

# THE HAMILCAST

## EPISODE 284 LESLIE BOWMAN 2 TRANSCRIPT

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

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:00:18] Hello, friends, I'm Gillian. Welcome back to the Hamilcast. This is part two of my conversation with the West End's original Charles Lee. Leslie Garcia Bowman. If you missed episode 283, definitely check that out first. Leslie talks about busking in the streets to raise the money to study in London, walks us through his Hamilton audition process talks about dancing with broken bones, which I really do not recommend. And Leslie recounts getting through the eight show weeks by clowning around with the rest of the cast. So if you're all caught up, I'll leave you to it. Here's part two of my conversation with Leslie Bowman, which may or may not be for the faint of heart. Enjoy.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:01:00] I find that whenever I hurt myself, I just keep it low key. I got I got I got hit by a car on Saturday before doing a double show day

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:01:11] Wait a second. Yeah. A two days ago in Hamilton, you got hit by a car?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:01:17] no no no but literally the other day, like...

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:01:20] Leslie! Are you serious? I look and I'm reacting this way because I too have been hit by a car. Not recently, but it has happened to me. It was terrifying.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:01:29] Yeah, it was my own fault. So I was just like, oh,

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:01:32] are you OK? Like what?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:01:33] Yeah, I'm fine. Yeah, yeah, I'm fine.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:01:36] I was like, Are you Leslie? Fine. Are you like?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:01:39] I was a little sore. For a few days my foot was purple and my other leg was, I was limping fortunately. But there was there was a drinks event that night for somebody's

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birthday. And I was like, if I call off and the two shows today, I can't go tonight. So I did the two shows. To ensure I could go out for a couple of cocktails at the end of the week.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:02:01] Oh, my God.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:02:03] But we can't. I'm fine. Nothing's broken.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:02:07] Did you just get up and walk away?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:02:08] Yeah, I was on my scooter, so I excuse the scootered away

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:02:11] you scooted away. Yeah. Were you, like, on the hood of the car? Yeah, the car.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:02:15] Yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:02:16] OK, so I was coming out of a restaurant and then you can tell me your story. I was coming out of a restaurant, my friend who was there once that this was like almost 10 years ago. My friend who was there to this day can't go to that restaurant. She was more traumatized. So here's the story, everyone. Sorry, but we were it was winter. So I was wearing like a shirt and a hoodie and a coat that's relevant. We were coming out of the restaurant and this cab came down and just didn't stop at the light. And we were crossing the street and hit me. Didn't hit her. Hit me. I'm OK, everyone. I feel like this is a traumatizing thing to hear. I'm totally fine. But they were turning the corner, I think, and hit me and I ended up on the hood of their car. They stopped. So then I went, Oh, and

**Leslie Bowman** [00:02:58] then you go flying. Yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:02:59] And landed on. And because I was so bundled, I was really more just shaken up by what happened. Like beat like my face on like the hood of someone's car is a wild feeling. And I got up, the cab driver comes out, starts screaming at me. My friend is sobbing hysterically. She thinks I'm dead even though I'm standing up fine. There are a bunch of, like drunk, like finance bros across the street because I guess the heroes of that show, heroes, and they were like, yeah, like the girl from Heroes because there was a character in here who

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like, never got hurt or something because I just got up. Then the the EMT, I was like, I really don't need anything, I'm really OK. And then I'm a lefty. My left arm was like really tingling and weird. And I was like, oh, my friend really wanted them the restaurant to call the ambulance or whatever. And I was like, all right, I'll get checked out. It's fine. So the bros like stayed there to tell the guy, like, tell that, you know, I was like, I can speak for myself. It's totally fine. When they came, they thought it was my friend who was hurt because she was a wreck. She was crying, terrible, sobbing. And I was like, I'm really OK. And basically they were really nice and fine. They were like, you seem OK. I was like, I really am. And they just said the tingling once one thing like being so bundled, it being winter, really was helpful because it just it patted me. I guess they were like you would have been in a lot, like you would have been in bad shape if not for that. And it was just the tingling. It was like it was the biggest it was like a really bad case of like Funnybone. Like, I just hit my elbow on the concrete and it was cold and whatever. And they set me on my way. And I too went to the bar after I went to meet the people. I was I was.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:04:35] It's the solution. It's the solution.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:04:37] I mean, I didn't have to perform in two shows before, but I did make it to the bar.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:04:43] Nice. That's the most important bit.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:04:44] My friend did not. She was like, I can't.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:04:46] I can't.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:04:48] But it must be terrifying to see that happen to someone. Oh yes, I like it. I mean, it was a whole everything was going great. We were leaving dinner, everything was awesome. And then suddenly like the whole night changed.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:05:00] So it's just so quick isn't it. He's so quick. It just happens. You're like, oh that just happened

