

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

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

Gillian Pensavalle [00:00:04] Hi, friends. Welcome back to The Hamilcast. I'm Gillian. This week we're picking up right where we left off last week with Rebecca Covington Webber in episode 290. If you're not yet caught up, you'll want to start there. That's where you can hear all about how Rebecca got her start in the performing arts by picking up the violin at two years old, why Hamilton didn't make any sense the first time she saw it, and how she met and later married the fabulous Donald Weber Jr.. But if you're all caught up, let's do this because Rebecca is right in the middle of telling me about her very first audition for Hamilton. OK, enjoy.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:01:01] Like, it was like that audition was the crossroads of like my artistry, my wife, Marie, my esperado of like being like, Oh, I need this job. It all like intertwined. And I was in that audition room and let me tell you, when I had a full nervous breakdown, I was like, Oh, I can't do this. I, I do not think I can do this. I can't execute this. There were like alarms going off in my head. I was like, Oh, I sound crazy. I feel crazy. I look crazy. And I was like, I can't. I can't do this. And then on top of that, I was like, Oh, I'm I'm in here, because at this point, Donald was in the show and I was like, They all know I'm Donald's wife and they're going to think he's crazy. So then I was like, Do I? I, I had a time, I had a time and Tommy Kail, like, pulled me aside, and he was like, It's OK. This is one day there's going to be another day and it's fine. It's I'm sure this isn't what you expect it to be. I was like, Absolutely not. And he was like, We're not going anywhere. We're going to be here for a while. You'll be back in. It's fine. And I was just like, what? I literally nothing, nothing could process.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:02:15] And there were so many layers there, the process of what happened to me. And then the process of why is he so nice to me? And I was like, Do you guys are used to look, is Donald going to get fired? And there was literally like

Gillian Pensavalle [00:02:28] Totally.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:02:28] It was way too many things going through my head and like, I was not ready. I just wasn't ready because it was I wasn't ready to be a part of what someone else needed to

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

experience from that show because I wasn't ready to let go of so many walls and so many facades that I had put up around myself. I had like painted myself into this like small box in the small box. I first identified myself only as Donald's wife. It was like the first strike. It was like, You can't go into this room as Donald's wife. Yeah, that's never like, that's the most powerless position I could have ever put myself in. But that's I walked in knowing that they all knew Donald and I diminished myself for the sake of what. And so it was like the hardest, best lesson to learn in terms of like, yeah, we'll work together again and I'm and we're now married. And what does that mean when you've had this job for a little while and I still have to come and plant my feet and show up in a room as a full artist when it's like all of a sudden these roles that I juggle. And never one comes before the other because I just feel like this is my pie. Some slices are bigger on some days, and some slices are under baked on some days, and some slices might be a little over baked on some days. But this is my pie, and this is what I serve from my diner at the daily. And that day I didn't even get full respect to all slices of my pie and then I left hungry. You know what I mean? And it was like, Now we're all malnourished. And so what now? So it was just such a big lesson for me to learn.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:04:06] Guess you also just learned that lesson this minute, me? Oh my God. The way you said that, though, that it's all the same. It's not like this finite thing. The pieces are different every day. Oh my god, Rebecca,

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:04:19] they're just different. Yeah, it's wild. And like, I've never oh, I feel like I've never gotten to like, talk about it, you know, because I experienced it in such real time and all of it was so real to me. But the crazy thing is about all of it is that I was so concerned about how Donald would look and I was not taking care of myself. You know what I mean? I was so concerned about embarrassing him as if they're like, Ah, and now we're going to fire Donald as well because his wife just had, like, who would ever think like that right in my head? That was the driving force at that moment,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:04:54] But I totally get it. Like, I completely understand saying, like, whatever I do is a reflection on this person. And also the show was like the biggest thing. And like, there was just so much. It was the biggest thing. Oh God, it was so much. And of course, leave it to Kail to be like, It's fine.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:05:12] Oh my God. And now, like knowing him so much better. I'm like, He's just he's that. He's that. Yeah, is

