

The Hamilcast: A Hamilton Podcast

Episode #77: You want a revolution? I want a revelation!

Host: Gillian Pensavalle

Co-host: Mike Smith (You know Mike!)

Guest: Mandy Gonzalez, Hamilton on Broadway

Description: Calling all #FearlessSquad members (aka #SquadKicks): We have the one and only Mandy Gonzalez on the podcast this week! Mandy talks all things #FearlessSquad, what it's like playing Angelica in Hamilton on Broadway, her experience as Nina in In The Heights, the importance of having a fight within you, and why the world is a better place with Lin-Manuel Miranda in it. You will feel so motivated by the end of this episode!

Transcribed by: Rachel Rivera, Proofed by: Kathy Wille
The Hamilcast's Transcribing Army

Ok, so we are doing this . . .

Opening MUSIC: Alexander Hamilton (instrumental)

GILLIAN PENSAVALLE: Hey everybody! Welcome back to the Hamilcast. It is me Gillian. Bianca is away out of town for a wedding. I am here with Mike.

MIKE SMITH (You know Mike): Bianca Soto is off tonight [Mike says this in a deeper, inflected voice, mimicking a news broadcaster]. I wanted to do a newscaster thing [laughter]

MANDY GONZALEZ: That was good.

G.PEN: Now listen up, we've got a special guest...

MANDY: [sings a note]

G.PEN: [gasping] Mandy Gonzalez is here you guys!

MANDY: Hi!!

G.PEN: Hi Mandy!

MANDY: Hi guys!! Hi!!

G.PEN: This is awesome, thank you for joining us in the Heat Dome

MANDY: Oh I'm so excited to be here in the Heat Dome! It's really hot and fabulous, [laughter] but we have like these amazing ice cubes that like kind of keep you like really cool so it's very nice

M.SMITH: [crosstalk] Our freezer has been working over time

G.PEN: What do you call them?

M.SMITH: Supercubes

G.PEN: They're supercubes

MANDY: Yeah, they totally are supercubes

M.SMITH: You just make them in

MANDY: I must have them for my house

[laughter]

G.PEN: Yes, it's the easiest thing in the world

M.SMITH: You can get a \$40 mold from *Sur La Table* [Mike says this with a French accent] or you can take a plastic cup and fill it with water and put it in the freezer and that works just as well

MANDY: Hey
[laughter]

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: It's part of being a New Yorker

M.SMITH: Life hack [laughter]

G.PEN: Yeah, Life hack! Dot com hashtag

MANDY: [laughs in the background]

GILLAIN: Alright, we have a special cocktail for Mandy Gonzalez, and we're, we have to, it's kind of a name, we have to sing it, are you ready?

M.SMITH: I'm ready

G.PEN AND M.SMITH SING IN THE TUNE OF Take a Break, Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast Recording): MY BEEREST [THEY BOTH GASP] FRANGELICA...ANYWAY ALL THIS TO SAY

[MANDY COOS IN THE BACKGROUND]

G.PEN: So, anyway, all this to say

M.SMITH: It is Frangelico but we changed it to FrAngelica

G.PEN: Obviously

MANDY: Wooooooo! Fancy!

M.SMITH: It is vanilla vodka and root beer over one giant ice cube in a frozen Moscow mule glass

[crosstalk]

MANDY: I love these glasses, they make everything better

M.SMITH: Mug rather, for the period

G.PEN: Right! And they get cold so fast

M.SMITH: Really quickly

G.PEN: So today this is like

[cross talk]

MANDY: In the Heat Dome

G.PEN: It's perfect

MANDY: It's awesome

G.PEN: I'm so sorry you're here when it's 97,000 degrees outside

MANDY: No!!!

G.PEN: 96,000, I should say

[cross talk]

MANDY: It's part of New York

M.SMITH: True

MANDY: I like it

G.PEN: So, thank you so much for coming, Mike and I have seen you as Angelica twice

M.SMITH: Mhmm mhmm

MANDY: Really??

G.PEN: Yes

MANDY: Awww that's awesome!

G.PEN: We

M.SMITH: Yep you're my only Angelica

MANDY: Aww so cool I'm honored!

G.PEN: So

M.SMITH: Yeah [crosstalk]

G.PEN: Oh us too and you are weirdly a listener

MANDY: Yes

G.PEN: Of this podcast

MANDY: I know, I'm very strange [Gillian laughs] it's a very interesting thing, I forgot why I started listening, um somebody from my Fearless Squad told me about you guys and um I started to listening cuz I thought it was so much fun and you guys have such a great time so and you guys have like really great guests cuz most of them are my friends!

G.PEN: [laughter] I was gonna say they're all your friends, of course you love the guests!

MANDY: So I like to hear what they talk about and stuff

G.PEN: Yeah I love that, speaking of the Fearless Squad, we have so many questions about that.

MANDY: [sings a note]

G.PEN: I am an unabashed member of the Fearless Squad

MANDY: Are you a squad kick?

G.PEN: Is that what...yes!

MANDY: That's what you are!

G.PEN: Yes! Sure!

MANDY: You're a member

G.PEN: Absolutely!!

MANDY: That's awesome! Welcome!

G.PEN: Oh thanks!

M.SMITH: I'm an aspiring member

G.PEN: So we have

MANDY: You'll get there, you'll get there [laughter]

G.PEN: Yeah, we have so many questions. So you guys know we have this Patreon Peeps as I call them, you guys our Patreon Peeps know about who's coming on the show before anybody else

MANDY: [crosstalk] That's amazing

G.PEN: So they have the opportunity to ask questions and we have so many questions about the Fearless Squad

MANDY: Ohhh that's so cool!

G.PEN: And I think before we get into anything else we're just gonna tackle those, but before we get to them, can you just tell people who don't know, but should know about the Fearless Squad, can you just tell people what it's all about?

