

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 253 TRANSCRIPT JOSH TOWER PART TWO

Lin-Manuel Miranda 0:00

Hi, I'm stage and stages Lin Manuel Miranda, and you're listening to The Hamilcast

Gillian Pensavalle 0:19

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to The Hamilcast. I'm Gillian, we're back this week with part two of my conversation with the Angelica tour's Aaron Burr, Josh Tower. If you missed part one, definitely go back and listen to Episode 252. That's where Josh tells us how he went from being in the army to understudying for Chris Jackson in the Lion King to playing George Washington, it's super early Hamilton workshops, and how he eventually found his way to Burr. But if you're all caught up, we'll pick up right where we left off. Here's the rest of my conversation with Josh Tower.

Gillian Pensavalle 0:51

Can I ask you about how, or if your experience in the army plays a role in your performance? Is that like too personal of a question?

Josh Tower 1:01

No, no, no, no, I, you know, just in that, having served and knowing what that is. And it was a different, it was a different time then and they were serving, but they were like, you know, like the Civil War. Like they were like here defending you know, it's not like went overseas or got deployed somewhere like Iraq, or, you know, wherever Kuwait. But I think, you know, I always in every kind of military show I do, I'm always about, like, how I hold the weapon, you know, and Burr only has a musket a few times. But, you know, for me, it's always telltale. And it's always my little nod to the veterans out there at how I carry myself when I'm in the military uniform of that particular time. Like, I've done Saigon a bunch of times. So I always check in with Marines because I was not a Marine, I was in the army. So I always check in to see like, is my insignia right? Is this where the stripes would be is this you know, I, you know, whatever, local guys, I can find that I've learned that enough. You know, I know enough Marines so I can, I can figure it out now. But But um, so that always probably be so that by the time I come back out, right at the end of Yorktown and Burr has that cross from upright to down that that he shake, you know, he and Hamilton shake,

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that literally that cross and that shake is my salute to all of our troops. Every time I do. Yeah, that's my, that's my salute. So I, I don't you know, we all we everyone, there The great thing about the crew, the creative team, is that they there's no prescription for Burr, there's no prescribed way to play Burr, there's a pocket absolutely to be in. But there's now some shows when you take over a role. They're like, No, you, you've got to do it this way, you got to do this, and you got to fill the cup this way. But these guys are so interested in having it be your own thing, that there's a whole bunch of moments that that I have for myself that are different from every Burr, you know, and likewise, for the other Burrs, you know, we just were able to really create our own takes. But that particular moment, you know, the the end of Yorktown crossing in, I see George Washington smile, you know, and that, you know, is just my, that's my salute to our guys and girls that are that are around and and people who are out serving and whether they're stateside or deployed somewhere. And that's always my salute

Gillian Pensavalle 3:29

that's really moving.

Josh Tower 3:30

I don't know if I'm telling you guys, because I know if anybody ever catches it, but um, but you know, there's, there's so many people, I have a good friend who just got he's a major in the army, and he's treating soldiers with PTSD. So he just got deployed, and he can't tell me where he got deployed to, but our troops are still getting deployed. So I know that our our troops are are out there, you know, in harm's way, you know, they don't, you know, you don't have PTSD, unless you're in combat. You know, so he's not like, you know, in Oklahoma, you know, on the on the post, they're doing something he's, he's overseas, you know, and so that's, it's scary, because there's stuff still going on. And I guess there always will be but yeah, yeah, that's the that's that moment.

Gillian Pensavalle 4:13

Yeah. You know, between the the justice system and the mental health and the taking care of our vets like yeah, we're going down so many potential other podcasts, but I'm with you on all of it. Oh, yeah. So I've referenced his documentary a couple times. It's called Hamilton's America.

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Josh Tower 4:30

Is this Alex?

Gillian Pensavalle 4:31

The director, Alex Horwitz. Well, it's just funny because I was I was actually in the middle of moving like, literally in the middle of moving. So I moved six blocks away from my old place, like the word the original word, like the podcast started, and he was like, Hey, I'm on the playground. with Josh. Do you mind if I give him your info? And I was like, Yes.

Josh Tower 4:54

Thats Awesome. Thanks, Alex.

Gillian Pensavalle 4:56

How do you know Alex Horwitz, like what's that I was like, thrilled to Get that text from him. And I was so grateful that he even thought to put us in touch in any way. But yeah,

Josh Tower 5:06

so Lin's son, his first Sebastian and my daughter Marlo went to went to pre k together. And then Sebastian, then they went to different schools, schools, but Alex, his son, and my daughter go to the same school, and they're in the same class. So now, Alex is my neighbor. You know, you have two people who don't live in metropolitan area, you know, sometimes you have a neighbor who is Yeah, I grew up in the suburbs. So I get it, you have a neighbor who is, you know, a few yards away, sometimes if you're lucky enough to have some land, they might be, you know, 500 yards away, or a mile away, or whatever, you know that and that's awesome. I would love that, trust me. But, you know, here in Manhattan in New York City, the communities are really, really tight. And they're very, very close. And we just so happen to live in a very, very much an artist's community. I mean, there are a ton of Oscar, Grammy, Tony people up here in the neighborhood. And, you know, so it just so happens that, you know, I live close to Alex and my wife when I was on the road, my wife and Alex's wife and Lin's wife used to hang out together fine. Yeah. So, you know, so they probably know all this shit about me. Yeah, they all know, but you know, so. So it's really like very much a kind of family. It's one of those things where, like, I gotta run to the store, you knock on your neighbor's door, because our neighbors were close with, can you watch the kids for 10 minutes while I run down the street? You know what I

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mean? It's like one of those things. And so it's, you know, it's really, it's really been very cool. So that's how, you know, I know, Alex, but you know, for the longest time, I didn't put two and two together because Alex, and Lin, of course, are very tight, but I didn't realize that they'd gone to school together and that they were like, you know, they just had this relationship that I just had. No, and I was like, Oh, he's the one who directed the you know, and I didn't I really didn't for a minute because I was also gone for a while and my wife would describe people over you know, the phone or I guess mostly face FaceTime now. But yeah, the proximity and the of my super creative neighbors and and I actually have two of the violinists from the tour who live right downstairs from me.

Gillian Pensavalle 5:27

No way.

Josh Tower 6:19

Yeah, so they're right downstairs. And then my original box drummer from Lion King is in Alex's building actually, right next door. So it's a what is called Yeah, yeah, it's like it's really like that tight like it's you're just like, Oh, this the six degrees of separation become like four to three. uptown baby is hot. Yeah, don't be afraid to come above 120 fifth people come on.

Gillian Pensavalle 7:45

Don't be afraid. It's beautiful up there.

Josh Tower 7:48

There's a lot of history. I mean, there's history all over the city but there's you know, you can actually come and see like a real British for it. If you come up here in Canada.

Gillian Pensavalle 7:54

Yeah, like the Grange is up there. Yeah. If you're if you're just Hamilton focus, there's plenty of Hamilton stuff. There's a there's like a ton of other stuff too.

Josh Tower 8:01

my actually my favorite my other favorite stop. And like I said, I grew up outside of Philly, was to be in Philly for I think we were there for 12 weeks. Last year. It's It was so incredible to be in. I stayed in society Hill and society Hill and Philly was coined by

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Kevin Bacon's father, who was a city zoning guy. And he coined this area of society Hill society Hill. So when I grew up, it was like the place where you drive by and you're like, Damn, if I could live in Society Hill, or I would love to see those houses inside and the houses and so I rented one when I stayed there and happened to be on a BRBO or whatever, Airbnb. So I rented one from an old temple university professor actually, and you know, all of the houses there were basically built during the revolution. I mean, you know what I mean, there they have been there since the 1700. You know, it's crazy it's really crazy you know, so house was like across the street. I mean, you know, you're walking by graveyards that have been there for forever. I mean, yeah. And you know, the first bank is there the Continental Congress they're like the out so many things declaration, but you know, it's um, that was that's probably my favorite stop and it's like New York. It just has so much history laden within the show that man, I'll tell you what, it's it just makes you feel good to like, you're like, I am walking on the same streets that they definitely walked on. For sure.

