

THE BROADWAY PROJECT &
EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL ADVENTURES

present

ARTS
for **AUTISM**



Hosted By

ADAM JACOBS

Celebrating
10 YEARS
on Broadway

June 22, 2026

NEW AMSTERDAM THEATRE

New York City

A WORD FROM THE PRODUCERS



JACQUE CARNAHAN & MICHAEL HOLZER

Once upon a time, in a theatre not far from where we are tonight, something magical happened. It was the year 2016, it was the third Monday in June and for the first time in history, students from across the country joined Broadway performers onstage to celebrate our differences, promote inclusion and kindness and raise money for people impacted by autism at the Arts For Autism Concert. That tradition began ten years ago and while we missed a few performances when the world stopped for a pandemic, we are thrilled to be with all of you here tonight!

We know that many of you have joined us year after year, while for others, tonight is your first time at the concert. In either case, welcome! Each year, we have the privilege of selecting a young artist on the autism spectrum to join our performers onstage and make their Broadway debut. Tonight, we are thrilled to introduce Olivia See, who will light up the stage alongside Broadway performer Caroline Bowman. Singing is Olivia's passion. She loves Broadway music and also plays piano and Suzuki violin. We will also hear from our keynote speaker, Kevin Ray Johnson. Kevin recently completed a run in the Off-Broadway production of *Rent* with EPIC Players and will share some of his experiences as an autistic actor.

And, our cast of more than 100 students and 25 professional Broadway performers of all abilities will come together to share their voices, talents, and spirit in what promises to be an unforgettable performance.

So much has changed over the past decade, but the spirit of this concert remains the same: a belief that inclusion, kindness, and using our talents for good can not only raise money for important causes, but also help create a better world for everyone.

And with that, we invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy the next chapter of our story, Arts for Autism 2026.



Present

ARTS FOR AUTISM

HOST

Adam Jacobs

DIRECTOR

Natalie Malotke

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Paul Staroba

Stage Manager

Vanessa Dodgson-
Thomas

Production Staff

Hannah Bank
Laura Axelrod
Steven West
Kyle Brand
Julia Gleason
Sarah Killough
Stephanie Martignetti
Ben Rowan
Kristi Smith

Guest Choreographer

Logan Epstein

Associate Director

Morgan Rose-Johnson

Show Announcer

Jorge Cordova

Lighting Design

Anthony Pearce

Lighting Assistant

Aidan McLeod

Sound

Marie Renée Foucher

Orchestrations &

Vocal Arrangements

Keiji Ishiguri
Kevin Leahy
Utsav Bhargava

Social Media

Becca Brown
Jenn Korolenko

Design &

Marketing

Jenn Korolenko

CAST

Miki Abraham	Logan Epstein	Michael Pesko
Katie Adams	Amy Justman	Zachary Noah Piser
Caroline Bowman	Kevin Smith Kirkwood	Ryan Vona
Charl Brown	Kelvin Moon Loh	Brynn Williams

CHOIR

Justin Campbell	Robert Head	DeMond B. Nason
Hannah DelMonte	Caroline Knapp	Paul Pilcz
Madeline Fansler	Alex Lawrence	Danielle Erin Rhodes
Michael Fisher	Jennifer Lorae	Ren Thompson
Melanie Goerlitz		Steve Trzaska