THE H★MILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

that totally. And you know, it's like, he's always going to be that and that grace of like, he does not know me. He does not know me and the grace that he showed me to just slow me down without even knowing. I'm sure he knew. I'm sure he knew all the alarms that were firing in my head without me even saying it, because that's the brilliance that is Tommy Kail. But yeah, it was just I wasn't ready. And so I'm so thankful that the opportunity came around again. And I this so when I got hired for Am Peggy, it was a track that didn't exist. And the imposter syndrome, like it was that thing that. We'll come and grab you if you let it. You know what I mean, that thing will take a hold of you and it's like, it's like that undertow. But you know how to swim. And so it's like, you know what to do in the undertow? You know what to do with it? Let it ride out and get out of it. Do you know what I mean? And so it's like, it was like, Oh, what track is this? I don't understand this track. It's made up. And Donald's like, Yeah, but like it, doesn't it? There it's a new track. It's not that it's made up. They're not. It's not a ghost track, you know? And so it's like,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:06:28] Well, what? What track was it?

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:06:29] So a swing woman, five, which didn't exist until and Peggy was being formed. And so it's a sister cover and a woman five cover. So it's not the principle stand by, it's an additional ensemble track. And so it it just was a lot of voices in my head once again that I had to quiet because at this point, Donald already had the job. At this point, Donald was already like, we were planning to go to Puerto Rico. I was just going to come visit and like, we were keeping our house in New Jersey and I was going to go back and forth. And then he was going to be in San Francisco. And I did. I did have a moment. I was like, Oh, great, you know, I'll I'll go with you to San Francisco, we'll move to San Francisco. And I remember calling my best friend the next day. I was like, I can't move to San Francisco. What am I going to do? I can't do it. What do you mean? And she was like, Yeah, you can't move to say, I was like, I'll just have to come visit a lot because he can't turn down this job. I can't go. Like, I was really gung ho about, Oh, our whole family would move all two of us and Ella Fitzgerald. I was like, We can't move to San Francisco. Like, That's not real life. And then I got an appointment for the show and I was like, OK, all right. All right, Lauren, what are we going to do? And it was one of those that it was like I was ready and I knew what to do to get ready and to be ready. And I knew what to do in order to silence those voices in my head. And I knew that I. That, you know, it was one of those things that I was like, if this is meant for me, I'm going to get it. If it's not meant for me, it's going to go to whoever it's meant for. Everything in life

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

has purpose, and I can't question how, why, when it's like I just have to walk in full faith and in full preparation for what I'm stepping in to wherever the cards fall. After that, I know that I did what I needed to do, and I know that I can step away saying cool. It wasn't meant for me and it was true. I found out I got the job the day before my birthday in 2018. So it's October 23rd, in 2018, and we started working like two weeks later and it was like it was the wildest experience. But I was so prepared. I was so confident and I knew that I was. This was like two years later, life had been lived. Lessons have been learned and I was just at a different place in life. And you know, it was. It was. It was time and opening night in Puerto Rico. Tommy Kail, we were on the front of the newspaper. I it might have been the New York Times where Lin had the had the Puerto Rican flag. Yeah, yeah. And so I was behind him and Donald was behind him and he was like, I'm looking at you at the front page of the paper, do you remember your first audition? And I was like, Oh, of course I remember. I was like, I wasn't sure if you remembered it. I wasn't halfway helping. You maybe forgot my first.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:09:20] And he was like, Absolutely not. But I look at that picture and I'm so proud of you. Oh, it's like, you know, it's just like, it's, you know, it was just it was it was situations and time and like it just it had to be. For me, it had to be my time. And so I'm so thankful that, you know, we had the time.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:09:39] Yeah, oh, this feels like a therapy session. Does it feel like a therapy session for you? Hey, let's do it. I do look every week as a therapy session for me. I did it with, I mean, that's my favorite thing.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:09:52] I love it.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:09:52] I'm just. All right. So that was two years, two years of you having whatever you want to call this first audition right where you there was the imposter syndrome and these voices and these sirens. And but Donald was in the show.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:10:08] Yeah, yeah, yeah. You know, everybody has their hurdles in life. Their mental hurdles, their emotional hurdles not being in Hamilton was not one of them. For me, it was the ability to say, You know what? That might not be my gig. Yeah, you know, we might have to work on a different show together. This may not be it. I don't. I don't know. And like whatever that journey is, I'm OK with it. But there was never a time other than like trying to let you know your parents feel like. Now, as a parent, I understand so much more. You have specific dreams for your kids, you

