

A HUDSON THEATRE WORKS PRODUCTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH WOODSTOCK THEATER GROUP

Elliot & Me A MUSICAL

Music by ELLIOT WILLENSKY

Book by STEVEN WILLENSKY & SCOTT COULTER

Musical Arrangements by MICHAEL HOLLAND



DECEMBER 2 – DECEMBER 12

Thursdays through Saturdays at 8PM • Sundays at 3PM

Theatre at The WILSON SCHOOL
80 Hauxhurst Ave., Weehawken, NJ



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ABOUT ELLIOT & ME

In the early 2000's, Elliot & Steven Willensky began to talk about fulfilling a lifelong dream—creating a musical of Elliot's songs featured between humorous family stories and adventures. In 2010, work began in earnest on *Elliot & Me* and after 10 years of development, Hudson Theatre Works is proud to stage the world premiere of this enchanting musical.

The real life brothers were born 10 years apart and they developed a very special bond that grew and had been tested over the years. *Elliot & Me* chronicles their lives and unfolds via a two man show. Elliot is a charming, free-spirited ladies' man overflowing with talent, *joie de vivre*, and a knack for driving Steven crazy. The brothers reflect on the volatile ups and downs of their shared experiences: from their raucous "wonder years" growing up in Bayonne, NJ; to the painful conflict when Elliot defies the expectations of his traditional middle-class Jewish family and drops out of medical school; to Elliot's rise to stardom writing hits for the likes of Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson, and Whitney Houston; to Steven's starry-eyed admiration for his Hollywood lifestyle and, eventually, to their role reversals when Elliot's career hits a few bumps in the road and needs to rely on Steven for help. There are many layers and unexpected twists and turns in the book written Scott Coulter and Steven Willensky: the love story of brothers, the unmet parental expectations when neither son becomes a doctor, the fine line between success and failure, the willingness to take risks to fulfill dreams, and ultimately the brothers' realization of what is really important in life.

In addition to eight original numbers, the musical features many of Elliot's hit songs arranged by Michael Holland including the haunting *I'm My Brother's Keeper*, *We've Got Forever*, *The Singer*, and mega hits *If You Say My Eyes Are Beautiful* and *Got to Be There*.

Listen to the Elliot Willensky Song Catalogue on Spotify.

Songs

Got To Be There (Michael Jackson recording) • *The Grand Entrance Song* (Renamed from *The Audition Song* still written by Elliot and me) • *Living My Dream* • *Department Song* • *Dear Carly* • *Such Little Hands* • *Just to Make You Smile At Me* • *Brand New Adventure* • *That's When I Stop Loving You* • *Together* • *I Can't Be You* • *The Singer* • *Got To Be There* • *Because You're in My Life* • *Some Things Never Change* • *We've Got Forever* • *I'm My Brother's Keeper* • *If You Say My Eyes Are Beautiful*

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Cast

Elliot Eric Briarley*
Steven..... Drew Seigla*
Director..... Michael Bias
Musical Director..... Victoria Casella
Lighting Josh Hemmo
Costumes..... Terry Thiry
Production Manager Gregory Erbach
Casting Judy Bowman
Projections..... Harrison Stengle
Stage Manager Dawn M. D'Arrigo*
Producers..... Adrian Wattenmaker & Frank Licato

*courtesy of Actors Equity



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WHO'S WHO

Eric Briarley* (Elliot) is thankful to help bring the story of *Elliot & Me* to life. Working with Drew (the Mensch of all mensches), and the entire production team has been a gift. Eric has traveled the world playing iconic characters such as Rhett Butler in a musical adaptation of *Gone With The Wind*, and Sam Carmichael in the International Musical sensation, *Mamma Mia*. Other credits include: *Les Misérables* (Broadway National Tour), *My Fair Lady* (Royal National Theatre—USA Tour), *A Little Night Music* (Goodspeed), *Show Boat & Man Of La Mancha* (Westchester Broadway Theatre), Ben, *Virginia and Me* (New York Music Festival). Much love to God, Amanda, Eli, Ava & Abigail. Instagram: @eric.briarley