Gillian Pensavalle 9:26

Yes, my I mentioned this a lot. But my husband Mike feels the same way. But there are places you can just like go to Gettysburg. Yeah, there are places where you feel that Yeah. Yeah. Take a minute and say like it's the same. They we're here

Josh Tower 9:39

Wait, has he seen ghosts in Gettysburg.

Gillian Pensavalle 9:40

No

Josh Tower 9:41

It's always on paranormal caught on camera

Gillian Pensavalle 9:43

We went to Salem

Josh Tower 9:44

Salem Ive been there

Gillian Pensavalle 9:45

I saw that video. I don't know.

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Josh Tower 9:48

It's a full dude. It's really cool. Dude,

Gillian Pensavalle 9:50

I believe in all of it. I know. It's like my initial thing is like wait, was it but when we stayed in Salem, here's a story...

Josh Tower 9:57

Oh, scary. Salem scary.

Gillian Pensavalle 9:59

It's the same thing. Though it's like you're just in houses are still so we were gonna Yeah, stay with we were visiting friends and we ended up then subsequently staying with them in their home after because we were like we don't want to intrude and they were like why are you not staying with us you weirdos. And so we ended up just really cool. We'll do like a just a little in or whatever it was, I think the Hawthorne and

Josh Tower 10:18

Oh yeah

Gillian Pensavalle 10:19

Josh. It was so terrifying their house where they live that they live but they moved back to New York City now but their house in Salem was what it was like, they had like the plaque on the side of like built in 16 or 15, whatever. And the name of the guy who built it here

Josh Tower 10:34

And youre like when was the Salem witch trials?

Gillian Pensavalle 10:37

For real? And like the Yeah, everything was very so much smaller. So like the you know, my friend Damian who was and we were visiting our friends Damien & Laurie. And Damien is very tall. And so like, and Mike is tall. And so it started to go through these little skinny doorways. Yeah, but that we spent the night we slept with the lights on and thank god there was like a Golden Girls marathon on TV, TV's on the whole night

Josh Tower 11:01

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That will scare the ghosts away for sure.

Gillian Pensavalle 11:03

I am hearing like children laughing and some kind of like, well, it was really,

Josh Tower 11:08

oh, scary

Gillian Pensavalle 11:10

It was nuts. And then in the guestbook It was like, please tell the woman like ghost woman we met on the stairs we said goodbye like that was in the guestbook of this little inn, man.

Josh Tower 11:21

The the two I didn't make it to the bank, but they say that Hamilton's ghost is in that bank that he haunted. And then there's another place and I want to say it's in Jersey, it's like fort Mifflin or something like that. That is supposed to be one of the most haunted places and it's a revolutionary war fort. One of the most haunted places in the United States. So maybe, I don't know, do we go get one of those teams from ghost hunters and like just go scope out some Hamilton haunts?

Gillian Pensavalle 11:46

I think we're the team.

Josh Tower 11:48

Hamilton haunts Hamilton Haunts.

Gillian Pensavalle 11:50

Let's do it.

Josh Tower 11:51

I'm in. I'm in. I'll be scared. I'm telling you guys right now. I'll be terrified. But I'll do it.

Gillian Pensavalle 11:56

I'll do too. more. Morris-Jumel is supposed to be super haunted too.

Josh Tower 11:59

Oh, yeah, that's true. Yeah.

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Gillian Pensavalle 12:00
They have ghost tours there.

Josh Tower 12:01
Let's do it. Okay, all right. I'm in a man.

Gillian Pensavalle 12:05
The planets will go like next fall, we'll get like a crew. hopefully everything will be we'll be able to like see each other.

Josh Tower 12:11
I know. We have to wait. We have to wait. So we can be together without like, like, safely.

Gillian Pensavalle 12:15
I'm gonna be jumping out of my skin. I know. Like I I'm a big scaredy cat about it. I'm skeptic but I believe in it. 100.

Josh Tower 12:21
So I will see the thing about all the shows that they have on there. And I you know, and I fully believe in like, I'm, I'm spiritual and not necessarily religious per se. But you know, you got you know, you you wonder you're some of these shows, like, like, what is it Ghost Adventures. And I met it's funny. I met Aaron last year in Providence when they were touring some old hotel, because they because it was haunted. But I always feel like they add in a lot of scary things. Like, you know, they're like, they're walking up the hallway and then they add in like, the one eyed child or you know what I mean? Like, are the dogs Yeah, they're creepy. Yeah. Yeah, like some weird like, edited thing. And I'm like, Okay, are you guys freaking yourselves out? Or am I freaked out because of the edits that you've put in? So I would be super super curious to go to a quote unquote, haunted place and and really just feel feel it

Gillian Pensavalle 13:17
right and like, Don't exaggerate and show with that guy, Zach Baggins. Is that him?

Josh Tower 13:22
That Bilbo Baggins son?

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Gillian Pensavalle 13:23

Yes. Um, because we we did we kept so on True Crime obsessed. We cover True Crime documentaries and do like a commentary on that. Yeah. And for a couple a couple years ago, we had this crazy idea. I don't know why we did it for like four weeks. We did like spooky documentaries. Yeah, Halloween. And it was a great idea in theory, but one of them was like, This, quote, documentary. I'm using air quotes with Zach Baggins.. Just like trying to skate like using like movie magic and editing. And he's, I really, like I rubs me the wrong way. I really don't like that guy. But I think he does Ghost Hunters or Ghost Adventures or something. And he's kind of just like a D bag. And it is.

Josh Tower 13:58

Oh, that is that is him. It's Zach and Aaron. And it looks like he should be like, either a beastie boy or like a skater but not like a cool beastie boy like the one who got rejected.

Gillian Pensavalle 14:09

I was gonna say, Wait, the Beastie Boys are made. Yeah, no, no, like some Yeah. Where's like von Dutch hats and like x.

Josh Tower 14:15

Yeah, that's it. And the black glasses. Yeah, yeah, that's him. Yeah,

Gillian Pensavalle 14:18

I dont like him. So we'll do the opposite of what he does.

Josh Tower 14:20

I met Aaron and I was like, hey, Aaron, and I was at my stage where he was like, Aaron, this is Aaron. And so we took a picture together. And because I because I like Aaron because Aaron actually gets scared like he you know, Zack is always the one who's like, Guys, I don't feel so well.

Gillian Pensavalle 14:34

Like come at me bro. Like to the demons like Zack Shut up.

Josh Tower 14:37

And listen, I love the show. But stop all the editing guys. What's up? What's up?

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Gillian Pensavalle 14:42

What's really happening? You wouldn't have to edit and exaggerate.

Josh Tower 14:44

Exactly

Gillian Pensavalle 14:44

If it was actually happening. It would be terrifying

Josh Tower 14:47

They're like, in a cave and they're like, Did I just hear a stone fall? Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle 14:51

Your voice just echo Yeah, you're in a cave.

Josh Tower 14:57

You're in an echo chamber. But you know... okay, I know see now we're just throwing out shows and I and I love all you guys Aaron I still love you and Zach you're fine but there's a there's another one called paranormal caught on camera which is more interesting. But now there's another show that is debunking the Paranormal Videos to see if they can be recreated

Gillian Pensavalle 15:20

okay

Josh Tower 15:21

to see if to see if people are putting them on or not like hoaxing. So, yeah, so anyway, long story short ladies and gentlemen. We're gonna

Gillian Pensavalle 15:30

If we do it as like a podcast or something. Yeah, I don't know how to. I'm pretty transparent on this pocket. Like I wear my heart Am I there's nothing as my husband says like, there's nothing listeners don't know about me or that I would hide from them. so

Josh Tower 15:43

will your husband come? Totally he would have to I don't know if my wife will. She'll be like, guys. Oh, wait outside. See you guys.