MANDY: Sure, you know, I started Fearless Squad online and um I started by posting a picture of my friends uh with Javi Munoz and um James Iglehart and I posted a picture in front of the Hamilton theater and I called them my Fearless Squad and it kind of just took off online and

everybody started to post pictures with their own Fearless Squad and just asking me what does it take to be part of your Fearless Squad and what is this, so I had to think about it and go OH! Everybody kind of needs a Fearless Squad

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: Like, it's kind of a thing that if you do feel alone I want to be that person that, that helps you feel a little bit less alone cuz I know what that's like and everybody needs encouragement and I think sometimes online, it can be kind of negative

G.PEN: You think? Yeah!

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: I would say so

MANDY: Yeah, and I think that everybody is looking to do something good but as a community, so I started Fearless Squad to kind of begin this, this conversation and build this community and it's really kind of taken off in this way and um I'm so excited about it so that's pretty much what Fearless Squad is in a nutshell

G.PEN: Yeah it's like very simple but very needed

MANDY: It is, it is and uh you know I always say "Fearless Squad, what's up!" like at any of my shows and everybody is like, "Woohoo!" so, you know, if you feel like alone in the world or anything, like we got your back so it's a very, a very cool place and cool thing to be a part of

G.PEN: Dania said, actually, it's not a question but she just said, thank you for founding the Fearless Squad on the internet, I have never felt like I had a place to belong until I found this podcast and your Fearless Squad

MANDY: Ohhh I love it!

G.PEN: So, it's working

MANDY: Awww!

G.PEN: It is absolutely working...and Payton asks, who are the quote "board members" or officially indoctrinated members of the Fearless Squad and are there any men?

MANDY: Yes! There's a lot of men

G.PEN: Ok so you're in

MANDY: You're in

M.SMITH: Ok good I'm in

MANDY: You're definitely, it's for everybody and um I say the Fearless Squad is ours, it's a community and we're all part of the board and we all kind of make up the rules and um we do it together and that's what it's all about, it's about all of us working together to build this thing so taking the good and going into your own community and building up your own Fearless Squad in your community and building your own rules and posting your pictures about that, it's all we're all part of that so um it's for everybody

G.PEN: I love it

MANDY: Mmhmm

G.PEN: We had so much fun at the Tony party! You had like a Tony party on Twitter

MANDY: I did, I did!

G.PEN: With the Fearless Squad, It's the best, it's just the best

MANDY: Just awesome! Did you see some of the costumes?

G.PEN: I did

MANDY: Oh my gosh

G.PEN: People go all out, I did not go all out at all

MANDY: Well for the next party, for the next Fearless party you're going to have to go all out

G.PEN: Ok

MANDY: Because people went all out and it was so cute! Like so many costumes I didn't think like people were gonna build but a few people were like Anastasia and somebody was Andrew Rannells

[crosstalk]

G.PEN: Just Andrew Rannells not just his character? Just him?

M.SMITH: Just Andrew Rannells

MANDY: No no from oh from Falsettos

G.PEN: Oh

MANDY: Oh so yeah but it was just like what?

G.PEN: I felt that

MANDY: It was so cool

G.PEN: I felt that way at Broadway Con too seeing some of these costumes

MANDY: Oh Broadway Con was

G.PEN: It was so, you guys are unbelievable, like Bridgett

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: We met this girl Bridgett one day she was King George and she nailed it, the next day she was TJeff

MANDY: Oh I met her

G.PEN: She's awesome right?

MANDY: Yeah she was awesome

G.PEN: I was like Bridgett I'm obsessed with you, I'm obsessed!
Vivian was an awesome Eliza. Hey everybody I hope you guys are still listening to the podcast but when I saw them, I was like Bridgett! Oh my God! It's Bridgett she's TJeff today!! I like fan girl'd out over Bridgett [Gillian laughs excitedly].

MANDY: It was great and I think that um the Broadway community is really building, it's becoming so many different things it's about just, not just what's on stage but what's behind the stage and like costuming and set design and stage managers. At our theater the stage managers get as much fan mail as we do, it's, it's really beautiful because people realize that they don't just have to, if they want to be part of theater, they don't just have to be on the stage, theater is part of a community and it doesn't work without one part so I think it's a beautiful thing and I think that Broadway Con really brought that out because they have a booth for everybody you know

G.PEN: For everything

MANDY: Yeah I really loved it, I was like oh my gosh if they'd had this when I was a kid I would have been like,

G.PEN: Totally

MANDY: I would have been there every year

G.PEN: Yeah and it was my first Broadway Con even though I know there was only one [cross talk] And it was the great blizzard of Broadway Con

MANDY: No it was my first too, right right right, but that's to be expected cuz then you can be like I was there

G.PEN: I know and I wasn't but my co-host was and so like I was like alright fine, we get it, everybody who was at the first Broadway Con, you survived the blizzard, it's cool

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: But, yeah, I love Broadway Con

M.SMITH: I'm just basking in my newfound membership in the Fearless Squad

G.PEN: Yasss!

MANDY: Oh my God

M.SMITH: I could be a prospect for like you Sons of Anarchy fans, I could be like one of those people that like doesn't have the full patch yet [crosstalk] they gotta sort of hang out

MANDY: You totally have the full patch, dude. You have to like just jump in because the thing is that you like have to look, you know part of our squad rules, the first thing is look for the goods so it's kind of you gotta start right away

M.SMITH: Alright

G.PEN: They're the best rules

MANDY: And you gotta bring the Sons of Anarchy with you, that's just part of it [all laugh]

G.PEN: I was going to say if I am offering up this apartment aka the room where the podcast happens as a clubhouse if you ever need an actual place

MANDY: Oohhhh that would be awesome!