Special Guests

EPIC Players
The Silver Starlites
Olivia See

Keynote Speaker

Kevin Ray Johnson

Student Performing Groups

Caldarona Studios - Michigan

Cedar Ridge High School - Texas

Miss Kim's Children's Dance & Arts, and
Our Time to Shine - North Carolina

Midwest Academy - Indiana

Moving Youth Dance Company - New Jersey

CAST



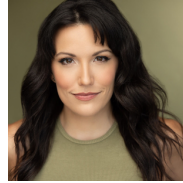
HOST - ADAM JACOBS



Miki Abraham
Shucked



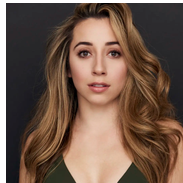
Katie Adams
Wicked



Caroline Bowman
Frozen



Charl Brown
Tony nominee,
Motown: The Musical



Logan Epstein
Chess



Amy Justman
Phantom of the Opera



Kevin Smith Kirkwood
Kinky Boots



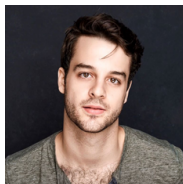
Kelvin Moon Loh
Beetlejuice



Michael Pesko
*Christmas Spectacular Starring
the Radio City Rockettes*



Zachary Noah Piser
Maybe Happy Ending



Ryan Vona
Masquerade



Brynn Williams
Spongebob Squarepants

CHOIR



Justin Campbell
White Christmas



Hannah DelMonte
Fiddler on the Roof



Madeline Fansler
Six



Michael Fisher
Rocktopia



Melanie Goerlitz
Swing



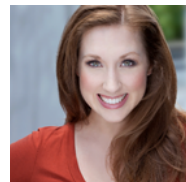
Robert Head
Something Rotten!



Caroline Knapp
Jersey Boys



Alex Lawrence
Food Network's Chopped



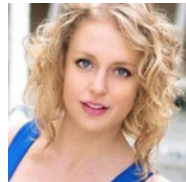
Jennifer Lorae
Parade



DeMond B. Nason
Walmartopia



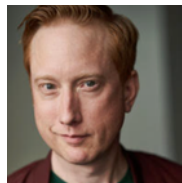
Paul Pilcz
Bye Bye Birdie



Danielle Erin Rhodes
Broadway Backwards



Ren Thompson
Little Shop of Horrors



Steve Trzaska
Glee

SPECIAL GUESTS

EPIC PLAYERS

Co-Directors: Travis Burbee & Cassidy Kaye, **Music Director:** Blake Brauer

Producing Director: Aubrie Therrien

COMPANY OF RENT

Eric Fegan, Conor Tague*, Genesis Solivan, Jocelyn Elena Stout, Lai Williams, Joshua Cartagena, Cameron Walker, Hunter Hollingsworth*, Ahjaah Marie Jewett, Alex Herrera, Andrew Kader, Diana Osorio*, Elisa

Weiss, Ethan Homan, Gravity Queen of Hope and Love, Kevin Ray Johnson*, Laisha Gonzalez, Malcolm Hollis, Micah Tremblay, Nick Prior, Nina Sarna-Jones, Sarah Getzler, Sven W

Mentor Support

Max Bausdisch, Meggan Dodd, Talia Eapen & Carly Hayes

EPIC CHORUS

Max Baudisch, Carly Hayes, Shayna Goldberg, Shafer Gootkind, Henry Houghton, Gianluca Cirafici, Bre Baron, Nick Moscato, Chinedu Ibiam, Jordan Boyatt, Sami Binder, Sandy Gladstone Karpe, Michael Gass, Christine Newberry



THE SILVER STARLITES

Allison Stuart- Co-director/coach

Lindsay Chudoba- Co-director/coach

TWIRLERS

Madison Anderson, Emmy Anderson, Leyla Addor, Gracie Burton, Megan Dixon, Deborah Duque, Leilani Escuted, Arya Mills, Giuliana Rigaglia, Ellie Trapani, Gules Weglinski, Aizen Zapanta

STUDENT PERFORMERS

CALDARONA STUDIOS

Directed by Bethany Caldarona, Jessica Carlin, Amanda Ruth, Mitchie Oliva, Brian Martin, Ryan Buyers, & Ava Assenmacher

Ike Agbaeze • Ava Assenmacher • Natalie Attard
Salma Espino Barba • Blake Bielski • Maggie Breyer
Ryan Buyers • Nick Caldarona • Sophia Caldarona
Ella Darket • Alana Davis • Riley Downey • Allysha Ghenciu
Jesse Good • Spencer Goodman • Rachel Jordan
Logan Larocque • Brian Martin • Olivia Mason • Lilly May
Colin Miller • Alana Nowlan • Julius Owens • Eliana Quesada
Milo Rabaa • Lydia Renee • Amanda Ruth
Alex Sassanelli • Jake Schultz
Penny Soranno • Evelyn Tavarez
Ameena Toumi • Brynley Yannatta