Drew Seigla* (Steven) Richmond, VA native Drew Seigla is a standout among theatre and opera audiences, recognized for his “stunning tenor voice” by BroadwayWorld.com. He made his Off-Broadway debut as Matt; The Mute in *The Fantasticks* where he continued for a solid two-year stint. He gained his second NYC credit after joining the cast of *Sweeney Todd* as their Standby Anthony/Tobias/Beadle at Barrow St. Theatre. Regional Theatre highlights include *Kiss me Kate* at Flat Rock Playhouse & Jack in *Into the Woods* at Barksdale Theatre. Before returning to NYC in 2014 he made his opera debut with Lyric Opera Virginia, where he sang Gastone & covered Alfredo in *La Traviata*. Seigla was last seen as Pertshik in *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish at Stage 42, directed by theatre legend, Joel Grey. Drew holds a B.M. from The Juilliard School, and studied Music Theatre at Elon University. Thanks to God, Mom and Dad, Steph, Michael, my friends & teachers. @drewseigla

Steven S. Willensky (Co-Writer, Conceiver and Producer) could often be spotted playing and singing at piano bars during his college days. However, after receiving an MBA from Northwestern, he spent the next 32 years as a corporate executive at GE, Medex, and American Greetings. During that time, Steven was advisor, confidant, and financial supporter to Elliot. Whenever in the same city, they would often perform duets of Elliot's songs at clubs and bars. Steven also collaborated with Elliot by coming up with the title and writing several lyrics to “*Some Things Never Change*”. The brothers frequently talked about developing a two-man show together. Steven would write the book and Elliot would supply the music. Elliot tragically passed away during the concept phase, but Steven moved forward with the dream and helped create and produce “*Elliot and Me*”. Steven currently serves on the boards of several startup companies and nonprofit organizations and is CEO of Woodstock Theater Group.

Scott Coulter (Co-writer book), star of the Emmy-nominated “*A Christmas Carol: The Concert*” on PBS, is one of New York's most honored vocalists and an Emmy nominee himself for “*American Song*.” He regularly performs with legendary artists including Stephen Schwartz, Tony-winner Ben Vereen and Grammy-winner Sheena Easton. Schwartz has said, “One of the greatest things that can happen to a composer is to have his music interpreted by Scott Coulter.” He performs with symphonies all over the world and has created many touring concert events including “*Music of the Knights*,” “*Blockbuster Broadway*,” “*The Wonderful Music of Oz*” and, with The ASCAP Foundation, “*Jerry Herman: The Broadway Legacy Concert*.” Scott is director of original pro-

gramming at Feinstein's/54 Below and artistic director of the Pocono Mountains Music Festival. He's the owner/founder of Spot-On Entertainment (www.spot-onentertainment.com) and Spot-On Arts Academy and a proud graduate of University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Elliot Willensky (Music & Lyrics) was an American composer, lyricist and music producer. His compositions were recorded by superstars Tony Orlando and Dawn, The 5th Dimension, Chaka Kahn, Charlene, Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight, Kim Fields, Syreeta Wright, Thelma Houston, and Jerry Butler. He had hit records with Michael Jackson: “*Dear Michael*”, “*We've Got Forever*” and the #1 smash single, “*Got to Be There*”. His Whitney Houston/Jermaine Jackson duet of “*If You Say My Eyes Are Beautiful*” was released on three albums including Whitney's Greatest Hits. *People Magazine* ranks it as one of the Top 10 Wedding Songs or the 90's and was a recurring theme song on “*As the World Turns*”. Elliot composed the music for the Off-Broadway “*Abby's Song*”, as well as the “*Beaver Creek Rendezvous*” for Holland American Cruise Lines. Elliot wrote theme songs for the movies Mr. Atlas and The Karen Ann Quinlan Story, jingles for Hertz and Braniff Airlines, and was musical coordinator for the *Tony Orlando Variety show* on CBS.

Michael Holland (Musical Arranger) was orchestrator/vocal arranger/recording co-producer for the Broadway revival of *Godspell*. In 2019 he served as Music Director/Orchestrator/Vocal Arranger for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park's acclaimed production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. His original score for *Clue: A New Comedy* (Cleveland Playhouse, 2020) will be published by Broadway Licensing in 2021. As composer/

lyricist, shows include *Twelve Angry Men* (Theatre Latté Da, Minneapolis)

Michael Bias (Director) Directing credits: World Premieres of *Dreaded Bliss* by Michael Bias, *Billie* by Michael Bias and Gail Lou, *Meester Amerika*, *The Legacy* and *Lost In History* by Adam Siegel. Other directing credits include, *Landscape of the Body*, *Ubu Roi*, *Spring Awakening*, *Table Manners*, *Trad*, *A Body of Water*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Billy Bishop Goes To War*, *Collected Stories*, *The Maids*, *Porcelain* and *Doubt*. Acting credits include: Kenneth Lay in *Enron!*, Bernie Madoff in *Imagining Madoff*, Devlin in Harold Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes*, Andrey in Brian Friel's *Afterplay* and Jerry in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*. Other writing credits include: the book for *More Than A Soap Opera* (music by Ray Davies of The Kinks), and *Summer of Love*. He has also created new translations/adaptations of August Strindberg's *Miss Julie* and Eugene Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano*. He is currently working on a one person show, *Friends*. Mr. Bias is the Director of The Forge, the playwriting wing of Hudson Theatre Works.