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Gillian Pensavalle 15:50

Alright, we'll have to. We'll get We'll see. We'll put out some feelers we'll see who will come maybe Alex will have to film it. Horwitz laughs Yeah.

Josh Tower 15:57

with infrared.

Gillian Pensavalle 15:57

And then we can I don't know, like, how do we prove to everyone that we're not lying to them?

Josh Tower 16:02

We're just gonna they're gonna know

Gillian Pensavalle 16:03

maybe could be like a live feed? Yeah, we could do it. And then there is no edit. If it

Josh Tower 16:06

if it is. If it really happens. I'll be scared shitless and you probably would be too if I'm if I'm in bed at night. And I'm watching that because it seems to be on like all the time. Like, I don't know what happened to travel channel. But it's literally like ghost channel. Yes. Like every show? is either Bigfoot, or the unexplained or ghost adventure or finding a ghost or paranormal something? Yeah. Exactly.

Gillian Pensavalle 16:30

What happened to Anthony Bourdain and like

Josh Tower 16:32

Yeah. Andrew Zimmern. Can I get some good food?

Gillian Pensavalle 16:36

Which is scary enough. And he's eating?

Gillian Pensavalle 16:37

Yeah, right.

Gillian Pensavalle 16:38

I'm not doing that either

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Josh Tower 16:39

I know. But so anyway, everyone's home. 24/7, So the only time really that I have is from when the kids go to bed on the early side, like 830 and a delayed side like, to 9-930. And so I stay awake till like three so that I can just have quiet time I can write or zone out, play video games, watch TV, you know, and that's the only time that's really silent. And so if I watch one of those shows one of those ghost shows at, you know, two in the morning, it's it's really terrifying, because my daughter also will come in at night, like when she can't sleep and will happen probably at least once a night at this point. She'll come in and if I have my headphones on these plugged into my Roku, and I can't hear anything on the outside, and all of a sudden you see this little body come up.

Gillian Pensavalle 17:26

Oh my god

Josh Tower 17:27

it is terrifying. So I don't have to do the one year off thing.

Gillian Pensavalle 17:32

Yeah, for your own for my own for both of your kids like Yeah, something will be accidentally thrown at her because you think it's like...

Josh Tower 17:39

This is a good idea. I have to say this whole Hamilton haunts it's a good way to do it. I'm totally I'm serious.

Gillian Pensavalle 17:46

I'm super into it. Because now I have like eight months to get up the courage. Yeah. And

Josh Tower 17:49

we can talk to Alex. Yeah, it's a really great, we'll get like a crew together. Totally sell it to travel channel.

Gillian Pensavalle 17:57

I'm into it. Wait, before we get to the Patreon peeps, you said that you had some questions for me?

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Josh Tower 18:02

No, just I mean, how did you do this? You said you were doing this for the longest time. Like how did you start this Ladies and gentlemen, she has purple hair. And it's really awesome. Really cool. I just want you guys to know some of you may know that from watching, but from listening, but I can see her right now. That's how I know

Gillian Pensavalle 18:18

Yeah, we're not together. Unfortunately. I want to host you I have this cool new office space and recording studio. Andy blankenbuehler and Alex Brightman were the last people to come over Oh, February. And then I moved and now I have this cool space. Well, I'll tell you, no, I can tell you we can have another cocktail after we wrapped but I started the thing because I loved I didn't know anything about podcasting. I hadn't seen Hamilton Yeah. And I was like, I want to make a podcast about this thing. I really love that I'm listening to all the time. And I never had I had never felt the drive to make something the way that I did about making a podcast with no equipment, not not having listened to podcasts or having seen the thing. And then I just started making it and I I let it evolve into what it now is. And it's been on January I think 30th it'll be five years. Yeah, I released the first episode. Wow. I've gotten to talk to every like, every facet, not everyone but every facet like onstage under the stage behind the stage or the in the offices. Yeah, like the management and you know, freestyle Love Supreme and stuff in the Lin universe. Historians and just, you know, I'm gonna do this forever. Because I love it. And there's so many people to talk about and so many perspectives to hear. Yeah. So yeah, I love it. And I've learned a ton I taught myself how to figure it out in podcasts and it led me to my real job which is True Crime Obsessed, which I also love. And I sort of like it was one of those things where I think I was trying to I was like on camera hosting and doing a lot of freelance stuff. Like that my experience is I come from the on camera world and it kind of felt like now that I'm talking to you like it was that George Washington where it's like, it's okay, but it doesn't like fit great. Yeah, I didn't realize that until like, Aaron Burr, aka like podcasting kind of came along. That's what it like, all right, and I just sort of like, completely fell in love and completely changed. Like I didn't even know it could be a career and now it is.

Josh Tower 20:25

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Yeah yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle 20:26

Like, it's been this really wild, incredible ride

Josh Tower 20:30

And it's, you know, like I said, I have my friend Rick, who is a voiceover guy, and all the voiceover people will know this. I don't do you know, minor, you know, here and there. Rick doesn't every day. And, you know, you have one of those jobs that's, you know, a pandemic proof job. It's at the end of the day, you know, I mean, you know, yeah, you know, you gig out and you get paid for this one and not for that one. And, you know, yeah, so that that's tricky sometimes, but it's really cool that right now, I'm sure you can really appreciate what you're doing, because you can still do it. I mean, it's really cool.

Gillian Pensavalle 21:06

It's it is and like that is every day I think about that, you know, I'm obsessed is is my my full time job. And we have a like thriving Patreon. And we have ads on our, our, like, regular episodes. And I'm so grateful that not only do we get to do this and get to do True Crime obsessed, but that it helps people in some kind of way. Like it's a comedy podcast. And yeah, we get really wonderful messages and emails from people saying that, you know, either they discovered us in March or April. And it really helped them going through the catalog. And then maybe they found the Hamilcast through that. And then they discovered Hamilton and that is just to give people something to help them through the day is like, really meaningful to hear. And whether it's just like my, you know, talking to cast members, or anyone related to the show, or theater or anything on the Hamilcast, which to me is like, I understand why people would want to listen to that. Not Not for me, but for everyone else. Yeah, I'm obsessed. I'm just like, a completely real but totally different version of myself where I'm just like, ranting and raving about like injustices are like, fuck this murderer or like this shitty lawyer and this person should be out of prison and blah, blah, blah. And it's me. Yeah, but it's completely it's not like, the nice space. Like so to be able to, you know, and I do voice You know, I used to do voiceover work, but my husband does voiceover work. And so it's been really amazing to just be able to help in some kind of way and

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get people if you're doing scrolling and like you have new podcasts to listen to, and I'm happy to Well, thank

Josh Tower 22:41

you to you. And thank you to our first responders for sure. Like all of you guys are kind of first responders, right? I mean, there's

Gillian Pensavalle 22:47

Oh, please. Josh no.

Josh Tower 22:49

But there's a hand but there's a handful of people who are still making things happen. I mean, you know, is our first line like nurses, doctors, thank you guys, I'm on giving, giving Thanks... giving Tuesday. Thank you. But um, you know, for you and for other people who are still putting earworms in our ears and thoughts in our brains, you know, thank you for that. Because, you know, again, this this, at this moment in our history, this pandemic, especially in New York City, for everyone who's not in a major city, but metropolitan areas have been hit really hard. I mean, I think we've all been hit one way or another. You know, thinking about all those people who've lost people, and it's the positive stuff and the stuff that can take your brain off of all that stuff right now. It's just huge. Really, so thank you G for...

