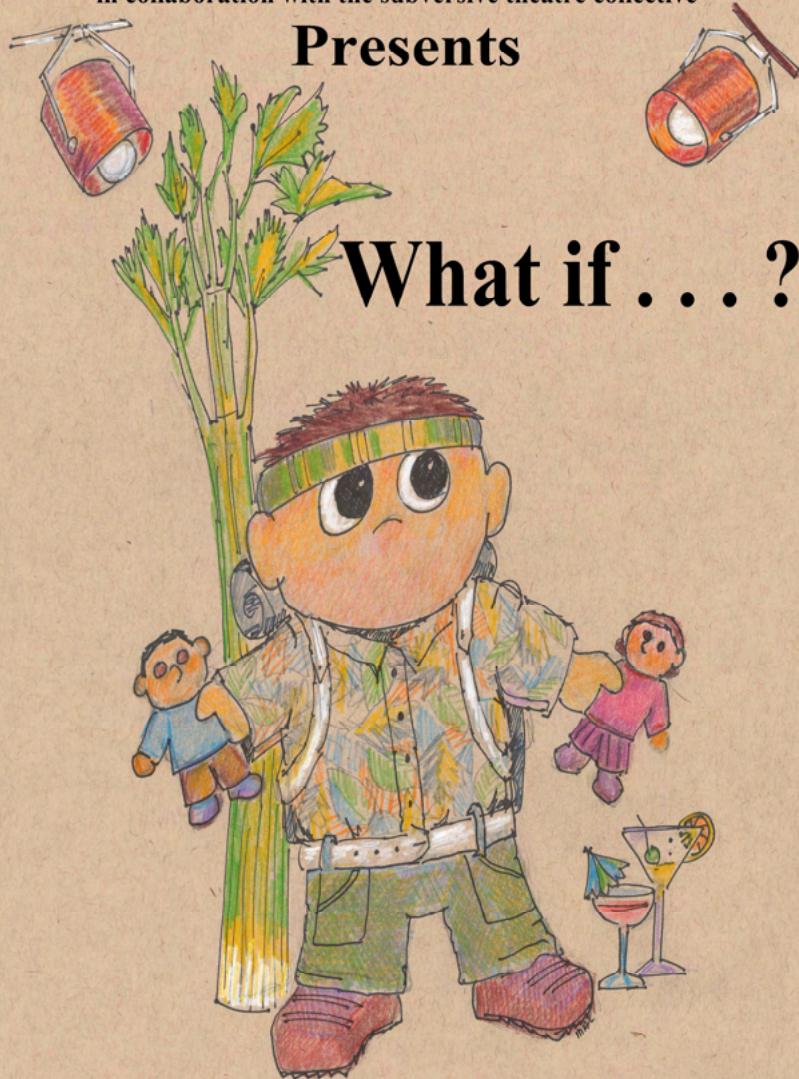


# Unique Theatre Company

in collaboration with the subversive theatre collective

## Presents



# What if . . . ?

Written By Engelic Everett, Marlene Engle & Beth Geyer

Directed by Beth Geyer

General Admission \$15.00      Dec 8th thru Dec 18th 2016

Box Office 716-243-8889      Thur, Fri & Sat 7:30pm

UniqueTheatreCompany.com      Sunday Matinee 2:00pm

Subversive Theatre The Manny Fried Playhouse 255 Great Arrow Ave Buffalo 14207

Director's Note

Dear Audience,

Welcome. We first would like to thank all of you, our great and generous supporters because without you, none of this would be possible! The stories we present tonight are what I call 'slices of life.' Each scene is a peek into a living room, a bar, a classroom. As you watch each story we would like for you to also see the overall unsaid. How do you see the unsaid? It is sort of like reading or watching something and you have a strong feeling that what you are watching is more than what you see... something is there but it's just not there. The unsaid tonight are the actors' abilities not just evident in the dialogue or their movement on stage but in their ability to bravely stand before you under the lights. The ultimate unsaid being: I can. I am able. This, I can do. Tonight we are paying close attention to the unsaid and celebrating it. Now before you start looking, here is the story. Once upon a time in a very real writing group several writers created two characters. Brad and Sara. Each writer offered specific characteristics about Brad and Sara. At the end they had developed two interesting, very different people and so the writers were given a task: What if . . . Brad and Sara shared a story? The problem was that Brad lived in Detroit and Sara lived in Kansas City. How would the writer get them together and what would their story be about? There were several stories to choose from and the four short plays you see tonight we believed would provide you with plenty of entertainment and hope to leave you with the question: What if . . . you had to bring Brad and Sara together? How would you do it?

