

GROW @ The Wallis

A SPACE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

A gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation



New Musicals GROW @ The Wallis

In addition to celebrating musical theater on our stages, The Wallis is also interested in cultivating the next generation of writers and composers. We do this through a variety of programs and partnerships. We are proud to partner with **Stephen Schwartz** and **ASCAP Foundation** to host the **Musical Theater Workshop**, a forum for emerging professionals to have their work showcased and to gain invaluable feedback from Schwartz and a panel of some of his professional colleagues. The Wallis has also supported developmental workshops for new musicals including *Headless* and *Witness Uganda*.

GRoW @ The Wallis — the umbrella for our education initiatives — offers a unique course for young writers and composers. **Creating Musical Theater: A Collaborative Lab** provides intensive coaching and support for creative teams to refine their musical projects and prepare them for a concert presentation with professional actors. Participants learn about the elements of a successful musical, whether including songs with a memorable “hook,” or developing characters the audience will care about. In addition, the students learn about the nature of collaboration and the need for creative “give and take” between writers,

composers, directors, and actors needed to refine and enhance the work. Along the way, the student projects were performed for Stephen Schwartz so he could share his remarkable expertise and suggest ways to strengthen their pieces.

From May 31-June 3 The Wallis will present another original musical developed as part of our partnership with **The Miracle Project**, a performing arts program for young people with autism and all abilities. *185 Wilshire: A Love Story* is about the new kid in town who struggles to make friends and find a girlfriend for the first time. The story was developed by many of the participants, who share their hopes and challenges to be valued and understood by those around them. Musical Director Zach Marsh was able to draw on their input to create a wonderful mix of songs that bring the themes to life. The cast features young people with autism alongside adult and teen “co-actors.”

The project reminds us that in our efforts to support an exciting future for musicals, we must be sure to include people of all abilities.



Top Photo: From L to R, Sarah 'Ellie' Shakespeare, Oliviana Marie, Julian Drucker, Monica Hannush, Stephen Schwartz

Bottom Left Photo: Samantha Eggers, Will Collyer, Amber Snead, Marissa Matthews, Phil Ward, Katie DeShan

Bottom Right Photo: Maxwell Peters, David Isaacman, Ryan Berman, Josefina Correra, Hunter Trost, Michael Anthony Greenfield, Coby Bird