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:05:04] That just happened to me. Where did people freak out when they saw you

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**Leslie Bowman** [00:05:09] no, nobody, nobody cared. There was a few people in the car park. It was my fault. Like so there's all these cars on the side of the car that hit me was like an electric one. So it was silent. I couldn't hear it. And it was so different from some other cars. I couldn't see it either. I saw a car coming to my left side and I thought, I can beat this car. So I, like, sped up into the road bang. And I was yeah. I mean, I landed on my feet somehow. I was just like. I'm OK, I'm OK. OK, what's the driver as far as you're OK? I'm OK. Right. Was Scooter and it wasn't until 20 minutes later that I was like, how my legs are.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:05:58] oh my God.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:05:59] So I took some painkillers and all as well. Although also if my others listen to this. Sorry I didn't tell you this because I knew you'd freak out.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:06:07] Yeah. I didn't tell my parents for a while either. I mean, come on outside. No matter how fine you were or are, they can't they can't handle it.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:06:16] Yeah. My dad will probably just be like, oh, you're right, OK, my mom will freak out.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:06:23] Well, James is asking maybe this is relevant. If you could go back and give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be

**Leslie Bowman** [00:06:29] Look at lights before crossing the street. What would I? Stretch more? I guess maybe

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:06:40] rewind to five minutes ago where you're like, I don't really.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:06:43] Yeah, that's the reason I don't do it, is because I've given up on it entirely, because my body's just so tight, my muscles are so tight that I'm like, well, this is it now. This is it. This is me, I guess. I think my younger self did a pretty decent job of things. I think so maybe maybe he's got some advice for me, younger self to me.

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**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:07:08] What would you tell the person? Busking. What would you tell the person in that that pinned tweet

**Leslie Bowman** [00:07:13] put some insoles in your tap shoes because dancing on concrete is going to ruin your legs. There you go. That's my advice for my younger self.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:07:23] Peter is asking, what is one piece of advice you'd give to someone starting out? Hmm.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:07:29] Don't worry about other people and how good other people are. Because it's obviously it's so easy to be in a class just compare yourself to, you know, I don't sing as well as this person, I don't dance as well as this person or, you know, all kinds of things. But that's not important. That's their journey and that's what they do. So try to try and tune that out and instead of, you know, comparing yourself to other people, maybe draw inspiration from other people, you know, and try and apply it to yourself and. Focus on your own journey rather than. Comparing your journey to the person next to you,

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:08:12] it's so hard sometimes, especially when the industry is about it just lends itself to that, you know

**Leslie Bowman** [00:08:17] Oh, yeah, that's so much easier said than done. Totally. Yeah. Just to tune out.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:08:22] Yeah. I think it's something good for everyone to know to try to start working on if this is something you want to do. Not saying to do it overnight, but just be aware that that's going to be something that you're going to have to work on through.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:08:36] Yeah. I mean, I kind of stopped. Singing, Believing that I could sing for a while because some of the people that were in my class at college were phenomenal singers, let me could sing, I can sing. You know, I was an adult. Yeah. But like, some people were just incredible. And I got really down myself about it because I couldn't sing a top B flat or whatever the noise. And it was it wasn't until I think I went into Hamilton and I started to get the confidence back and I was like, I can't do this. You know, I spent too much time

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worrying about what I couldn't do instead of thinking about what I could do. And now, you know, now I'm in a much better mindspace about all that kind of stuff.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:09:20] Yeah, I had a question of my own that I skipped, that I used to. I always love asking people, especially in the states. What city do you shout during a room

