

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 261 JAMES MONROE IGLEHART PART 1 TRANSCRIPT

Lin-Manuel Miranda 0:00

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

Gillian Pensavalle 0:18

Hello everyone. Welcome back to The Hamilcast and welcome back James Monroe Iglehart.

James Monroe Iglehart 0:24

Hey, I'm glad to be here. What's going on, Gillian?

Gillian Pensavalle 0:27

Hey, um, before we get started, can you just tell me your pronouns please?

James Monroe Iglehart 0:30

He and him. It's pretty much me.

Gillian Pensavalle 0:33

You nailed it. James Iglehart I'm just Hi.

James Monroe Iglehart 0:37

Hi

Gillian Pensavalle 0:38

I'm thrilled to see you again. You need no introduction, but just in case Spelling Bee on Broadway.

James Monroe Iglehart 0:45

Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle 0:45

The original Broadway cast of Memphis

James Monroe Iglehart 0:47

Yes

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Gillian Pensavalle 0:47

the Tony for the Genie in Aladdin currently, currently I'm saying currently because

James Monroe Iglehart 0:51

yes

Gillian Pensavalle 0:51

pandemic be damned. Currently Lafayette Jefferson and Hamilton on Broadway. J soul and a little crew called freestyle Love Supreme.

James Monroe Iglehart 0:59

Yes, ma'am.

Gillian Pensavalle 0:59

Tons of animated voiceover work. Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt which everyone loves you in obviously, most recently, The Nightmare Before Christmas and concert which we're diving into for like an hour. And a little radio play called Twas the Night that my husband Mike made

James Monroe Iglehart 1:16

That was wonderful and had a great time playing Santa

Gillian Pensavalle 1:19

So fun. So we're going to talk about all of that. But I'm so excited. You're here because you last stop by the pod in 2017 episode 80. Episode 80 all those years ago so Ashley, my best friend of the world was on that with us. We had so much fun it was 200 degrees outside, give or take, it was July

James Monroe Iglehart 1:38

I remember that. I remember that. Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle 1:40

And that my old apartment because Mike and I moved in October. So I'm sure we might repeat some stuff. But if you want like the

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full JMI story, go and listen to Episode 80. Because we're not gonna do the whole like how'd you get into Hamilton? Like we're gonna talk about what because we're we became like good friends over these last couple years. So we're just gonna catch up.

James Monroe Iglehart 1:56

Here's here's the thing I want to tell you a fan, we think is funny. So like, this is no disrespect, because I think Gillian is the greatest person in the world now. But like, when Gillian first started doing Hamilcast, she was a Hamilton fan who had a podcast, ladies and gentlemen. Some of you will know who Gillian is that Gillian's a star in her own right like I could switch this whole situation up, interview Gillian and ask her how did you start with the Hamilcast? How did you start doing true crime? How did you start interviewing different people? How did you start being... how'd you start meeting Chris Jackson so you could be on Chris Jackson's concert that was telecast all over the world. I mean, she is now gotten to the point where like the Hamilton people come to her for information like actors go Gillian, what's happening? We have no idea was gonna do this. Oh, you didn't know you did this was happening. So Gillian is a star in her own right now. It's It's so cool that I get to be on your show. Because your show is like the show. And you made that happen. I mean, that's that's some strong girl power right there. Girl. They actually you know, it's funny. You should even say girl power, just just the power of a human being with a dream to create something amazing. That because your love of it. People always say hey, if you love it, other people will love it and you had a love and you created something that fans got behind. And to the point where the Hamilton family was like, Yes, this girl's one of ours. She's one of our You are a part of the Hamilton history. And it's awesome. It's really really cool.

Gillian Pensavalle 3:16

James, you're gonna make me cry. I could I could wrap this up. We've only been recording for five minutes. I feel really shy. Thank you.

James Monroe Iglehart 3:23

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Okay, you guys, I'm gonna

Gillian Pensavalle 3:24

Thank you, good bye, I'm G. Pen... So I do I what I did, I appreciate you saying that so much. It makes me really shy. It's suddenly 1000 degrees in here. It's almost like it was July, July back in 2017. But I did want to take a minute to really thank you because you have always been so supportive of this podcast. And every time I saw you backstage at either Hamilton or or Freestyle Love Supreme you you just had the most wonderful things to say and things. You knew stuff that I either talked about on the podcast, or you knew stuff that I was doing, and it felt really, really nice to have you care at all and just you it wasn't you didn't you don't fake it with anything or anyone

James Monroe Iglehart 4:05

No, I do not.

Gillian Pensavalle 4:06

So it was amazing to receive that from you. So I've always been so grateful that you've always been like it's such a champion of this show. And this little this fun little thing I do so it means the world to me.

James Monroe Iglehart 4:16

You're welcome. You're welcome with you can tell you as this rappersss used to say back in my day, you say game recognize game. And so you can really, you know, you recognize the folks out there who are hustling and trying to do something good. And trying to do something that's not only entertaining, but also something because they're doing it because they love it. You didn't do it because oh, okay, this is the hot thing that I should be doing this. You did it because you loved it and it became the hot thing. And that's the cool thing. And from that hot thing. You've created other hot things. That's the dope part. You know, you were like, Oh, I'm just like, I'll stick with this. You're like, well, how can we diversify, my husband's writer, or let's work on this. So I gotta give you all you guys. You guys are amazing.

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Gillian Pensavalle 4:50

Ohhhh, thank you so much. I don't even know now I'm shy. Now. I forgot. What am I doing? What podcast is this? What's going on?

James Monroe Iglehart 4:59

Welcome to the Hamillcast. And we are here with G. Pen This is James Monroe Iglehart. And we have had so many different stories talk to so many different people and people have come on repeat of repeat offenders. I call them offenders because they're all Ham fam, ham fam that are all offenders. They offend me in so many ways. But that's not the point. This is my second time on the show and I'm so glad to be here. We may do a little switch. We may do the switch because you guys you guys know that I have the talent to interview people. I'm on my own podcast myself, not my own I I work with Marvel Comics I'm with this week in Marvel. We do a podcast that comes on Sirius XM. So you never know. I may ask Gillian some questions just because you get to hear her ask us questions all the time. Well, we never get to hear what's going on in Gillian's life or how Gillian became Gillian, or how you could become like Gillian, so you never know, we may switch it up. It all depends on how the rhythm goes. But Gillian, I'll leave it to you for a second before I take over.

Gillian Pensavalle 5:45

I mean, what am I even doing here? Honestly, that was on believable at least

James Monroe Iglehart 5:50

I was good. I was I was good to you. Because you know, I don't know if you knew this. But for those of you who know that the Hamilton history between me and my arch nemesis Nik Walker, Nik made the mistake of bringing me on his show. And I thought, because he talks so much crap about me.

Gillian Pensavalle 6:07

This is the chaos twins, you're talking about with Sasha Hutchings?

