

THE HAMILCAST

EPISODE 319 WESLEY RYAN 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] Hey, friends, it's Gillian. Welcome back to the Hamilcast. This is my second episode with Wesley Ryan from the Angelica tour. Check out last week's episode if you haven't already. That's where Wesley talks about going from being the shy kid to booking a Jason Robert Brown musical on Broadway as a teenager. Plus moving all over the world to make theater. And of course, we talked about the viral self tape compilation with their cat, Odie. But if you're all caught up, I'll leave you to it. Here's part two of my conversation with Wesley. Enjoy.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:00:52] OK, so wait, you're first. Tell me about your first thought, is it was it was it one of those like the Yorktown Dance Packet?

Wesley Ryan [00:00:59] There was an open. I think it was an ECC... an Equity chorus call. And so I went in with the rest of them. There was like 120 guys that they broke us down into groups of 30. And each group of 30 probably had anywhere from like five to 17 people that got called back to like either do another round of dance or sing. I think I sung that first day we did the choreography and then I sung, waited a week. I heard like it was like on a Wednesday. The following Monday, I got a callback to come back and again, where we redid my shot and then added on Room and then sung. And then another week goes by and I did my shot and room and Yorktown and blah blah. After five weeks of going back and back and forth for these callbacks, also alternating with the Mean Girls national tour at the time, like every week I was in, it was like Tuesday and Wednesday. I was in for those two things every week and was like, Oh my gosh, one of these things has to happen, please. Yeah. The last day it was a, think my call, I think my audition was 10:30 at 5:30. We had

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the last cut PM when the last like cut done and it was down to me. They asked me and two other guys to stay to do the like, flare section of the Yorktown Corio. And at that point, I was like, Wow, there's only three men. And it was for an immediate replacement for four, one of the companies. And I was like, Am I going to like this? I'm close like, This is crazy. And then never heard anything. And so I was like, OK, that's fine. I've got work booked. I went to Chicago and in West Side, I went to Sacramento and then, you know, in the heights. And then, yeah, I got back to New York. And two weeks later, they called out of the clear blue sky clear blue, which means one of those. I hope that the third guy also got a contract somewhere for Hamilton because I may not have been a replacement for that contract, but I was the replacement for this one. And this list, you know, you're on a list somewhere if you get that far.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:03:06] I was going to say like, I know it doesn't. It might not help in the moment, but like sometimes you're always on a list or sometimes like they don't know what they're looking for yet. And if they like you, I know it sucks. And I know I'm sure there's a better way for sure. And hindsight is 20 20. But it's

Wesley Ryan [00:03:20] Well I think mostly it was like, you hear like, you know, we'll keep your headshot on fire, but will you though, right? Are you really going to give my headshot on file? And they do? Right? This is proof that they really do. You know? Yeah, yeah. And it all worked out how it was supposed, to be honest. Honestly, I'm just very thankful that I got my foot in the door when I did because I was one of the first things that about a month after we had shut down for the pandemic, we had a company, Zoom, with all five of us productions of Hamilton. It was like 600 people on a Zoom and one of our strings players for our our band asked, like, you know, there's five companies like Do you do you really think that feasibly you're going to get five companies back up post-pandemic whenever that is able to

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be? And our producer, Jeffrey Seller, was like, there is more demand than I have supply for it, because not only did we cancel all of these cities that still need to get played, we have the cities that were already projected in that time that still need to get played. All five productions will be operating. So like in April, we didn't know when it was going to be able to happen, but we all knew that we had jobs to come back in April 2020.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:04:32] April 2020 you're hearing this

Wesley Ryan [00:04:33] Right. Yeah. And we didn't return until August of 2021. But we all knew that whenever it was safe to do so, we were going to be able to come back to our jobs, which is, you know, something that so many people did not get. Oh yeah, it was a nice piece of mind. Plus, I hadn't lived in one place and like a decade at this point. So to get to be home in L.A. with family and like my childhood friends, I didn't get to spend six months there like it was. And another blessing that I didn't know that I needed, albeit for this horrific situation, but, you know, finding silver linings is one of the only ways through.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:05:13] Yeah, I want to get back to your take talk for a second because there's this amazing tick tock of yours, one of your viral ones. You know, no big deal. You're sliding down the stairs during the Schuyler sisters. Oh yes, the caption is if y'all only knew what goes on behind the scenes at Hamilton? Yeah, I mean, we'd love to know. So what? So if you could describe that? And then just if there are any like other fun tidbits about

Wesley Ryan [00:05:36] oh my goodness, the show behind the show is. Equally, as intricate, you know, playing around a side. The things that need to get done, I mean, are our wardrobe heads that have to get, you know, the local wardrobe. They've got these like note cards about an inch and a half thick. But they flip no by no to know where they have to go. Those poor people

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who just like are shot out of a cannon, never knowing what to say.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:06:02] Thank you to them, everyone when you see them.

Wesley Ryan [00:06:04] Yes. And tip your dressers. Tip your dressers. But yeah, so that alone that all those things that go on. But like, yeah, I have got for that part that I post that video for. I like grab these planks and roll of moving around with like the working class of New York City. I like shake hands with Tyler Bellow, who plays our Mulligan Madison. And then I've got about five seconds to get down the stairs and back in, like on stage like slide under that same plank. And one day I realized I just had my gloves on and grabbed onto that railing. I could just slide right down faster than trying to like pitter patter down these stairs. So I just I started doing that and I asked one of our our props people on stage left prop Serena if she would record it sneakily. And she did. And I passed it and I just kept going. I was like, Holy Moly. But yeah, I mean, there's moments where before wait for it, I don't come in until like halfway through the ensemble vocal. So we have a new woman. Her name is yasya. She plays our woman one I just like. She stands up against me, have the alcove in the back like the walkway to get out, and she stands up against it on the stage left side and she's on her back like her shoulder up against us. And no one can see from like behind the wall. So all I go and like, put my finger like in her, we call our our cream-colored pops the parchment. I was like, put my finger in and like like pull on. It's like tugs her shoulder and we just like messing with each other backstage any way you can like. I mean, even on stage, though, the play, it really is a playground and we're giant children. Just like doing this job.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:07:41] Yeah, well, the listeners are going to be very excited to hear that because usually we hear

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that from the Philip company. So it's nice to know also that the Angelica Company

Wesley Ryan [00:07:49] Games, games get played. We play tag on stage. If like if I'm in, you know, in the tavern scene and I change my, I go sit on the stool across a woman three and like, before I get up, I'll go for it. And then it's like, You just go. You go on. She's now it. She can go tag whoever she wants. You have to say you're as so the person knows either. That's why you're touching them

Gillian Pensavalle [00:08:10] thank you to the sound people for turning the mics off at that right time so that you're right.

