

BELIEVE NYC
and
EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL ADVENTURES
present

ARTS
for **AUTISM**



Hosted By
MICHAEL JAMES SCOTT

June 16, 2025
NEW AMSTERDAM THEATRE
New York City



A WORD FROM THE PRODUCERS



JACQUE CARNAHAN & MICHAEL HOLZER

If this is your first time attending the annual Arts for Autism concert, welcome. If you're returning, can you believe how quickly the year has flown by? Over the past year, our team has been hard at work preparing another amazing show for you. We're thrilled to be welcomed for a second year at the iconic New Amsterdam Theatre and we could not be happier that Michael James Scott aka "The Genie" is back as our host.

This evening's performance is the culmination of months of preparation and a whirlwind weekend in New York City for more than 160 incredibly talented students from across the country. They will take the stage alongside a phenomenal lineup of Broadway actors, coming together for a night that promises to be entertaining, moving, and truly unforgettable.

Tonight, the stage will come alive with the voices, talents, and spirits of people of all abilities. When we began Arts for Autism nine years ago, one of our goals was to help raise awareness about autism. That awareness has grown over the years, with dozens of autism-themed television shows now featuring autistic actors and their stories. Today, Arts for Autism continues to be a celebration of inclusion and acceptance, where individuals of all abilities come together, support one another, and shine on stage as their authentic selves.

In that spirit, we are honored to welcome some very special guests: Jared Bazemore, an actor with autism, will make his Broadway debut this evening alongside Adam Jacobs, Broadway's original Aladdin. Rachel Barcelona will also make her Broadway debut with Adam tonight. Both Jared and Rachel are part of EPIC Players, one of our past grant recipients doing groundbreaking work through inclusive theatre.

We can't thank you enough for supporting us by being here tonight. Sit back, relax and enjoy the show!



Present

ARTS FOR AUTISM

HOST

Michael James Scott

DIRECTOR

Natalie Malotke

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Paul Staroba

Stage Manager

Vanessa Dodgson-
Thomas

Associate Director

Morgan Rose-Johnson

Show Announcer

Jorge Cordova

Lighting

Karen Spahn

Sound

Marie Renée Foucher

Production Staff

Laura Axelrod

Hannah Bank

Mel Cabey

Lauren Cagnetta

Lauren Echausse

Emily Kersey

Allyson Pace

Ben Rowan

Kristi Smith

Orchestrations &

Vocal Arrangements

Keiji Ishiguri

Kevin Leahy

Social Media

Becca Brown

Program Design

Jenn Korolenko

Guest Choreographer

Jövan Dansberry

CAST

Soloists

Haven Burton
Jacque Carnahan
DeMarius Copes
John Michael Dias
Ali Ewoldt

David Guzman
Adam Jacobs
Jackie Leon
Kelvin Moon Loh

Zachary Noah Piser
Emily Rogers
Allie Trimm
Brynn Williams

Choir

Madeline Fansler
Melanie Goerlitz
Robert Head
Keiji Ishiguri

Alex Lawrence
Jennifer Lorae
DeMond B. Nason
Paul Pilcz

Danielle Erin Rhodes
Khadija Sanko
Laura Snell
Steve Trzaska

Dancers

Alexia Acebo
Maya Bowles
Ashley Gannon

Joshua Keith
Nick Nazzaro
Samantha Noto

Caleb Marshall
Taylor Rosenberger
Maggie Van Wieringen

Special Guests

Rachel Barcellona
Jared Bazemore

Keynote Speaker

Amanda McFee

Student Performing Groups

Adams Davy | Texas
Horizons Unlimited | New Jersey
Our Time to Shine | North Carolina
POYDS Dance Company and KASH Dance & Choreography's Tri-State Musical Theatre Troupe | Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming
Young Actors Theater | Florida
The Young Columbians | Maryland