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

know, and it's the balance between between that specificity and that that overwhelming love of being like, whatever it is, I'm here for you. And that's what my parents, I feel like balance. So well, it's like I know that they have specific dreams for Donald and I the biggest one being, we just want you guys to be together. We want you guys to be in the same place. We want you guys to work together. We don't ever want to see you apart. We don't want you long distance, you know, and I feel like that's very specific for them. And, you know, it was hard. The hardest part of it is like, Oh yeah, I didn't do well in that audition. Oh yeah. And then, you know, asking a week later, Oh, I didn't hear back, but I don't think I'm going to hear anything back because because I was such and such. No, no, no. I didn't hear anything. Hamilton might not be my gig, and that's OK. That's OK. You know, so it was almost harder to like, soften that outside of our home outside it, because for me, I was just like, Oh, cool on to the next. I don't know. We're going to be fine. You know what I mean as well? It was just kind of like, we always work under the guise of, you know, well, we'll make money, we'll get a job. I don't have a problem working, working on stage or behind a counter somewhere. Honestly, it's like it is what it is like. We got, well, we'll take care of ourselves, however, we take care of ourselves. My prayer and my passion is to always be on stage. If I'm not on stage, I'm not going to sit and go broke, trying to wait to be on stage. And so thankfully, I don't feel like all of my eggs in one basket and it was like, OK, cool onto the next. I don't know if that's my job. I don't know. We'll see. And then so those two years, it was more like, whatever Donald does, I will always fully support him and whatever I do, he'll always fully support me. There's never feelings of like, Oh, but if I could just or if we could just it's literally just like, All right, this is where we are. It's all good.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:12:33] Yeah, yeah. So Jenni Harney Fleming of you, that's so much of what she spoke about truly of just like the choice of feeling like, well, it's not for me, you know, that's not for me and some other amazing person is going to get it. And like, I mean, there is something else coming. I can't see it around the curve, but like, here we go.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:12:52] We'll get there. Yeah. Yeah, keep walking. Mm hmm.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:12:55] Is there anything that you can share to help people with the imposter syndrome? Because this comes up constantly on this podcast, I was just talking to Sharon Rose, Eliza on the West End. Like her was like, my impostor syndrome is crazy. Hers was too. So. Yeah, I know I get a lot of emails about how helpful

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

those conversations are to some of the listeners. So if sometimes it's nothing specific? Sometimes it is. So I was just curious if you had anything to share about what your journey with getting to that that confident place was for you.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:13:31] I think step one in that was being overprepared or what I knew the task at hand was that the audition package for Hamilton are hard, especially the cover audition package. It's quite literally a recital. When you go in, it's like you literally have to sing everything. And you know, I found my process of what I thought was preparing the first time wasn't effective. So it was like, OK, what's the process the second time? And so I had to change my process. I had to change where I found my stamina. I had to change my mindset. And so I was able to walk in that second time knowing that I had fully prepared myself in that packet. And, you know, I am a perfectionist. I like to follow rules. I love to check things off of a list. I love to like it's like I make a shared list knowing Donald will never look at it because it's in his black hole of a phone and he doesn't even click on it. But in my head, not in my head, but I will put things on it. I'll erase it. And the best part is like erasing it. And if, like Rebecca Webber edited, she did because she got it done, you know?

