

# THE HAMILCAST

## EPISODE 274 KRYSTAL JOY BROWN 2 TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:00] Hi, I'm stage and stage's Lin-Manuel Miranda, and you're listening to the Hamilcast.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:00:19] Hello everyone, welcome back to the Hamilcast, I'm Gillian, and this is my second episode with Hamilton Broadway's Eliza the fantastic Krystal Joy Brown. Make sure you listen to last week's episode, though. We jumped right into the deep end talking about pandemic life, Krystal's recent Good Morning America appearance, holding the industry accountable. And lots more stuff you should hear. But if you're all caught up, let's get back into it. Here's part two with Krystal Joy Brown.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:00:46] I'm excited to travel, I'm excited for this little sliver of summer that I get to have before my lovely, beautiful golden handcuffs get put on me, because Eliza is the type of role you can't do anything like, no, you cannot do anything as Eliza.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:01:00] Why?

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:01:00] Eliza sings the entire show, she sings No. When I when I had my score and I got it for the first time and I was like highlighting my parts, I was like, I think all of the soprano lines, like. So a lot of people don't understand this or know this. Eliza is holding down the soprano line for the entire show. She sings like 39 of the 50 songs I just recently did, like a document of all of Eliza's work, because I needed to see it for myself.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:01:33] You need to know exactly what you were getting into

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:01:35] again, again. And just to remind the powers that be that Eliza does a lot of work and it's like it's like Eliza. Yeah. Eliza Hamilton sings thirty seven songs, Burr sings three songs. Eliza sings twenty nine songs

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:01:50] For the listeners at home. Krystal just pulled it up. I could see you pulling it up on your computer at home.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:01:55] Alexander Hamilton has a nine hundred and sixteen lines. Aaron Burr has six hundred and fifty five lines and Eliza comes in third place with three hundred and twenty four lines. That's a lot. And so and she's like she's always in the wings. And so that's the thing about that role is that she's just constantly

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on stage singing the high highest parts of the show. And you don't really get a break from that. You know, like there's not really a break. So once you become Eliza and this is I've now gotten to know and the other Eliza's like and talk to them and they're like, oh, yeah, can't do anything, can't talk on my day off, don't have a life. That's why I actually I got a dog before the pandemic because I was like, well this is the hardest role I've ever done because of the level, the amount of work. And it's kind of weird because it's such a thankless amount of work, because people have no idea that she's doing all this right. And yeah, I was like telling I was like reminding them was like, well, you know, Eliza like has to carry the entire soprano line in every single group number And then sing all of her songs. It is just it's so it's so demanding that people don't have no idea, especially because, like a lot of times, you know, her being stoic and kind of like technically in the background or whatever, like she's like not people look at Angelica and go, oh, that's the force. Right. And and with Eliza, they're like, oh, she's, you know, the wife. And it's like, oh, my gosh, she is. I've tried to give her a lot of onis, you know? And I've sometimes gotten a little pushback from the creators about how much of an in my life. It takes up a lot of space. OK, she's got a lot of feelings

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:03:37] I have to tell you. I and I promise you, I have questions about AJ because I know you took him to work. And I know like I like and I my husband and I just adopted a dog in February

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:03:47] a young dog or older dog.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:03:49] We were hoping to rescue one that was maybe like one or two years, maybe housetrained, maybe spayed or neutered. No, we got we rescued Fiona from death row in in South Carolina. She gets spayed tomorrow. The poor thing. She has no idea what's coming.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:04:05] How old is she?

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:04:06] She was four months when we got her and...

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:04:09] was she house broken?

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:04:11] Oh, no, we've done all of it. I mean, it's like. Yeah, that's the bionic baby. Well, yeah, you're just and I. I love her. Like, I look at her and I'm like, I would throw myself in front of a fucking train for you. I would throw myself into a volcano. I'm in love. I really have to take that out of your mouth. The first night we had her.

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**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:04:30] Oh, my God.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:04:32] I love her like we saw her. And we when we were like, we have to take her home. But right now it's just like this. Like like

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:04:40] what? What have you done with several people? Like, what have I done? I'm an idiot. Like I, I'm going to have to rehome this little cute

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:04:50] Because you got AJ when he was a baby too.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:04:52] He was like nine weeks. Which I don't .....Yeah, he was very young and he was

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:04:59] where'd you get it from? Because they usually don't adopt out babies

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:05:03] Amish farm in Pennsylvania, like and I had no idea. I had never had a puppy like ever in my life. So I had no idea that it was just going to be nonstop, nonstop, whining nonstop, just tearing things up. Like I lost two computer laptop chargers. Like I you know, it was horrible. And then as soon as I could walk him outside. Everything changed and he's been like an angel ever since, and he's dead ass asleep right now.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:05:35] So cute.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:05:35] But he's he's he's been perfect, but it was just like that's he's the reason I got a dog was because I was like, I'm going to have no life and I need, like, some companionship. And my my boyfriend at the time was living in in Boston. So I was like, I need something like I need some one around something. And so I but I did, especially in the beginning of the pandemic, I was like crying. I was like, what have I done? I'm strapped with this crazy lunatic and I want everyone to know that I'm a good mom.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:06:05] So I'm like, look at him like he's driving me crazy. I can't not I have to look at him at all times because I don't know what he's I have to know exactly where he is at all times. I got a baby gate.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:06:14] Oh, we still have the X pen up still.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:06:16] Oh, yeah. Oh yeah. Mm hmm. I feel you. And like, let's be real. Like puppies are hard people. It's OK. It

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sucks. And you can't tell anybody that it's just like whatever being a mom and like you can't say how much you hate it. It sucks. It's terrible.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:06:31] Like she came out OK. So we've had her first. We got February. It's now May. She came in the other. I had my eyes off her for five. But she is so good like she really is learning. She's very, very smart. But she I kept like her harness on for like five minutes and I was doing other things. She was in the bedroom. I thought my husband had his eye on her. He did not. She comes out and I'm like, why is your harness hanging off your neck? She chewed me through it. And I'm like, well, thank God we had another one. Yeah, but it was I was like, so now your harness is in two pieces. Now it's in the garbage, like, ok.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:07:03] oh, I've taken him to dinner and he's chewed through his leash. And then I saw him wandering around the restaurant like I'm like you could have wandered out into the street

