

Believe NYC and Educational Travel Adventures

PRESENT:

ARTS for AUTISM



HOSTED BY ADAM AND ARIELLE JACOBS

JUNE 20, 2022

Gershwin Theatre
New York City



A WORD FROM THE PRODUCERS



Michael Holzer



Jacque Carnahan

Three years ago, we gathered in this theatre for an amazing concert and we announced our excitement about our fifth annual show scheduled for 2020. We all know how the rest of that story goes! 2020 – CANCELED; 2021 – VIRTUAL; and 2022 – We’re finally BACK!

For many of you, tonight might be your first time in a Broadway theatre since the start of the pandemic. Some of you bought your tickets the first day they went on sale and others may have needed some convincing. Some of the empty seats represent those who are not yet comfortable to return. Some represent those who we have lost since we were last here. We are thankful to be in the theatre again and excited and delighted that you have joined us tonight.

Planning a one-night concert with dozens of professional actors and hundreds of student performers is no easy task and our team has been at work for months to bring you tonight’s show. Along the way we have moments of joy, excitement, inspiration, delight and of course a little stress. The result of countless hours of planning, practice and rehearsals will dazzle and impress you for the next ninety minutes.

As always, the show will feature actors on the autism spectrum. Autistic actress, Naomi Rubin, will join our host Arielle Jacobs as they sing “For Good” from *Wicked*. They’ll be accompanied by the composer and songwriter himself, Stephen Schwartz. We’ll also see Actionplay, a theatre company dedicated to providing autistic, neurodivergent, and disabled teens and young adults equal access to the theatre-making process, perform a number from their original musical, *Surface*.

Funds raised from tonight’s performance will be granted to organizations that improve the lives of people impacted by autism and we cannot thank you enough for your support.

And now, prepare to be entertained and inspired. Enjoy the show!

Jacque and Michael

GERSHWIN THEATRE

221 West 51st Street



Hosted by Adam Jacobs and Arielle Jacobs

starring

Jacque Carnahan
Gay Marshall
Abby Mueller

Natalie Charle Ellis
Gabrielle McClinton
Zachary Noah Piser
Brynn Williams

Kevin Smith Kirkwood
Kevin Moon Loh
Marty Thomas

Arts for Autism Choir

Justin Campbell
Jessica Freedman
Jillian Jameson
Danielle Erin Rhodes

Kenneth Francoeur
Jeff Goble
Jayson Kerr
Laura Snell

Michael Ray Fisher
Melanie Goerlitz
Jennifer Lorae
Eric Van Tienen

Arts for Autism Dancers

Hannah Balagot
Justin Geiss
Morgan Rose-Johnson

Rhaamell Burke-Missouri
Nigel Hall
Sarah Warrick

Marjorie Failoni
Regan Jackson

Student Performing Groups

Action Play – New York
Avanti Music Academy – Colorado
Bethany Caldarona Performance Studio – Michigan
Lake Travis High School – Texas
POYDS Dance Company – Colorado
West End Academy of Dance – Virginia
Young Actors Theatre – Florida

Orchestrations and Vocal Arrangements
Keiji Ishiguri & Kevin Leahy

Stage Management
Gregg Kirsopp

Production Staff
Laura Axelrod, Kyle Brand
Justin Geiss, Steven West

Show Announcer
Alex Pepperman

Associate Director
Morgan Rose-Johnson

Social Media
Becca Brown

Music Direction by
Paul Staroba

Directed by
Natalie Malotke



Adam Jacobs
*Aladdin, The Lion King
Les Misérables*



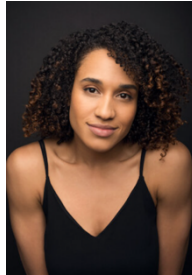
Arielle Jacobs
*Aladdin, Wicked
In the Heights*