G.PEN: We could do it here, I know it lives on Twitter and it's for everyone and

MANDY: No but it's like I have so many people that would come out. You know, I'm singing in Philly on Monday and Tuesday and I have so many of my squad kicks that are coming out for that and they're like, "we'll see you in Philly!" so there, people are driving out, so people will drive out and come and hang out

G.PEN: Alright let's do it! This is officially the...we have to get like a cute little sign to put on the front door: Fearless Squad Clubhouse

MANDY: They would love it [laughter]

G.PEN: And everyone's welcome

MANDY: Right everyone's welcome except...no [laughter]

G.PEN: Yeah, no! Except people who are jerks

MANDY: Well...

G.PEN: Well...

MANDY: Even haters are welcome because we can always like change them around

G.PEN: That's true, you're so good, you're like such a good person

MANDY: Dude I'm trying [crosstalk]

G.PEN: You're so nice

MANDY: I don't know if it's that, I just have a lot of hope um for the world and anybody can have, can make a difference, you know, you just have to do your part

G.PEN: Well and we need, we need a lot of that right now so

MANDY: We do

G.PEN: We thank you

MANDY: We do, yeah for sure

G.PEN: Thank you for that

*[Song: Breathe from In The Heights is played]
Straighten the spine.
Smile for the neighbors.*

*Everything's fine.
Everything's cool.
The standard reply,
"Lots of tests, lots of papers."
Smile, wave goodbye,
And pray to the sky, oh God...
And what will my parents say?*

COMMUNITY:
Nina...

NINA:
Can I go in there and say,

COMMUNITY:
Nina...

NINA:
"I know that I'm letting you down..."

ABUELA CLAUDIA:
Nina...

NINA:
Just breathe...

[end Breathe]

G.PEN: I'm gonna fan girl out a little bit

MANDY: Ok...

G.PEN: Right now, so I, you were In The Heights obviously

MANDY: Yes

G.PEN: And I, I think the song *Breathe* can be really be related to really anybody and what they're going through, it doesn't just have to be someone who was going through what Nina was going through

MANDY: Yeah definitely [crosstalk]

G.PEN: And as actors and creative people, the whole standard reply, “lots of tests lots of papers,” sometimes if you go home for a holiday or people you see once a year, it’s like “when am I gonna see you on television?” It’s the standard reply, like “lots of auditions!” Like, “pounding the pavement!” and you just sort of, and it doesn’t matter what, you can be a lawyer, you can be something, it’s still, people are still going to ask you those things and that song and your performance of it, when I tell myself to breathe and stay centered, it’s your voice in my head

MANDY: Awwww!

G.PEN: So thank you for

[crosstalk]

MANDY: I love that.

G.PEN: Doing that

MANDY: Thank you for saying that! It was such, oh wow, In The Heights, it was such an incredible journey you know, especially with that song, because it was actually a different song um throughout the process of uh my journey with In The Heights like starting in the reading where you’re just sitting around the table

G.PEN: Sure

MANDY: Um, I think that was, Lin changed that song um and adapted it the most out of, I think, any song that stayed around from that

G.PEN: Really?

M.SMITH: Hmmm

MANDY: Yeah from that first reading because um and any time I say, “Oh Lin can I,” I did a concert and I said, “Oh, I’d love to sing, you know, one of the Nina tunes” and he’s like, “Well Mandy, you know I have a truck, a trunk full of like uh Nina tunes” and because he does, cuz there were so many like different adaptations and um the one off Broadway was different from the one that was um finally Breathe

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: That landed on Broadway so um it just, it warms my heart cuz he worked so hard on that song and uh he’s a genius so

G.PEN: He’s ok

MANDY: It really like captured all of those songs like put together is Breathe yeah, It's amazing when you can see a writer go through that process

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: You know, and then it works and people love it and identify with it and say you know I'm, I feel like Nina and I know what that's like and you're just like oh Lin you just, you nailed it

G.PEN: Yeah, were you involved, not involved, but were you sort of around during that same process for Hamilton?

MANDY: I wasn't, you know um, I had just had my daughter [laughs] and I think it was like two months, my daughter was two months old and uh Tommy Kail had called me to see if I would come and sing a song at, Lin was doing a show at Lincoln Center

G.PEN: The American Songbook

MANDY: Yeah he was doing American Songbook and he wanted to present some songs from Hamilton as well as things that he was influenced by Alex Lacamoire was doing the arranging and um and, you know whenever Tommy Kail calls you say yes [laughter]

G.PEN: You say how high Tommy Kail

M.SMITH: You show up

MANDY: Exactly

G.PEN: Let's do this

MANDY: Cuz you know its going to be, you're going to be in for an interesting ride so um so, yeah, I said yes and then I learned *Say No To This* [

G.PEN GASPS] and I sang it with Lin and then I sang um you know the ensemble,

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: I sang all of the rest of the songs that we sang

G.PEN: ShockWave told us all about that

MANDY: Oh yeah

G.PEN: Because he told us about that because he brought over the folder, the binder, of like, the set list,

MANDY: Oh gosh

G.PEN: It was the setlist and all this stuff, it was the coolest we, no

MANDY: You just know that when it started, it was the same thing as when we were in the reading and Lin, we were all around the table, and Lin said ok I'm gonna um, you know, nobody knows the music yet so I'm gonna sing through the whole thing of In The Heights and when he started it was like "*lights up on Washington Heights*" and we all just kind of looked around and we're like, who's this guy, like he's amazing and what is this, I want to be a part of it...it was kind of the same thing that night where you're just like oh, Lin, like, you did it

G.PEN Yeah

MANDY: you're doing it, because then [crosstalk in hushed voices]

G.PEN: Damn it Lin

M.SMITH: This kid is insane man

MANDY: It took a while after that

G.PEN: This kid is insane man, its 98 zillion degrees, 96000, I have to

MANDY: It is, bring ice

G.PEN: Its 96000 degrees and I'm getting chills

MANDY: Awww, it's really um it was really an incredible night to be a part of, I mean, New York is definitely a better place with Lin in it

M.SMITH: Mmhmm

G.PEN: Oh for sure, the world is really, it's like we get to wake up, there was a funny meme and I don't know who, who I should credit for it but you know it's the internet so things, but it's like

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: The world is however many billions of years old, but just think how lucky you are to be alive right now that you're alive at the same time as Lin Manuel Miranda [laughs]

MANDY: It's very true

G.PEN: Yeah it's kind of awesome

MANDY: It's very true because I think Lin is not just a brilliant writer and person, he's also a wonderful teacher and uh just what he posts on Twitter and uh what he makes the world aware of by different things that he talks about, it changes things and so I um, yeah, I couldn't be like more proud of him

G.PEN: Yeah

[Song: Empire State of Mind is played, Lin Manuel Miranda and Mandy Gonzalez sing]

Lin adds an extra rap: Statue of liberty, long live the World Trade, long live the King, Yo! I'm from the Empire State, yes!

