



## **Tick...Tick...NEWS! Broadway Updates with Heather Power**

Hello CFPA community and friends! Welcome to the fourteenth (14th) edition of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!* This edition we will be discussing huge musical movie adaptation news, Broadway concerts, and more! Sit back, relax, and let's dive right into the latest news The Great White Way has to offer.

### **One Night At Broadhurst: Chess In Concert This Month!**



ABBA fans, listen up: If you are not familiar with *Chess: The Musical* (or if you didn't listen to *Tick...Tick...NEWS!*'s last song of the week from *Chess*, "One Night In Bangkok"), you're about to be! *Chess*, which was written and composed by Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus of the Swedish music group ABBA (as well as Tim Rice), will be performed live in concert this Monday at the Broadhurst Theatre on Broadway.

The leading cast of this special performance includes **Darren Criss** (*Glee*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) as

"The American" Freddie Thumper, **Ramin Karimloo** (*Funny Girl*, *Anastasia*) as "The Russian" Anatoly Sergievsky, **Lena Hall** (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Little Shop of Horrors*) as Florence Vassey and **Solea Pfeiffer** (*Almost Famous*) as Svetlana Sergievsky. The rest of the cast is rounded out by stellar performers such as Bryce Pinkham (*The Gentleman's Guide To Love and Murder*), Sean Allan Krill (*Jagged Little Pill*) and more. The musical follows a heated chess tournament in the Cold War-era between two opposing forces, as well as their budding infatuations with the same woman. The benefit concert, which is raising money for the Entertainment Community Fund, is sure to be an absolute spectacle!



## **He's Back!! Aaron Tveit to Return to the *Moulin Rouge***



OH. MY. GOD. If you know me at all or have been reading *Tick Tick News* for a while, you will know that Aaron Tveit is probably my favourite Broadway performer on the planet and I like to think of him as the husband of my dreams. Well, BIG news - Aaron Tveit will be returning to his Tony Award Winning role as Christian in *Moulin Rouge!* on Broadway in the New Year! He will be taking over for his original replacement, Derek Klena (more on him later), who will in turn return to the show after Aaron's reprisal run is through! As someone who may or may not have had to cancel tickets to see *Moulin Rouge* with Aaron

in it once upon a time, I could not be more thrilled -- and hopefully you all will be thrilled too! [A killer voice](#), a beautiful face, and a bundle of charisma -- Aaron Tveit is the perfect Christian once again from January 17th to April 10th.

## **Wedding Bells Are Ringing! The Engaged Evan Hansens**

Congratulations are in order for a pair of Evan Hansens: Ben Platt (*Dear Evan Hansen*, *Parade*) announced his engagement to Noah Galvin (*Dear Evan Hansen*, *Alice By Heart*) just a few short days ago, saying that Galvin "agreed to hang out with him forever"! The pair have been together since 2020. Funnily enough, if you haven't caught my wording yet, both men have played Evan Hansen in the *Dear Evan Hansen* musical on Broadway! Congratulations and mazel tov to the beautiful couple (and I can't wait to see what stars are invited to the wedding!).





## Water off a Duck's Back! Jinkx Joins *Chicago*



RED ALERT: IT'S MONSOON SEASON ONCE AGAIN! The legendary drag queen superstar Jinkx Monsoon will be joining the cast of *Chicago* on Broadway next year! They will be playing the role of Matron Mama Morton (stunt casting done RIGHT I say!), and will be the first drag queen to ever play the role on Broadway. I talk quite often about how much *Chicago* does stunt casts, but I must say - this is absolutely stunt casting done right!

Monsoon became drag queen royalty after her appearance on the fifth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, a

season where they overcame many obstacles, beat the odds and took home the crown. On the show she served many a memorable look while also being the reigning comedy queen of the season - with one particular standout performance being her impersonation of Little Edie in the *Drag Race Match Game* parody episode. Recently she appeared on the seventh season of *RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars* - which was an all winners season - and took home the crown there as well! Outside of *Drag Race*, Jinkx Monsoon can often be found touring with their best Judy, the incredible BenDeLaCreme. The pair are currently on tour with their special Holiday special, "The Jinkx and Dela Holiday Show". I have no doubt That Jinkx is going to absolutely slay this dream role, break a leg Queen!