Enjoy the show,

Beth Geyer  
Artistic Director

Cammie

You will never be anything  
They said  
Look at me now independent and strong  
Able to stand up for others  
And make right the wrongs  
Label me because I look different?  
There's more than what you see  
My heart is loving  
Don't pass judgment on me  
Thank you for your support and care  
It helped me to go anywhere  
You will never be anything they said still  
But I look at them and laugh  
Oh, yes I will

By Cammie Stamp  
Arts Experience

## What if . . . ?

Act One: Wrecking Ball written by Beth Geyer

Act Two: The Affair written by Engelic Everett

Act Three: The Class written by Marlene Engle

Act Four: Bug Out Bag written by Beth Geyer

Directed by:	Beth Geyer
Executive Producer:	Vienna Haak
Set Design:	Subversive Theatre Company
Light Design:	David Licht
Sound Design:	Nick Stroczkowski
Costumes & Stage Management:	Vienna Haak
Stage Attendants:	Margaretmary Scully Mary Beth McDonnell Catherine Horton
Graphic Design:	Maria Aldona Laurendi
Photography & Social Media:	Nick Cacciotti
Videography & Playbill:	Vienna Haak
Volunteer Coordinator:	Beth Geyer

Unique Theatre Company would like to thank the following supporters for whom without tonight's performance would not be a success:

The Subversive Theatre Collective & Manny Fried Playhouse People, Inc. (Bailey, Elmwood and Arts Experience)

Ilene Garrison

AND TO ALL of the volunteers, agency staff, family, and friends who each and every day supported this production by providing transportation, enduring long waits in the lobby during rehearsals, remaining flexible with all rehearsal changes, and by simply 'being there' to lend a hand and listening ear.

THANK YOU!

Beth & Vienna

#### *ABOUT US:*

Unique Theatre Company  
99 Hartwell Road  
Buffalo NY 14216  
(716) 243-8889  
uniquetheatrecompany@gmail.com

<https://uniquetheatrecompany.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/UniqueTheatreCo/>

Board Members: Susan Barlow, Beth Geyer, Vienna Haak

## Biographies

### *Writers*

#### **Engelic Everett**

(PLAYWRIGHT; *The Affair*)

This is Engelic's second play produced by Unique Theatre Company having written Respect shown in last year's play called FACE IT. Engelic is a strong advocate for all people and is currently in the process of having her first book published for children about anti-bullying. She is a 2016 winner of the Chris Burke award for her dedicated advocacy about people with Down Syndrome and anti-bullying messages. Engelic would like to thank her family, all of the staff who work with her and the cast and crew for bringing it all together.

#### **Marlene Engle**

(WRITER; *The Class*)

Marlene works as a Senior Day Supervisor at People, Inc. As she was bringing writers to the People, Inc. workshop every week she found it hard to not tell a story. Marlene submitted a story about Brad and Sara finding them long lost related by an investigator. After submitting it as a narrative, she is now experiencing seeing her essay live on stage in play format. We welcome Marlene as one of our storytellers/writer turned playwright.

### *Crew*

#### **Nick Stroczkowski**

(*Sound Design*)

This is Nick's second show with Unique Theatre Company. He is so grateful to play a role in showing our community that 'disability' doesn't mean a lack of ability. Anyone can tell great stories. In addition to working in live sound, Nick also runs a video production company called Brothers & Sisters Film Production Co. based in Downtown Buffalo.

## **David Licht**

*(Light Design)*

This is David's second production with Unique Theatre Company. David is an author and owns his own graphic design company. He is a great talker and likes hockey & the Buffalo Sabres. David also likes to hang with his family & friends and enjoys video games.