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James Monroe Iglehart 6:11
This was his his movie one. This is a

James Monroe Iglehart 6:13
Little Justice

James Monroe Iglehart 6:13
Little Justice. He brought me on Little Justice. And right before that. I had not said anything. I left it alone, you know, because our last encounter was that on online was that he went and got I'm blanking on his name. And I'm terrible them as a Batman fan. I shouldn't. He got he got Batman from the Batman. guy. He got Kevin Conroy to say something to me. And I was going, I was going to get other people. And I spoke some voiceover folks. And they were like, you know what, James? Let him have this one. And I said, You know what, actually, the truth of the matter is the truth of matter is my wife and I said that to Nik. My wife said, let him have this one. Stop, because you guys need to find you guys need to have an ending. And this is childish. You keep doing this and I was like, you should. You should be working on stuff. And you guys too busy building stuff. They build each other up with that fine, so I let him win. I let him win. I let him win. And then he kept talking smack kept talking smack putting up pictures of Will Smith dressed as the genie put my name under it

Gillian Pensavalle 7:10
Every episode of the chaos twins

James Monroe Iglehart 7:12
So when he brought me on his show, if you listen to little justice of the episodes I'm on, he's talking and five minutes in, I take over his interview I take over his interview. You know why? Because Nick is talented. Nick is a very talented young man. Nick is a very talented writer, but on the mic, flat footed up against each other. He can't touch me. So I took over his show. And he was just like, I can't do anything about this.

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I'm like, No, you can't. I was gonna let you win. But you're distorting.

AUDIO CLIP 8:18

[LITTLE JUSTICE PODCAST CLIP]

James Monroe Iglehart 9:49

Yes. So even here on the Hamilcast for you listening for all you millions of people listening. You can tell Nik Walker, that I brought up his name again. And if he wants to start some stuff, I'm right here. I have a live mic and I have I have a wonderful screen because we could put it on the on the camera on the podcast doesn't really matter. Okay, Gillian, we go back to it, sorry.

Gillian Pensavalle 10:08

What's so great though you you deserve this because Nik Walker has been on this podcast more times than anyone else.

James Monroe Iglehart 10:14

That's true

Gillian Pensavalle 10:14

Multiple times. Yeah, he has talked so much shit air quotes. So you know I say this all the time the more shit he talks the more he loves ya

James Monroe Iglehart 10:22

Yeah, yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle 10:22

However you haven't been on for years my friend so the floor is yours you drag Nick Walker all across

James Monroe Iglehart 10:28

this fun part is I'm gonna show you something right now this this is this what I'm gonna do this one with you. I realize, I realize that a person of this is when I go this is when I go into a heel mode. This is a professional wrestling. There's baby

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faces and heels. This is when I go into heel mode. Ladies and gentlemen, this is my heel character here. I have given as as someone of my stature. And if anybody could see what Gillian is seeing, they would see the posters behind me. The posters behind me Oh, I don't know a little show is called Hamilton, Memphis, Aladdin. All Tony Award winning shows because I have been a part of nothing but Tony Award winning shows in my career on Broadway, I have only been a part of award winning shows. And in that situation, in the situation of the cartoons, I've been a part of whether you're watching, whether you're watching Disney Channel, or Nickelodeon, I've only been a part of award winning shows everything I've been a part of has touched gold. So at this point in 2021 of February, on this podcast with G. Pen, I am no longer going to mention Nik Walker's name because basically the brother doesn't deserve to be in the same breath with me. When he wins an award, we will begin to speak his name again. Now he can talk about me fine, because those who don't have must reach up to those who do those who have we reached down to those who deserve to be picked up. So imma let Nik down. Nik can stay there. And he could talk about me. But I as of this moment right there. This next sentence is the last time I mentioned Nik Walker. Okay.

Gillian Pensavalle 12:04

Wow. Wow. Let me tell you, we talked about heels last time. Oh, yeah. If I remember correctly, because you were talking about Jefferson. And I gotta tell you, I feel like I and Nik Walker just lost his cabinet battle. I'm sorry, Nik. You know, I love I love you, Nik. And I love you, James. But I'm here to just have a conversation. I'm not here....

James Monroe Iglehart 12:28

No, I'm with you. And I love I love you for that I had I had to get that out. And you know, we move on. Because this is a great show. And I'm so glad to be here. I mean, again, what where am I at? I'm on Hamilcast I only am on shows that do things.

Gillian Pensavalle 12:42

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Yes. Yes. Be on the gas is on par with being in a Tony award winning Broadway musical. James, you're getting out of control now. This is getting to be too much. Um, how have you been? I mean, we've seen each other. So like we, like I said, like we are real life friends. This is still new for me to say like the podcast turned five last year. Last last month.

James Monroe Iglehart 13:04
Congratulations, by the way.

Gillian Pensavalle 13:06
Oh, thanks. Um, thank you so much. It's a I allowed myself to be proud of it and excited, which is kind of I'm still you know, learning, that imposter syndrome, you know, but there are people who it took me a long time to be able to say no, I made really real true friends from the show. And you're one of them. And so I've seen you so much. And yet, we still have so much to like, catch up on like, I want the listeners to know

James Monroe Iglehart 13:30
What's funny is the last time the last time we saw each other was actually the week before the shutdown. The week before the shutdown. You came to the show. And then it was that next Thursday, when they told us not to come to work on Friday,

Gillian Pensavalle 13:42
Because Andy Blankenbuehler was the last person to come over. Yeah, and record in person, right, February 26. It might actually be the 26th I think is when he came over

James Monroe Iglehart 13:52
because it was yes, because it was March 15. When we were told everything was done. We were already at home. But it was like the last week of February, first week of March and they were like hey, okay, it was so weird. So funny. I think I've told this before it was so weird was like Okay, guys, um, when you go outside to sign, just just wear gloves. Just wear gloves just the next day when you go outside to sign a wear gloves and you

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know, maybe a mask. Maybe we ask the next thing that guys, don't sign at all.

Gillian Pensavalle 14:18

Wow

James Monroe Iglehart 14:19

Thursday was one thing, Friday, another. Saturday, Sunday, just don't sign, and the next week you're like, Okay, don't come to it was so weird. It was like it just kept getting worse. I remember

Gillian Pensavalle 14:27

Patrick, we were we had our little we had our office space. We have a new office space now in a studio that I have only been to once I'm here on March 11. And never again. There's like this beautiful studio that we can record through chrome obsessed and I sit in this chair and record it right I'm still happy that we get to do it and create things and make stuff but it's weird that I haven't been to art space. But in our old workspace, Patrick was like hey, this thing this Coronavirus thing like I think we should talk about a backup plan for if we can't record together in the future and I was like wait It's that real like What the I was completely like, admittedly, I had no idea. And I was like, Wait a second. So I went home. And Mike, of course, is listening to all the podcast, all the news podcasts. And he was like, No, Patrick's right, we should have, you should have a conversation about that. And then we were gonna do a whole tour of like a sold out tour with true crime, obsessive of live shows. And that weekend, whatever March 11, was, I guess, a Monday or Tuesday or something. And then that weekend, we were supposed to go to Boston and Philly. And we were planning that like I was in the office so that we can go through the live show deck and see what we were going to do. And then everything shut down. But at first I was like, oh, okay, so this is real. Like, we wouldn't like me and you wouldn't be able to see each other like, we're not in a big crowd. Like what is? I wonder? So when it's so bizarre to hear you say that there was a time where it was like, yeah, you can go like talk to a bunch of strangers sniffing in the in March, but we're close.

