

Believe NYC
and
Educational Travel Adventures

PRESENT:

ARTS
for **AUTISM**



HOSTED BY CAISSIE LEVY

June 19th, 2023
GERSHWIN THEATRE
New York City



A WORD FROM THE PRODUCERS



Michael Holzer



Jacque Carnahan

Welcome to the Gershwin Theatre and to Arts for Autism! Words cannot express how excited and thrilled we are to be here for our seventh year.

For those of you returning, we have another fabulous show for you. If this is your first time, prepare to be amazed. As you watch, know that hundreds of young people have rehearsed their parts for months and have only come together in New York City this weekend where the magic happens. Here they join dozens of Broadway actors for a show that is truly transformational.

This impact of tonight's show is wide-ranging and reaches well beyond the walls of this theatre. This is all made possible by every one of YOU! Each year we talk with audience members, student performers and their teachers, guest speakers and performers, and Broadway actors that join us and we hear about how they are entertained, inspired, educated, and moved by this event. We hope that you leave the Gershwin tonight "changed for good." And remember, the concert also raises tens of thousands of dollars that are donated to deserving organizations working to improve the lives of people impacted by autism.

Tonight's show will feature autistic actress Evie Reed coming to us from Kansas City as she makes her Broadway debut on the Gershwin stage. You will also see a group of autistic performers from Shining Stars Network performing, "This is Me" from the Greatest Showman. Performance is a way for people to express themselves and your support and presence here tonight gives everyone on this stage a voice.

It takes an immense amount of creativity, planning and energy to make tonight's show happen and we want to thank everyone who has been a part of it. Literally, everyone. To those that inspire us, advise us, work with us, volunteer and to everyone in this theatre, THANK YOU! As Aristotle said, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

Enjoy the show!

Jacque and Michael

GERSHWIN THEATRE

221 West 51st Street



Hosted by Caissie Levy

starring

Miki Abraham
John Michael Dias
Alyse Alan Louis
Tiffany Renee Thompson
Teal Wicks

Gabi Campo
Tasia Jungbauer
Eric William Morris
Josh Strobl
Brynn Williams

Jacque Carnahan
Kevin Smith Kirkwood
Dylan Paul
Quinn VanAntwerp

Arts for Autism Choir

Ashley Bruce
Madeline Fansler
Keiji Ishiguri
Jennifer Lorae

Justin Campbell
Jessica Freedman
Jillian Jameson
DeMond Nason
Danielle Erin Rhodes

Hannah DelMonte
Jeff Goble
Jayson Kerr
Paul Pilcz

Student Performing Groups

Cedar Ridge High School – Texas
Deborah's Stage Door – Michigan
Franklin High School – New Jersey
KASH Dance and Choreography - Nebraska
Moving Youth Dance Company – New Jersey
Shining Stars Network – New Jersey
POYDS Dance Company – Colorado
West End Academy of Dance – Virginia
Young Columbians - Maryland

Sound Design
Josh Maszle

Lighting Design
Karen Spahn

Stage Management
Saori Yokoo

Production Staff
Laura Axelrod, Lauren Echausse
Jules Geiss, Steven West

Show Announcer
Jorge Cordova

Associate Director
Morgan Rose-Johnson

Social Media
Becca Brown

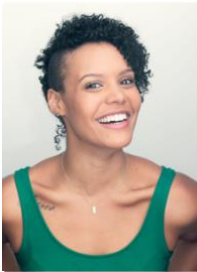
Production Assistant
Olivia Rubrum

Music Direction by
Paul Staroba

Directed by
Natalie Malotke



Caissie Levy
Frozen



Miki Abraham
Shucked



Ashley Bruce
The Prom



Justin Campbell
Carmen



Gabi Campo
Some Like it Hot



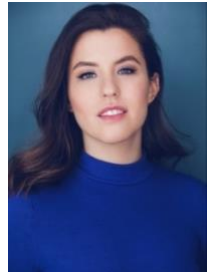
Hannah DeMonte
Fiddler on the Roof



John Michael Dias
Beautiful



Madeline Fansler
Six



Jessica Feedman
Frog and Toad



Jeff Goble
Sweeney Todd



Keiji Ishiguri
The Hello Girls



Jillian Jameson
The Sound of Music



Tasia Jungbauer
Moulin Rouge



Jayson Kerr
Porgy and Bess



Kevin Smith Kirkwood
Kinky Boots



Jennifer Lorae
Parade



Alyse Alan Louis
Mamma Mia



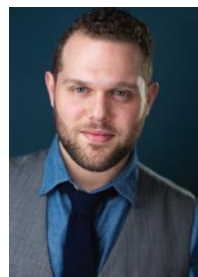
Eric William Morris
King Kong



DeMond Nason
Walmartopia



Dylan Paul
Moulin Rouge



Paul Pilcz
FOX's Gotham



Daniel Erin Rhodes
The Buddy Holly Story



Josh Strobl
Dear Evan Hanson



Tiffany Renee Thompson
Little Shop of Horrors



Quinn VanAntwerp
Jersey Boys



Teal Wicks
The Cher Show



Brynn Williams
13: The Musical

STUDENT PERFORMERS

CEDAR RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Kristie Copeland, Director