## **BETH GEYER**

**Unique Theatre Company · Owner & Artistic Director**

*(PLAYWRIGHT, Wrecking Ball & Bug Out Bag; DIRECTOR, What if . . . ?)*

Beth has been working in the human service field for just over 30 years. Her work with people who have various ways of identifying themselves includes working in many departments from residential, service coordination to day services. She is a part time writer and playwright. Her works have been produced at Alleyway Theatre, Pandora's Box and Theatre Plus. Beth conducts writing groups at People, Inc. where many stories have been shared. She would like to thank People, Inc. for their continued support by allowing creativity in the workplace. She would also like to thank the number of local human service agencies throughout the Western New York area who come together to support this show. She would like to give a special shout out to the parents, loved ones and staff who provide rides, support, and tolerance in rehearsal schedule changes! I would like to dedicate this year's show to my son Sam and my future daughter Lindsay – congratulations on your engagement!

*Cast, In order of appearance*

## **CHRISTINE SPEARS**

*(TINA, Wrecking Ball)*

Christine is a senior at Clarence High School. "What if....?" is her first theatrical experience. In her free time, Christine enjoys competing in swimming, bowling and skiing for Special Olympics. She loves music of all kinds and has been a member of Clarence High School chorus. Christine lives at home in Clarence Center with her Mom, Dad, younger sister, Claire and her two dogs, Stella and Jack.

## **MATTHEW LEN**

*(BRAD, Wrecking Ball; BRAD, The Class; PETER, Bug Out Bag)*

Matthew is thrilled to be returning this year to the Unique Theatre Company's production of What if . . . ? Matthew began his love of theatre when he saw Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera at a young age. After seeing this magnificent show he longed to pursue an acting career in musical theatre. He furthered this when he volunteered as a stagehand in his high school's production of Ragtime The Musical in 2013. Matthew played the part of Clifford (Elevator Attendant) in Unique Theatre Company's production of FACE IT in 2015. Besides acting, Matthew enjoys singing and won second place in 2014 and fourth place in 2015 in the Opportunities Unlimited Annual Talent Show for his interpretation of "I Dreamed A Dream" and "Stars" from Les Miserables. Matt would like to thank Unique Theatre Company for this exciting opportunity and his friends and family for their support.

## **AMY JAKIEL**

*(SARA, Wrecking Ball; SARA, The Affair;  
SARA, The Class; SARA, Bug Out Bug)*

Amy is thrilled to be a part of her first Unique Theatre production! No stranger to the WNY stage, Amy was most recently seen in Second Generation Theatre Company's production of DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS. Favorite roles include Kate Monster/Lucy in AVENUE Q at MusicalFare and the recent remount at 710 Main; Joanne in RENT (Artie Award); Nancy in OLIVER!; Elle Woods in LEGALLY BLONDE; Penny in HAIRSPRAY; Annie Oakley in ANNIE GET YOUR GUN; Ado Annie in OKLAHOMA; and the title role in PETER PAN. Amy can next be seen on the MusicalFare stage this summer in the premier production of PRETTY/FUNNY. Additional area credits include Artpark, Theatre of Youth, narration for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and four time host of the Artvoice Artie Awards. Amy spends her day time hours supervising People, Inc.'s Arts Experience program and is a proud member of the Arts Partners for Learning leadership team. Thanks to family and Phil for supporting this crazy habit!

## **MELISSA LEVIN**

(SARA/UNDERSTUDY)

*performing as SARA in all four Acts on December 17th*

Melissa is happy to be working with Unique Theatre Company for the first time. Melissa holds her B.F.A for Theatre Performance from the University at Buffalo, and her M.F.A. in Acting from Columbia University's School of the Arts. She was last seen in AMERICAN IDIOT and HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AND THEN KILL THEM at ART of WNY. Up next, you can catch her in ICTC's production of HAYFEVER in June. By day, Melissa is proud to be a Primary Instructor at The Arts Experience of People Inc.,. Congrats on all your hard work, cast and crew!

## **AMANDA ROGERS**

(SAM, *Wrecking Ball*; SAM, *The Affair*; SAM, *The Class*)

Amanda is excited to be returning for her second Unique Theatre Company show. She enjoyed her ensemble role in last year's production of FACE IT! No stranger to the stage, Amanda has participated in two theatrical works under the direction of John Waterhouse while in the YALT program at Daemen College, performed in the Lancaster High School women's choir for four years, and currently takes piano lessons at Twin Village Music Center. Amanda loves the theater, especially musicals. She has attended shows in Toronto and New York City as well as locally. Amanda likes all genres of music and scary movies. Amanda lives in Lancaster with her parents Mark and Deborah, her younger sister Ashley and chocolate lab Ruby! She enjoys meeting people and loves challenges. Amanda is currently in a sign language course and is teaching herself Italian! She is grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank the Unique Theatre Company staff and fellow actors. A special thank you goes to her parents and sister Ashley, Grandma Joan, Aunt Marcia, Aunt Cindy and cousins Gabrielle, Alexa and Tommy for their support and dedication.