CEDAR RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

**Directed by Kristie Copeland &
Assistant Director Shaelin Abbatiello**

Gavin Baker • Elliot Casner • Ava Casper • Jasper Dawson
Maria Diab • Angel Dubray • Elly Forrester • Emma Good
Phoebe Grebb • Brendyn Hardy • Sophie Harris • Jackson Ingalls
Emily Jackson • Augie Jennings • Chloe Keene • Brody Ketch
Edward King • Emma Kinney • Penelope Lang • Molly Latham
Gabriel Morales Martins • Tatum Morford • Avery Morse
Zachary Neumann • Lorelai Nino • Isabella Olsen
Brooklyn Pemberton • Rory Regenwether • Jack Richardson
Mackenzie Rogers • Mya Rojas • Mason Trusler • Liam Utterback
Elicie Utterback • Donovan Wallace • Elise Wood



**MISS KIM'S CHILDREN'S DANCE & ARTS, and
OUR TIME TO SHINE**

Director and Choreographer, Lilly Beaver
Assisted by Lyndsey Ledbetter and Maya Williamson
Owner and Founder, Kim Black

Mary Bethea • Aurelia Dean • Madisyn Denisar • Bella Elder
Piper Fuqua • Alivia Gibson • Prayanna Goodman • Ava Green
Emmy Gregory • Lyndsey Ledbetter • Eleanor Markley
Adeline Martin • Juli Murray • Aada Tillman

MIDWEST ACADEMY

Directed by Alicia McClure & Nancy Hiquet

Lainey Barthuly • Tyler Burkhart • Layla Callahan • Aiden Cohen
Tate Fehsenfeld • Ethan Hurry • Molly Linden • Georgia Ludlum
Andrew McNally • Marshall Miller • Raiya Patel • Richard Pattee
Zoey Ratner • Chloe Rennie • Jackson Scolnik • Jonah Villamin
Katie Villamin • Jude Vysma • Stella White • Charlie Winters
Connor Wooton

MOVING YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

Directed by Debbie Coury
Choreographed by Olivia Mode-Cater,
Kayleigh Pender & Lisa Rumbaskaus

Mary Bonneville • Mary Cladis • Sophia Cruz
Nora Ferreira • Naya Ferreira • Maddie Janson
Emma Johnson • Olivia Koutroumbis • Alexandra Law
Colette Niemczyk • Cameron Orshak



MUSICAL NUMBERS

"Magic to Do"

Pippin

Charl Brown, Logan Epstein, Michael Pesko, The Silver Starlites, Arts for Autism Choir & Student Company

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Orchestration by Keiji Ishigurii

Rock of Ages Medley

Miki Abraham &

Caldarona Studios

Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

"I Love Rock and Roll"

Music & Lyrics by Alan Merrill and Jake Hooker

"Paradise City"

Music & Lyrics by Axl Rose, Slash, Izzy Stradlin,

Duff McKagan, and Steven Adler

"Hit Me With Your Best Shot"

Music & Lyrics by Eddie Schwartz

"Wanted Dead or Alive"

Music & Lyrics by Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora

"Harden My Heart"

Music and Lyrics by Marv Ross

"Waiting for a Girl Like You"

Music & Lyrics by Mick Jones and Lou Gramm

"Anyway You Want It"

Music & Lyrics by Steve Perry & Neal Schon

"We Built This City On Rock & Roll"

Music & Lyrics by Bernie Taupin,

Martin Page, Dennis Lambert, Peter Wolf

"Don't Stop Believing"

Music & Lyrics by Steve Perry, Neal Schon,

Jonathan Cain

"Come Fly With Me"

Adam Jacobs

Music & Lyrics by Jimmy Van Heusen & Sammy Cahn

Orchestration by Utsav Bhargava

Frozen Medley

Caroline Bowman & Olivia See

"Do You Want to Build a Snowman"

Music & Lyrics by Kristen & Robert Lopez

"For the First Time in Forever"

Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

"Let It Go"

"It's Your Wedding Day"

Ryan Vona & Cedar Ridge High School

The Wedding Singer

Music & Lyrics by Matthew Sklar Chad Beguelin

Orchestration by Utsav Bhargava

"Lost In the Wilderness"

