo Sinchi (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the spring of 2019. His first play was *My Friend/Enemy*, dramaturged and directed by Austin Regan; with Jose-Maria Aguila, Ross Cowan, and Cody Wilson, as part of OUT OF THE BLUE, *The Unpredictable Plays*, in March 2019. Adolfo made his acting debut in his own play *The Truth About Dragons and Polar Bears*, directed by, and co-starring Kyle Cameron, as a part of THICK AS THIEVES, *The Relationship Plays*, in October 2022. He fought Sebastian Arroyo in *Battle of The Crystal Shop*, part of BOOM! WHAM! POW! Stage Combat 2023.



Rachel Skalka (*Performer*) is thrilled to be back at the Project in WITH THE FLOW! She previously participated in Stage Combat and Playmaking, and as a historically strong and wrong mover, Dancemaking has been a welcome challenge. She'd like to thank Olive for her warmth, generosity, and creativity in their partnership. She'd also like to thank her dog Newt for inspiring many of the movements seen on stage tonight.

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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Sandra and Murray Abeles	Tina Galley	Jacki Ochs & Jan Kroeze
Peter Ackerman	Rose Gasner & Larry Chertoff	Margaret & Peter O'Brien
Jesus Alvarez	Liz Giamatti	Rachel O'Connor
Elisa Atti & Evan Handler	Glen Gillen	Margaret Odette
Anne Bacon	Emily Giske & Annie Washburn	Anne O'Sullivan
Becky & Dylan Baker	Claudia & Wagner Gomez	Sara Paar
Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman	Judy Gold	F. Richard Pappas
Jessica Bauman & Ben Posel	Tony Goldwyn & Jane Musky	Courtney & Lowell Pettit
Carol Bell	Kelly and Lou Gonda	Ira Pittelman
Lisa Benavides & Tim Blake Nelson	Shari Goodstein	Sue Poulin
Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren	Stephen Graham	Karen Powell
Judy & Sam Berger	Kimberly Grigsby	Christopher Randolph
Stephanie Berger & Paul King	Karen Hauser & Warren Leight	Helen & Peter Randolph
Elizabeth & Eric Berman	Annie & David Hausmann	Andrew Reynolds
Lewis Black	Jessica Hecht & Adam Bernstein	Peter Robbins
Buzz Bovshow	Todd Herman	Lynne Rosenberg
Matthew Brewer & Kevin Lynch	Helen & Patrick Herssens	Mary Ann and Steven Rosenberg
Becky Browder & Ted Neustadt	Amy Herzig	Laura & David Ross
Denise Burse & Peter Jay Fernandez	Jane Hirschmann	Mary Beth Roth
Bettina S. Buschel	Tara Hobby	Shirley Rumierk & Armando Riesco
Carl Capotorto	Vicki & Craig Holleman	Laura Sametz & Anton Fig
Chris Ceraso	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	Gail Samuel & William Christian
Lauren & Tony Cesario	Kathleen Hughes	Karin & Tom Schall
Jill Chalsty	Nancy Jacobs & David Peterkin	Sylvia Shepard & Willy Holtzman
Rachel Chanoff	Andrea Johnson	Dr. Silk and Mrs. Cerdeiras-Silk
Kyung Choi & Peter Bordes	Laura Jones	Valerie Simmons
Rob Cohen	Matthew Jones	Jenny & Jon Steingart
Ruth Cohen & Bob Usdin	Katie & Douglas Jordan	Andrew Stockel
Sherry Cohen	Douglas Kabel	Irwin and Mary Stockel
Marya Cohn & Tjebbo Penning	Cynthia Kaplan & David Froelich	Neil Stockel
Bill Condon	Eric Karpeles & Mike Sell	Robert Stockel
Flanders Cook	Eileen Katz & Jordan Siev	Susanna Styron
Jace Cook	Mary Kong & Sol Reischer	Jenni Swan
Megan Cramer	Alan Krevis & Gary Horowitz	Richard Sweren
Billy Crudup	Micah Kroeze	Mary Lou Teel
Cathy Dantchik	Ellen Kroll	Edith Thurber & Kevin O'Rourke
Carolyn DeSena	Florence Lau	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Daiva Deupree	Jené LeBlanc & Willie Reale	Cynthia Vance-Abrams
Billy Dreskin	Dr. David Lee & Dr. Daniele Huntington	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman
Rebecca & Richard Dresser	Kara Lentz	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Patty Dryden & Brian Siberell	Marsue & Peter MacNicol	Alexandra Vassilaros
Michaelene & Jonathan Durst	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Sarah Vigoda
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Mitch Marois	Susan Vitucci
Wendy Ettinger	Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Mary Pat Walsh
Kyle Fletcher	Josie Merck	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Karina Fox	Noël & Joe Mihalow	Brenda Wehle & John C. Lynch
Angelina Fiordellisi & Matt Williams	Roseline Michael Neveling	Lauren Weiner
Lindsay Fram & Mason Pettit	& Dennis Neveling	Frank Wood & Kay Gayner
Sally Froelich	John and Marjorie North	Carole Yass

List current as of April 5, 2024

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.

ARTWORK BY LEE ROSEN

NATALIE HIRSCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRAREZ
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), *Afrikan 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 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.



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*, dramaturgued 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!

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 ALMIRANÉZ
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MEMBERS STARRING
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LOOK WHO'S TALKING! PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU - ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

"Look Who's Talking Theme Song," lyrics by John Sheehy

SCIENCE X FRIENDSHIP

by Kyle Cameron for Josiah Perez, age 10, and Kyle Cameron

Mode of communication: Singing Telegram

Marvin, a lion and an inventor Josiah Perez
Jeremy, a ladybug and a singer Kyle Cameron
Basketball players The Crew
Announcer Melanie Correa

"Next to Me" lyrics by Kyle Cameron

HUMANS ARE TRICKY

by Molly Carden for Jaelannie Rodriguez, age 11, and Molly Carden

Mode of communication: Messenger pigeon

Vella, a golden retriever Jaelannie Rodriguez
Agnes, a messenger pigeon Molly Carden

"We Can't Always Do What They Say" lyrics by Molly Carden

TIME DOG

by Jiehae Park for Cataleya Bernardo, age 11, and Maryn Shaw

Mode of communication: Newspaper

Purple, a smart and athletic animal lover Cataleya Bernardo
Whipper Snappy, a greedy adventurer Maryn Shaw
Frenchie, a tiny adorable dog Rhys Luke

"Animals are..." lyrics by Jiehae Park

MORE THAN L4

by Sean Kenealy for Oliver Tanner, age 12, and Kim Jinhyoung

Mode of communication: Message in a bottle

L4, a bottle of off-brand root beer Oliver Tanner
L5, a bottle of extreme sports drink Kim Jinhyoung
Voice of H6, a bag of salted almonds Manny Jacobson

"Message ON a bottle" lyrics by Sean Kenealy



RUFFLY SPEAKING

by Cynthia Kaplan for Atif Dowidar, age 10, and Christian DeMarais

Mode of communication: Phone booth

Franklin, a dog Atif Dowidar
 Paul, Franklin's owner Christian DeMarais
 Guy Melanie Correa

"We Were Already Friends" lyrics by Cynthia Kaplan

GO TO SLEEP, or, THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL

by Marchánt Davis for Mamadou Diaw, age 10, and Marchánt Davis

Mode of communication: Hieroglyphs

CJ, a student with a strong intuition Mamadou Diaw
 Brandon, CJ's older brother Marchánt Davis
 Janitor Bob George Babiak
 The Griffin Manny Jacobson and Rhys Luke

"Gotta Run" lyrics by Marchánt Davis

BEST FRIENDS...FOREVER?

Written and directed by Betsy Hogg for Samaria Alkandi, age 11,
 and Evan Schultz

Mode of communication: Cups on a string

Belinda the Bunny Samaria Alkandi
 Gloriana the Guinea Pig Evan Schultz
 Bobby, Belinda's & Gloriana's owner Kass Sinchi

"Today is the Day" lyrics by Betsy Hogg

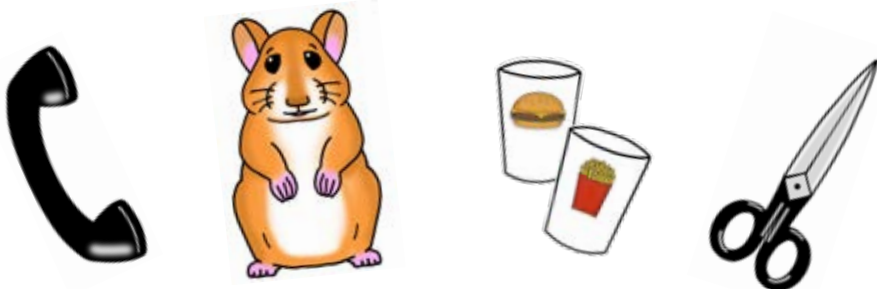
THE CALL

by Kaaron Briscoe for Shaddai Blake-Soden, age 11, and Mirirai

Mode of communication: Ransom Note

Ella, a girl who wants to see the world Shaddai Blake-Soden
 Rosa, Ella's older sister Mirirai

"What Does It Mean to Love You?" lyrics by Kaaron Briscoe



LOOK WHO'S TALKING! PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU

The 2024 One-on-Ones - August 16-18, Five Angels Theater

"LOOK WHO'S TALKING" Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Greg MacPherson

Costume Designer

Taylor Barnett

Sound Designer

Harrison Walsh

Stage Manager

Marty Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak and The Project
Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

Backstage Crew

Melanie Correa, Abby Dziura,
Manny Jacobson, Rhys Luke,
Kass Sinchi

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Lee Rosen

Color and Layout

George Babiak

Livestream Team

Director:
George Kielty
Camera Ops:
Nikolai Alvarez, Christian Santoni

Chef

John Sheehy

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 One-on-One Program is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. 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?
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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. **LOOK WHO'S TALKING** is a production of our One-on-One program, which is designed to give children the opportunity to enjoy the undivided attention of a professional theater artist who serves as friend, mentor, and collaborator.

This year, we brought 8 young members and their adult acting partners to **Rumson, New Jersey** for a week of rehearsing, swimming, tubing, great food, and all sorts of fun!

We have to thank **Carolyn DeSena** for being our primary host during this week. We're also grateful to **Victoria Bowley, Kris and Don Bunnell, Sarah Rossbach and Doug Fleming**, and **Kim Walsh** for housing some of our adult staff members and volunteers. We also want to express our gratitude to **Lisa and Stephen Becker, Lauren and Tony Cesario, Bob and Clare Gray**, and **Irene and Tom Hall** for being kind and generous host families to our young members.

Additional thanks must be handed out to **Sandy Mulheren** and the **Chapel Beach Club, Melissa Lowry, Danny Martins**, and **Maddy, Neil, Jack and Charlie DeSena**. Also, hundreds of thanks to staffer **John Sheehy** for preparing hundreds of meals.

In-Kind Contributions

Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; William Curran, A Curran Affair; Sean Feeney, MISI; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; Winston Rodney Photography; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

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 2 . 0 0 / \$ 2 0 . 0 0
 Project Mugs \$ 5 . 0 0
 Project Notebook \$ 5 . 0 0
 Project Pencil 3-pack \$ 1 . 0 0

Thank you for coming to **LOOK WHO'S TALKING!** 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:

08/24

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:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Help load in and out for shows | ☐ Draw and/or paint | ☐ Help kids with homework |
| ☐ Hang lights | ☐ Help with mailings | ☐ Teach kids a skill |
| ☐ Work on a backstage crew | ☐ Do office work | ☐ Be a chef at an event |
| ☐ Do graphic design | ☐ Design sound | ☐ Design and sew costumes |
| ☐ 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.

BIOGRAPHIES



Samaria Alkandi (*Belinda the Bunny* in *BEST FRIENDS... FOREVER?* with Evan Isabella) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. Her first play was *JOURNEY TO THE DEATH POTION*, dramaturgy & direction 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. Samaria can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, "Zany Playmakers."



Avi Amon, (*Composer, Music Director*) is a Turkish-American composer and sound artist. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of the Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Theater work includes music, songs, & sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Bushwick Starr, Danspace, NYTW, OSF, Page73, The Public, Spoleto, Target Margin, and Waterwell. Avi's film scores have been featured at Cannes, Disney, HBO, Hulu, Slamdance, Tribeca Film Festival & more. Recent: music & sound design for *THE FOLLOWING EVENING* w/600 Highwaymen (PAC NYC); a musical, *THROUGH THE SUNKEN LANDS* w/Tim Lord (Kennedy Center); music for the feature film, *THE FISHERMAN*, dir. Zoey Martinson (2024 Venice Film Festival); and a multimedia performance piece, *MOTHER/ROAD*. Avi is a MacDowell Fellow and has received artistic support from the Jonathan Larson Grant, Reel Change Film Fund, Berkeley Rep, Dramatists Guild, Goodspeed, Mercury Store, New Dramatists, The O'Neill, Rhinebeck, and others. Avi teaches at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing. www.aviamon.com



Taylor Barnett (Costume Designer) is excited to return to the Clubhouse! She is a costume designer of stage and screen, you can see her work on Hulu, Amazon, and other streaming platforms. When not making soda bottles, griffins, dogs, and pigeons she enjoys hanging out with her friends and reading outdoors. She lives in Brooklyn with her cat, Doug. You can follow her on Instagram @chaoticwheelbarrow.



Cataleya Bernardo (*Purple* in *TIME DOG* with Maryn Shaw) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with her playwriting debut, *GETTING CLOSER*, dramaturgy & direction by Kaaron Briscoe, starring Roma Maffia & Sophie von Haselberg, as a part of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT, The Scrumptious Plays*. This marks her performing debut with the Project. Cataleya can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48, "Playmakers of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*."



Shaddai Blake-Soden (*Ella* in *THE CALL* with Mirirai), joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with her playwriting debut, *THE TWIST*, dramaturgy & direction by Krystal Lucas, starring Jasmin Johnson & Margaret Odette, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. This marks her performing debut with the Project. Shaddai can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48, "Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT."



Kaaron Briscoe (*Playwright, THE CALL* for Shaddai & Mirirai) is a Brooklyn based writer, performer, director and creative admin. As a playwright her work has been featured by Project Y, Classical Theater of Harlem, InViolet Theater, and others. She is a former member of Project Y's Playwriting Group. Her play, "*Tallahassee*" was a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's Conference. Recently, "*How Can I Help You?*", a 2021 semi-finalist for Seven Devils

Playwright's Conference, was workshopped at Pioneer Theater in Salt Lake City, Utah. Kaaron is also an accomplished actor, having performed on stages in London and Moscow, as well as on screen. She often works with Little Lord and the Working Theater. She has directed for various organizations around New York, as well as the Playwright's Center in Minnesota. During the day, Kaaron is the Associate Artistic Director of LCT3. A member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild, she is also a proud member of The 52nd Street Project community. Kaaron is a New Orleans native with an MFA from ART/MXAT/IATT at Harvard University.



Kyle Cameron (*Playwright/Director, Jeremy* in *SCIENCE X FRIENDSHIP* with Josiah) 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 is his first time acting in a One-on-One show, and he's proud to be part of this exceptional group. This year marks his 10th anniversary working with the Project, and he couldn't

be happier to call the Clubhouse home.



Molly Carden (*Playwright/Director, Agnes* in *HUMANS ARE TRICKY* with Jaelannie) New York credits include: *Emotional Creature* (Signature Theatre), *Please Continue* (Ensemble Studio Theater), *How To Live On Earth* (Colt Coeur), *Cherry Smoke* (Working Theater), *Downtown Race Riot* (NYSF/Powerhouse Theater). Regional: *Midwives* (George Street Playhouse), *Indecent* (Weston Playhouse), *The Carpenter* (Alley Theatre), *Translations*

(Studio Theatre), *Frankenstein* (Denver Center), *On Clover Road* (CATF), *Emotional Creature* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *The Great Immensity*, (The Civilians at Kansas City Repertory Theatre). Molly is currently developing her solo show *I Came Back For Molly*, which she has performed at NYSAF, the TANK and Durango Playfest. Film: *Untitled Marvel Movie* (Upcoming), *Motherland* (MPI Original Films). Proud member of Colt Coeur, EST, and The 52nd Street Project. B.F.A. from UNCSA.



Marchánt Davis (*Playwright/Director, Brandon in GO TO SLEEP, or, THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL with Mamadou*) is a Brooklyn based actor, writer and producer originally from Philadelphia, PA. 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.



Christian DeMarais (*Director, Paul in RUFFLY SPEAKING with Atif*) is ecstatic to be back at the Project working with Certified Cool Guy Atif (and all the other Project Members and Volunteers). You may recognize Christian from his most recent stint getting his neck snapped by Angel or as the super-hero Stamps in *CHOICES*, where he directed and performed alongside Project Legend Aiden. Perhaps you may even remember Christian as a Tree who just

wants to get a job so he can move out of his parents house in Queen Katty's play *FURNITURE & TREES*. Regardless, Christian is super grateful to be here (as always) and to have the opportunity to learn from all these brilliant, imaginative, inspiring kiddos!



Mamadou Diaw (*CJ in GO TO SLEEP, or, THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL with Marchánt Davis*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with his playwriting debut, *ESCAPE*, dramaturgy & direction by Don Nguyen, starring Grace Rex & Michael Braun, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. This marks his performing debut with the Project. Mamdou can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48, "Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT."



Atif Dowidar (*Franklin in RUFFLY SPEAKING with Christian DeMarais*) joined the Project in January, 2024 with his playwriting debut, *MELLOW AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN*, dramaturgy & direction by Tim J. Lord, starring Armando Riesco & Meredith Garretson as a part of A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*. This marks his performing debut with the Project. Atif can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50, "Playmakers Provide

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR."



Marty Gleberman (*Stage Manager*): is a naturally-occurring fungus that puts out its mushrooms in a variety of seasons. It can be found in the Five Angels Theater and similar biomes. While not harmful if ingested, extreme caution should be taken not to accidentally track Marty spores into your own home. Please check your shoes carefully upon leaving the theater.



Betsy Hogg (*Playwright/Director, BEST FRIENDS...FOREVER?* for Samaria & Evan Isabella) 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 very proud to work with this awesome ensemble & to be Samaria's Smart Partner. This is her first One-on-One, and it's been a wilder adventure than she could have imagined. Seriously. Ask anyone who was in Rumson.



Evan Isabella (*Gloriana the Guinea Pig* in *BEST FRIENDS...FOREVER?* with Samaria) is so excited to be part of LOOK WHO'S TALKING! She has volunteered with the Project since 2019 as Intern, Sound Designer, Stage Crew, Dramaturg/Director, and has treasured every second of it! Evan is currently pursuing a professional performance career, most recently fulfilling a dream, performing "*Let It Go*" onstage with Idina Menzel in support of her charity. Evan is Assistant Director for Pivot Theatre Company's youth performing arts in NJ, just finishing a production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She is a recent graduate of Muhlenberg College, with a major in Theatre. Evan is so grateful for her time with the Project!



Kim Jinhyoung (*Director, L5* in *MORE THAN L4* with Oliver) has volunteered at the Project since 2018. Since then Kim has contributed as a composer on many projects including Songmaking, Filmmaking, Playmaking, Dancemaking, Flying Solo, Playback, and this is his first time coming in as an actor!



Cynthia Kaplan (*Playwright, RUFFLY SPEAKING* for Atif & Christian DeMarais) has been writing plays for the Project since 1902 (okay, not that long, but it's been a while), and she loves everything about it, the kids, the actors, the writers, the directors, the staff, the foam core sets, and the animal costumes she always needs. She feels very lucky to have been asked to write a play for Atif and Christian.



Sean Kenealy (*Playwright, MORE THAN L4* for Oliver & Kim Jinhyoung) started as an intern with The 52nd Street Project back in 2006! Since then, he's been lucky enough to be a Smart Partner for two Project graduates. He's also volunteered as a writer and/or director for ten shows, covering topics such as NYC coffee carts, weightlifting poets, cities made of cheese, and now vending machines.



Greg MacPherson (*Lighting Designer*) is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre where he designed the annual Marathon of One-Act Plays from 1985 through 2003 and again in 2010, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Other designs include *Killer Joe* at Soho Rep, *The Hotel Play* at LaMama ETC, *The Pitchfork Disney* at Here and *Easter* for Naked Angels. He recently designed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Cinderella* for Ballet Memphis, *The Cradle Will Rock* as a benefit for The Acting Company, *Meet Me at the Plaza* for Shuffles, and *Halcyon Days* at ART NY. Greg has designed for The 52nd Street Project since 1986 and taught lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College from 1990 through 2022.



Mirirai (*Director, Rosa in THE CALL with Shaddai*) is pumped to be back at 52P! Time flies; she's been an In-class volunteer since fall 2014; as well as *THE PLANE PROBLEM*, by Rebecca, as a part of RAISE THE ROOF, *Plays to Celebrate*. Director/Performer, *THE TEST OF FRIENDSHIP*, with Imani, as a part of Stage Combat, 2015. Performer, *BEST FRIENDS FOREVER*, by Gianna, as a part of ALL TOGETHER NOW, *The United Plays*, spring 2017 Playmaking. Most recently: In-Class volunteer supporting Emily with *A FACE IN THE CROWD*, Character Workshop 2023. WOWEEE! Love it here :)



Jiehae Park (*Playwright, TIME DOG for Cataleya & Maryn Shaw*) Jiehae's plays for the Project have included *Ghost Stoppers* (2014 Two-on-Twos), *The Amazing Bullseye Carnival Skydiving Sharktank Apprentice Makes a Deal* (2014 Wareham One-on-Ones), *Signs* (2015 Block Island One-on-Ones), & *The Undercovers* (2018 Teen Ensemble One-Act Festival). Some other plays she wrote have been produced at Primary Stages, Yale Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Berkeley Rep, among others. Recent tv includes *The Morning Show* (S4) and *Command Z* (dir. Steven Soderbergh, WGA nom). She lives in Brooklyn with her partner Artie, son Jaemin, and Suri The Dog.



Josiah Perez (*Marvin in SCIENCE X FRIENDSHIP with Kyle Cameron*) joined the Project in the spring of 2023. His first play was *LION AND BEAR FRIEND PROBLEMS*; dramaturgy & direction by Michael Propster; with Daiva Deupree & Carl Hendrick Louis; as part of the production *A WHALE OF A TALE, Plays That Make a Splash*, in March/April 2023. Josiah was a Songmaker in the fall of 2023, collaborating with composer Jonja Merck on the songs "New Things," performed by Mitchell Winter; "The Feeling Lonely to Exciting" performed by Yonatan Gebeyehu; and "King of the Help," performed by Michael Potts; all as a part of the *TUNE IN* Songmaking concert. This marks Josiah's performing debut with the Project. He can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, "Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil," and Episode 47, "Tuning in the Songmakers."



Jaelannie Rodriguez (*Vella* in *HUMANS ARE TRICKY* with Molly Carden) 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. This marks her performing debut with the Project. She can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, “Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil,” and Episode 47, “Tuning in the Songmakers.”



Maryn Shaw (*Director, Whipper Snappy* in *TIME DOG*, with Cataleya) is thrilled to be returning to The Project where she last participated in Stage Combat this spring, as well as Dance Making! She is an actor, director and writer who recently graduated with her MFA from NYU Grad Acting. Theater: *The Skin of our Teeth* (TFANA), Studio Theatre DC, Arena Stage, Baltimore Centerstage, Kansas CityRep, The Acting Company, Hudson Valley Shakespeare

Festival. TV/ Film: *Friends from College* and various shorts. Training: Interlochen Arts Academy, Fordham Theater Program, NYU Grad Acting. She has had an absolute blast acting, singing, tubing, and swinging with Cataleya in Rumson and can’t wait to share the stage together in NYC!



Oliver Tanner (*L4* in *MORE THAN L4* with Kim Jinhyoung) joined the Project in the spring of 2022 with his Playmaking debut *AN UNLIKELY PERFORMANCE*, dramaturgy & direction by Gaven Trinidad, with Jimmy Kenna & Helen Cespedes, as part of the production *PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, The Priceless Plays*. This marks Oliver’s performing debut with the Project. Oliver was an Artmaker in the Spring of 2023. He was a runner-up in the 2023

Ping Pong Tournament, and became champion in 2024. He can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 40, “Spring 2022 Playmakers.”



Harrison Walsh (*Sound Designer, he/him*) – The 52nd Street Project debut! He is part of the class of 2025 at Marymount Manhattan College pursuing a B.F.A. in Film and Media Production and doubling minoring in Photography and Interactive Media. Theatre: *Into The Woods*, *Spring Awakening* (A1-Kidz Theater); *A Chorus Line* (MMC Musical Theater Association-Associate Sound Designer/A1). Film/Video: *Sensory Stimuli*, *A Worthy Performance*

(Stop Light Productions) *On The Spot!*, “*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*,” “*An Average British Evening*,” Roll GriLins, Season Sketch (Mount Studios). @sir.h.walsh + @stoplightproductions

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The 52nd Street Project Presents

Music To My Ears

FLYER ART BY JAYDEN ALVARADO

The 2024 Songmaking Concert

Songs written by young people that
are scored and performed by
adult musicians and singers.

Friday, November 1 - 7:30 p.m.
Five Angels Theater
789 10th Avenue





"MUSIC TO MY EARS" THE COMPANY

THE LYRICISTS

Diana Abrajan
Makiyah Gray
Grace V. Guity-Reyes
Julian Wilder IV

THE COMPOSERS/MUSICIANS

Avi A. Amon
Kat Cartusciello
Tess Edwards
Erika Ji
Jonja Leon Merck
James Powers
Sarah Slipp

THE SINGERS

Jenelle Chu
Major Curda
Neil D'Astolfo
Angel Desai
Kendal Hartse
Greg Hildreth
Betsy Hogg
Kirstin Louie
Tommy McDowell
Sahar Milani
Belén Moyano

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THE CONCERT

HOT TUB TO ROLLER COASTER

Lyrics by Makiyah Gray
Music by Erika Ji
Sung by Angel Desai

SAD DAYS TO HAPPY DAYS TO SAD DAYS

Lyrics by Makiyah Gray
Music by Erika Ji
Sung by Jenelle Chu



LEFT SOCK PROTEST

Lyrics by Grace Guity-Reyes
Music by Sarah Slipp
Sung by Tommy McDowell

AN ACTUAL EMOTIONAL SONG

Lyrics by Grace Guity-Reyes
Music by Sarah Slipp
Sung by Belén Moyano

THE RISE OF THE CATS

Lyrics by Grace Guity-Reyes
Music by Sarah Slipp
Sung by Neil D'Astolfo

THIS IS MY LIFE

Lyrics by Diana Abrajan
Music by Tess Edwards
Sung by Betsy Hogg

ONLY MY MOM

Lyrics by Diana Abrajan
Music by Tess Edwards
Sung by Sahar Milani



MOTIVATION

Lyrics by Julian Wilder IV
Music by James Powers
Sung by Greg Hildreth

JUST LEAVE HIM

Lyrics by Julian Wilder IV
Music by James Powers
Sung by Kendal Hartse

TRUE POTENTIAL

Lyrics by Julian Wilder IV
Music by James Powers
Sung by Kirstin Louie
and Major Curda



The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit community-based arts organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional artists to create original art. The Songmaking program partners 52nd Street Project kids with adult composers to create original songs. Over the seven weeks of Songmaking, led by **Avi Amon** and Program Director **Garrett David Kim**, these young lyricists explore how their own words and ideas fit together with their composer's music to create songs. Near the end of the program, we bring in a company of singers to perform the completed songs, and share them with an audience.

The 52nd Street Project Staff

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Or make a gift via



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HOT TUB TO ROLLER COASTER

Lyrics by Makiyah Gray

Music by Erika Ji

Sung by Angel Desai

Doot doo doo doo
Doot doo doo doo doo

I went to the water park
And ran to the hot tub
Hoo Haa the hot tub
I went to the water park
And ran to the hot tub
And my mom told me to get out
of the hot tub
And take my sister to the pool
My mom told me to get out of
the hot tub
And take my sister to the pool

So I got out and push her, push
her in the pool
She loved it
JK she hated it
But when I got back to the hot
tub
It smell like bleach with water
But not in a good way

And we are going to Coney
Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and
my sister wants to go
We are going to Coney Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and
my sister wants to go

Her sister was five and a half

And then she went on a dragon
roller coaster
And it was her first time
So she was at Legoland at the
dragon roller coaster
And then it was her dad
It was her mom, her sister and
her
It's the best day of my life!

I love it
I would come back
To the dragon roller coaster
I love it
I would come back
To the dragon roller coaster
It's the best day of my life!

So we are going to Coney Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and
my sister wants to go
We are going to Coney Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and
my sister wants to go

It had a big drop
It had a big drop
It was scary
It was scary

Doot doo doo doo
Doot doo doo doo doo
Hoo Haa the hot tub



SAD DAYS TO HAPPY DAYS TO SAD DAYS

Lyrics by Makiyah Gray

Music by Erika Ji

Sung by Jenelle Chu

I do not want to go to school
I wish I could stay home
I do not like school
Because my teacher calls on me
But I do not raise my hand
Ooh

Another reason why I don't want
to go to school
Because I have to get in the car
With my sisters and brothers
And they are annoying
Because they kick my legs
Ooh

Whoa hoo
I do not want to go to school
Whoa hoo

Never mind
My friends are coming to school
Because they don't really come
that much to school
I don't have to be sad anymore
I don't have to be sad anymore
Because my friends are coming
Oh whoa whoa

Never mind
My friends are coming to school
Because they don't really come
that much to school
I don't have to be sad anymore
I don't have to be sad anymore
Because my friends are coming
Oh whoa whoa

And my brothers and sisters
don't have to come in the car
Ooh
Because they are sick
But I feel bad for them a little bit
But I feel bad for them a little bit



LEFT SOCK PROTEST

Lyrics by Grace V. Guity-Reyes

Music by Sarah Slipp

Sung by Tommy McDowell

I remember that time when we
were together
It was a joy
Fighting off that stinky smell
We were strong
Please don't leave me
We were like a fifth melody

Left Sock Protest!