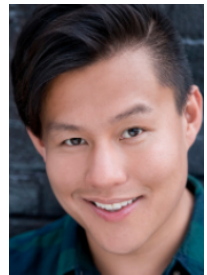
Kevin Smith Kirkwood
Kinky Boots



Gay Marshall
Jacques Brel



Gabrielle McClinton
Paradise Square



Kelvin Moon Loh
Beetlejuice



Abby Mueller
Six



Zachary Noah Piser
Dear Evan Hansen



Natalie Charle Ellis
Beetlejuice



Marty Thomas
Wicked



Brynn Williams
Spongebob



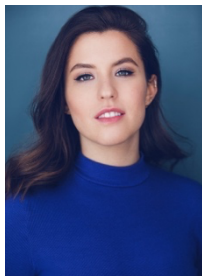
Justin Campbell
Carmen



Kenneth Francoeur
Jersey Boys



Michael Ray Fisher
Rocktopia



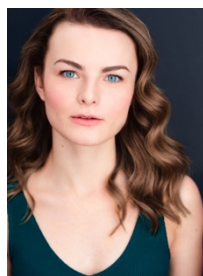
Jessica Freedman
New World Stages



Jeff Goble
Sweeney Todd



Melanie Goerlitz
Carnegie Hall



Jillian Jameson
The Sound of Music



Jayson Kerr
Evita



Jennifer Lorae
Parade



Danielle Erin Rhodes
The Buddy Holly Story



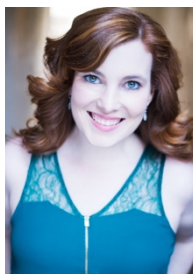
Laura Snell
Avenue Q



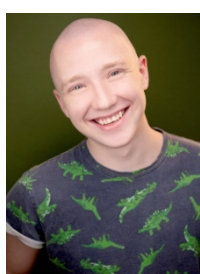
Eric Van Tielen
Les Misérables



Hannah Balagot
West Side Story



Marjorie Failoni
Escape to Margaritaville



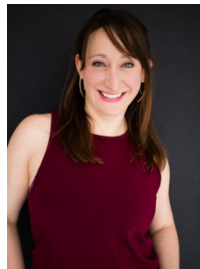
Justin Geiss
Cats



Nigel Hall
Young Frankenstein



Regan Jackson
Kinky Boots



Morgan Rose-Johnson
School of Rock



Sarah Warrick
A Chorus Line

STUDENT PERFORMERS

ACTIONPLAY

Aaron Feinstein, Executive Director

& Jackson Tucker-Meyer, Program Director

Nick Amodio • Adelaide DeSole • Ethan Donn • Ben Dworken

Samantha Elisofon • Lev Garfein • Sandy Gladstone-Karpe

Shafer Gootkind • Lexi Spindel • Edison Weinstein

AVANTI MUSIC ACADEMY &

POYDS DANCE COMPANY / KASH DANCE & CHOREOGRAPHY

Amra Tomsic & Kayleigh Schadwinkel-Hickman, Directors

Giselle Alvariza • Allison Cook • Cassidy Gangl • Alessa Jackson
Dashiell Keiffer • Braiden Kirkegaard • Norah Koppenhauer • Paige Mabbutt
Corinne Nolan • Summer Novak • Levi Randolph • Mia Schuessler
Nicole Siegler • Sandi Smith • Lauren Terhune • Eden Trent
Nya Trey • Callie Tysdal • Lauren Veldhuizen • Vihana Verma
Disha Verma • Victoria Xikes

BETHANY CALDARONA PERFORMANCE STUDIO

Bethany Caldarona, Director

Julieta Amoroz • Damian Barkas • Landen Bermudez • London Bermudez
Ryan Buyers • Sophia Caldarona • Shaelyn Carroll • Connor Currie • Ella Darket
Casper Dickey • Jade Downey • Kara Downey • Robert Fitzgibbon
Elyse Friedrich • Adyson Gedrich • Spencer Goodman • Alina Hazime
Montana Jones • Samantha Jones • Gina Karkoski • Samantha Karoub
Nat Koelzer • Mirabella Koponen • Claire Kurpinski • Emma Latimer
Aubrey McCurdy • Avery McKelvey • Sophia Mijat • Snigdha Nair • Elliott Ryan
Piper Ryan • Emily Schaf • Kendall Schulz • Kathryn Schwalk
Joseph Smentowski • Ryan Tatone • Lucille Wilson • Charlie Winter
Christian Woods • Nathaniel Zerbonia

LAKE TRAVIS HIGH SCHOOL

Le Ahlee Fletcher, Nikki Guckian & Adam Poynor, Directors

Gabrielle Anderson • Miranda Bach • Caroline Baker • Haley Beckstead
Eva Berry • Jayama Biagini • Anneliese Carle • Allison Chow • Makena Cox
Susan Crumbley • Elena Davis • Parker Devine • Ainsley Ellett • Adam Ellett
Bryn Farley • Autumn Forgey • Emily Gryder • Olivia Hoffman
Kinsey Jacobsen • Nicholas Joran • Kate Kingsley • Jaelyn Knoll
Sydnee Lauritzen • Alyssa Leavitt • Alejandra Lopezcepero • Kyra Lowrance
Addison Muck • Lance Najera • Olyvia Owen • Jessica Paine • Kenna Phillips
Estella Reschke • Callie Roth • Kathryn Schanen • Ashley Schneider
Ella Swinford • Sophie Thompson • Tyler Tramonte • Jaice Trotter
Claire Tudor • Teresa Vandersand • Skylar Vlamming • Emilia Warren
Kathryn Williamson • Mirthe Wilmlink • Alan Yost • Zoe Zaman • Joey Zhang