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:09:40] Do you remember? Did you change?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:09:43] Changed up a lot. And I think most of the time I shouted nonsense instead of an actual city.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:09:49] Yeah, because if we haven't talked about this in a long time. But there was a whole thing that Kurt Crowley explained about how it needed to be certain syllables on a certain time. And it had to the whole point was that it had to end. Everyone had to stop saying that. Yeah, exactly. And so some people would try to, you know, yell Wakanda or.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:10:07] Oh, we did that. We did that for a while. We did Wakanda after we saw Pather.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:10:11] Because the thing was, I remember I don't know I don't know if it was Lin or Lac or Tommy or Kurt who said if you could make it kind of a city of that time like Virginia, that's a good one to use, you know, something like that. So I'm curious, what if there were any local places that you would yell?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:10:27] Oh, yeah, we'd shout Brickston. Yeah, there was all kinds of stuff. Uh, most of most people, I don't think shouted American cities of the time.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:10:40] Exactly. Yeah. That's why I was asking.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:10:41] Sometimes we would just be like, no. Well, like, shut up, Cleve.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:10:47] You're just heckling each other and said

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**Leslie Bowman** [00:10:49] he would be next to me. Yeah, it changes on a daily basis, you know. Yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:10:54] Depending on who your target was, I guess of the day. Carrie's asking what's inspiring you right now?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:11:03] What's inspiring me right now? As of right now, uh, Bruno Mars and Anderson Park's new song, Skate.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:11:41] Oh, I love it because I used to love making choreography and stuff, but I, I struggled to do it if I'm not feeling super inspired by a song. And then this song just came out the other day and I just love it like it makes you really happy to listen to. And I love dancing to it. So right now. Yeah. That's inspiring me a lot. Just that song. And also just, you know, some of the people that I'm working with, new people with incredible talent and incredible skill. So just watching them work is inspiring after that, not knowing what comes after this job, that's very uninspiring. Somebody making the most of this. Yeah, yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:12:25] Were you feeling pressure during. I remember in the beginning of lockdown, everyone was there, felt this pressure to do creative things in any way you can like going live on Instagram or make dance videos or whatever. Did you feel that pressure to as a dancer?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:12:42] I did a little bit of that, yeah. Yeah. I didn't feel pressure to do it. I just did it because I wanted to and there was nothing else to do. But after about a month, six weeks, I got over it and it just ended up being I'm going to sit on my PlayStation all day again and I've exhausted Disney plus and I've watched everything on Netflix. And now what do I do?

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:13:10] Yeah, you're a gamer, right?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:13:12] Yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:13:12] You have a twitch stream and everything.

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**Leslie Bowman** [00:13:14] Yeah, I tried it and then I had technical issues that I couldn't be bothered to fix, so I was just kind of gave up. But I do play video games and I play stations right here.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:13:23] Do you play Mario Kart.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:13:25] Oh, we used to play it in the dressing room. Really? Yeah. Before, before a show or like in between shows on a double Saturday. Who had this thing. I think about it in Waylon Jacobs that had his Nintendo switch in the dressing room. And we had a little TV and we, we used to. Get get a game, go in and get very intense, you know, as always.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:13:50] Yeah, Mike, Mike and I are Big Mario Kart people.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:13:54] So that was like the whole first year of Hamilton. We were playing video games.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:13:58] Yeah, yeah. That can get so stressful, so loud.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:14:03] A lot of friendships

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:14:04] like friendships hanging in the balance, all the blue shells.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:14:10] When you get a bullet thing called it you become the bait. Yeah. And you just go

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:14:17] Thats the only good thing about if you get knocked out, if you're like in the the middle of all the into the thick of it as they say, like it when you just if you can't like get first or second from the beginning and it's just chaos and there's like eleven of you. The only good part of that is that maybe, maybe, maybe I'll get bullet then. Then. But the worst is when you're like nine, 10, 11th place and you get like a mushroom. That's not helping me.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:14:40] Like a banana.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:14:41] And yeah, I don't need a banana right now. There's no one behind me. Yeah.