Don't tell me I'm dramatic!
I'm telling you, I miss you
We were a pair
Not one sock for themselves
We are not cavemen
Left sock protest!

Start a riot!
Set this place on fire!

(Spoken)

Uh...I mean, don't set the place
on fire...here's a piece of
advice.

Don't. Be. Nice. To. The.
Laundry. Machine.
You don't want to lose your
dreams, loved ones, etcetera

Left Sock Protest!

Don't tell me I'm dramatic!
I'm telling you, I miss you
We were a pair
Not one sock for themselves
We are not cavemen
Left sock protest!

The machine is something you
don't want to mess with
But guess what?
If you mess with right sock, you
mess with left sock too
That's just common sense
Let me repeat it again!
The machine is something you
don't want to mess with
But guess what?
If you mess with right sock, you
mess with left sock too
That's just common sense
Let me repeat it again!



AN ACTUAL EMOTIONAL SONG

Lyrics by Grace V. Guity-Reyes

Music by Sarah Slipp

Sung by Belén Moyano

Hmmm

La la la la la lalala la

La la la la la la

Do you remember playing in the
backyard?

Could play for hours

Don't matter if we got busted or
not

I'm telling you please!

We were meant to be

Don't leave me

You said we were besties!
(Besties!)

You don't even call or text me!
(Text me!)

Please tell me, I thought we
were BFFs

But you're just like my ex

Leave and move on

I don't even know what to say to
you anymore!

Hmmm

Don't play with my feelings

All I'm trying to do is just live my
life

Don't know when I'm gonna see
you again

I'm just young, dumb, stupid

Don't break my heart boy

I don't wanna miss you anymore

It's hard to take it all in

Just please don't mess with my
feelings

Just don't, it's hard to see you
again

You said we were besties!
(Besties!)

You don't even call or text me!
(Text me!)

Please tell me, I thought we
were BFFs

But you're just like my ex
Leave and move on

I don't even know what to say to
you...

Any more!



THE RISE OF THE CATS

Lyrics by Grace V. Guity-Reyes

Music by Sarah Slipp

Sung by Neil D'Astolfo

When I wake up in the morning
I remember that night
Chatting the night away
Talking about the heist
Angels in the day
Crazy in the night

(Spoken) Wait you might be
wondering what I'm talking
about. Welp. I got a little story
too, also. (Pause.) Wait you
might be wondering what the
heist is. It to steal milk from
the vault.

Band: (Spoken.) The fridge.

(Evil laugh.)

It was just something little they
say
I don't wanna lose you

We are the cats! (The cats!)
We are not rats! (Not rats!)
Bossy in the day
Sneaky at night
Don't underestimate us
We'll steal your socks at night

My name is Mister Sprinkles
My owner is Tyler Robin Steven
McChuck Ravioli

(Spoken.) I don't know why his
name is so long.

He gives me food but it's not
enough

Milk milk milk milk give us the
milk!

Milk milk milk milk give us the
milk!

Milk milk milk milk give us the
milk!

Milk milk milk milk give us the
milk!

We are the cats! (The cats!)

We are not rats! (Not rats!)

Bossy in the day

Sneaky at night

Don't underestimate us

We'll steal your socks at night

(Spoken.) Btw: My idols: Dr.
Bruce Oyster Fettucini (Does
a Spy Doctor Move.) He's
making pasta everynight.

Spy Alexander La Vida Gato
Nato. Also sorry y'all but Mr.
Sprinkles has tried really hard
to get to his idol Alexander La
Vida Gato Nato and bringing
the milk as a gift. Yippie! I did it!

(Note: he feels happy at the
end.)



THIS IS MY LIFE

Lyrics by Diana Abrajan

Music by Tess Edwards

Sung by Betsy Hogg

Walk into school
Go to class
I sit down but I hear a:
Beep! Beep! Beep!
On the loud speaker
My principal is doing the morning
announcements
This is my life

PRINCIPAL: (Spoken.) Good
morning. Today is Friday,
November 1st. I will be
announcing the specials that
is happening this week.

It is now lunchtime
I see my friends in the lunch line
Today for lunch there is chicken
tenders
I LOVE chicken tenders
This is my life

Sit down and take out my binder
I write down the science
homework for tonight
The teacher tells us take out our
binders
And go over yesterday's
homework
I'm so ready for class
I'm so ready for class
This is my life

My friends make life better in
school
My friends make school not feel
as boring as it already is
Sometimes school isn't boring
But usually it is
My friends are really trustworthy
And they make the happiness
bigger in me
This is my life

I walk out to the yard so I can go
home from school
Run to the bus with my friends
We get on and we start getting
home
This is my life
This is my life
This is my life
This is my life



ONLY MY MOM

Lyrics by Diana Abrajan

Music by Tess Edwards

Sung by Sahar Milani

My mom
Helps me with homework in
 need
She encourages me a lot
She encourages me to do
 anything in life
To never give up
Work through it all
To make it through

What makes my mom strong:
She makes people laugh and it's
 heartwarming
She continues to be stronger
 everyday

Thank you, Mom
Thank you, Mom
Thank you, Mom

What makes my mom strong:
Me, her family, doctors, her mind
Working out

What makes my mom strong:
She helps me in school
By putting me in a extra math
 help class
With other kids who need help
 too
She is a big helper and has a
 kind kind heart

She encourages me to do
 anything in life
To never give up
Work through it all
To make it through



MOTIVATION

Lyrics by Julian (L.J.) Wilder IV

Music by James Powers

Sung by Greg Hildreth

It's called the Waveball
Association
W B A for short
You use your tail instead of a bat
And it's underwater

I can't do it
I can't do it
What will I do?

(Spoken.) Wait! Wait let me
introduce myself.

Nico
I'm an orca
My tail is too small to hit the
pufferfish

I can't do it
I can't do it
What will I do?

C'mon you will make it Nico
You will make it Nico
I can do it
I can do it

All I need to do is practice and
work hard
But people tell me I can't do it

I should prove them wrong
My mom tells me to work on my
swings
But I'm gonna prove the haters
wrong first
By getting faster
By having a growth spurt
Or just getting my tail bigger

I can do it
I can do it
I can do it!



JUST LEAVE HIM

Lyrics by Julian (L.J.) Wilder IV

Music by James Powers

Sung by Kendal Hartse

Hi, I'm a warthog
Living on Saturn
My name is Kevin
I have nothing else to do
What do I do?
What do I do?
What do I do?

I have a pet
His name is Douglass
I think he's a real plant
But he doesn't talk
So I put googly eyes on him
I mean, he needs to see, right?
And I'm talking to you
Cause I have nothing else to do
WAIT!

(Spoken.) Is that an article about
Six Flags! ON EARTH!

I wanna leave
I want strange food
But I don't have a ship
I don't have a ship
What do I do?
What do I do?
What do I do?

Let me look for some materials
to build one
Wait, I'm on Saturn
There's nothing here

Let me look for mechanics
But it's just me
Wait! I can swim through zero
gravity to get there
But my pet Douglass can't swim
Do I leave him or bring him?

(Spoken.)

You're supposed to say bring
him now...

(Wait for audience response.)

Wow! You are so smart! You
know what?

(Wait for audience response.)

Just leave him.



TRUE POTENTIAL

Lyrics by Julian (L.J.) Wilder IV

Music by James Powers

Sung by Kirstin Louie and Major Curda

Acorns are hard to crush
If you can, they will turn to mush
But if you can't, they'll turn into a big tree
That is also strong, like me
Shaq's hoops and dunks are out of this world
He'll push you out of the paint and put you in despair
Whining after the game
Yell at your coach, losin' fame

Find your true potential
Make your struggle better
Now you have scratched the surface of your true potential
Walk around see people struggle
Make their struggle better
Now you've seen your true potential
Now work on earning it

My mom is strong
And when she's mad
She awakes the beast
And when the beast is awake
You're cooked
Like my mom when she makes her famous rice
Same thing with my Dad, but this verse is for my mom!
(Sorry Dad!)

She brings us everywhere and she loves me so much
So I say it back
Te quiero mucho Mama!

Find your true potential
Make your struggle better
Now you have scratched the surface of your true potential
Walk around see people struggle
Make their struggle better

(CONTINUED)



Now you've seen your true potential
Now work on earning it

Love takes strength
And you need strength
To love something powerful too

Acorns are hard to crush
If you can, they will turn to mush
But if you can't, they'll turn into a
big tree
That is also strong, like me
Shaq's hoops and dunks are out
of this world
He'll push you out of the paint
and put you in despair
Whining after the game
Yell at your coach, losin' fame

Find your true potential

Make your struggle better

Now you have scratched the
surface of your true potential

Walk around see people struggle

Make their struggle better
Now you've seen your true potential
Now work on earning it
Now work on earning it
Now work on earning it



BIOGRAPHIES



Splash Playmakers.”

DIANA ABRAJAN (*Songmaker*) joined the Project in the spring of 2023 with her Playmaking debut, **TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN LIVES**; with dramaturgy by Vanessa Porras and direction by Rachel Lin; with Sahar Milani & Alex Templer; as part of the production **A WHALE OF A TALE**, *Plays That Make a Splash*. She can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, “Splish-



AVI A. AMON (*Music Director, he/they*) is a Turkish-American composer, sound artist, and educator. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of The Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Recent work includes music, songs, and sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Atlantic Theater, The Civilians, Disney, HBO Films, HERE Arts, Hulu, The Kennedy Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Theater Workshop, The New Victory, PlayCo, Roundabout Theater, SoHo REP, Spotify/Gimlet, St. Louis REP, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Avi is the recipient of the Thom Thomas Award and a Jonathan Larson Grant. He is also a Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow, a New Jewish Culture Fellow, and an inaugural fellow with THE WORKSHOP. Avi teaches a variety of collaborative art-making courses at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing. www.aviamon.com



KAT CARTUSCIELLO (*Band*) is a queer NYC-based composer, sound-designer, and multi-instrumentalist who works as Jason Robert Brown’s music assistant. She is a proud member of the TheatreNOW writing lab and has three musicals in development: *Nima* and the *Jen* (w/Thalia Ranjbar,) which appeared on Ramin Karimloo’s podcast *The Hang*, and was selected for the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat (7/23); *Hard Tack* (w/Jessie Field), which was selected for the Catwalk Writers Retreat (8/23); and *Then She Ran* w/ Alex Becker: (Theater Accelerator (5/23) Scranton Fringe Festival (10/22) Feinstein’s 54 Below (2/22) New Studio on Broadway (11/21) AMDA (8/21)). Other Recent credits include musical *The Tattooed Lady* (Music Associate, Philadelphia Theater Company); podcast *The Doctor is Dead* (Apple Podcasts), interdisciplinary dance-piece *2.5 Breaths*, (Chain Theater), and short-film *Heirloom* (Winner of Monmouth Film Festival & New York International Film Festival). Other original works include *Village Song* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater); and *Walks of Life*, (Blindspot Collective/La Jolla Playhouse). She received her MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts (May 2021), and her BA (Music) from Columbia University (Departmental Honors) in 2016.



AARON CONOVER (*Lighting Designer*) is a freelance lighting designer and digital performance technician based in New York City. He is so grateful to be working again at The 52nd Street Project on TUNE IN! His designs last graced the Five Angels stage during Penny for Your Thoughts, the 2022 Playmaking production.



JENELLE CHU (*Singer, Sad Days to Happy Days to Sad Days*) At the Project: INFINITY & BEYOND, *The Ultimate Plays*, in *Becoming A Manager*, by Arden; STUFF & NONSENSE, *Plays From The Prop Closet*, with Thiana in *Sweet Tooth Goes to Candyworld*, by Christina Quintana; GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*, with Melanie in *How to Survive*, by Michael Walek; TAKE IT FROM THE TOP, “Goodbye” lyrics by Antonella, music by Lydia Breckon; *It All Started with Coffee and Tea*, Pandemic Playmaking, by Sarah; SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays*, in *Mokina & Cupy*, by Jessica; THICK AS THIEVES, *The Relationship Plays*, with Lanai in her play *Peeps & Pulitzers*.



MAJOR CURDA (*Singer, True Potential*) 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 (SAG-AFTRA 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



NEIL D’ASTOLFO (*Singer, The Rise of the Cats*, he/him) is an actor, writer and comedian who relishes each and every moment he spends at The Project. He most recently spent three seasons as a series regular on Comedy Central’s Emmy-nominated *Stephen Colbert Presents Tooning Out the News* and recurred as Anthony Fauci on Showtime’s *Our Cartoon President*. Other TV and film credits include Max’s *And Just Like That* and Hulu’s *Fire Island*, *High Fidelity* and *The Path*. His critically-acclaimed solo show, *Mister Miss America*, premiered off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and earned Neil an Off-Broadway Alliance Award Nomination for his performance. Other theater credits include Classic Stage Company’s *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Macbeth*. Neil is a house performer at The Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) and his

short film series, *NORA...*, was a recipient of Film Independent's Fiscal Sponsorship. As a screenwriter, Neil's work has been acknowledged and awarded by the Austin Film Festival, Nashville Film Festival, LaunchPad Screening Writing Competition, etc. Neil received his MFA from Columbia University, and now serves as an adjunct professor at Pace University's BFA Acting Program for Film, TV and Voiceover (FTVC). He has been a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project since 2017. WABWAGA!



ANGEL DESAI (*Singer, Hot Tub to Roller Coaster*) has been a volunteer with the 52nd St Project since 2002. Her recent TV credits include "Poker Face", an upcoming Amazon series, "Blue Bloods", "Law and Order" (reboot), "For Life", "NCIS: NOLA", "FBI: Most Wanted", "City on a Hill", "Bull" and many others. Film includes: "Peas and Carrots" (upcoming), *klutz.*, "Lady Apsara", *The Oh-Gees*, *This Time Next Tuesday*, *The Clique*, *The War Within*, *Heights*, *Black Knight*, *Robot Stories*. She is the voice of Dana Singh in Hulu's 2nd season of "Dicktown" and First Minister Jinn in "Gears of War" 4 & 5. Broadway: "Company" (2006 Revival). Off-Broadway: MTC, MCC, NYTW, CSC, Playwrights Horizons, The Public/NYSE, The Women's Project, Ma-Yi Theatre Company. Regional: Yale Rep, George St. Playhouse, Berkshire Theater Festival, Old Globe, McCarter Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse, Long Wharf, Arena Stage, Playmakers Rep. Angel co-founded the Asian American Performers Action Coalition, AAPAC, which won a 2020 Obie and a 2022 Tony Award for excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.



TESS EDWARDS (*Composer/Band, team Diana*) is a second year graduate student in NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. This is her first time volunteering with The 52nd Street Project! She is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with young people and create music to accompany their marvelous words and stories. She is incredibly excited for the Project Members' hard work to come to life on the stage and hopes you enjoy the show!



MAKIYAH GRAY (*Songmaker*) joined the Project in January, 2024 with her Playmaking debut *The Best Friends*, with dramaturgy and direction by Kaileela Hobby, and starring Christy Escobar and Shaunette Renée Wilson; as a part of A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*. She made her acting debut at the Project with OFF THE MAP, the July 2024 Place Play. Makiyah can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



GRACE V. GUILTY-REYES (*Songmaker*) joined the Project January, 2024 with her playwriting debut, *KFC, YOU HAD TO BE THERE*, dramaturgy & direction by Olivia Gilliatt, with Erin Neuffer and Carl Hendrick Louis; as a part of *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*, *The Breezy Plays*. Grace can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 *Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*.



KENDAL HARTSE (*Singer, Just Leave Him*) 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.



GREG HILDRETH (*Singer, Motivation*) first started volunteering at The 52nd Street Project ten years ago when he played an electrical outlet who had gas in *Spring Playmaking* 2014. Since then he has participated in playmaking four other times as well as many other programs at the Project. He was a Shakespeare coach at the Project for the Teen Ensemble production of *A Midsummer Nights Dream*

in 2015 and *The Comedy of Errors* in 2017. Greg has multiple credits on Broadway, film and television.



BETSY HOGG (*Singer, This Is My Life*) 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.



ERIKA JI (*Composer/Band, team Makiyah*) began her adventures at The 52nd Street Project with Songmaking in Fall 2020, composing music for "Night Time Snacks" by Aiden. In Spring 2022, she was delighted to return as composer and music director for the eight Playmaking plays of "Penny For Your Thoughts." She's had a blast writing with Makiyah this fall, and she's excited for you to hear two

of Makiyah's incredible songs tonight! Thank you to Makiyah for being a fantastic creative collaborator, and to Lora Lee, Angel, Garrett, Avi, and The 52nd Street Project team for bringing these songs to life!



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 developed work with 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.



KIRSTIN LOUIE (*Singer*, *True Potential*, she/her) is overjoyed to be returning to the Five Angels Theater for her second program with The 52nd Street Project, premiering this original song by Julian & James. She was previously seen sharing the stage with Jai-Lyzz in THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT. Other New York credits include diplomat Lulu Chen in Broadway's LIFE OF PI. Many thanks to The 52nd Street Project for playing a special role in making Hell's Kitchen feel like home



RHYS LUKE (*Sound Engineer*; he/they) is super excited to be returning to The 52nd Street Project for Music To My Ears. He was a summer 2024 intern at the Project, working on Off the Map and Look Who's Talking. 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.



TOMMY MCDOWELL (*Singer*, *Left Sock Protest*) is elated to be performing in his third (!!!) Songmaking concert at The 52nd Street Project, following the [untitled] Songmaking concert of 2017 and JELLY OF MY JAMS in 2022. The 52nd Street Project is one of his absolute favorite things to do in NYC, both as a performer and as an audience member. Other select credits include First Us National Tours of: American Idiot (Swing), Roundabout Theatre Company's Cabaret (Max/Herman, Cliff u/s), The 50th Anniversary Tour of Jesus Christ Superstar (Peter), and A Year With Frog & Toad (Snail). Big thanks to Garrett, Avi and the rest of the AMAZING team at 52nd Street!



JONJA LEON MERCK (*Band/Percussion*) is a music director, pianist, composer, and conductor from Berlin, Germany. His music direction credits include The Silver Child, An Artist Now, Promenade, Rent, Songs for a New World, and Show & Tell. As a composer, his work has been featured at Joe's Pub, Soho Playhouse, and the Fisher Center at Bard. Jonja holds a BA in Jazz Piano Performance and Theatre & Performance from Bard College, and an MFA from

NYU's Musical Theatre Writing Program. He is also the recipient of the Margaret Creal Shafer Prize in Performance and Composition. @jonjamerck



SAHAR MILANI (*Singer, Only My Mom*) is thrilled to be back at the Project performing another one of Diana's genius pieces. Sahar acted in Diana's play "Two Different People with Their Own Lives", a riveting tale of the bonds of friendship, part of 2023's A WHALE OF A TALE!, *Plays That Make A Splash*. Other Project credits include JELLY OF MY JAMS Songmaking Concert and JUST CHILLIN', A *Very Cool Benefit*. Recent NYC credits include productions at The Public Theater, Ars Nova, Joe's Pub, PAC NYC, and the Noor Theater.



BELÉN MOYANO (*Singer, An Actual Emotional Song*) is super excited to return to The 52nd Street Project! She last appeared live in 2019's Songmaking Concert: TAKE IT FROM THE TOP, performing "Spirit Skeleton" by Antonella & Lydia Breckon. The song still lives rent free in her mind, especially after reprising the song in the 2020 Virtual Gala: GAME CHANGERS. In the 2021 Virtual Gala: HIDDEN GEMS, she sang "I Don't Want You to Go, You Can Go," by Jai-Lyzz & Julio Vaquero Ramos. Belén is thrilled to make more magical memories with the vibrant imaginations of young composers, and to acquire another earworm that she'll undoubtedly hum for years to come.



JAMES POWERS (*Composer/Band, team Julian*) is a composer, lyricist, Hamilton T-shirt seller, DnD player, rule follower (sometimes...), and performer who tells audacious and emotional stories about what it means to be human. His work has been performed at Theatre Untitled, Hamlet Isn't Dead, and the Broke People Play Festival at NYU. As an educator, he has also worked with the Play Group Theatre to create shows for young actors and audiences. He holds an MFA from the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU and BFA from the University of Montevallo. Shout out to LJ for being a rock star!



ROOK SHAW (*Lighting Assistant, they/them*) is absolutely thrilled to be making their debut at the Project! A recent college grad who moved to Brooklyn from the Bay Area just last year, they have been touched by the warm welcome they've received from the NYC theater community. When not holding a lighting plot, you might also find them writing fiction, drawing cartoons, going on late-night walks, and eating stir fry directly from the pan.



SARAH SLIPP (*Composer/Band, team Grace*) is a composer, orchestrator and music teacher from New Brunswick, Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Music in flute performance from Acadia University and an MFA in Musical Theatre Composition from NYU Tisch. Sarah has written the music for a variety of productions, most notably for *Bend Toward the Light* with collaborator Bryce Palmer (2025 Syracuse New Works, New Voices Festival). This is Sarah's debut with The 52nd Street Project, and she felt drawn to the Songmaking program specifically as she loves working with young writers who often use their imagination without hesitation. Sarah has learned so much from working with her incredible partner, Grace, and she is so excited for you all to hear their work.



BRI WEINTRAUB (*Stage Manager*) has been working in theater since she was in 2nd grade. She completed her MFA in Technical Production in spring of 2020 and has worked in educational theatre throughout her career. Prior to moving to New York, Bri worked in dance, concert production, events, and theatre, and is excited to come back to her ultimate goal of creating theatre while working with young people.



JULIAN WILDER (*Songmaker*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with his playwriting debut *NOT MY SPRINKLES*, dramaturgy and direction by Nolan Doran, with Omar Metwally & Bill Camp; as a part of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*, *The Scrumptious Plays*. Julian can also be heard on the *PROJcast*, Episode #48 *Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT*.



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Carolyn DeSena	Florence Lau	Merritt Tilney & Douglas M. Kaden
Daiva Deupree	Jen� LeBlanc & Willie Reale	Cynthia Vance-Abrams
Billy Dreskin	Dr. David Lee & Dr. Daniele Huntington	Laura Valeroso & David Seidman
Rebecca & Richard Dresser	Kara Lentz	Wendy vanden Heuvel & Brad Coley
Patty Dryden & Brian Siberell	Marsue & Peter MacNicol	Alexandra Vassilaros
Michaelene & Jonathan Durst	Jane & Greg MacPherson	Sarah Vigoda
Chrysti & David Eigenberg	Mitch Marois	Susan Vitucci
Wendy Ettinger	Frances McDormand & Joel Coen	Mary Pat Walsh
Kyle Fletcher	Josie Merck	Vicki & Mark Whatley
Karina Fox	No�l & Joe Mihalow	Brenda Wehle & John C. Lynch
Angelina Fiordellisi & Matt Williams	Roseline Michael Neveling	Lauren Weiner
Lindsay Fram & Mason Pettit	& Dennis Neveling	Frank Wood & Kay Gayner
Sally Froelich	John and Marjorie North	Carole Yass

List current as of April 5, 2024

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 Jasmin 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 Jasmin 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

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

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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

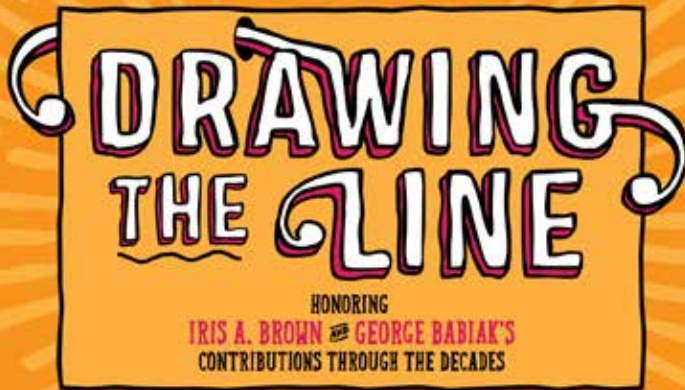
Project Members
create original
characters and
present monologues!

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



SAVE THE DATE ➔ MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

6-30pm, 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 Mopperson*, *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!



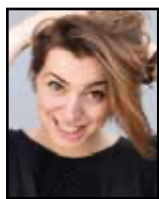
Liesl Pereira (*Playmaker*, *FATE CAN BE STRANGE*) joined the Project in September 2024. This is her playmaking debut. Liesl can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



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 Beauty 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*



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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List current as of April 5, 2024



SHOW PROGRAMS 2025

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

Turgock

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
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Christine Kurda
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Yazzy Wilder



The Character Workshop 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 **SETTING THE TONE!** 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:

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:

☐ Help load in and out for shows

☐ Draw and/or paint

☐ Help kids with homework

☐ Hang lights

☐ Help with mailings

☐ Teach kids a skill

☐ Work on a backstage crew

☐ Do office work

☐ Be a chef at an event

☐ Do graphic design

☐ Design sound

☐ Design and sew costumes

☐ 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

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 AND GEORGE BABIAK'S
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE DECADES

Hosted by
Hank Azaria and
Sharon Washington

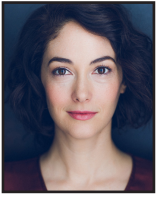
SAVE THE DATE ► MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

6:30pm, Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Desbrosses Street, New York City
For details, contact Ana "The Ruler" Soto at (212) 333-5252 or 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."



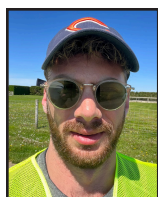
Helen Cespedes (*Team Mateo*) is an actor, writer, and teacher. Project: *Director*, *MISSION 212*, *THE GAME TO GET THE GEM*, by Eliza; *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*, *The Breezy Plays*, Playmaking Spring 2024. Acting credits include Broadway: *The Cripple of Inishmaan*. Off-Broadway: *Fefu and Her Friends* 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



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*

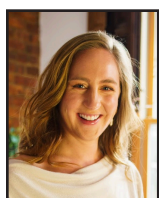
Yet?” performed by Ali Ewoldt; and “*Jumping Frogs*,” performed by Mallory Portnoy; all as a part of the TUNE IN Songmaking concert. She made her performing debut with *HUMANS ARE TRICKY*, written by, directed by, and co-starring Molly Carden as a part of LOOK WHO’S TALKING, *Plays That Speak to You*.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



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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List current as of April 5, 2024

The 52nd Street
Project Presents

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Program Director



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**Project Alumni*

Who are all these people?

Scan the QR code at right to see the full program, which includes **biographies and photos of the directors, the performers, and the designers!**



TELL IT LIKE IT IS: Replay 2025

MINDSETTING

Written by Xavier Espinal, age 17.

Dramaturge/Director: Joanna Parson

Carlos	Kareem Lucas
Colleen	Krystel Lucas
Reggie	Ronald Peet

THE BETRAYAL

Written by Faith Mitchell, age 15.

Dramaturge/Director: Alicia Moeller

Xiomara	Ashley Marie Ortiz
Big Mike	Kareem Lucas
Paula	Faith Mitchell
Lucia	Vanessa Porras

MISERY LOVES COMPANY

Written by Logan Goicuria, 15.

Dramaturge/Director: Adaire Kamen

Boris Blando	Ariel Estrada
Stanley	Jose Gamo
Mansley	Aishling Pembroke

INNER THOUGHTS

Written by Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez, age 15.

Dramaturge/Director: Matt Kagen

Loud	Natalie Walker
Quiet	Princess Jacob
Observer	Sergio Mauritz Ang

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.

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The Replay Program 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.

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DRAWING THE LINE

CELEBRATING ART AND DESIGN AT THE PROJECT

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THE
SPRING, 2025
PLAYMAKING
SHOW

8
NEW PLAYS
8
YOUNG
PLAYWRIGHTS
8
DIRECTORS
16
ADULT
ACTORS



BIOGRAPHIES



Sergio Mauritz Ang (*Observer, INNER THOUGHTS* by Jai-Lyzz) was last seen in The 52nd Street Project's Playmaking as an Eagle, in WHALE OF A TALE in 2023. He also loves his time as a Volunteer Teen Ensemble Mentor. An Actor, Educator and a Cat Daddy. www.sergiomauritzang.com



Xavier Espinal (*Playmaker, MINDSETTING*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with his playwriting debut *The Bad Uncle*, dramaturged and directed by Michael Propster with Reynaldo Piniella and Arielle Goldman as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. He made his acting debut in *Three Little Pigs*, written by, directed by and co-starring Marchánt Davis, for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. He created the movement piece *Space Adventure Odyssey* with Gardiner Comfort for the 2019 Dancemaking concert STEP ON IT. His play *Title (That's The Name)*, dramaturged and directed by Brisa Muñoz and featuring Biko Eisen-Martin & Kara Young was a part of zoom Playmaking, LIGHTING THE LAMP, *The Illuminating Plays*, in June 2020. He wrote and starred in *It's Just Business*, with Marchánt Davis for virtual Playback in 2020. In the 2020 Songmaking workshop he wrote the lyrics for "Just Found," music by Avi Amon, which was performed by Ronald Peet as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. He performed his own spoken word piece "I Am ...", directed by Ronald Peet for Flying Solo in 2022. He appeared in the Teen Ensemble devised productions EYE OF THE STORM & MORE THAN WORDS. He has been on backstage crew for many shows, and is a Smart Partner. Xavier can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 45 "Looking into the EYE OF THE STORM," and Episode 54, "Smart Partners & The Bucket of Questions."



