

WallisAnnenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

Paul Crewes
Artistic Director

Rachel Fine
Managing Director

The Miracle Project. **GROW@TheWallis**
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PRESENT

185 WILSHIRE: A LOVE STORY

BOOK BY

The Miracle Project Team

LEAD WRITERS

Zach Marsh, Heather Cooney & Elaine Hall

MUSIC & LYRICS BY

Zach Marsh

INSPIRED BY

The Miracle Project

**FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Elaine Hall

DIRECTED BY

Elaine Hall with Molly Warner
& Maxwell Peters

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

Molly Warner

COSTUME DESIGN

Ayan McNab with Rachael Bird
& Monique Brown

LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN

The Wallis with Molly Warner

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Elaine Hall & Ryan Berman

INTERNS

Michelle Friedman & Jesse Tohl

PROPERTIES

Michelle Friedman

SCENIC DESIGN

Molly Warner & Bob Brode

ARTWORK

Karolina Adams

ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR

Julia Moss

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY

Zach Marsh

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Heather Cooney

MAKEUP

E.I. School of Professional Makeup

PLAYBILL PHOTOS

Debra Pasquerette

MAY 31 - JUNE 3, 2018

Lovelace Studio Theater

Running Time: 1 hour and 15 minutes, with no intermission

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JAKE.....DOMONIQUE BROWN
LEAH.....TRISTEN BONACCI MILLER
NORA.....SUSAN CORWIN
WALKER.....JORDAN LESHTZ
KATIE.....ANNA FOX
BILLY.....ARI NAAMANI-GOLDMAN
MILEY.....ANNA POLIN
JOEY / CHAD.....JACK ZAGER
ROSE.....ELENA GOLDBERG
PATTI.....MADELEINE DAHM
BLANCHE / ISABELLA.....MOLLY WARNER
SOPHIA.....JOSEFINA CORREA
DOROTHY.....FRANCESCA BALDASSANO
QUINN.....HARLEE DAVENPORT
DEAN.....COBY BIRD
FRANK.....HUNTER TROST
SAMMY.....MICHAELANTHONY GREENFIELD
PETER / PIERRE.....DAVID ISAACMAN
RYAN.....RYAN BERMAN
VIVIAN.....NATALIE WEBBER
CINDY.....ANDREA KAYE

Scenes & Musical Numbers

SCENE 1: Blank Stage

Who Would You Become?

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 2: Apartment Complex

Welcome to the Neighborhood

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 3: Jake's Apartment

SCENE 4: Apartment Hallway

Iceberg

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 5: Game Night

The Rules of Dating School

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 6: Apartment Lobby

Fall in Love

PERFORMED BY: Girls

SCENE 7: Jake's Apartment

SCENE 8: Date Night

Ode to Failure

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 9: Outside the Apartment Complex

Trust Yourself, Trust your Friends

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 10: Courtyard

SCENE 11: Jake's Apartment

SCENE 12: Speed Friending

Speed Friending

PERFORMED BY: Company

Iceberg (Reprise)

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 13: Jake's Apartment

Let Me Fail On My Own

(co-written by Domonique Brown)

PERFORMED BY: Jake

SCENE 14: Apartment Hallway

SCENE 15: Jake's Living Room

Who Will Love Him?

(Additional lyrics by Susan R. Corwin,
Elaine Hall, and Jeff Frymer)

PERFORMED BY: Nora & Walker

SCENE 16: Apartment Hallway

More

PERFORMED BY: Company

SCENE 17: Blank Stage

Who Would I Become? (Reprise 2)

PERFORMED BY: Company

About The Miracle Project:

The Miracle Project is a fully inclusive theatre, film, and expressive arts program for children, teens, and adults with autism and all abilities. Using groundbreaking and evidence-based methods developed by award-winning founder Elaine Hall, The Miracle Project focuses on the strengths and abilities inherent in its participants, providing tools to build communication, social skills, job skills, and friendships while developing a unique neurodiverse community.