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**Leslie Bowman** [00:14:45] Literally.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:14:46] I just need to get up to the front again. Oh my God. Who's your go to character. because there are people who are serious, they have their character. They have their car.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:14:55] I usually just go from Mario. Oh yeah. I mean I'm not sure if I say I like depends how I feel.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:15:00] Yeah. I like tanuki Mario Yoshie.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:15:03] Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Yoshii like Yoshie as well.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:15:06] Yeah she's fun. Wario Mike likes to play his wario. He just has fun insults during the game. He does. He's just fun to listen to, is fun to listen to. But I'm not into like cat Peach. I don't really, I'm not saying that it's like tanuki Yoshie maybe a Koopa drupa but I'm not picky either. But people are.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:15:24] Yeah, I'm sure about

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:15:25] our friend Nick used to own a bar every Monday. He would do Mario Kart Monday and people coming and it was really cool to be and it was a tournament. Right. You sign up for the tournament. He used to do a thing where you'd get a free shot if you get hit by a blue shell. But then he was like, I'm basically giving the bar away because it would just be chaos.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:15:42] Oh, literally, yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:15:43] But there were people who they were the set because they were really, I mean, suspiciously good. Like there's no way how it

**Leslie Bowman** [00:15:49] is playing all the time.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:15:51] Yeah. And they know all the tricks and all the secret spots and they also know like what cars make you go as fast as possible where I'm like the game just started.

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How are you so, so far ahead. Like no one. No one through anything yet no one got an item like how is this happening? And they be amazing and they drift like, I'm not doing that.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:16:12] Oh yeah. Drifting is fun.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:16:13] I can only do drifting with the big controllers, not the switch controllers. That's too hard for me to do it on the teeny too little.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:16:19] Yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:16:20] Jenny's asking how have you found doing a live stream of South Pacific.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:16:24] I haven't really noticed because it's just kind of it's just that, you know, and it just happens.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:16:31] Right. Can you tell the listeners what the setup is exactly of how this performance is working

**Leslie Bowman** [00:16:35] so pretty much, well, us stage the theater is it's in the round. Well, not not completely wrong, but so we have a revolt, a massive revolt. And that is the stage, pretty much a sort of contriteness said revolt. I was like, oh, I've done this before.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:16:54] I'm a pro. I don't even have to stretch.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:16:55] Yeah, yeah. So we've just got a massive revolve and then there's like a big sliding doors at the back and then entrances. We don't have wings. It's just kind of two doors at the back of the revolve and then two forms, sort of like steel staircases that go through the auditorium and down. So you get like a really cool. You can make really cool entrances and stuff. Mm hmm. It's hard to see it without seeing it. No, I understand. Yeah, it's awesome. And then so and the audience sits right next to the stage. They are right there and they go all the way around pretty much. So no matter where you're sitting us to write it in such a way that no matter where you're sitting, you still get a great view of the story, which is really cool. I'm not sure how the live stream is set up, whether it's like a one camera angle or if there's multiple

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angles and close ups and that kind of thing, because I've not seen it. But I think we're going to be able to see one soon. They'll record it and see what it is. Yeah, you can catch the live stream of South Pacific online somewhere. I don't know, sort of thing.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:18:15] You know, I was going to ask you when you were saying that you took your healthy break from Hamilton, you didn't listen to it, you didn't do anything about it. And then Disney plus it came out on Disney Plus and you watched it. But you what was it like for you to see it the very first time? Because you probably only saw it maybe once before you started working in it, right?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:18:34] I never saw it.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:18:35] You never saw it?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:18:37] The first time I saw it, I was on. I had a holiday day off or a week off, maybe an. It was like halfway through the first year and I thought, I don't know if I'll ever get to see the show. So on one night of my holiday, I came in and I watched it.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:19:00] Wow.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:19:00] Because I have no idea what we were doing. No clue.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:19:05] They didn't you didn't have that video that like, you know, under lock and key video of performance to watch.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:19:11] Yeah. Yeah. But it's not the same.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:19:13] It's not.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:19:14] So I mean when I watched it the first time I could not believe that what we were doing. Yeah. I was mind blown. I done it like a lot a few, a couple of hundred times already by the time I watched it. And I watched and I saw what the lighting looks like, this light, it sounds like this. Yeah, I was in tears Lac yeah. And then I thought, I need to see again. I need to see it again. Yeah, that's what happens. It got

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to a point in the contract where we were all just dropping like flies because there's injuries. And so they started giving us like rest shows. So late Tuesday, Johnny has a day off Wednesday, Jack has a day off, you know, that kind of thing. So on my day off, I thought, I'll watch it. I'll watch it again and again. I couldn't believe what I was watching, even though I'd seen it once. I still mind blown. It's like I was wait to watch it again. Was Philipot in it?