Julia Almendra • Ovan Arnold • Samantha Baker • Addison Bevins • Mo Blakely
Liz Bone • Victoria Butler • Clara Carlson • Anthony Casey • Azh Craig
Emily Duncan • Christian Fendt • Emily Furrer • Senna Godbold • Sophie Harris
Lauren Hunt • Scout Hutchinson • Grace Johnson • Zuri Jones • Chloe Keene
Ian Kennedy • Ainsley Liston • Nicholas Neumann • Ella Paquette • Maia Perez
Ryleigh Phillips • Doug Ramirez • Aliyah Reyes • Maddie Robbe • Finley Rucker
Abigail Russell • Avery Simmons • Nelson Stevenson • Marissa Sullivan
Kaleb Turner • Rhys Utterback • Liam Utterback • Ava Van Bevern
Brendan Vohs • Brooklynn Wade • Alex Winston • Alexis Winston • Ben Withers

DEBORAH'S STAGE DOOR

Deborah Agrusa, Director

Addison Berry • Justin Bishop • Keira Bishop • Kiera Bloom • Victoria Brunell
Shaila Buhat • Savannah Dunn • Sarah Dylewski • Keira Groom
Natalie Herrick • Annelise Hogg • Liliana Hogg • Ryleigh Hubbard
Brooke Kivimaki • Liliana Kleinhans • Shelby Lawrence • Brooke Learman
Raghav Manivannan • Macy Niskar • Breslyn Pursley • Claire Winegardner

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Lindsey Della Serra, Director

Alicia Acosta Spencer • Afia Asamoah • Kayla Bullock • Queyonte Carolina
Desiree Daly • Toni Elaina • Kyrie Faust • Gabriella Fernandez • Lily Fortuño
Faith Gibson • Chloe Jackson • Nia Nelson • Tara Patel • Jada Severino
Aarohi Sharma • Nora Shitemi • Gabriella Stewart • Teya Wright

KASH DANCE & CHOREOGRAPHY / POYDS DANCE COMPANY

Kayleigh Schadwinkel-Hickman, Director

Gabrielle Alfano • Natalie Beyers • Tori Brelsford • Keegan Brester
Zachary Buchold • Maci Byler • Dawson Chu • Hallie Clarke
Cynthia Fiebig • Cassidy Gangl • Caroline Heck • Thomas Heck
Lance Kawaski • Norah Koppenhauer • Lucas Larson • Reagan Lowther
Ellis Peters • Juliet Ragan • Eden Richardson • Laken Richardson
Amiah Robinson • Samuel Shallows • Celia Smith •
Ella Swank • Nya Trey

MOVING YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

Debbie Coury, Lindsey Della Serra & Kayleigh Pender, Directors

Anne Bakaj • Mary Bonneville • Francesca Castellano • Jamie Clark
Naya Ferreira • Nora Ferreira • Neve Ferreira • Olivia Koutroubis
Alexandra Law • Sara McLaren • Mary Mider • Isabella Oligino
Cameron Orshak • Kayla Rose Redding • Abigail Sassi
Colleen Webb • Gabriella Zerafa

SHINING STARS NETWORK

**Mike Curci, Sally Curci, Nicole Greene, Angie Sandoukas,
James Green & Michael Curci, Directors**

Danny Bell • Emma Boland • Casey Burke • Courtney Curci • Brian Curci
Andrew Downey • Kaylee Fernandez • Mahdi Hall • Jane Howlett • Erika Karafa
Ryan Klimko • Molly Love • Robert Matos • Brian McAuliffe • James McGrath
Josh Moreines • Mia Papapietro • Jack Pinto • Adelenia Paine
Darrin Robertson • Meredith Ruple • Chris Santarelli • Hannah Scepkowski
Leah Scepkowski • Andrew Seller • Sara Sondern • Carly Stauffer • Dom Vito