Kevin Smith Kirkwood

Children of Eden

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

AFA Through the Years Medley

Moving Youth Dancers with Miki Abraham, Jennifer Lora, Robert Head, Zachary Noah Piser, Hannah DelMonte & Madeline Fansler

"She Used To Be Mine"

Music & Lyrics by Sara Barellies

"Falling Slowly"

Music & Lyrics by Glen Hansard & Markéta Irglová

"Waving Through a Window"

Music & Lyrics by Pasek & Paul

"For Good"

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Orchestration by Kevin Leahy

"I'd Give It All For You"

Songs for a New World

Kelvin Moon Loh & Brynn Williams

Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

"Rent"

Rent

EPIC Players

Music & Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

KEYNOTE - Kevin Ray Johnson

"Over the Rainbow"

The Wizard of Oz

Jacque Carnahan, Miss Kim's Children's Arts & Dance & Our Time to Shine

Music & Lyrics by Harold Arlen & Yip Harburg
Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

"Twirl the Baton"

Twirl!

Katie Adams, the Silver Starlites & Choir

Music & Lyrics by Jacque Carnahan & Em Radi
Orchestration by Em Radi

"Everybody Rejoice"

The Wiz

Midwest Academy & Choir

Music & Lyrics by Luther Vandross
Orchestration by Utsav Bhargava

"Our Children"

Ragtime

Adam Jacobs & Amy Justman

Music & Lyrics by Ahrens and Flaherty
Orchestration by Utsav Bhargava

"If the World Only Knew"

Jesse Good, Kelvin Moon Loh, Choir, & Student Company

Music & Lyrics by Scott Evan Davis & Students from the P94 Spectrum School
Arrangement & Orchestration by Keiji Ishiguri

Orchestra

Mat Eisenstein - Piano
Ray Kilday - Bass
Craig Magnano - Guitar
Jared Shaw - Drums
Todd Groves - Reed 1
Steve Lyons - Reed 2
Dan Urness - Trumpet

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 The Broadway Project, 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 third year and helping to make this evening possible. The profound and far-reaching impact on the students, performers, audience, and all those they go on to inspire would not be possible without your support.

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

WHO'S WHO

ADAM JACOBS - Host

Adam Jacobs has been a part of the Arts for Autism family since its inception in 2016! Adam made his Broadway debut as Marius in *Les Misérables* after originating the role on the national tour, performing alongside Broadway stars including Lea Salonga and Norm Lewis. He is best known for starring as Aladdin in *Disney's Aladdin* on Broadway, which earned him a Drama Desk and Grammy nomination. On Broadway, Adam has also appeared as Simba in *The Lion King*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *Once On This Island*.

A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (CAP21), Adam has also appeared in numerous regional productions, including *The Hot Mikado*, and was featured in the *San Francisco Opera's Harvey Milk* as "Young Harvey." His versatility and range have allowed him to perform leading roles across a wide variety of styles and genres. Most recently, Adam starred alongside Sierra Boggess in the world premiere of *Monte Cristo* at the York Theatre Off-Broadway.

NATALIE MALOTKE - Director

Natalie Malotke is a director, choreographer, creative event producer, and teaching artist. Credits include: Drama Desk Nominated Choreographer of *Blood/Love* (Off-Broadway) and Resident Choreographer of *Masquerade* (Immersive Phantom of the Opera). Associate on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Choreo Team on Broadway and National Tour), *Joy: A True New Musical* (Off-Broadway), *Spirit of Life* 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, Wagon Wheel, Pittsburgh Music Theatre, Northern Stage, and the national tour of Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!. Industrial and corporate events for Uber, 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 Steps, Broadway Dance Center, and Penn State University @nataliemalotke

PAUL STAROBA - Musical Director

Paul Staroba was most recently the music director of *Beaches* on Broadway. Other conducting credits include: Broadway: *Queen of Versailles*, *Smash*, *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, Cheyenne Jackson, Laura Benanti, Lea Salonga, and Sierra Boggess; and performed in the pit of over 35 Broadway Shows