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:20:16] Yes. Yes. That is so wild for you to be in it and creating it and then see it after after you've been in it for like that is so crazy to like what. Like psychologically that's so crazy.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:20:30] It's like I've seen every angle of what's happening on the stage except for the angle that you're meant to see right from the audience. Yeah.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:20:38] You've seen things we don't see. Yeah.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:20:40] That's when it was when like Rewind happened. I was like, I mean, it's my track is rolling around the floor, so you don't really know what's happening. And then I saw it last year. Yeah, fantastic.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:20:54] It's brilliant. And then you're like, yes, it does all make sense. It does.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:20:58] It does make sense. And I was like, oh, this is why we're sold out every night, right. Oh, I was like, it's worth every penny. It's worth every penny.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:21:09] That's so interesting to have such an inside perspective of every single element that makes it work and not seeing all of the elements come together to make it work and then seeing it and saying, oh my God, because you don't even know when you're rolling on the floor what's happening. Like, you can't know what they're so limited.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:21:27] All I know is Angelica is here and my head is at her feet somewhere right all over.

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**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:21:33] And then seeing it on Disney plus is like it's a whole new amazing experience.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:21:40] Yeah. Because at first I was apprehensive. I was like this so much happens on the stage. How can you possibly capture that? And then I remembered who the director of the show was and I thought, it's going to be fun. It's going to be great. Yeah. And then it was. Yeah. Know they captured so many great things. Yeah. They did a great job with that.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:21:59] Yeah. The bigness of it still hits. There's something about you kind of know, all right, we're about to go on this really amazing journey and that as much as there's nothing like sitting in a theater and going on that journey, I remember feeling very emotional thinking. Yeah, I'm still feeling something like that here in my living room. And that's exactly unbelievable that.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:22:25] So today, yeah, I showed a couple of tears.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:22:27] And, you know, like Lin says, we have it now. Jacob is asking, do the productions you've worked on often require different accents? If yes, which accent have you found? The easiest and most difficult.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:22:40] Everything I've done has been American. So I just ever everything you know, most most of the stuff most of the stuff is American accent. And I just kind of my natural accent is like halfway American anyway, for some reason, even though I've never lived there or anything. So I find it pretty easy just to like switching to that. If you want me to do a specific American accent, that's another story. I don't know. I just do like a general. Oh, no, we call it a general America.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:23:12] Is it a little southern?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:23:13] Oh, no, no, no, I don't. I don't do Southern. OK, that doesn't sit for me.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:23:18] Yeah. Sometimes when people say like, oh, the typical American accent, it skews a little southern and I'm like, no, that's not, that's.

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**Leslie Bowman** [00:23:24] No, no. If I, if I do like a general American accent, I don't really know where this is from. Huh. No, no clue of what this region is. But this is wide.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:23:33] Yeah. It's like what they would teach you and and Yeah. School about like if you want to not have an accent, like my friend Carrie who is from South Carolina, she did a lot of radio voiceovers for I think it was like local politicians. And even then she had to have this totally like sort of indecipherable. You're just like there's no accent whatsoever, which is its own accent.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:23:55] I think. I find I find American accent easier to do than a British accent. If I have to do a British accent, I have to think about it. And then I'm like, no, that's just not right. That doesn't sound

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:24:07] right. So I guess. Yeah, just British and American, really. You haven't really had to dove in to do like a deep study of an accent as well. You.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:24:14] No, no, I haven't. No, not yet anyway. Yeah, I'd like to be interesting, but yeah. I haven't had that chance. Yeah, sure.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:24:23] Onya says well speaking of Onya says, I did some research and found out that Leslie is originally from New Zealand. I'm sure that you'll touch on that. His story, but as an expat myself, I'm always curious about experiences on living abroad.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:24:35] Yeah, well, New Zealand, I mean, now it seems so small to me, obviously. Obviously, when you grow up there and you don't really know any better, it feels like, you know, this is home. It's nice. For the first time I went back, I remember just thinking, where are the people really? I think this thing was a Friday night and I was at a friend's house and I was walking. I want us to go into town and I was like walking in the middle of the street, bombs open on a Friday night and not a single car came. This is near the town center. And I was like, why this is so empty? So it's nice. I've been back a couple of times, but I couldn't stay long. Now it's just so. So different from London and I'm so used to London now and just