Gillian Pensavalle 23:40

Thank you. And thank you, you know, I it's been an adjustment really, thank you so much for saying that. It's been an adjustment because part of the whole thing about the hammock cast was like inviting people into my home and hosting and snacks and apps and drinks and so it's been an adjustment

Josh Tower 23:55

raincheck

Gillian Pensavalle 23:58

1,000,000% I say that to everyone who's self designed like my site my like, guess it's a whole thing. But I also still, no matter what, no matter if you're coming to my home, like basically like a stranger's home or meeting and talking to me for hours online. Like, I'm so grateful for everyone who wants to talk to me. Whether it was in person like on their one day off, they would come over on Monday and

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spend like three hours with me talking about the thing they were taking a day off from Yeah, that's not lost on me.

Josh Tower 24:25
Yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle 24:26
Talking about your job is not always the easiest thing. So I you know, you you are married, you have children, and you're here and you're taking the time to tell me your experience and that I'm so grateful for it every every single week, every single episode. So thank you.

Josh Tower 24:42
Yeah, my pleasure. Thanks for asking, and thanks, Alex Horowitz

Gillian Pensavalle 24:48
but actually, you know, I'm super grateful for a group of people called the Patreon peeps

Josh Tower 24:53
Patreon peeps

Gillian Pensavalle 24:55
and they have some questions for you. Are you ready to take some questions from the Patreon?

Josh Tower 24:58
Shoot? Sure.

Gillian Pensavalle 25:32
Judy says you were an amazing Burr. I saw you in Detroit. She doesn't have a question. But she says my favorite photo from the stage door is you photobombing Judy's picture with Hannah Cruz. Who I love.

Josh Tower 25:45
That's awesome. Hannah was Hannah was great.

Gillian Pensavalle 25:48
She blew my mind when I spoke to her. She's like a power.

Josh Tower 25:52

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Yeah, she she really is. You know, she, she's one of those really talented people who will be you know, back on a on a stage or screen. I actually think she's more apt to do some TV and film. Because she's got she's got such a great face. But she's, she's really cool. I enjoyed working with her. You know, one of the things about Eliza is that sometimes Eliza's are almost, it almost seems like they want to squash Eliza a little bit just to keep her strength very silent, like a silent strength. And Hannah's strength. You can't bottle up like that. Can't do it. No, no, you can't. She's she has to. She has to get it out. Yeah, you know. And so her Eliza was very different from I mean, they're all different. But hers was the most different than I've seen. And I loved

Gillian Pensavalle 26:39

J says you were in Motown on Broadway. So that means you have Nick Walker tea. He says, as always, we would appreciate hearing all of it

Josh Tower 26:47

Well, Nick and I, Nick and I are good friends. It's not you know, we don't necessarily have kids yet. So, so once you become a parent, as you parents know, you're kind of social dynamic and life dynamic changes with your friends.

Gillian Pensavalle 27:05

Yeah

Josh Tower 27:06

So Nick is one of those people who I would work with but we did Motown. We did the productivity of the probably coming together, but we were on tour together. And when he became Burr, we would talk back and forth. And he knows Nick Christopher, who, you know, all these things go back and forth. So Nick was one of my I played No, Barry Gordy and Nick was one of the swings who would cover Barry Gordy would cover Marvin Gaye. He would do everything. So I was you know, he's a good sounding board for you know, hey, guess what do you think about this for Burr? Or like, you know, he's because he's a great actor, so that it's always really helpful. We're in the same boat and that we are, our strength is our acting, generally. And although I will, I will tell you all that Nick is a far better dancer like that Motown stuff and and the stuff that he's doing and Aint Too Proud like The Temptations? the you know, the step by step touch spin. drama. I can't do that crap. I can't do that.

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Gillian Pensavalle 27:59

Nick was the inspiration for me asking Andy like all these Burrs say they can't dance. Like I was really asking about Nick because he is like, he sent me a video of him rehearsing for ain't too proud when he was still on tour with Hamilton. Yeah. And he was like, someone told them I could dance. I was like, dude, you can like stop with the self deprecating bull. Yeah, can dance like you could do it so that on Thanksgiving, when the when the performance I texted him, I was like, Hey, good job tricking everyone to think, you could dance

Josh Tower 28:25

you know, we we had this conversation, we had a mutual friend who Eric summers who passed away from cancer. Last year, it was it 2020 was the beginning of 2020. I can't remember 2020 has sucked except for a new president. But Eric passed away. And Nick and I were at the at the service. And we were you know, these two Burrs walking up the street talking about like, so what's going on? And he's like, you know, listen, you can't tell anybody this man. But you know, A, B, and C is going to happen. And also, my good friend, Derrick Baskin was also at the, at the service, and Derek was in ain't too proud in that role. And, you know, Nic Walker was potentially going to take it over, but it was still a little far out, you know, but we were talking about, you know, this happening in that happening. And then the other Burr that was on the table who I knew his girlfriend, but he was just, it's all like, in there, you know, we know we know each other. Yeah. And Nick and Nick and I, you know, we just texted a couple weeks ago, but we will we will keep in touch enough to know like, what's happening? Are you okay? Is life okay? how you feel, especially right now? Because we're all going through that thing where we, you know, we can do some TV and we can do some film and some voiceover but the theater stuff till they figure it out. Although Hamilton is did announced today, didn't they?

Gillian Pensavalle 29:44

I think they, I mean...

Josh Tower 29:46

Was it July?

Gillian Pensavalle 29:47

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You're gonna come out in 2021. So who's gonna happen right? Page Six, which like Who the hell knows what that means? Said that Hamilton would maybe be the first Broadway show to reopen on July 4.

Josh Tower 30:00

That seems very serendipitous. I mean, the really cool

Gillian Pensavalle 30:04

plan. That is chess, not checkers, Tommy Kail does not

Josh Tower 30:07

Yeah, yeah. Um, my favorite, my favorite Nic Walker thing really quick. Yes. It was in Motown. And I can't remember what scene it was. But he when he would play his ensemble track, he would be what was it? I can't remember. I remember standing stage right? And then doing a big dance thing. But he would wear this fake mustache. And he would do like dirty, like dirty like lascivious spaces to all the you know, to all our cast members, men and women and, and, you know, just crack people up. I mean, everyone has kind of a character that they do, but it's like, so him like, just to just to get in there and do it

Gillian Pensavalle 30:45

That tracks

Josh Tower 30:46

yeah, we've you know, we've, we've talked to many a Burr conversation,

Gillian Pensavalle 30:50

I'm sure. I mean, yeah. It's, it's fascinating to talk to another Burr too

Josh Tower 30:55

Yeah, like, yeah, and it was really helpful as well. Yeah. I never talked to Leslie about it. I, I, I think Renee knew I was going in, in fact, when I went to see my wife and I went to see Lin and Leslie and everybody before they left the show. And Lin was there and, and was on that night and and, and Renee is like this is this is my Simba. This one's my Simba. It was very, it was very sweet.

Gillian Pensavalle 31:19

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That she's amazing. I really is a dream. Like she's like, and she's a dream guest.

Josh Tower 31:25

She's gonna be like Angela Lansbury. Everywhere. Everyone's like, we love her.

Gillian Pensavalle 31:30

And like, Is she okay, like, what she's trending on Twitter. Everyone's like is Renee okay? I sometimes I wake up and I'm like, good morning to Renee Elise Goldsberry. Nobody else like I just hope you're having a good day. Max is saying I was fortunate enough to see the Angelica tour 11 times in 2019. And Josh, you were playing Burr for eight of them.