Gillian Pensavalle [00:14:44] And so, yep, totally.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:14:47] A lot of that was getting rid of what I felt needed to be perfection, you know, and it was like understanding that like if you sing a wrong note, it's not wrong because that's the note you sang at the time. So what was the purpose behind it? Or like if you look at the music and you don't have a place to breathe, you put a place to breathe in there. If you don't say no one like they know what it is and like, you know, if they go back and ask you to do it, you'll try. And, you know, but it's like, prepare in the best way, you know how to prepare and give your best self. I feel like in the first round, I wasn't willing to give my best self because I wanted to give my best idea of perfection. And I'm not perfect. And so I had to let go of like the perfection and say, This is what I can bring to this table. Are we going to play cards? You know what I mean? Do you want to be my partner? And it's like, Well, you know, you can kind of play spades and it's like, OK, cool, we can work together because this partnership will work out. And it was like understanding my skill set and bringing my skill set to the table and understanding. OK, cool. Let's go. And so but it was being confident in what I knew I could bring to the table. And it it it's a gift that was only given to me. And it's not going to match everybody else's gifts because it's like if we all had that matching, then that's like this perfect world

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

that doesn't exist. You know, just like cookie cutter world, not not a perfect world, but this cookie cutter world that doesn't exist. And so I was aiming for this like Candyland perfection and. It's impossible to reach, and so I feel like stripping away the pressure to be perfect. There's a song by Jonathan McReynolds called Pressure, and there's just a pressure to be perfect, and it's like, that's not who I was created to be. I was created to be me. And you know, that's good. That's great. That's perfect. You know what I mean? And so it's like, yeah, it was stripping, stripping the pressure off and understanding myself more. So growth. Yes. Two years of growth. Because, you know, I'm not sure that I understood that in 2016.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:16:55] Yeah. You know, it's interesting you mentioned cards because I was talking to someone recently and for the sake of I'm so nervous. Well, I'll tell you off the air. But for the sake of, you know, I always say, like, I don't want to tell too many tales out of school or else these texts and emails and phone calls will cease. But I heard from someone who said that you are one of the greatest humans and you're also a heck of a card player.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:17:31] I do what I can Gillian. I do what I can.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:17:36] I have a great partner. Most times when they're in town

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:17:42] I tell you what, he's a great partner and it did that. It did influence like how I saw it because it's like it is a partnership. And, you know, in that partnership, it ebbs and flows. And it did feel like the first time I wasn't a good partner. You know, I mean, I wasn't a good. It was like you not counting your books. You can't be my partner. You know what I mean? And so it's like the second time I did, I did really feel like I was like, Look, this is fully me. And it's like. That's it, that's. You know what I mean, it's like I can walk away from this either way, knowing that it's like, OK, cool. I literally gave the best I have to give, and that's more than an Oh my god. Yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:18:22] Yes. Tell me about the cards, though, because I used to play a little bit to hold them in my day. What kind of cards are we talking here without telling too much?

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:18:33] Well, I feel like we are probably talking about spades. OK? And I grew up in a spades household. Like you would get kicked out of the house over like car playing, like lick the back of the card and put it on your forehead while the other cards

THE H★MILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

are coming down. Type card playing serious. So it was like one of those. It was very sink or swim. It was like, don't come to the table if you don't know how to play cards, I see. And so I carry that legacy for me. You know what I mean? So I have.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:19:00] What is the legacy?

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:19:01] Yeah. Do you know what I mean? It is spades.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:19:05] Yes, we both are. We both in the move? It's not a visual medium, but it's a legacy space. So is wait. So for people who don't know at home, spades is the card game spades the game where you put the thing on the card in your head?

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:19:22] No, no, you're not supposed to. That's just like

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:19:27] Yeah, space. It's like it's very regional, right? So like, depending on who you play with, you might have different rules. You might have a different understanding of the game. Like it's literally like a pass down game that like, it's like, Oh, y'all play like that? Oh, yeah, I'll do that. Oh, it's one of those. And it's like, it's like, you got it. You do have on like a poker face. It's not poker, but it's like full trust and like your partner across the table without being able to talk to your partner. So there's just like a lot happening.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:19:59] So you do have partners.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:20:01] You do have partners.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:20:02] OK, OK, OK.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:20:03] But all the cards are are are dealt face down so you don't know what your partner has. So it's like a game of like bidding and betting based on like, OK, partner, what you got? OK, well, I have for what you got. Well, I got to OK, we're going to make six. And then as the card game goes down, you're like, Did you make your four? Did you make your two? Are you under bidding? Are you over bidding like?