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:07:12] Mind your manners

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:07:15] Oh, that's what I have to say. Mind your manners anyway. Yeah, but he's amazing. Now I'm like, I can't imagine my life without him. Like, I take him everywhere. He's come on to movies that's with me. Like I bring him into the trailer. It's like I'm like you're he's, he's so well-behaved, he's so smart. But it took a lot of work

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:07:36] then they sort of I mean there were definitely times where Fiona she just like got it. Where like now she just like she knows like as I'm making her dinner she just sits and waits because we were training her like that before them. Like we tell you, you can have your breakfast or whatever.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:07:49] Good.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:07:50] We were like my husband read all the books before, like everything was just like going to be like Superdad but. But you brought AJ to Hamilton.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:07:59] Is that a thing? I did. I did. I brought him to work like the Sunday before we shut down. And but he was such a tiny little thing. And then we have all of our swings and standbys that were not working. So they're like, well, and so they were you know, they were like playing with him and they're in their dressing rooms and stuff. And he was just like being spoiled. And, yeah, he was he was such a little gift and and he was really well-behaved. And I just saw him like laying and sleeping on people's laps. And they

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sent me like a thousand, like photos. And I was like, I'm not jealous at all. I'm not jealous that he's just totally fine with other people. He just kicked me again. But yeah. Yeah. So he yeah. He's a little mascot anywhere we go, he's just like he's so full of love. He loves people. So he's really easy.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:08:47] How allowed is that at the Rogers to bring your dog. So I feel

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:08:51] like oh no. I mean I ask ok.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:08:55] OK, perfect.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:08:56] Yeah I did. I asked, I said can I bring him. Is that OK. And they're like yes. You know people bring their children, I should bring my child. That's not discrimination.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:09:06] You're not going to hear an argument for me. Come on now.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:09:10] My child just happens to have four legs.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:09:12] You still have to teach them where to pee. It's the same. It's the same lessons. Mind your manners. Pee where you're supposed to.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:09:19] They can never pee alone, though. They can never go and pee by themselves, though

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:09:23] I know that's so. But I'm never going to be a child mother know.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:09:28] OK, well there you go.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:09:29] Its never going to be a thing

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:09:29] and enjoy enjoy it

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:09:32] Like even on my other podcast true crime obsessed. Like it's become a thing with the listeners where I'm like, look, not a mother, I'm not going to be I have no desire to like be a mom, like childless by choice. I'm thrilled to not be a mother, but.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:09:45] Good for you. I walked by a protest in the protest was only like literally eight people, but they had the best signage ever. And it was like it said, stop having babies, like

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in the middle of Times Square was like just like a few people there. I stop having babies.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:09:58] Yeah. If you're going to have one, you have to be nice to take care of it and like, not be a dick about it. I just I don't have that gene, like, I have that gene about animals. The dogs, like I get my like I'm not I don't want to be a mom

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:10:13] I dont think everybody has to have a baby. No, I don't think everybody has to be a mom. No.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:10:16] And I, you know, here's here's a I don't know if I told this story on this podcast, but you're going to like, lose your mind over this because I know you're going to be on my side. I was when I was a freelancer, I was working as a like executive producer of something. Some podcast, some woman, it was like Valentine's Day when we were recording like several years ago, and she was like, oh, what are your plans? And she was like, she could have been my grandmother, like. And it's not it's just just for this. It's just for the context of the story. And she was like, oh. And I was like, oh, well, I'm working today. And then my husband and I guess we'll have like dinner. I don't know, like we're not really big Valentine's Day people and whatever. And she was like, are you guys going to have kids? Do you have kids or are you going to have kids? And I was like, no, I'm not really into that.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:10:56] She probably lost it.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:10:58] She kept pushing. And I was like, no, just that's really not what we're going to do. And she looked at me and she goes, Can I give you my pitch? And I was just like, what? Like, what if I couldn't have children? Like, what if I really wanted to and couldn't? Yeah, I know. Like, I don't know if I can't. I'm just I've never tried. I don't want to but like, she wouldn't accept that. I was like, it's really not what we want to do.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:11:21] Is she like. I mean what she obgyn why did it even matter to her. Like what. Get out of my vagina.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:11:28] Like I understand. I was like, I don't know. It's just I thought she was making that dreaded small talk that I cannot wait for to be over.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:11:36] But she went in for the pitch

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:11:37] and her pitch was have them. I promise you'll learn to love them and I was like...

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**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:11:43] oh my God

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:11:46] That is the worst advice you like. How many people, how many how many women have you given them to have them? You'll learn to love them.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:11:55] No, I don't think that's how that should work at all. Like, I want to be a mom and I feel like I love I want to adopt. I want to have foster kids. I love children, but I feel like I love them already. Like whoever whatever type of child comes into my life, I already feel like a love towards, you know, I'm a god...I'm recently a godmother. So I feel like that's how I know that I want to have children. And at this point, like, I don't know how I want to have children, you know, like I'm I'm not straight. I'm not I'm not knowing what I am. I like humans. I don't know how this will end. You know what I mean? You know, I don't know if I will be using science or what, you know, but I'm like I feel a motherly instinct. And I don't know if that means that I need to biologically be a mother, but I think that I could love a child like a mother should love a child regardless of if I actually have one adopt one foster. But that's always been a part of my plan. I've always known that. And I feel like you should you should kind of know that before you step into being a parent. I think that you should have some sort of connection to that. And I mean, with Eliza having all those kids starting an orphanage, I'm like, that is something that we because I was like, I don't get Eliza because I didn't at first. And she really taught me to love my womanness because I've always been one of those women that are like ugh women, you know, like and in the last five years, I've been really appreciating women in a new way and being a woman. And I was always like the girls guy. The guy is girl.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:13:19] A guys girl.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:13:20] Yeah, guys girl. Like, I was always like all my friends were men or are only gay men. And I was like I was always like, girl drama is like so weird and I'm not a part of that. And now I'm just like I worship at the altar of my girlfriend. I was just with four women this weekend being silly as as all get out who are, you know, bosses and just talking about, like, will we get pregnant, will we not, you know, like all of these different things, but also just being just honest and raw. And I was like, I can be on real level of myself with women that I can't be with men.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:13:58] A hundred percent.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:13:59] And I just have to say, I really do think that men are the inferior sex. I just I really, truly think that we've these got... Sorry. I'm sorry, men. I appreciate you.