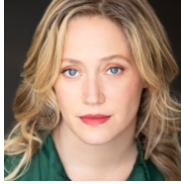
CAST



HOST - MICHAEL JAMES SCOTT



DeMarius Copes
Mean Girls



Haven Burton
How to Dance in Ohio



John Michael Dias
Beautiful, the Carole King Musical



Ali Ewoldt
The Phantom of the Opera



David Guzman
*Steven Spielberg's
West Side Story*



Adam Jacobs
Aladdin



Jackie Leon
Hell's Kitchen



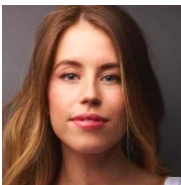
Kelvin Moon Loh
Beetlejuice the Musical



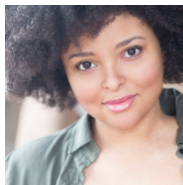
Zachary Noah Piser
Dear Evan Hansen



Emily Rogers
Wicked



Allie Trimm
Wicked



Brynn Williams
Spongebob Squarepants

CHOIR



Madeline Fansler
Six



Melanie Goerlitz
Swing



Robert Head
A Christmas Carol



Keiji Ishiguri
Cabaret



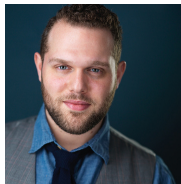
Alex Lawrence
Food Network's Chopped



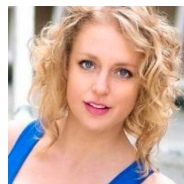
Jennifer Lorae
Parade



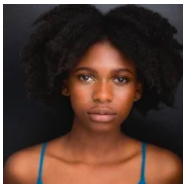
DeMond B. Nason
Walmartopia



Paul Pilcz
Bye Bye Birdie



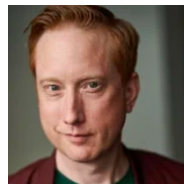
Danielle Erin Rhodes
The Buddy Holly Story



Khadija Sanko
Little Shop of Horrors



Laura Snell
Avenue Q



Steve Trzaska
Glee

DANCERS



Alexia Acebo
Wicked



Maya Bowles
Cabaret



Ashley Gannon
Classic Stage Company



Joshua Keith
Paradise Square



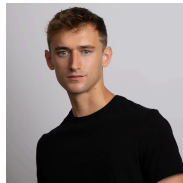
Nick Nazzaro
Paper Mill Playhouse



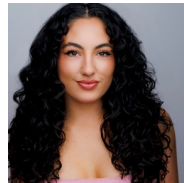
Samantha Noto
MMC



Caleb Marshall
Moulin Rouge



Taylor Rosenberger
Paper Mill Playhouse



Maggie Van Wieringen
Wicked

SPECIAL GUESTS



Rachel Barcellona



Jared Bazemore

STUDENT PERFORMERS

ADAMS DAVY

Directed by Tony and Sarah Smith & Micah Young

Rachel Brady • Caylee Canonico • Abby Codrington
Abby Du • Travis Escobar • Sophie Everaard • Madeline Flick
Noah Kirk • Lilliana Kirk • Colton Land
Hannah Orton • Khalial Riley

HORIZONS UNLIMITED

Directed by Dawn Marie Ferro

Kelly Closs • Melissa Connolly • Ella Esposito • Victoria Failla
Grace Germann • Michael Giuseffi • Steven Grasso • Rosie Grodek
Daniel Klimek • Eva Nisenzon • Thomas Orsini • Andres Ortiz
Risa Pierce • Jason Ryan • Samantha Santos
Buddies: Eli Ferro • Josh Ferro • Noah Ferro • Rebecca Grodek • Hannah Koch

MISS KIM'S CHILDREN'S DANCE AND ARTS & OUR TIME TO SHINE

Directed by Lilly Beaver, Tori Melby & Karla Spears
Owner and Founder, Kim Black

Genesis Aranda Macedo • Mary Bethea • Madisyn Denisar
Bella Elder • Piper Fuqua • Alivia Gibson • Prayanna Goodman
Dylan Hawkins • Morgan Hawkins • Violet Johnson
Lyndsey Ledbetter • Eleanor Markley
Juli Murray • Aada Tillman

POYDS DANCE COMPANY AND KASH DANCE & CHOREOGRAPHY'S TRI-STATE MUSICAL THEATER TROUPE

Directed by Kayleigh Schadwinkel-Hickman

Mitchell Ackerman • Ayden Atwell • Adabella Barajas-Spradley
Kyleigh Boyd • Kelsey Carnes • Rowan Constantine • Lillian Cribari
Hazel Deegan • Brianna Felker • Elizabeth Foster • Joshua Garcia
Casta Gressard • Alia Gutierrez • Juliette Haynie • Ayden Jackson
Bryan Jaimes • Juniper Kaufman • Emma Kitchell • Tessa Larkin
Emma Maddaford • Sebastian Medina • Evelyn Meyer • Jaelyn Ojeda
Tandon Paben • Ethan Rosenthal • Addison Sample • Avery Schwarz
Sawyer Sexton • Emma Stevens • Susannah Struhs • Carol Tirella
Ayden Tompkins • Cecily Wiedel