Josh Tower 31:49

Ohhhhhh

Gillian Pensavalle 31:50

Max says your performances were absolutely amazing. He commanded attention on stage. And I really could see the shift in attitudes as the show progressed. Max's question is what is the most challenging song to perform?

Josh Tower 32:02

I think it depends on the night, you know, I will say, when I was just talking about my friend, Eric summers, and he when he passed away, those of us who Stephanie Umo, and those of us who knew who he was, there was there was a couple tough moments, but but doing World Was Wide Enough. And coming down stage and doing and doing, you know, life doesn't discriminate. Sorry, sorry. Doing life doesn't discriminate was like, I couldn't I really I couldn't say it. And I will, I will say that, that that moment. And that song works without words, because I actually couldn't get them out. So that song depending on the night, especially when you are downstage and being judged by depending on the house, but 1600 to 4000 people, when Burr is getting judged like that is really is really intense. And it's it's just a quick moment to take all that on, but to still stay exposed, you know, with your heart. And so, so I think that may be one of the toughest and that is a nightly thing. I mean, you know what you saw Max, the those eight shows, I would like to think that I was not the exact same every night. I mean, you know, the energy from

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the audience changes the show, who I'm playing opposite changes or who everyone's playing opposite changes the show. So you know, yeah, I think that's, that's, that's a tough one. And also, you know, being adopted and talking about and wait for wait for talking about my mother was a genius, my father commanded respect. And I never grew up with a father because I was adopted by a single mom. So to have this like moment with these two people that I'm, you know, kind of one I'm imagining in my life. And the other one, I'm completely manufacturing, although I attract my father down and I never met him, he passed away before I had a chance to meet him. So I'm kind of I kind of manufacturer or how he would have been, and, you know, so again, depending on the night, that that can be a tough moment. But the songs really, you know, our sound people are so good. The songs sit in a really good place in my voice, too. So there's not a lot of, you know, kind of vocal stress or, you know, the only physical stress is jumping off the table and room where it happened.

Gillian Pensavalle 34:18

I'm sure Nic talked to you about that.

Josh Tower 34:20

Yeah, we you know, yeah, we've had some we've had, we've had some moments I've had a back surgery or two and you know, you know, you know, I told you I'm about to have another one. So there's some like kind of moments but there's not one thing they wrote a really good show for Burr. They wrote a really good show for Burr that's, that really fits what you need where you need to go emotionally, you know, really fits. Yeah, at least fits me.

Gillian Pensavalle 34:43

Kelly says Josh, you are an outstanding Burr and I very much appreciated your graciousness at the stage door, the before times and parentheses. My question I saw your performances through the transition between Austin and Edred and wondered what it was like for you playing Berta there. In her opinion, very different Hamiltons

Josh Tower 35:02

when I, when I started was Austin and he listened. I'm this is just a segue to say he is absolutely phenomenal. But I didn't I didn't understand what what was happening with the scansion of the line because it was, in my head so many ways hearing Lin and hearing, you know, a few other people do Javier and you know, but then I was like,

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Oh, I see, you know, and that and it had more to do with me not being kind of fully interviewer and him being completely into Hamilton. You know what I mean? Just kind of emotionally, physically, vocally, you know? And so then by the time he left, I was like, Damn, I hope you know, I hope you know, this works out again, because he was so good.

Gillian Pensavalle 35:46

Yeah, he's, he's funny. I mean, he's

Josh Tower 35:47

Yeah, it was just his, it was so good. And, again, he's one of those guys would be like, I never thought I would be doing a musical. But here I am doing a musical. And now he's doing another musical, which is, which is really cool. Edred has, you know, like I said before, with any of these characters, they the creative team does not want to bottle you up and put you in, you know, paint you into a corner, they really want you to create your own thing. And Edred by then had been someone who I had seen as Hamilton and Burr, because he was a standby. So I had seen him several times, and I got used to Him, His scansion His energy. So that was an advantage of me rehearsing in a room while I was doing School of Rock. I was doing the show at night and rehearsing Hamilton during the day, and actually then School of Rock at the time, which is of course close. And Hamilton rehearsal spaces were upstairs downstairs from each other. So I had the advantage of doing School of Rock at night and rehearsing Hamilton, for six to eight hours a day for three weeks before I left school of rock. And I was in that stem rehearsal studio by myself and Stephanie Clemens, who is one of the associate choreographers, who's now a mom and amazing partner to her, her wife and like, she's a real dancer. And it's, let me tell you guys, it's terrifying when you're not a dancer to be in a room by yourself with a real dancer for three weeks.

Gillian Pensavalle 37:14

Because she can just like do it.

Josh Tower 37:16

Well, she can do it. And she can be like, Nope, that's not it. And she's really specific, you know. Andy's stuff is, is specific. And while he again wants it to be you kind of within his movement, it becomes your own movement, but you're still doing his movement. You know what I mean? It's kind of hard to explain, and maybe that's not

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the right term for you dancers out there who are like, Nope, that's not it. But I mean, it's Stephany is like this, like gorgeous, talented, like, she's, you know, you see her and you're doing this stuff, and you're like, dang it, she just did it. And now she's watching me do it wrong. And you know, but anyway, so I had that luxury of having that and then going being plugged in and having time with Mike Minlan, who was the super dance supervisor on the road. And they were very patient with me thankful to all of you dance supervisors out there, who are your patient with your non dancer, principals, and, and otherwise ensemble people, whoever. And, you know, they were really awesome. And it was awesome to have a moment with to get put in and do it with Austin, and then eventually to switch to Edred. And I had been on with, you know, like I said, Alexander Ferguson. I had a good fill. You know, so that it really helps so that you can, you know, you take a little bit you're watching them, but even when, by that time, I knew the lyrics that I knew all that stuff. So it was really just repetition. You know, it was like watching the show, saying the lines in my sleep, basically. So it was helpful to, to have those guys do their thing, and me to be in the house watching. And then I would track from the wings, and like really watch each one to see how they handle their particular moments. And it's really helpful, but they're very different performers, but Austin and Edred, like, just phenomenal, you know, to to carry that role. It's got to be one of the largest roles that you can, that you can do on Broadway from when you're like, besides the, you know, it's just it was huge. And I luckily, I had been I'd come from playing Barry Gordy and I was on stage, you know, 90% of the time 95% of the time. So that was really helpful.

Gillian Pensavalle 39:22

Yeah

Josh Tower 39:23

But, you know, it was cool. Very cool.

Gillian Pensavalle 39:26

I'm still fascinated by you're just consistent and persistent research. You don't just study the role and the character and the history of anything that you do, but you're also studying the people. You're working with them their performances, and I just think that's like, I love that.

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Josh Tower 39:44

Yeah. Well, you know, I think yeah, I think it's one of the lucky things that when, you know, if you don't originate a role and you come in and you've got to take over for somebody, it's just one of the luxuries. You know, Leslie is somebody who came in and had to create that thing from zero, you know, and that for any role and a new show. First of all, you have producers and directors who you've hired, so they trust you to do that. But, you know, it's a scary thing, no matter who you are and what your position is. It's a scary thing to do. I mean, I'm sure as you get older, your nerves kind of start melting away. And if you're Patti Lupone Yeah, like, you have no worries, like, you're good. You know what I mean? Like, if you're Brian Stokes Mitchell, you're good. But you know, other people don't, don't don't have that. And, and, or maybe just think about it differently. So, to have the luxury of to be able to watch and even now during the pandemic, to watch the movie, and to pick up like little things like, well, first of all, to miss the show terribly, to just miss doing it. For the people out in the house and with the people on the stage. And with the people backstage. You know, even the for the little squabbles that you have with people backstage, you know, you're a little family backstage, folks. And and so it's like brothers and sisters, and you know, you have your squabbles with your mom, your dad, your brothers and sisters, it truly is like that backstage, I mean, you. You get along for weeks, and all of a sudden someone does something and you're like, why did you know but it's been really, really cool and very lucky for me to be able to take little bits for the shows that I've I've taken over Yeah, yeah, I'm really blessed that way.