WEST END ACADEMY OF DANCE

Madison Ellington and Lisa Rumbauskas, Directors

Marita Allen • Claire Blankenship • Lily Bowman • Addison Burtch
Wesley Burtch • Peyton Carroll • Kathryn Dau • Hannah de Witt
Tannin Forsyth • Regan Foster • Jazmine Foster • Clara Gould • Riley Guyer
Lauren Hagin • Lauren Handley • Celia Hearn • Lily Hennessee • Esmarie Henry
Christopher Hopkins • Meredith Hopkins • Emily Huneycutt • Elizabeth Jackson
Hannah Jiancristoforo • Rose Keiper • Stella Kush • Mabry Lenzi
Sydney Lenzi • Jackie Liang • Kaia Menear • Ryan Parsons • Ella Rankin
Anna Schaeffer • Elizabeth Schardt • Michayla Semp • Ryland Ward

YOUNG ACTORS THEATRE

Sarah Roy, Executive Director &

J. Scott Handley, Artistic Director

Olivia Bahmer • Tyler Brown • Hailey Bull • Claire Camp • Hailey Cleary
Kiera Davis • Emily Dunson • Grantham Durham • Ava Estep • John Evans
Cameron Greene • Aidenn Hafez • Parker Johnson • Nolan Johnson
John Marty • Dorothy Matthews • Savannah Mejia • McKenna Noel
Graham Reece • Gabriella Rieder • Maximilian Schrader • Sydney Sherry
Noble Sissle, IV • Jenna Sokolow • Megan Stokley • Ansley Tamplin
Baia Terracciano • Spencer Thomas • Isla Welge • Emily Weller • Carson Whitis

THANKS TO:

- Thank you to all the performers, musicians and the production team for your hard work and talent.
- Thank you to the staff at ETA and Believe NYC who are behind the scenes and on the ground making this weekend and this show possible.
- We would like thank everyone at the Gershwin Theatre and 321 Theatrical Management for sharing their home with us today.
- Thank you to the families of the students and their directors for supporting them.
- From Michael and Jacque... thank you to our families for always supporting us and being here tonight.
- For anyone not mentioned that helped make this day possible, THANK YOU TOO!

MUSICAL NUMBERS

"Sing" <i>By Pentatonix</i>	Marty Thomas and the Arts for Autism Company Music and Lyrics by Mitchell Grassi, Scott Hoying, Kevin Olusola, Martin Johnson and Sam Hollander Vocal Arrangement and Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
"What is This Feeling?" <i>Wicked</i>	Adam Jacobs and Arielle Jacobs Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
"Morning Glow" <i>Pippin</i>	Avanti Music Academy, POYDS Dance Company and the Arts for Autism Choir Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
"Out There" <i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	Zachary Noah Piser Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz Orchestration by Kevin Leahy
"Grease Medley" <i>Grease</i>	Kenneth Francoeur and The Bethany Caldarona Performance Studio Music and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey Orchestration by Kevin Leahy
"Heart of Stone" <i>Six</i>	Abby Mueller and West End Academy of Dance Music and Lyrics by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
"Something's Coming" <i>West Side Story</i>	Adam Jacobs Music by Leonard Bernstein Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim Orchestration by Kevin Leahy
"Bring Me to Light" <i>Violet</i>	Young Actors Theatre Music by Jeanine Tesori Lyrics by Brian Crawley Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
"The New World" <i>Songs for a New World</i>	Natalie Charle Ellis, Kevin Smith Kirkwood, Kelvin Moon Loh and Brynn Williams Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“Selkie-Free”	Natalie Charle Ellis and Actionplay
<i>The Surface</i>	Music by Or Matias
	Lyrics by Jackson Tucker-Meyer
	Orchestration by Kevin Leahy
“Kinky Boots Medley”	Kevin Smith Kirkwood
<i>Kinky Boots</i>	and Lake Travis High School
	Music and Lyrics by Cyndi Lauper
	Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
“Breathe Easy”	Gabrielle McClinton
<i>Paradise Square</i>	and cast of <i>Paradise Square</i>
	Music and Lyrics by Larry Kirwan,
	Jason Howland and Masi Asare
	Orchestration by Kevin Leahy
“Chanson”	Jacque Carnahan, Gay Marshall and Stephen Schwartz
<i>The Baker’s Wife</i>	Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
	Orchestration by Kevin Leahy
“For Good”	Arielle Jacobs, Naomi Rubin and Stephen Schwartz
<i>Wicked</i>	Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
	Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri
“If The World Only Knew”	Zachary Noah Piser, Emily Weller and the
	Arts for Autism Company
	Music and Lyrics by Scott Evan Davis in collaboration
	with students from P94M Spectrum School
	Vocal Arrangement and Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