RIDGEWOOD IRISH DANCE ACADEMY

Directed by Ashling Daly-Stanek

Madeline Barabas • Violet Barrett • Mia Cristo • Neave Cummings
Maeve Dorfler • Kayleigh Freeley • Brennah Freeley • Clare Hickey
Olivia Hutchinson • Claire Jones • Sophia Leonarz • Grace Murphy
Katherine Nitch • Camille Nitch • Grace O'Donnell • Mia Olenick
Ellery Pfeil • Addison Porod • Brooke Reilly • Lindsay Sheridan
Kelsey Sheridan • Riley Steingasser • Maureen Sweeney
Juliet Tuohy • Jane Waters

YOUNG COLUMBIANS

Directed by Brynn Williams & Gerald Jordan

Emmy Almagro • Felicity Ames • Nathan Atkinson • Cara Aument
Andrea Avilés • Hannah Berkowitz • Felicity Clark • Sophia Dadds
Kyla Dennis • Caleb Dexter • Owen English • Alicia Feher
Lucy Felsen • Dana Goines • Aiden Gordon
Addie Hasseltine • Will Heiser • Riley Jackson • Blake Johnson
Aubrey Kaufman • Austin Kester • Arshaan Khan • Allison King
Owen Landle • Molly Lanthier • Alexandra Constantina Lazarou
Siena Lemke • Will Leovy • Caris Luke • Mia Maffeo • Stella Maniatis
Selena Mason • Charlie McKay • Alyssa Moore
Avelynn Puckett • Ben Raver • Brenden Reyes • Kamil Roberts
Max Ryon • Ryan Schwab • Tess Silverman • Ari Vernon
Rocky Wagner • Wakui Waiganjo • Tressie West

YOUNG ACTORS THEATRE

**Sarah Roy, CEO; Natalie Futrell, Executive Director;
& J. Scott Handley, Artistic Director**

Cash Andrews • Ansley Blay • Laney Grace Blay • Reagan Block
Paige Bradley • Carson Broome • Julia Cade • Hailey Cleary
Charlotte Click • Chloe Cotton Aubrey Craig • Leila Doolin Paredes
Emily Dunson • Audrey Flores • Finnegan Greisl • Lenox Huston •
Harper Janasiewicz • Nolan Johnson • Parker Johnson • Faith Marsh
Megan McConnaughhay • Naomi Moore • Carter Nelson
Nelia Nunnery • Aleah Pratts • Graham Reece • Addison Roberts
Megan Stokley • Francesca Torrado • Anna Shaw Van Leuven

MUSICAL NUMBERS

"One Short Day"

Wicked

**Allie Trimm, Emily Rogers,
& the AFA Choir & Dancers**

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

"You Will Be Found"

Dear Evan Hansen

**Zachary Noah Piser,
Miss Kim's Children's Arts & Dance
& Our Time to Shine & the AFA Choir**
Music & Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

Newsies Medley

"King of New York"

"The World Will Know"

"Seize the Day"

Newsies

**David Guzman, DeMarius Copes
with POYDS Dance Company,
& KASH Dance & Choreography's Tri-State
Musical Theatre Troupe**
Music & Lyrics by Alan Menken & Jack Feldman
Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

"A Whole New World"

Aladdin

Adam Jacobs & Rachel Barcellona
Music & Lyrics by Alan Menken & Tim Rice
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

"On Broadway"

"I Feel the Earth Move"

Beautiful, the Carole King Musical

Young Actors Theatre
Music & Lyrics by Carole King,
Barry Mann, & Cynthia Weil
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

"Cry of the Celts"

"Riverdance"

Riverdance

Ridgewood Irish Dance Academy
music by Ronan Hardiman & Bill Whelan
Violin: Veronica Riner
Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

"Taking a Chance on Love"

Haven Burton
Music & Lyrics by Vernon Duke,
John La Touche & Ted Fetter
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

"Don't Stop"

Horizons Unlimited
Music and Lyrics by Christine McVie
Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

Orchestra

Raul Agraz, Trumpet
Ray Kilday, Bass
Steve Lyons, Reed 2
Craig Magnano, Guitar
Cynthia Meng, Piano
Joe Nero, Drums
Dave Noland, Reed 1

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.

THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who helped us make today possible! Thanks to our families, our friends, all the volunteers, the staff at ETA and Believe NYC, the Broadway performers for donating their time, and our fantastic production and creative teams.