## **AMY CAVAGNARO**

(MARIA, *The Affair*; MARIA, *The Class*)

This will be Amy's second performance with Unique Theatre Company. In last year's play FACE IT, she played Auntie Angelica and Homeless Woman. She had so much fun that she is very excited to perform for you again this year as Maria in What if . . . ? Amy's acting career includes working with Mr. Robert Waterhouse's Theatre Class at Daemen College where she attends People, Inc.'s Pre-Vocational Program, several performances in Talent Shows, and the Themed Learning Center (People, Inc.) plays The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, Christmas Movie Scenes, and Frozen. Amy is very active with the Buffalo Sabres Jr. Sled Hockey team, Challenger Baseball, and Bobcats Bowling. Singing the National Anthem for the Step Up For Down Syndrome Walk is also a favorite of hers! Her parents are Bob & Kathy. She has two siblings Brian (Amanda), Michelle (Brian K), her best friend is What if . . . ? co-star Nate Hare. Her favorite little white puppy dog is Bella. Thank you to Beth & Vienna for helping Amy grow in her theatre performances!

## **JACOB SIRACUSE**

(BRAD, *The Affair*; RANDY, *Bug Out Bag*)

Jacob is glad to be returning for his second Unique Theatre Company production. This year he will play two separate roles, Brad in Act Two The Affair and Randy in Act Four Bug Out Bag further amplifying his ability and diversity in acting. Since he was very young Jacob has portrayed the term "animated", and has never let his disability of Autism, interfere with his determination to follow his dreams. While aspiring to become a recognized voice actor, he spends his free time diligently working on his other interests like storyboarding, singing, and sound editing. His pursuit to be famous is never ending and someday he hopes to own his own animation studio where he will produce and star in his own cartoon shows, video games, soundtracks, and movies. Jacob is grateful not only to his family and friends for all the support they provide in helping him reach his dreams, but also to organizations like Unique Theatre Company that recognize, help, and offer opportunities so others can strive to be all they can be.

## **RON WARD**

(RON, *The Affair*; BARTENDER, *The Class*;  
POLICEMAN EXTRA; *Bug Out Bag*)

This is Ron's second performance with Unique Theatre Company. He landed a role as Steve in last year's show, FACE IT. Ron graduated from Amherst High School. He has an older brother and sister and lots of nieces and nephews. Ron has worked at Canterbury Woods Adult Residence in Williamsville for 13 years as a cafe attendant. He enjoys providing services for seniors and has made many friends with the residents that live there. Ron likes to bowl and enjoys video games, scary movies, and amusement parks. He takes part in Special Olympics baseball, basketball, and track & field events. Ron would like to thank Beth, Vienna, and especially Nick for getting him into theatre. He would also like to thank all his loyal fans who like him on Facebook and he thanks you all for coming to watch!

## **JONNATHAN MERCADO**

(BARTENDER, *The Affair*; JAMES, *The Class*)

Jonnathan was born with Down Syndrome in Puerto Rico. After his parents relocated their family to WNY, he began his education at the Catalician Center, followed by Buffalo Public Schools & then graduated from Emerson Culinary High School. He loved learning to cook there! After graduation he attended the YALT program at Buffalo State and enjoyed theater and Spanish classes. He also completed internships at Buffalo State, working at the Campus Library & the Campus Dining Hall. After completing YALT, Jonnathan was accepted at the People, Inc. Arts Experience program where he is doing what he loves most; dancing, acting & everything related to show business. Additionally, he participates regularly in productions at Try Jesus Ministries; and is starring in the Arts Experience's Wizard of Oz play as the Tin Man. Currently he is employed by Wegmans. Jonnathan resides with his mom & step father Barry & Yvonne Young, and his sister, Destiny. He also has two half siblings, Luis & Yuliza Mercado. Jonnathan is a successful, responsible, loving, caring & smart young adult with a bright future!

