



Cast Biographies

The Electric Company Members

Jenni Barber

"Lisa Heffenbacher"

Jenni Barber is originally from the small town of Mansfield, Ohio. One of four kids, Barber grew up in a creative family where her artistic aspirations were enthusiastically encouraged. After receiving the prestigious Earl V. Moore Award of Excellence, Barber graduated Summa Cum Laude from the The University of Michigan School of Music and moved to New York City. She has been seen on TV in *Law and Order: SVU*; on Broadway in the role of "Olive Ostrovsky" in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Off-Broadway in *From Up Here* at Manhattan Theatre Club; and most recently, touring internationally with The Brooklyn Academy of Music and The Old Vic's productions of *As You Like It* and *The Tempest* directed by Academy Award-winner Sam Mendes.

Priscilla Star Diaz

"Jessica Ruiz"

Priscilla Star Diaz is a teen pop superstar that has been wowing fans from the streets of New York City to the Sea of Japan with her dynamic flow when she raps, energetic voice when she sings, and her charm and beauty. This young feminist phenomenon, also known as P-Star, has been rhyming with New York City's best since she was 9 years old and has received critical acclaim for her efforts. Having performed at every open-mic show her dad and co-manager, Jesse Jess Diaz, could find, Diaz's stage presence and confidence are at the level of a seasoned veteran.

Diaz signed her first deal at the age of 11 to indie label Hunc Records/DFE and released her first album, "Welcome To My Show" which featured artists Tony Sunshine and Remy Ma. The album's first single, "Make You Dance," produced a video that was aired on MTV, Mun2, Showtime at The Apollo and many more. Diaz's first taste of major success as a recording artist came as a member of a Latino kid's group Reggaeton Ninos in 2006. The album was released through UBO Records and quickly went platinum in the Latin world and sent the group touring through Mexico and South America.

Diaz attended the Jo Lee Dance and Performance Arts School in 2007 and received acting lessons at City Lights Youth Theater and vocal lessons from world renowned coach, Craig Derry.

Diaz's life was documented on film by award-winning director, Gabriel Noble, in *P-Star Rising*. The documentary was featured at the Tribeca Film Festival, won awards at 11 other film festivals, and was later released on PBS' *Independent Lens* series.

Diaz just completed her third season playing the role of "Jessica" of *The Electric Company* on PBSKIDS GO! and is currently recording her next album with world renowned producers Bless, Giuseppe D, Norty Cotto, George Mena, and DJ Mad.

Having been featured on MTV's *Made*, *Showtime at The Apollo*, KTLA, *Good Day New York*, *Telemundo*, *MTV You Hear It First*, *DLIFE* on CNBC, *Sabado Gigante*, *Primer Impacto*, *One Nation*, and the Latin Grammy Awards, Diaz is ready to take that next step forward in her already wonderful career.

Josh Segarra

"Hector Ruiz"

Josh Segarra is a full blooded Puerto Rican from Longwood, FL. Fluent in Spanish, Segarra developed an early passion for theatre starring as the "Cowardly Lion" in the Orlando Youth Theatre's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. He continued down the musical path and gained accolades in solo performances in his middle school chorus and participated in his church's drama and choral groups.

In high school, Segarra played "Harold Hill" (*The Music Man*), "Ren McCormick" (*Footloose*), and "Nick Piazza" and "Joe Vegas" (*Fame: The Musical*). During this time, his musical career blossomed as the lead singer of an a capella group, Top Notch. His theatrical awards include numerous superiors and a Best of Show in Duet Musical at the Florida Thespian State Competition.

In 2008, Segarra graduated from the Tisch School of Arts at NYU with a degree in theatre. During his freshman year at NYU, Segarra landed a role in the CBS movie, *Vampire Bats*, starring Lucy Lawless. While at NYU, Segarra sang, beat boxed and was the featured rapper for N'harmonics, a premiere a capella group. He performed on various stages, including at Lincoln Center for the International a capella Super Finals. In his sophomore year, he performed in the Off-Broadway musical, *Fools in Love*. This role became the launching pad for where we see him today. He has since landed roles in *The Ministers*, starring John Leguizamo and Harvey Keitel; the horror film *Bloodnight*; The Sundance Film Festival lab piece *Tiny Dancer*; *The Narrows*; and most recently the film *The Music Never Stops*. He just finished a run of the hip-hocapella show *The Harmonious Pimps of Harmony* at NYC's premiere theatre, Ars Nova. He recently started doing voice over work and has been featured as one of the main characters "Abraham Reyes" in Rockstar Game's "Red Dead Redemption" and numerous other commercials. He is part of an up and coming musical called *Fat Camp the Musical* which will be featured on the Great White Way very soon.