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**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:14:11] I'm not

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:14:12] Are you I mean, I'm, you know, and I just I as as we get to expand our idea of what we are like as a human as as a sexuality is gender, I'm like I'm excited that I'm like I always I my first relationship ever was with a woman. And then I kind of was like, ah, I'm really straight, more straight. And so but like, I've never really held myself like to anything. I'm like, I love someone. I love someone. Which is why I like playing that Netossa and working with like an all lesbian, not all lesbian but all women, lesbian creative team like and and playing a lesbian character

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:14:51] on She-Ra, you're talking about

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:14:52] She-ra on She-ra on Netflix. And DreamWorks was like so major to me because of representation, because I'm just like if I were a twelve year old and seen this, like I probably would have felt so seen, you know, I just never really cared what anyone thought, you know? And I was just kind of like, yeah, sure. You know, I mean, I feel like sometimes I'm like, I'm sixty forty, I'm ninety ten, you know, doesn't I don't know. I have no idea.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:15:18] Again, no one that no one's like quizzing you. You're answering to yourself and that's it. You don't have to report back if you want, if you want the cookie, eat the cookie.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:15:25] Exactly.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:15:26] You could be a vegan and eat the cookie you're answering to just you.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:15:28] Adjust you exactly, and that's the beauty of living, and I'm going to live as fully as humanly possible, but it's also about that representation, you know, and then being able to be a part of that representation, being able to be a part of those narratives, being able to be a part of the change, being a storyteller within a time that things are changing ethically and dramatically is like historic and amazing. And so I'm here for all of it. I think that we need to be living as fully and as boldly as we can. And I think we need to be taking in like that self inventory and putting it out there as well as much as we possibly can. And no, fucking do not come up to me and talk about the weather. Go in and tell me about your childhood and how you're feeling about anything. I want to know exactly how you're feeling about random things. I want my life to be just a Twitter feed of people.



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**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:16:15] So when was your last therapy session? Was it a real one? Yeah,

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:16:19] I think I'm excited about the fact that things are changing and that people are taking their lives and their identities and their bodies into their own hands and also being like, this is what you can and can't say about my body and what I can do with it. And it shouldn't offend you no matter what I'm doing with my body, unless I'm absolutely hurting you physically. Like if I'm taking food actually out of your mouth.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:16:40] Have you can you ever picture yourself saying, here's my pitch, here's why you should do something, unless it's about like working on a task force or something or voting or like, you know, just like, here's my pitch. Just don't be racist or like don't be transphobic. And that's what like people should listen to. But in what universe where it's like I'm going to do this with myself, that has nothing to do with you. Like like I'm going to what if I change my hair color? What if you were like Gillian here's my pitch. Like here's my pitch pink.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:17:09] I say I kind of have some. Yeah, I think you had pink when I met you. Did you have pink?

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:17:14] Its like pink and purple? What was it like? It's a little weird. It's like it's so bright, but over the zoom it's like doesn't look as wide as it.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:17:22] No I like it. Thanks. I mean, I love it.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:17:24] Thanks. Here's my pitch loving you.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:17:26] Here's my pitch. Love you back. Here's my pitch. Love yourself people

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:17:32] right like and mind your own business.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:17:35] No, no, no, no. Loving yourself is really hard. Like it takes so much work. It's taking me so long to finally be like I deserve respect and love. I really, truly. It's taken me a long time and it's taken me hard work therapy, good friendships, bad relationships, great relationships like heartbreak, failure, all this stuff to be like, oh, I finally I get it, I get it in a way that feels true and like I love myself and and any times that I really feel depressed and really as I do suffer, like I do have depression, like I it's always been a part of me. I've always been super dark, like everyone thinks that I'm not because I present

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the light part of me, which I think is is the the really good part of me. I my darkness is that like first of all, my first ever concert was Rage Against the Machine and I was twelve years old. So like I like punk and rock and like. Yeah. So that was a very big part of my DNA and who I who I am. And what I realized about my depression is that my depression is not about me and how I feel about myself. It is about what I think about this trash ass world and how stupid we are to each other. And I'm like, wow, it's not me that I like that I don't like.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:18:53] It's the fact that people are evil, racist. It's the fact that people are manipulative and tyrannical and that they're doing all these things. And that I don't agree about and I don't believe in and that I think are absolutely miserable. It's not me.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:19:09] I actually like myself. It's just this trash ass reality that we live in. So that that's a newer concept for me, because I used to think it was me and now I'm just saying, oh, no, universe, it's not me. It's you know, it's it's.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:19:24] Yeah, that's my breakup letter. It's yeah.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:19:27] It's you. So, you know, I'm still doing my work. I think that mental health is an ongoing like I love learning about myself growing. I'm the type of person who's, you know, sweating in a mud hut with a whole bunch of people and pure darkness with a shaman.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:19:40] Have you done that? Have you done like a sweat lodge?

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:19:43] Oh yeah, Ive done many sweat lodges, many sweat lodges. I've done kambo, which is Frog poison. I did it in Malibu like I don't like a goddess retreat and some crazy, you know, hippie mansion.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:19:55] How did you get into a sweat lodge? Because usually it's like.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:19:58] Because I lived in L.A..