Ariel Estrada (*Boris Blando, MISERY LOVES COMPANY* by Logan) Project: SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays*, Virtual Playmaking 2021. Off-Broadway: A PERSISTENT MEMORY, MBL Productions (Jessi D. Hill, dir.); DOUBLE FALSEHOOD, Letter of Marque (Andrew Borthwick-Leslie, dir.); FAR EAST, Lincoln Center (Daniel Sullivan, dir.); SHOGUN MACBETH, CAMBODIA AGONISTES, Pan Asian Rep. Selected Off-Off/Regional: FULL CONTACT, Perseverance Theatre; BLENDED BLENDED 和 (HARMONY): THE KIM LOO SISTERS; Theater Mu/History Theatre; MY ANNIVERSARY, Theatre for One; TARTUFFE (NYITA Nominee), Phoenix Theatre Ensemble; MADE IN CHINA (NYT Critics Pick), Wakka Wakka (Gwen Warnock, dir.). Selected TV/

Film: *Nero, Title VII*; “The Night Agent”, “Tell Me A Story”, “Bull,” “Blue Bloods”, “The Americans”. His self-penned solo performance, *FULL CONTACT* is a recipient of a 2024-26 NNPN Rolling World Premiere Award. www.arielestrada.com



Jose Gamo (*Stanley, MISERY LOVES COMPANY* by Logan) 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.

Many thanks to the Project for providing so many opportunities to combine his passions for art and education.



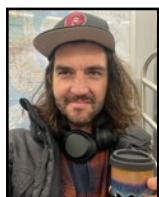
Logan Goicuria (*Playmaker, MISERY LOVES COMPANY*) joined the Project in the fall of 2019 with his debut play *BILL, JR. AND BARRY’S MISHAP-ADVENTURE*, with dramaturg/director John Sheehy, starring Jon-Michael Reese and Jake Pino, as part of *UPSIDE-DOWN, The Topsy-Turvy Plays*. His next play was *CATS AND WATER DON’T MIX*, with dramaturg/director Ryan Spahn,

starring Zabryna Guevara & Michael Frederic as a part of our first Pandemic Playmaking over zoom. Logan made his acting debut opposite Tina Hughes in *BUNKER BROTHERS* by Jesse Liebman, as a part of *IN THE SAME BOAT, The Buoyant Plays* a Two-on-Two Remix production in February 2022. He fought Michael Propster in *BATTLE OF BATTLES*, part of the *BOOM! WHAM! POW!* Stage Combat show; and appeared in our first place-play production *NOW WE’RE HERE* with Betsy Hogg in August 2023. Logan performed in his own play *MAGICKS*, directed by and co-starring Gaven Trinidad, as a part of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET, The Secretive Plays*. He can be heard on the *PROJcast*, Episode 18 “Project Brothers;” and Episode 49, “Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*.”



Princess Jacob (*Quiet, INNER THOUGHTS* by Jai-Lyzz) is a NYC-based actor. She began her journey at The 52nd Street Project in 2020, volunteering in a summer virtual Wordplay program. Princess is thrilled to be back for *Replay*, her debut in-person project, and is grateful for the opportunity to work with and read new plays written by Project Members! Heartfelt thanks to The

52nd Street team for having me on board! You can stay up to date with her work at www.princessdjacob.com.



Matt Kagen (*Dramaturge/Director, INNER THOUGHTS* by Jai-Lyzz) is a playwright and poet based in NYC. This is his first show at The 52nd Street Project, and he is very excited! Helping a new idea come to life is one of his favorite activities, and he's really looking forward to whatever comes out of these new auteurs. Thanks to the Replay Writers for inspiring him, and to Fern for nurturing his inner child.



Adaire Kamen (*Dramaturge/Director, MISERY LOVES COMPANY* by Logan) is a New York based playwright, teaching artist, and occasionally a performer by accident. Her playwriting credits at The 52nd Street Project include *A-Ghost-A-Phobia* and *The Great Goat BAA-eauty Pageant*. In the summer 2023, she was tricked into acting by Kat Almirañez for the improvised play *Now We're Here*, in which she played a star-struck fan-girl-turned-stalker. Some have claimed she was not in fact acting, just playing an exaggerated version of herself, but Adaire refutes those claims. She and her smart partner, Katty, appeared in the Projcast episode #43 "My Amazing Ice Cream Achievement," in which they explored a wide array of topics, including their participation in the Project's Amazing Race competition. Tragically, they were later robbed of the first place title despite being in the lead most of the year, but they graciously accepted second place. They plan to win the 2025 Amazing Race, and nothing will stand in their way. Adaire was Dramaturg/Director for Ramsis' *Rise From The Lowest* as part of last year's replay program, and is thrilled to be back for another round of Replay!



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.

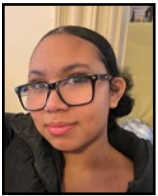


Kareem Lucas (*Big Mike, THE BETRAYAL* by Faith; *Carlos, MINDSETTING* by Xavier) is a Brooklyn born and Manhattan based Actor, Writer, and Director. He is the recipient of a NY Emmy nomination for his short film "Sole Variations", an inaugural Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship Award, a NYTW Usual Suspect, a former 2050 NYTW Artistic Fellow, and a former Devised Theatre Working

Group Resident at The Public Theater. He is a classically trained actor, who performs regularly in NYC theater: *iNegro, a rhapsody* (New Ohio), *hop tha A* (Audible Original), *Happy Birthday, Wanda June* (The Duke at 42nd St), *The Black History Museum...* (HERE Arts Center), “*RATED BLACK...*” (Next Door at NYTW), “*Black Is Beautiful...*” (Under The Radar Festival at The Public Theater), among others. Selected Film/TV credits include: “Walden: Life in the Woods”, “True Believers”, “Cohab”, “Boardwalk Empire”, and more. MFA: NYU Graduate Acting. Visit Instagram @KareemMLucas or www.KareemMLucas.com.



Krystel Lucas (*Colleen, MINDSETTING*, by Xavier) received her MFA from NYU's Grad Acting Program after attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and attaining her BA from UNC-Asheville. She is a freelance actor, director and teaching artist. Some theatrical credits include *Dial M For Murder* (Westport Country Playhouse); *Galboss Power Hour* (Primary Stages); *Hamlet* (Shakespeare Theatre DC); *Pride and Prejudice, Good People* (Dorset Theatre Festival); *Couriers and Contrabands* (Barrow Group Theatre); *Our Town* (Triad Stage); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare in the Park(ing) Lot); *Twelfth Night, The Christians* (Denver Center); *Disgraced* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *Twelfth Night Short Shakespeare* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Book of Will* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); *In the Next Room* (Syracuse Stage and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice* (Old Globe Theatre); *Good People, Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (Alley Theatre); *Death and the King's Horseman, Macbeth* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *The Sty of the Blind Pig* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *The Summer House* (Passage Theatre Company). On television, she appeared in *Jessica Jones* (Netflix) and *The Blacklist* (NBC). She is a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project and a long-serving member of NYU's Grad Acting Alumni Association.

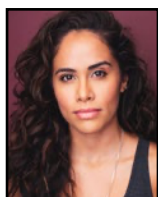


Faith Mitchell (*Playmaker/Paula, THE BETRAYAL*) joined the Project in the winter of 2020 with her debut play *THE BULLY FRIEND*, dramaturged by Caylyn Wan-Creager & directed by Sarah Krohn, starring Madeline DeFreece and John Manolis, as part of the zoom presentation *SMOKE & MIRRORS, The Tricky Plays - Part I*. Faith's acting debut was *WILD WILD WEST BFF*, written by, directed by, and co-starring Arielle Goldman as a part of *ARE WE THERE YET?*, *The Location Plays*, the August 2022 One-on-Ones. Faith performed in her own play *THUNDER GIRLS*, directed by and co-starring Anna Crivelli, as a part of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET, The Secretive Plays*. She can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 32, “The Writers of *SMOKE & MIRRORS, Part I*,” and Episode 49, “Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*.”



Alicia Moeller (*Dramaturge/Director, THE BETRAYAL* by Faith) has been involved with The 52nd Street Project since 2017. She is thrilled to support the Replay program! Alicia started as an intern at the Project, and then worked as an Education Assistant before becoming a volunteer. She has sound designed, backstage crew-ed, and supported Project members in various after-school programs.

Break a leg to everyone tonight 🍀



Ashley Marie Ortiz (*Xiomara, THE BETRAYAL* by Faith) 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 Borinquenas (Ensemble Studio Theatre); the beautiful land i seek (la linda tierra que buscó yo) (Faultline Theatre). TV: Daredevil: Born Again; Law and Order SVU; FBI.



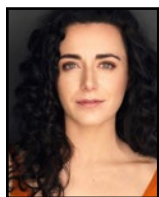
Joanna Parson (*Dramaturge/Director, MINDSETTING* by Xavier) is an actor, creator, and longtime 52P volunteer who was thrilled to celebrate her wedding at the Five Angels Theater last February. Recent theater credits include the Script to Stage reading series at Westport Country Playhouse, and work with off-Broadway's Transport Group and White Horse Theatre. Her 60-minute solo

musical *A Transcriber's Tale* was named Best Autobiographical Solo Musical by LA Hidden Gems after a run in the 2024 Hollywood Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. TV/Film includes: *FBI: Most Wanted*; *L&O:SVU*; *Red Oaks*, and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, and helming the upcoming *Gigolo 2.0*, created for the Iron Mule Short Comedy Film Series.

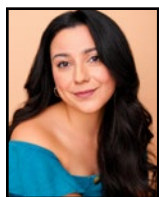


Ronald Peet (*Reggie, MINDSETTING* by Xavier) is a marathoner, meditator, mental health advocate, and most importantly Smart Partner of Xavier (since 2018!) Recently recognized by the American Theater Wing with an Obie Award for his work in Raja Feather Kelly's *The Fires* at SoHo Rep, he can currently be seen on Apple TV Plus' *Bad Monkey* fighting for ecological justice, riding

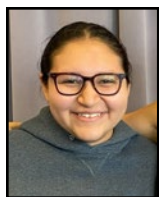
bicycles around the Bahamas, and vibing hard with a capuchin monkey. An avid reader, sometimes for cash money (audiobooks, anyone?!) his favorite writer is, in fact, Xavier and it's a literal honor to speak his genius words aloud. Proud uncle, brother, son, grandson, godfather, godson and friend/family member. Amor Fati! Wabi Sabi!



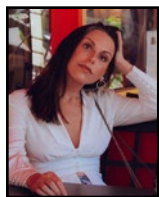
Aishling Pembroke (*Mansley, MISERY LOVES COMPANY* by Logan) is so excited to be a part of Replay with this amazing group! Some other shows she has been involved with here at the Project are “*The Argent Life*,” as part of SEEING STARS, Stage Combat 2019; Project Exchange 2019, Win Playmaking; “*2013 Rematch*,” as part of KNUCKLE SANDWICH, Stage Combat 2022; *Happier Than Ever*, by Molly Carden, as part of ARE WE THERE YET, The Location Plays, August 2022; “*Friends Going Through Life*,” with Samaria, as a part of WITH THE FLOW, Dancemaking 2024. TV: Daredevil: Born Again; Law and Order SVU; FBI.



Vanessa Porras (*Lucia, THE BETRAYAL* by Faith) started at the Project as an intern in 2018. Since then, she performed in the Songmaking concerts, TAKE IT FROM THE TOP (2019) and HEAR ME OUT (2021). She acted in the Playmaking show WALKING ON SUNSHINE, The Radiant Plays, in the summer of 2021, and was a dramaturge for *TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN LIVES*, as a part of WHALE OF A TALE, *Plays that Make A Splash*, in 2023.



Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez (*Playmaker, INNER THOUGHTS*) joined the Project in the winter of 2019 with her debut play *The Secret*, with dramaturg/director George Babiak, starring Sam Dash, Angel Desai, & John Sheehy, as part of OUT OF THE BLUE, *The Unpredictable Plays*. Jai-Lyzz made her acting debut in *Quitting Time*, a one-on-one written by, directed by, and co-starring Anne Troup, as a part of WATCH THIS, *Ten Time Pieces*, the Block Island 2019 shows. She performed spoken word pieces in Wordplay 2019 with the guidance of Jen Anaya and they teamed up again for FLYING SOLO in 2023. Her zoom play *Untitled* with Daiva Deupree and Matt Wilkas was a part of Pandemic Playmaking #2 in May 2020. Jai-Lyzz collaborated with composer Julio Vaquero Ramos for the Songmaking concert in 2021, their songs were performed by Jen Anaya, & Ronald Peet. For the Hidden Gems on-line gala, their song “I Don’t Want You To Go, You Can Go,” was performed by Belen Moyano. She battled Krisin Louie in their stage combat scene “*Not So Fast*”, as a part of THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT. Jai-Lyzz can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 36, “Radiologues.”



Natalie Walker (*Loud, INNER THOUGHTS* by Jai-Lyzz) is a performer and writer. Stage: *The Last Bimbo of the Apocalypse* (New Group), *The Big Gay Jamboree* (Orpheum), *White Girl in Danger* (Second Stage), *Alice By Heart* (MCC). Screen: *Search Party*, *BoJack Horseman*, *The Other Two*, *The Hamlet Factory*. Writing featured in Bookforum and New York Magazine.

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: Bank of America, Bella Vida Productions Inc., Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Circle of Confusion, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Consolidated Edison, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation Corp., Frederick Loewe Foundation, Greenwich Country Day School, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Lazard, Ltd, Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust, Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation, Signature Bank, Susquehanna Foundation, Corp., The Educational Foundation Of America, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Scott Foundation, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$250) to The 52nd Street Project:

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Iris A. Brown and George Babiak

OUR HOSTS

Hank Azaria and Sharon Washington

THE SONGMAKERS

Diana Abrajan, Makiyah Gray,
Grace V. Guity-Reyes, Julian Wilder IV

THE SINGERS

Marinda Anderson, Jin Ha,
Celia Keenan-Bolger, Taylor Trench

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANO

Avi A. Amon

BASS GUITAR

Sam Weber

GUITAR

Doug Derryberry

DRUMS

Shelby Blezinger-McCay

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Greg MacPherson

SOUND DESIGNER

Elisabeth Weidner

PROP DESIGNER

George Babiak

STAGE MANAGER

Kate Gulden

INVITATION/PROGRAM DESIGNS

Iris A. Brown

VIDEO EDITOR

Ed Pritchard

PHOTOGRAPHER

Deneka Peniston

CARICATURIST

Kate Abbruzzese

DIRECTOR

Natalie Hirsch

HOT TUB TO ROLLER COASTER

Lyrics by Makiyah Gray

Music by Erika Ji

Sung by Marinda Anderson

Doot doo doo doo
Doot doo doo doo doo

I went to the water park
And ran to the hot tub
Hoo Haa the hot tub
I went to the water park
And ran to the hot tub
And my mom told me to get out of the
hot tub
And take my sister to the pool
My mom told me to get out of the hot
tub
And take my sister to the pool

So I got out and push her, push her in
the pool
She loved it
JK she hated it
But when I got back to the hot tub
It smell like bleach with water
But not in a good way

And we are going to Coney Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and my
sister wants to go
We are going to Coney Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and my
sister wants to go

Her sister was five and a half
And then she went on a dragon roller
coaster
And it was her first time
So she was at Legoland at the dragon
roller coaster
And then it was her dad



It was her mom, her sister and her
It's the best day of my life!

I love it
I would come back
To the dragon roller coaster
I love it
I would come back
To the dragon roller coaster
It's the best day of my life!

So we are going to Coney Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and my
sister wants to go
We are going to Coney Island
But I'm afraid of roller coasters
But it's my sister's birthday and my
sister wants to go

It had a big drop
It had a big drop
It was scary
It was scary

Doot doo doo doo
Doot doo doo doo doo
Hoo Haa the hot tub

JUST LEAVE HIM

Lyrics by Julian (L.J.) Wilder IV

Music by James Powers

Sung by Taylor Trench

Hi, I'm a warthog
Living on Saturn
My name is Kevin
I have nothing else to do
What do I do?
What do I do?
What do I do?

I have a pet
His name is Douglass
I think he's a real plant
But he doesn't talk
So I put googly eyes on him
I mean, he needs to see, right?
And I'm talking to you
Cause I have nothing else to do
WAIT!

(Spoken.) Is that an article about Six
Flags! ON EARTH!

I wanna leave
I want strange food
But I don't have a ship
I don't have a ship
What do I do?
What do I do?
What do I do?

Let me look for some materials to build
one
Wait, I'm on Saturn
There's nothing here
Let me look for mechanics
But it's just me
Wait! I can swim through zero gravity
to get there
But my pet Douglass can't swim
Do I leave him or bring him?



(Spoken.)

You're supposed to say bring him
now...

(Wait for audience response.) Wow!

You are so smart! You know what?

(Wait for audience response.) Just
leave him.

ONLY MY MOM

Lyrics by Diana Abrajan

Music by Tess Edwards

Sung by Celia Keenan-Bolger

My mom

Helps me with homework in need

She encourages me a lot

She encourages me to do anything in
life

To never give up

Work through it all

To make it through

What makes my mom strong:

Me, her family, doctors, her mind

Working out

What makes my mom strong:

She helps me in school

By putting me in a extra math help
class

With other kids who need help too

She is a big helper and has a kind kind
heart

She encourages me to do anything in
life

To never give up

Work through it all

To make it through

What makes my mom strong:

She makes people laugh and it's
heartwarming

She continues to be stronger everyday

Thank you, Mom

Thank you, Mom

Thank you, Mom



LEFT SOCK PROTEST

Lyrics by Grace V. Guity-Reyes

Music by Sarah Slipp

Sung by Jin Ha

I remember that time when we were
together
It was a joy
Fighting off that stinky smell
We were strong
Please don't leave me
We were like a fifth melody

Left Sock Protest!

Don't tell me I'm dramatic!
I'm telling you, I miss you
We were a pair
Not one sock for themselves
We are not cavemen
Left sock protest!

Start a riot!
Set this place on fire!

(Spoken)
Uh...I mean, don't set the place on
fire...here's a piece of advice.

Don't. Be. Nice. To. The. Laundry.
Machine.
You don't want to lose your dreams,
loved ones, etcetera

Left Sock Protest!

Don't tell me I'm dramatic!
I'm telling you, I miss you
We were a pair
Not one sock for themselves
We are not cavemen

Left Sock Protest!



The machine is something you don't
want to mess with
But guess what?
If you mess with right sock, you mess
with left sock too
That's just common sense
Let me repeat it again!
The machine is something you don't
want to mess with
But guess what?
If you mess with right sock, you mess
with left sock too
That's just common sense
Let me repeat it again!

LIVE AUCTION CATALOGUE

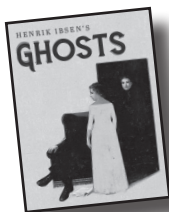
At some point tonight, **Hank Azaria** and the Project's witty and urbane Founder, **Willie Reale**, will nimbly bound onto the stage to auction off the one-of-a-kind packages described on these pages. Be bold on your bids! It all goes to a good cause, as we're sure you know!

1. THE "GHOSTS SOCIAL TIME" PACKAGE

Hey, we're pretty sure you like theater, so we put together a fine bundle of Broadway tickets just for you. Win this item and get:

- Two tickets to **Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*** at **Lincoln Center** (starring Project Pal **Billy Crudup**!)
- Two tickets to ***Buena Vista Social Club***.
- Two tickets to ***Just In Time***. This show, all about the great **Bobby Darin**, includes a "meet and greet" with star **Jonathan Groff**.

VALUE: \$1,492



2. THE "CLUBBIN' WITH THE STARS" PACKAGE

You and your best golfing pal get to play as a foursome with actor **David Costabile** (He was "Wags" in ***Billions***) and everybody's favorite angry comedian **Lewis Black** at **The 52nd Street Project's Annual Golf Outing** on May 15 at the very posh, members-only **Blind Brook Club** in Rye Brook, NY.

VALUE: \$3,000 for the golfing (it's incalculable for the company!)



3. THE “RANGERS AND BOMBERS” PACKAGE

Okay, maybe you’re not nuts about theater OR golf. This one’s GOTTA be right for you and your three best buds.

- 4 Tickets to a **New York Rangers** game of your choosing in section 111 (basically behind the net).
- 4 suite box tickets to the **New York Yankees** vs the **Oakland Athletics** on Saturday, June 28 at 1:05 pm at Yankee Stadium. You also get complimentary snacks and refreshments!

VALUE: \$2,120

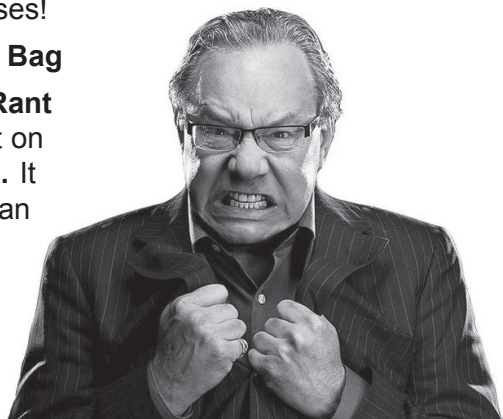


4. THE “RANT ACCESS WITH LEWIS” PACKAGE

We were afraid that **Lewis Black** would yell at us for asking for more auction item contributions, but he only grumbled softly. So we’re offering more Lew! With this big bundle, you get:

- 2 tickets for Lewis’s comedy tour on the time and day of your choosing.
- 2 tickets to a live taping of **The Daily Show** on a date to be determined. This includes backstage passes!
- A Special **Lewis Black Swag Bag**
- A special, customized **Lew-Rant** to be aired on Lew’s podcast on the **topic of your choosing**. It could be about e-bikes, vegan pizza, Zoom meetings, or anything else you detest.

VALUE: Don’t even ask!!!



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Mary Pat Walsh

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Christopher Dooly, Liv Boren
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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
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Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant
Charlie Zuckerman and Lexi Fujita, Interns
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The programs of The 52nd Street Project are made possible with public funds from 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.

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

8

NEW PLAYS

8

**YOUNG
PLAYWRIGHTS**

8

DIRECTORS

16

ADULT ACTORS

**ON
TOP OF
THE
WORLD**

THE TRIUMPHANT PLAYS

**THE
SPRING, 2025
PLAYMAKING
SHOW**

FRI., MARCH 28 @ 7:30 P.M.
SAT., MARCH 29 @ 3:00 P.M.
SUN., MARCH 30 @ 3:00 P.M.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVE.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD: THE TRIUMPHANT PLAYS, ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

SONY TROUBLE

Written by Jaaziel Herold, age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Michael Propster

Philips, a young TV remote control..... Aaron Costa Ganis

Samsung, a 35-inch TV (Philips' older brother)..... Stephanie Jean Lane

Sony, a 60-inch TV Josh Lewis

Left, Right, Up, and Down lyrics by Jaaziel Herold

SWAMPY FRIENDS

Written by Nicholas Tanner, age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Austin Regan

Axy, an axolotl Ali Ewoldt

Kai, a liger..... Mat Hostettler

Tommy, a living passport Josh Lewis

Penguin Sarah Lopez

Doesn't Understand lyrics by Nicholas Tanner

FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT

Written by Reinisy Ramirez, age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Alex O'Daly

Cristle, a roller skate..... Daiva Deupree

Jaxson Willson, a deflated basketball..... Ali Lopez-Sohaili

Person Sarah Lopez

Being Strong lyrics by Reinisy Ramirez

THE ROYAL TWINS

Written by Sophia Morel, age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Grace Rex

Wither Sutsi, a prince in training to be a king Brian Bock

Lixy Sutsi, Wither's sister and a princess Mallory Portnoy

The Love lyrics by Sophia Morel



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: THE TRIUMPHANT PLAYS, ACT 2

THE FINALE

Written by Noah Sanchez, age 11; Dramaturg/Director: George Babiak

Jason, a dinosaur Carson Elrod
Rocco, a Pitbull..... KeiLyn Durrel Jones
Cashier Xavier Espinal
Zombie dinosaurs John Sheehy, Diego Caoili, George Babiak
Zion: Rocco's brother Josh Lewis

The Best Fighting Scene Ever lyrics by Noah Sanchez

THE STORY OF APPLE

Written by Vivian Mignone, age 11, Dramaturg/Director: Zohar Fuller

Apple, a panda barista..... Annie Fox
Jessica, a panda coffee shop owner Simone Recasner

Just a Demon lyrics by Vivian Mignone

DREAMS

Written by Nezai Dickey, age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Christian DeMarais

Alex, a half-Russian, half-American teen-ager Michael Braun
Michele, Alex's Russian mother..... Marinda Anderson
Jeff, Alex's friend George Babiak

Wishes lyrics by Nezai Dickey

THE JOURNEY WITH THE HORSE AND THE DOG

Written by BreeAnna Mack, age 11; Dramaturg/Director: Krystel Lucas

Ella, a 15-year old dog spy Crystal Dickinson
John, a 15-year old horse Brandon Dirden
Agent C-O-W Taina Carrion-Perez
Carly, a dog and Ella's best friend ?

Just Believe in Yourself lyrics by BreeAnna Mack



“ON TOP OF THE WORLD” Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Greg MacPherson

Costume Designers

Lara DeBruijn and Crystal Thompson

Sound Designer

Harrison Walsh

Stage Manager

Marty Gleberman

Projection Designs

George Babiak, Diego Caoili, and
The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

Backstage Crew

Taina Carrion-Perez, Josh Lewis,
Diego Caoili, Sarah Lopez,
Xavier Espinal

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Design

George Babiak & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Joaquin Caoili
Camera Ops:
Naseem Abdul-Majid, Ayah Musa

Interns

Charlie Zuckerman, Lexi Fujita

Weekend-Away Chef

John Sheehy

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Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*

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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. **ON TOP OF THE WORLD** 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.

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Annie Hausmann	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Natalie Hirsch	Alexandra Vassilaros
Korey Jackson	Mark Whatley

Special Thanks

In addition to the Corwin/Liebman family we are grateful to our other Roxbury hosts **Anne Coffin, Dan and Stephanie Demole, Heather and Zack Hemsey, Jenny Kuenzle, Julie and Jason Martinelli**, and **Nicole Tongue and Alan Kovac**.



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."

Or make a gift via



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Sweatshirts	\$ 35 . 00
Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts	\$ 40 . 00

Thank you for coming to **ON TOP OF THE WORLD!** 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:

03/25

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CHECK THIS BOX TO RECEIVE OUR NOTICES EXCLUSIVELY VIA E-MAIL.

☐

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BE OF HELP. I CAN:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Help load in and out for shows | ☐ Draw and/or paint | ☐ Help kids with homework |
| ☐ Hang lights | ☐ Help with mailings | ☐ Teach kids a skill |
| ☐ Work on a backstage crew | ☐ Do office work | ☐ Be a chef at an event |
| ☐ Do graphic design | ☐ Design sound | ☐ Design and sew costumes |
| ☐ 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

Punch It Up!

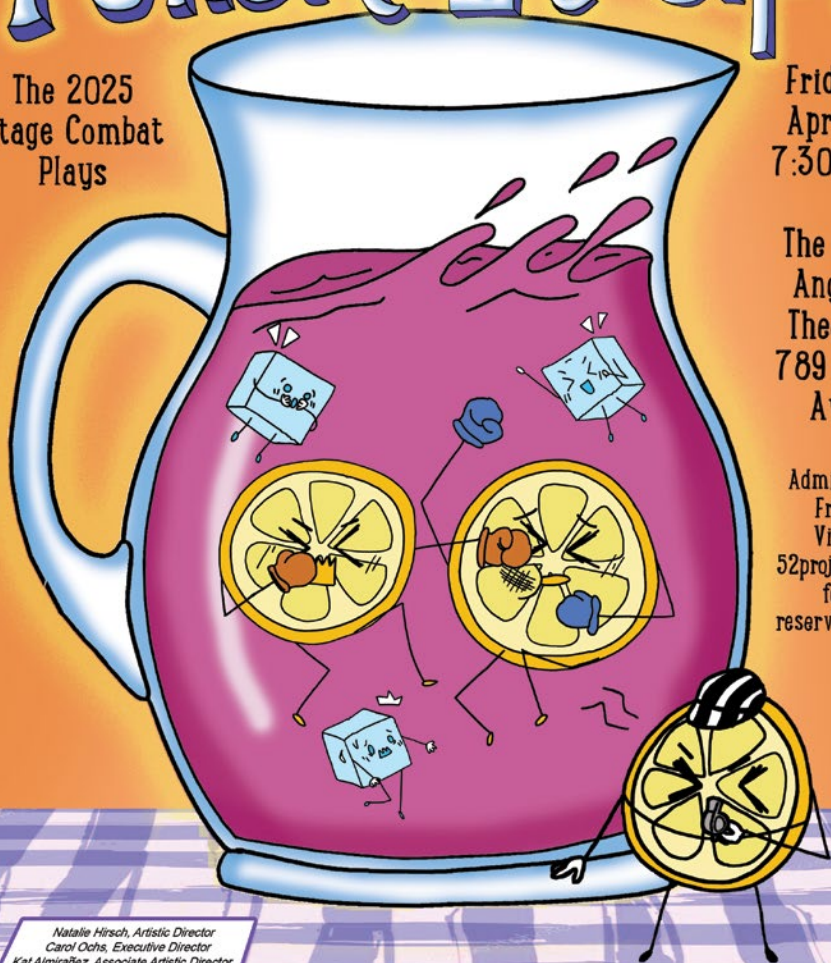
The 2025
Stage Combat
Plays

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 Almirantez, Associate Artistic Director
Garrett Kim, Program Director

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 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



Avi A. Amon, *Music Director*, (*he/they*) is an award-winning Turkish-American composer, sound artist, and educator. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of The Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Recent work includes music, songs, and sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Disney, Hulu, The O'Neill, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Theater Workshop, The New Victory, PlayCo, The Public Theater, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Some fun upcoming projects include: music and sound design for *A GOOD DAY TO ME AND NOT TO YOU* (dir. Lee Sunday Evans) at the Connelly Theater next month; music & sound design for *THE FOLLOWING EVENING* with the 600 Highwaymen (Perelman Performing Arts Center, Winter 2024); and music for *THROUGH THE SUNKEN LANDS* with Tim J. Lord (Kennedy Center, Spring 2024). Avi teaches a variety of collaborative art-making courses at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing. www.aviamon.com.