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Gillian Pensavalle 15:12

Yeah, it was like wear gloves. Don't touch anyone. And here's the fun part. I I'm not gonna say which producer but I had a wonderful producer for one of the shows that I did one of the award shows I do keep saying.

Gillian Pensavalle 16:04

Nik who?

James Monroe Iglehart 16:04

Exactly. One of the award shows I did. And they said, you know, when you go sign, you don't make sure you wear gloves. And I always thought I was like, well, that's crazy. That's that's just nuts. And this is before Corona, this was like, you know, years before this happened. He's just, I'm just saying just wear gloves. Just just work just to be safe. You know? So you can take care, your health. And I was like, yeah, whatever, man, whatever. But then when this thing happened, I mean, he called him back. And he was like, I told you, I've been doing this for years. I don't know what you guys were, but it's not gonna hit me. Because he had been doing this for years.

Gillian Pensavalle 16:30

Yeah.

James Monroe Iglehart 16:31

So it was great. But I also live in a house with a scientist, you know. So there was stuff that was on the news, that would be said, and then Don would say, you know, what they really are saying is this, but they're trying to find a nice way to say it to the populace. And I was like, What do you mean by that lady? Well, if they were able to tell us, like, if you were to tell if MIB was to tell people that there were aliens in the world, how do you tell them without them freaking panicking?

Gillian Pensavalle 17:00

Right.

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James Monroe Iglehart 17:01

And so that's how the news was being told to folks, folks that you know, the way that the way the government was talking to people the way that that news was telling you, they will tell you the truth, but they couldn't like come straight out and go, look, you need to put on a hazmat suit. Because Because, you know, people, you know, masses freak out. So as the news will come on Dawn would be like, Okay, I think you should take your lunch. And I was like, Oh, she's like, yeah, don't Don't, don't go eat out. Just Just don't just take your lunch to work. And I'm like, Alright, cool. And she was like, you know, we probably should invest in some masks. I was like, really? She was like, Yeah, I just, I just because all of her friends are like PhDs. All these scientists, people, they they were, the word that in the science world was coming down at what was how it was happening. And they understood. So I would go to work and go, Hey, you know what I've heard? You know, from this name, so me and my boys like, okay, cool, cool. But like I had to have it in the house to have Dawn telling me the house what was really going on. It's what's funny, she would say something one night. And the next night, they would say that and then she would say something one night, the next night he was able to I would always be like, she would say like, me and my friends are talking about this. And we think we think this and then next night, the news go and this I was like, I think so just tell me what to do.

Gillian Pensavalle 18:15

Right

James Monroe Iglehart 18:15

Like, she's like, I don't know, we've never been to this before. We're just we're just anticipating what we think.

Gillian Pensavalle 18:20

Yeah. How is Dawn? How's she doing?

James Monroe Iglehart 18:22

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She's doing well. She's so so busy. so busy, because at first, you know, when COVID hit, you know, she works for biotech company since about you know, what can we do to fix all this and so now that you know, vaccines around things like that, her business is going back to the other so she she's, she's kind of the manager over a couple labs two in California, one of the UK. And so she's on the phone from, you know, 9am to eight o'clock pm. So, you know, she's just at the desk and everything and so yeah, she's she's working very working a lot.

Gillian Pensavalle 18:50

We need dawn, we love dawn, we need her, if only because she's someone you'll actually listen to.

James Monroe Iglehart 18:55

That's true. You know, I've listened to her since I was 16 years old. So yeah,

Gillian Pensavalle 19:00

Wait, I just want to go back. So how many days in advance? Were they talking about? Something is happening? Like what was Do you remember what your timeline was? Because when I saw you I was there with the show with my friend Jenson. I'd seen Six the night before. I mean, it was not in my brain that this might be my last big weekend out.

James Monroe Iglehart 19:16

I was getting ready for other plans in life. And you know, so I didn't really I took it seriously because you know, my wife was saying take it seriously. But I didn't really think I didn't really think that our wonderful government was going to be as laissez faire with it as they were to the point where we our country would shut down to the point where we thought okay, Broadway's going to close for a week and we're going to come back and then when they.. the closer we got the cast you know the cast always talking stuff like that. And so again, I I made a call to some pretty high up folks that I know in the industry, and I said, What are you guys hearing? And they said, Well, what are you? What are you hearing? And I'm like, well, the actors

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are saying this. And I always know that if the actors are saying something, which is terrible to say, it's usually half of the news, because they only let us know a little bit. So he because he's a friend of mine, I should say they, because they're friends of mine, different people. I've asked at different times, they were like, okay, here's what's happening. And here's what you should prepare for, because this is what is being talked about.

Gillian Pensavalle 19:21

Yeah.

James Monroe Iglehart 19:54

So I pulled some of my close, you know, folks around and said, Okay, this is what I've heard. And so sure enough, like, a couple days later, that's when, you know, stage management, from all the different shows, got together with their cast, and said, Look, this is what's happening, make sure you're protected this and that. And then it became it looks like we're going to have to shut down for a while. And so some people have a week or two weeks, and in my head, I'm like, Nah, they're talking like, month or two.

Gillian Pensavalle 20:59

Yeah.

James Monroe Iglehart 20:59

And then they really did think they really did honestly think it was gonna be like a month or two. Because they like, Okay, what we're gonna do is I'm gonna shut everything down and just stop it. That's not what happened. You know, as we all know, history, you know, the hindsight 2020 they said they were going to do that. And then you know, folks are folks. And so here we are, nobody expected it to be this long. And, you know, you kind of just roll with the punches, and what do you do so as an as a performer who's never actually really taken a time off, I, my wife looks at me said, you know, maybe you should just chill out for a minute, just just chill out, because you never have gotten to this a terrible time to, you know, decide to take a vacation,

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but it's one of those moments with, okay, not take a vacation, but just like take a rest, like, you know, sleep in, chill out, stop thinking about work, stop writing every day, or trying to do something, just, you know, just be a person for once. And so that's what I did. And then that's when I got the call, you know, once I started getting a little bit edgy. So I got the call from Disney about doing the Disney family thing. You know, the Disney family sing along actually was GMA first and then from GMA it became the Disney Family Sing Along, all of a sudden, every, every other day, we were on some kind of zoom call doing something to raise money for the Actors Fund, which is perfect. What we needed to do Broadway cares, equity fights, AIDS and bcfa. Because we realized, oh my gosh, there's only a certain group of people that work on Broadway, that are going to be able to sustain the situation.... every most everybody else they work paycheck to paycheck. And all of you you forget how many young folks come to New York with this, you know, you know, \$1 and a dream, and all of a sudden, you got it with the dream now your dollars gone, because you've been here for a couple months. It was you know, there was so many stories that I heard from folks who had just gotten here just gotten their first gig. And they didn't even get their first check. Or they if they got their first check. That's all they gotten. Everything shuts down. So it was it was it was really a weird place to be. And it's weird that this is normal now, you know, that's the part. That's the one part I I do love the human condition that we're able to adapt to situations. People always make the joke like, there's no way humans could have survived during the dinosaurs. Yes, they could if they would, if they would have adapted. Some of them. The dumb ones would have been picked off. You know, survival of the fittest. Man, Im going out to party. God, you. It's fine. I wanted to save anyway. Mike wasn't that great

Gillian Pensavalle 23:26
my Mike was great.

