



This Conversation on Musical Theater will be presented via Facebook LIVE on September 10, 2020, from 7:00PM - 8:30PM

PANELISTS

Lisa Berman

Lisa is a graduate of NYU with a degree in Drama. After moving to Roslyn to raise her family she became very involved in community theatre . She has performed with such groups as The Port Singers, Theatre II, Broadhollow, TTG, and since 2001 with Kevin and Phyllis Harrington's Plaza Theatrical Productions. With Plaza Lisa has performed in countless children's and Main Stage productions. Recent favorite roles include Mame in "Mame", Tonya in "Mamma Mia", Miss Hannigan in "Annie" and Rose in "Gypsy". Lisa is very grateful to Plaza and for the opportunities it has afforded her to bring live musical theatre to Long Island and beyond!

John Brautigam

John is a composer, lyricist, and musician based in Long Island, New York. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, and serves as Composer-in-Residence at EastLine Theatre and Music Director/Co-Founder of the Long Island Silent Film Orchestra (LISFO). His recent original musical theater works include Diary of a Pirate, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, and Prospero (LIVE); a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's The Tempest. Check out jbrautigam.com for more.

Kevin F. Harrington

Mr. Harrington Producer/ Director-Plaza Theatrical Productions, Inc., has been producing and directing musicals for over 35 years! And, since 1985, has presented over 65 musicals for the Huntington Arts Council Summer Arts Festival in Hecksher Park. While a graduate student at New York University, he studied with such notable

theatre veterans as Agnes DeMille, Alfred Drake, Marni Nixon, and Larry Fuller. Sponsored by the League of American Theatres, Mr. Harrington was selected to participate in the Commercial Theatre Institute's certification program and produced the equity showcase production, *Go Go Beach* for the New York Musical Theatre Festival. An associate member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, he has directed over 250 musicals including *Ragtime*, *Evita*, *Funny Girl*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Into the Woods*, *Carousel*, *West Side Story*, *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Sound of Music*, *Awesome Allie: First Kid Astronaut*, *Hairspray* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Yolanda Wyns

Yolanda Wyns is an innovative music educator, veteran performer, and creative force among senior leaders, rebuilding Harlem School of the Arts. As Music Program Director, Ms. Wyns has boosted enrollment, attracted students of all ages, and forged partnerships with New York City's top arts organizations by refining the department's strategic vision. She's executed classes and programming across genres and given the school's music output, a contemporary refresh, while preserving the original vision of HSA's founder, Dorothy Maynor, which is to enrich the community through artistic expression and appreciation. Through her extensive network, Ms. Wyns has made HSA a powerful contributor to the city's cultural scene with branded master classes, artist lectures, and outreach programs from recognized musicians and leaders. Ms. Wyns has a long history in music, beginning at just 4 years old, singing gospel in church. For 15 years she was a backup singer for Freddie Jackson, Stephanie Mills, Patti Austin, and other pop and R&B stars. She then joined the cast of *The Color Purple*, as one of the Church Ladies, and the lead role of Sophia. Ms. Wyns has been recognized by various media including among the top 30 Influencers on Musical America.com. Yolanda Wyns is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music.

MODERATOR

Marc Courtade

Marc Courtade is an experienced arts professional with over 30 years in the field. He is currently Executive Director of Huntington Arts Council, and has held management positions at LIU Post/Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and New York City Opera. He is a frequent lecturer on Musical Theatre and was a speaker for the New York Council for the Humanities for 8 years, lecturing on *The Rodgers and Hammerstein Era: Reinventing Musical Theater* and *The Ethnic Musicals: Assimilation and Integration*. As a performer, Marc's favorite roles have been Benjamin Franklin in *1776*, Max in *The Sound of Music*, Herbie in *Gypsy*, and Tommy Albright in *Brigadoon*.