## **VIENNA LAURENDI HAAK**

**Unique Theatre Company · Owner & Executive Producer**  
(ROSE, *The Affair*; ROSE, *Bug Out Bag*)

Following two tours of duty with the United States Air Force, Vienna ran her own childcare company while raising her children Alicia and Austin, now 16 and 15. When her kiddos went on to school, she became a realtor, working alongside her husband Dale on her parents' sales team with RealtyUSA. Their son's autism diagnoses provided Vienna inspiration to launch a support group in '09 which services Erie & Niagara Counties. In '14 she became an owner of Unique Theatre Company. This is Vienna's 4th acting experience. She was cast in two roles in Always October as Jane and Monkey; filled in as Grandma in The Process; and starred as Momma in FACE IT. Alongside selling homes, raising Autism awareness in her community, & devoting time to theatre, she enjoys fitness, playing piano & spending time with her family. Vienna would like to thank: Dale & Alicia for selflessly keeping Austin, their home, & their business in order while she devoted time to What if . . . ?; Beth for her limitless tolerance; her mom Maria, for donating her time & talent to the theatre's logo & artwork; and her dad Carmen, Bug Out Bag's unsuspecting catalyst, for being a super mentor.

## **STEPHANIE EDBAUER**

(ALEX, *The Affair*; ALEX, *The Class*)

Stephanie is glad to be returning in her 3rd production with Unique Theatre Company, having had roles in both The Process & FACE IT. She has been in numerous musicals at Williamsville East High School. Godspell, Cinderella, Oliver and Guys & Dolls. Stephanie has also been involved in the Amherst Youth Board summer musicals, Sweet Charity, Godspell & Broadway Hits. Stephanie participates in the Amherst CAPP program through People, Inc. She loves Chinese food, the color pink, and pop & country music. Stephanie enjoys watching Glee & Gilmore Girls. Her favorite movies include The Parent Trap & the Twilight Saga. Her favorite hobbies include writing, cooking, cleaning, dancing and singing. Stephanie says, "Good Luck to all my Friends in the show!"



## **KELLER VOGELSANG**

(SUSAN, *The Affair*; SUSAN, *The Class*)

Keller is a very accomplished theatre professional having been in several local productions. She is also a playwright having written Donna, A Civil War Opera that was produced at Alleyway Theatre in which she also played Donna. She has been in the Parent Network production of Always October. She has played Dorothy in the People, Inc. Arts Experience production of The Wizard of Oz. This is her third performance with Unique Theatre Company, she first appeared in The Process, then FACE IT, and now Keller is very proud to be in What if . . . ?. Keller is very grateful and thankful to all those who support her love of the theatre especially to her step-mom Karen and her Dad, Chris. She thanks the support of her brother, her boyfriend, her best friend Rick Lattimer and appreciates their love.

## **STEPHEN BALLOW**

(RALPH, *The Affair*; RALPH, *The Class*; JOHN, *Bug Out Bag*)

Stephen Ballow is proud to have been cast in the 2nd production in a row with Unique Theatre Company. He was a big hit in FACE IT in 2015 and is equally as funny this year in What if . . . ? Stephen's acting career began when he was just 3 yrs old starring in the Christmas Play at Born Hava. He recalls playing an ant in Goin' Buggy in Kindergarten. His middle school theater highlight was a role as a goat. In high school he ushered for Man of La Mancha. In Daemen's YALT program Stephen played the parts of an underwater barista, a TV, and a robot. Stephen is continuing YALT through his junior year at Daemen College. He is in the Employment Training Program at TJ Maxx and has been a long time employee at Rocco's.

## **MATTHEW SCOTT GARRISON**

(CRIMINAL, *The Affair*; CRIMINAL, *The Class*;  
CRIMINAL, *Bug Out Bag*)

I am a Senior (17 years of age) who attends North Tonawanda High School (NTHS). My credits include Unique Theater: What if . . . ? (2016) as the Criminal; Unique Productions: FACE IT (2015) as Chuck Chattanooga, Street Magician, and an extra in the Work Out & Party scenes; Unique Productions: THE PROCESS (2014) as Minestrone, Benny, and The Rock Star; NTHS: THE MUSICAL 9 to 5 (2013). In the Beginning and Ending (Dancing & Singing), as well as a bit part as the Mail Guy; The 2014 Kenny Awards Nominee (NTHS), performing a small part on Shea's Theater stage; SABAH: SOLOIST SKATER (2013/2014 Season) in SABAH's 2014 Celebration on Ice at the First Niagara Center. I want to become a Good Actor, A True Actor! Well, I like acting because it makes me feel happy and I hope to be a Professional Actor some day in my life!