*Mandy sings: Baby, I'm from
New York, concrete jungle where dreams are made of
There's nothing you can't do
When you're in New York
These streets will make you feel brand new
big lights will inspire you
Let's Hear it for New York,
concrete jungle where dreams are made of
There's nothing you can't do
When you're in New York*

Lin adds an extra rap: And another hundred people just got off of the train, and came up through the ground, while another hundred people just got off of the bus and are lookin' around at another hundred people who got off of the plane and are lookin' at us now got off of the train well the plane and the bus maybe yesterday, New York! (Mandy sings, New York! New York! In the background). Hello, New York! (Mandy sings, New York! New York!). And another hundred people just got off of the train!!
[end Empire State of Mind]

G.PEN: So this is perfect cuz we have a lot of questions

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: About In The Heights and Hamilton and the connection,

MANDY: Sure

G.PEN: The first time I saw you in Hamilton was when I saw you with Mike and I was just like ok so here's the thing about Chris Jackson and Mandy Gonzalez

MANDY: Awww

G.PEN: Is that they were, they, you had this beautiful connection in Heights and then you have that small, and it's like super fans just like lose their minds over it

MANDY: When we dance together?

G.PEN: Yes!! [laughter] And it's like there they are!!! [Gillian excitedly exclaims] On the Richard Rodgers stage again and its George Washington and Angelica and it's very, like they're such strong characters

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: And it just makes sense and I'm sure like there's no coincidences in that show, everything, everyone has [crosstalk]

MANDY: Oh yeah

G.PEN: Everything is in their right place, but it's like, thank you creative team

MANDY: Ohhhh! I love it!!

G.PEN: For giving all the fans exactly

MANDY: I love that!! I mean we were, we were over the moon to be on stage together again and any time, I mean I don't, I sing a little bit with Chris in the show, just ensemble but uh any time I get to sing with Chris it's just, it's a dream

G.PEN: Yeah he's, mm

MANDY: So we have such a mutual respect for one another, it's very, it was exciting

G.PEN: And was it so great to be part of that American songbook and then just be in Hamilton, like so you were kind of, you were just sort of around obviously like

MANDY: I was around

G.PEN: You're in the Lin squad so like [laughter]

MANDY: Well I guess so yeah

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: Right? Definitely um and I would say that I was around and I went to the Public and was amazed like everybody else and um watched this, this phenomenon and my friends, just this rise, and it was just so exciting, and then when Tommy called and said, "Hey, you know, do want to come and be part of it?" And it was like, um, Yes! So...

G.PEN: Really? Yes...

MANDY: So, yeah, I went right away and I was so excited and I knew all the songs by that time because I bought the cast recording and uh and I listened to it, I did a lot of travelling for concerts and things like that and on any airplane, I don't like turbulence

G.PEN: [gasps] Same

MANDY: So I always listen to something that makes me super happy and uh Hamilton made me super happy so I would listen to it and like learn all the lyrics so um by the time I got to rehearsal I knew most of it and then I realized that I knew none of it, like I had to relearn everything cuz I was like oh I haven't been saying that right you know, like,

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: Oh I thought it was this word and it's like oh it's this other word, or it's this rhythm or it's this no, I mean it's a masterpiece, you open the book of music and what they did, it's just like oh wow, it's so much more complicated, and intricate, than you think, you know, so that was really cool

G.PEN: Yeah like we

MANDY: As a fan to be like oh wow

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: Now I'm unlocking all of these things,

M.SMITH: Yep

MANDY: This is what it means and you know

G.PEN: Yeah and now you have like this cool little key, like you just been, like they pulled back the curtain and you're like

MANDY: It's very true

G.PEN: Oh my God, this is crazy

M.SMITH: Shakespeare

G.PEN: Yeah

M.SMITH: It's history in the poetry of our time

G.PEN: It is so true

MANDY: It's very true

G.PEN: Oh man, so but speaking of, you have some questions that I think relate to this whole industry

M.SMITH: Yeah I do

G.PEN: Conversation

M.SMITH: Mandy, I was thinking about you and I was thinking

MANDY: Were you?

G.PEN: About how awesome you are

M.SMITH: You are not, correct me if I'm wrong, you are not Steven Spielberg's niece

MANDY: No!

M.SMITH: You are not Spike Lee's god-daughter, you are not

MANDY: No!

M.SMITH: You are not Martin Scorsese's best friend

MANDY: Right

M.SMITH: You, you, you made it and you didn't have these amazing connections and you just worked your way up and you

MANDY: Right

M.SMITH: Broke into the industry right?

MANDY: Yeah

M.SMITH: So I thought of a few different show business maxims and I wondered if you could tell us what percentage of truth they have in them

MANDY: Ok

M.SMITH: From zero to a hundred [music starts playing in the background]

MANDY: Ok

M.SMITH: Shall we say

MANDY: Great

M.SMITH: I guess we'll start with the Jonathan Larson tick tick boom maxim

MANDY: I love that show

M.SMITH: You have to make it by the time...