Marinda Anderson (*Michele*, *DREAMS*, by Nezai) has been dazzling audiences at The 52nd Street Project since 2014, starring in numerous plays and legendary Songmaking concerts. Most recently, she wowed the crowd at the 2025 *DRAWING THE LINE* Gala with her dynamic performance of “*Hot Tub to Roller Coaster*” —a song that truly captures her range (both vocally and emotionally). From portraying a competitive weatherwoman in *TODAY'S FORECAST* to a butterfly afraid to fly in *BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE*, Marinda continues to give it her all. She remains patiently (okay, impatiently) waiting for one of the Project's playwrights to hire her for her breakout role.



George Babiak (*Dramaturge/Director*, *THE FINALE*, by Noah; *Jeff*, *DREAMS*, by Nezai) worked for years as a bicycle mechanic at Bicycle Habitat in New York City while futilely pursuing a career in the theater. Prior to working at the Project, he helped found Recycle-A-Bicycle. George also traveled the world as a member of TheatreSports New York, an improv comedy troupe. He has a degree in English Literature from Hunter College. George is also a PADI SCUBA Divemaster and a member of the New York Aquarium Volunteer Dive Team since 2007. Two of his proudest achievements are swimming the Hellespont in Turkey in 2015 and 2019 with his wife Vanessa Valdes. He loves the Project and is delighted to have finally found that elusive career in the theater.



Brian Bock (*Wither Sutsi*, *THE ROYAL TWINS*, by Sophia) is a boorish weirdo who loves to sing and make a spectacle. He's a longtime admirer and a first-time participant of The 52nd Street Project. He's proud to have hair in this production.



Michael Braun (*Alex*, *DREAMS*, by Nezai) Most recent Project show: *Tim* in *ESCAPE* by Mamadou. Film credits include *The Tender Bar* (Dir. George Clooney), *The Courtroom* (Dir. Lee Sunday Evans), and *Deep Water* (Dir. Adrian Lyne), Chris Morris's *The Day Shall Come*, *Dark Water*, *Incoming*, *Dare*, *Igby Goes Down* and *Drinks!* Television credits include the third season of “The Sinner,” EJ in the final season of Showtime’s “The Affair” opposite Anna Paquin; “Succession”; “The Night Of,” “High Maintenance,” “Mozart in the Jungle,” “The Good Wife,” “Nurse Jackie,” “Law & Order,” “The Blacklist,” “Blue Bloods,” “Unforgettable,”

"Do No Harm," "Comedy Bang! Bang!" the ABC pilot "Awkward Situations for Men," and the Apple show "Dickinson." He has appeared on Broadway in *The Crucible* (Dir. Ivo Van Hove), *War Horse* at Lincoln Center; as well as *The Bridge Project: Winter's Tale/Cherry Orchard*, (Dir. Sam Mendes) at BAM and the Old Vic in London. Other New York theater credits include shows at The Signature Theater, The Public Theater and Second Stage as well as work across the country at the McCarter, NY Stage and Film, Williamstown Theater Festival, Yale Rep, Centerstage, and Seattle Rep. MFA, Yale School of Drama. Recipient of the Princess Grace Award.



Diego Caoili is a Bay Area native who 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!



Lara de Bruijn (*Costume Designer*) is so excited to be working on this set of plays! She has been working with The 52nd Street Project since 2009. In that time, she has designed for One-on-Ones, Playmaking, Playback, and Teen Ensemble. She was first drawn to the Project for its commitment to supporting theatre for, and by, young people. Over the years, she has been delighted and awed by wildly creative characters and stories written. Nothing brings her more joy than being able to be a part of bringing it all to life!



Christian DeMarais (*Dramaturge/Director, DREAMS*, by Neza) is ecstatic to be back at the Project working with the incredible Neza on bringing his fantastic play to life. You may recognize Christian from his most recent stint directing / playing a dog owner to his Smart Partner Atif in *RUFFLY SPEAKING* by Cynthia Kaplan or as the super-hero Stamps in *CHOICES*, where he directed and performed alongside Project Legend Aiden. Perhaps you may even remember Christian as a Tree who just wants to get a job so he can move out of his parents' house in Katty's play *FURNITURE & TREES*. There was also another play Aiden wrote where Christian got decapitated, but not sure if this bio is the best place to talk about murder. Regardless, Christian is super grateful to be here (as always) and to have the opportunity to learn from all these brilliant, imaginative, inspiring kiddos!



Daiva Deupree (*Cristle, FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT*, by Reinisy) Most recent Project performance: *Katarina Maria Vera Alno*, in *MISSION 212, THE GAME TO GET THE GEM*, by Eliza. This is Daiva's 9th 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.



Neza Dickey (*Playmaker, DREAMS*) joined the Project in January 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. Neza can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



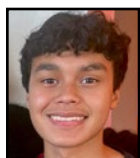
Crystal Dickinson (*Ella, THE JOURNEY WITH THE HORSE AND THE DOG!*, by BreeAnna) is proud to be a part of The 52nd Street Project since 2007! She's done a bunch of plays at a bunch of theaters but this is one of the ones she loves best! She thanks you for being here and supporting live theater!



Brandon Dirden (*John, THE JOURNEY OF THE HORSE AND THE DOG*, by BreeAnna) Proud Project volunteer for nearly two decades! Among his many roles, he has appeared as a bratty brother, an optimistic ant, a bully basketball player, an overly concerned customer service rep and now a horse of a few colors. He is married to fellow project volunteer, Crystal Dickinson, and together they were honored at The Project's 2020 gala. The 52nd Street Project is his all-time favorite theater and he is amazed by the wonderfully talented young people of this community!



Carson Elrod is overjoyed to be back doing Playmaking with the 52nd Street Project and super honored to be working on this particular show with the legendary George Babiak. He's been on Broadway in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Reckless*, and *Noises Off*, and appeared at the Met Opera in *The Merry Widow*. Off-Broadway, he's done Shakespeare in the Parks; both Central Park and Marcus Garvey Park! Around town he's worked for Red Bull, MTC, CSC, NYTW, TFNA, The Public, and many more. Out of town he's acted at Williamstown, A.R.T., Berkeley Rep and more. TV credits include *EVIL*, *The Good Fight*, *30 Rock*, and films like *Wedding Crashers* and *Kissing Jessica Stein*. Carson co-founded Arts Workers United. Learn more and become a member at www.artsworkersunited.com



Xavier Espinal (*Crew; John, THE FINALE*, by Noah) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with his playwriting debut *The Bad Uncle*, dramaturged and directed by Michael Propster with Reynaldo Piniella and Arielle Goldman as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. He made his acting debut in *Three Little Pigs*, written by, directed by and co-starring Marchant Davis, for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. He created the movement piece *Space Adventure Odyssey* with Gardiner Comfort for the 2019 Dancemaking concert STEP ON IT. His play *Title (That's The Name)*, dramaturged and directed by Brisa Muñoz and featuring Biko Eisen-Martin & Kara Young was a part of zoom Playmaking, LIGHTING THE LAMP, *The Illuminating Plays*, in June 2020. He wrote and starred in *It's Just Business*, with Marchant Davis for virtual Playback in 2020. He participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for "Just Found," music by Avi Amon, which was performed by Ronald Peet as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. He performed his own spoken word piece "I Am ...", directed by Ronald Peet for Flying Solo in 2022. He appeared in the Teen Ensemble devised productions EYE OF THE STORM & MORE THAN WORDS. He has been on backstage crew for many shows, and is a Smart Partner. His most recent play *MINDSETTING*, was part of TELL IT LIKE IT IS, Replay, 2025. Xavier can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 45 "Looking into the EYE OF THE STORM," and Episode 54, "Smart Partners & The Bucket of Questions."

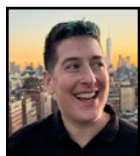


Ali Ewoldt (*Axy, SWAMPY FRIENDS*, by Nichholas) Most recent Project performance: Songmaking concert, *TUNE IN*, fall 2023. On Broadway she has appeared as Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway, Cosette in *Les Misérables* (Broadway, National Tour), in *The King and I* (Lincoln Center, Lyric Opera of Chicago), and as Luisa in *The Fantasticks* (Off-Broadway). Regionally, she has played Amalia in *She Loves Me*

(Signature Theatre, Helen Hayes nomination), Yook Mei in *Gold Mountain* (Utah Shakes), Rose in *The Secret Garden* (CTG; FITC concert with Rebecca), Philia in *A Funny Thing...* (The Muny), Fan/Mrs. Bonds in *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre), and Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* (Sacramento Music Circus). Concert/symphony work includes: Alice Tully Hall, The Town Hall, NY Pops at Carnegie Hall, APO, Houston Symphony, Kaohsiung Symphony and The Boston Pops. TV/Film credits include "The Michael J. Fox Show," *Yield*, and the short films *Mia* and *The Cactus*. Ali has a BA in psychology from Yale University and is a proud Filipina American. Ali lives in Hell's Kitchen with her husband Mat Hostetler and their adorable dog Mia. @aliewoldt



Annie Fox (*Apple, THE STORY OF APPLE*, by Vivian) This is Annie Fox's debut with The 52nd Street Project!! She is excited about playing with her real-life dear friend Simone, and bringing Vivian's incredible story to life onstage.



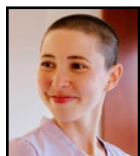
Zohar Fuller (*Dramaturge/Director, THE STORY OF APPLE*, by Vivian)

This is Zohar's directorial debut at the Project! She heard about the Project from many friends who have been volunteering for years. Zohar saw the fall Playmaking production and afterwards she knew that she had to volunteer with the next Playmaking group. Zohar loves developing new work and has extensive experience directing theater with young people. She is very excited to start her artistic journey at the Project with this production and can't wait to share with you the imaginative world that Vivian has created.

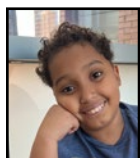


Aaron Costa Ganis (*Phillips, SONY TROUBLE*, by Jaaziel) is so happy to be back at The 52nd Street Project playing a TV remote! He loves this place! Woohoo!! Aaron currently recurs on *Raising Kanan* on Starz, and will be in the upcoming Steven Spielberg Untitled Event Film for Universal. He can be seen theatrically this summer/fall in *Ava: The Secret Conversations* at MTC alongside Elizabeth McGovern, and has worked on and off-Broadway

in NYC/LA at the Roundabout Theatre Company, LAByrnth Theater Company, Second Stage Theater, The Public Theater, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, etc. He can be seen on TV in *Fantasy Island*, *The Endgame*, *Bull*, *Almost Family*, *Blue Bloods*, *Jessica Jones* and in the recent films *Susie Searches*, *The Noel Diary*, *Lazy Eye*, *Monsters and Men*, and *Set It Up*.



Marty Gleberman (*Stage Manager*): is a naturally-occurring fungus that puts out its mushrooms in a variety of seasons. It can be found in the Five Angels Theater and similar biomes. While not harmful if ingested, extreme caution should be taken not to accidentally track Marty spores into your own home. Please check your shoes carefully upon leaving the theater.



Jaaziel Herold (*Playmaker, SONY TROUBLE*) joined the Project in January 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. Jaaziel can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



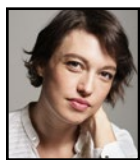
Mat Hostetler (*Kai*, *SWAMPY FRIENDS*, by Nicholas) is thrilled to be back at the Project with his favorite people in the world! Recent Project: In-class volunteer, *SETTING THE TONE*, Character Workshop 2025; *Director/ Dramaturg*, *DREAMS COME TRUE* by Walter: *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*, Playmaking Fall 2023. 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.



KeiLyn Durrel Jones (*Rocco*, *THE FINALE*, by Noah) Most recent Project show: Playback 2019, *HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE*, *The Surprising Plays*, dramaturge/director/actor, *RAPPERS AND POLICE*

OFFICERS ALWAYS GO TOGETHER, by Carlos. Antoine Fuqua directed feature *MICHAEL* for Universal as Michael Jackson's bodyguard-turned-confidant *BILL BRAY*. He is a series regular in the Onyx original series *HOW TO DIE ALONE* alongside Natasha Rothwell. KeiLyn also guest starred on *EAST NEW YORK*, *CHICAGO FIRE*, *THE EQUALIZER* and *BLUE BLOODS* and has had recurring guest star roles on HBO's *SUCCESSION*, Netflix's series *I-LAND*, Showtime's *CITY ON A HILL* and AMC's *BETTER CALL SAUL*. He starred in the short film *SPARRING PARTNER* which made its premiere at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival and starred in a supporting lead role in Neil Labute's feature *OUT OF THE BLUE* opposite Diane Kruger. He is a graduate of NYU Grad Acting.



Stephanie Jean Lane (*Samsung*, *SONY TROUBLE*, by Jaaziel) is an actor, director, writer, teacher, and dancer who has volunteered with The 52nd Street Project since 2016! She has played an older sister, a mermaid monster, a girl with a backpack, a whale, and now a 35-inch T.V., and has directed kid-written plays about betrayal and redemption, friendship, and many a hero's journey. Her favorite Project memories include boogie

boarding out on Block Island, and getting beaten by 9-year-olds in epic card games in Rumson, NJ. It is a thrill to perform *Sony Trouble* by the talented Jaaziel.



Josh Lewis (*Crew*; *Zion*, *THE FINALE*, by Noah) began working with the Project in 1999. Favorite roles include George Bush's Most Important Helper. Favorite one-on-one he's written include Ground Crew Gary.

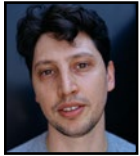
Favorite lines in a Playmaking show include "We can do this the hard way or the easily way." Favorite men's chorus he's been a part of in a show - Menergy! Favorite project memory - meeting his wife at a Project picnic, with whom he is now raising their project offspring.



Sarah Lopez (*Crew*; *Penguin*, *SWAMPY FRIENDS*, by Nicholas) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *Hollywood Is Harsh*, dramaturged by Carrigan O'Brian, directed by Sarah Krohn with Lynne Rosenberg and Chalia La Tour as a part of *STIRRING THE POT*, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Dylan Dawson's *Cock-a-doodle-don't*, directed by and co-starring Daiva Deupree, for the 2018 One-on-Ones,

GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the movement piece

Dancing + Fighting = Fencing with Madalyn Baker for the 2019 Dancemaking concert STEP ON IT. Her play *It All Started with Coffee and Tea*, dramaturged and directed by Ceci Fernandez and featuring Jennelle Chu & Eston Fung was a part of zoom Playmaking, LIGHTING THE LAMP, *The Illuminating Plays*, in June 2020. She participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for “Feeling a Purpose: (Full Picture),” music by Avi Amon, which was performed by Jessica Carvo as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. She appeared in the Teen Ensemble devised productions EYE OF THE STORM & MORE THAN WORDS. She has been on backstage crew, as well as working as a camera operator for our live streams, and is a Smart Partner. Sarah can be heard on episodes of the PROJcast, #13 “Making Change,” and #44 “The Nature of Time with Sarah & Lynne.”



Ali Lopez-Sohaili (*Jaxson Willson, FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT*, by Reinisy) is honored to have been invited back to Playmaking for a second time. Off-Broadway: *Power Strip* (Lincoln Center LCT3), *Disgraced*, (Alliance Theater, Suzi Bass nomination), *Disclaimer* (The Nimoy) . Television/film: “Manifest”, “Law & Order SVU”, *The Unknown Country*, *Didn’t Die* (Sundance) and the upcoming Netflix movie *Nonnas* (May 2025) opposite Vince Vaughn and Lorraine Bracco. Ali is an LA native. Juilliard 2013.



Krystel Lucas (*Dramaturge/Director, THE JOURNEY WITH THE HORSE AND THE DOG*, by BreeAnna) received her MFA from NYU’s Grad Acting Program after attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and attaining her BA from UNC-Asheville. She is a freelance actor, director, executive coach, and teaching artist. Some theatrical credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Sketchbook Theatre); *Dial M For Murder* (Westport Country Playhouse and Syracuse Stage); *Galboss Power Hour* (Primary Stages); *Hamlet* (Shakespeare Theatre DC); *Pride and Prejudice*, *Good People* (Dorset Theatre Festival); *Couriers and Contrabands* (Barrow Group Theatre); *Our Town* (Triad Stage); *Love’s Labour’s Lost* (Shakespeare in the Park(ing) Lot); *Twelfth Night*, *The Christians* (Denver Center); *Disgraced* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *Twelfth Night Short Shakespeare* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Book of Will*, *Twelfth Night* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); *In the Next Room* (Syracuse Stage and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Old Globe Theatre); *Good People*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (Alley Theatre); *Death and the King’s Horseman*, *Macbeth* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *The Sty of the Blind Pig* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *The Summer House* (Passage Theatre Company). On television and film, she appeared in *Jessica Jones* (Netflix), *Dying For Sex* (Hulu), *The Blacklist* (NBC), and *Eidolon* (upcoming feature). She is a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project and a long-serving chair of NYU’s Grad Acting Alumni Association.



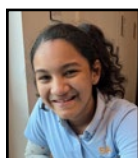
Greg MacPherson (*Lighting Designer*) is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre where he designed the annual Marathon of One-Act Plays from 1985 through 2003 and again in 2010, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Other designs include *Killer Joe* at Soho Rep, *The Hotel Play* at LaMama ETC, *The Pitchfork Disney* at Here and *Easter for Naked Angels*. He recently designed *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Cinderella* for Ballet Memphis, *The Cradle Will Rock* as a benefit for The Acting Company, *Meet Me at the Plaza* for Shuffles, and *Halcyon Days* at ART NY. Greg has designed for The 52nd Street Project since 1986 and taught lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College from 1990 through 2022.



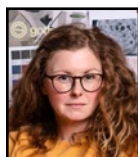
BreeAnna Mack (*Playmaker, THE JOURNEY WITH THE HORSE AND THE DOG*) joined the Project in JANUARY 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. BreeAnna can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, “Worldly Playmakers.”



Vivian Mignone (*Playmaker, THE STORY OF APPLE*) joined the Project in January 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. Vivian can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, “Worldly Playmakers.”



Sophia Morel (*Playmaker, THE ROYAL TWINS*) joined the Project in January 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. Sophia can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, “Worldly Playmakers.”



Alex O'Daly (*Dramaturge/Director, FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT*, by Reinisy) is an actress, producer, and creative strategist. A lifelong storyteller, she channels that same creative energy into her work as a strategist and marketer, shaping brand identity through bold editorial campaigns and experiential initiatives. Alex has been a proud volunteer with The 52nd Street project since 2008. She has had the honor of being a Smart Partner twice and has had the privilege of directing 10 (!) Playmaking shows. A born and raised New Yorker, she attended LaGuardia High School for Performing Arts and received her BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago.



Taina Carrion Perez (*Crew*) This is Taina's first show as backstage crew with The 52nd Street Project! She had the amazing opportunity of volunteering in the Playmaking class, and was the dramaturg for Nezai. She is incredibly proud of all of the playwrights and to see their visions come to life!

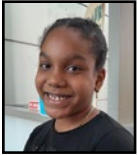


Mallory Portnoy (*Lixy Sutsi, THE ROYAL TWINS*, by Sophia) Most recent Project performance: Songmaking concert TUNE IN, fall 2023. Broadway: *Oklahoma!* (Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical). Other New York Credits: *Oklahoma!* (St. Ann's Warehouse, Bard Summerscape), *A Party With Comden and Green* (Cafe Carlyle), *Most Happy* (Bard Summerscape, Williamstown Theatre Festival), California (Clubbed Thumb's Summerworks), *Privacy* (The Public Theater in Association with The Donmar Warehouse), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Public Theater/Shakespeare in the Park), *Inspired by True Events* (OOTB). Other Regional Credits: Denver Center, Chautauqua Theater Company. TV: *American Horror Story* (FX), *American Rust* (Amazon Prime), *The Good Fight* (Paramount+), *Grace and Frankie* (Netflix), *The Helpsters* (Apple TV). Film: *Maestro*. Training: University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign, Juilliard.



Michael Propster (*Dramaturge/Director, SONY TROUBLE*, by Jaaziel) 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



Reinisy Ramirez (*Playmaker, FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT*) joined the Project in January 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. Reinisy can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



Simone Recasner (*Jessica, THE STORY OF APPLE*, by Vivian) is thrilled to return to The 52nd Street Project stage where she has previously played a fake friend in Doris' play *THE FAKE FRIEND AND THE RICH GIRL*; and an insatiable baby in Taliyah's play *HUNGRY HUNTER*. Some characters from Simone's TV, Film and Theater work include a single mom who takes a second shot at her dream of becoming a dancer, a woman escaping a maniacal doll maker, a doula, an aspiring actress, a reality tv star, a churchgoer, a snooty pregnant woman. Upcoming she will be playing an annoying millennial and a two faced executive GET EXCITED!



Austin Regan (*Dramaturge/Director, SWAMPY FRIENDS*, by Nicholas) is a NYC-based theater and opera director who has been volunteering with the amazing 52nd Street Project since 2015! Austin is the Tour Director for *A BEAUTIFUL NOISE*, the Neil Diamond musical, and the Resident Director of *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* Off-Broadway. Other recent directing includes *Threepenny Opera* with Opera Columbus and the experimental performance piece *Left and Right* at National Sawdust and De Singel. Upcoming: *UH-OH!* at Judson Church with partner and fellow Project volunteer Kendal Hartse. Austin's work collaborating with members of The 52nd Street Project also includes plays by Aramis Jimenez, Adolfo Sinchi, Ramsis Ramirez, and Joel Gokalp.



Grace Rex (*Dramaturge/Director, THE ROYAL TWINS*, by Sophia) Most recent Project show: *Lim* in *ESCAPE* by Mamadou. Theatre credits: *53% Of* (Second Stage Uptown), *Nantucket Sleigh Ride* (Lincoln Center), *Life and Limb* (Steppenwolf), *Ed, Downloaded* (Denver Center), *Pumpgirl* (A Red Orchid). Her TV credits include 'Severance', 'Mindhunter', 'Manifest', 'Master of None', 'Blindspot', 'The Good Wife' and 'Boardwalk Empire'. Film credits include *Contagion*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Women Who Kill*, *Inspector Ike* and *The Dilemma*.



Noah Sanchez (*Playmaker, THE FINALE*) joined the Project in January 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. Noah can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



John Sheehy (*Zombie Dinosaur 2, THE FINALE*, by Noah) is a writer, director, actor, & lyricist; and has been a full-time employee of The 52nd Street Project since 1998. At the Project, he has written, performed and directed dozens of shows, stage-managed, and sound designed; as well as being the chef on program retreats. He is a producer/editor and occasional

host of the Project's podcast, The PROJcast. He has an MFA in Dramatic Writing from Brandeis University. His plays have been seen in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Louisville. He is married to the composer, and frequent Project volunteer, Kim D. Sherman.



Crystal Thompson (*Costume Designer*) has designed and made costumes for The 52nd Street Project for over 20 years. She just couldn't resist coming back to do costumes for George's last show before he retires. It's so good to be back creating with you guys!



Nicholas Tanner (*Playmaker, SWAMPY FRIENDS*) joined the Project in January 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. Nicholas can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



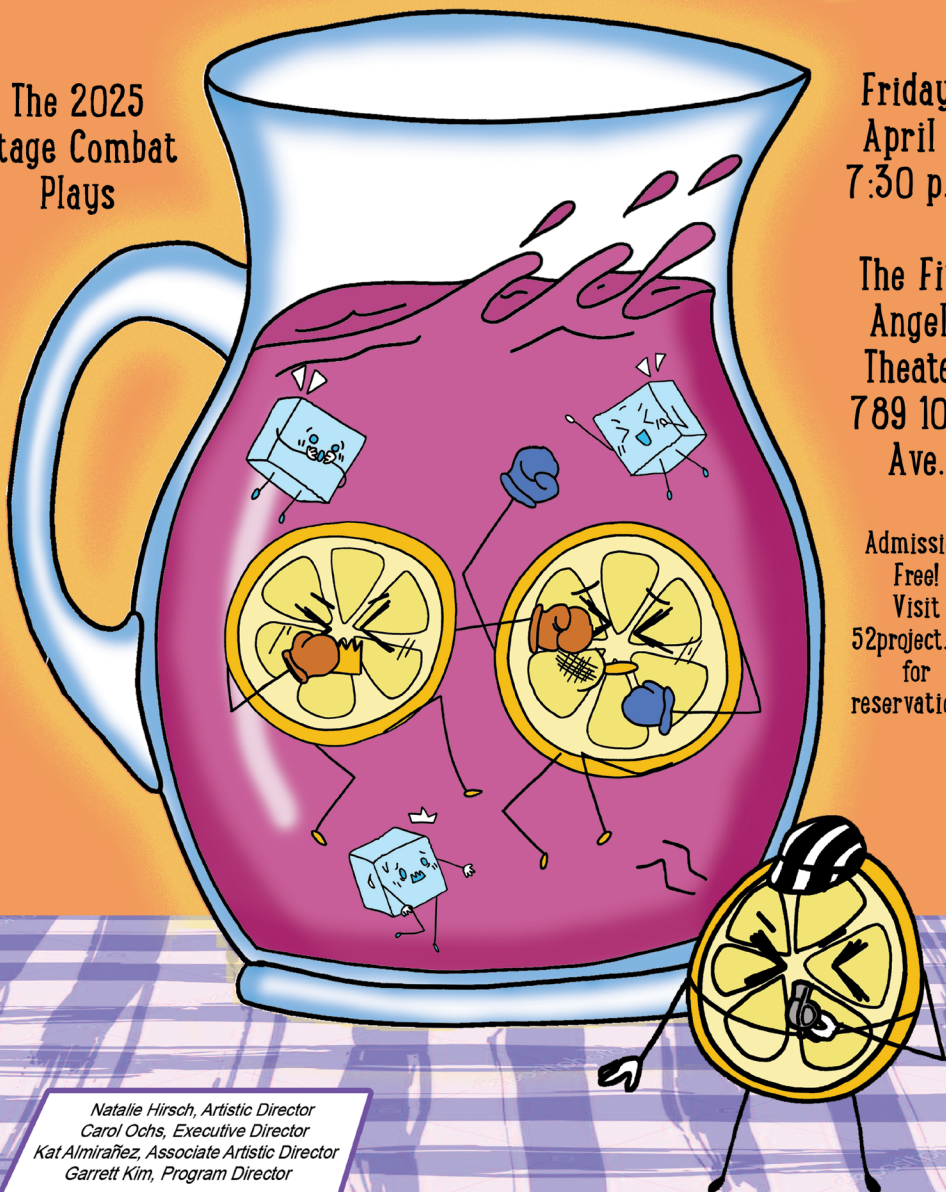
Harrison Walsh (*Sound Designer*) – The 52nd Street Project: LOOK WHO'S TALKING, *Plays That Speak to You*, One-on-One 2024. He's a senior Film and Media Production major and double minor in Photography and Interactive Media. He is President of Mount Studios and a Comm Arts Department student ambassador. With Mount Studios, he has led mobile video recording and live streaming teams with student organizations such as Dead Rabbit Society, Off the Dome, PRISM, and the Black and Latinx Student Association. He has also worked on archival and promotional material for organizations such as PlayOn and The Musical Theater Association, as well as revues and concerts at 54 Below and Green Room 42. Sound: TedEd-Être International Day of the Girl (Sound Engineer); *The Sound Music*, *Into The Woods*, *Spring Awakening*-Kidz Theater (A1); *13: The Musical*, *A Chorus Line*-MMC Musical Theater Association (Sound Designer/A1). Film/Video: *Lavender Light*, *Crossing Borders*, *Sensory Stimuli*, *A Worthy Performance* (Stop Light Productions); *On The Spot!*, "An Average British Evening," *Roll Griffins* (Mount Studios). @sir.h.walsh + @stoplightproductions (he/him)



Punch It Up!

Admission
Free!
Visit
52project.org
for
reservations.

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 . 00
Mugs	\$ 10 . 00
Thermal Mugs	\$ 15 . 00
WABWAGA T-shirts	\$ 15 . 00
Sweatshirts	\$ 35 . 00
Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts	\$ 40 . 00

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:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Help load in and out for shows | ☐ Draw and/or paint | ☐ Help kids with homework |
| ☐ Hang lights | ☐ Help with mailings | ☐ Teach kids a skill |
| ☐ Work on a backstage crew | ☐ Do office work | ☐ Be a chef at an event |
| ☐ Do graphic design | ☐ Design sound | ☐ Design and sew costumes |
| ☐ 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.

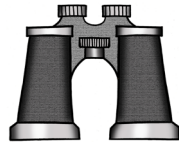
One-On-Ones

The 2025 Rumson One-on-Ones

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

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

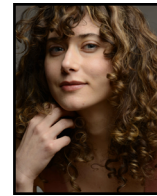
Sunday, August 17 - 3:00 p.m.



