

The Barrow Group  
Solo Show Festival  
Training Program Sharing

Saturday, March 14, 2026  
7:30pm



**Jim Vetter - *Keeping Secrets***

Jim spent over 20 years performing professionally as a magician, mime, and actor—from the streets of Harvard Square to Fisherman’s Wharf; to night clubs in Miami and Quito, Ecuador; to collaborating with author George Plympton to create a piece performed at Harvard Stadium; to representing the United States at the Celebration ‘90 Gay Games Cultural Festival in Vancouver.

In recent years, Jim’s career has focused on consulting with schools and districts to improve the lives of young people socially and emotionally.

Jim’s new one-person play, *Keeping Secrets*, represents a triumphant return to the stage with the most personally meaningful show in his career. Preview audiences have called *Keeping Secrets* “amazing,” “riveting,” “raw,” “funny,” “hopeful” and “should be on Netflix.”

Secrets are all around us—secrets that can be powerful in both positive and destructive ways. Based on events in the Boston area from the 1970s to today, *Keeping Secrets* is an engaging, moving, and hopeful one-person show that explores links between what magicians do and what child sexual abusers do, combining acting, visuals, and a magic trick or two.

*Keeping Secrets* is playing at the Boston Fringe Festival in May and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.



**Kelvin Wang - *The Art of Becoming***

Kelvin is a Chinese-American storyteller and artist originally from Dallas, Texas. After five years in Los Angeles, he now lives near New York City, where he continues to explore questions of identity, belonging, and becoming through performance.

A walking quadriplegic and survivor of a near-death car accident, Kelvin blends lived experience with imagination and resilience. His work draws from acting, improvisation, and clown, weaving narrative intimacy with play and physical presence. Trained at Upright Citizens Brigade and The Barrow Group, he has shared work on New York City stages, including Adam Wade’s storytelling program and UCB improv

showcases. His work invites audiences into stories rooted in presence, vulnerability, and human connection.



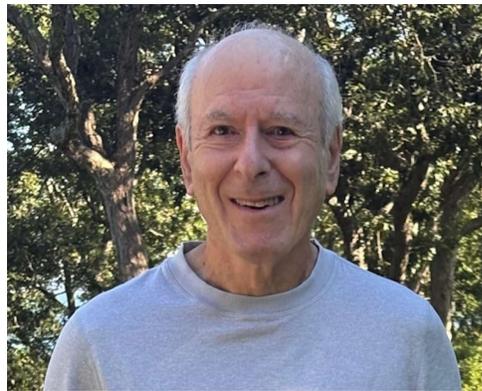
**Irene Serrano - *Perimenoparty***

Irene is a Spanish actress, comedian, and writer currently based in New York thanks to a Fulbright Performing Arts grant. After several years working behind the scenes in the Spanish entertainment industry, she decided to step onstage to develop her own voice.

Her work moves between autobiographical comedy and solo performance, exploring aging, desire, and the female body—topics that are often addressed late or not at all. She is currently developing a solo show focused on perimenopause.

Irene is interested in creative processes grounded in risk, presence, and listening, and hopes to continue developing

original projects and artistic networks between the United States and Spain.



**Gerry Sobel - *The Gift***

Gerry has told stories recently at the Story Collider and Moth. He is a retired trial lawyer.



**Esther Chen - *Americanized***

Esther is a stand-up comedian from Taiwan. She is seen on HBO, Hulu, Amazon, FX, NBC, Netflix, Comedy Central, BuzzFeed and MTV. She is also the dialect coach for Mr. Robot Seasons 2&3 and contributed to the translations on the show. She is the producer, host, and performer of the show Asians Strike Back: A Coronavirus Comedy + Science Show, which was picked up by CBS Insider News, CNN podcast, Now This, South China Morning Post and featured on the New York Times, Gothamist and TimeOut.

Recently, Esther recurred on the new Sex and the City show-- And Just Like That, shot a promo for Jerry Seinfeld's Netflix special 23 Hours to Kill, and guest starred on Law and Order: Organized Crime. She is a 2024 Fellow at the Yes and Laughter Lab and a 2023 Finalist at the Ladies Room Comedy

Festival. She has performed at the American Embassy in Taiwan, a bakery in Chinatown, and opened for Sheng Wang.



**Emily Thaler - *And I Continue to Climb***

Emily is an actor, stage manager and writer based here in New York City. She studied at The University of Tampa where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, and was part of The Barrow Group Acting Apprenticeship program from 2016-2017. She currently serves as Barrow Group's Operations Manager. Her most recent acting credits include: Taylor in Episode 714 of Investigation Discovery's Series 'Evil Lives Here' and Hermine with Barefoot Shakespeare. Her most recent stage management credits include: Pizza Man with **Company of Fools**, Cymbeline, Macbeth and A Midsummer's Night Dream with Barefoot Shakespeare Company, Orion with Ruddy Productions and Taking Shakespeare at Florida Studio Theatre.



**Michael Bertrando - *I Am Not Mark Ruffalo***

Michael is an improv veteran of the iO, Annoyance, UCB, and Second City theaters. His comedy performances have taken him around the world—from France and Italy to Argentina and Brazil. His award-winning short film Magnet Brain is a finalist for Filmapalooza in Lisbon, Portugal. Most recently, he appeared in episode five of HBO's *Task* as a "local FBI agent," that performance notably brought out the ugly, jealous side of Mark Ruffalo.