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having people everywhere at all times to go back to a city where there's just nothing really happening. It's not for me.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:25:38] Yeah, I'm just thinking of I would love to go to New Zealand, but I'm just. Did you ever watch Flight of the Conchords? Oh, yeah. Yeah. My husband I love that show. But now I'm just thinking of all the posters in Murray's house about like New Zealand. Like Scotland. But Father. Yeah, I go

**Leslie Bowman** [00:25:55] literally

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:25:56] New Zealand. Why not. Yeah.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:25:58] Jermaine was used to be next door neighbors to a friend of mine.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:26:04] That's awesome.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:26:05] I know such a small country. Yes. It's a good show isn't it.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:26:09] We, I like and I still still quote it like like it's not like it was on last week. And the only the only accent I can really do is quoting like well actually like if you say to

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:26:24] brick or Murray, like I can't, I can't get another ticket guys. I'll go to jail. This is a horrible idea.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:26:32] it's a pretty good attempt.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:26:34] Even if I, if I do, I have to think about it now. It's weird.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:26:50] It's all I can do the quote, but I wouldn't be able to have a conversation in it if it's

**Leslie Bowman** [00:26:56] have a conversation.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:26:57] Conversation. No have

**Leslie Bowman** [00:26:59] to have a conversation

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**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:27:00] here if.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:27:02] Well yeah. Just have a conversation.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:27:04] A conversation. Yeah. I was talking about someone who, who is from New Zealand and how they would say the name Eddie Vedder from Pearl Jam and they got Eddie Vedder it if you like Eddie Vedder Eddie Vedder. Terrible with accents. Not like Jacob was asking for me but yeah. So yeah. Going home you were just like, OK, this is not what I remembered.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:27:28] Yeah. I guess is what I remembered. But just with a different perspective. It's like oh wow. Nobody's here.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:27:36] Oh my God. Onya also says so and also these peeps. So I thought that we were going to be together and then it just, you know, me, you and Stephen said and so now it just made sense. So I'm splitting the peeps questions. So Onya says, and a related and related to that, a question for both. So I'll ask Stephenson this in an hour or so. She says, I wondered if or under which circumstances you would consider auditioning for a Broadway or U.S. tour for a Broadway show or a US tour. Is that something you'd be interested

**Leslie Bowman** [00:28:05] Hamilton or anything

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:28:05] in general? Anything, right?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:28:08] Yeah. Yeah, definitely. Broadway something I would love to tick off the list when that happens, you know, who knows? Maybe one day I'll call up Steph Klem and say, Hey, got any spots on tour or something. Yeah, because I'd love to, I'd love to do something in the States when who knows. But I was definitely one day. Absolutely.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:28:35] Yeah, absolutely. But I know, I know. We'd love to have you. We'll play Mario Kart at the very least.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:28:39] Oh yeah.



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**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:28:40] Well yeah I have some find some place. So Mario Kart.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:28:43] Yes.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:28:44] Yes, totally. Curis says having been away from theater for such a long sixteen plus months, what have you missed the most and why?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:28:53] Just just seeing the full house. Because when we first opened this for the first couple of weeks, I was socially distanced because of the restrictions in the country. And then all of a sudden, socially social distancing was no longer a thing. Apparently just it's gone. And that first show where we just had the full house, I it was so weird just seeing people sitting next to each other, but I missed it so much. Like when when a great moment in the show happens and you can just kind of see everybody collectively, like sit forward or lean back. Like, that's just that feeling when, you know, you're just affecting all these people in a certain way that they all react together. That's that's a really cool feeling.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:29:42] My friend Cody is a stage manager and he was the stage manager for Hamilton and also for Style of Supreme. And he's been on the podcast, but he is the stage manager for a new show on Broadway called Passover. And he posted a day or two ago him about to welcome people to the show. And he it was his video. I'll send it to you. He posted on Ticktock and on Twitter. Yeah, Cody has like the best smile, this infectious smile. And he has, like, you know, is with the mic and he's in his little, you know, manager area. And you can feel and you hear him say almost under his breath, he goes, oh, wow. A standing O.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:31:11] Yeah, it's like our opening night, I pretty much I fly in my entrance is like flying in from the ceiling from a little wire. So I'm I'm in front of a house already on the rest of the cast is backstage and I'm in front of a house. And as soon as the lights dimmed, the house lights and just this roar from the audience. Oh, even though it wasn't even a full capacity house yet. But just as soon as the lights started and just the applause, I was like, oh, okay, I'm back or back or back. Yeah, I love that feeling. Love.