Special Thanks:

To Mark Slavkin and everyone at The Wallis, especially Heather Cooney.

The Miracle Project Board of Directors led by Thomas Cajka with Rob Eshman, Tarryn Breskal, Lauren Katz, and Alex Plank.

The Miracle Makers Committee led by Julia Moss, Pam Pacht, and Jeffrey Tohl with Rachael Bird, Monique Brown, Susan Corwin, Louise Daspit-Webber, Angela Downing, Debra Dresner, Victoria Gael, Sophie Grusq, Deborah Isaacman, Andrea Kay, Mark Miller, Alexandra Polin, Annette Shapiro, Sondra Smalley, Cindy Trost and Mady Wolf.

Advisors: Shelley Cox, Catherine Grey, Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, Dr. Barry Prizant, Dr. Elaine Meyer, Dr. Stephen Shore, Amy Gravino, Becca Lory, Matt Asner, Victoria Morris.

Special Thanks to The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; The Skylight Foundation; Annette Shapiro; Allen Jefferies Framing; Broadway Dreams; Jennifer Laszlo Mizrachi, Lauren Applebaum and RespectAbility; Jess Block; Jennifer Goldstein, Laura Witcoff Hannah Warren, Bunim/Murray Productions, Gail Williamson, Michelle Wolf, Beth Tishler, Julie Weil, Naomi Salamon, Estey DeMerchant, Joanne Lara, Tom Iland and DeeDee Dorskind.

Heartfelt gratitude to the extraordinary artist, Karolina Adams, for creating the 185 Wilshire: A Love Story Art Design: KarolinaAdams.com



FRANCESCA BALDASSANO has been volunteering with The Miracle Project since June 2017. She is thrilled to participate in *185 Wilshire: A Love Story* and share this experience with the amazingly talented cast and local community. She is so inspired by everyone involved in this creative journey and looks forward to more collaboration in the future. In her spare time, Francesca loves taking ballet classes, hiking, and visiting her family on the east coast.



DOMONIQUE BROWN has been with The Miracle Project for 5 years and has had the pleasure of participating in numerous shows including *Work in Progress*, *The Intimidation Game* and *Joining the Spectrum*. In addition to his love for acting, Dom loves to sing, write and dance. He is very excited and proud to be performing with a stellar cast in *185 Wilshire: A Love Story* and thanks his parents for their love and support, as well as The Miracle Project for their time invested.



HEATHER COONEY (Stage Manager) has been blessed to work at The Wallis for three years, and volunteer with The Miracle Project for two years. She is excited to be working with everyone involved with *185 Wilshire: A Love Story*. Heather enjoys hiking and spending time with her family, friends, and her adorable dog Rockford.



COBY BIRD has been a part of The Miracle Project for the last 4 years and is excited to be a part of this year's show. Coby has enjoyed performing with The Miracle Project as well as Guest Starring on ABC's *Speechless* and *The Good Doctor*. Coby loves to sing and act and is currently interested in Japanese Culture.



JOSEFINA CORREA has been with The Miracle Project for a year and it is the first time she will be performing in a show! She is really excited about *185 Wilshire: A Love Story!* Josefina also enjoys cooking, dancing, and spending time outdoors with friends.



SUSAN CORWIN has been a volunteer with The Miracle Project in past years, and is thrilled to be performing on stage with this incredibly talented cast. When she's not at The Miracle Project, she's singing with the band The Mavens, cooking with the residents at The People Concern's Daybreak Shelter or volunteering at Vista Del Mar. She is grateful to her husband and son for their love, support and running lines with her.



MADELEINE DAHM is very excited to be part of this year's The Miracle Project, with such a group of talented artists. Madeleine is the director of The Wallis Youth Theatre Company and the Resident Artist at Grow.



HARLEE DAVENPORT who turned 25 this year, is a long time member of The Miracle Project. She has had a busy year working at her family's restaurant, starting a new venture of dog walking, volunteering at the senior center and Adopt and Shop, and of course many visits to the house of the world's most famous mouse. His kingdom is magical.