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.



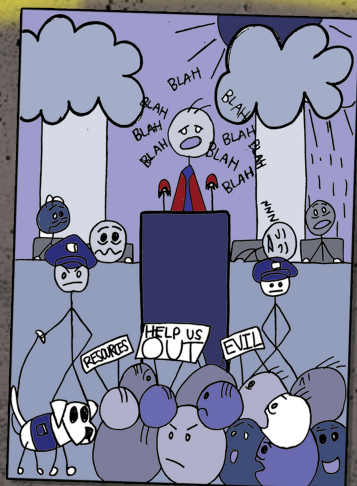
Kerry Warren (*Lead Instructor*) NYC-based actor, teaching artist, and advocate for teaching artists and arts education as the former Co-Executive Director of the national nonprofit (TAG) the Teaching Artist Guild. Trained by Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, she holds certifications in mental health 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



THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS
WRITING ON THE WALL



THE 2025 TEEN ENSEMBLE ONE-ACT FESTIVAL



DIRECTORS:
JOSE-MARIA AGUILA,
EVAN ISABELLA,
LYNNE MARIE ROSENBERG,
AND LIZ SWEENEY

NATALIE HIRSCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRÁÑEZ
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
FRIDAY, MAY 30 - 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 31 - 3:00 PM

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*
Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
Diego Caoili, Production Manager
Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
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Carol Ochs, Executive Director
Chyanne Peña, Receptionist*
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Liz Sweeney, Director of Education
Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate
Bri Weintraub, Director of Design & Production
Yazzy Wilder, Operations Manager*
Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“WRITING ON THE WALL”

Production Staff

Directors

Jose-Maria Aguila, Evan Isabella,
Lynne Marie Rosenberg, and Liz Sweeney

Stage Manager

Charlie Zuckerman

Composer/Music Director

Lesley Braver

Lighting Designer

Finn Meyercord

Sound Designer

Emi Verhar

Costume Designer

Kate (K8) Revels

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caoili ♦ Cam Op: Christian Santoni

Photographer

Andy Ingalls & Bridget Delaney

The 52nd Street Project Teen Ensemble

Naseem Abdul-Majeed	Sarah Lopez
Melanie Correa	Olive Moayed
Xavier Espinal	Hannah Santos
Kaytie Gil	Adolfo Sinchi

Aiden Vasquez

Over the course of the academic year, the Teen Ensemble, which is made up of Project members in high school, have been meeting once a week and practicing the collaborative theater process. This has included improvisation, theater design, technical theater, and playbuilding. The culmination of all their work is WRITING ON THE WALL; 4 original plays written and directed by adult volunteers, performed by the Teen Ensemble.

All original songs composed by Lesley Braver.

“I.Y.K.Y.K.”

Written by Beto O’Byrne

Directed by Jose-Maria Aguila

Anthony (Jedi name: Count Vraxis)..... Aiden Vasquez

Phil (Jedi name: Lin Qey) Naseem Abdul-Majeed

Dr. Lewis Rodriguez-Santos (aka “Doogie”)..... Xavier Espinal

“salty”

Written by Naomi Lorrain

Directed by Liz Sweeney

JasmineMelanie Correa

CleoKaytie Gil

“BRAINS!”

Written by Adaire Kamen

Directed by Evan Isabella

Leah.....Olive Moayed

BenAdolfo Sinchi

Tammy (a zombie)..... Hannah Santos

“THE ONES IN LINE”

Written by Charly E. Simpson

Directed by Lynne Marie Rosenberg

Veronica.....Melanie Correa

ChrisXavier Espinal

Senator Mariana Barrios Sarah Lopez

Inspirations for WRITING ON THE WALL

Friends finding their voices at a political rally; communication issues in the zombie apocalypse; cooking vs. social media; and a couple of Jedi in the emergency room -- you'll find all of this and more in these all-new, original, musical shows, written and directed by adults, performed by the Teen Ensemble. As part of their culminating experience, they also went to Fairview Lake Camp YMCA to rehearse the music composed by Lesley Braver.



Special Thanks

Sergio Mauritz Ang, TJ Black, Kaaron Briscoe, Sabrina Caldon*, Omari Chancellor, Kylee Chester**, Ethan Cruz**, Danaya Esperanza, Philip Galinsky, Kaileela Hobby, Ella Lieberman, Stephanie Linas, Brisa Muñoz, Krystie Nyugen, Joanna Parson, Jake Pino, Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez**, Dara Silverman, Ally Thomas, Anne Troupe, John Van Arsdale, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Fairview Lake YMCA Camps, Garrison Art Center, iNTAR, Keen Company, LCT3 at Lincoln Center Theater, People's Theater, PRG, & The 24 Hour Plays

** Current Project Member

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!**



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

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Mugs	\$ 10 . 0 0
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Sweatshirts	\$ 35 . 0 0
Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts	\$ 40 . 0 0

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

Mark Whatley

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



WRITING ON THE WALL is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

COMING UP ON OUR STAGE!

The 52nd Street Project Presents...

twiiiist

ONE Performance ONLY!!

Friday, June 13th @ 7:30pm

FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 TENTH AVENUE

Reserve free tickets at
52project.org

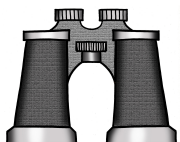
Program Director
Garrett Kim

Program Instructor
Elli Brown

and...
SHOUT!!

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director - Carol Ochs, Executive Director
Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Directed by Jane Jones



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 Wan-Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Fall of 2025. Thanks!

BIOGRAPHIES



Naseem Abdul-Majeed (*Phil/Lin Qey, I.Y.K.Y.K.*, by Beto O'Byrne) joined the Project in the fall of 2018 with his playwriting debut *Hacker's Deal*, dramaturged & directed by Marchant Davis with Reynaldo Piniella and Jasmine Batchelor, as a part of *HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, The Ambitious Plays*. He made his acting debut in *Free and Wilde*, written by, directed by and co-starring Sam Dash as a part of *WATCH THIS, Ten Time Pieces*, the Block Island 2019 One-on-Ones. Naseem participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for "The Banana Robbery," music by Utsav Bhargava, which was performed by Emiy Skeggs as a part of our *HIDDEN GEMS* virtual gala in 2021. He next appeared in Beto O'Byrne's *What We Do, We Do For True*, directed by and co-starring Korey Jackson, as a part of *IN THE SAME BOAT*, the Two-on-Two Remix from 2022. Naseem has appeared in Teen Ensemble devised productions *EYE OF THE STORM*, and *MORE THAN WORDS*. He can be heard on the *PROJcast*, "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS," and the most recent episode, "Teens WRITING ON THE WALL."



Jose-Maria Aguila (*Director, I.Y.K.Y.K.*, by Beto O'Byrne, for Aiden, Naseem, & Xavier) 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, Dramaturg, and Teaching Artist. This is Jose-Maria's third time directing The Teen Ensemble, having directed *The Comedy of Errors* in 2017 that toured in San Francisco and NYC; and co-directed *MORE THAN WORDS* last year. 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 the all the amazing staff, volunteers, and project members for many more years to come. *WABWAGA*. "Enseñales quien eres."



Lesley Braver (*Composer/Musical Director, she/her*) is a composer/lyricist from Washington, D.C. She scored the films "Youth" which debuted at SXSW, and "The Block Plan" which won best film at the Helsinki Film Festival. Her musical "Medusa," (co-written with Rachel Dean) had a production at NYU and a concert debut at Lincoln Center. Her musical, "The Fish Queen of the Gowanus Canal," was staged on a 72-foot-long barge in Brooklyn's infamously polluted Gowanus Canal in 2024, for audiences in canoes and along the shore. An album of songs from that show will be released in 2025. @lesleybraver



Melanie Rose Correa (*Jasmine, salty*, by Naomi Lorrain, *Veronica, THE ONES IN LINE*, by Charly E. Simpson) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *Happy Mother's Day*, dramaturged & directed by Chelsea Hackett with MaYaa Boateng and Charlotte Graham, as a part of *STIRRING THE POT, The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Michael Walek's *How to Survive* with Jenelle Chu for the 2018 One-on-Ones, *GOOD VIBRATIONS, Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show *Friends* with Lydian Blossom for the 2019 production *SEEING STARS*. Her play *Porkchop Lettuce*, dramaturged by Evan Schultz, directed by Charlie

O'Rourke and featuring Marielle Young & Steven Lee Johnson was a part of zoom Playmaking in March 2020. She performed her own piece "Kiara's Potential" directed by Michael Propster for FLYING SOLO 2022. Melanie appeared in the Teen Ensemble devised productions EYE OF THE STORM, and MORE THAN WORDS. In February 2024, she performed alongside Lilli Cooper singing "You Got Me & I Got You," music by Henry Krieger, lyrics by Cindy Lou Johnson at the gala ONE NIGHT ONLY. She has been on backstage crew, as well as working as a receptionist and front of house at our shows. She can be heard on the PROJcast, "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS," and the most recent episode, "Teens WRITING ON THE WALL."



Danaya Esperanza (Volunteer) The 52nd Street Project: *UOE, The 2 Best Friends, The Last Rangers, Connect The Dots, Friendship Never Ends*. OFF-BROADWAY: *O.K.!* (INTAR, WP). *Merchant of Venice* (TFANA/STC/Royal Lyceum Edinburgh). *Comedy of Errors, for colored girls . . .*, *Tempest, Twelfth Night* (The Public Theater). *Buena Vista Social Club* (Atlantic Theater Company). *Misanthrope* (Molière in The Park). *Bayano* (NBT). *Play On! Shakespeare* (CSC/OSF). *Breitwisch Farm* (Esperanza). *Mary Jane, Othello* (NYTW). *Men on Boats* (Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb). *Washeteria* (Soho Rep). *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Signature Theatre). REGIONAL: *The Bleeding Class* (Chautauqua). *Midsummer* (Folger). *Alma* (DCPA). *Annie Salem . . .* (NYSF). *Joe Turner Vino y Se Fue* (Seattle Rep). *Romeo and Juliet* (STC). *Protect the Beautiful Place* (McCarter). *Another Word for Beauty* (Goodman). TELEVISION: *The Blacklist, Elementary*. TRAINING: The Juilliard School.



Xavier Espinal (*Dr. Lewis Rodriguez-Santos, I.Y.K.Y.K.*, by Beto O'Byrne, *Chris, THE ONES IN LINE*, by Charly E. Simpson) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with his playwriting debut *The Bad Uncle*, dramaturged and directed by Michael Propster with Reynaldo Piniella and Arielle Goldman as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. He made his acting debut in *Three Little Pigs*, written by, directed by and co-starring Marchánt Davis, for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. He created the movement piece *Space Adventure Odyssey* with Gardiner Comfort for the 2019 Dancemaking concert STEP ON IT. His play *Title (That's The Name)*, dramaturged and directed by Brisa Muñoz and featuring Biko Eisen-Martin & Kara Young was a part of zoom Playmaking, LIGHTING THE LAMP, *The Illuminating Plays*, in June 2020. He wrote and starred in *It's Just Business*, with Marchánt Davis for virtual Playback in 2020. He participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for "Just Found," music by Avi Amon, which was performed by Ronald Peet as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. He performed his own spoken word piece "I Am . . .", directed by Ronald Peet for Flying Solo in 2022. He appeared in the Teen Ensemble devised productions EYE OF THE STORM & MORE THAN WORDS. He has been on backstage crew for many shows, and is a Smart Partner. His most recent play *MINDSETTING*, was part of TELL IT LIKE IT IS, Replay, 2025. Xavier can be heard on the PROJcast, "Looking into the EYE OF THE STORM," "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS," "Smart Partners & The Bucket of Questions," and the most recent episode, "Teens WRITING ON THE WALL."



Kaytie Gil (*Cleo, salty*, by Naomi Lorraine) 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 wrote and performed her own piece, "Not Compatible," for FLYING SOLO, April 2023. She was a member of the crew for A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*, spring Playmaking 2024. As a member of the current Teen Ensemble, she helped devise and was seen in MORE THAN WORDS. She can be heard on the PROJcast, "Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS," and the most recent episode, "Teens WRITING ON THE WALL."



Evan Isabella (*Director, BRAINS!*, by Adaire Kamen, for Adolfo, Hannah, & Ivy) is so happy to be back at the Project, directing *BRAINS!* for the Teen Ensemble production! She has volunteered with the Project since 2019 as Intern, Sound Designer, Performer, and Stage Crew and has treasured every second of it! Evan is currently pursuing a professional performance and directing career. She is Assistant Director for Pivot Theatre Company's youth performing arts in NJ, currently working on *SHREK The Musical*. She graduated Muhlenberg College, with a major in Theatre. Evan has had so much fun with her cast of three amazing, talented performers, otherwise known as, "Team Zombie," and is so proud of them for bringing this funny and creative piece to life!



Adaire Kamen (*Author, BRAINS!*, for Adolfo, Hannah, & Ivy) is a New York based playwright, teaching artist, and occasionally a performer by accident. Her playwriting credits at The 52nd Street Project include *A-Ghost-A-Phobia* and *The Great Goat BAA-eauty Pageant*. In the summer 2023, she was tricked into acting by Kat Almirañez for the improvised play *Now We're Here*, in which she played a star-struck fan-girl-turned-stalker. Some have claimed she was not in fact acting, just playing an exaggerated version of herself, but Adaire refutes those claims. Adaire was also a dramaturg/director for both the 2024 and 2025 Replay. She and her smart partner, Katty, have appeared in two PROJcast episodes ("My Amazing Ice Cream Achievement," and "Amazing Racers Katty & Adaire") and they intend to win first prize in this year's Smart Partner Amazing Race competition. Adaire is thrilled to be part of *WRITING ON THE WALL!*



Sarah Lopez (*Senator Mariana Barrios, THE ONES IN LINE*, by Charly E. Simpson) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *Hollywood Is Harsh*, dramaturged by Carrigan O'Brian, directed by Sarah Krohn with Lynne Rosenberg and Chalia La Tour as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Dylan Dawson's *Cock-a-doodle-don't*, directed by and co-starring Daiva Deupree, for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*.

She created the movement piece *Dancing + Fighting = Fencing* with Madalyn Baker for the 2019 Dancemaking concert STEP ON IT. Her play *It All Started with Coffee and Tea*, dramaturged and directed by Ceci Fernandez and featuring Jennelle Chu & Eston Fung was a part of zoom Playmaking, LIGHTING THE LAMP, *The Illuminating Plays*, in June 2020. She participated in the 2020 Songmaking workshop and wrote the lyrics for “Feeling a Purpose: (Full Picture),” music by Avi Amon, which was performed by Jessica Carvo as a part of our HIDDEN GEMS virtual gala in 2021. She appeared in last year’s Teen Ensemble devised production EYE OF THE STORM. She has been on backstage crew, as well as working as a camera operator for our live streams, and is a Smart Partner. Sarah can be heard on episodes of the PROJcast, “Making Change,” “The Nature of Time with Sarah & Lynne,” “Teens Use Their MORE THAN WORDS,” and the most recent episode, “Teens WRITING ON THE WALL.”



Naomi Lorrain (*Author, salty*, for Kaytie & Melanie) is an actor/playwright. She has been a volunteer with the Project for nearly a decade! She started in 2016 with Fall Playmaking, INFINITY & BEYOND, The Ultimate Plays; as an Actor in THE HIKE, by Jade. Then, One-on-One, Block Island, STUFF & NONSENSE, Plays from the Prop Closet; TWO SISTERS, by Elizabeth Irwin, as an Actor with Morgan in 2017. In 2018, she wrote #SHELFIES for the Two-on-Two, CURRENT MOOD, The Relatable Plays, for Kiara & Jayla. And in 2019, WIN Playmaking, as an Actor in THE BELLA & DAISY STORY, by Violet; THE ELEMENTS, by Jaiden; and LEGO WORLD & POWER WORLD, by Jojo. She has also been Kylee Chester’s Smart Partner since 2017! NYU: MFA; YALE: BA.



Finn Meyercord (*Lighting Designer*, he/him) is thrilled to be designing the lights for the Teen Ensemble One Acts! Finn is a recent graduate of Sarah Lawrence College where he studied technical theatre with an emphasis in lighting design. He is so happy to be working with the wonderful team at The 52nd Street Project again! See his work and contact him at @finnmeyercorddesigns on Instagram.



Olive Moayed (*Leah, BRAINS!*, by Adaire Kamen) joined the Project in the spring of 2020. Her first play was *How Zombies Make Us Feel?*, dramaturged by, and directed by Ashley Marie Ortiz, with Lynne Rosenberg and Keshav Moodliar, as part of the zoom playmaking production SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays*, ultimately presented in March 2021. Prior to that sharing, she wrote her second play *In Out and Through*, dramaturgy/ directed by Kerry Warren, with Ka-Ling Cheung & Joe Osheroff as part of

our fourth pandemic Playmaking over zoom in July 2020. Olive made her acting debut in her own play *Money Definitely Positively 100 Percent Doesn’t Buy Happiness*, directed by and co-starring Angel Desai, as a part of THICK AS THIEVES, *The Relationship Plays*, Playback 2022. Olive can be heard on the PROJcast, “The Writers of ‘Smoke & Mirrors, Part II,’” and the most recent episode, “Teens WRITING ON THE WALL.”



Beto O’Byrne (*Author, I.Y.K.Y.K.*, for Aiden, Naseem, & Xavier) is a theatremaker, writer, musician, professor, and culture writer. He is the co-founder of Radical Evolution, a multiethnic, multidisciplinary producing collective based in Brooklyn, NY, and an internationally recognized author of more than 20 plays, screenplays, and original TV pilots. He is currently querying his first novel, set in his *World of Kir* fantasy series, which combines a multicultural celebration of non-Western folklore and history with leftist political theory. He likes Punk Rock, Star Wars, and writing plays for The 52nd Street Project.



Kate (K8) Revels (*Costume Designer*) is grateful beyond belief to be welcomed into the 52nd crew. She is a multi-dimensional artist, primarily of light and space installation. She graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University and thanks The 52nd Street Project for their special existence! Instagram: @k8.kinetics



Lynne Marie Rosenberg (*Director, THE ONES IN LINE*, by Charly E. Simpson, for Melanie, Sarah, & Xavier; 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. Lynne’s done 6 Playmaking shows and worked on more Teen Ensemble projects than she can remember. Outside The Project she is the creator and host of the TV show Famous Cast Words, creator and host of the YouTube series Kid Prompts, a member of the Fulbright Specialists Roster, and teaches at NYU Tisch/Playwrights Horizons Theater School. She spends her free time writing, drawing, watching birds, and looking for ways to help. www.LynneMarieRosenberg.com



Hannah Santos (*Tammy/Zombie, BRAINS!*, by Adaire Kamen) joined the Project in the fall of 2019 with her debut play *KITTY AND STEVEY*, with dramaturg/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 was on the crew for the Fall 2024 Playmaking production *TO THE MOON*, *Plays That Blast Off*. Hannah can be heard on the PROJcast: “Writers & Performers of *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*,” and the most recent episode, “Teens WRITING ON THE WALL.”



Charly E. Simpson (Author, *THE ONES IN LINE*, with Melanie, Sarah & Xavier) is a playwright, TV writer, and teacher currently living in Los Angeles. Working with The 52nd Street Project is always a delight and this is her fifth play with the organization. She has been both a writer and performer for two One-on-Ones (HERE. ME. NOW., The Present Plays in 2015 and CLOTHES LINES, *Plays from the Costume Trunk* in 2016) and has been a writer for two Two-on-Twos (CURRENT MOOD, The Relatable Plays in 2018 and AGAINST THE GRAIN, *Plays That Fight Back* in 2019). She's very happy to be back.



Adolfo Sinchi (*Ben, BRAINS!*, by Adaire Kamen) joined the Project in the spring of 2019. His first play was *My Friend/Enemy*, dramaturged and directed by Austin Regan; with Jose-Maria Aguila, Ross Cowan, and Cody Wilson, as part of OUT OF THE BLUE, *The Unpredictable Plays*, in March 2019. Adolfo made his acting debut in his own play *The Truth About Dragons and Polar Bears*, directed by, and co-starring Kyle Cameron, as a part of THICK AS THIEVES, *The Relationship Plays*, in October 2022. He fought Sebastian Arroyo in *Battle of The Crystal Shop*, part of BOOM! WHAM! POW! Stage Combat 2023. He created and performed the dance piece *Where Are We?!?!?* with John Maddaloni, as part of the 2024 Dancemaking concert WITH THE FLOW. He can be heard on the most recent episode of the PROJcast, "Teens WRITING ON THE WALL."



Liz Sweeney (Director, *salty*, by Naomi Lorrain for Kaytie & Melanie) Project debut. She is an educator, facilitator, performer, theater director, and filmmaker. Liz is a proud mother, Latina, and a native of the Bronx. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting from Marymount Manhattan College and a Master of Arts in Applied Theater from the City University of New York. Early in her career, Liz concentrated on developing youth theater productions in New York City while serving as the Associate Program Director for the Creative Arts Team. In 2012, she founded the Park Avenue Youth Theater Company, producing and directing over twenty original shows. Liz has actively participated in various educational conferences and collaborated with diverse communities. Her experiences have allowed her to engage with individuals from numerous backgrounds, enriching her understanding and impact in the field of arts education.



Aiden Vasquez (*Anthony/Count Vraxis, I.Y.K.Y.K.*, by Beto O'Byrne) 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*. He was on the crew for the Fall 2024 Playmaking production

TO THE MOON, *Plays That Blast Off*. He can be heard on the most recent episode of the PROJcast, "Teens WRITING ON THE WALL."



Emi Verhar (Sound Designer, she/they) is a sound designer and proud graduate of Marymount Manhattan College's BFA film program. Her work often examines female identity, friendships, and queerness. As a long-time fan of The 52nd Street Project, she's so excited to be helping out on her first show for them! When Emi isn't editing, she's rewatching *Pirates of the Caribbean* and drinking too much coffee.



Charlie Zuckerman (Stage Manager, he/him) is a ping pong fiend, finding The 52nd Street Project a safe space to foster this obsession. This is also his 52nd Street debut! A graduate of The Boston Conservatory, he is currently working as a freelance theatre artist. Charlie is incredibly grateful to have been an Intern this past semester at the Project and cannot thank the Project staff enough for their kindness, flexibility, and joy. Much love to Bridget and his ever-supportive family.



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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List current as of April 5, 2024

**ONE
Performance
ONLY!!**

The 52nd Street Project Presents...

**Fivey
CONCERT**
Friday,
June 13. \$0.00

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**The 2025
Dancemaking
Concert**

**Friday, June 13th
@ 7:30pm**

**FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 TENTH AVENUE**

**Program Director
Garrett Kim**

**Program Instructor
Elli Brown**

and...

SHOUT!!

**Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director - - Carol Ochs, Executive Director
Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director**

Stylized by Love Jones

TWIST AND SHOUT

THE 2025 DANCEMAKING CONCERT

Dance Instructor
Elli Stovall Brown

Program Director
Garrett Kim

~~BAD~~ GOOD LUCK!

Dancemaking Ensemble
MUSIC: "Axman Jazz (Don't Scare Me Papa)"
by Squirrel Nut Zippers
THEME: Today's Date

FRENEMIES

Jessica Elie-Pierre & Meredith Garretson
MUSIC: "Headlock (Instrumental)" by Imogen Heap
THEME: Frenemies

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: Our piece is inspired by "The Black Swan" and friends who are enemies that are trying to come together. A story that happens to many people.

FRIENDSHIP GAMES

Brooke Pendelton & Lennox T. Duong
MUSIC: "Delicate Jumps" by René Aubry
THEME: Toybox

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: When Lennox and I first met, we realized we were both injury prone (LOL). So we led the choreography with caution while still trying to keep the dance "cute." Friendship is an important part of life so incorporating it with the bittersweet concept of childhood since I am graduating (woo!) was really important to us.

DISASTROUS

Mateo Santoni & Evan Fisk
MUSIC: "Nihavend Sirto" by Bilal Karaman
THEME: Controlled Chaos

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: I think that this was very interesting to choreograph and very goofy in the thinking process but I think overall it was pretty good.

FULL CIRCLE

Katty Lopez & Grace Fojtik
MUSIC: "The Winner Is" by DeVotchKa
from Little Miss Sunshine
THEME: Full Circle Moment

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: Working on this dance was so much fun especially working on it with Grace because of how easy it was to bond with Grace and how fun it was to be partners with her and create a dance that I love everything about. I especially loved the dance move where we're across from each other and playing a hand game together because it reminded both of us how it felt to be kids because the move represents how kids act in a way, it brought on a feeling of nostalgia for both me and Grace.

GOOFY ENEMIES

Milo Phelps & Bito Boucher
MUSIC: "Beethoven Virus - Ultimate Version"
by logan feece
THEME: Comedic Interaction

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: Thank you for coming. I want to tell you how this was a very unique and new creation that was super fun and fun to learn with Bito. Again thank you for coming to GOOFY ENEMIES.

GIRL TRANSFORMATION

Bella Gallindo & Aishling Pembroke
MUSIC: "Mr. Moustafa" by Alexandre Desplat
from The Grand Budapest Hotel
THEME: Girlhood

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE: My favorite moment is in the beginning and the end of the dance.

The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit arts organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional artists to create original art. The **Dancemaking** program gives 6 Project members a chance to express themselves creatively through movement. Over the nine weeks of Dancemaking class, led by **Elli Stovall Brown** with support from Program Director **Garrett Kim**, these young choreographers and performers developed their own movement vocabulary. With their adult partners, they explored shapes, pathways, actions, and choreographic elements to create their own original piece. The resulting dances are featured in tonight's performance.

The 52nd Street Project Staff

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Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Diego Caoili, Production Manager

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**Project Alumni*

“TWIST AND SHOUT”

Production Staff

Stage Manager & Lighting Designer

Bri Weintraub

Flyer/Program Art

Love Jones

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caoili

Cam Ops: Xavier Espinal & Loyal Jones

Photographer

Ahmed Attia

See the rest of the program!

Scan the QR code at right to see the full program, which includes
biographies and photos of the company!



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
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Sweatshirts	\$ 35 . 0 0
Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts	\$ 40 . 0 0

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TWIST AND SHOUT is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

COMING UP ON OUR STAGE!

GOING GOING GONE



The 2025 Place Play
Saturday, July 12th - 7:30 p.m.

ONE OF A KIND, *The Quirky Plays*

The 2025 Rumson One-On-Ones
Friday, August 15th - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 16th - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 17th - 3:00 p.m.

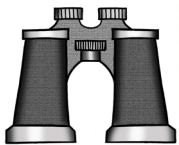
The 2025 Songmaking Concert



Friday, October 24th - 7:30 p.m.

Fall 2025 Playmaking

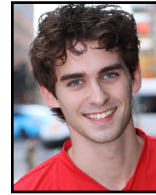
Friday, December 12th - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 13th - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 14th - 3:00 p.m.



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 Wan-Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Fall of 2025. Thanks!

BIOGRAPHIES



Bito Boucher (*Team Milo*) is a recent NYU Tisch graduate, studying with Atlantic Acting School, Experimental Theatre Wing, The International Theatre Workshop in Amsterdam, and the Stanislavski Brecht and Beyond program in Berlin. Credits Include: *The Seagullmachine*, *The Bacchae*, *The Book Signing*, *Anxiety Is the Dizziness of Freedom*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Billy Elliot the Musical*. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time DANCEMAKING! Insta: @bitobouch



Elli Stovall Brown (*Lead Instructor*) is THRILLED to be back as the Dancemaking Instructor alongside Garrett leading this session. She began her time at the Project as a volunteer for Dancemaking 2017 & 2018 and was so honored to step into the instructor role for Dancemaking in 2019 culminating in the Dancemaking show, STEP ON IT. She has also participated in Artmaking, as well zoom Playmaking during the pandemic, and was a dramaturg for *The Incident*, by Rebeca, as a part of WALKING ON SUNSHINE, *The Radiant Plays*, in the summer of 2021. This current Dancemaking group of young people and volunteers are so special. They have so much freedom and creativity in their movement and she is so excited for you all to see them tell their stories through their new language of dance!



Lennox T. Duong (*Team Brooke*) This is Lennox's second time volunteering with The 52nd Street Project. Lennox loves the Project and the safe, creative space it provides to the members and volunteers. She is so excited to share the piece she and Brooke put together for Dancemaking!



Jessica Elie-Pierre (*Dancemaker*) joined the Project in the winter of 2020 with her debut play *Mokina and Cupy*, with dramaturg/director Grace Rex, starring Jennelle Chu and Erin Neuffer, as part of the zoom Playmaking presentation SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays, Pt. I*, presented in January 2021. Jessica collaborated with composer Avi Amon for their song "Caught in a Trap," performed first by Emily Skeggs, and then reprised by Bonnie Milligan as part of the HIDDEN GEMS online gala, June 2020. Jessica made her acting debut in *The Hammer*, a one-on-one written by, directed by, and co-starring Ana Soto, as a part of ARE WE THERE YET, *The Location Plays*, August 2022. She was a part of our first-ever Place Play, NOW WE'RE HERE in August 2023, collaborating with Molly Carden on *Twin Sister Twist*. She battled Sophia Zukoski in *Selena*, in *Cut-astrophe*, as a part of THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT, Stage Combat 2024. Jessica can be heard on the PROJcast Episode 32, "The Writers of 'Smoke & Mirrors, Pt. I'".