Wesley Ryan [00:08:14] It's also, yes, it's also knowing when your mic is on and off. That's enough. Or you know that you know, you're like quietly. So no one hears that in other shows I played pass the penny. So that brings a penny on stage. And like you, I put it in somebody's hand, and now you have to pass it to somebody else, like games get played or will do like in four guns and ships. We all get to ad lib our like first little entrance, like so after America's favorite fighting Frenchman... At all of that improv. But is it ... So we can do whatever dance things you want? I do like for it turns people do like a kip up, like whatever you want. Some days we'll have a scene where it's like selfies and photographs and say, You're like... And you like snap pictures of yourself. Like little ways to get through, like the show is already so fun and finding ways to continue to bolster that. Like, obviously, the audience doesn't even know that it's happening, but the energy is received and like they get so into it just because we're having a good time. And like, you know, we get asked all the time, you know, I can't imagine doing the same show eight times a week for like six months. Like, do you get bored? And I'm like, bored, bored. I have a three hour show to do, and every show is different, whether it be whether playing around or a swing goes on for a new track or

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my dance partner is sick that day. So I have one of our female swings on dance with somebody new that's so boring, like every show is different. Even if we say and dance the exact same thing every night, you know

Gillian Pensavalle [00:09:44] or someone passes you a penny or you're it

Wesley Ryan [00:09:47] your it. Exactly, exactly. It's just it's a we have a good time.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:09:51] I'm still blown away by Andy with the hallway move and room. Like all those little things

Wesley Ryan [00:09:56] Oh my gosh, just so many of those. There's so many of us and like our dance captains, do a fantastic job of its kind of as much of its sensory overload to watch the show. It's sensory overload to learn it because not only are they're giving you choreography, they're giving you attention. And it's like when we when when the ensemble first comes out on the opening, no other word got around like, you're like, you're not just putting your hand in your ear to listen, like it's more convincing to not look where you're going and to be like, you know, like when you're eavesdropping, you're not looking at the person, like eavesdropping on them. You're like pretending like you're doing something else. And that's the intention. That's what draws your ear for it. It's like things like that that, like, are so well thought out. It's the beautiful thing. It's a beautiful thing to do. So beautiful thing to learn, albeit. In the rehearsal process, Burr, like I think it was a nice thing about being back post-pandemic is that we got four weeks of rehearsal where all of us rehearse together. We were all brand new, quote unquote for lack of a better phrase together, which is something that does not happen because after so we're all on a year contract. After that year, people are going to come and go in different increments. You

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know, someone's contract is going to start in September or someone else's one starts October, which means that their year, you know, people are going to be coming and going and. In succession, in different timeframes, and we're never we don't get that, especially on tour, you don't get to rehearse as a company coming into a show that's already built. And so that was an incredible moment for all of us to get to have together because we've got to share that unlike Remount, this thing that we love together and like really hand-in-hand together. Yeah, tears were shed and our rehearsal process, just like, you know, I struggled a lot about an apartment in New York City. Congratulations of last year. Thank you. Thank you. I'm very excited. We're actually having it renovated right now. We had to fight our contractor on Tuesday. It's OK. I'm not sure it's going to be fun. It's supposed to be five weeks. It has been seven months, but it's fine. It's fine. We're fine, everything's fine. Everything's fine.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:12:00] This is this is the last bit of change that you were talking about.

Wesley Ryan [00:12:03] Exactly. Coming back to tour this time, I was like, You know, I I haven't gotten to live in one place like I did during the pandemic for my entire adult life. It was hard to leave that behind again, especially having bought this apartment that I want. I bought it because I want to limo right now. Yeah, yeah. So to go back out on the road, it was like not a difficult decision. It's a job that I've been waiting to come back to. I only got to be in in it on stage for two and a half months before we shut down. But I was just hyper aware of what I was giving up this time and it made it harder to return. And so we had moments in rehearsals where we all got to talk about, you know, the duality. Two things can be true. I can be thankful to be back here and have this job and to be surrounded by such incredibly talented, kind human beings. I can also want to be somewhere else. And it's not a bad thing, you know? Yeah, I

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before coming back and even after being back, there was a lot of guilt in that feeling because I was like, there are people that would kill at the drop of a hat to be in my shoes. And here I am, even remotely unhappy, like, wow, I'm so bad, you know? But recognizing that no, like I am beyond grateful and thankful to be back on this stage and to be back doing this show. I also know that I love my apartment and I love living in it. I love building my home. And you know, you have to choose. You make decisions. Sometimes that comes. Not everything is always going to be hunky dory and sunshine and rainbows like there are two sides to it.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:13:41] Yeah, and that's OK. I mean, you worked hard for that apartment. You care about it. You're going to be there with your person. I mean, that's very important. That's all. Totally valid. All of it.

Wesley Ryan [00:13:51] Yeah, for sure. Yeah. But you know, the things that I didn't have to think about before because before, you know, it was very much like, I am lucky to have been chosen. I was on earlier. I'm lucky to have been chosen for this show. I'm going to give up anything to do this. And now it's like, I'm not. I'm not willing to give up anything. It's time I'm willing to give up a lot of things. There's going to be sacrifices that need to be made. However, this does not go above my well-being or my life anymore. And that is a that's a huge change that, you know, I think in this industry doesn't get talked about a lot. I think a lot of people post-pandemic are figuring that out. What am I willing to sacrifice and what am I not willing to sacrifice for this.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:14:35] Right. Because I was just going to ask you, actually, you said earlier, you know, pre-pandemic and we'll get back to that. I mean, is this is sort of what you're talking about. We're saying pre pandemic, it's we're still in it. We're still it's not March 2020, when nobody knew when we

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were washing our groceries and everything was a little more unknown, is what we're saying. We're still very much in it and we know that.

Wesley Ryan [00:14:55] Yes. Yes, yes.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:14:57] Yes. Get vaccinated. Get posted.

Wesley Ryan [00:14:58] Yes, get back to the loose and wear your mask. If you're not like,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:15:01] yeah, and then maybe one of these days will be post-pandemic. Yeah, but yeah. So I mean, there's been everything we were saying before about, you know, Charlotte and the head of the Broadway League and all of this stuff like these conversations that are happening at the conversations about race and the conversations about inclusion and equity, not the union, but equity in shows. And, you know, queer people and trans people and gay people are just representation. There's like a lot that happened just and that I'm talking about just in the theater industry, right?

Wesley Ryan [00:15:31] Right. I mean, before over the summer, there was a lot of a lot of conversations about the league and and equity. And you're hearing these stories of black girls that were told they couldn't wear their natural hair because they needed to look more like the white girl that played the role originally. You know, like you hear these things that these microaggressions that before. Again, we don't think twice about, OK, I can't wear my natural hair. I've got I've got to fit this mold of this thing. But now it's like, Wait, wait, why can't that character be black? Why can't that character be anything other than what the original person was like? It doesn't say explicitly anywhere in the script like that. This is, you know, because. Of this, you know, you have shows like The Color

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Purple. People have to be black. You cannot have a white person playing these roles. I mean, please do hairspray.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:16:18] Was it there that that high school in Missouri who did hairspray? And it's like, Oh my God, what is happening? Why is there like a white seaweed? What is happening, right?

Wesley Ryan [00:16:26] One thing in the back of the marriage? What are you doing? Oh my goodness. Because things are like in certain areas there, there weren't consequences for we weren't having to think that way. You know, it was just it was for the love of theater. It was for just the fun of doing it. So, OK, there's a way to have fun and is also a way to be respectful and do. It needs to be done. And I checked all those conversations. You know, there is plenty of like equity and and union marches in New York City. When I was there over the summer last year just to speak out, there are a lot of people that are no longer going to just sit back because this is the way that it was. It doesn't have to be that way and it shouldn't be that way, and it won't be that way if we have anything to say about it. Exactly. Things have to evolve with the times again, like you said, just because it was just cause. And it really wasn't even working before, but no one was talking about it. It's just that, as I said, when I go to working in mad air quotes, just because it was working right doesn't mean that it should

Gillian Pensavalle [00:17:24] People felt like I don't want to. I don't want to be the one to rock the boat. And now everyone's like, happy to rock the boat.