WEST END ACADEMY OF DANCE

Madison Ellington and Lisa Rumbauskas, Directors

Carrington Aaron • Claire Blankenship • Joanna Bowman • Mallory Brown
Katie Dau • Hannah Dewitt • Sophia Farrar • Tannin Forsyth • Jazmine Foster
Ella Fowlkes • Clara Gould • Emily Huneycutt • Lucy Jiancristoforo
Hannah Jiancristoforo • Alela Kalemdaroglu • Natalie Lipawsky • Kaia Menear
Abigail Mulvaney • Bronwyn Mulvaney • Ryan Parsons • Madelyn Quinn
Kylie Rauch • Michayla Semp • Phoebe Shaw • Madison Stevens
Gabriella Telfer • Ryland Ward

YOUNG COLUMBIANS

Brynn Williams and Gerald Jordan, Director

Andrea Aviles • Lyla Bradley • Olivia Chapman • Julia Chapman
Madeline Ellinghaus • John Fonmboh • Seaton Fonmboh • Leah Freeman
Mae Guerrasio • Grace Hall • Keira Hase • Addie Hasseltine
Anna Jachero-Maiolatesi • Riley Jackson • Kaitlyn Kennedy • Allison King
Alyssa King-Lewis • Siena Lemke • William Leovy • Anna Malcotti
Kyla Jo Mendez • Alyssa Moore • Giada Pabon • Julia Purdy • Gracie Ray
Isabelle Rehak • John Roesler • Penelope Roesler • Laasya Sidhaye
Jazmine Simms • Parker Strickland • Tressie West • Molly Youngblood

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 to 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

“Brand New You”Brynn Williams and the
13: The Musical Arts for Autism Company
Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
Arrangement and Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

“Motown” Medley.....Kevin Smith Kirkwood, Miki Abraham,
Motown the Arts For Autism Choir and Deborah’s Stage Door
Music and Lyrics by Smokey Robinson, Ivy Jo Hunter,
William Stevenson & Marvin Gaye
Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“Love is an Open Door” Alyse Alan Louis and Eric William Morris
Frozen Music & Lyrics: Robert Lopez & Kristen Anderson-Lopez
Arrangement and Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“Hair” Medley.....Caissie Levy and the Young Columbians
Hair Music by Galt MacDermot
Lyrics by Jerome Ragni & James Rado
Arranged by Ben Caplan
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

“Moulin Rouge” Medley.....Tasia Jungbauer, Dylan Paul,
Moulin Rouge the Arts for Autism Choir and West End Academy of Dance
Music and Lyrics by Elton John, Bernie Tauplin, Ben Berger,
Ryan MacMahon,PINK, Max Martin, John Schuster, Lady Gaga,
Red One, Terry Britten & Graham Lyle
Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“Not While I’m Around”, “Children Will Listen” Medley.....Jacque Carnahan
Sweeney Todd -and- Into the Woods and John Michael Dias
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Arrangement and Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

“This is Me”Shining Stars Network
The Greatest Showman Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

“Seasons of Love”Tiffany Renee Thompson, DeMond Nason, Brynn Williams,
Rent The Arts for Autism Choir and Moving Youth Dance Company
Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

“Come Alive”Quinn VanAntwerp,
The Greatest Showman The Arts For Autism Choir and Franklin High School
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

“The Wizard and I”Teal Wicks
Wicked Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
 Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“You Will Be Found”Josh Strobl,
Dear Evan Hansen POYDS Dance Company, and KASH Dance & Choreography
 Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul
 Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“Fame” Medley.....Gabi Campo and Cedar Ridge High School
Fame Music by Steve Margoshes
 Lyrics by Jacques Levy
 Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“Quiet”, “When I Grow Up” Evie Reed and Jacque Carnahan
Matilda Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin
 Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“Let it Go” Caissie Levy
Frozen Music and Lyrics by Robert Lopez & Kristen Anderson-Lopez
 Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

“If The World Only Knew”..... Christian Fendt 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
 Bass: Ray Kilday
 Drums: Joe Nero
 Guitar: Craig Magnano
 Keyboard: Jesse Kissel
 Reed One: Todd Groves
 Reed Two: Steve Lyon
 Trumpet: Jeremy Miloszewicz