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**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:31:51] Oh man. I'm getting like I don't know if you could see it. Oh yeah. Oh chills. Just like... Cathy is asking, what's your favorite part of being in Hamilton and what are your dream non Hamilton roles.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:32:06] I mean there was so many great things. Hmm. I guess just telling the story and just seeing how it moved people every single day. No, whether they knew the show beforehand or not, or if I knew who Hamilton was or. Just seeing like a genuine this is nothing quite like Houselights coming up and you see an entire theater of people crying as they're just seeing how moved they were by. The story and how we told you this is a great those are my favorite things. Yeah. And roles outside of houses and I don't really have a dream role. I just kind of do what comes around. I would love to be in Star Wars so Star Wars one day.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:32:57] totally. You absolutely are. Did you get to meet a lot of people out of fans? What was that like?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:33:02] We had some awesome fans. Yeah. Yeah. Especially in the first year, just because our Stagedoor pretty much our building this new brand new refurbished and they transport for London was making a new road around the side. So it was not your regular Stagedoor pretty much. So we could come out the stage door and actually just leave without seeing anybody. If we if we so desired, if we were tired or whatever. Sure. So a stage door line was actually on another side of this wall over here. So if you wanted to do it, you could leave or you could go to them. So it's nice because you kind of have that option without feeling guilty if you decide you want to go home. Absolutely. I love to go out in the first year especially and just see that line of people so excited. I was like, yeah, I know there's a lot of people bringing gifts and cards and all kinds of stuff. I was like, wow, this show means a lot to you guys. Yeah, it was awesome. Incredible feeling. Yeah, I miss that because I know Stagedoor, it's not really happening at the moment. Yeah. Just, you know, to be safe, of course.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:34:17] Yeah. And that's so cool. Like just about the the fans of the show, like Bella doing the Hamilcast trivia and that so many that you, so many people would participate in. That is so nice. That to me that showed so much about the the fervor of the fans, which is not a new thing about

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Hamilton, but the connection that you had with them to do this like cool virtual trivia night at the top of the pandemic. That was so cool.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:34:43] Yeah, that seems like a long time ago, doesn't it?

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:34:46] It feels like forever ago.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:34:48] Yeah, it's really cool. This week I've had a few fans from Hamilton come down to see the show up here. It's really cool because we're like, we're not in London where we're maybe two hours out. So like it's not just close to to go to, you know. Yeah. But, you know, some of the ham fans, you know, made the effort to make a trip down and see the show and sit in the front row because they always sit in the front row at Hamilton. I come out here, makes the entrance of Aaron Burr. They are in the front row. There they are. Yeah. Yeah. That's really cool.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:35:21] Yeah. It's the passionate theater fans are fans of the arts are really I've always like in some way I knew they existed. But making this podcast, I've I've really I've encountered so many people who will I mean, Nik Walker, who was Burr on Broadway and in the tour, was just doing Sweeney Todd and Ithaca, New York, which is hours away from New York City. And there are Patreon Peeps who who made the trip from New York City or Virginia or wherever they were, Texas, to see Nik Walker, who they just appreciate his work in Sweeney Todd, which was I mean, he was that those performances were going on for like a week or two. So it was a limited amount of time. But they made the drive. They they flew they did whatever they had to do to sit front row.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:36:06] That's awesome.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:36:07] And support. And now and they're also doing it for you. And that's such a beautiful thing

**Leslie Bowman** [00:36:13] it's so, so cool. Yeah. Just to have that support there, knowing, like, you know, you've left that show and the support is still there. That's so cool. Yeah.