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:20:00] Oh, well, it was it was real. Like it was real people like I would not be invited because I would not be part of the the tribe or that which I totally respect. But like I

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**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:20:10] said, there are some people I mean, I would like to state for the record that I am part Native American, but that that had nothing to do. A pure white woman took me to the sweat lodge.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:20:19] So I'm in L.A. I'm sure she did

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:20:22] have blond hair, blue eyes. One of my best friends, Kristen McGuinness, she sherpaed me into wellness. And she she you know, and yes, you go inside, there is a shaman who is like indigenous of indigenous descent and he go you go into a teepee and you sit and you talk it all out. And then there's volcano, volcanic rocks that have been getting hot for like at least 17 hours. And then you sit in there for about five, six hours. And all of the all of the stuff comes out and we don't there's no peyote or ayahuasca. It's just it's a sober experience. It's free. But they recommend that you bring a snack for afterwards to share with everyone. So we have like a little like Buffet. And typically they prefer you bring something vegan and gluten free. This sounds so LA

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:21:09] So LA. But wait. So after five and six hours of being in the sweat lodge and like, going through your shit, then you have to like, socialize after.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:21:18] Yeah. But you want to like it's.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:21:20] Oh OK.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:21:21] Or you don't have to, you can, you can get in your car and leave, you know, you can be like great thank you. Bye. Or you know and you can donate money and stuff. But like it's, it's very like this is what we do this because we feel like people need to have the spiritual connection and and I think. In our culture, we've lost connection to spirit and people are so desperate to find it, you know, I know I definitely was desperate to find it and find my relationship with a higher power or some connectivity to the universe. And so I appreciate that there are people that are willing, just like how people there are some people out here willing to talk about racism to white people who are like, I just don't believe that racism exists in America or black people that are saying that because there are Tim Scott. So there are black people out there saying that. And so I want to I am a person who I'm saying, yes, I will talk to you about racism and what racism is and why people are offended. And you can come to my Instagram and we can speak to each other in my DMS about it. And some people are like, I don't want to teach people about racism. And I understand that. And you shouldn't have to, you know what I mean? But then there are some people that are like, I have this culture and these things, these medicines that

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I am willing to share that are part of my tradition, my heritage, my culture, and I'm willing to share. And with what you get with that knowledge, you have to be respectful. You have to be responsible. You have to be tender with it because you're you're sharing those vulnerable things. So I'm grateful to get the opportunity to be in those spaces. But it's also like we do need to share with each other so that we can grow and we can continue new traditions and we can heal ourselves. And some of this these ancient medicines, those ancient practices are the things that can heal us to the deepest of our core. So, yeah, I'm a super super hippie. Like, I, I yeah, I hate that a little bit. I think I'm, I don't know if I hide it. I don't know, I just, I'm like yeah. I'm like a hippie nerd.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:23:15] Yeah. Yeah. I want to go back and wait. Does it feel like five hours and six hours when you're sitting there.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:23:20] No. I mean so many crazy things happen like your ancestors kind of come through. I mean, you're so hot that you probably are just like in a hallucinogenic state from being from sweating that much. And you're in pitch black. You're in pitch black, it is completely black and it's very short. It's like, you know, four feet high, you know, it's a little hot.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:23:40] Yeah. I mean, from what I've researched because I've researched it.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:23:44] Yeah, it's it's it's intense. But you're also it feels like you come out in your, feel so connected to just earth and and and people and your ancestry and who you you receive messages, you know, in those moments of like kind of like your body distress, like you kind of more open and receptive to, to hearing guides and things like that. So I just kind of really loved that. And I did it a lot, especially in the beginning of my sobriety, because I was like trying to find like a higher power source, you know? So that was like a big part of my my rituals going in and getting into the hut and then doing kambo, which was really wild, which is they burn you with incense on your leg and then they put in frog poison from the Amazon.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:24:28] What the fuck, Krystal?

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:24:31] I know. Very weird.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:24:34] because I said it's like burning this minute. So yeah, I would have to say that I say all of that again.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:24:41] OK, so it's called kambo. Really ridiculous. OK, you're supposed to do it multiple times. I only did it

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the one time, but I have to tell you. So what happens is you go into this space and we do all these augmentations and guiding and and oracle cards and tarot cards and like I mean, it's a long process and you're with a group of people. And it was just me and a few friends. So it was everyone. I knew everyone. And there's this woman leading it. And I'm pretty sure she was Swedish

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:25:10] So white. So LA and white.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:25:12] Just so I have to say. It is. It is. It is. It is. I'm sorry. Like, I feel embarrassed, but it is. It's fine. She's like I was it I found this medicine in Peru bla bla bla bla. Whatever what what happened was wild. So I, you know, they, I was like, so how does this even in my my friend who's a director was like, you know, just come and this will help clear up some things for me. And I was like, OK. And I didn't realize that they had to burn me in five little dots on my ankle and they had the dots are actually gone now. Oh, I see. I'm a little bit that they burn me and then they put in this frog poison and they're like, so the poison is going to come in and it's going to like. Like, you're going to vomit and you might shit and there are buckets, you might shit and vomit at the same time, you might you might not, hey, you might not. And I was like, what? And they're like, the whole thing will last about an hour and a half. And then you'll feel like you're a brand new person. And I was like. And they were like, she's like, there's two bathrooms, but, you know, there's more of us. So I was like, oh, I'm calling dibs on the bathroom. So as soon as I as soon as I started to feel some type of way, I barricaded myself in the bathroom because I was like, there's no way I'm going to sit here and vomit and shit in front of these people. I'm just not its not going to happen

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:26:31] I don't care how cleansing it is. It's just not happening. I know that was ayahuasca. I thought that was like the most where it's just like you don't know what's going to happen. You're just going to release it. it might be one end might be the other.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:26:42] The same kind of principle where, you know, ayahuasca is also a poison. You know, mushrooms, it's a poison. And so you're I mean, you are kind of you're having these near-death experiences to remember how to live, which is the most privileged thing ever. But it is like a reminder of like I'm living in this near-death experience and I'm surviving this thing. And if I can survive this thing where my body just went to into, like, complete shock, then I can kind of survive anything. And within that time of being so weak and depleted, you have you feel the presence of like something guidance, like connectivity getting you through because you're like, I need something. Maybe I need something outside of

