

PLAYBILL

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the books and monographs from which various monologues/scenes have been adapted:

- *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 1958.
- *Monologues for Teenage Girls*, by Susan Pomerance. Dramaline Publications, 1998.
- *Monologues for Kids*, by Ruth Mae Roddy. Dramaline Publications, 2000.
- *100 Monologues: An Audition Sourcebook from New Dramatists*, edited by Laura Harrington. Mentor Books, 1989.
- *More Monologues for Kids*, by Ruth Mae Roddy. Dramaline Publications, 2000.
- *Multicultural Monologues for Young Actors*, edited by Craig Slaight and Jack Sharrar. Smith and Kraus, Inc., 1995.
- *Real Scenes and Monologues for Urban Youth*, by Lynn K. Pannell. Limelight Editions, 2007.
- *The Ultimate Audition Book for Teens, Volume I*, by Janet B. Milstein. Smith and Kraus, Inc., 2000.
- *The Ultimate Audition Book for Teens, Volume XI*, by Kristen Dabrowski. Smith and Kraus, Inc., 2007.

The Broadway Bound Fund and

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC Proudly Present



The Plays of Life

Saturday, June 6, 2009

The Producer's Club ♦ 358 West 44th Street NY, NY 10036

Cast Biographies

LaTanya Baker – LaTanya is a senior at Bayside High School in Queens. In addition to acting, she enjoys singing in Bayside's female choir.

Diana Barreto – An 11th grader at Francis Lewis High School in Queens, Diana enjoys Hip Hop and soccer. She plans to go to college after completing high school. She is excited to continue in next year's acting class at BBBS.

Edwin Barreto – Edwin is finishing the 9th grade at the East-West High School for International Studies, in Queens. He has also acted in school productions, including *Romeo and Juliet*. His favorite actor is Chris Tucker. Special thanks to Mary Rose, Lindsey and Nicki!

Kadeja Blanding – A sophomore at the High School for Arts, Imagination & Inquiry, Kadeja was born and raised in Harlem, New York. Her passion is to become a successful actress. She plans to attend Georgia State University. Kadeja said that Acting Class has helped her grow as an actress and develop acting skills and stage presence. She has had experience in theatrical productions at school and at the Harlem Children's Zone. During Kadeja's spare time, she enjoys singing, laughing, and hanging out with friends.

Claris Boateng – Born and raised in Harlem, Claris attends the High School of Fashion Industries. She would like to attend college in upstate New York. She likes to have fun, party, model, hang, dance, but also knows when to be serious. She said the Acting Class has given her confidence and taught her about movement. They call Claris "P.Y.T." (Pretty Young Thang) and she's one of a kind.

Johnathan Carter – A self-proclaimed "future Jim Carrey in progress," Johnathan loves acting. He is an 8th grader and plays wide receiver at New Life School in the Bronx. His favorite chocolate is Ritter's Sport.



With Special Thanks to Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC:

Nicole Balsam
Lindsey Carroll
Sabrina Weiss
Valerie Stark-Trimarco
Lilli Goldberg
Vidhya R. Kelly
Michael Corriero

www.bigsnyc.org



Nicole Balsam (Teacher's Assistant) - Nicole graduated in May from New York University with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Drama. She has been performing since the age of 5 and is very excited to begin her life as a professional actress in New York City. Thank you to everyone at BBBS and BBF (especially the students) for a truly spectacular year!

Lindsey Carroll (Teacher's Assistant) - Lindsey has a BFA in Drama from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she also double-minored in Sociology and Irish Studies. She has had many New York theater and film credits in her seven years in New York, and is currently performing with ArtsEcho and the Children's Theater of NJ making math fun in the interactive one woman show "Arithmetickles."

John Jenkins (Founder of BBF) - John currently serves as the President and Publisher of CQ Press in Washington. John has also worked as a journalist and author, with his work appearing in major magazines in the U.S. and abroad, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *GQ* (American and British editions), *The Washington Monthly* and *The American Lawyer*.

Mary Rose Synek (Director) - Mary Rose has a Master of Fine Arts in Theater and has taught and performed in NYC for 20 years. She has had lead roles in over 40 Off-Broadway plays. Her last production was a collaboration with Dana Zeller-Alexis at the 78th Street Theater Lab, *On the Line*. She was lucky enough to perform in a staged reading of "Sin," an adaptation of an Isaac Bashevis Singer short story. The piece was written by a Brooklyn College alumni, Mark Altman. F. Murray Abraham, one of Mary Rose's teachers, played the devil.

Michelle Carter - A sophomore at Brooklyn's Secondary School for Journalism, Michelle also participates in the drama club and has been involved in Family Life Theater.

Jordan Copeland - Jordan has prior acting experience, having played the role of Rap star Biggie Smalls. He would like to become a professional actor when he grows up. He attends the 11th grade at the High School of Writing and Communication Arts in the Bronx.