[Song: 30/90 from Tick Tick Boom by Johnathan Larson, is played]

*Stop the clock - Take time out
Time to regroup before you lose the bout
Freeze the frame - Back it up
Time to refocus before they wrap it up*

*Years are getting shorter
Lines on your face are getting longer
Feel like you're treading water
But the riptide's getting stronger*

*Don't panic, don't jump ship
Can't fight it, like taxes
At least it happens only once in your life*

*They're singing, "Happy Birthday"
You just wanna lay down and cry
Not just another birthday, it's 30/90*

*Why can't you stay 29
Hell, you still feel like you're 22
Turn thirty 1990
Bang! You're dead,
What can you do?
[end 30/90]*

M.SMITH: But it's that fear that you have to make it by the time you're thirty, or to put it another way, if people think I was good enough I would have made it by now, how true is that?

MANDY: Um, 10%

M.SMITH: Ok

MANDY: I would say

G.PEN: You guys, I wish you could see Mandy's face cuz its just like, she's just like

[crosstalk]

MANDY: No I'm really like

G.PEN: It's really intense,

MANDY: No because what does it mean to make it? What does it mean to be an artist, I think you learn that as you get older and you grow but it never stops um being an artist it's lifelong

M.SMITH: Right

MANDY: And whether I guess people in your eyes say "oh you made it" or you yourself say you made it by creating different things, I mean there's so many things because of the internet that we can create, like this podcast, you're able to use your arts to create this way to communicate with people and um so I think making it, that's a very loose term to me

M.SMITH: Mmhmm

MANDY: Because what does it

M.SMITH: What is success?

MANDY: What does it mean?

M.SMITH: Yeah

MANDY: You know, is it having a family, is it you know working on your craft, is it being able to provide for your family, like what does it mean, so it changes as you get older

M.SMITH: Ok

MANDY: So I would say like 10%

M.SMITH: Right

MANDY: So keep going, if you can, try to create your own outlet, if you have the tools, write, write your own piece and film it. I mean there's so many things you can do now just on your own

M.SMITH: Yeah

MANDY: You don't have to wait for someone to let you be an artist

M.SMITH: More than ever

MANDY: You have to fight and you have to, if you want to go to the open calls, you have to go. You know I have a lot of students that will come up to me and say, "Oh you know I'm just not, I'm just not doing it and I'm just not getting any jobs" and I say, "Well how many open calls did you go to this week?" And they'll say "Oh, none."

M.SMITH: Mmhmm

MANDY: And I say, like if you want this, you have to figure out everything possible to get it

M.SMITH: Yeah

MANDY: And whether that means that you work nights so that you can audition during the day, or you write your own play and then you pitch it to a theater company that will, or you start your own theater company, you start it online. There's so many things that you can do now where you don't have to just be one thing, and I think it's dangerous when you are just one thing

M.SMITH: Mmhmm

MANDY: I think you have to be multiple things right now, you know so um yeah, that's how I feel

M.SMITH: You gotta cast a wide net [cross talk]

MANDY: Keep going! Keep going!

G.PEN: Alright, Mandy says we're doing it right, cuz we made a web series, we put, you wrote a play, we put it up

MANDY: You are

M.SMITH: Started a production company

G.PEN: Ok we're doing it, Mandy Gonzalez approved

MANDY: Yeah, and don't you feel, don't you feel fulfilled though?

G.PEN: It feels awesome to just like take the reins and just

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: Just do it all

MANDY: Instead of saying hey, I mean, if you want, go to, still go to the open calls

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: But, there's something different about being able to create something on your own and doing it that way, you know

G.PEN: And I think the success too is, it can be, we did it

MANDY: Mmhmm

G.PEN: We did it from the ground up and we learned no less than 3 or 4 lessons
[cross talk]

MANDY: Exactly

G.PEN: I think it, you know, and ok so now we can move on and do something else, success doesn't have to be, and it was picked up and we were on Netflix and we were the next Mad Men

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: You know, that doesn't have to be what it is,

MANDY: No!

G.PEN: Success could be, you know what? We've never done this before, we did something awesome, we learned,

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: And now we're going to do the next thing

MANDY: It's about trying something and a lot of times failing

G.PEN: Mmhmm

MANDY: And that's how you learn the most

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: You know, there are so many things that I, that didn't work out for me, that helped me um be who I am today and fight and learn that fight,

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: You have to have a fight within you

G.PEN: Oh yeah

MANDY: So, I think I have that fight from childhood, but I think that when you start in this business, there are so many people that don't stay in it, they go "oh it's too much of this, it's too much of this" but for me I, this is what I wanted and this was my everything and so you have to fight and you have to find that so you have to fall a lot

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: I will never, I remember specifically the only box that I checked off when we did the PSAT, when you had to answer all questions about what you like

MANDY: Oh god PSAT the worst

M.SMITH: So they could tell you what job you should have when you grow up

MANDY: Yeah, yeah, yeah

M.SMITH: I said not to everything except, do you like to tell, to entertain people by telling jokes or stories? I was like, I guess

MANDY: Yeah that sounds good

G.PEN: And what did it, what did it come back as?

MANDY: What were you gonna be?

M.SMITH: Even the PSAT said I should be an actor

G.PEN: Oh ok

MANDY: Oh! See!

G.PEN: But you guys if you got something else that you're not happy with, you don't have to trust the PSAT

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: Don't, Just cuz it was right for Mike, doesn't mean [laughter]

M.SMITH: Yeah

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: Yeah, it's ok [laughter]

MANDY: Find your thing

M.SMITH: Few questions more

MANDY: Yeah!

M.SMITH: Show business clichés, um you have to be marketable, I actually had an acting teacher once go down the line in the class go "you're marketable, you're marketable, you're marketable, you're not marketable, you're not marketable"

G.PEN: That is horrifying

M.SMITH: Yeah

MANDY: What did that mean?

[M.SMITH laughs heartily]

G.PEN: To them, that's so subjective

M.SMITH: Yeah

MANDY: What market?

M.SMITH: What market?