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myself, or you're learning that you have enough strength inside of yourself to get through whatever it is that you need to get through. So it's a very interesting experience. Like I definitely I haven't done ayahuasca, but I plan on it, plan on doing peyote some time. Like, I want to try all of them because I'm just I'm so curious about about all of it.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:27:44] I mean, look, I. Have you ever done, like, animal totems? Have you ever gotten that rread for you.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:27:49] No, I've never done that.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:27:51] Oh, my God. I got my animal totems. Yeah. And it was just like sort of your animal. I don't believe in saying spirit animal because that's like coopting a religious thing, but it's sort of like a like a guide, I guess. And so I got Wolf, which is

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:28:07] a good one because that's

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:28:09] a good one sort of thing. But one of them also there were several, but one of them was Elk. And this was years ago. And I was like elk. You know, I do love, you know, December. My birthday is the winter solstice and I get that. But the part of the reading was that it was this extended neck and using your voice,

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:28:27] oh, I love that

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:28:29] I even knew, like, what podcasting was or that, like, my voice would become my job. And yeah, it's looking back on it now, it's just like,

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:28:37] look, I like getting weird. I'm I'm all about it. I'm all about deep diving into who I am, my psyche. I'm just like, I'm so curious. And it helps me survive this crazy world. Like the more curious I am, the more I'm just like, you know, I'm just like, let's deep dive. Like, I don't have the answers. The more that I allowed myself to be, I'd like to be like, oh, I don't know. I don't I don't fucking know. Let's go. Let's go investigate.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:29:01] Totally.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:29:01] The more fun life is, the more free I can be. The more I can do, the more the better my craft is, the better my acting is for sure because I'm just like way more curious and I'm like I don't know anything. I don't know shit. Great. Let's start from there. And then like it's more interesting.

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**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:29:17] Yeah. Like I totally agree. I think it's such a liberating thing if someone asks you something and you're like, you know, I don't, I don't know. I feel like people are scared to say that. Because, you can google everything. And there are a lot of expectations about you. You have to have an opinion on this and you have to have an opinion on that.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:29:35] Right.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:29:36] And I think it's a really liberating and also very honest thing to be like. I don't know enough about that

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:29:41] But I'm curious and I'm like, I'll learn with you. Like, let's go learn about it like I am. I am. So that person I love, I'm so curious and I'm so happy that I am curious and I'm so happy that I've been able to check my ego enough to to like be in this place of I don't know. But I'm willing to learn, you know, and I want that with all of my relationships, my friendships, my my work. And that's even like just taking it back to Hamilton. Like that's how we're operating. We're creating a space. We're like, I don't know. But like, maybe we can do better and maybe we can maybe we can make a better, like, work environment. Maybe we can do this more like fairly freely, you know. So it's it's when hearts and minds are open. There's so much more you can do. You really limit yourself when you're like, well, I think it goes like this and it's like, well, just let it breathe and let's actually see, you know, your perception of things is probably going to change at some point. And, you know, and I always thought, like I thought I was ahead of my time when I was really young. I, you know, graduated and and when I when I started school, like, I'd already been doing college and high school. And so I was like, I'm so smart. I'm so ahead of myself. I am so I read so many books. I understand this world. I just felt like I knew it all and

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:30:56] Such a Hamilton.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:30:58] Oh I absolutely. And I think that but I do think that you do need you do need that and you need blind confidence in the beginning and then you need that humble gut check. Gut check. You know, you that like moment of like. You know what, I actually don't know anything like or I know a very tiny bit about maybe something and there's so much more out there like you do need the ego check in order, I think, to, like, really, really be prosperous. Like you're going to get hit, you know, return of Saturn to keep it weird will hit you, you know. And so you will have that moment of, like, what have I done? What am I doing? Who am I? I'm not good enough. I'm a fraud. And hopefully, hopefully you can turn that

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into something amazing. You know, hopefully you find your voice or hopefully you find, you know, your partner or what you feel is your purpose or self-love. But it takes a lot of investigation and curiosity and an open heart.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:31:58] Yeah Oh, my God. OK, so I want to talk to you about your performance as Eliza, because I wrote because I want to read you something that I wrote down about your performance because I wrote it down for the Patreon Peep in our Facebook, our little Facebook group. Yeah, it's not little. I'm sorry. That sounded like it's meaningless.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:32:15] Dont deminish your hard work and your community

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:32:19] Thank you. But also they're so beautiful and like so generous and kind and it really is the best corner of the Internet and they're fantastic. So I didn't mean it like that. But I wanted to talk to you about, like your Hamilton journey and your connection to Rent and just like how you got where you are, just as an actor and a performer and in everything. Ah, because I know, you know, I did my research and I know that 2016 was hard on on all of us. But I know that Hamilton sort of affected you in twenty sixteen. But I definitely because we touched on Rent a little. so let's go to rent first maybe or just like you know, like your whole like beginning of the Krystal Joy Brown story.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:32:59] I'll start at the beginning of the Krystal Joy Brown start story. I was born on December 22nd as you guys know and I was born and my birth. This is I'm going to tell this story. I don't I've never told this story, like, publicly, OK, my birth, my mom. I'm the second child of my mother's. And she had me in, like, record time, like three hours or something. And because it was so close to Christmas, she needed to leave the hospital and go Christmas shopping for my sister. So I made my first day of life at a Kmart. And people were like, that is a tiny baby. She's like, don't breathe on her. I just had her like today, like I have. Yeah. So I was like four in the wee hours of the morning and by the afternoon I was in a Kmart. So I came out guns blazing and she said I just popped out, was ready. My sister was super into musical theater and she got me into it. And we had been, you know, like she was listening to all of the the show tunes. And I had liked my mom. And I always like the old nineteen fifties musicals, like we loved Audrey Hepburn. We loved all that stuff. We love My Fair Lady and we always like super connected on that. And music has always been a big part of our family. And we had joined the children. My sister and I enjoyed the children of the Gospel Choir in Washington DC and so we were like performing professionally for inaugurations and big events at the