Quanisha "Nini" Davis - From Manhattan, Quanisha is 16 years-old and a sophomore at the Frank Sinatra School of Arts in Long Island City, Queens. She is interested in studying theater and psychology in college, and her top choices are: SUNY Stony Brook, Syracuse, NYU and Julliard. About the Acting Class, she said "it gives me a place to go, it helped me work on interacting with other kids my age, and it helped me improve and develop some of my acting skills." Quanisha has previous experience performing in school productions.

Jason Gamble - Jason is a senior at Karisin High School, where he is a linebacker on the football team. He is interested in attending South Carolina State College. In his free time, Jason enjoys reading and listening to blues music. He would like to be a private investigator when he grows up. From the Acting Class, Jason has learned to focus and make eye contact.

Amie Gomez - Amie is 16 years-old and attends the 11th grade at Frederick Douglass Academy. She would like to go to Princeton University and pursue a career in acting and investment banking. She thanks her family, and looks forward to being a dancer at Usher's Camp this summer.

Selena Gonzalez - Selena is 13 years-old and attends the 8th grade at the Dalton School. About the Acting Class, she said: "Acting class has helped me speak publicly and have less stage fright. I started out very nervous and as the years went on, I learned to contain my nervousness and just act. This year has been very fun and I learned so much!"

Derrick Guerrero – Derrick attends the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change in Harlem.

Michaela Henry – From Brooklyn, Michaela is 14 years-old and goes to Marine Park Middle School. She wants to be an actress or a nurse when she grows up. She would like to go to college at NYU or Princeton University. Michaela said Acting Class has taught her to be more confident. She has prior acting experience, having played "Violet" in a production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and an orphan in *Annie*.

Alexsa Hernandez – Alexsa is 15 years-old and attends the 9th grade at John Dewey High School in Brooklyn. She would like to work with kids and become a veterinarian when she grows up. She says the Acting Class has helped her be able to talk in front of other people.

Davaughn Jennett – Davaughn is 16 years-old and attends 10th grade at the High School of Fashion in Manhattan. He was born in East New York, Brooklyn. When he graduates from high school, he hopes to be accepted at NYU or FIT and study Fashion Design, Modeling or Interior Design. The Acting Class has helped Davaughn not be nervous, project his voice, have movement, and face the audience. He has previous experience modeling and acting in a commercial.

Bryon James Lewis-Cummings – Bryon is 13 years-old and attends the Vincent Smith School in Long Island. He lives in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

Kalani Nino – 12 year-old Kalani attends P.S. 179. He lives in Manhattan.

Alizé Ortiz – From Brooklyn, Alizé is 14 years-old and attends 8th grade at I.S. 119. She would like to go to Columbia University and become an actress/model when she grows up. She said the Acting

Class has helped her become more comfortable with people. This will be her first theatrical production.

Julian Perez – Sixteen-year-old Julian attends the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change in Harlem. He's looking forward to returning to the acting program next year.

Virginia Perez – A 7th grader at Tass Middle School, Virginia is 13 years-old and is from New York, NY. She wants to be an actress when she grows up. About the Acting Class, Virginia said it has helped her to speak and not be shy. This will be her first performance in a theatrical production.

Shequelle Ramblay - Shequelle is a 9th grade merchandising major at the Fashion Industry High School in Manhattan. He also is a member of the school's volleyball and bowling teams.

Biviana Sanchez – From Brooklyn, Biviana is 14 years-old and in the 8th grade at I.S. 383, Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented. She is interested in medicine, photography and the performing arts. She said the Acting Class has helped her improve her shyness and acting skills. This will be Biviana's first theatrical production.

Justin Scott – An energetic and creative dancer, Justin attends Chelsea High School in Manhattan. He is a member of The Door dance program.

Xavier St. John – From the Lower East Side, Xavier dreams of one day playing basketball in the NBA for the Cleveland Cavaliers. He'll be entering 7th grade at the Manhattan Academy of Technology.



About the Broadway Bound Fund

The Broadway Bound Fund was founded by John A. Jenkins in 2007. The fund provides acting lessons and theater exposure to a select group of youth enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City.

For many years, John was a close friend of fellow journalist, editor and patron of the arts, Michael VerMeulen, whose death was the impetus for forming the Broadway Bound Fund. Michael was a dedicated Big Brother in the New York City program. Through the Broadway Bound Fund, John hopes to share Michael's love of creativity and expression with youngsters. John's vision is to offer a learning environment that fosters self-confidence and discipline, and strengthens collaborative abilities both in and out of the classroom.

www.broadwayboundfund.org

The Broadway Bound Fund:

Mary Rose Synek, Artistic Director
John Jenkins, Founder
Amanda Pope, Web Designer