Wesley Ryan [00:17:29] And so for so many people of color, if they rock the boat that's being blacklisted in the industry, they'll never work again. So you either shut up and take what's been given to you because you should be thankful that you're even at this opportunity to have an opportunity or you rock the

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boat and lose everything. So most people just sat quietly and suffered in silence or talk to their colleagues of color and whatever else and complain to them because that's all we could do. But yeah, you know, I think that's one of the other things that I do love about this company is that there are so many conversations being had this time coming around. We all got asked what we wanted to do with our hair. That was not the case before. Excellent. How do you how do you want to wear it? How do you want to style it? One of my friends, my partner and I actually lived with her in the last couple of cities. She is our woman, five, and she also covers all three Schuyler sisters, a talent.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:18:21] What's her name?

Wesley Ryan [00:18:22] Lencia Kebede

Gillian Pensavalle [00:18:22] Oh, great. I'd love to talk to her.

Wesley Ryan [00:18:23] Oh my gosh, she is a joy and a half to talk to. But her Eliza wig this time around is box braids, which is just like gorgeous, long, beautiful box braids that would not have been an option before she would have had probably some straight, wavy Eliza wig, you know? And now she's actually able to wear a hairstyle that is appropriate for her culture, her skin, her like everything you know, she. And that's because of those conversations as they are listening in and putting their best foot forward. Because especially in a show like this where there are so many BIPOC, you know, actors on that stage at any given moment, right? The representation of it all. One of our Kendall Yokoyama, she is one of our female principle covers. She covers Woman, five and all three sisters. She has this cute little. She's Japanese, has this cute little space buns that she gets to wear like a like culture appropriate. You know, I just love that they are, including all these things now and in their

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decision making and design of the show, because it absolutely should be. This is what the world looks like, you know

Gillian Pensavalle [00:19:29] right? It's what the world looks like. And also everyone's looking at Hamilton. So not to quote Hamilton to Hamilton, but history has its eyes on you. So everyone is watching you and cares about you. And like people are still discovering the show thanks to Disney Plus. And I know that for a fact because people are discovering this podcast. Six years into it, because, oh, I just got it on Disney Plus or oh my friend, oh, I finally caved because I thought it couldn't live up to the hype. And now they're going down the rabbit hole of finding things. I'm like, Yeah, that's all important.

Wesley Ryan [00:19:55] The obsession continues. Also, keep the obsession now going. That's why I have a job.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:19:59] Thank you. Please thank you so much. But also, like, do the right thing always like set the example as the biggest show on Earth right now. You get

Wesley Ryan [00:20:07] to set that precedent, right?

Gillian Pensavalle [00:20:08] Like how nice?

Wesley Ryan [00:20:09] Yeah, for sure.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:20:10] For sure. Speaking of nice things, Wesley, are you ready to take some questions from the Patreon Peeps?

Wesley Ryan [00:20:16] Oh, that's all the questions. Let's go. I'm ready

Gillian Pensavalle [00:20:48] Anya is asking she says, well, first of all, she says, can't wait to see you with the Angelica

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tour in North Carolina, so make sure you look familiar. She's bringing it back a question we love to ask to ensemble members or anyone, really? What do you yell during a room? The company screams in chaos. Where to put the capital? I always used to hear Toronto, but no one says Toronto.

Wesley Ryan [00:21:09] I would change. I'll start with what I used to do and what I do now. I hope I don't get in trouble for what I'm about to say. I used to scream all sorts of things. Sometimes it would be the city that we're in, even though it's not historically accurate. Like, Tempe didn't exist when it did, but not in terms of a.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:21:32] One of the 13 colonies. And it's no as long as Kirk Crowley's happy with the Toronto or like right.

Wesley Ryan [00:21:38] As long as it's finally got a couple of syllables and you cut out star and cut off at the right time. Currently, I look at David Parker plays are laughing at Jefferson, and I just go one of them, which is really what it is. Sometimes I'll say his name. I'll say David Park. I mean, often I'll say a city, but more often, like, I'll just whatever he stands right for me. I'm on the stairs and like my arms around. He's standing right in front of me, so usually I do something to him. I've said Brooklyn

Gillian Pensavalle [00:22:07] That's a good one. Yeah.

Wesley Ryan [00:22:08] I've said Virginia.

Wesley Ryan [00:22:10] Sometimes I say Rhode Island, just because no one's getting in the capital and tiny little island. Honestly, whatever comes in my mind in that moment, and it's different every night. Well, that's the nice thing about that

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moment, too, is it's like it's not set in stone. We get to like change,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:22:22] and that's fine. Like, I remember talking to the film company in Vegas. There was that was when Black Panther came out, so Wakanda was a big answer. I know that Neil Haskell would say, your mom's house.

Wesley Ryan [00:22:33] We had one of our cast members say that and then somebody offstage hurt him and told him what

Gillian Pensavalle [00:22:39] he might have been told on on this podcast. Neil has have to be on, but I Javon McFerran would sometimes like it. Sometimes it's a very cultural whatever's happening in the moment, like Javon McFerran, said Cafe. Yeah, that was a big what's his name? Tweet his name anymore. But no, it was just, you know, something funny that's happening again. Just like, I don't know. Have a little fun with it because it is a three.

Wesley Ryan [00:23:01] Another reason why the show doesn't get boring,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:23:03] like it's like the verbal equivalent of passing a penny or tagging someone.

Wesley Ryan [00:23:07] Yes. Yes, yes. Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:23:09] Tanya's also asking What is your dream role in Hamilton if it's not the one you already play? And is there another dream role in a dream show?

Wesley Ryan [00:23:17] Yes, I have a number of them. So in this show in particular, I think I'd be a Laf/Jefferson track would be a dream role of mine.

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:23:27] I can see that totally.

Wesley Ryan [00:23:28] Fiero as a dream role of mine. I would love to play Fiero. Simba, and the main stage production of Lion King would be another one I would love to. My absolute dream role would be to originate something it doesn't matter what that is. I would love to be a part of a new musical where I get to set it, and it's written on me and, you know, kind of build this character from the ground up. That would be the ideal dream role, whatever that looks like. But for four already existing musicals, I'd say Benny, In The Heights, Lafayette, Jefferson, Fiero and Simba.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:24:08] Oh, you got to call me for all those because I will be there. I mean, you're going to kill all of them.

Wesley Ryan [00:24:14] Your lips to God's ears. Let's make them all happen.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:24:16] Okay, let's do it. Thanks. I'm an amen, grandma. I could do that.

Wesley Ryan [00:24:21] Listen, honestly, just as long as there's someone else in my corner rooting for it and putting that energy out there, let me tell you,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:24:26] this is going to live forever. We just put it out there. You never know who's going to hear it. It's just going to live forever. So that will be repeated many times.

Wesley Ryan [00:24:35] So let's get let's let's get after it.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:24:37] Kelly says Wesley is a stunning dancer, stunning in all caps. When I saw him recently in Dallas

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and Fort Worth, he continually caught my eye with his gorgeous extension and execution. I would love to know more about his process for developing their ensemble character. You can definitely tell there's intention in the movement.

Wesley Ryan [00:24:58] Yes, Kelly, first of all, thank you for that incredible compliment. Oh my goodness, I am. Any time that anyone even is able to pick me out of the chaos and compliments me on, that is a absolute blessing and makes my heart flutter. So thank you

Gillian Pensavalle [00:25:12] Get ready because there's a whole list of them now.

Wesley Ryan [00:25:17] As for intention and things there and teaching the show, they're very specific about what the intention is. Our execution of that intention is up to us. So for example, in the opening number, when we when when Hamilton takes out his coat and, you know, Eliza puts his jacket on him and he's like getting ready to go on this adventure, we're told that we are supposed to keep our eyes on Hamilton. Now you can keep your eyes on Hamilton in off him. You can keep your eyes on Hamilton. For whatever the reason is, I have a personal character logline throughout the whole show where I'm against Hamilton, every every cabinet battle, I disagree with him. I clap for Jefferson every single time. Like it doesn't matter what it is. I'm not on Hamilton's side

Gillian Pensavalle [00:26:03] no matter who's playing Hamilton, no matter what. You're just no.