ORCHESTRA

Music Director/Conductor: Paul Staroba

Piano: Adam Rothenberg

Guitar: Craig Magnano

Drums: Josh Priest

Bass: Marc Schmied

Trumpet: Dan Urness

Reed One: Todd Groves

Reed Two: Steve Lyon

Music Copyist: Daniel Gittler

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers’ Unions: Actors’ Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists and SAG-AFTRA through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

WHO'S WHO

ADAM JACOBS

Adam is best known for his work as a stage actor having originated the title role of "Aladdin" in Disney's ALADDIN on Broadway (Grammy and Drama Desk nominations) as well as starring as "Marius" in LES MISÉRABLES and "Simba" in THE LION KING. He began his early career as a pianist at the SF Conservatory of Music then discovered his love for theater while attending St. Ignatius College Preparatory. He studied drama at the American Conservatory Theater in SF as well as the California State Summer School of the Arts in Valencia. He went on to receive a BFA in Theater from NYU Tisch while getting his on-camera training from Stonestreet Film and Television Studios, Carter Thor Studio in LA, and Ellen Novack in NYC. Adam, his wife Kelly, and their sons Jack and Alex now make their home in Chicago.

ARIELLE JACOBS

A California native, Arielle Jacobs was most recently seen as Princess Jasmine in Disney's Broadway hit musical ALADDIN. Prior to that, she played Nessarose in the Broadway cast of WICKED. She also starred on Broadway as Nina Rosario in the four-time Tony & Grammy award winning Broadway musical IN THE HEIGHTS, opposite composer/creator Lin-Manuel Miranda. Off-Broadway, she has starred in two world-premiere plays by Pulitzer-winning playwright and director Nilo Cruz; entitled SOTTO VOCE (as Lucila Pulpo) and FARHAD OR THE SECRET OF BEING (as Farhad, a young Afghan girl who was raised as a boy to avoid social exile but then reaches puberty and struggles with the limitations of becoming a woman in the Middle East.) Jacobs was seen in the original National Touring companies of IN THE HEIGHTS (Nina) and Disney's HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (Gabriella), in Shakespeare Theatre Company's production of TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: A ROCK OPERA (Julia), and in Dreamcatcher Theatre's production of INTO THE WOODS (Baker's Wife), opposite Broadway legend Tituss Burgess as the Witch.

NATALIE MALOTKE

Natalie Malotke is a director, choreographer, creative event producer and teaching artist living in New York City. Credits include: CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (Choreography Team on Broadway and National Tour), BYGONE LOVE for China Broadway Entertainment, CANDIDE at Carnegie Hall, and I MARRIED AN ANGEL at City Center all alongside Joshua Bergasse. LITTLE DANCER at Lincoln Center with Susan Stroman, and REALLY ROSIE at City Center with Leigh Silverman. Regional directing and choreography credits at The Engeman (ROCK OF AGES, KINKY BOOTS & ONCE), Pittsburgh Music Theatre, Northern Stage, TexArts and Wagon Wheel. National tour of DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD LIVE! Resident director and choreographer for Nickelodeon Experience Design events worldwide. Industrial and corporate events for Hermès, Target, Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Robin Hood Foundation. TV: Choreography: SNL Season 47 with Jason Sudeikis and Billie Eilish; PBS, A CAPITOL FOURTH. Faculty at Broadway Dance Center and AMDA. University of Michigan grad. @nataliemalotke

PAUL STAROBA

Originally from Santa Rosa, California in the heart of the wine country in the Sonoma Valley. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, he took a leap of faith and moved to New York City to pursue a career in professional theatre. He is currently the Associate Conductor of COMPANY starring Katrina Lenk and Patti Lupone on Broadway. Other conducting credits include... Broadway: A CHRISTMAS CAROL, MY FAIR LADY, WAR PAINT, A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER, NEXT TO NORMAL, A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, and GREY GARDENS; Off-Broadway: THE MAD ONES, DEAR EVAN HANSEN, FAR FROM HEAVEN, CARRIE, THE BLUE FLOWER, TAKE ME ALONG, HAPPINESS, and SAVED.