ANNA FOX has been involved with The Miracle Project for the past four years and is excited to be performing in *185 Wilshire: A Love Story*. Anna just finished her MFA in playwriting at UCLA, and has had her work performed around the country. She is an avid traveler and enjoys the outdoors.



ELENA GOLDBERG has been with The Miracle Project since its inception, acting in all of its shows. She performed with *The Miracle Project Live* for several years and participated in CSUN's Teen Drama Workshop, *Joining the Spectrum*. Elena adores being a part of the Miracle Project community, and also attends West LA College where she actively participates in the theater program. Outside of TMP, you can catch Elena listening and dancing to music, and hanging out with her good friends.



MICHAEL ANTHONY GREENFIELD has been a part of The Miracle Project for about 2 years. He decided to become an actor/performer and joined TMP after seeing them perform *The Intimidation Game* with his middle school. He is proud to be a part of this program and perform with his peers. Michael Anthony also enjoys basketball, writing, and video games.



DAVID ISAACMAN has been a part of The Miracle Project for 1 year and is excited to be performing with a stellar cast in *185 Wilshire: A Love Story*. David's dream is coming true with this production! David also participates in The Miracle Project's Improv Class in Santa Monica. David enjoys attending plays and spending time with his sisters.



ANDREA KAYE is happy to be returning to The Miracle Project for this production of *185 Wilshire: A Love Story*. Seeing our talented company grow into this ambitious production has been uplifting.



JORDAN LESHTZ has been volunteering with The Miracle Project for three years and is honored to be a part of their latest production. Jordan is a Chicago native and loves living in LA. Jordan is a direct support professional for adults with special needs.



AYAN MCNAB (Costume Designer) graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 2016. The Miracle Project's *185 Wilshire: A Love Story* is the third theater production she has costume designed. Previous costume design credits include a *Sherlock Holmes* play and the musical *Upon a Mattress* in High School. Her two main hobbies are surfing and musical theater.



TRISTEN BONACCI MILLER has been a part of The Miracle Project for 12 years and loves performing here at The Wallis. She has sung at numerous SoCal events and also at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Tristen is a student at Santa Monica College where she is majoring in Musical Theater and Foreign Languages.



ARI NAAMANI-GOLDMAN is delighted to be onstage again with The Miracle Project, and even happier to have spent the months leading up in rehearsal with its wildly inspiring community. Ari moved to Los Angeles from New York, where he served as president of the Alzheimer's Association's young professionals committee and launched its art outreach program. He also worked as a sound designer, and produced soundtracks for Lincoln Center, the United Nations, and the Louvre.



ANNA POLIN a student at Beverly Vista School, is just beginning with The Miracle Project and is very excited for her first performance with The Miracle Project. Anna has been in a handful of performances including "The Jimmy Kimmel Show," performed with Walk the Moon band, sang at Sony Studios, and many more! Anna loves traveling, writing, playing sports, and Disney!



HUNTER TROST has been a part of The Miracle Project for 2 years. He began as a member of *TMP Live!* performing at events around Los Angeles such as "Stephanie's Day" and "Autism Rocks" at Universal City Walk. Hunter is excited to be playing the role of "Frank" and to be working with fellow performers both on and off the spectrum. Hunter is a 2018 graduate of Beverly Hills High School and will be attending Columbia College Hollywood this fall.



NATALIE WEBBER is excited to be a cast member in the terrific *185 Wilshire: A Love Story*, with the talented Miracle Project students and staff. With The Miracle Project, Natalie has found the perfect place to share her love of theater and performing, and to become a better actor and hopefully director. Thank you, Elaine, Ryan, Zach, Molly, Julia, and especially fellow showmates for your dedication and friendship.



JACK ZAGER has been a part of The Miracle Project for almost 1 year and is excited to be performing with an awesome cast in *185 Wilshire: A Love Story*. This is Jack's first show with The Miracle Project, but enjoyed performing with the Miracle Project last summer. Jack loves Musical Theatre and hanging out with friends.