James Monroe Iglehart 23:27
No, your Mike is great.

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Gillian Pensavalle 23:29

Well, I was gonna ask you one because that you know, Mike, and I thought about that so much. When we did Twas the Night that was a fundraiser for The Actors Fund. So we paid all of our actors, we paid mischief management, we just wanted to fund as much as we could, you know, as two people and pay our actors and also just make it as like awareness for the Actors Fund. Because, I mean, I knew this always, but especially five years after doing this podcast, it's not it's the people on the stage, under the stage next to the stage is in the back of the house doing sound, and a couple of blocks away in the management office, and then you know, the restaurant industry and that, like the ripple effect is just so large

James Monroe Iglehart 24:03

That's the one thing when I you know, I had to go back to like, a couple doctor's appointments, I had to go to the city, and you go to see your restaurants you like, Oh, no

Gillian Pensavalle 24:13

I know.

James Monroe Iglehart 24:13

It was it was hard. It was like a ghost town. The first time I went, I was like, What does he didn't even look like? I didn't even look like Midtown. So it was so weird.

Gillian Pensavalle 24:22

Was that hard for you? Are you one of those to take that break mentally to not be working all the time? Is that

James Monroe Iglehart 24:28

Oh, yeah. but it was it was actually exactly what I needed. Because I was I was kind of burnt out. And I was also going through. I think, actors, we talk about it now. But you know, we either talk about the extreme of life destroying you, or or you're, you're at the top of your game. You're either at the top of your game, or Oh my god, the world is crumbling, and I need everyone to help me you don't talk about that midpoint. We just

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like, I don't know what I'm doing. And I don't, I feel good. Nothing bad happening, but I just don't feel like myself. Is this right should I feel bad because I'm working so I shouldn't complain and I can't I can't talk about you know the the good things that are happening because other people aren't having anything but I still don't feel like I'm fulfilled you know I was at that point and like this was the moment that you know I had to sit down and go okay your feelings are valid what what do you want to do? You have that moment we just get you know, you spend the day you're crying Why are you Why are you crying? I have no idea I'm just sad

Gillian Pensavalle 25:25

Yep

James Monroe Iglehart 25:26

I'm just sad I'm sad Are you sad you're not working no I'm actually kind of glad I'm in those days and I just sad the world, or sad at myself, you know you once you pick it up Okay, now that I've done that if not the my emotional crap that I didn't let myself go through because I was working all the time. You got to be able to push it down I don't I don't have time to feel sad for no reason I've got work to do I got to be on stage you got to do this got to do that. And once I did that, then it was like Okay, now that we've got this what what are we going to do we have a blank page here let's do something. And so that's where Nightmare Before Christmas came out.

Gillian Pensavalle 25:58

Let's talk about that because I love The Nightmare Before Christmas. I love Christmas. I love Halloween one of the best compliments I ever received in my life was my friend Emily said that my apartment feels like it's always a hybrid of Christmas and Halloween so tell the listeners what that was exactly if they missed it and then I want to get into all like the fun details the fun probably sometimes stressful details because we were talking we were booking you

James Monroe Iglehart 26:24

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Yes

Gillian Pensavalle 26:25

for Twas, while we were doing that so I just I want to hear about everything but let's start with like, what exactly is this?

James Monroe Iglehart 26:30

Um, Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas, one night only virtual concert because that's how it has to be said was an idea I came up with I was like, you know, I want to do something for Halloween. I had heard we will I think we're in in line for Whole Foods. Think about that statement. We were in line for Whole Foods because you just walk in the market is COVID. And someone was saying that you know, they weren't going to be able to take their kids trick or treating. And I was like that is sad. We get that's the one of the year that you take the kids can just pig out on candy and just be rambunctious crazy. This dress is wherever you want. And now you can't. I was like well, I want to do something that'd be fun to do. And I've always wanted to play Oogie Boogie and I've been bugging Disney about it for years and I got the privilege of people can see it on YouTube of me singing Boogie Boogie for Danny Elfman for the Disney legends thing in 2015.

James Monroe Iglehart 27:23

[Disney Ledgends Oogie Boogie clip]

Gillian Pensavalle 28:19

To see you in that roll James... I have to say I've been screaming at Disney about it just to the void just like in the world like God dammit when are we going to get James Iglehart as Oogie Boogie. It is just it was a dream. Like everything about it was a dream because we'll get into that cast excluding Nik Walker, because we're not talking about him. I was so excited to begin with that you were doing it and that it was existing. And then it was like the one two punch but in the best possible way. It was like a punch of glitter and rainbows like this is the greatest thing.

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James Monroe Iglehart 28:48

Well, it was fun because I was like, I know what I want to do. I want to play this part. And then so I basically called you know, the folks at Disney, theatrical that was like, Okay, I have an idea. This is what I want to do. How do I do it? And they said, pretty much the paraphrase they were like, that sounds like a great idea. We think you should do that. And I was like, Oh, you want me to do it? They were like, yes, you should do that. And if you are going to do that, here are the people you need to speak to. So the lawyers It was like Disney music group because you realize we we couldn't do the show. And also the concert. Danny Elfman has a concert that was that played and that plays every year where they toured around they go to they go I think they go to, I think is Madison Square Garden or they would do that also at the Hollywood Bowl. They would do this show, and so it'd be it'd be Danny and Paul Rubens and all the rest of the cast, you know, Ken Paige, I'm blanking on the name who played Sally lady from?

Gillian Pensavalle 29:51

Catherine O'Hara

James Monroe Iglehart 29:52

Yes, Catherine O'Hara, you know, she they were all there because you forget that Catherine O'Hara she played two parts in that, you know, she played Sally, but she also played Lock.

Gillian Pensavalle 30:01

She's perfection.

James Monroe Iglehart 30:02

She's great. You know. So you hear it's great. So I said, Okay, great. So I called up. You know, I got my musical director got my stage manager, and I said, Look, guys, I have no money. I want all the proceeds. I said, also, I told the actresses I love you guys. And I know you guys want to get paid. But I want all the proceeds to go to the Actors Fund, but also lymphoma Research Foundation. And that's what my wife had. My wife had

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lymphoma in 2018. And so 2018-2019 so I wanted all the money to go there. And you know, I told her I said, you don't want to do it. I totally understand you don't want to free they were like a, first of all want to do Nightmare Before Christmas. Second of all, if we're raising money for the Actors Fund, and also for cancer, yeah, let's do this. Now. The fun part is this idea to do the show was not my personal original idea was actually the idea of myself and Rafael Casal. Rafael Casal loves Jack like he is obsessed with Jack Skellington. And so a couple years ago, we tried to make it happen. But we got not shut down. But the problem was the people who were promoting Danny Elfman's concert, were like, we're doing a concert. So what do you guys want to do? Because you guys can't have the movie because we have the movie behind us. So we don't mind if you do it. It's just that there were so many logistics that we it just never was able to come together. But because the concert wasn't happening and the funny thing is that you're always amazed at who knows who you are.