Wesley Ryan [00:26:06] You know, I'll occasionally I'll switch it up and I'll be like, You know what? That was a good thing. He's right, but that's rare. And the opening number, like, I have my eyes on him, like, who is this guy that has moved here and like, What is it? What, what is that? What like what? What

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is that person? Yeah, I mean, I don't know if there's anything necessarily like. Rhyme or reason or like deep down character development, because really, our character as ensemble changes dependent a lot of times where where the physical manifestation of the inside thoughts of these characters as they go on. But even in that moment, if I'm the inside thought of Hamilton's brain and that stuff down, some people are, you know what I mean, like some people are the affirmation. The confidence, like I'm the one was like, Well, what if you don't make it? What if it's like, senator? It's like, Am I projecting that I was going to say things like that? You know, little, little ways that

Gillian Pensavalle [00:26:58] that, yeah, that voice like pushing him. Keep writing because you're going to your nose. Like, really just maybe the devil on his shoulder.

Wesley Ryan [00:27:05] Why are you doing this? Yeah, you know.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:27:07] You know what you should do.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:27:07] You should write that pamphlet because you never know. Just put the whole Reynolds stuff. Just put it out

Wesley Ryan [00:27:11] there, you know, and it'll it'll benefit you.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:27:13] I promise this is a good idea. Just write

Wesley Ryan [00:27:15] it. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And give your son those guns.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:27:18] So it's totally, totally. I just like and also put like Eliza in his head before he goes like, and I'm like, Yeah, all this pressure on him and then give him

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the guns and tell him to make you proud and then just see what happens. It's going to end. Well, I swear

Wesley Ryan [00:27:29] it's a recipe for success. I'm sure. I'm sure. I hope that answered that question. Kelly, Sorry,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:27:36] Chris has a few questions. Chris is asking What's your favorite number to perform in Hamilton?

Wesley Ryan [00:27:42] Helpless/Satisfied. I think the rewind sequence is. Watching, so that's one of the things I'm hearing, hearing the show first and then seeing the show not realizing that like, what do you get that you're going back to here Angelica perspective on it, but when you see everything including like body is go backwards and the candle cart that exits and like all the stuff like you really see this world that that goes back to the beginning and the the choreography that that is helpless, that is is, you know, light and fun and sexy. And we're dancing to girls. It's like all these things. And then there's the satisfied, which is the same choreography, but like just conjoined head and like broken and. And not as smooth, because that's Angelica experience, that's one of my favorite numbers to perform a for the Rewind, but also just like the storytelling of that moment of these two, because it really is the same number, just told their different lens and like to get to see that in. On stage and play out every night and to be a part of every night is, as is paramount here.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:28:47] She's also asking what is your favorite number to watch others perform?

Wesley Ryan [00:28:52] Oh, when I'm not on stage or when I am on stage, let's do both. OK, Schuyler sisters, if I'm not on stage, it's one of the. There's a lot of full company moments, but like, that's one where every single person is involved in this segment and telling this part of the story where you've got

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characters from all walks of life, you have the upper echelon. So like the working class and like, everybody is telling their their story in that moment. My favorite to watch when I'm on stage, it's hard. I really like watching. We know not much happens, but like I'm sitting on the stage right stares and I can see everybody like people on the surround like Stephanie. Irma, who is our Angelica, is like directly crossing me up on the surround and I can see everybody. But like the four men in the room, I just think that the four of them do an incredible job. And just like that sequence of I actually just asked. So we have a resident choreographer that travels with us, name's Ashley. And I asked her recently, I was like, And we know, do we know the secret before he gets in there?

Gillian Pensavalle [00:30:02] I know that they know that. We know that they.

Wesley Ryan [00:30:04] Right, right. Exactly. But how much do I know?

Gillian Pensavalle [00:30:08] Yeah, that's a great question.

Wesley Ryan [00:30:10] And she was like, Actually, I think I can go either way. Like, you can either know if you do know that it needs to be like, Oh, we got you. Obviously, I'm not doing any like big moment. I'm saying I'm sitting on a staircase. But yeah, and like, and sometimes I'll change that too. Like some days I won't. I won't know what they're jumping on him, or I won't know that Hamilton, you know, has a way out. But I think it's just like a cool moment of of, you know, they think they've got him back into a corner and he's like, like, I mean, he says it flat out like, you even know what you're asking me to come fast like you. The thing that you think you have on me is so far from the truth. Like, Yes, I have reason for shame, but like, it's that's like one of my favorites.

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:30:50] Here's something a thousand times worse.

Wesley Ryan [00:30:52] Right, right, right. And he's like, You know, I've not committed treason and sullied my good name as if cheating on your wife doesn't sully your name as long as it's not financial.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:31:01] Selling my good name yet. Hold tight. Hold my beer. Hold my Sam Adams.

Wesley Ryan [00:31:05] I'm going to do that in the next number. I want to that the next chapter about it. Yeah, that's what my favorite to watch on stage.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:31:11] And Chris is also asking, do you have a favor between Act one or two and why

Wesley Ryan [00:31:16] Act one is definitely more dance heavy act to as more are changing at entrances and exits? It's hard because Act one is so exhausting, so let's say that it's my favorite. It's like, Wait. Right? But like, there's more going on and and we do a lot more dancing in that acts like we have a room and Reynolds pamphlet. And actually, that's really the only dancing and even Reynolds pamphlets like whatever you want to do, it's pretty much ad lib minus a couple of moments. But I would say act one. Yeah, hard. It's harder for sure, but definitely of the two, I prefer to do act one, and it makes it seem like it goes faster because there's more going on.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:31:57] CaraLee says, Hi Wesley, I first saw you perform in Milwaukee, and of course, your gorgeous hair is what caught my eye. But then I couldn't stop watching you for the entire show. She says I saw the show again the next week and you were there in the beginning, but you must have had to leave around helpless/satisfied because wait for it only had three

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ensemble members on stage instead of four and then stay alive. Had Avery in your place. Were you injured during the show?

Wesley Ryan [00:32:23] Oh my goodness, I cannot believe that somebody noticed that, yes. I was. I injured my back. Very badly, I was out of the show for almost 10 days. Yeah, it was. And really, I've been having some like back issues. I mean, we do the shows three hours long. There's an incredible wear and tear on our bodies, repetitive movements, all of all of the above. And during a couple of satisfied, well, it's Satisfied. We still like the boys, step past the girls and like, bend over under their arms and like we said, back up number one. And when I stood up, my backpack went into spasm and I was like, couldn't even like I couldn't bend over and I was like, Wow, I'm getting all old, I bent over. And I couldn't stand back up.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:33:07] In Hamilton.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:33:08] Let's, yeah, come on now.

Wesley Ryan [00:33:10] That's fair, fair. But nonetheless, all I did was bend over. And yeah, I was I got off stage like, I couldn't stand up straight. I couldn't even sit up. I like, lay on my stomach and like our like was rushed down the deck and I didn't finish that show. And then I was out for like a subsequent on and off for 10 days for the next

Gillian Pensavalle [00:33:29] And you're OK now.