The Miracle Project Staff:

ELAINE HALL (The Miracle Project's Founder and Executive Artistic Director), also known as "Coach E," is a pioneer in using inclusive theatre, music and movement practices as a portal to connect with individuals with autism and all abilities. A top Hollywood acting coach, Elaine's world changed when her son was diagnosed with severe autism. When traditional therapies did not work for him, she developed an innovative methodology, combining mindfulness and the expressive arts with what she was learning about autism. These methods, now evidence-based, are chronicled in her book, *Seven Keys to Unlock Autism: Making Miracles in the Classroom*, used as a textbook at Brown University, among others. Elaine's memoir, *Now I See the Moon: A Mother, A Son, a Miracle* was selected by the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day, where she has been a featured speaker. She has co-written and produced over 30 musicals. Elaine has been lauded in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and featured on HBO, CNN, CBS, NPR and the Oprah Winfrey Network. The Emmy Award-winning Bunim Murray documentary, *AUTISM: The Musical* profiles The Miracle Project, which is being replicated nationally and internationally. Most recently, Elaine was an autism consultant and on-set coach on the film *Please Stand By* starring Dakota Fanning, and on the second season of the Netflix series "ATYPICAL."

RYAN BERMAN (Chief Operating Officer) has been with The Miracle Project for almost 10 years and is Chief Operating Officer and a Master Teacher. He has trained parents, professionals, and volunteers across the country on The Miracle Project program, philosophies, and Elaine Hall's Seven Keys to Unlock Autism. Ryan has worked with individuals with disabilities for 12 years, applying his training in DIR/Floortime, Applied Behavior Analysis, and Facilitated Communication to provide services, skills and resources to families and children impacted by autism and other disabilities. Ryan serves as an Educational Consultant for a private Los Angeles high school for students who type to communicate as well as for Camp Ramah's Vocational Program in Ojai, CA. Ryan holds a Masters in Social Work with a concentration in Children, Youth, Women and Families.

ZACH MARSH (Music Director) grew up on the stage in a family full of performers. After taking over for the accompanist in his high school's production of *Footloose*, he found he much preferred directing and conducting from behind the piano. Having studied Music Therapy and Music Composition, Zach's 5 years with The Miracle Project have been a perfect marriage of the two. Creating with the students is a never-ending well of inspiration, and though he's currently completing his 13th original musical with The Miracle Project, it always feels fresh and exciting. Apart from theater, Zach writes music for film and TV. Recent Credits include an upcoming WB animated feature, *VeggieTales: In The House* (Netflix,) "The Stinky and Dirty Show" (Amazon,) "Daredevil" (Netflix,) *Wrapped Up In Christmas* (Lifetime,) *Sharing Christmas* (Hallmark,) *Still Waters* (Indie Feature Drama,) "Half Vanilla" (Indie Pilot) and two upcoming pilots for the CW and ABC.

MAXWELL PETERS (Co-Director) is a graduate of Emerson College. He has worked for The Walt Disney Company, Nickelodeon, and AwesomenessTV and has his own production company, Ignited Entertainment, with his writing partner Kaitlyn Gatto. Max started working with The Miracle Project in January 2016. He is currently pursuing his Masters of Arts in Teaching at the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education and teaches theatre arts at Equitas Academy Middle School in Pico Union. He is a member of The Academy for Television Arts & Sciences, The Dramatist Guild, The American Alliance for Theatre & Education and The Young Producers Circle at Center Theatre Group.

MOLLY WARNER (Choreographer) has been so blessed to be a part of The Miracle Project this year. After a lifetime on stage, she graduated with a BA in Theatre from Seattle Pacific University and has worked professionally as an actress and lighting designer in Seattle and Southern California. She is currently working towards a Masters in Psychology and licensure as a mental health counselor with an emphasis in autism. Molly is a trained behavioral interventionist and advocate for people of all abilities. She hopes to utilize her passion for performance and inclusion to give every one of The Miracle Project participants a place to call home.