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

CAISSIE LEVY

Caissie is currently appearing in her eighth Broadway show, Tom Stoppard's *Leopoldstadt*; this past year she starred in Sarah Silverman's *The Bedwetter* and the Tony nominated and Grammy nominated Broadway revival of *Caroline, or Change* at Studio 54. Later this year she will star in London's Donmar Warehouse production of *Next to Normal*. She created the role of Elsa in Disney's Broadway production of *Frozen*, and recreated the iconic role of Fantine in the Broadway revival of *Les Misérables*. She is known to Broadway and West End audiences for originating the roles of Sheila in the Tony Award winning revival of *Hair*, and Molly in *Ghost*. Other Broadway credits include Elphaba in *Wicked* (also LA); Penny in *Hairspray* (also 1st national tour & Toronto); Maureen in *Rent* (national tour). Off Broadway credits include *First Daughter's Suite* (The Public Theater) and *Murder Ballad* (MTC). Caissie has recorded 5 original cast albums and been featured on many singer/songwriter's records. Her solo EP, *With You*, is available wherever you buy your music. In concert, she backed up Sir Rod Stewart in his Las Vegas residency, headlined Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops, and has played solo across the US, UK and Canada.

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, *I Married an Angel* at City Center, *Joy: The Musical* (Broadway Developmental Workshop and George Street Playhouse) all alongside Joshua Bergasse. *Little Dancer* at Lincoln Center with Susan Stroman, *Really Rosie* at City Center, and the developmental lab of *Monopoly: The Musical*. Regional directing and choreography credits at The Engeman, Pittsburgh Music Theatre, Northern Stage, and Wagon Wheel Theatre and the national tour of Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!. Resident director and choreographer for Nickelodeon Experience Design events worldwide. Industrial and corporate events for Bloomberg, Hermès, Target, and The Robin Hood Foundation. TV: Choreography: SNL with Jason Sudeikis and Billie Eilish; PBS, A Capitol Fourth. Faculty at Broadway Dance Center and AMDA.

PAUL STAROBA

Paul Staroba is 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.

Paul most recently was the Associate Conductor of *Company* starring Katrina Lenk and Patti Lupone on Broadway. His Broadway conducting credits include: *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, he has conducted for *The Mad Ones*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Far From Heaven*, *Carrie*, *The Blue Flower*, *Take Me Along*, *Happiness*, and *Saved*. Some of his favorite regional engagements include *The Flamingo Kid* (Hartford Stage), *Big Fish* (Chicago Pre-Broadway), and *I Am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk* (Strathmore). Paul has also performed for four seasons with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Orchestra; been featured in concert with Kristin Chenoweth, Patti LuPone, Laura Benanti, Lea Salonga, and Sierra Boggess; and performed in the pit of over 25 Broadway Shows.

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.jacquecarnaham.com

JACKSON TUCKER-MEYER – KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jackson Tucker-Meyer is a fabulously autistic playwright, theatre artist, filmmaker, arts administrator, and educator who makes work that is weird for weirdness' sake.

Jackson's play *The Perfection of the Donut* was a semi-finalist for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Jackson's film *Satan Cured My Autism* won Best Mockumentary at the Museum of the Moving Image's inaugural Marvels of Media Awards. Jackson's play *Banana Guy and Banana Girl with Banana Dreamz in a Crazy World* was part of Roundabout Theatre Company's inaugural Reverb Theatre Arts Festival. Jackson has been an artist-in-residence with the Modern Accord Depot's MADarts program.

As an arts administrator, Jackson is Director of Programs for Actionplay, a neuroinclusive theatre nonprofit. As a musical theatre lyricist, Jackson is a member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. As a performer, Jackson has participated in new works by Stew (The Blacker The Barry), Dan Hurlin (Harmless), Bluelaces (Scribble), and Rat Queen Theatre Company (Judy Doomed Us All). As a public speaker, Jackson has given talks on the intersection of theatre and disability at Lincoln Center, Brooklyn College, the City College of New York, and the 6th International Teaching Artist Conference.

Visit www.jacksontuckermeyer.com and follow @jacksontuckermeyer on Instagram to learn more about Jackson's work!

EVIE REED – SOLOIST

Tonight, Reed Evie will make her Broadway debut on the Gershwin stage! Evie recalls being enchanted by the *Wizard of Oz* when she was two years old, and she's loved musicals ever since! Evie dreams of a career that will allow her to be creative and involved in the performing arts. She says, "I would love to be an actor and author, and one of my biggest dreams is to be a part of original musical theatre pieces as an actor, but maybe as a writer, too. I love the development stages of new works and the idea of bringing a character to life for the first time. I would love to one day bring a story centered around an autistic person of color to the stage – a story that doesn't center around being autistic."



GRANTS

Each year funds raised from the Arts for Autism benefit concert are 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 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](https://www.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

Kelvin Moon Loh: 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



**educational
travel
adventures**

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