Wesley Ryan [00:33:30] Yeah. You know that injury? Yes, there's other things that you know, like I said, wear and tear of doing the same things over and over. That's another thing I will say, though, like if my. I needed something that I would not have done before was call out of a show like now if I if my body needs it because it isn't just about getting to that show, it's about getting through the eight that week and the subsequent six

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months that I was on my contract. So if I blow my back out, you know, in this one show and now I'm screwed. You know, there's there's no coming back from that. Whereas if I just took the time to rest for a show, then then I have more longevity in this, you know

Gillian Pensavalle [00:34:10] rest of the week. Yes, the rest of your contract, but your career to like your like...

Wesley Ryan [00:34:14] And I would like to do other shows after Hamilton.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:34:17] And even if you decide it's not what I want to do, it would be nice to not have like back issues for the rest of your life.

Wesley Ryan [00:34:22] Right? Crazy, crazy nuts. Irving is like listening to our own bodies. You know, there's there hasn't always been that in this industry in other ways like we were talking about, like doing what you have to do because the show must go on, right? Well, the show can still go on. Avery is one of our incredibly talented swings that can is perfectly capable of going onto my track, and he did.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:34:45] And thank you so much, Avery.

Wesley Ryan [00:34:47] Yes. Thank you all of them.

Wesley Ryan [00:34:49] Conner, Dan. Thank you to

Wesley Ryan [00:34:51] all of you. Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:34:53] Carol Lee also says no one can rock a red gown like you did at the rally ball last October. Delmar, what? Keep doing what you do. You're making a difference in the world. Please explain what this ball is

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:35:07] I mean, you do rock an amazing dress. I've seen your Instagram, but I don't. What is this? What is she talking about?

Wesley Ryan [00:35:12] So our friends, Rick and David, David Raleigh and Rick Bale got married in October. And so they had a massive shindig in New York City that my partner and I were so graciously invited to. And any excuse to dress up fabulously and wear a heel, I will take. So I found this like red gown at Neiman Marcus and fell in love with it and had them cut my four foot slit in it. That didn't exist before, so I could get one of these legs out.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:35:48] I got to tell you, it looks like that dress was meant for you.

Wesley Ryan [00:35:51] Honestly, I felt like a million bucks. So one of their best friends is Billy Porter, who

Gillian Pensavalle [00:35:57] is

Wesley Ryan [00:35:58] about to add that to dreamless role as Lola. That's coming up. Yeah, it's happening at some point, and all I need to do is find a place to do the show, really.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:36:09] All right. I just got to clear my schedule. I'm going to be seeing you in a lot of shows. How to do it

Wesley Ryan [00:36:12] But listen, let's go. I mean, it'll be nice to meet in person from

Gillian Pensavalle [00:36:16] what you're in New York City. I was going to save this till later, but come on, we got to hang. Yes, let's do it. We're going to do it. Yes.

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Wesley Ryan [00:36:22] Pacino take on 6th and 57th, has a beautiful, happy hour all day.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:36:27] I will see you there.

Wesley Ryan [00:36:28] 3:00 p.m. Till closing inside like TiVo and martinis.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:36:30] That's great. So we'll get there at 2:59 and then we'll kick us out. Great.

Wesley Ryan [00:36:34] Dun dun dun dun. But at this wedding, Billy Porter is one of their best friends. And so I was like, Well, I can't show up to this wedding and not look fabulous. And so my partner and I, he's a writer for TV and film. We were like, OK, how are we going to? How are we going to meet cute Billy Porter and catch him all of the things that we have that we need Billy Porter's eyes on? We walk into this wedding, and Billy Porter was one of the best men. That's people. And as he walked by us, he knocked over the welcome podium and Adam, my partner, caught it and I picked it up and we were like, Oh, hello, Billy Porter, meet cute. That's literally we could do better if we tried. If we tried. And oh my gosh, just as over the course of where he was like, I wanted to be dressed in this fabulous gown like you are, and I was like, I'm wearing this because I knew you were going to be here. And he was like, Well, the groom said, I had to wear a suit. So here we are. Over the course of the wedding, he like, gave me career advice. He was like, I got to tell him, like how much I've looked up to him. And he was like, Listen, I don't just do this for me, I do this for you, and it's going to be your job to do it for the generation below you. And I was like, Oh my gosh, I'm going to cry in front of Billy Porter right now. And let me picture like three things and sent him a script, and it was fabulous. So Billy Porter, if you hear this, let us know about them.

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:37:51] Right, right. And also, congrats to your friends who got married, but who cares? I mean, no, we love it, right?

Wesley Ryan [00:37:56] Right. Thank you for an excuse to show up and be fabulous, but went to Billy Porter. We're getting married. Yeah, for

Gillian Pensavalle [00:38:02] now. Congratulations to everybody. And you're good at it.

Wesley Ryan [00:38:06] Yeah, that is a perfect mix. Yeah. Oh man, I'm sorry. Oh my gosh. I'm saying we couldn't have written about

Gillian Pensavalle [00:38:11] Efron is just like looking down a

Wesley Ryan [00:38:14] similar. Everybody absolutely love

Gillian Pensavalle [00:38:17] Lynn. Not Manuel Miranda is asking. She says, I am a cat woman through and through. This is Odie time, by the way. I'm a cat woman through and through Odie is magnificent. Please give us the backstory on him, including stories from the road. Looking forward to seeing you in Durham this May. It's a really walkable city, so hopefully Odie can get out and enjoy it too.

Wesley Ryan [00:38:38] I'm pretty sure that we are in Durham for my birthday. So come on through. Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:38:45] We're going to get to your birthday in a moment. Taurus, because there are questions about that.

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Wesley Ryan [00:38:49] Am I going to ask? Yes, indeed. And I am very much Taurus.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:38:53] That's we're going to get into it in a mere moment.

Wesley Ryan [00:38:55] So, Oddie, speak of the devil. Hey, little buddy. So Oddie came to me. Not really by chance. I had been wanting to get a car on the road. My dance partner Paige, she plays a woman, too. She had a cat and I was like, You know, like being on the road is already so difficult, like having a little fur baby along your side. Just to come home to like would make everything exponentially better. So I was like, we were in. Fort Myers, Florida. And I was like at the PetCo site signing, like filling out application papers. But they make you do all this like hectic paperwork. I had to get proof from all of my Airbnbs that they were allowed to have pets. Oh yeah. I had to get approval by the county. I'm like, I'm only going to be in this county for like nine more days.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:39:49] And that's the problem, right? Adopted Fiona. I went through a lot. All of that too. They wanted all of this stuff. They wouldn't give me. They wouldn't let me rescue a dog if I didn't have an outdoor space with a six foot fence. And I'm like Central Park, so I don't know what. Yeah, we're good. They tried. Like, there's so many animals need homes. Just let them let us.

Wesley Ryan [00:40:06] I'm sorry, and I promise you, I'm a good person. Like, I just want to live on this,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:40:10] and I appreciate the due diligence because it keeps me up at night that animals are hurting. But like, right with me and you come on just right

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Wesley Ryan [00:40:17] myself, like a horrible person could have a back yard. Right? That's right. But there's improved. Because you live in New York City in our backyard, yeah, that's your fault. It's my fault. So one of my classmates, he wasn't my classroom at the time, his name is Cameron Richardson. He was in the Chicago company of Hamilton, and I met him while doing my side story in Chicago. He was working on Hamilton there, and one of my high school best friends went to CCM with him. And so we had met, and he was saying that he like three kids being on cats, and I was like, Oh my God, I was like, What's that like? And he's like, You know, it's hectic, but it pays the bills. I don't know. So when we found out that Cameron was joining our tour and he was coming down to the Angelica tour, I had said to him, like, you know, I'm looking for a cat. He had three two females and a male that he had had at the time, and he could only travel two to tour with him. So he was trying to find a home for the third, and I was like, Listen, if you're coming down here, I will take the female Like, I just put an application papers to for other cats like I will take this cat. By the time it word got around to him that I wanted this cat. He'd already found a loving home. A woman who had been like looking for a Bengal for like five years and couldn't find one. So she got this cat and I was like, Okay, great. Like, wah wah. Sad for me. But I'm glad this kind of has a loving home, right? So Cameron was like, Well, you know, I have my the male and female. So with me, when I breed them, that's like, you can have one of the kittens.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:41:44] Excuse me. Oh, he's like, I know you're talking about me.