WHO'S WHO

MORGAN ROSE-JOHNSON - Associate Director

Morgan Rose-Johnson (Associate Director) is ecstatic to be taking part in her 5th 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 Carnahan produced her first one woman show at the age of 14 at the San Luis Obispo Little Theater in California. 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. After graduating from The Boston Conservatory cum laude, Jacque joined the National Tour of *Cinderella* where she met tonight's host, Adam Jacobs! Jacque's New York City credits include performances at The York Theater, Irish Repertory Theater, Signature Theater, 54 Below, Green Room 42, Town Hall, and Alice Tully Hall. Regionally, Jacque has appeared with the Paper Mill Playhouse, Goodspeed Musicals, and Baltimore CenterStage. She is also a NFFA award recipient. Currently, Jacque is writing her first full-length musical, *TWIRL!*, a mother-daughter coming of age story set in the world of competitive baton twirling.

Jacque truly believes anything is possible with the right people in the room. Many have inquired how tonight's concert ended up in a Broadway Theatre. Jacque's reply: "I called them. You never know until you ask." Thank you to her fabulous "Dream Team" for making tonight possible. Enjoy the show! www.jacquecarnahan.com

Kevin Ray Johnson - Keynote

Kevin Ray Johnson is an Award-Winning Singer, Actor & Playwright. He recently performed Off-Broadway in RENT w/ The EPIC Players (Mr. Jefferson, "Seasons Soloist", u/s Benny & Collins). He has also performed in RENT directed by Adam Pascal in Long Island. In his career Kevin has performed with The Kennedy Center, The Astoria Performing Arts Center, The Lyric Opera of Chicago, Asolo Repertory Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, and The Metropolitan Opera, among others. Kevin was also a Semi-Finalist for the John Alexander National Vocal Competition for Opera Mississippi and has studied with The Juilliard School (ext. Division), & Montgomery College (Rockville, Md). He is a Proud member of AEA and AGMA. Love to his wife Rachael, Aubrie and everyone at EPIC Players and all the amazing people associated with Arts for Autism. "Go Get Your Palace!"

EPIC Players, NYC - Special Guests

EPIC Players (Empower, Perform, Include, Create), founded on August 25, 2016, is a nonprofit, neuro-diverse theatre company dedicated to creating professional performing arts opportunities and supportive social communities in the arts for Neurodivergent and Disabled artists. Via inclusive mainstage productions, musical cabarets, original showcases, skills-based classes and career resources, we hope to increase critical employment opportunities, pioneer increased inclusion in the arts, and break down social stigmas surrounding neuro-diverse communities.



OLIVIA SEE - Special Guest

At just 11 years old, Olivia is already advocating for something greater than herself. Olivia is a neurodivergent musician, performer and artist. Gifted with perfect pitch and a deep love for music, she enjoys singing and playing both the piano and violin. She is a member of the Gainesville Youth Chorus and the Gainesville Suzuki Players. Olivia's musical theater journey began as a member of the ensemble in *Aladdin Jr.* by Ripple Theatricals and is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform on the Broadway stage of *Aladdin*. A fun fact about Olivia: she shares her birthday with two Broadway legends, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim, a musical coincidence she loves to celebrate! Olivia loves cruising with her family and recently completed her 14th cruise. While onboard, some of her favorite activities are karaoke and watching the incredible theater productions, which further inspire her love of music and performing. When she isn't making music, Olivia enjoys practicing calligraphy, expressing her creativity through beautiful lettering and design. Olivia hopes to inspire others and show the world that people with unique abilities can thrive, succeed, and make a meaningful impact. She dreams of continuing to share her love of music while encouraging others to embrace what makes them different and celebrate their own strengths.

GRANTS

Applications for the Arts & Community Access Grants will be accepted from April 1st, 2026 through September 1st, 2026. Autistic people are encouraged to apply. Grants will be awarded based on available funds.

Grant Qualifications:

- Grants are available to non-profit 501(c)(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

The Broadway Project by Believe NYC

The Broadway Project 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, The Broadway Project reveals countless possibilities in the arts. TBP is the only educational arts organization where students get to perform on Broadway with Tony Award winning performers, directors and designers. www.thebroadwayproject.org

Educational Travel Adventures

Since 1991, Educational Travel Adventures has taken thousands of students on tours around 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

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