Ricky Smith

"Keith Watson"

Ricky Smith was born in New York City and discovered his performing talents at an early age. He kicked off his career singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" during a spring concert at his school. At the age of nine, he was asked to compete in a singing competition during half-time of a Knicks basketball game in Madison Square Garden. After singing "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" by Marvin Gaye, he won a \$250 educational IRA.

Smith performed at the Tony Awards while acting in Broadway's *The Color Purple* as "Young Harpo." He also played "Archie" in the Off-Broadway play *Captain Louie*.

Smith's love of music inspired him to teach himself to play the piano and the guitar. Even while being busy with school, auditions, performing, writing and producing his own music, he still finds time to play basketball, soccer and baseball with his siblings and friends.

Coy Stewart

"Marcus Barnes"

Coy Stewart was born in Columbia, South Carolina. When he was five years old, he started acting for fun in plays at his local church and was soon bitten by the acting bug. He grew up watching children's television, and at the age of eight, when his parents realized he was reciting lines from popular movies and television shows before the actors actually said them, they decided it was time for acting lessons. Stewart recently performed the role of "Travis Younger" in *A Raisin in the Sun*, and is delighted to be working on the TBS series, *Are We There Yet?*

Stewart thoroughly enjoys the whole acting process, from taking classes, to auditioning, to rehearsing and performing. He especially likes rehearsing, "could do it all day," as he likes to try out different ways to play a role. When he's not busy acting, he can most likely be found outside playing sports with friends.

Chris Sullivan

"Shock"

Chris Sullivan is from Foxboro, Massachusetts and credits his foundational musical training to high school band director and percussion instructor, Stephen Massey. Dabbling in theater and improvisational comedy, he starred in several high school plays, won the drama award senior year and was a member of Kung Fu Improv in the Uncommon Theater Company. Throughout his time at Foxboro High School, he worked in a pre-school and became a Massachusetts certified preschool teacher and BSA Eagle Scout.

After a year in AmeriCorps' City Year in Boston, Sullivan attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and majored in Communication. In 1999, he joined the a cappella group, The Vocal Suspects, as a vocal percussionist and the improv comedy troupe Mission:IMPROVable. Here the name "Shockwave" came to be, due to his transformational style of beatbox and theatrical soundscapes.

Upon graduation, Sullivan moved to New York City and began studying improvisational comedy with The People's Improv Theater, The Upright Citizen's Brigade Theater and instructors at Chicago's Annoyance Theater. In 2003, he became a part of the hip-hop comedy group, Freestyle Love Supreme. Since then, FLS has performed at The Aspen Comedy Festival, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Melbourne Comedy Festival, and the 10th Anniversary for Paramount Comedy in London.

Sullivan has also performed with Beatboxer Entertainment, through which he's shared the stage with Doug E. Fresh, Rahzel, Biz Markie and countless other human beatboxers from around the country at venues such as The Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Madison Square Garden and even the MTA subway system.

Sullivan recently toured 20 American cities on a "One-Shock-Show" for *The Electric Company* Outreach Circuit Tour demonstrating the fun of beatboxing and the power of reading.

Visit Sullivan at <http://www.shockwavebeatbox.com>.

The Pranksters

Dominic Colón

“Manny Spamboni”

A true native New Yorker, Colón was born and raised in the Castle Hill section of the Bronx and began acting at eight-years-old at The Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, where he performed all through elementary, junior high and high school. He went on to receive his BFA in Acting from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. Colón’s recent guest appearances include: *Blue Bloods*, *Running Wilde* and *Nurse Jackie*. Other TV credits include guest appearances on *Ugly Betty*, *Damages*, *Law and Order* and *Law and Order: SVU*. His upcoming film credits include: *The Girl is in Trouble* opposite Wilmer Valderrama and Columbus Short, and Mike O’Malley’s *Certainty*. Colón also appeared in the HBO original film *Taking Chance* and starred in the Independent Spirit Award-winning film *On The Outs*. Other film appearances include *We Own the Night*, *Bella*, *The Goodbye Girl* and *August Rush*. Colón is also an accomplished stage actor, with credits including The Mark Taper Forum’s production of *Slanguage*, Danny Hoch’s *Till the Break of Dawn*, and Ben Snyder’s *Shoe Story* directed by Tony Award nominee, Thomas Kail. In addition to being a full time actor, Colón is also a teaching artist having taught acting and playwriting in high schools, hospitals, and juvenile detention facilities with arts-in-education organizations throughout New York City. Currently, Colón is the Theater Director of Teatro El Puente; a youth theater company that tours New York City performing plays on social issues.