MANDY: You know, there's so many, where are you [crosstalk]

G.PEN: Yeah without, without

MANDY: Where are you not marketable?

G.PEN: Without hearing what the person wants to do?

MANDY: Oh that's

G.PEN: Oh I wanna answer [crosstalk] this one

MANDY: So I say that's like 0% true [laughter]

G.PEN: Perfect

M.SMITH: I was going to say so we'll put you down for 0%

MANDY: Great, yeah that's 0%

G.PEN: And yeah next, moving on, that is horrifying, that person is the worst

M.SMITH: Ok and the last one, ok we, we sort of touched on this but um the people that say it's not what you know it's who you know

G.PEN: Hmmm

MANDY: Oh, I think like everything, I think people tell you these things that they don't really know and um

G.PEN: [sings] "*Lots of tests lots of papers*"

MANDY: Exactly! I mean if you want, I think um if you know somebody in the business, you know it's still hard. Steven Spielberg, look, children of stars and writers and things like that, it's not easy for them either. Life's not easy for anybody, so I think that it doesn't matter who you know, it's the fight that's within you and the drive that you have and um creating your own path so I think that's more important, so I say that's like 0%

M.SMITH: Yeah, I agree, I think, I think if you, I think in any industry if you put yourself in the position where the people you work with want to work with you again

MANDY: Yeah

M.SMITH: Then you're creating those who you know people

MANDY: You have to be a good person

M.SMITH: Yeah

MANDY: Or try to be

M.SMITH: It helps if they want to be around you for an extended period of time, yeah that helps too [MANDY laughs]

MANDY: You do and you have, it can't just be about you

M.SMITH: Mmhmm

MANDY: You have to appreciate other people's gifts and talents and um, and see how you can learn from them and grow because if you just stay around yourself, it's so boring, its much more interesting to see what else is going on, I don't know that's why I listen to podcasts, I do, I watch shows cuz I want to see like what's going on and uh cuz that's part of what I do

G.PEN: Yeah I want to read this, I think we answered all of it but I...

MANDY: Those were good questions though Mike

M.SMITH: Oh thanks [Gillian laughs]

G.PEN: I just want to read this because I just think it's the sweetest thing, so Michelle says, "my 10 year old daughter, Lily, (in caps) IDOLIZES MANDY

MANDY: Awww

G.PEN: It was Mandy's performance on In The Heights that made Lily want to be on Broadway one day, my question for her may be typical but it comes from the genuine desire to know and to be able to share Mandy's response with Lily would blow, her, mind"

MANDY: Awww

G.PEN: What advice does Mandy have for a 10 year old who wants to be like her when she grows up and I think you just answered it

MANDY: Awww!! but I love Lily's mom!

G.PEN: But I want to give

MANDY: Shout out to Lily's mom!

G.PEN: I know

MANDY: Shout out to Lily's mom!

G.PEN: Shout out to Michelle and Lily!

MANDY: Yes! Because that is like, to have a parent that is supportive of your dreams is so important, and you're, I hope she knows how blessed she is to um

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: To have a mom like that, um I would say at 10 years old, what was I doing at 10 years old? I started uh, both my parents worked, a lot

G.PEN: Mmhmm

MANDY: Doing all different kinds of jobs, they worked really hard and my grandma watched us a lot and so my grandma was really into music, like really into theater and so she was around us all the time and I was the only grandkid that really sang back all these old songs and I would listen to like *Sweet Charity* in the car

G.PEN: Perfect

MANDY: And I like loved Eydie Gorme and all that kind of stuff. So my grandma was like, "Robin, Mandy sings really loud, like we have to put her into lessons because she's gonna hurt herself." Little did she know that it would like serve me later in life

G.PEN: Of course, yeah

MANDY: When I'm singing in the Broadway house. So my grandmother put me in lessons when I was about 7 years old, like singing lessons

G.PEN: Wow! You were belting before 7!

MANDY: Oh yeah

G.PEN: You're bad ass!!

MANDY: So I was like you know, all of it, like Tina Turner, that's who I wanted to be, I had big hair, it was like all over

G.PEN: Oh my God! I love it!!

MANDY: It was amazing, but um so I would say the wonderful thing about my grandma is that she put me into this um program called, um, Kids of Rock, Kids of Rock theater, and we got to perform at different malls and things like that and uh sing rock and theater and I think they're still

around in LA, but um it was wonderful for me because it was a place where I could be with other kids that liked to do what I did

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: And there was no pressure that we were all gonna make it, it was just to kinda have fun and work really hard and in the meantime I got to learn all these different musicals. Cuz with my grandma I learned a lot of like old time musicals which are important like Cole Porter, uh, Rodgers and Hammerstein but I needed to know like the contemporary stuff

G.PEN: Mmhmm

MANDY: And with Kids Of Rock we did like Les Mis and all these other musicals

G.PEN: Wait so there were peop, like single digit ages

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: Probably not I Dreamed a Dream I'm gonna say

MANDY: I didn't do *I Dreamed A Dream* um [crosstalk]

G.PEN: But some other 8 year old did! [laughter]

MANDY: I never got *Castle on a Cloud* cuz I was too tall but I did, you know, I was in the ensemble, and I did uh "at the end of the day, there's another day older"

G.PEN: [sings] *pa pa pa pa pa pa pum*

MANDY: and we had to pret, you know, we acted it out

MANDY: It was like intense and uh for me that was great because I was a kid that wanted to learn and wanted to express myself and that was a program where they pushed you, you know what I mean?

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: They wanted you to be, have fun, but also be good and so then I was with other kids like my age that loved that so I think for her, like try to find a program like that, in your area, that just lets you fall in love with theater

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: You know because, and, if it's a really good teacher, like that's, you can't beat that you know, so I was with that group for um, I think for like 7 years

G.PEN: What!

MANDY: A long time and then I was like, ahh, I can do this, I'm gonna go to high school and do drama

G.PEN: Everything you're saying, I'm almost distracted because I'm like this is so Angelica

MANDY: Ohhhh!