Victoria Casella (Musical Director) is an actor/singer, musical director/pianist and teacher. Most recently she was MD for “*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*” at Florida Repertory Theatre and MD / Arranger for “*The Green Crow Caws*” at the Irish Repertory Theatre, NYC. She was also recently awarded Broadway World Best Musical Direction for Regional Theater (Fort Myers/Naples, Florida) for her work on “*Night and Day*” at Florida Repertory Theatre. Other credits with FL REP are: MD “*Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical*”, MD/ Creative Team for “*Fascinating' Gershwin*” and MD for “*Spelling Bee*”. Other MD credits: “*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*”, “*The Full Monty*”, “*Romance*

Romance”, “*Altar Boyz*” for Theatre Barn. Acting credits: Susanna in “*Daredevil*” (Netflix), Mrs. Aaronson in “*The Gold*” (NYMF), Marie (understudy) in “*The Most Happy Fella*” (Goodspeed). Most recent: Co-Writer with Michael Bias (book) and Musical Arranger for “*The Circle Game*” (spring PlayLab, FL REP).

Josh Hemmo (Lighting Designer) is a NYC based lighting designer and is thrilled to be working with Hudson Theatre Works again. Notable credits include: *Revelation: The Musical* (Off-Broadway), *Humanity’s Child* (Off-Broadway), *Drowsy Chaperone* (Off-Broadway), *Hamlet* (Hudson Theatre Works), *Cleopatra: A Pop Experience* (Off-Off Broadway), *Grease*, *Route 66* (Sierra Repertory Theatre), *New Brain* (FSU), *Show Risque* (Hard Rock Hotel Biloxi). <https://www.jhemmolighting.com/>

Donald Stark (Sound Designer) composes for film, stage, musicals, TV, and podcasts. Recently, Donald composed the music for two musicals, including Joanne Hoersch’s *Starring Elizabeth*. Last two seasons, Donald designed sound, and directed and composed music, for several Hudson Theatre Works productions, including *Hamlet*, *Body of an American*, *Caretaker*, *Uncle Vanya*, and... that Scottish play. Donald has also served as sound designer for productions mounted by Jersey City Theater Center, United Solo, NY Fringe Festival, Luna Stage, Garage Theatre Group, Theater Project’s Think Fast competition, NJ Theatre Alliance’s Stages Festival, and Rosendale Theater. Donald is an ASCAP member. <http://donaldstark.com>.

Dawn M. D’Arrigo* (Stage Manager) has been a Professional Stage Manager for over 20 years. Recent credits include *Bunnies*, *Hamlet*, *Body of An American*, *The Caretaker*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Macbeth*, *Bash* and

Of Mice and Men with Hudson Theatre Works; *My Dead Wife* at United Solofest; *American Idiot* and *Rent* with NJSDA’s Encore Theatre; *The Field Trip* (DUAF 2017), *Ferry Limbo* (DUAF 2016), and *The Blizzard* (winner of the Winter 2013 Strawberry One-Act Festival) by Chip Bolcik. Favorite shows include: *One Way Ticket to Hell* (World Premiere), *My Italy Story*, *Fat Pig*, *The Advocate*, and *Guest Artist* at 12 Miles West Theatre Company. She has also worked at The Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, and Alliance Theatre. Congrats cast and crew for creating an amazing show and thank you to friends and family for their support. Member of AEA.