Evan Fisk (*Team Mateo*) is a performer and teaching artist in NYC making their debut with *The 52nd Street Project*. They were enticed by their colleague Lynne Rosenberg's enthusiasm for the work done here and, upon learning more, had to get involved. They are a lover of dance and the power of movement to express the internal experiences words cannot. In addition to performing Evan is a Pilates teacher who enjoys encouraging people to discover the strength and expressive possibilities of their bodies.



Gracie Fojtik (*Team Katty*) is thrilled to be dancing with Katty. She directed Isaac's "*2 Lions With Different Goals*" as a part of *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*, *The Breezy Plays*, *Spring Playmaking 2024*. 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.



Bella Galindo (*Dancemaker*) 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 and Noah Gaynor, as a 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 battled Raquel Chavez in *Sister Sister*, as a part of *PUNCH IT UP!*, Stage Combat 2025. Bella and Ciana became Smart Partners in October 2023. Bella can also be heard on the PROJcast (episodes 41 & 47).



Meredith Garretson (*Team Jessica*) is a NY-based artist. She can currently be seen in the A24 film *FRIENDSHIP* opposite Tim Robinson, Paul Rudd and Kate Mara, which is in movie theaters nationwide. She stars as Kate Hawthorne in *RESIDENT ALIEN*, whose fourth season is currently airing on USA, Syfy and Peacock. She played Ali MacGraw in the limited series *THE OFFER*. Most recently, Meredith starred in the Drama Desk nominated play *BLOOD OF THE LAMB* at 59E59. She is a founding member of the Society Theatre Company. NYU Grad Acting alumni, class of 2017.



Garrett Kim (*Program Director*) 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.



Katty Lopez (*Dancemaker*) joined the Project in the fall of 2021 with her debut play *Furniture and Trees*, dramaturg/directed by Lisa Benavides-Nelson, starring Krystel Lucas & Christian DeMarais, as part of *PIECE OF CAKE*, *The Slice of Life Plays*. Katty made her acting debut in Nina Braddock's *Pickle Spaceball*, a one-on-one, directed by and co-starring Precious Sipin, as a part of *ON THE MOVE*, *Plays That Will Transport You*, July 2023. Katty battled Maryn Shaw in *World Math Cup*, as a part of *THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT*, Stage Combat 2024. She can be heard on Episode 39 of the PROJcast, The Writers of "Piece of Cake," as well as Episode 43, "My Amazing Ice Cream Achievement" & Episode 56, "Amazing Racers" alongside her Smart Partner Adaire Kamen.



Aishling Pembroke (*Team Bella*) is so excited to be a part of Dancemaking with this amazing group! Some other shows she has been involved with here at the Project are "*The Argent Life*," as part of *SEEING STARS*, Stage Combat 2019; Project Exchange 2019, Win Playmaking; "*2013 Rematch*," as part of *KNUCKLE SANDWICH*, Stage Combat 2022; *Happier Than Ever*, by Molly Carden, as part of *ARE WE THERE YET*, *The Location Plays*, August 2022; "*Friends Going Through Life*," with Samaria, as a part of *WITH THE FLOW*, *Dancemaking 2024*; "*Misery Loves Company*" by Logan, as a part of *TELL IT LIKE IT IS*, Replay 2025.



Brooke Pendleton (*Dancemaker*) joined the Project in the summer of 2022. Her first play was *Pass The Mike*, directed by Helen Cespedes; with Sarah Quigley & Jose-Maria Aguila, as part of the production *WALKING ON SUNSHINE*, *The Radiant Plays*, *Step Two*. Brooke was a Songmaker in 2022 collaborating with Lorenzo Pipino. Their songs were presented in the concert *JELLY OF MY JAMS*, "*For Granted*" sung by Neil Tyrone Pritchard, "*Avocado Toast*" sung by Kendall Cafaro, and "*Pumpkin Spice*" sung by Lili Cooper. This last song was reprised at our gala *JUST CHILLIN'*, sung by Rebecca Naomi Jones. Brooke can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 30, "The Writers of 'Walking on Sunshine, Step Two.'"



Milo Phelps (*Dancemaker*) 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*. He made his performance debut with his own piece "*Zeke*," a 15 year-old hunter, in *SETTING THE TONE*, Character Workshop, 2025. Milo can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50, "Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR."



Mateo Santoni (*Dancemaker*) 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. He performed his own piece “*Eli*,” a banana-selling orangutan, in SETTING THE TONE, Character Workshop, 2025. Mateo can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, “Zany Playmakers.”



The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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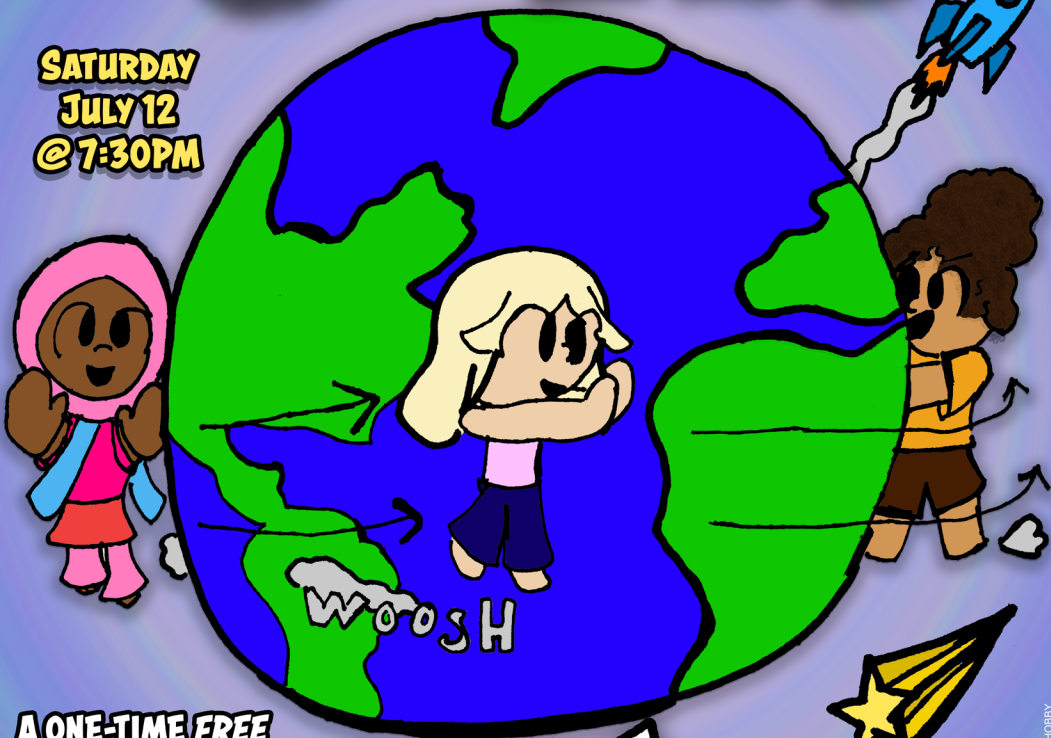
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Lindsay Fram & Mason Pettit
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THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS...

GOING GOING

NATALIE HIRSCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KAT ALMIRÁÑEZ
ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SATURDAY
JULY 12
@ 7:30PM



A ONE-TIME FREE
PERFORMANCE BY
PROJECT MEMBERS

THE FIVE ANGELS
THEATER
789 10TH AVE.

52PROJECT.ORG
FOR INFO & TICKETS

GONE

THE 2025 PLACE PLAY

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Diego Caoili, Production Manager

Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director

Garrett Kim, Program Director

Carol Ochs, Executive Director

Chyanne Peña, Receptionist*

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Ana Soto-Gonzalez, Marketing and Events Manager

Liz Sweeney, Director of Education

Caylyn Wan-Creager, Education Associate

Bri Weintraub, Director of Design & Production

Yazzy Wilder, Operations Manager*

Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

“GOING GOING GONE”

Production Staff

Director

Kat Almirañez

Composer/Pianist

Avi A. Amon

Stage Manager & Lighting/Sound Designers

Bri Weintraub

Interns & Costume Designer

Sky Edward & Amirah Hancock

Livestream Team

Technical Director: Christian Santoni || Cam Op: Diego Caoili

Photographer

Enzo Viado

Props Designer

Diego Caoili

House Management/Chef

John Sheehy

GOING GOING GONE, the show you're seeing tonight, is an original play created over a period of 5 days! Five 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 **Le Bon-Bon Murder Estate!**

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:

“A Hotdog Adventure”

Müstand..... Mamadou Diaw
Heinz Omari Chancellor

“Flooded Dreams”

Marie Picasso Shaddai Blake-Soden
Dijion..... Dela Meskienyar

“The Unlikely Duo”

VP Kylie Johnson Ariane Alcide
Salisa Sinthia “Scammer Sally” Salazar Precious Sipin

“Le Bon Bon Gone Wron”

Chef R Grace Guity-Reyes
Muffy Molly Carden

“Dying to Stay Alive”

Arthur Angel Drew Welsh
Georgy Chris Dooly

Closing: Entire Company

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Robert Goldberg	Shirley Rumierk, alumni member
Annie Hausmann	José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Natalie Hirsch	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Mark Whatley	

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Just visit www.52project.org and click "Support Us."

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!**



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

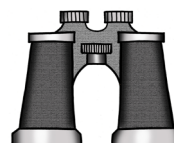
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Thermal Mugs	\$ 15 . 0 0
WABWAGA T-shirts	\$ 15 . 0 0
Sweatshirts	\$ 35 . 0 0
Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts	\$ 40 . 0 0

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. **GOING GOING GONE** is a unique production that brings together several age groups into one company.



GOING GOING GONE is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



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 Wan-Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Fall of 2025 & Spring of 2026. Thanks!

COMING UP ON OUR STAGE!

The 52nd Street Project Presents... **The 2025**

One of A Kind

ARTWORK BY KATE ABBRUZZESE

NATALIE HIRSCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRÁÑEZ
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

the QUIRKY plays!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15
AT 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16
AT 3:00 P.M.

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

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10TH AVE. NY, NEW YORK

ADMISSION FREE!
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BIOGRAPHIES



Ariane Alcide (*Project Member*) joined the Project in September 2024 with her playmaking debut *PERFECT AND MESSY*, dramaturgy by Kennedy Dider, directed by Annaabelle Cousins, with Arielle Goldman & Jasmine Johnson, as a part of TO THE MOON, *Plays that Blast Off*. Tonight marks her performing debut with the Project. Ariane can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, "Playmakers Go TO THE MOON."



Avi Amon (*Composer, Music Director*) is a vTurkish-American composer and sound artist. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of the Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Theater work includes music, songs, & sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Bushwick Starr, Danspace, NYTW, OSF, Page73, The Public, Spoleto, Target Margin, and Waterwell. Avi's film scores have been featured at Cannes, Disney, HBO, Hulu, Slamdance, Tribeca Film Festival & more. Recent: music & sound design for THE FOLLOWING EVENING w/600 Highwaymen (PAC NYC); a musical, THROUGH THE SUNKEN LANDS w/Tim Lord (Kennedy Center); music for the feature film, THE FISHERMAN, dir. Zoey Martinson (2024 Venice Film Festival); and a multimedia performance piece, MOTHER/ROAD. Avi is a MacDowell Fellow and has received artistic support from the Jonathan Larson Grant, Reel Change Film Fund, Berkeley Rep, Dramatists Guild, Goodspeed, Mercury Store, New Dramatists, The O'Neill, Rhinebeck, and others. Avi teaches at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing. www.aviamon.com



Shaddai Blake-Soden (*Project Member*), joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with her playwriting debut, *THE TWIST*, dramaturge/director by Krystal Lucas, starring Jasmin Johnson & Margaret Odette, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. She made her performing debut with the Project in Kaaron Briscoe's *THE CALL*, directed by and co-starring Mirirai. Shaddai can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



Molly Carden (*Team Grace*) New York credits include: *Emotional Creature* (Signature Theatre), *Please Continue* (Ensemble Studio Theater), *How To Live On Earth* (Colt Coeur), *Cherry Smoke* (Working Theater), *Downtown Race Riot* (NYSF/Powerhouse Theater). Regional: *Midwives* (George Street Playhouse), *Indecent* (Weston Playhouse), *The Carpenter* (Alley Theatre), *Translations* (Studio Theatre), *Frankenstein* (Denver Center), *On Clover Road* (CATF), *Emotional Creature* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *The Great Immensity*, (The Civilians at Kansas City Repertory Theatre). Molly is currently developing her solo show *I Came Back For Molly*, which she has performed at NYSAF, the TANK and Durango Playfest. Film: *Untitled Marvel Movie* (Upcoming), *Motherland* (MPI Original Films). Proud member of Colt Coeur, EST, and The 52nd Street Project. B.F.A. from UNCSA.



Omari K. Chancellor (*Team Ramsis*) is a Brooklyn-based actor, filmmaker, and teaching artist. They are so excited to be spending another season with the young theater-makers of The 52nd Project. Omari can be seen in Peter Farrelly's film *The Greatest Beer Run Ever* and Ryan Murphy's *American Love Story* for FX. He has also appeared in **amani** for the National Black Theatre Off-Broadway as well as the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Chancellor is a 2021 graduate of the NYU Grad acting program and a current faculty member at Gotham Writers Workshop.



Mamadou Diaw (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with his playwriting debut, *ESCAPE*, dramaturg/directed by Don Nguyen, starring Grace Rex & Michael Braun, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. He made his performing debut with the Project in *GO TO SLEEP*, or, *THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL* with Marchánt Davis, who wrote, directed and co-starred, as a part of LOOK WHO'S TALKING, Plays That Speak to You, One-on-Ones, August 2024. Mamdou can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



Chris Dooly (*Team Angel*) is overjoyed to perform in his first production at the Project after volunteering with the Spring 2025 Playmakers. A producer, actor, and writer from the Washington, D.C. metro area, Chris earned his B.F.A. in Drama from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, training at the Stella Actor Studio of Acting. During and after attending NYU, Chris performed with Shakespeare in the Square, Washington Square Park's premier Shakespeare troupe. He is the founder of DMforAdventure, a boutique TTRPG service for kids and adults, and co-founder of Jack & Grace Productions, an indie film studio.



Sky Edward (*Costumes, Crew, Butler, she/her*) is thrilled to be part of The 52nd Street Project team! She is a rising junior studying Drama at NYU and has a deep passion for theater. Sky is eager to continue collaborating on exciting new projects like this in the future. She extends her gratitude to the entire cast and crew for their dedication and a special thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering support!



Grace V. Guity-Reyes (*Project Member*) joined the Project January, 2024 with her playwriting debut, *KFC, YOU HAD TO BE THERE*, dramaturgy & direction by Olivia Gilliatt, with Erin Neufer and Carl Hendrick Louis; as a part of A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*. Grace was a songmaker in 2024 for the concert MUSIC TO MY EARS. She partnered with composer Sarah Slipp on the songs, "Left Sock Protest," originally sung by Tommy McDowell, and reprised at our 2025 gala by Jin Ha; "An Actual Emotional Song," sung by Belén Moyano; and "The Rise of the Cats," sung by Neil D'Astolfo. Grace can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.



Amirah Hancock (*Costumes, Crew*) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *The Doll & The Pendant*, dramaturged & directed by Krystel Lucas with Mozhan Marnó and Jennifer Kim, as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Jed Clarke's *The Return of Agent Marks vs. Turkey Vulture* with Annabelle Cousins for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show Crybaby with Molly Carden for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. She wrote and performed in her Playback show College Adventures alongside Arielle Goldman for HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, *The Surprising Plays*, in October, 2019. She performed in *Madame President and the Golden Girl* by Tahnee Freda, directed by Paton Ashbrook for the 2020 Two-on-two production ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, *Plays You Can't Ignore*. Amirah is a member of the current Teen Ensemble and performed in, and assisted with the costumes for EYE OF THE STORM in 2023. She was Costume Assistant on FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*, in December 2023; and A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*, in April 2024. She can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 45, "Looking Into the EYE OF THE STORM."



Dela Meskienyar (*Team Shaddai*) is thrilled to be back at The 52nd Street Project. A forever superfan of the Project and its wildly talented young people, she is endlessly inspired by the imagination, bravery, and magic of these young storytellers.



Precious Sipin (*Team Ariane*) 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, THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT, Stage Combat 2024, and SETTING THE TONE 2025. For more information feel free to visit: www.PreciousSipin.com Thanks to Ariane for a fun week and being a brilliant scene partner!



Angel Drew Welsh (*Project Member*) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. His first play was *Snow Day*, dramaturged and directed by Jeremy Stoller, with Grant Harrison as Bob, and Elia Monte-Brown as Olivia. It was part of the production OFF THE WALL, *The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. Angel starred in T-Time, by George Babiak, alongside Korey Jackson who also directed the show as part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays That Will Transport You*, in July 2023. Angel was a Songmaker for the 2023 concert TUNE IN, where he collaborated with Adam Laporte, and their songs were performed by Major Curda, Kendal Hartse, & Natalie Walker. He battled Christian DeMarais, in "Gamer Rage," as a part of THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT, Stage Combat 2024. Angel can also be heard on the PROJcast: Episodes 41, "Zany Playmakers" & Episode 47 - "Tuning In The Songmakers."

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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The 52nd Street Project Presents...

The 2025 One-On-Ones



ADMISSION FREE!
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FOR INFO
& TIX

ARTWORK BY KATE ABRUZZESE

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ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

KAT ALMIRÁÑEZ
ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

CAROL OCHS
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 AT 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 AT 3:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 AT 3:00 P.M.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER
739 10TH AVE. NY, NEW YORK

ONE OF A KIND: The Quirky Plays!

The August 2025 One-on-Ones || August 15 - 17, Five Angels Theater

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Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

George Kielty

Costume Designer

Kate (K8) Revels

Sound Designer

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Hancock, Adolfo Sinchi,

Charlie Zuckerman

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Kate Abbruzzese

Livestream Team

Technical Director: Christian Santoni

Cam Ops: Diego Caoili

& Loyal Jones

Trip Chef

John Sheehy

Photographer

Joaquin Caoili

ONE OF A KIND is a production of our One-on-One program, which is designed to give children the opportunity to enjoy the undivided attention of a professional theater artist who serves as friend, mentor, and collaborator.

The young members you see tonight travelled to the country (**Rumson, NJ**) for a week of rehearsing, swimming, tubing, great food, and all sorts of fun!

Act One

One of A Kind Theme Song lyrics by John Sheehy

GET DOWN

written by May Treuhaft-Ali; directed by Belén Moyano; for Mia Gordon, age 11
(Quirk: Loves retro dance moves)

Maya, brown dog Mia Gordon
Sharon, chef Belén Moyano

"Dogs Don't Disco" lyrics by May Treuhaft-Ali

OH SNAP!

written & directed by Sam Gravitte; for LJ Wilder, age 11
(Quirk: Has a secret super power)

Billy Breeze, 12yo artist LJ Wilder
Dad Sam Gravitte
Little Bro Sam Gravitte
MTA transit worker Sam Gravitte

"The Powerful Question" lyrics by Sam Gravitte

FLOWER WHISPERER

written by Jenelle Chu; directed by Alicia Moeller; for Makiyah Gray, age 12
(Quirk: Talks to trees and plants)

BeeBee Stinger Makiyah Gray
Daisy Dew Alicia Moeller
The Queen Katie Gil

"The Secret of BeeBee" lyrics by Jenelle Chu

OPERATION GUMDROP

written & directed by Garrett David Kim; for Zion Lamonge, age 12
(Quirk: Dances when excited)

Caramel Sandiego Zion Lamonge
Lemonhead Baltimore Garrett David Kim
Duchess Bubblegum Amirah Hancock

"We Can Save Today" lyrics by Garrett David Kim

Intermission

Act Two

MIKEY MASHBURN RUNS THE FLOOR

written by Sathya Sridharan; directed by Mitchell Winter;
for Nezai Dickey, age 10
(Quirk: "Moo's" after getting bad news)

Mikey, 11yoNezai Dickey
Dr. Heffner, cow therapistMitchell Winter
BaristaAmirah Hancock
Marty Mashburn, supervillain dadCharlie Zuckerman
Marlee Mashburn, supervillain momKerry Warren

"Not Meant For This Life" lyrics by Sathya Sridharan

FEARLESS

written by Taina Carrion-Perez; directed by Angelica Toledo;
for Liesl Pereira, age 12
(Quirk: Has a strong stance about rock climbing)

Sarah, 11yoLiesl Pereira
Elena, 26yoAngelica Toledo

"What If?" lyrics by Taina Carrion-Perez

BIRD HAUS

written & directed by Kerry Warren; for Khloe Castillo, age 12
(Quirk: Very good at soothing animals)

Skyz, the pigeonKhloe Castillo
Talon, the chickenKerry Warren
Manager DoveCharlie Zuckerman

"Sky Shade & Tea" lyrics by Kerry Warren

PURPLE: THE FASTEST COLOR

written & directed by Ronald Peet; for Darius Beans, age 11
(Quirk: Loves purple (the color), knows how to say it in every language)

Malik, 5th grade runnerDarius Beans
Coach DaveRonald Peet

"Something Purple" lyrics by Ronald Peet

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!



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

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ONE OF A KIND is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

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

BIOGRAPHIES



Darius Beans (*Malik, PURPLE: THE FASTEST COLOR*, by Ronald Peet) joined the Project in September 2024 with his playmaking debut, *CORY & MICHEL TOGETHER*, with dramaturgy by Michael Propster & directed by Marchant Davis, starring Grantham Coleman & Paton Ashbrook, as a part of *TO THE MOON, Plays That Blast Off*. Darius can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, "Playmakers Go TO THE MOON."



Francie Brewster (*Stage Manager*) is from New York and a recent graduate of Williams College where she wrote and directed plays. She interned with the Project two years ago and is GIDDY to be back! She hopes you enjoy the show.



Taina Carrion-Perez (*Playwright, FEARLESS*, for Liesl) This is Taina's first play she's written for The 52nd Street Project! Previously, she was a part of the backstage crew for *ON TOP OF THE WORLD, The Triumphant Plays*. She has also volunteered in the Playmaking class, where she was the dramaturg for Nezai. She would like to thank the Project for this opportunity and thank Leisl and Angie for playing their parts!



Khloe Castillo (*Skyz, BIRD HAUS*, by Kerry Warren) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. Her first play was *DREAM COME TRUE*; dramaturged by, directed by and starring Krystel Lucas, with James Yaegashi, as part of the production *OFF THE WALL, The Zany Plays*, in December 2022. Khloe debuted as a performer with her piece "The Reopened Circus," with Stephanie Lane, as a part of *WITH THE FLOW, Dancemaking 2024*. Khloe can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, "Zany Playmakers."



Jenelle Chu (*Playwright, FLOWER WHISPERER*, for Makiyah) At the Project: *MUSIC TO MY EARS*, Songmaking concert 2024, "Sad Days to Happy Days" by Makiyah & Erika Ji; *INFINITY & BEYOND, The Ultimate Plays, in Becoming A Manager*, by Arden; *STUFF & NONSENSE, Plays From The Prop Closet*, with Thiana in *Sweet Tooth Goes to Candyworld*, by Christina Quintana; *GOOD VIBRATIONS, Plays With Sound Foundations*, with Melanie in *How to Survive*, by Michael Walek; *TAKE IT FROM THE TOP, "Goodbye"* lyrics by Antonella, music by Lydia Breckon; *It All Started with Coffee and Tea*, Pandemic Playmaking, by Sarah; *SMOKE & MIRRORS, The Tricky Plays, in Mokina & Cupy*, by Jessica; *THICK AS THIEVES, The Relationship Plays*, with Lanai in her play *Peeps & Pulitzers*.



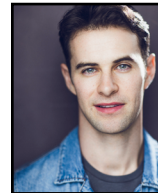
Sam Crabtree (*Sound Designer*) is a New York comedian, actor, and writer who is excited to be doing his first project with the Project! Sam looks forward to you hearing all the sounds and thinking "Wow! That guy understands what a sound is." You can find more info on what he's up to at Samcrabtree.com, or on Instagram @thismachinemakespuns.



Nezai Dickey (*Mikey Mashburn, MIKEY MASHBURN RUNS THE FLOOR*, by Sathya Sridharan) joined the Project in January 2025 with his Playmaking debut, *DREAMS*, dramaturgy and direction by Christian DeMarais, starring Michael Braun, Marinda Anderson, & George Babiak, as a part of *ON TOP OF THE WORLD, The Triumphant Plays*. This marks his performing debut at the Project. Nezai can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



Mia Gordon (*Maya, GET DOWN*, by May Treuhaft-Ali) joined the Project in September 2024 with her playmaking debut, *THE BEST FRIENDS DREAM*, dramaturgy and direction by Lyla Rachel Becker, starring Nancy Giles & Ben Mehl, as a part of *TO THE MOON, Plays That Blast Off*. This marks her performing debut with the Project. Mia can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, "Playmakers Go TO THE MOON."



Sam Gravitte (*Playwright/Director, Dad/Little Bro/MTA Transit Worker, OH SNAP!*, for LJ) is honored to return to The 52nd Street Project after a hiatus meditating under a tree (aspirational). He is a fan of all quirks, and is grateful to Project leadership that they're finally giving quirks their moment on the Five Angels Theater stage. Sam's previous Project productions include *The Thrill of the Fight*, where he was in a fight, and Ethan's play *SODA!*, where he was in a (video game) fight. Big thanks to his family, the Project, and his incredible collaborator LJ!



Makiyah Gray (*Beebee Stinger, FLOWER WHISPERER*, by Jenelle Chu) joined the Project in January, 2024 with her Playmaking debut *The Best Friends*, with dramaturgy and direction by Kaileela Hobby, and starring Christy Escobar and Shaunette Renée Wilson; as a part of *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, The Breezy Plays*. Makiyah became a Songmaker in 2024 teaming up with composer Erika Ji on the songs "Sad Days to Happy Days to Sad Days," sung by Jenelle Chu; and "Hot Tub to Roller Coaster," sung by Angel Desai, which was then reprised at our *DRAWING THE LINE* gala, where it was performed by Marinda Anderson. She made her acting debut at the Project with *OFF THE MAP*, the July 2024 Place Play. Makiyah can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50 *Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR*.



Amirah Hancock (Crew) joined the Project in the fall of 2017 with her playwriting debut *The Doll & The Pendant*, dramaturged & directed by Krystel Lucas with Mozhan Marnó and Jennifer Kim, as a part of STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*. She made her acting debut in Jed Clarke's *The Return of Agent Marks vs. Turkey Vulture* with Annabelle Cousins for the 2018 One-on-Ones, GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*. She created the Stage Combat show *Crybaby* with

Molly Carden for the 2019 production SEEING STARS. She wrote and performed in her Playback show *College Adventures* alongside Arielle Goldman for HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, *The Surprising Plays*, in October, 2019. She performed in *Madame President and the Golden Girl* by Tahnee Freda, directed by Paton Ashbrook for the 2020 Two-on-two production ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, *Plays You Can't Ignore*. Amirah is a member of the current Teen Ensemble and performed in, and assisted with the costumes for EYE OF THE STORM in 2023. She was Costume Assistant on FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*, in December 2023; and A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*, in April 2024. She can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 45, "Looking Into the EYE OF THE STORM."



Kim Jinhyoung (Composer/Music Director) has volunteered at the Project since 2018. Since then Kim has contributed as a composer on many projects including Songmaking, Filmmaking, Playmaking, Dancemaking, Flying Solo, Playback, and in 2024 made his Project debut as an actor & director in Sean Kenealy's MORE THAN L4, with Oliver as a part of LOOK WHO'S TALKING, *Plays That Speak to You*, One-on-Ones!



George Kielty (Lighting Designer) is a theatrical artist from Philadelphia, PA. He focuses on lighting, with the occasional dips into acting and directing. This is his first design with the Project, but he has worked for them many times in the past. This project is the coolest, the team is so delightful and the work they do is amazing. Hope you enjoy the show!



Garrett David Kim (Playwright/Director, *Lemonhead* Baltimore, *OPERATION GUMDROP*, for Zion; 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 (*Caramel* San Diego, *OPERATION GUMDROP*, by Garrett David Kim) joined the Project in the spring of 2023 with his debut play *THE RACE*, dramaturgy & direction by Alex J. Gould, starring Sergio Mauritz Ang & 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. He performed his own monologue "Mark," dramaturgy & direction by Adam LaPorte, as a part of SETTING THE TONE, *The 2025 Character Workshop*. Zion can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil.



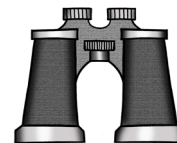
Alicia Moeller (Director, *Daisy Dew*, *FLOWER WHISPERER*, by Jenelle Chu for Makiyah) has been involved with The 52nd Street Project since 2017. She is thrilled to be a part of this set of One-On-Ones! Alicia started as an intern at the Project, and then worked as an Education & Management Assistant before becoming a volunteer. Most recently, Alicia volunteered with the 2025 Replay program as a dramaturge/director. Over the years at the Project, she has sound designed, backstage crew-ed, and supported members in various after-school programs like Homework Help and Stage Combat. Break a leg to the cast and crew of The Quirky Plays!



Belén Moyano (Director, *Sharon*, *GET DOWN*, by May Truehaft-Ali, for Mia) is super excited to return to The 52nd Street Project! She last appeared live in 2024's Songmaking Concert: MUSIC TO MY EARS, performing "An Actual Emotional Song" by Grace & Sarah Slipp. Previously she performed in 2019's TAKE IT FROM THE TOP, performing "Spirit Skeleton" by Antonella & Lydia Breckon. The song still lives rent free in her mind, especially after reprising the song in the 2020 Virtual Gala: GAME CHANGERS. In the 2021 Virtual Gala: HIDDEN GEMS, she sang "I Don't Want You to Go, You Can Go," by Jai-Lyzz & Julio Vaquero Ramos. Belén is thrilled to share the stage with Mia and bust a move!