## **NATE HARE**

(POLICEMAN, *The Affair*; POLICEMAN, *The Class*;  
POLICEMAN, *Bug Out Bag*)

Nate Hare is new to Unique Theatre Company. He is a 2015 graduate of Amherst High School and is currently finishing his career at Amherst as a post graduate Super Senior. Nate is a double black stripe in TaeKwonDo and enjoys playing as well as watching most sports. In addition, Nate loves music, acting & spending time with his girlfriend and What if . . . ? co-star Amy Cavagnaro. Nate lives with his mom, dad, sister Ana, and his two dogs Chewy and Jules. Nate is enjoying working in this years production and wants to express his gratitude to his parents & his sisters Alex and Ana for all their support and in helping make his dreams come true.

## NATHANIEL WILLIAM WILKINS

(MIKE, *The Class*; Uncle Ed, *Bug Out Bag*)

Nathaniel is an American actor, voice actor, and puppeteer. He started acting in the summer of 2012 as a puppeteer for The Kids on the Block Educational Puppets. Since then Nathaniel's been in several plays and movies including Always October, The Process, FACE IT, Loney Bananas, One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest, and S.T.A.R. Some of Nathaniel's inspirations are Frank Welker, Mike Yurchak, Denyse Tontz, Brian Donovan and Erin Sanders. In fact, it was Erin who got Nathaniel into doing yoga, which he enjoys and practices every day. Mike helped him with his voiceovers and Denyse has given him advice and words of encouragement to help improve his acting.

## JASON SOKODY

(BRAD, *Bug Out Bag*)

Jason Sokody is known by many as a Renaissance man. An adult education instructor at ECC and award winning Associate Broker & Realtor by trade, Jason also has professional experiences in modeling, bodybuilding, writing poetry and composing music. Jason completed his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and his Master's degree in Organizational Leadership. He is owner and creator of PulpFictionEDU.com. In 2011, he was awarded NYACCE New York State Teacher of the Year. He has also published a book of poetry, *The Multifarious Conclusions of it Depends*. This is Jason's second time on stage with Unique Theatre Company. He was cast in two roles in FACE IT (2015) as a Personal Trainer, as well as a 'gang leader' named Jax. Jason is a devoted husband to his wife Sarah of 14 years and they have two beautiful daughters, Jada and Carmen. His favorite family pastimes are spending time outdoors, camping, and four wheeling with his group, The Gorilla Quad Squad.

**SHIP YOUR GIFTS HERE FOR ON-TIME CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!**

Island Ship Center  
PackShip•Hold•Office Services

1879 Whitehaven Road  
(Next to Ace Hardware)  
Phone: 716.773.6300  
IslandShipCenter.com

**10% off**  
FedEx EXPRESS & INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS  
With Coupon.  
Valid thru 12/31/16

**EXTENDED HOURS**  
December 1st thru 23rd  
M-F: 8:30am-7pm - Sat 9am-5pm  
Closed Fridays 1-3pm and Sundays  
**CLOSING @ 2pm Dec. 24th**  
Reopening @ 8:30am Dec. 27th

Your ONE STOP holiday shop. We pack & sell boxes too. Let us welcome you to the #SpaOfShipping... & shopping.

**THANK YOU**

**FAHIM & SEEMA MOJAWALLA**

**CO-OWNERS OF ISLAND SHIP CENTER**

**FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF**

**UNIQUE THEATRE COMPANY!**

THE SOLUTION FOR ALL YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.

BINDING	BOXES	FURNITURE SHIPPING	GRAND ISLAND MERCHANDISE	GREETING CARDS
LAMINATING	MAILBOXES (coming soon!)	PACKAGE HOLDING	PACKING MATERIALS	PRINTING
SCANNING	SHREDDING	SMALL GIFTS	STATIONERY	WEDDING CARDS