We also want to thank our alumni in tonight's show, Sarah Biernacki and Stacy Wiener for sharing their stories with our students.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone at **Disney Theatrical** and the New Amsterdam Theatre for welcoming us back to their home for a second year and helping to make this evening possible. The positive and lasting impact on the students, performers, audience, and all those they go on to inspire is profound and far-reaching and would not be possible without your support.

And to the countless others who have helped make today possible,
THANK YOU!

WHO'S WHO

MICHAEL JAMES SCOTT - Host

Michael James Scott has played the Genie in Disney's Aladdin internationally including on Broadway, in London, on the North American Tour, and originating the role in the Australian Production, for which he won the prestigious Helpmann Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical. He's also known for originating the role of the Minstrel on Broadway in Something Rotten! and originating Dr. Gotswana (aka The Maggots Guy) in The Book of Mormon. Other Broadway credits include: Hair, Tarzan, Mamma Mia, Elf, and All Shook Up. New York: Jerry Springer the Opera at Carnegie Hall. Tours: Fosse. Las Vegas: Jersey Boys. He is featured on various recordings including The Broadway Boys and Broadway original cast albums, along with numerous TV appearances.

NATALIE MALOTKE- Director

Natalie Malotke is a director, choreographer, creative event producer and teaching artist. Credits include: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Choreo Team on Broadway and National Tour), Joy: A True New Musical (Off-Broadway), Bygone Love for China Broadway Entertainment, Candide at Carnegie Hall, and I Married an Angel at City Center, all alongside Joshua Bergasse. Mystic Pizza at La Mirada Theatre with Casey Hushion, Little Dancer at Lincoln Center with Susan Stroman, and Really Rosie at City Center with Leigh Silverman. Regional directing and choreography credits at Pioneer Theatre Company, Theatre Aspen, New London Barn Playhouse, Weston Theatre Company, The Engeman, Wagon Wheel, Pittsburgh Music Theatre, Northern Stage, and the national tour of Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!. Industrial and corporate events for Nickelodeon, CoComelon, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Hermès, Target, and The Robin Hood Foundation. TV: Choreography: SNL with Jason Sudeikis and Billie Eilish; PBS, A Capitol Fourth. Faculty at Penn State University, Steps and Broadway Dance Center. Grateful to the whole A4A family, especially Jacque and Morgan Thank you for being here and part of the family!

PAUL STAROBA - Musical Director

Paul Staroba is currently the music director of Smash on Broadway. Other conducting credits include: Broadway: Back to the Future, Elf, Aladdin, Company, 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. Favorite Regional Engagements Include The Flamingo Kid (Hartford Stage), Big Fish (Chicago Pre-Broadway), and I Am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk (Strathmore). He 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 35 Broadway Shows.

MORGAN ROSE-JOHNSON - Associate Director

Morgan Rose-Johnson (Associate Director) is ecstatic to be taking part in her 4th Arts for Autism concert. Broadway: School of Rock (Dance Capt/Swing); Off-Broadway: Dear Edwina (Dance Capt/Swing); National Tours: Evita Revival 1st Nat'l Tour (Swing), Shrek The Musical 1st Nat'l Tour, Elf The Musical at Madison Square Garden. In addition to performing, Morgan is a passionate arts educator. She recently relocated to Phoenix after 16 years in New York City where she is still guest faculty at Broadway Dance Center, Master Faculty for Joffrey Ballet School's Musical Theatre Intensive, MTCA and AMDA. She is also proud to adjudicate at the Junior Theatre Festival every year. Morgan is the proud Co-Director and Choreographer for Michigan's High School Music Theatre Awards, the Sutton Foster Awards. She has been incredibly fortunate to work alongside some of New York's most inspiring choreographers including Al Blackstone, Natalie Malotke, Ricky Hinds and Josh Bergasse. Thank you to Natalie and Jacque for trusting me to be your right-hand gal! BFA Music Theatre Florida State University. Proud AEA Member. Love to her incredible husband, Trey, and their sweet boy, Theo.

JACQUE CARNAHAN - Artistic Director

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 not only on Broadway but also around the country. She has a knack for knowing what an audience will love and brings a feeling of joy and celebration to every project. Jacque is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory cum laude and Idyllwild Arts Academy. She has performed around the country and in New York City at venues such as Town Hall, Alice Tully Hall, The Irish Repertory Theater, The York Theater, 54 Below, Green Room 42, and more.

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 such as Tony Award winners Kelli O'Hara and Stephanie J. Block, Tony nominees Christopher Jackson, Denée Benton, Elizabeth Stanley and Max von Essen, as well as Broadway stars Teal Wicks, Nikki Renée Daniels, Abby Mueller, and John Michael Dias.