Ronald Peet (Playwright/Director, *Coach Dave*, *PURPLE: THE FASTEST COLOR*, for Darius) is a marathoner, meditator, and SmartPartner alum. Recently recognized by the American Theater Wing with an Obie Award for his work in Raja Feather Kelly's *The Fires* at Soho Rep, he can currently be seen on Apple TV Plus' *Bad Monkey* fighting for ecological justice, riding bicycles around the Bahamas (his real life birthplace!) and vibing hard with a capuchin monkey. He has been a fan of and involved with the 52nd St project since 2018 and a fan of Darius since 2025. Proud uncle, brother, son, grandson, godfather, godson and friend/family member. Amor Fati! Wabi Sabi!



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 Wan-Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Fall of 2025 & Spring of 2026. Thanks!



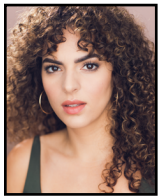
Liesl Pereira (*Sarah, FEARLESS*, by Taina Carrion-Perez) joined the Project in September 2024 with her playmaking debut, *FATE CAN BE STRANGE*, with dramaturgy and direction by Tasha Gordon-Solmon, starring Sasha Diamond & Michael Propster, as a part of TO THE MOON, *Plays That Blast Off*. Liesl can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 53, “Playmakers Go TO THE MOON.”



Kate (K8) Revels (*Costume Designer*) is grateful beyond belief to be return to The 52nd Street Project. Previously at the Project: *WRITING ON THE WALL*, Teen Ensemble One-Acts, May 2025. She is a multi-dimensional artist, primarily of light and space installation. She graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University and thanks The 52nd Street Project for their special existence! Instagram: @k8.kinetics



Sathya Sridharan (*Playwright, MIKEY MASHBURN RUNS THE FLOOR*, for Nezai) Broadway: *Life of Pi*. Off-Broadway: *Glass. Kill. What If If Only*. (Public), *Winter's Tale* (Mobile Unit), *Richard II* (WNYC), *Wives* (Playwrights Horizons), *An Ordinary Muslim* (New York Theater Workshop), *India Pale Ale* (Manhattan Theater Club), *Two Brown Porters* (The Pool Plays), *Two Mile Hollow* (WP Theater). TV: “Little America”, “Succession”, “Kaleidoscope”, “Blindspot”, “Elementary”, “Prodigal Son”, “Two Sentence Horror Stories”; Film: *The Whale*, *Minor Premise*, *Ben and Suzanne: A Reunion in 4 Parts*, *Black And White and Red All Over*, *Bikini Moon*. Princess Grace Award (Grace Le Vine). Host of *Mafia! Live NYC*. MFA: NYU. Proud 52nd Street Project volunteer and 13 time undisputed ping pong heavyweight champion. [Ed. note: *The truth of this last sentence is extremely disputed.*]



Angelica (Angie) Toledo (*Director, Sarah, FEARLESS*, by Taina Carrion-Perez for Liesl; she/her) has been working with The 52nd Street Project family since 2017 when she started as an intern and is thrilled to be back again at the Project! Recent credits include: Off-Broadway: *BREAKING THE STORY* (*Second Stage*) TV: *VIAL* (*pilot*); *THE EQUALIZER* (CBS); *WECRASHED* (AppleTV+); *JOYFULLY JADED* (Amazon). Regional: *NOW BECOMES THEN* (*Actors Theatre of Louisville*); *HOME(s)* (ATL/*Humana Festival*). Other NYC Credits: *DIPPED IN HONEY* (EST New Play Festival); *WOMEN WHO MARCH* (*Feinstein's 54 Below*); *TERMINAL 5* (NYTF); *SPECIAL* (NYNWF); *LORDES* (Columbia).

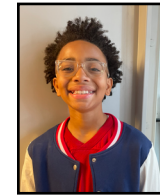


May Treuhaft-Ali (*Playwright, GET DOWN*, for Mia) Project debut. May is a playwright and dramaturg from Queens, New York. She is currently a 2050 Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop and a member of Youngblood at Ensemble Studio Theatre. She has previously participated in writers' groups at Page 73, Ars Nova, Clubbed Thumb and the Playwrights Realm, and she was the 2022-23 Van Lier Fellow at Rattlestick Theater. Her plays have been produced at Barrington Stage Company and Boston Court

Pasadena, and developed with JACK, The Movement Theatre Company, MCC Theater, Irish Repertory Theatre, Cape Cod Theatre Project, The Jungle and Westport Country Playhouse. She has received commissions from Cleveland Play House, South Coast Repertory and Barrington Stage.



Kerry Warren (*Playwright/Director, Talon, BIRD HAUS*, for Khloe) 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. 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



Julian “LJ” Wilder (*Billy Breeze, OH, SNAP!*, by Sam Gravitte) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with his playwriting debut *NOT MY SPRINKLES*, dramaturgy and direction by Nolan Doran, with Omar Metwally & Bill Camp; as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. Julian became a Songmaker in 2024 teaming up with composer James Powers on the songs “*Motivation*,” sung by Greg Hildreth; “*True Potential*,” sung by Major Curda; and “*Just Leave Him*,” sung by Kendal Hartse, which was then reprised at our DRAWING THE LINE gala, where it was performed by Taylor Trenchsch. Julian can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48 Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT.



Mitchell Winter (*Director, Dr. Hubert “Heff” Hefner, MIKEY MASHBURN RUNS THE FLOOR*, by Sathya Sridharan) is absolutely stoked to be back at one of the greatest places in the world. Most recently at the Project: *2 Lions With Different Goals* by Isaac (A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, *The Breezy Plays*, Actor) He’s loved working on: *Soccer* by Alex (STIRRING THE POT, *The Spicy Plays*, Actor), *The Animals Dance* choreography by Amari (Dancemaking, Performer), *Worship* choreography by Alex (STEP ON IT, Dancemaking, Performer), *Random Friends* by Giovanni (PIECE OF CAKE, *The Slice of Life Plays*, Actor), *New Things* lyrics by Josiah, music by Jonja Merck (TUNE IN, Songmaking, Performer), *Rise From The Lowest* by Ramsis (PEN TO PAPER, Replay, Actor). Mitchell has also had the privilege of being a Smart Partner.”



Charlie Zuckerman (*Crew*; he/him) is a ping pong fiend, finding The 52nd Street Project a safe space to foster this obsession. Previously at the Project: *WRITING ON THE WALL*, Teen Ensemble, May 2025. Charlie is incredibly grateful to have been an Intern at the Project and cannot thank the Project staff enough for their kindness, sense of adventure, and joy. B.F.A The Boston Conservatory. Much love to Bridget and his ever-supportive family.

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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The 52nd Street Project Presents

2025 Songmaking Concert

FIVE ANGELS THEATER
789 10th Ave.
Between 52nd
& 53rd.

Friday,
October 24th
at 7:30pm



RAISE YOUR VOICE

Program Director
Garrett Kim

Music Director
Avi A. Amon

“RAISE YOUR VOICE”

THE COMPANY

THE LYRICISTS

Atif Dowidar
Jazziel Herold
Zion King Lamonge
BreeAnna Mack
Sophia Morel

THE SINGERS

Jenelle Chu
Christian DeMarais
Lennox T. Duong
Ali Ewoldt
Lora Lee Gayer
Yonatan Gebeyehu
Sam Gravitte
Andy Ingalls
Evan Isabella
Belén Moyano
Neil Tyrone Pritchard
Gaven Trinidad

THE COMPOSERS/MUSICIANS

Kennen Butler
Cybèle Fasquelle
Jacinth Greywood
Cassidy O’Connell
Ben Page



THE BAND

Stephen Stocking (Guitar)
Danny Ursetti (Drums)
Sam Weber (Bass)

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Avi A. Amon

FALL 2025 INTERN

Caroline Fallona

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Garrett Kim

SOUND ENGINEER

Elisabeth Weidner

STAGE MANAGER & LIGHTING DESIGNER

Bri Weintraub

LIVESTREAM DIRECTOR

Diego Caoili

THE CONCERT

THE DEEP BLUE OF THE BIRDS

Lyrics by Atif Dowidar
Music by Ben Page
Sung by Yonatan Gebeyehu

NEVER TRUST A DAISY

Lyrics by BreeAnna Mack
Music by Cassidy O’Connell
Sung by Lennox T. Duong



THE MASTER OF RPS

Lyrics by Atif Dowidar
Music by Ben Page
Sung by Gaven Trinidad
& Andy Ingalls

A WORLD AWAY

Lyrics by Sophia Morel
Music by Cybèle Fasquelle
Sung by Lora Lee Gayer

THE FIGHT FOR THE HEIGHT

Lyrics by Atif Dowidar
Music by Ben Page
Sung by Andy Ingalls

GHOST BOY

Lyrics by Sophia Morel
Music by Cybèle Fasquelle
Sung by Sam Gravitte



CONEY ISLAND

Lyrics by Jaaziel Herold
Music by Jacinth Greywood
Sung by Neil Tyrone Pritchard

BREEZY TWISTS

Lyrics by Zion King Lamonge
Music by Kennen Butler
Sung by Jenelle Chu

RACE TESLA

Lyrics by Jaaziel Herold
Music by Jacinth Greywood
Sung by Christian DeMarais

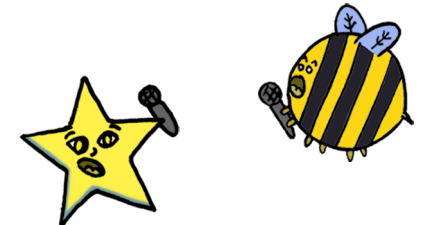
OPEN UP TO ME

Lyrics by Zion King Lamonge
Music by Kennen Butler
Sung by Evan Isabella
& Belén Moyano



LITTLE BIRDIE

Lyrics by BreeAnna Mack
Music by Cassidy O’Connell
Sung by Ali Ewoldt



The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit community-based arts organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional artists to create original art. The Songmaking program partners 52nd Street Project kids with adult composers to create original songs. Over the seven weeks of Songmaking, led by **Avi A. Amon** and Program Director **Garrett David Kim**, these young lyricists explore how their own words and ideas fit together with their composer's music to create songs. Near the end of the program, we bring in a company of singers to perform the completed songs, and share them with an audience.

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
 Avi A. Amon, Musical Director
 Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*
 Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
 Diego Caoili, Production Manager
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 Garrett Kim, Program Director
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**Project Alumni*



RAISE YOUR VOICE is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. 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

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!**



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

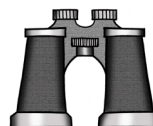
Ear-Things™ (New!) \$ 10 . 00
 Mugs \$ 10 . 00
 Thermal Mugs \$ 15 . 00
 WABWAGA T-shirts \$ 15 . 00
 Sweatshirts \$ 35 . 00
 Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts \$ 40 . 00

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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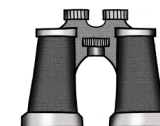
Mark Whitley

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 Wan-Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Spring of 2026.

Thanks!



THE DEEP BLUE OF THE BIRDS

Lyrics by Atif Dowidar

Music by Ben Page

Sung by Yonatan Gebeyehu

There once was a sparrow
whose family was stranded at
sea.

But he had the strength so he
went back to safety.

Ever since then he was training
hard

To fly across the deep vast blue
sea.

I'm Clark, Clark the sparrow and
yes that's me.

Oh my gosh am I ready?

Can I do it?!

Will I die?!

I don't know?!

Oh no Oh no Oh no!

I see the hundreds of sharks
thriving and ready to eat me.

I don't think I'm ready to join my
family.

No I can do this, I can actually
really do this.

I can't give up, I never give up
after all this hard work.

Ok, I'm ready, the sharks aren't
going to get me.

3, 2, 1 and Go!

I need to Go Go Go!

Get away, stop it, get out,

I don't even taste good.

OMG almost there and, I did it,
I actually really did it!

Ooo-Oooo...

Ooo-Oooo...

Ooo-...

Ooo...

There once was a sparrow who
completed his mission

Of traveling across the deep
blue sea

I'm Clark, Clark the sparrow and
yes that's me.

I have completed my destiny.

I finally avenged my family.

I have put all my best.

But it's time for me to rest.

"Goodbye world, see ya soon"



THE MASTER OF RPS

Lyrics by Atif Dowidar

Music by Ben Page

Sung by Gaven Trinidad & Andy Ingalls

DANNY (trying to be champion)

I was walking and walking ever
so confidently

When this weird guy showed up

And wanted to play rock, paper,
scissors.

But I was sure that he wasn't
going to beat me.

So I played and played and
played

ever so confidently.

When I beat this guy that

showed up

And thought he was better than
me

And cried and cried and cried
and cried

And I said WOMP WOMP.

DANNY (spoken)

My name's Danny what's yours?

ELVIN (spoken)

I'm Elvin

DANNY (spoken)

Alright give me the money

ELVIN (spoken)

Whatever

DANNY

I need to be the best while being

cautiously confident

To get this money so my mother
can rest,

You see right now she is dying.

I need to be the best at rock,
paper, scissors.

Be the best at rock, paper,
scissors.

Be the best at rock, paper,
scissors.

So my mother can rest.

Ooo...

Ooo...

Ooo...

So my mother can rest.



THE FIGHT FOR THE HEIGHT

Lyrics by Atif Dowidar
Music by Ben Page
Sung by Andy Ingalls

There once was a sky scraper, hand
Taller than me,
His name was Marcus Who cares that he is tall
And to be taller than him was my I should be the nice king of them
dream all
You see Marcus was very mean,
He thought since he was tall, POW, AH
He was superior of all. YES!

My name is Jake
And I need to make things right
There is no other way than to
fight

I need to be nice to my people
So I can get my height
And for them to be generous
enough
To give me the power
To defeat Marcus
And not let him rot
The other buildings' respected
rights

I am a sky scraper
If the people are not going to
help me
I'll have to deal with Marcus
myself.
It is meant to be
But how can I do this,
When I'm smaller than an ant
That people can flick with their



CONEY ISLAND

Lyrics by Jaaziel Herold
Music by Jacinth Greywood
Sung by Neil Tyrone Pritchard

Sandcastles in the sand
Seashells by the water
Mmm (ooh)
I am happy

Sandcastles in the sand
Seashells by the water
Mmm (ooh)
I am happy

Sand in my feet
Chips and ham and cheese
sandwiches
Watching the fireworks
Smelling the salt in the air
The hot sun gives sunburn
Put suncream on
Ooh Ooh Ooh Ooh

I feel the cold water at the beach
I hate the yucky seaweed
I don't know it's just like ugh

Sandcastles in the sand
Seashells by the water
Mmm (ooh)
I am happy
Mmm (ooh)
I am happy



RACE TESLA

Lyrics by Jaaziel Herold
Music by Jacinth Greywood
Sung by Christian DeMarais

I want to be super fast I want to become a race car
I want to have flashing lights
I want to come in first
I want to become a race car
But I don't know if I can do it

Can't stop at a red light
Can never be late
Don't disappoint my friends
BMW and Lambo

I want to be super fast
I want to have flashing lights
I want to come in first
I want to become a race car
But I don't know if I can do it

Won't come in last
Gonna win that prize money
Won't come in last
Gonna win that prize money
Won't come in last
Gonna win that prize money

Even if I don't win the race
Hopefully my friends will still like
me

I want to be super fast
I want to have flashing lights
I want to be super fast
I want to have flashing lights
I want to come in first



LITTLE BIRDIE

Lyrics by BreeAnna Mack
Music by Cassidy O'Connell
Sung by Ali Ewoldt

Ohh me-from-my-grandmother,
Ohh 100-year-old vase!
Ah! (GASP)
What's that noise?
A little birdie?
What are you doing here?!
Oh are those your friends?
Are you guys having fun?
I hope it doesn't end!
Did you just break my favorite
100-year-old vase!
My 100-year-old vase?..
Leave right now!
Leave!
Leave!

Ohh Ohh Ohh
Oh Oh Oh
Oh Ohh
Ohh
Ohh
Birdiee?
Birdiee?
Please come out!
Ohh Birdiee!

It looks like it's going to rain
Do you have a place to go?
(Twee = no)

Well you can't stay here.
But if you ask me nicely
You'll have no place to fear.

Ohh Ohh Ohh
Please come in!
Ohh Oh
Make yourself comfortable
(sigh)
Oh are you having fun?
Wait!

Please don't touch that!
That's my ancient, old, glass,
sparkly, striped, delicate,
sensitive, passed-down-to-



NEVER TRUST A DAISY

Lyrics by BreeAnna Mack
Music by Cassidy O'Connell
Sung by Lennox T. Duong

I'm so sick of these daisies...
Why~ do you take everything
away from me!
I thought I had such good hair
until you guys showed up!
Like who even does that!
I looked BEAUTIFUL, wonderful
and cool
My roots are on fleek and my
blossoms are cherry
I stand over anybody, I'm big
and tall,
These daisies ain't got nothing
on me!
You girls better watch out!

Never trust a daisy,
Never trust a daisy,
They ALWAYS drive me crazy
So neVERR~ trust a daissy.
Never trust a daisy!

I'm sick of these daisies!
Why are you so rude to
everybody else?
You say you're cool and you'd
never hurt a fly
But didn't y'all try to make a guy
cry then lie?
He looked so blue with those big
sad eyes.
I tried to say hi but I kept walking
by

Why? Oh I tried, I tried,
Oh, I really tried!

Never trust a daisy,
Never trust a daisy,
They ALWAYS drive me crazy
So neVERR~ trust a daissy.
Never trust a daisy!

I'm so sick of these daisies!
Why do people not stick up for
others?
I don't wanna get hurt and I'm
scared to stand up!
But nobody should be treating
people that way!
Friends should treat each other
with kindness
And never spread hate and
negativity
Next time I will shout and yell
To never be a mean girl!

Never trust a daisy,
Never trust a daisy,
They ALWAYS drive me crazy
So neVERR~ trust a daissy.
Never trust a daisy!



A WORLD AWAY

Lyrics by Sophia Morel
Music by Cybèle Fasquelle
Sung by Lora Lee Gayer

[Verse 1]
Escaping with my love,
Is all I've dreamed about.
But it's starting to get crushed,
And now I'm filled with doubt.

[Prechorus]
I dreamed about Olympus,
To finally be your wife,
I dreamed of clouds and
kingdoms
To finally have a chance at life.

[Chorus]
But somehow the gods never
seem to be pleased,
I'm just a mortal and that's all I'll
be.
Love ain't enough to make it you
and me,
We'll forever be a world away.

[Verse 2]
Who was i kidding,
To think we'd be divine.
That I could live forever,
And have you for all time.

[Prechorus]
I dreamed of Mount Olympus,
To finally find my home,
I dreamed of clouds and
kingdoms

But now I just don't know...

[Chorus]
'Cause somehow the gods never
seem to be pleased,
I'm just a mortal and that's all I'll
be.
Love ain't enough to make it you
and me,
We'll forever be a world away.
A world away.
A world away.
A world away.
A world away.



GHOST BOY

Lyrics by Sophia Morel
Music by Cybèle Fasquelle
Sung by Sam Gravitte

[Verse 1]
“Special,” he told you,
“love you forever” is what he told
you,
Made me think I was your best,
You talk to ‘em knowing
They’re the reason my chest
hurts,
The reason my heart won’t rest.

I’m the magic boy,
With special powers,
Yet I still can’t make ‘em stay.
I can talk to trees,
And sing with flowers,
Yet I’m still looking for a way

[Chorus]
To find the light,
And to feel the sun,
But something about me makes
‘em run.
Oh to find someone
Who can understand,
Just when I think I find a friend,
I’m the ghost boy again.

[Verse 2]
“Crazy,” they call me,
“Ugly” is what they call me,
Just cause I don’t look like the
rest,
Guess it’s my destiny, just to
walk alone,

But I’ll be dreaming of the day I
find a home.

I’m the magic boy,
With special powers,
Yet I still can’t make ‘em stay.
I can talk to trees,
And sing with flowers,
Yet I’m still looking for a way

[Chorus]
To find the light,
And to feel the sun,
But something about me makes
‘em run.
Oh to find someone,
Who can understand,
Just when I think I find a friend,
I’m the ghost boy again.

[Post-chorus]
Ghost Boy,
Most boys,
Never have to be the burden,
But somehow I’m always hurtin’
Ghost boy,
Most boys,
Seem to have a lot of friends,
Wish that I was one of them
Them
One of them
How nice it would be just to have
a friend



BREEZY TWISTS

Lyrics by Zion King Lamonge
Music by Kennen Butler
Sung by Jenelle Chu

THE WIND
Why are humans so disgusting
Why can’t they just wear a mask
I want them to feel the breeze
But can’t do it without staying
clean

Talking to myself is like talking to
the wind
But I know I am the wind
Everytime I talk to myself it gives
me a little breeze
To do something that I can
dream

I’m all alone
I’m all alone
When all I have is the trees
And we’re both all alone
I’m all alone
When all I have is the trees
And we’re both all alone

I want to float around
But I can’t that without staying
clear
So why should I
Because I’m all alone

If only there was somebody
That can see and understand
what I mean
One out of a trillion people

Can please to understand me

‘Cause I’m all alone
I’m all alone
When all I have is the trees
And we’re both all alone
I’m all alone
When all I have is the trees
And we’re both all alone

I’m never turning back
No one’s gonna stop me
I’m never turning back
No one’s gonna stop me
With this powerful tornado
Everyone will see
With this powerful tornado
No one’s gonna stop meeeeeee

I will never be alone
Everyone will be stuck in this
tornado with me!
I will never be alone
Everyone will be stuck in this
tornado with me!

‘Cause together you will
understand me
And understand the pain you put
me in
You’ll see what happens when
you torture me!



OPEN UP TO ME

Lyrics by Zion King Lamonge

Music by Kennen Butler

Sung by Evan Isabella & Belén Moyano

SUNRISE

Hope is all what we need
Please sing to me
Open your eyes and tell me
what you see
Every small thing to the biggest
thing
And open up to me and tell me
what you see

Open up to me
And look at me
And please tell me what you see
Open up to me
And look at me
And please tell me what you see

SUNSET

Please listen to me
I'm not sure hope is what I need
A miracle is what I need
It will take me away
Where I believe
A miracle will bring me to what I
need

Open up to me
And look at me
And please tell me what you see
Open up to me
And look at me
And please tell me what you see

SUNRISE

Hope is what we need

SUNSET

Is this everything?

SUNRISE

A miracle is not a blessing

SUNSET

Please explain to me

SUNRISE

But how do you know hope is on
your side

SUNSET

I'm not sure if this is what I need

SUNRISE

You have to believe and try

SUNSET

Cause please without me I can't
understand

TOGETHER

What you're trying to open up to
me

Open up to me
And look at me
And please tell me what you see
Open up to me
And look at me

And please tell me what you see

Open up to me

And look at me

And please tell me what you see

(Continued)



BIOGRAPHIES



Kennen Butler (*Composer, Team Zion*) is a creative and multi-hyphenate born in Flint, MI, but raised in Newburgh, NY. Acting credits include the national tour and revival of *Seussical the Musical*, *Hairspray*, *Songs for a New World*, and *Tommy* among many others. This is their Project debut. They are a guest artist for the American Legacy Theatre as a writer, composer, and assistant director. They are getting their masters from NYU in Musical Theater Writing.



Jenelle Chu (*Performer*) At the Project: Playwright, FLOWER WHISPERER, for Makiyah & Alicia Moeller, as a part of ONE OF A KIND, The Quirky Plays, the 2025 One-on-Ones; MUSIC TO MY EARS, Songmaking concert 2024, “Sad Days to Happy Days” by Makiyah & Erika Ji; INFINITY & BEYOND, *The Ultimate Plays*, in *BECOMING A MANAGER*, by Arden; STUFF & NONSENSE, *Plays From The Prop Closet*, with Thiana in *SWEET TOOTH GOES TO CANDYWORLD*, by Christina Quintana; GOOD VIBRATIONS, *Plays With Sound Foundations*, with Melanie in *HOW TO SURVIVE*, by Michael Walek; TAKE IT FROM THE TOP, “Goodbye” lyrics by Antonella, music by Lydia Breckon; *IT ALL STARTED WITH COFFEE AND TEA*, Pandemic Playmaking, by Sarah; SMOKE & MIRRORS, *The Tricky Plays*, in *Mokina & Cupy*, by Jessica; THICK AS THIEVES, *The Relationship Plays*, with Lanai in her play *PEEPS & PULITZERS*.



Christian DeMarais (*Performer*) is ecstatic to be back at the Project. Most recently he was the Director/Dramaturg for Nezai’s play DREAMS, as a part of Playmaking, spring 2025. You may recognize Christian from his directing / playing a dog owner to his Smart Partner Atif in *RUFFLY SPEAKING* by Cynthia Kaplan or as the super-hero Stamps in *CHAICES*, where he directed and performed alongside Project Legend Aiden. Perhaps you may even remember Christian as a Tree who just wants to get a job so he can move out of his parents house in Katty’s play *FURNITURE & TREES*. There was also another play Aiden wrote where Christian got decapitated, but not sure if this bio is the best place to talk about murder. Regardless, Christian is super grateful to be here (as always) and to have the opportunity to learn from all these brilliant, imaginative, inspiring kiddos!



Atif Dowidar (*Songmaker*) 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*. He performed his own monologue “Turgoek,” dramaturgy & direction by Michael Propster, as a part of the Character Workshop, *SETTING THE TONE*, earlier this year. Atif can also be heard on the

PROJcast, Episode #50 “Playmakers Provide A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.”



Lennox T. Duong (*Performer*) is thrilled to be back with The 52nd Street Project! Lennox loves the Project and the safe, creative space it provides for its members and volunteers. She’s excited to get to dive into and share the songs by the creatively imaginative and talented Project members and collaborators!



Ali Ewoldt (*Performer*) Most recent Project performance: *Axy, SWAMPY FRIENDS*, by Nichholas, as a part of ON TOP OF THE WORLD, *The Triumphant Plays*, Playmaking Spring 2025. Previously performed in the Songmaking concert, *TUNE IN*, fall 2023. Ali has a BA in psychology from Yale University and is a proud Filipina American. Ali lives in Hell’s Kitchen with her husband Mat Hostetler and their adorable dog Mia. @aliewoldt



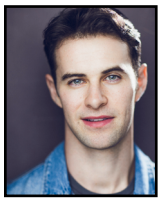
Cybèle Fasquelle (*Composer, Team Sophia*) is a French-American composer, songwriter, and performer whose work fuses cinematic pop, soul, and theatre storytelling. A graduate of Harvard and Berklee, she is currently pursuing her Master’s in Musical Theatre Writing at Berklee NYC. This marks her debut with The 52nd Street Project, where she’s thrilled to help young voices bring their stories to life through music. Raised between Paris, Beijing, and Los Angeles, Cybèle brings a global lens to her work, blending heart and imagination to create art that uplifts, empowers, and connects across cultures.



Lora Lee Gayer (*Performer*) is thrilled to be back with the Project! This is one of her favorite events every year! She previously performed “Freedom” lyrics by Amari, music by Sean Pallatroni, in the 2018 Songmaking concert.



Yonatan Gebeyehu (*Performer*) is an actor based in Brooklyn, New York. Most recently at the Project he performed the song “*The Feeling Lonely to Exciting*,” with lyrics by Josiah and music by Jonja Merck in *TUNE IN*, the 2023 Songmaking concert. In New York, he’s performed at TFANA, Clubbed Thumb, The Flea, Ars Nova, Moliere in the Park, Bedlam, New Georges and MTC. On TV, he’s appeared on the *Prodigal Son* on Fox, *Elementary* on CBS, and *Madame Secretary* on CBS. He has an MFA in acting from University of California San Diego, and a B.A in English from Columbia University.



Sam Gravitte (*Performer*) is honored to return to The 52nd Street Project stage and to be working with Sophia and Cybèle. He's thrilled that Project leadership are finally allowing him to sing at the Five Angels Theatre, after spending the last few years convincing them that he actually works a lot in musicals. Sam's previous Project productions include *The Thrill of the Fight*, *Soda*, and *Oh, Snap!* Outside of the Project, he's an actor and playwright (who really does do a lot of musicals, he swears).



Jaaziel Herold (*Songmaker*) joined the Project in January 2025, with his playwriting debut, *SONY TROUBLE*, dramaturgy and direction by Michael Propster, starring Aaron Costa Ganis, Stephanie Jean Lane, & Josh Lewis as a part of ON TOP OF THE WORLD, *The Triumphant Plays*. Jaaziel can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



Andy Ingalls (*Performer*) is delighted to be working with The 52nd Street Project again. Previously at the Project, he directed and co-starred in *SOMEWHERE IN THE GALAXY*, by Garrett David Kim, for José, as a part of ON THE MOVE, *Plays That Will Transport You*, the 2023 One-on-Ones; and he was the dramaturg and director for *SEEN OR SEED* by Aiden, as a part of the Replay Readings, PEN 2 PAPER, 2024. He is also lucky enough to assist the Homework Help team, who are true champions. MFA:

NYU.



Evan Isabella (*Performer*) is so happy to be back at the Project. She has volunteered with the Project since 2019 as Intern, Sound Designer, Performer, and Stage Crew and has treasured every second of it! Evan is currently pursuing a professional performance and directing career. She is Assistant Director for Pivot Theatre Company's youth performing arts in NJ, currently working on *Matilda the Musical*. She graduated Muhlenberg College, with a major in Theatre. Most recently at the Project, Evan directed

BRAINS, by Adaire Kamen for the Teen Ensemble One Act Festival, *WRITING ON THE WALL*.