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Kennedy Center. But when Rent came about, my sister was obsessed with it and I was like, what is this? You know? And I was like, what? These queers. And they're talking about AIDS and they're talking about life and death. And this young girl is talking about because I'm Black and I'm Puerto Rican. And I was like, oh, my gosh. Like, she's like this. I like Latina. Kind of talking about being a wild child in New York City. My my dream city.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:35:47] And I was just like I had never heard musical theater be like this, I had never heard Hair, so I never heard it. So I had never really heard those sounds. But like I was just like, whoa. And it was rock. And I loved rock. And I was like, this is so cool. And my sister and I sat outside the national theater and like and saw rent like 11 times when it when it toured. And I think it was Seimone that was our our Mimi. And she like we waited outside the stage door and she like grabbed my chin and she was like, you can be anything that you want to be,.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:36:20] oh My God.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:36:21] And I will tell you, that was like the most pivotal. I don't know what I remember. And I always hear stories like that from people, you know, and I'm always like, I don't I didn't have that. Like, yes, I did. I had that moment where she looked me. She grabbed my chin and looked me in the eye and said, you can be anything you want to be. And I was just like,

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:36:37] I feel the chills in my legs right now. That is. Oh, my God.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:36:42] Yeah. So then I just was singing out tonight everywhere. I was like, obsessed with it. I'm from Alexandria, Virginia, but my mom got a job in L.A. and so we moved when I was in 10th grade to Los Angeles. And I like the school system, was not nearly as good. So I was going to GCC and the community college there and I was still doing musical theater. And I was and I started a punk band and I thought I was going to do. Yeah, then we did like jazz. Oh, we became like a fusion jazz punk band. And then we did the North Sea Jazz Festival and and traveled Europe. And it was just like, yeah, it was wild. But like my drama teacher was like, you need to go to college. I was like, I want to go to college anymore. Forget it. She's like, no, you're going to go to college, are going to go to real college. And she signed me up for AMDA, like the preliminary. And I finished the paperwork. I auditioned and I got into Amde, New York. And so I, you know, toured with my band, then went to New York with three hundred and twenty five dollars in my bank account from working at the Silver Diner in Virginia for two months.

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**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:37:46] What was the name of your punk band.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:37:47] Fusion It was a it was jazz and punk.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:37:51] I was very on the nose, but it was I totally get it.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:37:54] Yeah, it was. It was a lot of things,

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:37:56] OK, but I would have been in the front row of every single one of your shows, like I would have been a crazy person. Just ask Daphne Rubin Vega. I used to see her all the time at Joe's Pub and the cutting room. I was that like God. So I would have been front center for yeah.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:38:09] I mean, I was a big fan of like the Tracy Bonham's, like, you know, so it would be like we would sing like mother, mother and then like transfer into like my solitude in some weird way. Yeah I, I it was, it was interesting.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:38:24] Its such a dream

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:38:26] and so yeah. So I went to college in New York and I had just always been like Mimi Mimi Mimi Mimi Mimi. And soon as I graduated like a few months, you know, a whole bunch of auditions. But like six months after graduation, I booked the national tour of Rent playing Mimi and they were like, Oh, she is green. My audition. I was a wild child. Like I think I was I got one of those auditions where I was dancing the entire out tonight. I was all over the entire space of the the room. I was like laying on the table. I, like, threw stuff off the table. I was like playing with everybody. I was like under the table. I was all over the place, like laying on the piano. I was a mess and a half. And they're like, she's really green. And she's going to need a lot of training. But we believe that she could do this. I was like, well, I'm nineteen like me and I'm going to do this. And and that was my first and that was my first show. And I you know, it was the show that got me into musical theater. It was my first show. And then, you know, ever since that I've just been I've always gravitated towards pieces that have some historical connection, you know, like hair being what it was like a snapshot of the moment of burning your draft cards and doing what we're doing now. The same protest signs that we have now that we have now, we're we're used in that musical. And then also Motown, a snapshot of the creation of the first black mega stars, you know, and then Hamilton, which is a snapshot of our of the creation of our country, done and interpreted on black culture, which is the culture of the United States.

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**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:40:09] Yeah One hundred percent. So I'm going to finally read you what I wrote down for the.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:40:13] Oh my God. Yeah, sorry.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:40:15] Because then I want to hear, you know, oh, my God, are you kidding me? I really was, you know, crawling all over the tables. Maybe that's my favorite thing in the world. But so I was so like, enamored by you. So I said, Krystal Joy Brown's Eliza truly knocked me out. I truly fell apart. Her bond with Eddy's Hamilton. And then I have in parentheses back to him in a minute was palpable. And to quote C.J. Cregg from the West Wing, it was a sight to see and I mean a sight to see. I said they had this little moment after forgiveness that I can't stop. Thinking about they looked at each other and they did this thing where it was like they agreed it was going to be really hard, but they were going to get through it together. I'd never seen anything like it. Krystal also had this "I carried a watermelon" reaction and Helpless. That was hilarious and adorable. So that's like and truly like I was just like. Like what? I bet you backstage I was like, I'm so I'm in love with you. And that's fine. And it's not weird at all. If you want to come over to my home and have me gush about you, that would be great. And, you know, then the world fell apart. But I just to see you and Eddy Lee together and you just sort of there was like this you gave Eliza, God so much like I just I so I would really love to hear your Hamilton story. And if we can talk about those little moments, if you even remember them, I'm sure now.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:41:31] I do. I do.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:41:32] Im sure they changed night to night. But like, I just I love hearing, like, how you heard about the show, how you got involved in it, like that whole journey.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:41:39] Yeah. I mean, I heard about the show when it was called Hamilton Mixtape. So I like being in the Broadway community and also working with Leslie on Leap of Faith. Like I knew about the show. It was just kind of like in the zeitgeist, but it was kind of like I remember my first audition for it, which was like in 2013, and they're like, just bring something into rap. And I rapped like I rap TI like, live your life like.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:42:54] It was not good, but I got a callback and at the same time, Telsey was also casting Motown and so I was auditioning for both of those things. And then I booked Motown and I didn't get to do my callback. And then I thought Hamilton hated me. And then, you know, the show came out. Hamilton closed, Hamilton,