Jacque is a self-starter and truly believes anything is possible with the right people in the room. Many have inquired how her annual Broadway benefit concert, Arts for Autism, ended up at the Gershwin Theater. Jacque's reply: "I called them. You never know until you ask."

AMANDA McFEE - Keynote

Amanda McFee is the Director of Arts Programs for District 75 Citywide Programs within NYC Public Schools. She is responsible for creating arts programming for school communities in order to support best practices and foster family engagement. As she specializes in access to instruction for students with disabilities, she provides professional development on the topic of arts-based instruction for teachers, related service providers, teaching artists, and others interested in supporting such work.

She believes that the arts allow students to expand communication, self-expression and socialization, further developing motor skills, and increasing problem-solving abilities, while building independence. To promote inclusion across NYC, she creates partnerships with NYC Cultural Partners, training staff and building programs to break down barriers collaboratively and create a more inclusive future. She has also worked with museums to coauthor curricular resources, bringing opportunities into classrooms and students into the community. Amanda has been a guest speaker at the NYC Arts for All Abilities Consortium Conference and the LEGO National Championships, and a guest presenter at the International Society for Technology in Education, National Art Education Association, Museum Next, National Endowment for the Arts, Assistive Technology (AT) Expo | NYC PS, and other conferences worldwide.

RACHEL BARCELLONA - Special Guest

Rachel Barcellona is a graduate from The University of South Florida with a bachelors degree in English and a minor in communications. Studied at Julliard for Vocal Performance in New York, along with theater. She is a national and international spokesperson for many organizations, including an ambassador for Best Buddies. Rachel has also established her own non profit in 2021 Ability Beyond Disabilities. She has spoken at many schools and been a keynote speaker across the country. Speaking at the United Nations on World Autism Day was an experience that she will never forget! Recognized as one of the top influential people with autism along with Daryl Hannah, Dan Aykroyd and Anthony Hopkins, and recently received the gold medal from The Duke of Edinburgh International Award which is largely based on volunteer service and community involvement.

Rachel is a writer and has been in off Broadway theater and just performed at The Stand Comedy Club in New York and The Crow Comedy Club in Santa Monica California. Premiered this year at Film Festivals across the country, a film called Mandy's Voice, I play the lead! Miss Florida for America 2023, and currently Ms. Liberty New York her passion is helping others like herself and with disabilities to lead their best life!

JARED BAZEMORE - Special Guest

Jared Bazemore is a singer from New York City who has been performing since the 8th grade and is very passionate about singing!

As an autistic performer, Jared works heavily with EPIC Players, a neuro-inclusive theatre company. He has performed at various venues and events, including Lincoln Center Big Umbrella Festival, 54 Below and Joe's Pub in several EPIC cabarets, Arts For Autism, and has appeared on ABC's Good Morning America. Jared has also performed with several Broadway performers, including Deanne Stewart, Christopher Stevens, Stephanie Torns, Benny Elledge, and Anastacia McCleskey.

I would like to thank my family, my amazing friends, and EPIC Players for helping me with my confidence and career path. You've helped change my life!

GRANTS

Applications for the Arts & Community Access Grants will be accepted from April 1st, 2025 through September 1st, 2025. Autistic people are encouraged to apply. Grants will be awarded based on available funds.

Grant Qualifications:

- Grants are available to non-profit 501C-3 organizations
- Individuals may partner with non-profits to apply
- Grants may be used for a wide range of projects (including arts-related), but must improve the lives of people impacted by autism
- Any funds granted must be used within one year
- The minimum request is \$1,000 and the maximum award is \$5,000

If you are interested in applying or know someone who may benefit from a grant, you can find the application and details here: artsforautism.net/grants

PRODUCERS

Believe NYC

Believe NYC is made up of New York City artists working in theatre, music, and dance who have a passion for inspiring students to follow their dreams. Through storytelling on stage, question-and-answer sessions, workshops, and dialogue, Believe NYC reveals countless possibilities in the arts. BNYC is the only educational arts organization where students get to perform on Broadway with Tony Award winning performers, directors and designers.

www.believe-nyc.com

Educational Travel Adventures

Since 1991, Educational Travel Adventures has taken thousands of students on tours throughout the world. ETA knows that there is no tool more powerful than seeing the classroom come to life in the real world. That's why they strive to provide unique learning opportunities that meet specific educational goals, making each program the educational experience of a lifetime for students.

www.ETAdventures.com