Judy Bowman (Casting Director) has been casting theater, film, and television in NYC since 1993. UPCOMING: *Falling*, *Rising Monster* (short film), *Las Meninas* (Profile Theatre Co), & *I’ll Be True* (feature film). TV/FILM: *Big Dogs: Season 1* (Amazon), *Dead Sound*, *Separation*, *Hurricane Bianca*, *No Alternative*, *Lost Cat Corona*, *Gold Star*, *Copenhagen*. THEATER: Broadway & off-Broadway, incl. *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, *Dutch Masters*, *A Bright New Boise*, *Sweet Storm*, *Killers & Other Family*, & *The Spirits of Exit 11* (dir. Frank Licato) and several musicals. Extensive work with Humana Festival, Dorset Theatre Festival, Arizona Theatre Co., Woolly Mammoth, Cleveland Play House, Merrimack Rep, etc. Former adjunct w/Columbia University’s MFA film program & Harlem School of the Arts; recent workshops w/Montclair State University & Ohio University. Artios Award nominee for Best Webseries Casting, PT Barnum Award recipient. Board member Jewish Plays Project. www.judybowmancasting.com

Terry Thiry (Costumes) Ms. Thiry has been resident costume designer for Garage Theatre Group in Teaneck where she has

designed costumes for both the Professional Company and the Youth Conservatory. Her designs for Garage has included *Footloose*, *Into The Woods*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *A Touch of Spring*, *Afghan Women*, *Happy Days*, among many others. She has also designed for Bergen County Players, Clarkstown Summer theater Festival, Rockland Community College and The State University of New York—Genesco. Terry Thiry was nominated for a Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star award for her designs for Bergen County Academies’ production of *The Secret Garden*.

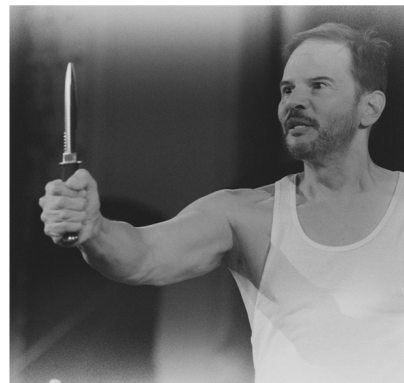
Gregory Erbach (Producer) is a Co-Founder and Producing Director of Hudson Theatre Works. He has produced every Main Stage production since HTW’s inception. Currently the Assistant Electrical Construction Boss at the Metropolitan Opera House, he has been an actor, stage manager, producer, carpenter, electrician and technical director for hundreds of productions at venues such as the American Place Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Weston Playhouse, The American Jewish Theatre, The John Houseman and The Equity Library Theatre. He was the technical director for John Leguizamo’s first two Broadway Video productions *Mambo Mouth* and *Spic-O-Rama* for HBO. On stage at HTW, he was most recently seen as Paul Watson in *The Body of an American*, Pocky in *Uncle Vanya*, *Scenes from a Jersey Life in Four Acts*, Lennie Smalls in *Of Mice And Men*, and Joey in *A Steady Rain*, which was selected by the *Star Ledger* as one of the top 10 NJ theatre productions of 2016.

Frank Licato (Artistic Director, Producer) is the recipient of the 2018 Tanne Foundation Award for continued artistic excellence. Off-Broadway: *Sprits of Exit Eleven*, *Lamppost Reunion*, *Centennial Casting*, *Requiem For A Heavyweight* (Best

Director, *Off-Broadway Review*), *Seduced*, *Sounds of a Better World Concert* and the *Sexual Harassment Plays*. Off-Off Broadway: *Asylum*, *The Balcony*, *Tannhauser*, *Golden Boy*, *Rocket to the Moon*, *Fever* (NY Fringe Festival, Audience Choice Award), *White Noise*, *La Compagnie*, *Columbus in the Age of Gold*, *The Nest*, *Action*, *The Tempest*, *Deep Dish*, *Ghosts of Newstead Vault*. Regional: *Macbeth*, *A Steady Rain*, *BASH*, *3 Men*, *Of Mice and Men*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, *Grapes of Wrath* (Perry Award, Director), *Good People*, *Best Man*, *The Late Christopher Bean*, *Imagining Mad-off*, *Enigma Variations*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *Afterplay*, *Talk Radio*, *A View From the Bridge*, *Noises Off*, *The Shape of Things* (Kennedy Center Finalist), *Fat Pig*, *My Italy Story*, *The Engagement* (LA), *American Buffalo* (Athens, Greece).