Gillian Pensavalle 31:23

Okay

James Monroe Iglehart 31:24

So I you know, when I call the Disney group Music Music Group This time, I was like, Hi, I'm James Iglehart, and they go. Oh, we know.

Gillian Pensavalle 31:30

No, no, no, I'm sorry. When you James Iglehart are picking up the phone for Disney. They better damn well know who you are.

James Monroe Iglehart 31:36

I'm still thinking I'm like, okay, New York, I get it. But LA. They're like, No, no, no, we know who you are. And we know that you love this show. And we also know that you sent him before. And we know you guys want to do the concert before. And so I said, Well, here's here's my idea. And so I said it's just a songs I said I'm gonna have narration and I I ended up becoming a producer, director, producer, director and writer because I

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wrote the narration of this thing because I wanted to be the narration. But I also didn't want to have to pay Tim Burton for his book. So I wrote a whole different original,

Gillian Pensavalle 32:04

We're trying to raise some money here, Tim.

James Monroe Iglehart 32:05

Right, the whole thing. And the funny thing is they had to ask Danny Elfman, they had to ask Danny, and they had to ask Tim. So the fun part was trying to get their two schedules together to talk to them, not me. But to get them each to say yes to this. But if Danny's working on an album or a movie, and if you think about the Marvel movies you've watched Danny Elfman is that some of the soundtrack so he's working Tim's working on his own stuff. So they're like, Hey, we have a... can we ask you a question about this. Yeah, whatever. Okay, what we'll get to you. So they finally got to get a once they said, So basically, I started working on the show, waiting for them to say yes,

Gillian Pensavalle 32:41

Absolutely.

James Monroe Iglehart 32:42

The first person I called was Rafael Casal

Gillian Pensavalle 32:44

And look Rafael Casal is he's been discussed on the podcast a lot. He runs Bars with with Daveed Diggs. He was in blind spotting. co wrote it with Daveed

James Monroe Iglehart 32:54

Rafael and Utkarsh Ambudkar are the only two people that are not in Hamilton are the closest to Hamilton than anybody else, the actors that probably should have been in it, or what but they're, they're so clear. They're literally if there was, if they're, you know, if this is such an old ass reference, you're the carebears in the carebear cousin. So if Hamilton is the carebears Utkarsh and Rafael are carebear cousins, because they

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are so so close to the situation. So I called Raf and Raf was like, I'm in. And but the funny thing is, you know, Raf is so busy too rough is producing and writing blind spotting the show, so, so then I call the next person who is called Adrian, Adrian Warren, because when when we've figured about this, we always had agent is Sally, but Asia was just like, Tina, so I called Adrians. I'm like, these people are not going to say yes, but the fact that Rob said yes. And Adrian said yes. So then I called some guy called, I said, the next few people I need to call our, I call Lesli Margarita, and I called Alex Brightman and Alex Brightman said, Yes, but then Alex says, had to say no, because Alex was writing a TV show

Gillian Pensavalle 34:04

Who were you looking to cast Alex as?

James Monroe Iglehart 34:05

They were gonna be Lock, Shock, and Barrel.

Gillian Pensavalle 34:06

Oh my god, right.

James Monroe Iglehart 34:07

So Alex is no and I said, of course, like no problem. I said, I know who I'm going to call. And he said, Who? And I said, Rob McClure. He was like, so fun. I was gonna ask you to call Rob McClure. So I called Rob, but Rob also is one of the busiest people in the history of life. So but Rob got back. He was like, Nightmare Before Christmas? I'm in and I called another guy. I think his name is what is it?

Gillian Pensavalle 34:29

It's like oh, it's like it sounds like a buzzing gnat around

James Monroe Iglehart 34:33

Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle 34:33

It's something you just want to wave it away.

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James Monroe Iglehart 34:35

Oh, you know what just we'll just we'll just call them lanky. I called Lanky

Gillian Pensavalle 34:39

You called skinny ankles.

James Monroe Iglehart 34:40

I got right. I call I call skinny ankles and I call it I call with

Gillian Pensavalle 34:44

It's Nick Walker, everyone the subtext is its Nik Walker

James Monroe Iglehart 34:47

I'ma call them like, Lanky Skips. Lanky Skips.

Gillian Pensavalle 34:52

That old chestnut

James Monroe Iglehart 34:53

His new nickname is Lanky Skips and I want you to hashtag lanky skips on his stuff.

Gillian Pensavalle 34:58

Do it. You heard it here. First.

James Monroe Iglehart 35:03

So I call Lanky. I'm not gonna be just names. I call it lanky skips. And I said, Look, man, you know, we boys and you know, we have our issues, but I think you're talented. Let's do this. And he was like I'm in. So once I got lanky, skips and I called some folks, I called a bunch of people who are not ensemble members for ensemble parts. And I literally ... I said, Hey, guys, I love you all. Would you do this for me? Because I was so nervous. They were gonna say no. And I said, you guys are all stars in your own right. And I feel so terrible as to do this. But I know what voices I want. And you guys have them. So when I

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call Jenny Barber, who is one of the best actresses and singers on Broadway

Gillian Pensavalle 35:40

Yes

James Monroe Iglehart 35:41

And the fact that she said yes. And also her husband had lymphoma. So she was like, I am in you know, and we got our doctor because of Ron, because Jenny's husband, Ron. Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle 35:49

Wow.

James Monroe Iglehart 35:50

Yeah, he he's the one that said, this is the doctor. And I was like, if it hadn't been for Jenny Barbara and her husband, I don't know where Dawn and I would be. So I say I love him so much. So then I said, I called Aaron and I called Fergie and I called Catherine and I call called everyone. Oh, well, that was the other thing now. Danny, I called Brian Gonzales. You know, I got what I call Danny Burstein. And Danny was I was afraid to call Danny because Danny was, you know, going through all the stuff he was going through, you know, with his wife, and then COVID-19 and stuff. And I called Danny and I said, Listen, man, I know how busy you are. But I think that you're the voice to be the narrator. And I also want you to play Santa Claus, cuz I just want to perform with you. And he wrote me back within an hour. And he said, You know what? This sounds fun. I'm in. Just tell me what I just tell you what I have to do. And that's how he said it. I was so flabbergasted.

Gillian Pensavalle 36:45

I have chills. Oh, that's so beautiful.