Gillian Pensavalle 41:30

Kelli, different Kelly. So that was Kelly with Y. And now Kelli with an I is asking, she says, You know, I was so looking forward to seeing him in Fort Worth this past June. But we all know how that turned out. She said we all know about Nic Walker's quest for pizza on tour. Josh, what is your go to food to look for in each city on tour?

Josh Tower 41:51

Alright, so let's say the probably the one main thing. And it's funny because through the pandemic, I have stopped eating meat.

Gillian Pensavalle 42:00

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Great.

Josh Tower 42:00

We have a steak club, there is a group of like six of us with, you know, a performer or two stage managers wardrobe crew, like you know, I generally hang out with stage managers and crew and just a few cast. Because I'm with the cast every day on stage offstage, like we're together a lot. So you gotta take a break. It's like going to work and you got to take a break, but a lot of the crew guys and girls, I don't see. So they end up being and I have some very close ones who happen to be on the road as well, which be my comfort level. Like Rachel Marino who's from Fort Worth, she's actually in Bedford, Texas, and I'm bummed that we didn't get to Fort Worth either, trust me, but what can I say, steak is it you know, looking for the right steak? looking for the best place? Fort Worth was, of course on the map for that. I mean, you know, it's generally I think there's a del frescoes in Fort Worth, but but it was steak and also finding the right old fashioned, because sometimes people can't do them.

Gillian Pensavalle 42:58

How do you like?

Josh Tower 42:59

I err on the spicy? Yeah, a little sweet side,

Gillian Pensavalle 43:01

Just like Burr

Josh Tower 43:03

Exactly.

Josh Tower 43:04

I know. Isn't that weird?

Gillian Pensavalle 43:05

No, it's great.

Josh Tower 43:06

But this is actually good with a little vanilla in it. That's a good,

Gillian Pensavalle 43:10

I'm glad you like it.

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Josh Tower 43:11
Yeah, you're good.

Gillian Pensavalle 43:12
I wish I could have made it for you. So you just walked in and like here it was waiting for you with I would ask you like, what do you love hate to eat? Do you have any allergies? Like

Josh Tower 43:21
no allergies. But I you know, since you know, with the, you know, a few back issues. I was like why I so I had surgery. We finished in Miami, I had surgery. And then I had a infection in my spine from the surgery. So I've been, you know, depleted and recovering and through COVID. And so I was like, Okay, I have an infection. I like I had to chill with the gym and like working out and stuff like that. So what can I do? And I was like, Ah, there's lots of crap in me. So I will stop eating meat. Yeah. And so for the most part, I stopped eating gluten already. I stopped doing dairy. I do almond milk. And I decided to not do meat because I was doing I felt like I was doing red meat. At one point. During the pandemic, we rented a farm in the Catskills. And it felt like because we were trying to contribute to the local farmers and stuff. So like I had red me for like a week straight. And it was probably have the most natural kind that I could get. It was like from the farm. Like, you know, like natural. You know, it was not from a grocery store. But anyway, that was my last straw. I was like, I don't feel good. And it wasn't quite every day but it just felt like it. I mean it was at least like between a burger and then some skirt steak and then it filet, it was at least four days in like a six day period, you know, and even if I didn't have a lot, it was just enough to be like, yeah, you can't have red meat, like beef that much like you just can't.

Gillian Pensavalle 44:48
Stick to the old fashion, you know

Josh Tower 44:49
Stick to the booze baby.

Gillian Pensavalle 44:52
No, everything in moderation, everything. Yeah, yeah, or not at all. If that's what you're into. That's totally fine, too. Cassie is

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saying she just wants to say that she saw you and met you at the stage door in Miami. It was March 8. So she's saying thank you so much for coming out. It was just a few days before the shutdown. You're one of the only people who came out to say hi, and she just wants to say thank you for that.

Josh Tower 45:14

Aw thank you, Cassie. I had a listen. I have a really good friend, Jeff Peck, who's down there in Miami. He's on the board of the Dolphins. And I just recently sang the anthem for the Dolphins

Gillian Pensavalle 45:25

Whoaaa just threw that in there.

Josh Tower 45:26

I know. But he but Jeff and I have been friends. He had pictures of me in Lion King when I was down there. I mean, that was 15 some odd years ago and Jeff was awesome. And so Miami is his town. Okay. Coach Flores of the Miami Dolphins came to the show with his wife and the night prior to him coming the fire alarm went off in Miami. So it was literally like "he aims his pistol at the sky, WAIT... "

Gillian Pensavalle 45:54

No!

Josh Tower 45:54

The fire alarm starts going off and we stop. And we I'm waiting and Jen Geller, who has the bullet on the on the tour is in front of me with her little bullet grasp. And we're standing there and we wait about five seconds and there's no word but all the strobes are going off. The house lights are up. And I was like let's go. So we walked off stage right. The alarm continued to go off they evacuated us to the street in the rain. Like it And they, my friend Rachel who's a wardrobe supervisor. In these you know, the Schuyler Sisters have like, I mean in their little cubicle, it's literally probably like a million damn near a million dollars worth of dresses for all all of those who loved those gowns. They are super expensive and custom made and custom built.

Gillian Pensavalle 46:40

You guys have heard the dressers on this pod Emily Roni and Kimmy mark, Chris Larry. Yeah shit is serious.

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Josh Tower 46:46

They're no joke, as well as everything else. I mean, you're wearing a mic. You're wearing an electrical pack on your back. Like I mean batteries.

Gillian Pensavalle 46:54

And also Are you all right? The alarms just went off? Like there's a lot going on

Josh Tower 46:58

we have some we have security walk walks across the street. And they're like, no, no. So then we come back in. We wait, we waited for like 40 minutes. And then they were like, Okay, so we're going to continue the show with 30 people in the house. They evacuated the entire theater. So we finished the show. And you know, the remaining I don't know, maybe there are more than 30. But it could not have been more than 50 people in that house.

Gillian Pensavalle 47:23

Those other people just chose to go home?

Josh Tower 47:25

They evacuated and they never let anybody back in.

Gillian Pensavalle 47:27

So why were there 30 people in the house?

Josh Tower 47:30

Because I think what happened is I think there are those group of diehards, who were like, I'm not going to leave until this fully plays out until we find out what's going on. So we went right back out to the same spot. He aims his pistol at the sky.... Yeah, like the whole thing.

Gillian Pensavalle 47:47

How do you get back to that moment, though, as an actor?

Josh Tower 47:49

We've had a couple stops like that, we've had a couple moments where we've had to stop. And I had one moment almost at this, I think it was during World Is Wide Enough, I was about to walk out, I was like,

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life doesn't discriminate, and something in the house went up. And Wendy, one of our stage managers literally came out and touched my arm and broke me and took me off. So every now and then you get emergencies. You know, this is part of live performance, you get emergencies in the house. We've got tons of patrons who come who are vast and varied in their ages. So you know, when you're in a place like Naples, which is Florida, which is largely retirement community. Well, while it's really a cool town, there was someone having like a heart attack or something.