Will Harper

“Danny Rebus”

Will Harper’s Off-Broadway experience includes: *Ruined* (Goodman Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club); *Queens Boulevard (the musical)* and *Paradise Park* (Signature Theatre Company); *The Children of Vonderly* (Ma-Yi Theatre Company); and *Rich Boyfriend* (The New Group). His New York theatre credits include: *Neglect*, *Bike Wreck*, *100 Most Beautiful Names of Todd*, *Unwritten Song*, (Ensemble Studio Theatre); and *Full Bloom* (Vital Theatre). His regional theatre work includes: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare in Santa Fe); *Hamlet* (Dallas Theater Center); and *Dance of the Holy Ghosts: A play on memory* (New York Stage and Film). Prior to his work on *The Electric Company*, Harper was on the television series *Law & Order: CI*, *Mercy* and the film *All Good Things*.

Ashley Morris

“Francine Carruthers”

Ashley Morris is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts. Her Off Broadway credits include: “Edith” in Charles Bush’s *Die Mommie Die*; “Isabel” in *Paper Dolls*; *Sea*; and *Lysistrata New*. Her regional theatre work includes: “Juliet” in Jon Langs’ *Romeo and Juliet*; and “Clown” in *Five Clowns* at the American School in Singapore. On television Morris had a guest role as “Harmony” on *Ugly Betty*. Her film credits include “Maggie” in *Be Good Daniel* and an upcoming role in *Sundays at Fort Green*. Morris spent a season as a co-writer of *Viva La Vulva* and is the author of *Libido Limbo* which was a finalist at the Young Playwrights Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

Most recently Morris starred in the New York City cast of Nora and Delia Ephron’s play *Love, Loss and What I Wore*. She can be seen in the upcoming movies *Premium Rush* with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, *Art Machine* and *Generation* with Keanu Reeves. Morris recently guest starred on the CBS hit *The Good Wife*.

Sandie Rosa

“Annie Scrambler”

Sandie Rosa is a California native and a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. Her Off-Broadway and other New York theatre credits include: *Wanda’s World*, *Let’s Face It*, *Good*

News, and *Extraordinary the Musical*. Her regional theatre work includes: *Circle Mirror Transformation* (George Street Playhouse) *Yeast Nation: the triumph of life* (American Theatre Company Chicago and Perseverance Theatre); *Urinetown* (Weston Playhouse and The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis) for which she won the Kevin Kline Award for Supporting Actress; and *Into the Woods* (Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre). Film: *Going the Distance*. When she's not working, she loves spending as much time with her Chihuahua, Coco, as possible.

Carly Rose Sonenclar

"Gilda Flip"

Carly Sonenclar started singing at the age of two, and has not stopped since! She began her professional career in 2006 after being discovered by a leading New York youth talent management firm. Her first audition resulted in her first professional job: The New York Musical Theatre Festival's production of *The Night of the Hunter*, in which she played the lead role of "Pearl."

Sonenclar made her Broadway debut at the age of seven, playing the principal role of "Young Cosette" in *Les Misérables* and understudying "Gavroche" for the entire run of the show.

Sonenclar, who is now 11-years-old, recently returned from the national tour of *Little House on the Prairie The Musical*, originating the principal role of "Carrie." She has also been seen on the big screen in *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* and *The Nanny Diaries*.

Heading back to Broadway in the spring of 2011, Sonenclar has been cast to originate the principal role of "Chloe," "Alice's" daughter, in the new Frank Wildhorn musical, *WONDERLAND*, an exciting new spin on the classic story of Through the Looking-Glass.

Vocal appearances include singing the National Anthem for the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden and being selected to sing at the US Open Tennis Tournament.

Sonenclar makes time to volunteer for charitable causes as often as possible. She performed at the prestigious KIDS/Fashion Delivers benefit at which Barack Obama appeared as the keynote speaker. She also appeared at Carnegie Hall, playing the role of "Kim" in a benefit concert performance of *Showboat*. Some of her favorite appearances have been singing alongside Yankee great, Bernie Williams, at the Hillside Food Outreach Benefit in Westchester County.

Carly is an avid softball pitcher, adores her 17-year-old brother, Russell, and is a sixth grader in Westchester, NY. For more information, visit www.carlyrosesonenclar.com