Adrian Wattenmaker (Producer) is a member of The Actors Studio Playwrights / Directors Unit and a visiting instructor at Lafayette College. Theatre: Atlantic Theater Company (where he assistant directed the premiere of the Pulitzer Prize winning production of *Between Riverside and Crazy*), Second Stage, LAByrnth Theater Company, HB Playwrights Foundation, Theatre Row, Baltimore Theatre Project, and Center Stage. Film & Television: *Law & Order*, *SNL*, *The Butcher and the Housewife*, and *Pinero*. He has taught theatre at Brooklyn College, University of Nevada-Reno, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, and School of Creative and Performing Arts (SOCAPA). Adrian served on the Drama Desk Nominating Committee (2012/2013) and participated in the Broadway Cast Recording of *Natasha*, *Pierre* and the *Great Comet of 1812*.

Harrison Stengle (Projections) is an independent theatrical and cinematic producer in the Philadelphia and New



York regions. Harrison is organizing a tour for “*A Literal Dollhouse*” which is a modern interpretation of Ibsen Classic which focuses primarily on the controversy surrounding the children of the play. This production will tour throughout the east coast. He is also working on funding a WWI feature film. Right now, Harrison is in the process of making a feature film based on the cult classic comic “*Johnny the Homicidal Maniac*.”

Augusta McMahon (Intern/ASM) is happy to be back at Hudson Theatre Works after working on “*Bunnies*.” She graduated from The Brearley School in New York City this past June. She spent all of her extracurricular hours at Brearley with the Drama Department, acting in the fall and spring and doing tech in the winter. She played Proteus in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Eddie Carbone in *A View from the Bridge*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Frank in *The School for Lies*, Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Kitty Ben-

net in *Pride and Prejudice*, and Mortimer Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. While acting in high school was the time of her life, she wants to move on to pursue acting on a professional level and this internship has shown her what that future could look like. She is on her gap year and will continue to find more opportunities like this one, especially considering how much she’s enjoyed her time working behind the scenes of *Bunnies*. Augusta is thrilled to have worked on her first Hudson Theatre Works production and is extremely thankful to Frank Licato, Dawn D’Arrigo, and the whole cast for making her feel welcome and comfortable.

Sarah Clarehart (Poster Design) is a veteran graphic designer and photographer with decades of experience, has worked with HTW creating show graphics and programs for many shows including: *A Steady Rain*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Caretaker*, *The Body of an American*, *Bunnies*, and *Elliot & Me*. www.sarahclarehart.com.

HUDSON THEATRE WORKS

Hudson Theatre Works boasts a growing and adventurous community genuinely hungry for challenging performance. We honor and advance that appetite by choosing material that is aesthetically diverse and rooted in authenticity. From highly theatrical world premieres to distilled reimaginings of modern classics, our plays inspire reflection, spark discussion, and get the blood pumping. Our low-price tickets prices make it possible for everyone to experience first rate live performance on a regular basis. Our PlayWorks readings of new plays engages both the playwright and the audience in the creation of a new work and our in house group, The Forge, is a creative playground for writers, actors and directors to develop fresh work and perfect their craft. Our children’s theatre has sold out audiences asking for more. We are proud that the critics refer to us as “A Theatre On The Edge!” Please visit us at www.hudsontheatreworks.org.

UP NEXT AT HUDSON THEATRE WORKS

January 8-9
"Almost Maine"

February 16 — Eugene O'Neill Festival — running in rep:
"Desire Under the Elm" and "Hughie."

March — PlayWorks Readings of New Plays Reading,
including talkback with authors.

April 24— "Curse of the Starving Class"
by Sam Shepard

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THE COMPANY

Adrian Wattenmaker, Beatriz Esteban-Messina, Bess Miller, Cassandra Giovine, Cathy Gale, Chase Newhart, Chuck Wagner, Cynthia Granville, Dawn D'Arrigo, Debbie Bernstein, Donald Stark, Dorian DeMichele, Frank Licato, Gloria Lamoureux, Gregory Erbach, James Georgiades, Jeffrey Leshansky, Joanne Hoersch, Kelley McAndrews, Kevin Cristaldi, Luigi Jannuzzi, Meredyth Kenney, Michael Bias, Michael Gardiner, Perry Guzzi, Quinn Cassavale, Rachel Matuszewicz, Ryan Glynn, Ryan Natalino, Sara Parcesepe, Scott Cagney, Steve Perlmutter, Stu Rudin, Sue-Ellen Mandell, TC Tanis, Todd Hilsee, Valerie Stack Dodge, Vincent Sagona, Zach Weed, Jeffrey Foote, Melissa Murray-Mutch, Nick Hardin, Derek Murphy, Florence Pape, and David Silberger



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HUDSON THEATRE WORKS
2021-2022 SEASON**



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continuous hard work and support
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