James Monroe Iglehart 36:46

And he got all his stuff done. So early. Like he got his stuff done, because he knew he was you know, he was busy. So he got all this stuff done there. So I have my MD get all of his stuff

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done. And the fun part is about this show. And I give much credit to my cast for trusting me. We never no one ever recorded together. No one recorded together. And no one heard what the other person was doing. So basically, I would send out videos on my phone giving direction. So I gave I sent a video to Leslie, Rob and lanky. And I said, I need you guys on this measure to look left. I need you guys on this measure to look right, lanky, look left and this way. And look, Rob this way. So let's he's in the middle. And they all just and I also drew out. I drew out storyboards, and I sent them to people. And I said, This is what it's going to look like. And I also sent it to my editor and I said, This is what I look like. So no one ever recorded with each other. The only people who I know who actually spoke were, I think Adrian and Raf because they're they're there. They've been, like best friends for years.

Gillian Pensavalle 36:51

Yeah.

James Monroe Iglehart 36:56

And we've been you know, we've been they've been working on it. So they knew kind of what they were going to do. But that's how it was. And we were all the different places. Some people were in LA, some people were in Texas. So everybody was in New Jersey, New York, all the different places, North, South Carolina, everybody was all these different places. And they would send their videos in to me and my stage manager, we send it to our editor, and our musical director will put it together and put it all together. And that's what you see is what we came up with. And it's still one of my I'm so proud of it. And it was the first time I realized, I mean, I got my degree in directing, but directing theater..... First of all, like, I think I can do this directing thing behind the camera just to put stuff together. I call one of my animator friends at Disney and I was like, Hey, this is my idea. This is what they look like. Do the storyboards look good enough. They were like, yeah, they don't have to look like a lot. Just tell them your idea. Just get your idea out there. And let's go. And so, but I have to thank Jim Abbott, who is our musical director, I have to give a shout out

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to Kevin Belzer, who is my cousin by marriage is one of the he came in, we needed a lot of editing and such things are exceptional main editor and technical director, Angela Siriano from Aladdin. And if you seen any of the when Aladdin does the carols for a cure or videos or songs, he's usually the the writer of the songs and the Edit of songs.

Gillian Pensavalle 39:10
oh cool

James Monroe Iglehart 39:10
He is a beast and so the two of them together worked so well together. I think they're doing other things together because of this. And also he builds drones. So if anybody is a drone aficionado, check out Angelo Siriano. This brother will build you a drone that can some GI Joe stuff is really sexy stuff. You can make some Tony Starcraft stuff that he does. And it's so between Jim Abbott then also E. Sarah Barnes who my stage manager, these folks put this stuff together. And they made it work and my cast was brilliant. And I it was fire and I had I had the best time I had so much fun.

Gillian Pensavalle 39:45
It was so I mean really and it was not expensive. It was very accessible.

James Monroe Iglehart 39:49
That was the other thing I told I told them I said, because we're in the middle of COVID I don't want it to be 20 bucks. So I said I honestly want it to be between \$2 to \$10 I said I'd like it to be more next to \$2 and they said okay, how about 4.99? And I was like perfect so was 4.99

Gillian Pensavalle 40:06
yeah wait so everyone recorded their audio

James Monroe Iglehart 40:08

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everybody everybody's recorded their audio and then everybody lips syncs to... well actually, that's not true some people did it live. Some people did it live.

Gillian Pensavalle 40:15

Who did it live

James Monroe Iglehart 40:16

I think I think Aaron did alive I forgot it who else did it live. Somebody that's crazy just nuts people and they want to get it synched up you know everybody to get on the same you know track and they would record it and then you know, I told them I said look this, like I said, we don't have a budget so get things from your house, whatever you're wearing craziness from your house and go with it. We want to, I said I want it to be old school storytime. And kind of like Peter the Starcatcher that if you ever saw that show, which I love. It's like whatever's around your house use those as props so we're gonna do yeah, that's what ended up happening.

Gillian Pensavalle 40:49

Oh, God, I can talk about it forever. But I also do want to say the animation. Husky pants. Oh, good god.

James Monroe Iglehart 40:55

Yes, I am. So sorry about that. So to have Husky, I realized that we only had I said we didn't have any backgrounds. So I called Husky pants and I said, Dude, can you do one for me?

Gillian Pensavalle 41:07

His name is Rafael but he I always say Husky pants cuz he's at Husky pants on insta

James Monroe Iglehart 41:12

Okay, so this is a fun story. So Raf... I call Raphael I said, I need one picture from you. And then I realized I was like, I need more than one. Okay, so I call him again. And I said, Look, man, can I get three more from you? His family has had issues with cancer as well. So when he heard that, he was like, Oh,

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dude, I'm in Yeah, what do you need? And so I told him my idea of what I was thinking. So then when he drew stuff, I had to send it to Disney to get approved.

Gillian Pensavalle 41:44

And you're talking about like the background like the green screen right. So like Rafael Casal, and like Jack and Sally are singing and behind them. It's like if you know the Nightmare Before Christmas, you know how absolutely gorgeous that film is?

James Monroe Iglehart 41:54

Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle 41:55

And so it was you needed that because it's all visual, right? It's a little bit of the Brady Bunch. And here's Rafael Casal is walking around singing all this heartfelt stuff. And like behind the artwork behind him is gorgeous.

James Monroe Iglehart 42:07

Thank you. Thats all Raphel. And the fun part is Oh, Raphael. Rafael Casal the Think about this for a second. When is the last time in a cast? You've had to rough eels in their last name starts with C. So I sent an email out to everybody. Not realizing I tagged Husky pants Rafael out. He calls me back and goes, James, I thought you just want me to draw. I don't want to sing. And I was like, No, no, this is different. Rafael because it just said Rafael C. playing jack

Gillian Pensavalle 42:34

I can feel the stomach drop

James Monroe Iglehart 42:35

And he was like, cuz it also jack had like, you know, seven songs. Wait a minute. Use I use a drawing. I was like, No, no, no, Raf... he was petrified.

Gillian Pensavalle 42:47

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Imagine James Iglehart emailing you saying I also need you to sing and be the star of this thing.

James Monroe Iglehart 42:52

He was like, Are you nuts? That's not what I asked. So no, he and he was so great. And he ended up coming up with some wonderful things. And then what's funny is as things started to progress, I realized that I needed a trailer. So that's when I called my cousin. I was like, Look, Angelo is really busy doing this. I need a trailer. He said, Would you need it? I said tomorrow

Gillian Pensavalle 43:17

James.

James Monroe Iglehart 43:18

I said, Actually, I needed tonight. I said, by the way, tomorrow, he was like, Okay, let me put the kids to bed. Let me tell me what you want to do. I said, here's what I'm gonna do. And this is the honest to god true. I went into the closet, which is my studio and went into the closet. And I recorded a voiceover I wrote a voiceover sent it to him. And I said, I just need something simple. Just these pictures did nothing to animate anything he sent me. This purple background with smoke, the music, my voice the pitch is flipping in and out

James Monroe Iglehart 43:47

for one night only the songs you love by the stars that light up Broadway. Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas, a one night only online virtual benefit concert Saturday, October 31, streaming at 7pm. Eastern Standard Time. All proceeds benefit the lymphoma Research Foundation and the actors funding. Happy Halloween.