JACQUE CARNAHAN

Jacque produced her first one woman show at the age of 14 at the San Luis Obispo Little Theater in California. Since then, she has become a sought-after event producer and brings a feeling of joy and celebration to every project. At thirteen, she dreamed of attending Idyllwild Arts Academy, and with the help of her community, she raised over \$40,000 to apply towards her tuition. It seemed fundraising was in her blood! She attended The Boston Conservatory and earned a BFA cum laude in Musical Theatre, which helped launch her career in NYC. Jacque's theatre credits include performances Off-Broadway at the Irish Repertory Theatre and the York Theatre, the National Tour of CINDERELLA, and regional appearances at The Paper Mill Playhouse, Goodspeed Opera House, and Baltimore Center Stage. Jacque has performed her one woman show and in concert at venues such as 54 Below, Green Room 42, Symphony Space, and Alice Tully Hall. A true maven, Jacque's connection to the Broadway community is reflected in the extensive list of Broadway talent who have participated in her events. Jacque is a self-starter and truly believes anything is possible with the right people in the room. Many have inquired how tonight's annual Broadway benefit concert, ARTS FOR AUTISM, ended up at the Gershwin Theatre. Jacque's reply: "I called them. You never know until you ask." www.jacquecarnahan.com

ELAINE HALL – KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Referenced by the New York Times as the "child whisperer," Elaine Hall had a successful career in Hollywood as a TV and film acting coach. Her life changed dramatically when her son, adopted from a Russian orphanage, was diagnosed with autism. When traditional therapies did not work for him, she developed an innovative, creative methodology to reach him. These methods now evidence-based, became the backbone of The Miracle Project® a fully inclusive, expressive, performing arts, and social skills program which was profiled in the HBO Two-Time Emmy winning film Autism: The Musical and in Autism: The Sequel. Elaine's work is endorsed by leading autism experts and replicated across the globe.

Considered a pioneer in creating neuro-diverse theater, film and religious education programs, Elaine has been featured in the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Boston Globe, The Jewish Journal, Ha Aretz, The Mighty, the Huffington Post, and has appeared on CNN, CBS, NPR, HBO, Today.com, OWN, among others.

Elaine, who identifies as neurodiverse herself for her sensory sensitivities and different way of thinking, lives in Santa Monica, California with her husband Jeff Frymer, a marriage and family therapist. Her son, Neal Katz, uses his iPad as a communication device and has given presentations with her across the country.' She has received numerous honors for her work and was named on the Forward 50's list of Remarkable People doing Remarkable Things in 2020. Elaine is committed to changing the way the world perceives 'ability.'

ARTS for AUTISM GRANTS

Each year funds raised from the Arts for Autism benefit concert will be distributed in the form of grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000. We are passionate about the arts and how they can positively impact everyone. For this reason, we have established the Arts Access Grant to ensure that each year at least one of our grants will be used specifically to expand access to the arts for people impacted by autism. The Community Access Grant can be used more broadly for any project (including arts-related) that improves the lives of people impacted by autism and we will grant as many as possible until funds raised are exhausted. Arts organizations may apply for both grants. Grants are available for any U.S. based organization or individual and people on the autism spectrum are encouraged to apply. Funds granted must be used within twelve months of being awarded. Our newly formed advisory board will review and approve grant applications.

If you are interested in applying or know someone who may benefit from a grant, please look for details and the application on our website, ArtsForAutism.net.

GRANT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Christine Biernacki: Attorney and Mom of two autistic children

Deborah Bonomo: Speech Language Pathologist

Andrew Duff: Autistic actor from the new TV series; *As We See It*

Jill Frutkin: Actor and creator of theater curriculum for *Stages on the Sound*

Jayson Kerr: Broadway Actor

Andy Paris: Emmy nominated actor and writer known for *The Laramie Project* and *Uncommon Sense*

Dr. Jennifer Trachtenberg: Pediatrician and mom of autistic son

Correy West: Broadway Actor



ETA is a student tour company providing exciting, unique educational programs throughout the world. Programs offered include performance tours, educational tours, language and cultural immersion programs, service learning opportunities and short-term faculty led programs. www.ETAdventures.com



Believe NYC is an educational arts organization with a passion to inspire performing arts students to follow their dreams through performance opportunities, workshops, and masterclasses. Believe NYC events include the annual *Arts for Autism* benefit concert, *Hope for the Heroes* album recording and performance in Nashville TN, as well as the *New Voices Festival* at Lincoln Center that will launch in 2023. The unique combination of arts education, performance, and service is unlike any other in the field. Learn more at www.believe-nyc.com