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Motown closed in January of twenty fifteen. And, you know, as a black actress, as a leading female period, as a lead ever, you know, it's hard to find the next Broadway show. There are so few rolls, you know, it's kind of like, what are you going to do next? And Hamilton was cast. That was that was done. And I was like, OK, so that's the next quote unquote black show or people of color show, as we call it, in this industry. So I was like, well, not really sure what else I could do. And also, you know, and I was kind of I was burnt out from a year of being on Broadway and and then going back to back like I went. I had a week off of work from the closing of big fish to going into Motown. So I had had really no time off and I was just really burnt out. And I wanted to move to L.A. and I spent time in L.A. and that was fine. And then I was I had a lot of friends in Hamilton and I'd heard about it. And I was like, what is all the hype? I'm like, nothing is that good. Like, totally every. But nothing is that good. Now please leave me alone. And Brandon Victor Dixon went into the role of Aaron Burr. And I was in New York and I was like, oh yeah. He's like, I'll get you a ticket. And I was like, OK, great. So I went and I sat down. I was really ready to hate it. I was really I was like, OK, what is everyone what's the hype? The first 30 seconds I was weeping. I hadn't cried in the beginning, the opening number of a show since I saw The Lion King when I was like a kid and I cried. I mean, I just I just wept for the not only the beauty of it, of seeing so many different body types, of seeing so many different skin tones, of seeing true representation of my nation, that I had lost complete faith in. It was right before the election. But all the chaos was going on and it was just like tents and like but there was like no way it was going to be a Trump situation. That was there's no no way. I mean, so this was before a few weeks before the actual election. But I was like I was all proud. You know, when I left, I was like, look at what America can do. Yeah. I was like, I did it did like restore my pride in the in Broadway also having been burnt out and been like dealing with just the what it is a capitalist, you know, commodity dealing with the business side of the art for a long time, dealing with the the who am I, where do I fit in and all that stuff kind of question marks and going back and looking and going home. My God, this is like this is an amalgamation of all of my my dreams of where we're teaching. We're also telling the story. We're also showing up everybody. We have white, Black, Asian, you know, Middle Eastern, everything we have. If you are allowed and and you're excellent, you know, every single person was excellent when I saw the show, like, so I was like, I'm not only beholding, like an excellent script and score and musicians playing ridiculously well. I'm watching everyone be excellent. I was like, I'm watching this. I'm watching greatness. I'm not only watching the good piece, but I'm watching people of all these shades be excellent. And that's what was most exciting for me. And I was like, OK, cool. So now I'm a super fan. And now like and I kept running into, like, Tommy and Lin at

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like Craggs in Los Angeles. And I just saunter over and be like, hey guys.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:46:45] You were running into Tommy and Lin?

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:46:48] Like over and over. And I'd be like, hey, not sure if you guys remember me, but I was the girl that turned down the callback for Hamilton Mixtape.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:46:56] I'm just at this table over here and it's just really good to see you.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:46:59] Yeah, I did TI... Live your life.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:47:03] I remember that it was not exceptional and I

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:47:05] feel like Lin was like, yeah I actually do.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:47:08] I think I was like I was I was so auditioning for Peggy at that time. OK, yeah. So anyway fast forward to twenty nineteen. I get a phone call June of twenty eighteen and they're like it's my agent, he's like so Hamilton just called and would like to know if you'd like to you know if you're available to play Eliza. And I was like what

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:47:27] If you're available to play Eliza.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:47:29] Yeah that was the wording in which my agent used and I so you know, if anyone's like we called her and said she this this bitch can audition again. But no, they were, you know, so I was like, oh my gosh, OK. I was like, did you mean Angelica? Yeah, I, I thought I was like he was like, let me double check. He's like, no, I'm pretty sure they said Eliza. And I was like, am I an Eliza though? And he was like, I don't he's like that's what they called for. I was like, OK, OK, just double check and let me know. And he's like, nope, they absolutely Eliza. And if you do you want audition, there would be an audition. It was an audition. It wasn't just an offer. OK, and then so I audition and and audition was very long and it was like forty five minutes like I was in there singing over and over and over again and I was like OK, you know. And I walked out and I was like, OK, look, I killed that. I know that I did, I know it went well. But whatever, whatever happens happens in there like. We want you to come back and then I came back and I did it again and it was another like long audition and all Eliza, all Eliza, all eyes of the whole time. And this was something that was really funny. I said I was auditioning for New York and I was still

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technically living in L.A. My agent told me this after the fact, but he I told him that I only want to come back to Broadway if it was Hamilton or something new. And my agent told me after I was like because I didn't hear from Hamilton for like a week, two weeks. And I was like, what happened? And he's like, I don't know. I don't know. And I was like, OK. He's like something just felt fishy. And then he was like, then he called me like, So you got the offer for New York? And he was like, so. And then he was like, I think he forgot that. He didn't tell me, like, thank God we turned on San Francisco and I was like, when did you ever. Well, you know.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:49:19] Yes. Without actually having asked if I would have taken San Francisco, I'm sure, like, hopefully they are not going to listen to this, but like,

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:49:27] Im sorry Krystal but...

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:49:30] Eh they might but but and so I don't really know what happened with San Francisco, but I probably I really wanted to be back in New York. I so badly wanted to be back in New York. And so I think that he probably helped me not make a really hard decision that I probably would not have turned down no matter what. And then a couple of weeks later, because he was like, wait, you said New York, you said New York. So then I got the call and I was walking to some bullshit reading or something like and I just dropped to the ground and, like, cried and I was on oddly enough, I was on Forty Second Street between eighth and ninth. And like, people must have thought people were like, Oh are you OK? I was like, no, I'm actually like one time. I'm a really good look away, look away. I was like

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:50:15] literally a puddle and like on my knees in the middle of Times Square basically. And and I was just like so happy and excited. And they were like, you have all this time to learn the material. And they were really gracious and like, really, really just like, I don't know, like it was I was so scared and daunted. I was like, everyone's obsessed with this entity I'm never going to live up to. But, you know, Pippa and how great she was and everybody else and, you know, and I'm just like and the director, Hannah, and everybody was just kind of like, just do your do how you you know, we hired you. You know, we want your take on it. We want you to give us, you know, your best Eliza and I was like, OK, I can do that. And and so it's been, you know, and then we had three months and then it was like, you know, we got cut off at the knees, but now we get to come in. And and one thing that I wanted with my Eliza is that I wanted her to really age. So that was a big deal to me because I was like, I, I, I had not really I don't think it was something that people thought about, you know. But I think that having played