James Monroe Iglehart 44:15

And when I saw that, I was like, That's amazing. Angelo saw it and said Who did that? He goes, I need that smoke effect. And so he calls him up he goes Oh, and then they start talking you ever

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been around technical people they start jargon and you have no idea what they're talking about.

Gillian Pensavalle 44:27

Yes, sometimes I am that person. a spectator.

James Monroe Iglehart 44:30

Right. So these to start talking about editing jargon. And he's like, wait, we go what program using? I'm using this I'm using this. Oh my god. I said hey, how do you feel about working on this together? Angelo was like, dude, I was just to actually about to ask you because of all the stuff you had. And I saw what Kevin did and they got together and we're literally able to it cut the time in half the stuff that you know, we we got done.

Gillian Pensavalle 44:56

Will it ever come back? Is it or was it a one and done?

James Monroe Iglehart 44:59

Technically is supposed to be a one and done. I'm like to make some calls because, you know, the year isn't over yet. And maybe I was, my idea is try to put something out so that you know, kind of like let people see what we had if you missed it that night, you know, because it was it literally was a one night it was a 24 hour thing. And that was the whole thing. That was the whole that was the whole deal with with Disney. It had to be a, you know, a one night thing.

Gillian Pensavalle 45:22

Sure

James Monroe Iglehart 45:23

You know

Gillian Pensavalle 45:24

It was so nice, because first of all, I love that on both of your episodes. Again, we're just talking about how great Leslie Margarita is. She's incredible. She's been on the Hamilcast to around the time you were on. And I think that's why it was so

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fresh where I was talking cuz I knew that you two were friends. And you were just talking about just like chopping on that scenery with Leslie and you were like, there's not a room big enough for the two of us.

James Monroe Iglehart 45:45

Well, that's why I thought it was fun to have with...if you go back if you go back when I hopefully I can publicize it to watch. Rob, Lanky and Leslie together it was funny because I sit when they got they got to see each other's stuff. I said let me send you what one person is doing. And once they saw kind of what Leslie was doing, or what Rob was doing or what lanky was doing, they all sent stuff back. I was like, oh, okay, I know where we are. And it was phenomenal. absolutely phenomenal. Because those guys also you don't realize how high Kidnap Mr. Santa Claus really is. You don't realize how high that song of being a vocally how high that song is that key

Gillian Pensavalle 46:53

I guess I don't know if I've even said this yet. But thank you so much for doing that. Because it was such a I mean, it was an event, but I'm hearing you talk about it. And that's exactly when you're saying like, I'm just gonna email them. And maybe I mean, they're probably going to say no, maybe they'll be interested. That's what we went through with Twas like we were had a conversation about like, wouldn't it be great because Mike had written Twas in the middle of the summer a couple of years ago because he was like, I just missed Christmas. And I just want to write this thing. And we had put it up before we did it as a staged reading. And we had a foley artist and it was a whole thing and then the pandemic hit. And he was like, Well, what I mean, it's kind of perfect for a podcast because so many of the bits we did was like the big noise you know, all the noises and all this funny stuff. And we were thinking like Wouldn't it be great? Just throwing it out there? Like Wouldn't it be great if Chris Jackson was our Narrator And like I would love to get someone like not I mean ideally a James Iglehart but like he would never do it but like someone who sounds like it,

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you know? And Eddie Lee cuz you know, Eddie Lee is just phenomenal. I mean

James Monroe Iglehart 47:52

Yes. Eddy was one of people I was gonna call and I didn't realize that having the parts he was like, Oh, damn, you know,

Gillian Pensavalle 47:57

Right I mean, Eddie Lee is a legit like he voices Pokemon.

James Monroe Iglehart 48:01

legit voices Pokemon. He's He's a brilliant voiceover actor.

Gillian Pensavalle 48:04

And so we were just saying, here's our budget, here's what we can do the same exact thing you said, here's what we can pay you. But here's what it's for. It's to bring joy to people. It's going to be for free. But it's going to raise money and awareness for the Actors Fund. And we were gonna personally donate as well and whatever and just like Drive, drive attention to the Actors Fund. We it was that same thing where it was like, I wanted it to be so clear in the pitch emails. That was like Eddie, please don't take this as an insult. Like, I want to be insulting you but I think you're like, we wanted him to play a couple of roles. And we knew he could

James Monroe Iglehart 48:40

Yeah

Gillian Pensavalle 48:41

Because he's Eddie Lee. But it's like Eddie, I just said he of course because he's has the biggest heart in the world was just happy. He was like, wait, so a good cause and like Christmas and bring joy and we get together. Okay. And you all said yes. It was like every every I was like I would love like I would kill for Lexi Garcia to be in this because I think she would. She would just be this. Speaking of carebears the ultimate Husky pants did a carebear artist's rendering of her when she left I think Giovanna. She I was like I just think she would be so

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great as Julie and I think everything was like the ultimate casting like a James Iglehart type as the C Jack type. A Lexi Garcia type. And you all said yes, like Aneesa Folds. I couldn't believe it. So hearing you talk about that was just so I felt so seen.

James Monroe Iglehart 49:28

I think there's a moment where everybody was like, we were all sitting at home wishing we could do something. And and to help and what's funny is you want to you how do you help you use the skills you've been given. And I think I think the thing that people don't understand is that we're entertainers. So that's our superpower. So how do we help? We're there to use our superpower for good. So we're there to take you away from the news for a bit. You know, if you're watching the news, And it's just depressing, depressing. It's our job to make you laugh. It's our job to make you smile. It's our job to give you an emotional tear. Because the story is so sweet, or the story is so crazy or so scary or so nuts that makes you want to go What is wrong with these people? You know, we're there to take you away from that. And so with the fact that a chance to you to just to paraphrase Lumir from beating the beast a chance to use our skills, you know, to use your skills, you know, to do something, you know, is sitting around, Flabby, fat and lazy You walked in and oops-a-daisy

James Monroe Iglehart 50:32

Then someone came in, he was like, Oh, I got to do something, you know? Yeah. And the fact that you get to do and you get to you, when you start talking about who's a part of it, you're like, Oh, Okay, I got it. Because these are my friends. This is gonna be fun. You know, that's kind of email I said, whenever I was like, who's in this? Oh, yeah, this is going to be a hoot. We're gonna have a good time. And the same thing with Twas the Night. You know, they both were just they were there was so much fun because you have who you were with who you're working with

Gillian Pensavalle 50:54

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It was. Yeah, it was fun also to see because I've seen Mike direct so many times, right. But it was amazing to watch him direct. You and Chris Jackson and to be a fly on the wall watching this beautiful chemistry and dynamic between Mike and Aneesa. It was a dream. And you know, we the recordings we booked for, you know two ish hours of your time knowing that we wouldn't need that. But then here, you and Mike are talking about like Simpsons references and southpark shit. And it's just like, then it just became this fun. And it was like, Oh, wait, this is part of it, too. Like, it's a joy for us. It's not just that we're making something joyful to put out into the world with people we love. But those moments, even the scheduling of it was fun. And being in that zoom to just to have like, there you are, like in the closet and getting like the full James Iglehart experience of being in a recording and you and Mike just like riffing, it was so fun.