Gillian Pensavalle 48:31

Yes, I've heard stories of like medical emergencies happening. But when someone grabs your arm onstage

Josh Tower 48:36

Yeah and then that one I was so you're so in it, and you're so focused down, like kind of out and down or wherever your focal point is that night, that there was no signal that she could give me offstage that was gonna do anything. Plus, there's honestly a lot of words to remember. So, you know, while you're in it, you're like, Okay, I'm just gonna spin through these words. Even if you hear Doctor, Doctor emergency, you know, you're just spinning through the words. And while part of your brain is like, Kay, there's an emergency going on. But she just walked on, touched me. We walked off, and that was, you know, but so yeah, so in Miami fire alarm went off, we go back, we come back in. There's 50 people left, which also included like all of our swings, who went on down to the audience to cheer us on, for those people who are not on that night. And it was crazy. And we finished the show, but I loved Miami. And by the time I finished, I was like, babe, I want to buy a place in Miami. You know, like, even if it's like a little condo like I really love it. Because, you know, at some point you're gonna retire at some point. But I was like, I could literally I could be down here like I'm really comfortable. You loved it. I like it down here. Yeah. I love it. I love the I love the people. I'm not you know, I have no Latin blood, though. I look like it. I mean, you know, I live Uptown. Everyone thinks I'm Puerto Rican or Dominican. But you know being mixed. I have that kind of complexion that I that I You know it could be and you know, our rainbow is vast and varied from light to dark dark dark so you know it is what it is but beautifully is what it is. But um Yeah, but I love Miami so much so

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Gillian Pensavalle 50:12

So Lin, it's not Manuel Miranda. It's Lynn with a with a Y. She's amazing. She says what just two things one, not a question. But she says as a UNC grad.

Josh Tower 50:22

Oh!

Gillian Pensavalle 50:22

still living in the triangle. I'd love to see Josh returned to Chapel Hill to guests with playmakers like Fergie Philippe did last year, sometime post pandemic and post tour. Is that something you would ever consider also go heels?

Josh Tower 50:36

Go Yes, go heels. I know basketball season is coming. We'll see what happens with that. Yeah, you know, okay, so I love the triangle. And it's also actually one of those places, Raleigh Durham Chapel Hill, for those who don't know, is one of those areas that I was like, I could retire down here. Like I really loved it. And it's also very, when I was down there was kind of outside the triangle was Jesse Holmes country. So it was a little scary. You go outside the triangle, and you're like, Oh, I'm gonna just watch my back. I'll be good, but I'm gonna watch, you know, so but there's like a college every mile. It's like, you know, UNC Duke Wake Forest. You know, East Carolina, NC State. I mean, like, at&t. I mean, there's just so many. There's got to be a dozen colleges down there. You know. And so, Ilan, and I had a really good time. I've tried to come back to playmakers a couple times. And one time I remember being like, I'm afraid I want it to be good. And you know, sometimes they get so both the PA TP students, the people who are p a PT, yeah, prefer professional arts training program, professional, professional actor training program they get so it just gets so nitpicky. And I was like, I don't know if I want to, you know, make myself go through that, you know. And that was the first time where I was like, Nah, and and it's not like they offered I just declined an audition for them. And then the next time, I think I was doing School of Rock or something, and you know, generally, even though School of Rock was not necessarily like, Burr or anything like that, it was my job at home to be with my family. So to to try and attempt to leave a gig for, you know, six weeks to go to a regional gig. You generally, for me, I don't I don't do you know, I actually had turned down speaking

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Fort Worth. I had turned down a role at Casa Manana for School of Rock and Casa Manana is in Fort Worth, Texas. And I'm good friends with Wiley Jones, who's the artistic director there and producer. And I couldn't I guess it's funny. I was supposed to play Judas in superstar and I got School of Rock and the guy who was supposed to play Jesus, John Arthur Green, JAG, got School of Rock as well. So neither one of us went and I ended up doing School of Rock, you know? So you're basically talking about six weeks of work compared to two years. And it's not really comparable. I mean, two years of insurance, of being at home with your family of all those things. So I didn't make down there but yes, UNC heels. When I did Motown, Charles Randolph Wright. The director went to Duke. So we had this little clash going on of Duke and Carolina, but Eric Tysinger, who is one of our former stage managers on the road, as Carolina guy, he's originally from North Carolina, but he's in Fort Worth The Fort Worth area now. So yeah, I missed it. And I do hope to come back down there, though, things have changed a lot since I graduated. So it's cool. And my good friend Julia, who I did, Clive Warren Park with in Philadelphia at the Arden actually is now the head of the the grad acting program.

Gillian Pensavalle 53:46

Oh Great.

Josh Tower 53:47

Yeah. So she's down there and I've spoken to the students this year. Just to give you know, my two cents about life and whatever and acting,

Gillian Pensavalle 53:57

Lynn is also saying she says I have a weakness for dear theodosia and was really moved by the election day video with the three Burrs and six hams real quick. I'm sure you'll hear some of it momentarily, but I'm going to link it in the show notes. And just so you know, the Hamiltons were Jamal Wessman, Julius Thomas the third, Pierre Jean Gonzalez, Joseph Morales, Edred Utomi and Miguel Cervantes and the burrs were you Nicolas Christopher and Jared Dixon. And I'm sure I'll put some of it in this conversation but Lynn is saying I cried exclamation point. You're so tender in your performance. Can you talk about making that video your take on the song and how personal it is to you as a parent?

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Josh Tower 54:32

Yeah, well I think that's really part of the key to that song is having been a dad two times over and knowing you know, having a daughter My youngest, you know, Marlo being you know, that that little one and wanting to protect her and you know, those those years going through the crazy political time that we did and wondering how my daughter My wife is Filipino but so my my kids are You know, African American and Filipino mix. So they're mixed the mix of the mix, but you know, truly American in every sense of the word, you know, in that idea of melting pot. And so that that really gets me having a daughter and knowing what that is, and where it sits with you and where it's where she sits in my heart is, you know, a huge part of making the song work for me. And then the other part is, you know, if you don't have a daughter, you act and you pretend that you have a daughter.

Gillian Pensavalle 55:30

Yeah, I say this all the time on True Crime obsessed, like, you don't have to. I'm not a mom. Yeah, I'm not gonna have kids. I don't need to have kids to like care about missing kids doing it justice is done to kids. You don't have to have be a father.

Josh Tower 55:43

Yep. And that's also that's also the cool thing about acting. It's like, if you don't, if you can't kind of do and as if, you know, if we're sorry, if you don't have the real like, real thing, and you just do it as if, you know, as if I had a daughter, you know, I pretend you know.

Gillian Pensavalle 55:57

And also you're just like, I have an like, I have a feeling like you're not a monster. Yeah, yeah, you have emotions. And like this bad thing. I wish this bad thing didn't happen, or I wish

Josh Tower 56:09

And all those political things over the last several years have been just spinning so much in wanting a better nation and wanting things to be better for your kids. And no matter what the time period is always wanting them to be better than you had. You know, so that was huge. And when they asked us to do that, I absolutely said yes. And you know, so you basically sing acapella, I mean, the track is in your ear, but I'm singing the song acapella.

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Josh Tower 56:55

We each got a track to sing our respective part Burr/Hamilton. And so because of the way they have to line music up, you can't, you know, if I was to play the music loud in my recording, like live me saying to the music kind of live, our recordings won't match up, we will all be different. So what we do is they send one recording to everybody, and it's in your ear. And generally I like to use a little ear pod. Some people have the big cans on but I like to use when I'm, you know, for that type of stuff, a little tiny one, or as small as I can get anyway in one ear. So you basically sing the song in your respective role or track and run through it. But if you're in the room where I did it, I am saying acapella.

Gillian Pensavalle 57:39

Right

Josh Tower 57:39

Yeah, so it's so it's just what they need to do. And then when they get all the videos, we submit them by a certain date, they get the video, and then they queue up their track. And so they were all basically singing to the same. We're saying the same track, but they've got a it's easier for them to line it up.

Gillian Pensavalle 57:56

Yeah. Because if you were doing it, there's a delay. Yeah. So even as we're recording now, we're in the Edit, I'm going to have to move things around. Like we'll be like, right in sync for a little bit. And then there'll be a little bit of a lag.