Gillian Pensavalle [00:20:26] And this is all silent, all silent.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:20:29] Oh wow. And you know, people were like, come to the card table and like, you don't know where they're

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

from. You don't know how they learn how to play spades. Are deuces high? Do you play with jokers like it's a whole like it's a whole situation and like space will like cause people to fight like it's like spades. Space can get tricky, yeah, but not when you have the right partner. Well, yeah, it's one of the reporters finger game spades and you know, sometimes you and your partner sit there and just like, run the table, and once you win a game, then that partnership stays at the table and other people come in. And then sometimes if you have the right partner, you just have to be like multiple people in the same company and like, you know, people don't want to play space anymore.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:21:14] Let me tell you now that I know more about space, I feel like you and redacted are unstoppable at that.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:21:21] Yeah, you know, it's like there's nothing you can do about it.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:21:23] So I learned a game a couple of years ago. My friend Isaiah taught me this game called Pusso Dose, which sounds a little bit like spades. You know, it's from the Philippines, and it's a little bit like that. Only it's every person for themselves. But it is kind of like it sounds like seawater from highest to lowest and you have combinations and you have. And it's mostly it's I think it's best played with for people. So if you go to like a four top at a bar or restaurant, it's perfect for that. Hmm. While you were talking about spades, I was like, it feels very similar to pusso dos. But then the teammates throw it off is but no, but that I was like, Well, I got to get it. Spades now. Yeah. So we got to play the next time you and Donald are in New York. Yeah. How about me? You, Mike and Donald will play some spades.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:22:07] I'm always down for that. All right, great. Can we include alcohol, Rebecca? OK, I'm just making sure, you know, I need to know the full invitation. Do you know what I'm saying? I need to know the full invitation before I like commit to this.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:22:18] Right? But if I play by house rules and I have a feeling I was feeling good. Yeah, we we have we have like two bars in our home

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:22:29] Fantastic. We'll be there with bells on it.

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

Gillian Pensavalle [00:22:31] Yes. OK, so you had this. The imposter syndrome was like, Oh, there's this new track. Like, what? What's going to happen? So tell me about, you know, after this year's long journey of you getting to a place where, you know, in your heart and your soul, you can do this. What was it like to actually do? The damn thing is Chris Jackson would say right.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:22:52] It felt, I mean, I've never trained for a marathon, and I probably never will ever.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:23:00] I mean, you could. I'm just saying I'm just sending you like, that's never happening for me.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:23:04] But it's crazy because every year or so, one thing that I love doing in New York is it always fell around my birthday or like Halloween was. Watch the New York Marathon, and I would like cheer on the runners. When I used to live up in Harlem, my first apartment, you could see the runners from my balcony superheroes.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:23:20] Yeah, I'm not going to do it, but I will cheer you on.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:23:22] Yes, but every year, as I was cheering and crying, watching the runners, I would be like, I'm going to train for this next year. I never did. And it's just running is not my thing, but I was always so inspired, so inspired to think that I was actually going to try to do the thing and now. But it felt it just felt like I could walk out of that room with literally my chin to the door post. It was like so high. It was like I was like, There's nothing. No one can tell me. I didn't just do that. No one can tell me I didn't just do that. And it was just it was the most accomplished feeling because it was just such a culmination of hard work. And it was one of those. I was like, I can. I can walk away. I can walk away knowing that I didn't embarrass my husband, but that wasn't first. But I can walk away knowing that, like, I put my all into that. And however, that cookie crumbled, as they like to say, it was fine with me. It really was fine with me. And thankfully, we get to eat our cookies together at work on tour. But it was really fine with me.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:24:29] Yeah, that must be fun to be able to, you know, have this experience and share it with your person. Yeah.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:24:36] You know, it's it's taught us so much like so I'm very careful to never speak for Donald, so it has taught me so much. It feels like it felt like when we first started,