Wesley Ryan [00:41:47] Yeah, he does. And if he if the conversation is not on him, he's like, Well, I'm going to make it about me. I'm a shocker. I mean, you saw the video.

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:41:55] Yeah, me and Chris Maloney, it's the one thing we have in common, right?

Wesley Ryan [00:42:01] So yeah, then the end like, excuse me, it's not a cup. Oh, it's it's the the bathtub stopper that he has, that he's playing wonderful. He the female got pregnant, right, as we were shutting down in March in Miami, and in May, Odie was born. We're both taurus. I got a I was basically involved in this cat's life, like before he was even born, like met the mom when she was pregnant, visited the mom when she was pregnant. The kittens visited. Cameron had come to L.A. during the pandemic. I like, met the kids after they were born, like I was getting update videos of these cats. Like it was just like,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:42:41] Did you say the kids or the kittens?

Wesley Ryan [00:42:43] I said the kittens, but also the kids. So yeah, I just like was obsessive this little man before I even like had him. And so then in July, he was born May 6th, and in July I went over back to the cabin space and picked him up and day one. I knew that I wanted to name my cat, Odie. I wanted to be short for something. So I was like, What could Odie short for? And then someone? I was reading something and I was like, Oh yes, they are Odysseus. Like, like smell in the room. And I was like, like, That's good. It really just means that he stinks. And boy, does he live up to his namesake? Let me tell you whether he's shitting in or out of his litter box. It's just a mess. And so I was like, OK, a difference. And then I wanted to look exotic, so I changed the app to a page to make it look greek

Gillian Pensavalle [00:43:37] And we're back to Andy and andy. There used to be a spot there, and now there is now and it's without so

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Wesley Ryan [00:43:46] And then I was like, OK, he needs a middle name. And so I was like, What is a Greek middle name and so on the Agamemnon? And so he became Odyphoris Agamemnon Ryan, and that is how that were what.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:43:58] So I'm more of a dog person. I grew up with dogs. I like cats like me, but I'm very allergic to them, which

Wesley Ryan [00:44:04] are also hypoallergenic. My partner, Adam is also allergic to cats, and he thrives wonderful.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:44:11] So I'm not saying, I mean, we're going to that place for happy hour, but if they kick us out, we need someplace to go. Maybe we'll go to the apartment. But so exploit like it's a Bengal cat. This is going to sound really ignorant, but like, is it different that like, what is a Bengal cat? Exactly.

Wesley Ryan [00:44:25] A Bengal cat is a wild animal.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:44:27] Right? It's like it's like a Bengal. Like

Wesley Ryan [00:44:29] It's a Bengal, like a Bengal tiger bred with domestic house cat, basically.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:44:35] And that's legal.

Wesley Ryan [00:44:40] In certain states, question mark, like Florida.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:44:44] Yeah. Everything in Florida is everything's legal in New Jersey, but New

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Wesley Ryan [00:44:47] Jersey, but mostly Florida. Exactly. Florida, man. No, I'm pretty. I. I think you are allowed to own them in any state, I don't think you can breed them in every state. If I'm not mistaken, right? So I hope that don't... Cameron does not breed bengal cats any more. So please do not come after him. Don't. But yeah, are here. So they are they're are very active. They require a lot of attention. It's why he interrupted myself tape. Like literally, if eyes are not on them at all times, they will find a way to make it about them, right?

Gillian Pensavalle [00:45:21] But he's been very good and quiet for the last like hour and a half or so, you know, which I also love that we have like just audio of audio just being his own self. I love it so much like, Oh, he's going to Odie so

Wesley Ryan [00:45:32] I love that. Oh, oh, he's going to Odie. Yeah, he's pretty. I mean, he does very well on the road. The first day that I picked him up from Cameron, I took him to both of my best friend's houses and my mom. So like in three different four different houses in one day, our company manager Tyler is actually the one that came up with his Instagram handle. Odie the roadie. I mean, because if he's going to be on the road with us, he's a little roadie. So it's perfect.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:45:58] Well, well, Jen is asking, actually, how does Odie. like touring life?

Wesley Ryan [00:46:03] I think at first. So again, the first day that I had him for different houses, I took him everywhere with me. I would drive in the car with him just to, like, take him as a kitten and say he's like, used to being in the car.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:46:18] That was a really good idea, honestly, to just get them, get him used to it. Young.

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Wesley Ryan [00:46:21] And I knew that, like, that's the only way that it was going to work. Yeah. You know, I didn't want to have to like retroactively like another castmate, she had to have her cat stay with her parents in New York City because it just her cat was not adjusting to being on tour. And prior to the pandemic, we were supposed to have like longer sit downs anywhere from like five to eight weeks in each city. Now, most of our citizens are like two or three weeks. So it's quick turnaround. But he loves being in the car. He sleeps in my laps or behind my like on my shoulders, like he really. He is a great travel cat.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:46:55] And for the two people who didn't see your viral video, it's not like Odie's Gigantic. When I think of a he's like a Bengal tiger, like he's he looks like a cat, but he's part wild animal

Wesley Ryan [00:47:08] and very much wild animal. And when you hear him, meow, it's just he was snoring last night and it was fucking cute, so I couldn't deal with that. No, it's like there's almost like cooing. It was just like little, just like, Wow,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:47:21] oh, this is why you have thirty five thousand followers.

Wesley Ryan [00:47:24] I'm like, I did all this hard work. And then a cat is the one that has all this like father's massive following.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:47:30] Welcome to the internet,

Wesley Ryan [00:47:31] but he deserves that. He deserves that. He does. Yes, he does.

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:47:34] Chris is asking What's his favorite toy lately? Is Odie into

Wesley Ryan [00:47:37] toys? He has this mouse that his grandma, Pattie, Adam's mom, got him. He batted around his throw at Helix all of a sudden coming over in his mouth and will drop it in front of me. And then I throw it. He's like one of the only cats that I know that plays full on.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:47:52] That's just going to say, Wait a second, that's what my dog does.

Wesley Ryan [00:47:55] Or he has one of those cats, like a furry like oval that has, like feather taking off. The end of that, it's connected to like an elastic string, so you can, like, whip it back and forth. Then he like runs around. We hang that over a door frame, so he, like, jumps up out of it and gets exercise that way. The Airbnb we're in right now actually has stairs, which he loves any excuse to run up and down them. He will take. I mean, he adjusts pretty much whatever we are. He's really great. I'm very thankful that he just does the flow. Yeah, you kind of have to and this life

Gillian Pensavalle [00:48:25] mean, he's already the roadie. So yeah, Mikayla says, here we are as a fellow tourists, I love the tourists energy you bring to your social media. How would you say I love this question so much? How would you say your Taurus-ness affects you as a performer?