James Monroe Iglehart 51:48

Well that's the thing you know, you you're having fun, because also it's for you. It's for the people, you know, you want to give people smiles and entertain them. But also, we love what we do. When we get there. You know, you kind of have to have you kind of have to have two hours because the first 30 minutes you're gonna just act a fool. Before you get to work.

Gillian Pensavalle 52:04

That's exactly what happened with every last one of you.

James Monroe Iglehart 52:06

Oh, wait, we're doing okay, hold on. Let's get all the sillies out and then start working

Gillian Pensavalle 52:12

Right and then like, take some of those sillies and put as much of your stuff that we used was your when you were talking about your Fitbit, that was that was all improvised and so fun. And I was like, Oh my God, we have to like take notes. Like we got to keep all that Fitbit stuff in like that. It's hysterical.

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James Monroe Iglehart 52:29

Because you can't help it. I mean, it's just part of who you are. And so that's the great thing about being entertainers, they bring you part of who you are to entertain folks, and I This was fun, and you know, I've got to do some great, that's the fun part. I think that's the weird thing about the pandemic. It is it's a horrible thing. So many lives have been lost period. people out of work period. These are not great times. Try to say these are not the best times No, these aren't best These aren't good times.

James Monroe Iglehart 52:57

The good old days would you mean COVID you

Gillian Pensavalle 53:00

remember good old 2020

James Monroe Iglehart 53:04

That was terrible, so the fact that you could find that there were these bright spots in the thing so you can look back and the spots were bright that is what makes that's what I mean about you know, the endurance the perseverance, the able to adapt the human condition in these situations where you could there's something horrible happens and then someone makes brightspot someone's makes a Twas the Night or someone does a Disney family sing along or someone you know does something that everybody can be a part of someone does a concert someone leans out their window and sings to the masses like Brian Stokes Mitchell did.

Gillian Pensavalle 53:40

Yes

James Monroe Iglehart 53:40

You know it's those moments where you go there's these bright spots. You know, Seth Rudetsky doing his thing every single night You know, every you know for the past year

Gillian Pensavalle 53:50

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Again, for the Actors Fund

James Monroe Iglehart 53:50

And doing these things to use your entertainment and fans go because one they miss Broadway. Two, they miss the people they like to see on the streets and they're watching because had people say Broadway has gone away actually, Broadway has not gone away. Broadway has been consistently entertaining folks. Since the moment they close the actual doors but Broadway the community has been continuing to perform continuing to give back continuing to put smiles on people's faces that needed because you never know you telling a stupid story, me and Lanky going toe to toe on Twitter or on Instagram. If that made you laugh, if that made you happy if if me and Javier going up against each other for snow and summer, if that made you smile during a terrible moment in life, then we've done something good because you can't say it was all bad. You said there was at one time that James was outside and it was snowing. And Javier sent a tweet out with his face on it and that was funny. You know, or you know, Lanky was able to say this about James. And it was funny or Jays able to say this about Lanky and it was funny. Or you know, Leslie Margarita was on some show and it was funny. Chris Jackson said something and it was funny. I listened to the Hamilcast because I just know that whenever I listen, Julian's gonna say something or she's gonna have somebody on it's gonna be so much fun and it just, it just brightens that's the one bright spot of my week or I am the kind of person that needs some kind of macabre dark thing to make me happy so I'm going to do the true crime because it's not happening to me

Gillian Pensavalle 55:25

Yeah, we all have anxiety if we don't laugh about it, James, we will cry

James Monroe Iglehart 55:30

Let me tell you something, one of the greatest things is when you it's it's easy to like leave off as something that's just on television. So Discovery Channel. Discovery Channel started is like we're going to show you animals and showing you how to do

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this and in Discovery Channel buys the Food Network, right so the Food Network's discoveries is giant conglomerate, right? And I know because I worked with discovery when I did Big Little Christmas showdown, which I got can't believe I still got to do this year. So I got to do a reality show and reality you know, competition show. But discovery also owns ID. ID is we call it the kill channel, because the killer is basically where you watch hours and hours of women killing their husbands

Gillian Pensavalle 56:13
Who had it coming

James Monroe Iglehart 56:17
Who had it coming, but there's something about knowing that when Jesse and I also did I forgot which I forgot which show it is, but this is one show where the narrator I hate her voice, but I can't stop listening to it. She goes and that's when Jessica walked in the room. And when she saw Todd with the other lady, that's when Jessica snapped.

Gillian Pensavalle 56:39
I think it's a show called Snapped.

James Monroe Iglehart 56:40
How was she supposed to know that the Tony Award was built just enough to fit right between the back of his head You know, he also what would you say? What I won the Tony Award The one thing I didn't say on stage I knew I'd get fired for it was I held it up and I looked at my wife and I was like this seems this feels like one of the weapons they would use on the ID channel on them shows there they killed the debate like we don't there's a blunt object that we can't tell what the shape is. Oh, that's a Tony. You know, so people you you you find entertainment in the weirdest places, but

James Monroe Iglehart 57:07
these are real situations where you go Wait,

James Monroe Iglehart 57:10

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some somebody did what? Why would they do that? Let me find out. Oh, this podcasts gonna talk about it. Great. And then you and then they listen to your podcast and they go back and go. They start getting everybody makes dinner and goes hey, do you listen to true crime? Yeah. Okay, let's talk about this one sec... okay the car....

James Monroe Iglehart 57:27

It's it's, it's so much fun. You're like,

James Monroe Iglehart 57:30

I can't believe that real. This is real. This is reality. This really happened. That's what makes it fun. And if that makes you smile, then we've given you a bright spot in these crazy times.

Gillian Pensavalle 57:45

Okay, a couple things. First of all, I can't believe it took us this long to record again. But I kind of love that it did because we have so much to catch up on. And that's why you're getting three episodes with Mr. James Monroe Iglehart. Oh, before I forget. Did anyone else catch that accidental Columbo reference the JMI made? Yeah, it was definitely just me. But anyway, very early in the episode he called people who have come back on the podcast or repeat offenders and that's what they call actors who were the villains on multiple episodes of Columbo. So Robert Culp and Jack Cassidy, for example, they're both considered repeat offenders because they played multiple different villains on different episodes of Columbo. Yeah, this is not a Columbo podcast. Just wanted to point that out. I got a kick out of it. Anyway, moving on. Um, yeah. Oh, I also wanted to give a quick shout out to Rafael Casal. Check out his YouTube page if you want to hear him, Adrian Warren and JMI sing Jack, Sally and Ogee Boogie from like six years ago. So that Halloween concert was years in the making. It's all fantastic. I'm linking it in the show notes. Alright, I'm gonna wrap this up. Next week. James dives into how and why his Jefferson is never ever the same what it was like working in three shows at once with FLS, Hamilton and Hercules plus all the other stuff he's got going on. And JMI essentially takes over my podcast. It's a

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whole thing. So until then, stay safe. Stay healthy. Please wear that mask. Get vaccinated if you can. I love you. I'm G. Pen.

Gillian Pensavalle 59:38

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!