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

it was one of those like Instagram versus reality things. And it was like because we have two very different jobs, but in my head. It was like we were going to Disneyland every day and it was like, oh yeah, you know, we'll walk to work holding hands and we'll order food together and I will cook every day and we'll snuggle on the couch with a glass of wine after the show and cut to like, Yeah, this is my dressing room. I kind of need like to get ready for the show, and I'm like, Yeah, that makes sense. And also, like Babe, I've been at rehearsal all day. I don't I don't know what you're going to eat for dinner. And I mean, not that he would ever ask me, like, what's for dinner? But it would be like, What do you want for dinner? And I'm like, I'm still at work. I can't eat at four o'clock, I got to eat at 4:30 and he's like, Well, I got to eat at so-and-so to be ready for the show at seven o'clock. Like it was literally like such a learning curve of like, OK, we're husband and wife. We're coworkers. We sometimes are leading the show together. I also like have the space at work and you have a dressing station downstairs and sometimes you're worked and you just want to sleep on my couch. But I also have a dresser. I also have to get notes that half hour and like in me, I'm like, I also. That's when if I'm not on, that's when I'm able to, like, make my grocery list and list and like, Yeah. Maybe your break during Burn while you have to do a costume change is not the best time for me to ask which peanut butter you want. I can respect that and like, it was like learning all of that. But like my brain, what I mean, not mine. But both of our brains were like doing what we needed to do to sustain ourselves through life and work. And we quickly realized both our work demands two different things of us. And so it was like, OK, how do we establish these life boundaries and these work boundaries? How can I assist you when you're making your grocery list while I'm doing a three hour show and we're like, How can I assist you when I'm at rehearsal all day and you need help with, like, you know, doing stuff for the house, that's when you do your calendar, that's when you schedule your things and you need to know my schedule. And I'm like, I don't know. I'm just trying to learn the blacking for helpless, satisfied as Eliza, Angelica and Peggy and I can't help you right now. You know what I mean or like?

Gillian Pensavalle [00:27:05] It's like, Yeah, how do

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:27:06] we when do we make phone calls of like, when does Ella need to go to the vet? What is D 3's insurance? When does D three go to the doctor? When does it's literally like it's not. But you know, it's learning. Every day is such a learning experience because it's just. Our jobs are very, very different. And, you know, in Porter in San Francisco, the first time it was like, OK, cool, our jobs are very, very different. You sleep till noon. But I'm

THE H★MILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

still a morning person, so I'm going to go work out. I'm going to like, blah blah blah. And now we're adding in. Nobody sleeps till noon, do you? DThree is up and it's like, you know, it's like, What does that mean to now drive? We have a road trip in that as well because we didn't travel before. So we have a road trip. We have a six month old. We have like life to attend to. We have everyone to like, be like, OK, how can I support you? How can I be? And it's like, we don't know what we need until we need it. And then we're like, Oh yeah, we need that. And so it's just the whole thing is like such an adventure and such a learning experience. But I think what I'm most proud of us in navigating is talking about what we both need emotionally, physically and mentally. And it's like, we're very open with each other about like, OK, I can't I can't handle that. I can't hold that. I have to talk to you about that later or like, I'm at work right now. I just need these three hours or I'm at rehearsal. I'm literally learning this blocking, but breast pumps and and I'm pumping milk and like, I just I can't do it right this second, but I I can get back to you. And so, you know, it's it's really cool to see our evolution as artists, as parents and as partners because empires are sliced.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:28:53] What? What does that pie look like? I mean, that is, you know, there are a lot of slices that have different flavors. And I mean, it's why all it's so