Josh Tower 58:08

Although I will say this has been pretty flawless. I haven't seen any crazy. No,

Gillian Pensavalle 58:12

not at all, but in the Edit. You'll hear it. Okay, weird. Yeah, like, wait,

Josh Tower 58:15

I didn't even see any kind of every now and then. Yeah. Okay, guys.
So

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Gillian Pensavalle 58:17

to record all of you at once would be it just wouldn't be as beautiful and harmonious as it was.

Josh Tower 58:25

And it also works the best that way, because I've seen some people do it, where they actually just lip sync it or it looks like their lips again. And it doesn't work. If your sound is not lined up. It looks like one of those bad kung fu films that's been dubbed over shot. You're like, why would you kill my master?

Gillian Pensavalle 58:43

Yeah. And that's what Linda's saying? She's right. Like, you're so tender in that performance? Because that was real.

Josh Tower 58:49

Yeah. Yeah. And, you know, there's also that that craving throughout the pandemic to, you know, to perform with other people to to be able to touch audiences. So that's a really cool way to for us to be able to get a little moment in the show out to to not only just a fans, but just the sentiment of the song, the country going through a pandemic and you know, racial stuff and people dying and you know, heroes dying and it just has been crazy. So to have that moment together. was really collectively was really a special moment. So, yeah,

Gillian Pensavalle 1:00:14

And it's still beautiful too, because, you know, we have the Hamilmfilm. Right?

Josh Tower 1:00:17

Right.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:00:18

We can listen to Dear Theodosia. Anytime we want, we can watch it. But this was a different performance of it and a different reason behind it. And now it's just it. It stands in a different place. Yeah, I think that's just as valuable it came, it came at a different time with different people for a different reason. And,

Josh Tower 1:00:39

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Yeah, yeah, for sure. Yeah. And, you know, and for me, as far as acting it, I mean, I always, you know, whatever my focal point is, you got to kind of find, depending on where you are, what city you know, that all changes depending on where the audience is, and the spotlights are, and, you know, you got to find a new spot, a sweet spot to kind of look, but I always envisioned my daughter asleep, and then I don't want to wake her up. But I want to, I kind of want to tell her all these things. So that should so that she like, so that you know what I mean? So that you she, she, she hears you, but you don't want to wake her up,

Gillian Pensavalle 1:01:11
But she like inherently know.

Josh Tower 1:01:12
Yeah, cuz she heard. It's when it's when the baby like, flips over, you know, and touches your arm and you're like, You heard me. You know, you understand? You know, but it's just, it's one of the most tender, tender moments in the show. beyond any moment, just because for me, it's super. Yeah, it's just them just a moment. It's just that moment. Yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:01:37
So we have a lot to do, because I we're gonna make that that Hamilghost thing. But I also have to get myself to see the Angelica tour. I have to see you in action. Well,

Josh Tower 1:01:48
you know we originally, so we've mulled over a million times, like, when are we coming back? What city will we go to? And Durham was one of those cities and I was like, Yes, I'm going to be in Chapel Hill area. Like, that's my perfect. It's perfect. And that didn't happen. So. So I think right now it's a gamble, because we will be back. But there's essentially going to be like three tours in the US. Because Chicago closed and went to LA. And now they're sitting San Francisco closed. They're waiting to come. That was the one that was in Puerto Rico. They're waiting. We already have the Philip tour and then us. So la will be in LA but we will have three active tours in the US so far. And so I'm curious to see what they'll do. But I would love to kind of take command of the East Coast again. I'd love to hit Florida again. I would love to unless they want to send us through Chicago, which I love. Detroit. You know, I would love to hit Chapel Hill, you

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know, Durham, Raleigh probably is where we'd be but I would love to I would love it so much.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:02:55

There was a time where I was really almost I mean, like looking at Amtrak like for real about Philly to Philly to see

Josh Tower 1:03:03

time. And that's another dream spot too. I mean, if we land in Philly,

Gillian Pensavalle 1:03:07

or like Boston, yeah, like, Yeah, something like that. Like, I'll be there for sure. And it was something like True Crime Obsessed. We had live shows we were doing and I was I was kind of just trying to double booked like when I did Chicago, like when we did our live show in Chicago I double booked and I saw Hamilton and then had the big group. Yeah, hang with the Chicago company. So I would love to try to do something like that.

Josh Tower 1:03:28

Well, and it's always like from for us. It's either like Philly or Schenectady like juxtapositions in New York. You're kind of like, Huh, do I which way you know, yeah, yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:03:38

But I thought Philly would be cool, because I could have made like, a whole, like, historic weekend with Mike and we could have gone tours in Boston, too. Yeah. So we're doing a couple things. We're doing Hamilghosts, whatever. Let's see. I'm gonna see you wherever you are. I'm gonna go I'm gonna come to you. And I'm gonna go to Australia. I dont know how.

Josh Tower 1:03:53

Yeah, go

Josh Tower 1:03:57

Just get your flyer miles, just whatever you do. Okay, whenever, however you book it, but, um, but yeah, you know, just spent their special people involved all across the board in Hamilton. So you guys have selected the right show to be fans of, and, and I can truly honestly, say that, you know, and it's cool to be being a show now,

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that is reflecting the kind of fabric of America, you know, like that. That's one of the things that I think just in closing to that, that I think, that I've always loved about the show that it is truly I say it's a mirror. So when the audience is looking at us, we're looking at the audience, and it's very much the same makeup. You know, and every company is different, you know, not every company has, you know, there's no like, oh, you're black, you've got to do this or you're, oh, you're Asian, you've got to do this. And Asian I know. Sorry, my peeps. My wife's Filipino. So I'm, I'm encompassing a large group of people of Japanese, Korean, Filipino, you know, but, but that just generally, again, no prescription, but it's so incredible to embody the fabric of our country. It's really special. Really, really special.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:05:06

Well, Josh, I want to thank you so much for taking the time. Can you tell me some social media or some websites? Or where where the people can find you? Oh,

Josh Tower 1:05:14

what am I think I'm the real Josh tower on on Instagram.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:05:18

You are the real Josh Tower

Josh Tower 1:05:20

And I think it's the same on Twitter. Josh, thank you. Well, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. G

Gillian Pensavalle 1:05:27

Its been the best I've had the best time Patreon peeps. thank you as always for your

Josh Tower 1:05:31

great questions. Great questions.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:05:33

So I'll talk to everyone very soon and Josh, I'll talk to you even sooner probably

Josh Tower 1:05:38

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Yeah, we have a lot of plans. We got some we got some plans. We got Alex to enlist. I know she might have to send start a GoFundMe for this.

Josh Tower 1:05:46
Figure it out.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:05:48
So thank you again everyone for listening. I'll talk to you so soon I m g dot pen.

Josh Tower 1:05:52
I am Josh dot tower or A dot Burr. Boom.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:05:59
Nailed it.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:06:38
The Hamilcast is brought to you by my love of the thing (TM) My complete lack of chill Please join me in raising all the glasses to Sir Alex Lacamoire for generously making my intro music and this custom Yorktown arrangement that I will never ever get over. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. To become a Patreon Peep and join the best, kindness, and most welcoming corner of the internet go to patreon.com/thehamilcast. You can submit questions to guests, join Zoom hangouts, get behind the scenes access and of course my unending gratitude. I'm @thehamilcast on all social media and you can listen wherever you get your podcasts. Visit thehamilcast.com for transcripts, episodes and more. You can see what's going on with Mike, you know Mike, at MichaelPaulSmith.net. True Crime Obsessed is my true crime comedy podcast with my podcast soulmate Patrick Hinds of Theater People and Broadway Backstory fame. Thank you so much for listening. It means the world to me [with clip] To the Revolution!