G.PEN: This is so, just this fire

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: And this desire to move forward and learn things and just

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: Uh, alright

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: What were you going to say, im sorry?

MANDY: No, I think, no I think Tommy um, when Tommy cast the show, he doesn't just look for the actor that can do all the things, he looks for the humanity of the person and so, I think he knows me so well and um Rene and I think that he knows that we like have that within ourselves, so um I think there's a little bit of Angelica in me for sure

G.PEN: Oh for sure, like even as you're talking to me right now and you guys, I'm making eye contact with Mandy Gonzalez, just wanted to say that

[crosstalk]

M.SMITH: I can vouch

G.PEN: I can just see

MANDY: [sings] *Brown eyes...*

G.PEN: I can just see you sort of like, it's just so commanding and seeing you on stage and one of my favorite moments in the show, it's just so small and I talk a lot about it on the podcast and when you do it specifically, it's just like oh my God, the "I'm not here for you..."

MANDY: Oh yeah

[Song: The Reynolds Pamphlet (Instrumental), plays in the background]

G.PEN: It's just, I feel like it's such a powerful thing and I feel like that's something, I'm seeing that from you, in the sense where you know what you want, you're putting your foot down and this is what you're, it's a goal and you came you, Angelica came all the way back from all the way across the sea

MANDY: When somebody hurts your family

G.PEN: No, no, no

MANDY: That's like

G.PEN: That's, he messed with your Fearless Squad, that's not gonna fly

MANDY: It's so true and I, before I became a mother, I don't think I would've felt that moment as clearly, you know, but after that you just have this um, it's like a lioness like protecting

G.PEN: Yes, for sure

MANDY: Your cub in that moment, it's like, this is not good

G.PEN: Yeah, no, I don't care how many amazingly written letters you sent me Alex, like this is, yeah, come on

MANDY: Oh I love that

G.PEN: Come on

MANDY: No, it's true

G.PEN: Alright, so I know we don't have a ton of time but can I ask you like two more questions? *[end The Reynolds Pamphlet (Instrumental)]*

MANDY: Sure

G.PEN: Ok, Jessi asks, I heard her nick name is The Beast

MANDY: [laughs] Yes

G.PEN: Where did that come from?

MANDY: That came from Karen Olivo, and that was during In The Heights, um, I guess I didn't attend a vocal rehearsal and Andrea Burns said to Karen and Janet, "where's Mandy, like, why isn't she at vocal rehearsal?" and Karen turned and said, " the beast don't need no vocal rehearsals"

[Gillian laughs heartily, Mike laughs in the background]

MANDY: And so ever since then, that's been like I guess like 10 years so everybody calls me Beast and um when they come to my shows, they'll be like "Beeast"

[Gillian laughs heartily]

MANDY: And I know that like, It's like oh my family's in the house

M.SMITH: I picture you like bro sports fans now at Mandy's solo shows

MANDY: I know but it's so interesting

M.SMITH: Spelling out Mandy on their bare stomachs [laughs heartily]

MANDY: But it's so interesting when I'm walking down like uh in the theater district and somebody's like "hey Beast!" and I'm like what?

G.PEN: What!

MANDY: Why did they call me beast?

G.PEN: That will get you elbowed in New York City

MANDY: No but then I'm like "oh hey, what's up"

G.PEN: Yeah!

M.SMITH: What's up, you know what's up

MANDY: Yeah,

G.PEN: And you did just compare yourself to a lioness [crosstalk]

MANDY: It's very true,

G.PEN: It works

MANDY: I've got the hair [laughter]

G.PEN: I know, I love it! And also, kind of related, Clare says that you and Karen Olivo, you guys rehearse together when they were putting Chicago up

MANDY: We did!

G.PEN: So it's just amazing that the two of you were in Heights and now your both Angelica because Nina and Vanessa, are like, there's so much Angelica in them

MANDY: Oh definitely

G.PEN: Totally like

MANDY: I mean she's one of my best friends and um I feel so lucky that she was in New York for that short time and we got to hang out

G.PEN: Yeah!

MANDY: But yeah, like I said, Tommy looks for those people that where their humanity really stands out and uh I feel that for myself and I feel that definitely from my friend Karen

G.PEN: Yeah so was it so fun to just be, to be Nina and Vanessa and then be rehearsing the same role

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: I mean that must be kind of

MANDY: It was great because Karen had to leave, that's why I had originally come in a little bit early it's because um I got to rehearse with the Chicago cast before I went into [crosstalk]

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: Broadway so because Karen was going to do West Side Story, um out of the country, do a concert version of that and so they had asked me "will you come in and do Angelica for a couple of weeks and you can learn it for the show and then a week later you'll go and go on Broadway" so I was like ok, [Gillian laughs] so during that whole time I would send um Karen clips like ok this is what you do with your arm here and then you're going to move this way and then you're going to move this way

G.PEN: What?

MANDY: And I feel so lucky because you can only do that with one of your best friends

G.PEN: Totally yeah

MANDY: You know? And um it's very rare in this business where you find these friends, women especially that have your back and that are part of your Fearless Squad and she's definitely always part of my Fearless Squad

G.PEN: Oh!

MANDY: So I love her

G.PEN: That is so important and I think it's kind of a perfect way to end

MANDY: Yay!!

G.PEN: Talking about solidarity and the Fearless Squad

MANDY: Work! Work!

G.PEN: Work!

M.SMITH: We have a small collaboration we have to do with
MANDY so...

MANDY: Oh yeah

G.PEN: We do yeah and it's

[MANDY sings a note]

G.PEN: We're going to post it right away so

MANDY: We're ready!

G.PEN AND MANDY: Yay!