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:29:02] it's so wild that

Gillian Pensavalle [00:29:04] it's all over the place.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:29:05] The thing is, is that at the end of the day, you lay your head on the pillow and you're like, Wow, we didn't just make it like we did that. We got to Sacramento. And like, Wow, the dog was in the car. D3 is here. Everybody's here. We have a play mat set up like, you know, it's it's really cool at the end of the day to look each other in like high five and be like, We did it. Yeah, we did it. We did it. And so, you know, it's it's really, really cool to watch each other grow in all the roles that we have to do. Yeah, it gets done, you know, and it gets done well. Yeah. And so I'm thankful. Yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:29:41] Let's talk about Puerto Rico a little bit because I'll say for me as an audience member and a total outsider, it was really amazing to be there. It was Puerto Rico because it's Puerto Rico, right? For all of those reasons that Lin was coming back, that was a big deal. You know, for me, knowing Donald that Donald was going to be Aaron Burr, I was there his first night as

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

Lafayette Jefferson. It was a madness. It was just, you know, following some of these people. And then to go and support this island and so many Patreon Peep wanted to do that. Also, and just like everyone I met in Puerto Rico, it was incredible. Everyone was so kind and interested and enthusiastic. They were like, What brings you here and where I'm actually wearing the shirt I got at the Bacardi plant? You can see. Yeah, but it says I heart PR. Yeah, Bacardi PR, yes. But I it's interesting because I associate you with Puerto Rico like that. That company to me is very, you know, yeah, that's where my brain goes. Yeah. So I would just love to hear your experience. I feel like

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:30:50] it was the first time for me that like my artistry and like the giving side of me, it was able to like, intercede and intersect because our art us being there, it's that us being there was our philanthropy at the time. You know what I mean? It was like, normally you kind of have to like, break your back to find time in your schedule to be like, OK, I want to go teach these kids. I want to do this. I want to do that. And it's just really, really hard because the demands of the show are still the demands of the show, whether that's Hamilton or not. It's like, you know, they're like, Oh, can you come teach my eight a.m. class and you're like, Oh, I just got off work at midnight, you know? And so it's hard. And so there was already something special bassline minus everything else we got to do of just being like, What we're doing matters, what we're doing. Our show, like literally just coming here and what seems so mundane is like, Oh yeah, so we go to Puerto Rico first, then we go to San Francisco and blah blah blah. But you're like, Wait, pause what we're doing in Puerto Rico, it's making a difference, and it matters. And we're able to change people's lives just by like doing this three hour skit at night, you know, and like, people are interested in this, people are, you know, pouring into this incredible island because of this. And I get to be a part of that. And so. It was really, really special to just just, you know, the nuts and bolts of that for me, was really, really cool. And then it was like another thing I'm always like. So think for when I get sick, like when my family comes to visit, when my niece has come to visit and it's like another experience that they've never experienced before. And like my nieces are in a Spanish immersion school and the fact that I was like, Oh, you get to come spend a week in Puerto Rico and, you know, give them that experience of like being on the beaches there and experience the hospitality there and the culture there. And you know, my dad came my mom, like, it's just the fact that, like all of my family is always so supportive and Puerto Rico was another thing that felt like a such a big accomplishment that I was able to, like, be like, We did this, you know? And opening night was my dad, my brother, my mom, and they were all there and I'm like, We, we did this, we built this. And so it's

THE H★MILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

really cool to just have all of that converge at one time. And and just like asking it for a second, it's exhausting because there are a lot of like moving parts. But still, when you just like slow everything down and you're just like, even if I changed one life, it's more than enough. And the fact that we got to do that on multiple like on multiple levels, it was just. It's it was unreal.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:33:39] Let's go back to that photo of you and the times that Tommy pointed out to you. Yeah. What was that moment like for you to be on this? I mean, that thing that your first experience was being late for the thing and then missing my shot and you had no, you were like, What is going on? So that like this journey was has been such a rollercoaster. And then here you are, tears in your eyes holding this man's hand. Yeah. What a moment. My god. Yeah.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:34:08] So I got to debut in Puerto Rico as Eliza, which was like, I mean, yeah, it's like what you you learn that every moment counts. You know, it's like that moment when I would not have meant everything that it meant without the moments prior to it. You know what I mean? If it was easy, I'm not sure that I would have understood the depth and the breadth of it all. And I remember I think it was a tweet. I was just remember. I said, I remember I said something like I tweeted to Lin like, thank you for following the calling on your life and bringing us with you because that's like where it starts. It's like, you know, everyone has a specific eye. I feel like everyone can follow a specific purpose, can follow a specific path, can follow a specific calling. And he you know, there was a call a call in Puerto Rico that said, if you do this, you'll make a difference. You know, I know this at the show itself would have made a difference. But Lin doing that show and watching how hard he worked and watching how tired he was. And yet he did everything with grace and with full heart. And but and watching him understand the assignment of I have to do this because because that call is on my life and the fact that he answered that call, we all got to participate in such a special gift. And I think that is so important because. Nobody could have answered that call at that moment. It was for him. And he decided to bring all of us with him. And it was like, you know, then I got to debut with him. And then I have that memory. I got to be on stage with my husband. I got to look at this journey and be like, Wow, God has really blessed me because I just I didn't see it. You know what I mean? Last, I knew there were alarms going off in my head. And so it's like. But there was a specific calling which made a specific company which had to go specifically to Puerto Rico. And then, like all of a sudden, that picture was in the times. But it all like the nucleus of that was with Lin understanding we need to help. And I know how we can help. We can help because I'm purposed for this