Zion King Lamonge (*Songmaker*) joined the Project in the spring of 2023 with his debut play *THE RACE*, dramaturgy & direction by Alex J. Gould, starring Sergio Mauritz Ang & 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. He performed his own monologue "Mark," dramaturgy & direction by Adam LaPorte, as a part of SETTING THE

TONE, *The 2025 Character Workshop*. He co-starred with Garrett David Kim in Garrett's *OPERATION GUMDROP*, as a part of ONE OF A KIND, *The Quirky Plays*, the 2025 One-on-Ones. Zion can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, *Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil*.



BreeAnna Mack (*Songmaker*) joined the Project in January 2025, with her playwriting debut, *THE JOURNEY WITH THE HORSE AND THE DOG*, dramaturgy and direction by Krystel Lucas, starring Crystal Dickinson & Brandon Dirden as a part of ON TOP OF THE WORLD, *The Triumphant Plays*. BreeAnna can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."



Sophia Morel (*Songmaker*) joined the Project in January 2025, with her playwriting debut, *THE ROYAL TWINS*, dramaturgy and direction by Grace Rex, starring Brian Bock & Mallory Portnoy as a part of ON TOP OF THE WORLD, *The Triumphant Plays*. Sophia can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 55, "Worldly Playmakers."

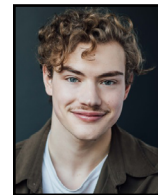


Belén Moyano (*Performer*) is super excited to return to The 52nd Street Project! She last directed and co-starred as Sharon in *GET DOWN*, by May Truehaft-Ali, for Mia, as a part of ONE OF A KIND, *The Quirky Plays*, the 2025 One-on-Ones. Previously, she appeared live in 2024's Songmaking Concert: MUSIC TO MY EARS, performing "An Actual Emotional Song" by Grace & Sarah Slipp; and in 2019's TAKE IT FROM THE TOP, performing "Spirit Skeleton" by Antonella & Lydia Breckon. The song still

lives rent free in her mind, especially after reprising the song in the 2020 Virtual Gala: GAME CHANGERS. In the 2021 Virtual Gala: HIDDEN GEMS, she sang "I Don't Want You to Go, You Can Go," by Jai-Lyzz & Julio Vaquero Ramos.



Cassidy O'Connell (*Composer, Team BreeAnna*) is a recent graduate of NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, working as a composer, vocalist, music director, and copyist. She is thrilled to be making her 52nd Street Project debut with BreeAnna and excited to see their vision come to life on stage! Biggest shoutout to The 52nd Street Project team for making this such an incredible experience for everyone involved!



Ben Page (*Composer, Team Atif*) This is Ben's first time at The 52nd Street Project and they have had a blast writing three cool new songs with Atif. Born and raised in Toronto, Ben has worked in a variety of roles in theatre from acting, music directing, to composing. Their composition debut *Leaving Eden* (book and lyrics by Jenny Waxman) won best musical in the New York Musical Festival in 2019. In January, their newest project *All the Cows Are Dead* will be premiering with Talk is Free Theatre in Canada.

They are currently in their second year at NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program.



Neil Tyrone Pritchard (*Performer*) is a Liberian-American, New York City -based Actor/Singer/Teaching Artist. Project credits include PEN 2 PAPER, Replay 2024; and JELLY OF MY JAMS, Songmaking concert 2022. He is currently on staff at The Park Avenue Armory where he brings Arts Education to public schools throughout the five boroughs. He is A Proud New York City Public School Kid, A Member of LAByrinth Theater Company, where he serves as Associate Artistic Director.



Stephen Stocking (*Guitar*) The 52nd Street Project is one of Stephen's absolute favorite places to make theatre. He has appeared in a whole bunch of Project shows, as an actor, director, and composer/musician. Some favorite roles at the Project 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 (and also friendship).

Most recently he directed Ishi's play *WISHES*, as a part of TO THE MOON, *Plays That Blast Off*, Playmaking 2024. Outside of the Project, Stephen has appeared on Broadway in *Death of a Salesman*, on TV in *The Good Fight*, and in many other projects.



Gaven D. Trinidad (*Performer*) is a first-generation Fil-Am theatremaker. Most recently at the Project they were the dramaturge, director and co-star with Logan in his play *MAGIKS*, as a part of the Playback production *SKELETON IN THE CLOSET*, *The Secretive Plays*, in February 2024. Outside of The 52nd Street Project, their work examines the intersections of race, immigration, queerness, ritual, and community. <https://www.gaventrinidadtheatre.com>



Danny Ursetti (*Drums*) is a New York based composer/orchestrator/drummer. Selected writing credits: *Mimosa: The Disobedient Plant* (Broadway's Future Songbook, LCT), *Regretting Almost Everything* (Concept Album streaming everywhere). Danny's teaching artist work with the Project includes: Songmaking 2017; 2017 Gala MUSICAL CHAIRS, "Leaves" (lyrics by Sabrina, performed by Taylor Tresch); 2018 Two-on-Two production *CURRENT MOOD*, *The Relatable Plays*; 2020

Pandemic Playmaking production *PLEASE STOP POLLUTING, PEOPLE!* by Kaytie. Upcoming: *Once Every Hundred Years* (lyrics by William Finn) at 54 Below, November 2025. dannyursetti.com



Sam Weber (*Bass*) is a Grammy-winning, Brooklyn-based bassist, composer, arranger, and educator. You can hear Sam's playing on recordings featuring the likes of Sting, Lin Manuel-Miranda, Josh Groban, and Tom Scott, as well as in videos from The 52nd Street Project's 2021 virtual gala, *GAME CHANGERS*. Sam has also had the immense privilege of playing live for The 52nd Street Project at the 2019 gala *POWER IN NUMBERS*, as well as the 2025 gala *DRAWING THE LINE*.



Elisabeth Weidner (*Sound Designer*) is a Sound Designer, Composer, and a Project Mom. Most recently at the Project she designed the sound for *ON THE MOVE*, *Plays That Will Transport You*, the July 2023 One-on-Ones.

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Douglas Kabel	Kathy Keane	Nicholas Galbraith	
Drew McCoy & Amy Aquino	Katy Homans & Patterson Sims	Nichole Day	



SUGAR & SPICE - Plays to Savor, ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon

THE MAN IN A BLUE SHIRT

Written by Penelope G., age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Betsy Hogg

Michael, 18 year old human Kelvyn Mitchell
Ivy, Poison Ivy plant Natalie Walker

"Outside" lyrics by Penelope G.

THE LOST FAMILY

Written by Chad B., age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Marchánt Davis

Isabelle, 200000000000 years old, professional ballerina Keren Lugo
Lowell, 100000000000 year old, successful car salesman Neil D'Astolfo
Customer Stuart Green
Police Stuart Green
Dog Stuart Green

"Sister" lyrics by Chad B.

THE DOJO

Written by Matt P., age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Nolan Doran

Johny Yoke, 100 year old egg, 1000 in egg years Yonatan Gebeyehu
Musterd Marckus, 10 year old container of mustard Nadia Quinn
Grape Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez
Michael Relish Stuart Green
Kid Brigitte Gendron & Kaytie Gil

"Let's Do It" lyrics by Matt P.

THE STORY OF LYLA & BOB

Written by Dylan L., age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Michael Propster

Bob, 11 year old boy Ross Cowan
Lyla, almost 1 year old puppy Shaunette Renee Wilson
Neighbor Jai-Lyzz Rodriguez
Starbucks Worker Caelenne Arango-Ramirez
Announcer John Sheehy

"The Happy Song" lyrics by Dylan L.



SUGAR & SPICE – Plays to Savor, ACT 2

THE SISTER & THE BROTHER

Written by Kaylee (Zoe) G., age 9; Dramaturg/Director: Kea Trevett

Cathren, 18 year oldStephanie Linas

Jake, Cathren's little brother JJ Wilks

"Birthday Love" and "My Annoying Brother" lyrics by Kaylee (Zoe) G.

DIFFERENT WORLDS DIFFERENT DREAMS

Written by Kaylie (Sky) M., age 11

Dramaturg: Caylyn Wan-Creager

Director: Ka-ling Cheung

Cecei, a deer Cecilia Arana

Nicki, a pigeon Jackie Chung

Stepdad John Sheehy

"Horrible Ending" and "Forgetful Trust" lyrics by Kaylie (Sky) M.

THE PARENT THIEF

Written by Zaire B., age 11; Dramaturg/Director: Christian DeMarais

TJ, 13 year old basketball player Joe Holt

LJ, 16 year old trainer Arian Moayed

Parents Backstage Crew

"The Game Changer" lyrics by Zaire B.

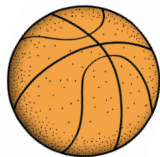
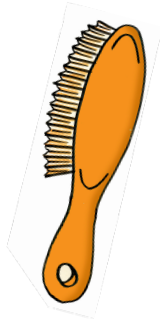
THE MYSTERY

Written by Lalune L., age 10; Dramaturg/Director: Annabelle Cousins

Piper, 16 year old daughter Adrienne C. Moore

Alena, mother Celia Keenan-Bolger

"Heartbreak" and "The Fight of Love" lyrics by Lalune L.



"SUGAR & SPICE" Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

Lighting Designer

Finn Meyercord

Costume Designers

Christianne Bakewell

Sound Designer

Hannah Birch Carl

Stage Manager

Charlie Zuckerman

Projection Designs

Diego Caoili and

The Project Projection Archive

Prop Design and Construction

Diego Caoili

Backstage Crew

Caelnne Arango-Ramirez, Brigitte

Gendron, Kaytie Gil, Stuart Green, Jai-Lyzz

Rodriguez

House Management

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Design

Diego Caoili & Caylyn Wan-Creager

Livestream Team

Director: Diego Caoili

Camera Ops: Naseem Abdul-Majeed
& Hansel Benedicto

Interns

Brigitte Gendron & Caroline Fallona

Weekend-Away Chef

John Sheehy

Teen Counselor

Tiffany Yam

Fight Choreo Consultant

Kerry Warren

The 52nd Street Project Staff

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director

Avi A. Amon, Musical Director

Ahmed Attia, Director of Development*

Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant

Diego Caoili, 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, Director of Design and Production

Chyanne Pena, Operations Manager*

Charlie Zuckerman, Education Assistant

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. **SUGAR & SPICE** 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 **Carolyn DeSena** and her family in **Rumson, New Jersey**.

The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

Lisa Benavides-Nelson	Valerie Kay
Rachel Chanoff	Micah Kroeze
Billy Crudup	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
Annie Hausmann	José Soto, Jr., alumni member
Natalie Hirsch	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Korey Jackson	Alexandra Vassilaros
Mark Whatley	

Special Thanks

We are grateful to our Rumson community **Courtney & Andrew Setteducate**, **Virginia Castillo & Mike Mayer**, **Jessica & Jon Lee**, **Areti & Andrew Cheves**, **Ellen, Rich, Anna Phillips**, and **Victoria & Joe Bowley**, **Kris Bunnell**, & **Michael Bloom**. And to our in-class volunteers **Julia Weber**, **Jenni Swam**, **Anna Phillips**, **Matthew Provenza**, **Wyatt Fenner**, **Jake Pino**, and **Elizabeth Stahlmann**.



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 "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

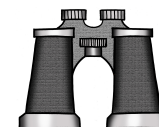
Ear-Things™ (New!)	\$ 10 . 0 0
Mugs	\$ 10 . 0 0
Thermal Mugs	\$ 15 . 0 0
WABWAGA T-shirts	\$ 15 . 0 0
Sweatshirts	\$ 35 . 0 0
Adidas Quarter-Zip Athletic Shirts	\$ 40 . 0 0

WHAT'S COMING UP?



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 Wan-Creager (creager@52project.org). We are currently looking for interns for the Spring of 2026.
Thanks!



BIOGRAPHIES



Avi Amon (*Composer, Music Director*) is a Turkish-American composer and sound artist. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Avi is a MacDowell Fellow and has received artistic support from the Jonathan Larson Grant, Reel Change Film Fund, Berkeley Rep, Dramatists Guild, Goodspeed, Mercury Store, New Dramatists, The O'Neill, Rhinebeck, and others. Avi teaches at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing. www.aviamon.com



Cecilia Arana (*Cecei, DIFFERENT WORLDS DIFFERENT DREAMS*, by Kaylie) has loved The 52nd St Project for her entire NYC lifetime. It is her favorite theater. Others include--the Directors Theater, Intar, La Mama, and Yara Arts. Wynn Handman directed her solo version of the book *Dreaming in Cuban*. She co-directs/performs with NYC Kids Project, <http://www.nyckidsproject.org> a puppetry/theater nonprofit that teaches inclusion in the schools. She hosted PBS series "Backyard Safari" where she and a greenscreen gnome taught science to kids. She is working on a solo show about the Armenian women in her life ("Three Women and a Grapefruit"), recently commissioned by the Object Movement Puppetry Festival.



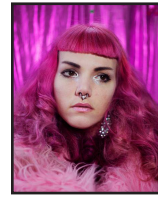
Zaire B. (*Playmaker, THE PARENT THIEF*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. He can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. "Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE."



Christianne Bakewell (*Costume Design*) is delighted to be working with The 52nd Street Project once again. 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. Previously at the Project, *TO THE MOON, Plays That Blast Off*, Playmaking 2024. When not designing, Christianne works as a Costume Department Coordinator and Assistant Costume Designer in both live theatre and film.



Chad B. (*Playmaker, THE LOST FAMILY*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. He can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. "Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE."



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 third 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.



Ka-Ling Cheung (*Director, DIFFERENT WORLDS DIFFERENT DREAMS*, by Kaylie) is an actor, teacher and director. She is thrilled to be back at the Project. At the Project, Ka-Ling has had the honour and played a cougar (the animal!), an octopus, a young girl and a dying girl. Outside of the Project, when Ka-Ling is not acting, teaching or directing, she loves visiting bakeries, seeing shows, and smothering her cat. Ka-Ling is a proud member of The Actors Center.



Jackie Chung (*Nicki, in DIFFERENT WORLDS DIFFERENT DREAMS*, by Kaylie) first volunteered with The 52nd St. Project in 2009. She has performed and/or directed two One-on-One and two Playmaking shows. And after a long stint in LA where she had a couple kids, drank green juice and missed the Project terribly, she is thrilled to be back for more. Jackie has performed on stages in NY and regionally, but is best known for portraying Laurel Park on the Amazon Prime series, *The Summer I Turned Pretty*.



Annabelle Cousins (*Dramaturg/Director, THE MYSTERY*, by Lalune; she/her) is a Brooklyn-based actor & director who has worked with The 52nd Street Project for the last 8+ 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 in numerous programs at the Project. Outside of theatre, Annabelle is the Training & Performance Manager for Aesop, leading their education department and events. She also sits on the board of The Neighborhood Theatre Project, a community engagement driven theatre company. The 52nd St Project is her favorite place to be, and she is thrilled to be back directing for this round of Playmaking.



Ross Cowan (*Bob, in THE STORY OF LYLA AND BOB*) is overjoyed to be back at The 52nd Street Project, his last appearance being way back in 2019's *OUT OF THE BLUE: The Unpredictable Plays*, in which his schoolyard bullying got so out of hand his teacher had to fly to space and blast him with superpowers to get him to stop. Lesson learned. Ross has also worked offstage at the Project as a volunteer with the autumn Playmaking Class, and does some acting other places too when he's not honing his outrageous soccer skills.



Neil D'Astolfo (*Lowell*, in *THE LOST FAMILY*, by Chad; he /him) is an actor, writer and comedian who relishes each and every moment he spends at The Project. Most recently, he was a performer in the Songmaking concert MUSIC TO MY EARS, in November, 2024, singing Grace's song "The Rise of The Cats," with music by Sarah Slipp. He has been a proud volunteer at The 52nd Street Project since 2017. WABWAGA!



Marchánt Davis (*Director/Dramaturg*, *THE LOST FAMILY*, by Chad) is a Brooklyn based actor, writer and producer originally from Philadelphia, PA. He has been volunteering at the Project since 2016. He holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch Graduate Acting Program.



Christian DeMarais (*Director*, *THE PARENT THIEF*, by Zaire) is ecstatic to be back at the Project. Most recently he was a performer in RAISE YOUR VOICE, the Songmaking concert in October, 2025. You may recognize Christian from his directing / playing a dog owner to his Smart Partner Atif in *RUFFLY SPEAKING* by Cynthia Kaplan or as the super-hero Stamps in *CHAICES*, where he directed and performed alongside Project Legend Aiden. Perhaps you may even remember Christian as a Tree who just wants to get a job so he can move out of his parents house in Katty's play *FURNITURE & TREES*. There was also another play Aiden wrote where Christian got decapitated, but not sure if this bio is the best place to talk about murder. Regardless, Christian is super grateful to be here (as always) and to have the opportunity to learn from all these brilliant, imaginative, inspiring kiddos!



Nolan Doran (*Director/Dramaturg*, *THE DOJO*, by Matt) is a writer, director, mentor and Tony-nominated producer. He has been working with The 52nd Street Project since 2018, directing for Playmaking both in-person and during COVID, virtually. Most recently he was the director / dramaturg for *NOT MY SPRINKLES*, by Julian, starring Omar Metwally & Bill Camp, as a part of *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*, *The Scrumptious Plays*, in December 2023. Nolan holds an M.F.A. from The Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU Tisch. www.nolandoran.com @nolandoran.nyc



Yonatan Gebeyehu (*Johnny Yoke*, in *THE DOJO*, by Matt) is an actor based in Brooklyn, New York. Most recently at the Project he performed the song "The Deep Blue of the Birds," with lyrics by Atif and music by Ben Page in RAISE YOUR VOICE, the 2025 Songmaking concert. He previously performed in the 2023 Songmaking concert TUNE IN. In New York, he's performed at TFANA, Clubbed Thumb, The Flea, Ars Nova, Moliere in the Park, Bedlam, New Georges and MTC. On TV, he's appeared on the Prodigal Son on Fox, Elementary on CBS, and Madame Secretary on CBS. He has an MFA in acting from University of California San Diego, and a B.A in English from Columbia University.



Kaylee G. (*Playmaker*, *THE BROTHER AND THE SISTER*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. She can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. "Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE."



Penelope G. (*Playmaker*, *THE MAN IN A BLUE SHIRT*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. She can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. "Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE."



Stuart Green (*Crew/Various Roles*) is an Actor, Writer and Director. He was recently seen at The 52nd Street Project in various roles and on the crew for the December 2024 Playmaking production, *TO THE MOON*, *Plays That Blast Off*. 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



Betsy Hogg (*Director/Dramaturg*, *THE MAN IN A BLUE SHIRT*, by Penelope) 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.



Joe Holt (*TJ*, in *THE PARENT THIEF*, by Zaire) is thrilled to be making his 52nd St. Project debut with a chance to collaborate with one of his favorite writers, Zaire. After moving to New York City over 30 years, Joe Holt has carved out a career as a working professional. He is represented by Stewart Talent in both New York and Los Angeles, commercially by AKA and BBR, and managed by John Baldasare at Venture Entertainment.



Celia Keenan-Bolger (*Alena*, in *THE MYSTERY*, by Lalune) Previously at the Project: Performer at the MUSICAL CHAIRS gala, 2017; *THE CUPCAKE MASTER INTERVIEW*, by Samantha, as a part of LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY, *The Straight Talk Plays*, Playmaking fall 2008. Broadway: *MOTHER PLAY*, *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*, *GLASS MENAGERIE*, *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*, *PETER AND THE STARCATCHER*, *LES MISÉRABLES*,

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE. Off Broadway: Playwrights Horizons, Lincoln Center, Second Stage, New York Theater Workshop, City Center Encores. TV: *The Gilded Age*, *Devil In Silver* (upcoming), *Bull*, *Louie*, *The Good Wife*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Good Behavior*, *Law & Order SVU*. Film: *Diane*, *The Visit*, *Breakable You*. For her work onstage, she has received Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Theater World Awards. For her work in social justice and community care she received the Isabelle Stevenson Tony award and NYCLU Michael Friedman Freedom award. She is a member of The Actors Center, a University of Michigan graduate and has trained to become an end-of-life doula.



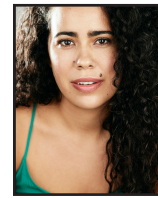
Lalune L. (*Playmaker*, *THE MYSTERY*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. She can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. “Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE.”



Dylan L. (*Playmaker*, *THE STORY OF LYLA AND BOB*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. He can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. “Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE.”



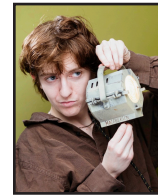
Stephanie Linas (*Cathren*, in *THE SISTER & THE BROTHER*, by Kaylee) is thrilled to return to the Five Angels Theater, home of some of her most beloved memories. Favorite work includes having magic baking powers in Playmaking, fighting over the bodega’s last chocolate cupcake in Stage Combat, and jazz dancing her heart out in Dancemaking. Outside this building, Stephanie recently finished a run of *What the Constitution Means to Me* at RhinoLeap Theater, appears on your screens and devices in national commercials and independent films, and writes and produces short films and miniseries.



Keren Lugo (*Isabelle*, in *THE LOST FAMILY*, by Chad) is thrilled to finally be making her Project debut after years of admiring the exciting work happening here! She’s especially excited to bring Chad’s beautiful play to life! She is an actor and educator originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico and now based in Brooklyn, NY. Recent credits include plays at The Public Theater, Soho Rep, INTAR, Page 73, La Jolla Playhouse and LCT3. Education: University of Puerto Rico and NYU Graduate Acting.



Kaylie M. (*Playmaker*, *DIFFERENT WORLDS DIFFERENT DREAMS*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is her Playmaking debut. She can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. “Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE.”



Finn Meyercord (*Lighting Designer*, he/him) is a trans, Brooklyn-based lighting designer and theatrical electrician. He’s so happy to be back at The 52nd Street Project with this amazing team. A recent graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, his favorite credits as LD include & all our yesterdays (Superposition House, The Flea), Matt & Ben (kindakismet, Nubox Theater), Ghetto Hor D’oeuvres: Baldwin 101 (Oye Group, JACK), Calendar Girls (Harrison Players), and various Playmaking and Dancemaking projects with 52nd Street! Finn is always looking for new opportunities. Find his work and contact him @finnmeyercorddesigns on Instagram.



Kelvyn Mitchell (*Michael*, in *THE MAN IN A BLUE SHIRT*, by Penelope) This is Kelvyn’s first Playmaking after being introduced to The 52nd Street Project by his friend Jake Pino. It’s been such a fun experience, and can’t wait for everyone to see Penelope’s amazing work.



Arian Moayed (*LJ*, in *THE PARENT THIEF*, by Zaire) is an Iranian-born, Emmy and Tony nominated actor, and co-Founder of Waterwell, an award-winning community production non-profit. He is the proud father of Project members Olive and Ivy. This marks Arian’s debut with The 52nd Street Project. As a writer/director, Arian created the Emmy-nominated *The Accidental Wolf* and *The Courtroom*. Notable acting credits: *A Doll’s House* (Tony nomination, opposite Jessica Chastain), Broadway’s *The Humans* (Drama Desk Award), *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Tony nomination, opposite Robin Williams), *Guards at the Taj* (Obie Award), *Succession* (2 Emmy nominations), *Love Life* (NAACP nomination), *Spiderman: No Way Home* (Marvel), *Inventing Anna* (Netflix), *You Hurt My Feelings* (A24), *Fountain of Youth* (Apple/Skydance) and *Nobody Wants This* (Netflix). [Photo by Derrick Leung.]



Adrieen C. Moore (*Piper*, in *THE MYSTERY*, by Lalune) is thrilled to be returning to the Playmaking Series again! She has been a 52nd Street Project Volunteer for over 10 years. Joining us in 2012 as an in-class volunteer, Adrienne debuted in her first playmaking series production in Spring of 2013 with Joanne Marie in *RIVER MADNESS*, as a part of *STAND BY ME, The Reliable Plays*. She has also lent her sultry voice to the Songmaking program. In 2020, she sang “BBFF” in the *GAME CHANGERS* Songmaking virtual gala and “Change” in the 2021 *HEAR ME OUT* concert series. This show marks Adrienne’s 4th performance with the playmaking program series. She cherishes the wonderful stories the project teens come up with and the wild and crazy adventures that they send her on.



Matt P. (*Playmaker*, *THE DOJO*) joined the Project in the fall of 2025. This is his Playmaking debut. He can be heard on the PROJcast episode 60. “Everything Nice, The Playmakers of SUGAR & SPICE.”



Michael Propster (*Dramaturge/Director*, *THE STORY OF LYLA & BOB*, by Dylan) 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



Nadia Quinn (*Musterd Marckus*, in *THE DOJO*, by Matt) is an actor, musician, & writer who’s loved working with The 52nd Street Project on two Songmaking cycles and a truly iconic Playmaking in which she portrayed a English-accented gingerbread man whose arm fell off (a career highlight). She’s constantly inspired by the kids’ imaginations and thrilled to be part of the Project’s joyful storytelling this year. Outside of 52nd Street, Nadia can be seen on stage performing original comedy music, singing with the MADJamBand, and on the big screen (Spielberg’s *West Side Story*), & little screen (*Succession*, *Black-ish*, *Love Life*, and more).



John Sheehy (*Stepdad*, *DIFFERENT WORLDS DIFFERENT DREAMS*, by Kaylie) is a writer, director, actor, & lyricist; and has been a full-time employee of The 52nd Street Project since 1998. At the Project, he has written, performed and directed dozens of shows, stage-managed, and sound designed; as well as being the chef on program retreats. He is a producer/editor and occasional host of the Project’s podcast, The PROJcast. He has an MFA in Dramatic Writing from Brandeis University. His plays have been seen in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Louisville. He is married to the composer, and frequent Project volunteer, Kim D. Sherman.



Kea Trevett (*Dramaturg/Director*, *THE SISTER & THE BROTHER*, by Kaylee) is a theater artist, filmmaker, and educator. Kea teaches theater & writing for TFANA, Lincoln Center, and Sarah Lawrence, and is a founding member of Apocalyptic Artists Ensemble, for whom she recently directed a tour of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, produced in collaboration with Red Bull Theater. She is an Outfest Screenwriting Fellow, a NYSCA Support for Artists grantee, and a NYFA Women’s Fund recipient. A past Playmaking volunteer, this is Kea’s first time directing at the Project! She is so inspired by the limitless imagination of these playwrights.



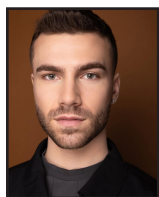
Natalie Walker (*Ivy*, in *THE MAN IN A BLUE SHIRT*, by Penelope) is a performer and writer. Most recently at the Project: *Loud*, in *INNER THOUGHTS*, by Jai-Lyzz, as a part of TELL IT LIKE IT IS, Replay 2025. Natalie has performed at many Project Galas, this marks her Playmaking debut. Stage: *The Last Bimbo of the Apocalypse* (New Group), *The Big Gay Jamboree* (Orpheum), *White Girl in Danger* (Second Stage), *Alice By Heart* (MCC). Screen: *Search Party*, *BoJack Horseman*, *The Other Two*, *The Hamlet Factory*. Writing featured in Bookforum and New York Magazine.



Caylyn Wan-Creager (*Dramaturg*, *DIFFERENT WORLDS DIFFERENT DREAMS*, by Kaylie) is the Education Associate and Grant Writer at The 52nd Street Project. She enjoys playing palace, blokus, bananagrams, and ping-pong with the young people and volunteers at the Project clubhouse! Caylyn has dramaturged for a number of playmakers, written plays for the Teen Ensemble & One-On-One shows, and is the co-creator of the poster art for the playmaking shows! Enjoy the plays!



Kerry Warren (*Fight Choreographer, THE DOJO*, by Matt) 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. 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. A special thank you to Ben Anderson. You can see her in the film *Our Son* on Apple TV as Miss Jennifer. kerrywarren.com



JJ Wilks (*Jake*, in *THE SISTER & THE BROTHER*, by Kaylee; he/they): Unlimited/ My future is unlimited/ And I've just had a vision almost like a prophecy/ I know - it sounds truly crazy/ And true, the vision's hazy/ But I swear, someday there'll be/ A celebration throughout Oz/ That's all to do with me!// And I'll stand there with the Wizard/ Feeling things I've never felt/ And though I'd never show it/ I'd be so happy, I could melt!// And so it

will be for the rest of my life/ And I'll want nothing else 'till I die/ Held in such high esteem/ When people see me, they will scream/ For half of Oz's favorite team/ The Wizard/ And Iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!!!!



Shaunette Renée Wilson (*Lyla*, in *THE STORY OF LYLA & BOB*, by Dylan) Most recently at The 52nd Street Project: *THE BEST FRIENDS*, by Makiyah, as a part of *A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, The Breezy Plays*, Playmaking, April 2024. Theater: *Merry Me, La Race*. Select Film & TV: *BLKNWS: Terms & Conditions, Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny, Black Panther, "Washington Black", "The Resident", "Billions"*. Education: Yale School of Drama. Princess Grace Award

Recipient.



Charlie Zuckerman (*Stage Manager*; he/him) is a ping pong fiend, finding The 52nd Street Project a safe space to foster this obsession. Previously at the Project: *ONE OF A KIND, The Quirky Plays*, the 2025 One-on-Ones; *WRITING ON THE WALL*, Teen Ensemble, May 2025. Charlie is currently an Education Assistant at the Project. He cannot thank Project staff enough for their endless kindness, sense of adventure, and joy. BFA - Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

Much love to Bridget and his ever-supportive family.

