

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

- *Spoon River Anthology*, by Edgar Lee Masters. Kessinger Publishing, LLC, 2004.
- *Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder. Perennial, 1998.
- *The Glass Menagerie*, by Tennessee Williams. Dramatists Play Service Inc, 1998.

PLAYBILL

**The Broadway Bound Fund and
Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC Proudly Present**



It's a Wonderful World

Saturday, June 12, 2010

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

Cast Biographies:

Diana Barreto – A senior 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.

Kadeja Blanding – A junior 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 the 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 acting, skating, and hanging out with friends.

Maryka Special Carter – Maryka likes to write, go roller-skating and act. She attends Bedford Academy, which "enhances her personality to be more goal-oriented." She describes herself as "unique, laid-back, patient, and very sympathetic." Maryka said, "I accept everyone as their own individual, and love to learn new things because the oldest person in the world still continues to learn." Maryka has been in the BBBS of NYC program for 6 years. About the program, she said, "I love the opportunities that I have been fortunate to experience."

Johnathan Carter – A self-proclaimed "future Jim Carrey in progress," Johnathan loves acting. He is a 9th grader and plays wide receiver at New Life School in the Bronx. His favorite chocolate is Ritter's Sport.

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.



With Special Thanks to Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC:

Nicole Balsam
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Valerie Stark-Trimarco
Lilli Goldberg
Vidhya R. Kelly
Michael Corriero

www.bigsnyc.org

♦♦♦

Nicole Balsam (Teacher's Assistant) - Nicole has a B.F.A. in Drama from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (2009). She has been performing since the age of 5 and loves working with other young artists. Check her out as Hailey Duff in the upcoming season of *Celebrity Ghost Stories* on the Biography Channel (Coming Fall 2010)! Congratulations to the entire BBBS/BBF family on another 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 eight years in New York, and recently finished a two year National Tour performing with ArtsEcho and the Children's Theater of NJ in the interactive one woman show "Arithmetickles." Congratulations to all the students on a wonderful and challenging show!!

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.

Jason Gamble - Jason is a senior at Karisin High School. He enjoys reading, watching football, and relaxing. He describes himself as being "a very laid-back person." He also enjoys acting. In the Fall, he plans to attend Virginia State University and look into their acting classes. He has been in the BBBS of NYC program for 7 years. He has enjoyed "every moment" with the program, and would like to thank Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC.

Amie Gomez - Amie is 17 years old and is in the 12th grade at Frederick Douglass Academy. She is going to attend SUNY Oswego this Fall and she is looking forward to it. She thanks her family, and looks forward to being a dancer at Usher's Camp this summer.

Keonna Jielle Hairston - Keonna was born in the Wagner Houses on August 22nd, daughter of Yavones Fisher. She was adopted by Gladys Hairston, and now has 4 sisters and 1 brother: Ricky, Sonia, Tonia, Sharon and Donna. All of her sisters are older than her and have children.

Michaela Jaqueta Henry - Michaela goes to Clara Barton High School. She loves to laugh, act and sing. She wants to be an actress. She describes herself as being "not like most people." About the Acting Class, Michaela said, "I love the people I met here, and hope this class takes me far."

Stephanie Henry - Stephanie goes to Merrick Academy in Queens. She has performed in a few plays at school. Stephanie enjoys hanging out with her Aunt, playing video games, playing with her dog, watching TV and playing with her brother.

Benjamin Lo - Benjamin attends Mark Twain in Brooklyn. He loves to draw, sing, act, and hang out with his friends. About Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC and the Acting Class, he said, "I have only been at BBBS of NYC for a few months and I love it. I thank my parents for telling me about Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC."

Kyell Webb - Kyell attends the Child School (T.C.S.) on Roosevelt

Dominique Lewis – Dominique goes to Pablo Casals 181 in the Bronx. She loves to act, sing and dance. She has been in the BBBS of NYC program for two and a half years.

Aquaisha Milligan – From NYC, Aquaisha loves to sing, dance, and hang with friends. She attends Saint Vincent Ferrer High School. She would like to thank everyone for their support and give a shout-out to her mom, family and friends.

Biviana Sanchez – Biviana is a freshman at Williamsburg High School of Architecture and Design. She loves to hang out with her friends, go on Facebook, and go shopping. She has been in the Acting Class for two years and she loves it. She said the Acting Class has helped her become a better actress.

Justin Scott – Also known as “Bboy Adjust” because he is a breakdancer, Justin likes performing, being on stage and making people laugh. He attends Chelsea High School, which is a school with a focus on the performing arts. The school organizes plays, talent shows and other opportunities for creative expression. About BBBS of NYC, Justin said he was drawn to it because it’s “a place full of fun experiences.”

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 8th grade at the Manhattan Academy of Technology.

Island. He was a dancer in a school production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He enjoys watching TV and playing his Wii system.

Henrietta Williams – Henrietta goes to St. Michael Academy in Manhattan. She loves to draw, play basketball, rap, dance and act. She loves spending time with friends and family. She has been in the BBBS of NYC program for 2 years.



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