THE H★MILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

moment in life. And I know a specific group that I want to take and I want to take in and fulfill this purpose. And so like it, look, he makes it look so easy and you realize just how difficult following your calling can be. He was exhausted and it was exhausting and we were all exhausted. And yet there was still a call. There was still a purpose that we had to serve in that moment, and it was really, really cool for all of us. It felt like we were all like, We can do it. Come on, you can do it. Come on. You got it. Come on. But it was all charged. It was all charged by Lin and then charged by management. Everybody was on board because we knew it was that thing. It was like, if we do this, we can make another million dollars. If we do this, we can. We can. We can change another person's life if we do this, you know? And so it's like we all we all knew that the assignment was so much greater than us. And yet we got to like, play for three hours on stage, you know? Yeah. And so that, you know, it was so that intersection was so cool of like, these are nine show weeks. But in those nine shows, we're literally changing millions of lives. And it was really, really, really, really cool.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:37:34] Nine Shows Oh my god, I forgot that it was nine shows in Puerto Rico. Yeah, and I have to tell you, as someone on the other side of the stage, as an audience member, as someone who was on that island for a little bit walking in those four walls of that theater, I mean, it was really it was like I used to go to a lot of rock shows when I was younger. It felt, I mean, at the merch, like in the lobby, it was like a mosh pit in the best way, the best kind of that I've ever been at

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:38:03] one thousand percent.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:38:04] Everything you're describing was also that electricity in the audience, this feeling of like this is really important. And I love that it was just like there were so many, so many tickets available, more lottery tickets and more and more tickets available for people on the island, which was like the whole point of it. You know what I mean? So of course, me as a white person being like this was so great for me to like. But what I'm saying is like that electricity that you can feel of people being like, super grateful and also fucking ready and excited and and full of love and awe and wonder, like all of that was also coming back to you. Yeah, you could get like shocked by it. Like if you touched something like you'd get shocked by, you know, like, I just felt very like, This is a live. This is awesome to live. Yeah.

Rebecca Covington Webber [00:38:51] Yeah, one thousand percent. And like knowing that like it would, I love knowing where you come from.

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 290 REBECCA COVINGTON WEBBER 2 TRANSCRIPT

And like, I think it's important to me, like understanding your legacy, understanding how hard your parents worked or like, you know, and understanding the cycles of life. And and he he dug his heels in to like, make a change and to understand like, Oh, this is this is me and I'm ready and I'm available to make a difference here. And it was really beautiful.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:39:30] I love the way Rebecca views the world. Do you know what I mean? Her whole outlook and mindset is just so inspiring to me. So next week, Rebecca and I are unfortunately wrapping up our conversation. Well, at least for now. She talks about getting back into the swing of things now with the show being open again, what lockdown was like for the Webber family. And of course, Rebecca's taking questions from the Patreon peeps. So we'll be back next week. But until then, stay safe. Stay healthy. Thanks so much for listening. I love you. I'm G. Pen

[00:40:33]

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