Wesley Ryan [00:48:41] Go big or go home, right? Like, I just I feel like. The outworkers, and I think that's another thing that in changing my name, I kind of like lived up to the the taurus-ness of it all. I mean, I can be very stubborn. A friend of mine, Tice, he's on the Jesus Christ Superstar national tour right now. He said that he is a reformed Taurus, so he he us a Re-formas. Yes, he took the best parts of being a and channeled

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that and actively undid the needing to control the situation or being stubborn, like figuring out ways like the reasons for that and undoing it. I still, I don't think that I have mastered the undoing of I am not a fully reformist yet.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:49:29] Well, explain to some of the listeners who don't know. So I'm married to a Taurus.

Wesley Ryan [00:49:33] I'm sorry.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:49:34] And he's, well, he's, you know, he doesn't have the controlling thing, but he's actually said, Well, I'll I'll admit when I'm wrong, when it happens, and I'm like, That is the most Taurus fucking thing I ever. It's rare, says the Sagittarius cap cusp, which I'm no picnic either, honestly. But. So just explain to the listeners, Look, I'm a I'm a. So my birthday's December 21st. Sagittarius Cap Moon and Cancer Taurus rising. So I am a handful and a half.

Wesley Ryan [00:50:01] Yes, so mine is. I'm a Taurus Taurus Sun Cancer Moon. I'm an emotional, emotional human being.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:50:08] So we're both moons. Our moons are both cancer.

Wesley Ryan [00:50:11] Yes, and Leo Rising, which explains the hair. OK, I think that's really that's that's really the icing on the cake is the is the Taurus sun leo rising

Gillian Pensavalle [00:50:23] right? So to everyone who's just like, I'm listening to the Hamilcast still right? Yes, you are. So explain as a Taurus, please let the listeners know if they don't know, like just a little some qualities of a Taurus

Wesley Ryan [00:50:35] and column negative column positive stubbornness is is very much a part of that. I know a lot of

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Taurus is love there, their alone time. We love a lot of greenery, we love comfort. And that's not necessarily like just in terms of a soft pillow. It's like I love my like my plush robe that I lounge around the house. And there's so many things and so many Taurus isms. Definitely bold. I mean, the bull is is our our sign. Can be hard headed. Also, very sure of what we know and want and can be aggressive if back into a corner or if I see a red blanket, we don't, we don't. We don't see much red in the house just in case

Gillian Pensavalle [00:51:30] or, you know. You know, when you're right, when just happens to be.

Wesley Ryan [00:51:33] I tell Adam all the time and I don't like being. I just am.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:51:37] It's just me. You know, as a Sagittarius, I say the same about myself. So that's we're both,

Wesley Ryan [00:51:42] you know,

Gillian Pensavalle [00:51:42] as the stag. I also have the antlers. Yes, you know, I have my own so dope. But does your Taurusness affect you as a performer,

Wesley Ryan [00:51:51] which I honestly feel like it's my Leo rising that does. It's like the outward perception for those who don't know, your rising sign is what people view you as right. I think that is more of the. I'm the personality that comes across, I mean, when people who know me, I'm like, Oh yeah, it's hard, it's like, OK, yeah, that makes sense. And then they're like, I'm like, Yeah, I totally arising like, Oh, that makes sense. Like these two sides together in in what's the word combination that harmony? Yeah, yeah. I see it's the cancer moon that really balances us out, and all the personalities in here are the split personality, right?

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:52:28] And I have to say, if we're going to get a little, you know, if we're going to go into it, which we could save this for off, Mike. If you want a virtual tower rating or whatever, which I'm happy to do so like moon in cancer, like the Moon, that's where she lives, like cancer and moon like, that's a very harmonious kind of.

Wesley Ryan [00:52:42] I think that I think I used to feel back when we talked about a lot about alignment in the beginning of this back when I wasn't in alignment. I feel like all those three bits were definitely like fighting inside as opposed to like learning how to coexist. But that's awesome because I didn't know how to coexist. I was very much in my own world and just discombobulated and disjointed. But now I think we've got a maybe and you know, I'm I've hit my Saturn return and I turned 30 last year. So I'm like, definitely a different mindset than I have been throughout my 20s. But I think it's all come together and it's like little. The melting pot that is my body and my brain. Right, right, right.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:53:28] Laura says being a listener from the UK, I love going to the West End and watching musicals. I've recently seen Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical Cinderella and the West End premiere of the last five years. Her question is her questions are, I should say, are there any musicals that are currently on in the West End that you wish would come to the U.S. for a tour or on Broadway?

Wesley Ryan [00:53:50] So we were just in London for one of my dear friends weddings in November. She was in Six on the West End. She was one of the offstage female covers I was in, say, principal covers. But there are principles in that show. There's only six women. She covered three of the six and she is currently going in as the first cover for Juliet, in And Juliet, which we got to see when we on the West End. I know that it's

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coming to Broadway. I would love to play me. I would love to play a man putting that out there. Anybody listening to this? Please get me in the room for Angelia anywhere. But yeah, I'm very sorry that I didn't get to see the new Cinderella, but I've heard great things about it. And this new take on it, which I'm loving, isn't Cinderella lesbian in it. And I make that up. I don't know. I'm pretty sure the princes princesses are female. If I'm not mistaken, I have made that would be. I mean, I'm here for it. Ask them that. I mean, Angela, that's really the only one that I can think of right now. Oh, everyone's talking about Jamie. Everybody saw that Jamie. Love, love, love, love, love of love. I don't know. I know that it is. It was supposed to come out here. I just don't know how well it'll do. It's like very British. Like the humor is very British. It's very British. I don't know that it'll translate to American audiences.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:55:13] I think there are. If it's good, it's good. It'll translate like Hamilton is super. It used to be called an American musical, and it's doing pretty OK in the West. And yeah, but also things like the play that goes wrong is like very, very British humor, and that shows doing very well. That's true. Love it here. So I think that kind of I don't know.

Wesley Ryan [00:55:32] I'm hoping so too, because I mean, I think it's such a wonderful story. And just like for queer youth, especially the like, if this if this person's dream is to be a drag queen, the second run with that and to have a parent that are supportive of that, even though one parent is not like, right? Having those people in those allies in your corner, I think it's just such an important story to be told, and I hope that it does come out here. I'm a little old to play Jamie now, but I would love to have played Jamie five years ago.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:55:59] Yeah, because and you know, Laura's other question is, are there any roles that originated

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in the West End that you'd love to play in the future, which you kind of answered? So Jamie,

Wesley Ryan [00:56:07] yeah, I also I saw the revival of company on Broadway and the fact that Amy is Jamie and Doyle on My Gosh, is incredible in it. But I was like, OK, I would love to cover Jamie if company stays open. I was like, That's another one I would love to play. Any excuse to cry on stage, really? I mean, yeah.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:56:25] Chris, OK, there are some more questions. She asks What books are on your nightstand or Kindle or audiobook or like? What are you reading these days?

Wesley Ryan [00:56:33] We've got Billy Porter's memoir on audiobook that we've been listening to. Perfect. Actually, some friends of mine narrated Adams to audio books that we listen to, so that's really key. I don't know what he's reading right now. I think it's all that we have currently on tour. Listen to a lot of music and we do a lot of scriptwriting. We're working on a project together, actually, which is a lot of fun to pour energy into.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:57:01] Yeah. What are you listening to these days?

Wesley Ryan [00:57:04] Brass tracks? I think it's a I think I have that right there like a funk cover band, but they like, well, take like always be my baby and make it a front cover or like, like, it's just it's my baby.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:57:17] Are you kidding?

Wesley Ryan [00:57:18] It's so good.