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**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:36:24] You know, it's we've come a long way from people being nervous about seeing anyone other than the original Broadway cast, which I always was saying like, no, I mean, not to tell you not to feel how you feel, but no, I don't feel that way. So it's amazing to like the first couple of episodes getting emails about, you know, what if Lin's not in? What if, you know, doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. I understand you want to see the guy who wrote it, but it's OK to now. And these people who went to see Nick and the the fans who are going to see you, they're not they were never like that. But it's it's a wonderful to see that now. More than anything, it's people making plans to go see someone they discovered and a thing they love and then find another thing that they're also going to love.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:37:07] Yeah, and especially just after covid just having the support from people just to keep the industry alive, even as you know. Yeah. Because, you know, it was on the verge for a little bit. Totally. Yeah. Scary times. But, you know, people are so supportive. As soon as the show opens, they're just buying the tickets, which is great to see.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:37:31] Yeah. They can't wait

**Leslie Bowman** [00:37:32] for the staff to feel.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:37:34] It's true. It's the last. Question before we wrap up, Leslie, Ashley's asking, what's one lesson Hamilton has taught you that you think everyone should learn? Oh, this could be in terms of the performance, this could be anything,

**Leslie Bowman** [00:37:50] anything at all, keep your sexual scandals to yourself, maybe. Yes.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:37:54] Yeah. Yeah, that's you're not wrong.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:37:59] Yes. I mean, so many things, so many themes in the show

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:38:04] or even just your Hamilton experience. It doesn't have to be, you know, a history lesson.

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**Leslie Bowman** [00:38:08] Time is short and not guaranteed. So we should do things that we love and make us happy because like and what a what a thing to like. And imagine leaving Hamilton. You've done it for two years and you're leaving the last words of the show in time.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:38:27] Yes. Oh, my God.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:38:29] They're not allowed to tell their story, but I'm ignoring that. Yeah. The singing time over and over again. Time, time, time. Yeah. We don't have much, you know. Yeah. Well, if that car on Saturday was going faster, you know what I mean. Yeah. So it's just it's been very poignant for me, not just because of the car but just recently anyway. I'm like we don't, it's not guaranteed so. We should make the most of the time we have. Yeah, with people that we love,

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:39:02] especially because so much of doing any of that has been robbed of us for so long, you know. So I understand. Leslie, I know you have a show to do. I had the best time talking to you. Thank you so much for spending some of your afternoon with me.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:39:20] Thank you for having me.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:39:21] Can you tell the listeners where they can find you? Websites, social media, Twitter?

**Leslie Bowman** [00:39:25] I'm on I'm on Twitter and Instagram. Leslie G Bowman. Yeah, I would say find me on twitch but im so inconsistent that you probably shouldn't even bother. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Instagram and Twitter is the most active. Be awesome to link with some more fans. Patreon Peeps.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:39:52] Absolutely not already following you, but I'll make sure they are for sure. Well thank you again. Really have a fantastic, fantastic show tonight. Appreciate it. And I you know, I'll talk to you soon. Thank you, everyone so much for listening and sending in all those great questions. And I love ya. I'm G. Penn.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:40:10] And I am William P. Van Ness.

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**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:40:15] That's a good one. I haven't heard that one.

**Leslie Bowman** [00:40:17] Giles used to call me. That's a story for another.

**Gillian Pensavalle** [00:40:20] Oh, come on. All right. Next time.

[00:41:01] 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 dot com, slash the Hamilcast. You can submit questions to guests, join Zoom Hangouts, get behind the scenes access and of course, my unending gratitude. I'm at the Hamilcast on all social media and you can listen wherever you get your podcasts. Visit the Hamilcast dot com for transcripts, episodes and more. You can see what's going on with Mike. You know Mike at Michael Paul Smith dot net. True Crime Obsessed is my true crime comedy podcast with my podcast soul mate Patrick Hinds of Theater People and Broadway BackStory fame. Thank you so much for listening. It means the world to me, to the revolution