G.PEN: Alright we're going to turn the AC on though for like 5 minutes

MANDY: Ok

G.PEN: So Mandy thank you thank you so much

MANDY: Thank you guys, thanks
G.PEN, thanks Mike

M.SMITH: No problem

MANDY: Oh this is the greatest

G.PEN: So um where can everyone find you and join the Fearless Squad tell us all your social media

MANDY: Oh goodness um I have my

M.SMITH: Shout out to Maya, Maya's been hanging out with us this whole time

G.PEN: Hey Maya

MANDY: Maya my incredible assistant, Maya, Gonzalez [Mandy says Gonzalez with a Spanish accent] so um you can find me on Instagram @Mandy.Gonzalez, you can find me on Twitter at under sign, _MandyGonzalez and then you can find me on Facebook, I have a Facebook page and uh I think that's about it

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: Right Maya?

G.PEN: And it's just #FearlessSquad That's all we have to do

M.SMITH: You can find her on the streets of NY

MANDY: #FearlessSquad

G.PEN: And scream Beast at her

MANDY: Hey!

M.SMITH: In a nice way, in respectful way

G.PEN: Yeah I was just gonna say everyone be, don't scream it

MANDY: Don't scream it, please don't scream at me, like I would appreciate it

G.PEN: Yeah just be nice

MANDY: Just say hi, just what's up

G.PEN: Just be a nice person, just also in life and to everyone you meet

MANDY: And I will take a picture, like it's all good, you don't have to [crosstalk]

M.SMITH: Good evening, good evening beast [crosstalk]

MANDY: Run me down

G.PEN: Yeah hello

M.SMITH: Maybe something a little bit more deferential

G.PEN: What a fine evening we're finding ourselves walking down the streets! Anthony Medina said the same thing

MANDY: Oh I love him

G.PEN: He said please don't come up to me and randomly take my picture and run away like

MANDY: Yeah I'll take a picture with you

G.PEN: I'll be happy to say hello to you

MANDY: Yeah, and Jimmy will too, Jimmy the doorman, Jimmy Onions we call him

M.SMITH: Jimmy Onions

MANDY: If he's at the door, he will stand and take a picture with us too so um

G.PEN: He's great

MANDY: He's you know, theater royalty so . . .

G.PEN: Oh yeah, he's been there at the Rodgers for

MANDY: Forever

G.PEN: For forever Dear Evan Hansen

MANDY: [sings *For Forever*], no it's true, he was the first person I met when I went to the Richard Rodgers that day

G.PEN: Really?

MANDY: It was Jimmy, yeah, I met him with my mom cuz I took a picture outside with the In The Heights poster and I was like “Mom, look!” and Jimmy’s like “hey, let me get a picture of yeh” [Gillian laughs heartily] he’s like taking the picture and he’ll never forget that, he brings it up all the time

G.PEN: Awww, my god that’s amazing we follow him on Twitter he’s just he’s

MANDY: I know! He’s like sooo social media savvy

G.PEN: Yeah

MANDY: He’s learned a lot

G.PEN: He has! Cuz he just recently joined Twitter, he hasn’t been on for a long time

MANDY: Oh ok

G.PEN: Recently meaning like in the last

MANDY: Yeah

G.PEN: I don’t think its been a year

MANDY: If you can meet Jimmy, you’ve like, you’ve definitely met, like I say you’ve definitely met theater royalty [

G.PEN giggles]

M.SMITH: I love his Mafioso nickname

G.PEN: I know, Jimmy Onions

M.SMITH: Jimmy Onions, Johnny Roast Beef [crosstalk]

MANDY: Well he was Jimmy Cebollas, during In The Heights he was Jimmy Cebollas [Gillian laughs heartily]

M.SMITH: Perfect, Cebollas

MANDY: Well it’s Spanish

G.PEN: Speaking of Broadway royalty, Mandy [crosstalk]

M.SMITH: I know what that means thank you duo lingo

G.PEN: thanks

MANDY: Ahhh thank you duo lingo

M.SMITH: I'm actually out, is it today? Yes! Today is my one year anniversary on duo lingo, I've not missed a day

MANDY: How are you doing?

M.SMITH: Good, I'm like half fluent in Spanish

G.PEN: And you know it in Spanish

MANDY: Really? That's awesome! Duo lingo, Are you a Sponsor? What's up?

[crosstalk]

G.PEN: I'm 11

M.SMITH: No, not at all

G.PEN: I'm 11% fluent in Italian

M.SMITH: Mmhmm

G.PEN: Arrivederci, get it?

MANDY: Yes

G.PEN: Hilarious

MANDY: Adios [Mandy says this in a Spanish accent]

G.PEN: My dad, Otilio Pensavalle, is like why did it take you so long?

MANDY: Awww I love it

G.PEN: To learn Italian, what's going on

MANDY: That's alright

G.PEN: But anyway speaking of Broadway royalty, Mandy, thank you so so so so much

MANDY: Thank you, thank you, thank you, Thank you guys

G.PEN: And uh we will talk to you in 5 seconds on Twitter for sure cuz we're going to post a picture of this and I'm sure my Twitter is going to go

MANDY: Explode! [crosstalk]

G.PEN: As crazy as it did when Lin mentioned us so

MANDY: Ahh ohhh!

G.PEN: I promise you, it's going to be a big deal

MANDY: Oh that's awesome

G.PEN: Alright

MANDY: That's so exciting, Awww!!

G.PEN: It was so great, it was so awesome, So thank you guys so much for listening

MANDY: Wooo!

G.PEN: Ok I am G dot Pen

M.SMITH: I am M dot Smith

MANDY: I am M dot Go but also A dot Sky

G.PEN: Yesss

MANDY: Totally A dot Sky

Music: Instrumental, Yorktown plays in the background

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and my True Crimes podcast with Patrick Hinds of Theater People at TrueCrimeObsessed.com. Thank you again for listening to the Hamilcast, I'll talk to you in 5 seconds on Twitter.

Find more information about Mandy Gonzalez on the Hamilcast website:

<https://www.thehamilcast.com/episode-77-you-want-a-revolution-i-want-a-revelation/>

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