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:57:54] Chris is asking, how do you keep your hair so gorgeous

Wesley Ryan [00:57:56] two wash days a week? I wish that I could take more credit for this curl pattern. Thanks, mom and dad. You know, it's interesting about my hair. I spent a lot of years straightening it, dyeing it, changing it because I hated that it was curly. I wanted to be something that I was not. And in 2015, I got my last haircut and bleached my hair for the last time.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:58:18] What was it like before that?

Wesley Ryan [00:58:20] Yeah, I'd had it chemically straightened it's been blond, it's been gray, it's been blue, it's been green. It's been purple, but never curly. Not never curly. It was curly. Intermittent times. But in 2012. I shaved my head after a breakup. We love a drum, a dramatic moment. We love a Britney moment. Is that that asshole from before? No, no, no. A different at different one.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:58:43] OK. I hate him too.

Wesley Ryan [00:58:44] Yeah, it's his birthday today, actually.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:58:47] He's a good. I'm glad. I'm glad we're celebrating you on that piece of shit sport that you see the Sagittarians illness. Yeah, there's a lot of loyalty and loyal ness. I just had loyalty.

Wesley Ryan [00:58:58] We love it.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:58:58] This is what this is. What do you get when you get

Wesley Ryan [00:59:00] Well, take it.

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Gillian Pensavalle [00:59:02] Come on. All right, fuck that guy anyway.

Wesley Ryan [00:59:04] But yeah, so yeah, I've had every oh my gosh, just so many photos of just different hairstyles over the years. I'm just very grateful that my natural light curl pattern is what it is. Yeah, I use Tracee Ellis Ross as hairline called pattern. And it's been working like a dream for the last couple of months

Gillian Pensavalle [00:59:26] Fantastic.

Gillian Pensavalle [00:59:27] Yeah. She says. Just all the love to your beautiful family. I'll admit to hearing about Odie first and then learning more about you. And I love, love, love your energy, your joy, the love, the knowledge and inspiration you share with others online. All my love to a fellow Taurus and cat lover. P.S. Her little house panther. She's calling it the is named Luna, and she says Hi too. And she says she's on my chest as I try and type love, as I try the cat owner right there, as I try and type that.

Wesley Ryan [00:59:56] Exactly. Oh my gosh. Well, thank you. I appreciate it. Yeah, I mean, we were stopped in New York a while ago and walks past us. She's a kind of standing there and then all of a sudden she's like, I'm sorry, I wasn't going to do this, but is your name, Wesley? And I was like, Yeah, sure. Can you have a cat named Odie? And I was like, Yeah, she's like, I follow you both on Instagram going, Oh my gosh, she's like, Oh, this is like, So this is so crazy. Like, I can't believe you're here. And I was like, Oh, my god, is this fame? What? Yes.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:00:28] Again, you got the nice side of fame

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Wesley Ryan [01:00:30] right? And I'm telling you, people have been so wonderful and so kind,

Gillian Pensavalle [01:00:34] and your hair is so long and that VIDEO Your hair doesn't look anything like what it looks like right now. No, no, no.

Wesley Ryan [01:00:40] I had these locks put in because I was looking for something new and I was like, You know what? I wanted a different hairstyle. A lot of hairstyles that like that, especially with faux locs, are like protective. Like my hair was like braided and inside of each one of those little strands. Oh, OK, cool. So it's like woven into my hair, almost like knotted into my hair.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:01:01] But you recognize your face? Yeah, yeah.

Wesley Ryan [01:01:03] Yeah, it's quite the blessing. All right,

Gillian Pensavalle [01:01:05] Deb, two more questions. Deb is asking What is your favorite type of pasta? And I love she asked this every time someone is on and I love asking this question because I really never know what, what road we're going to go down.

Wesley Ryan [01:01:17] Yeah, no. Angel hair. Yes, it's just so delicate and thin and delicious and takes on whatever flavor you needed to. I guess that's really every noodle. But still,

Gillian Pensavalle [01:01:30] let me tell you something, my husband, the Taurus Angel hair all day, every day.

Wesley Ryan [01:01:35] It's so good. I'm like, Wow. We call it the the Wesley Ryan special in this house because it's basically just like beyond beef or beyond sausage. And then a bunch of

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veggies, tons of garlic. And then he said the noodles on top mixed all up and ready to go.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:01:50] Can't beat it. Guess what? Thanks for deciding what I'm having for dinner tonight, right? And honestly, you're welcome.

Wesley Ryan [01:01:55] It's so good.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:01:56] And so and last question Carrie is asking What is inspiring you right now?

Wesley Ryan [01:02:02] Honestly, my friends, I've got some incredible people on tour with me. Incredible talents, incredible souls. One thing that Adams said to me when we first met, I was saying that I wasn't seeing a lot of I wasn't going out for the roles that I wanted to be going out for. And he was like, This is obviously the writer's side of him, but he's like, If you're not seeing them right then and I'm like, Okay, I'm just going to write something. I was like, No, I'm serious. And I was like. Oh, OK. So we've got a couple ideas. I mean, we've got other products that we're working on first and foremost, but other friends of mine on tour that are not only just incredible actors and singers, but incredible songwriters and artists. And to utilize those people around us, even if it's just it doesn't have to be a full length feature, even if it's just a little short that four or five of us get together and collab on, and we've got people with professional cameras that they tour with like we can put things up and, you know, boost our careers in that way while still doing what we what we know and love and what we're hired to do. You know, I find a lot of inspiration from from the people that I am blessed to work with. I would say, like, right now, that's my my inspiration.

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Gillian Pensavalle [01:03:20] Please tell everyone where they can find you, TikTok and social media and everything and websites and all that.

Wesley Ryan [01:03:26] Yes. Yes, yes. On all social media, it's Wesley Ryan at Wesley Ryan with two N's. You can find Odie on Instagram, on Odie the roadie, and that's our that's our social media.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:03:45] Wesley, thank you so much. This has been like a rejuvenating conversation, really. Thank you so much for spending the time with me today, especially when you're on tour and it's like the middle of the week. It really means a lot to me that you took the time to hang out

Wesley Ryan [01:03:57] absolutely any time. It's been an absolute pleasure.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:04:00] All right. Well, thank you. I'll meet you. What was it? 2:59 for? Happy hour.

Wesley Ryan [01:04:04] Yeah, 2:59 percent to two for one.martinis. Let's go.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:04:08] Oh my God, counting the seconds and then my calendar is busy because you're going to be on and all these gigs, so I can't wait. Listeners, thank you so much for listening after all of this time. And peeps, thank you so much for your questions. Aren't they great? I told you. Yes.

Wesley Ryan [01:04:21] Thank you for the questions. We love that we love, right?

Gillian Pensavalle [01:04:24] So thank you everyone for listening, and I'll talk to you next week. I love you. I am G. Pen.

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Wesley Ryan [01:04:29] And I am Wesley Ryan.

Gillian Pensavalle [01:04:59] 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. A big thank you to Jenson Parker Neal, my dear friend and right hand man who helps me make the thing about the thing. To become a Patreon Peep and join the best, kindest and most welcoming corner of the internet. Go to patreon.com/TheHamilcast. You can submit questions to guests, join Zoom Hangouts, get behind the scenes access and of course, my endless gratitude. On social media at the pod is @TheHamilcast and I'm @gillianwithag G-I-L-L-I-A-N-W-I-T-H-A-G. Visit THEHAMILCAST.COM for episodes, transcripts and more. You can see what's going on with Mike, you know Mike, at MichaelPaulSmith.Net True Crime Obsessed is my true crime comedy podcast with my podcast soulmate, Patrick Hinds, and we were the first podcast to ever play Broadway. Ever. Thank you so much for listening. It means the world to me. To the revolution!