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Diana, I really thought about aging, you know, and I played Diana from like fourteen years old to forty something.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:51:32] Right.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:51:32] So I was like, when she's singing helpless, she's a girl, you know. And I mean even though she's twenty three, she's talking to her best friend. Like the direction is like she's talking to her best friend, telling the story of how she you know, it has married this man and, and I'm like she has to have that youthfulness to her. And then even when she's pregnant she has to have this like she, you know, that she can become wise, but she still has her own wants and desires. She's still super in love with this man. Right. So I have to always play her very present. I have to be in the moment and very in love or else the story to me doesn't work. She has to be very in love with Hamilton. She has to be very in love with with her children and her her life and her family. And she has to be extremely open hearted and tender in order for to me, for the character to work. And I played you know, I'd gone from playing like a diva like Diana. And so that's why I was like Angelica. But like Eliza has taught me about my womanness, about my ability to love, about my vulnerability, and really got me in touch with that. And I didn't expect it at all. You know, I was like, man, I came at a time that I really needed to be in touch with my my femininity. And so that was just a major moment for me. And those moments matter like to give that moment because I don't want to. Eliza shouldn't be a pushover. Like, the truth of the matter is, she burned every single one of the letters she wrote to him. The truth of the matter is they didn't speak for like three years. You know, the truth is she actually was much more, you know, angry about what happened and broken hearted about what happened and losing a child. Like as I said, I already love my children. Like, I can't imagine losing one. Right. Like like that type of pain and having my grandmother lose my aunt. Right. Like watching her go through that. It's just a pain that I don't think anyone should ever witness. Watching your child die before you. So, I mean, just the gravity of that and having making sure that she is so attuned because she is the storyteller and Ron Chernow really cites her over and over of like why Hamilton the book became a thing, was because of her love and for him and his legacy. And regardless of what happened, I was like, could I love a man after he cheated on me and just put it in the newspaper? I don't know. But like, could I like playing this woman? I have to, you know, and she can't be a shrinking violet in the back. She is like a strong presence at all times. And so I try to make her strong. And sometimes I've gotten the note of making her a little too strong because they want to make sure that there's a difference between her and Angelica. But I'm like her strength is very different from Angelica in my opinion. But I'm like she's a very complicated woman who really has

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been through a lot and has to. And and I want my Hamilton to earn her trust back during that moment during Quiet Uptown, like he should be working his ass off to get her trust back and to share in her grief and to be like, I'm not you're not in this grief alone and I'm here for you for the first time. That's why it's the melody of that would be enough. Right. And he's now singing to her saying, you can lean on me.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:55:50] I mean, there is even more grief because then her daughter went like a little something happened where her daughter could not handle Philip's death. So then she was in a facility for most of her life. So the tragedies continued to spiral for her. So it's like the level of strength that you have to have to persevere as a woman at that time when you don't even really feel like you have a voice. I just think about that. And it taught me she's taught me so much about care and how to care and how to love. So that's been major,

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:56:24] Yes, so you've done like a lot of research about Eliza

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:56:26] yes, they give you they give you writings and stuff. But I, I love history like English and history. Were my subjects in school. Like I love history. Like I love playing real people because of the fact that I get to be like, oh my gosh, because I really can step into their situation. I can see what was happening at the time of the world while they're trying to work through it, while they're trying to be a Black singing woman in it, you know, playing Diana Ross or or being a defiant protesting, you know, renegade in New York City in 1968, or being a person, 19 year old riddled with AIDS, whose life has barely begun because it's like that's those are there's a true elements to all those stories. They're snapshots of what's going on in our society. And and it just that is really enthralling to me. And when I tell all of my students as well as that, you know, acting is the study of human behavior. It is psychology. You are studying why we do what we do. And we watch it because we're curious to see what we would do. You know, like you put yourself in the shoes of these characters because you're like, who am I? And it helps you kind of do this voyeuristic dance with situations and who you who you are, you know, like it helps you, like, investigate who you are, how you would behave. And, you know, you sit there and go, I wouldn't take that man back. I would have left. I don't care if it's 1702. I would have been out of there, you know what I mean? Like but like some people would be like, oh, I can get it. Or like, you know, or I didn't leave my husband when he cheated or I didn't leave my partner. And I I identify with that kind of love and I identify with that kind of like healing or whatever it is, you know what I mean?



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**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:58:08] Yeah.

**Krystal Joy Brown** [00:58:08] We see ourselves in these people. That's why Hamilton works.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:58:22] OK, you should know that five and a half years into this thing, 270 something episodes, I still still get chills and feel emotional talking about It's Quiet Uptown. And then editing it into conversations like this, it never fails. All right. Next week, I'm wrapping up with Krystal. She fills us in on all of her favorite organizations that are doing the work to make real change not only in the theater industry, but worldwide. Plus, Krystal goes in even more. She's talking about the real Eliza and how that plays into her portrayal of Eliza. It's awesome. You don't want to miss it. Oh, plus the Patreon Peeps, how could I forget? She's giving writing advice. She's talking about representation. It's great. So until next week, stay safe. Stay healthy. I love you. I'm G. Pen.

**Gillian Penasvalle** [00:59:34] The Hamilcast is brought to you by my love of the thing, TM and 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, kindest and most welcoming corner of the Internet, go to [patreon.com/TheHamilcast](https://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](https://thehamilcast.com) for transcripts, episodes and more. You can see what's going on with Mike, you know Mike, at [MichaelPaulSmith.net](https://MichaelPaulSmith.net). True Crime Obsessed is my true crime comedy podcast with my podcast soul mate Patrick Hinds of Theater People and Broadway Back Story Fame. Thank you so much for listening. It means the world to me, to the revolution.