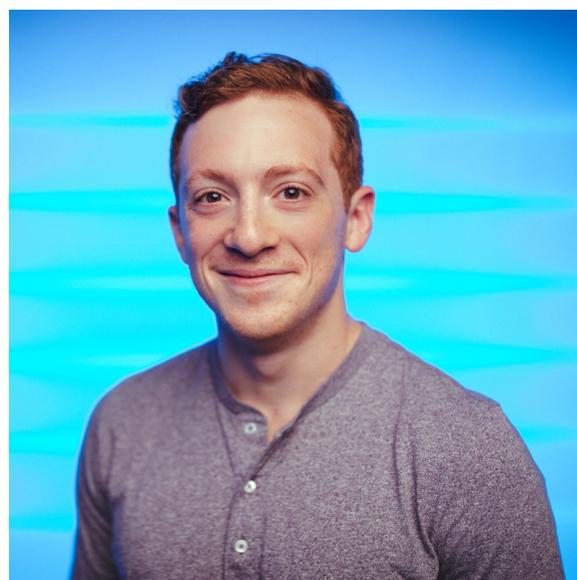


## Welcome to Oz! *Wicked* Movie Rounds Out Casting



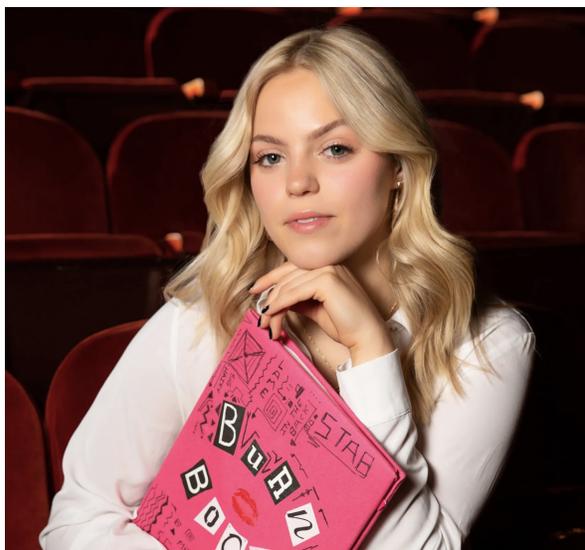
Fellow Ozians, this might be the biggest piece of news we have received about the *Wicked* movies yet! Director Jon M. Chu announced just a few short days ago the majority of the rest of the cast (excluding Doctor Dillamond, who's casting will remain in the dark for now) for the *Wicked* movie adaptation(s) coming in 2024 and 2025 -- which, by the way, I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG, JON! To begin, the incomparable and ever so quirky **Jeff Goldblum** (*Jurassic Park*) has been confirmed to play The Wizard, while rumoured to be

involved Broadway actor **Ethan Slater** (*Spongebob Squarepants: The Musical*) has now been confirmed to be playing the role of Boq! I reported this rumour in a previous edition of *TTN*, and I'm so happy that it has been confirmed! Both Goldblum and Slater promise to mystify in these roles. In other casting news, **Michelle Yeoh** (*Everything Everywhere All At Once*, *Shang-Chi*) has been casted as Madame Morrible - a casting choice I was absolutely screaming over for at least an hour out of sheer excitement. Rounding out the casting announcements includes *Saturday Night Live* comedian **Bowen Yang** as Pfannee, a classmate of Elphaba's and Galinda's, *The Greatest Showman* and *Waitress* actress **Keala Settle** as Miss Coddle, and relative newcomers **Bronwyn James** and **Marissa Bode** (pronounced Boh-dee) as ShenShen and Nessarose (Elphaba's sister) respectively. Bode is a disabled actress who uses a wheelchair to get around, as is the character Nessarose. This will mark one of the first times Nessa has been played by a disabled actress (which, finally! Took them long enough). This cast looks absolutely fabulous and I really cannot wait until 2024 for the movie - come on Jon, please?? Move up that date!





## Her Name Is Regina George: *Mean Girls* Movie Musical Welcomes Renée Rapp (and More!) to the Cast



After not receiving any news about the *Mean Girls The Musical* movie adaptation, I was starting to think it had been tossed out. Lo & behold two days ago we received HUGE news about the film, which is going ahead after all! It was revealed that the *Mean Girls* musical movie will be heading to Paramount+ once it is filmed, and that we have at least FOUR key cast members accounted for already! Joining the cast of *Mean Girls* the movie musical is 22 year old **Renée Rapp**, reprising her role as Regina George which she played on Broadway from 2019 to

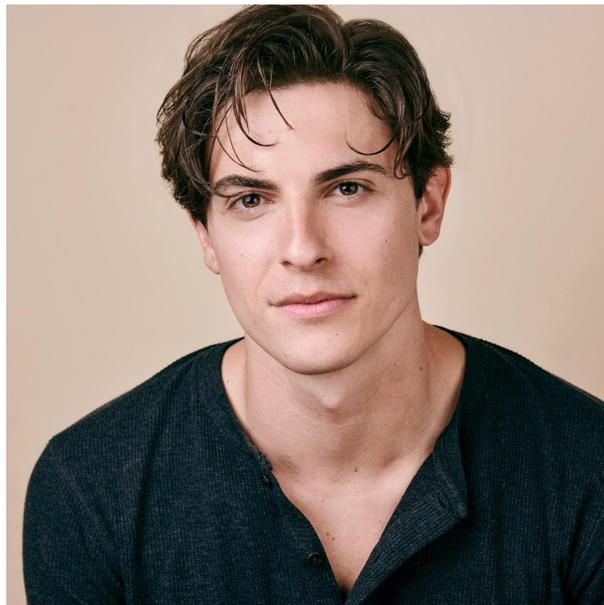
2020! Renée has been having a great year - from her starring role on HBO Max's *The S\* Lives of College Girls* to her debut EP. There truly could not have been a better casting in this scenario, Renée is [the perfect Regina George](#) -- and here are some [clips](#) to prove it! Also joining the film are **Angourie Rice** (*Spider-Man: Far From Home*) as Cady Heron, **Auli'i Cravalho** (*Moana*, *Sunset Boulevard*) as Janis Sarkisian, and **Jaquel Spivey** (*A Strange Loop*) as Damian. Australian born Angourie Rice has sung a little bit here and there both in professional projects and on social media, but this will be one of her first big musical roles and I'm very excited to see what she has to offer as the once homeschooled Cady venturing into the jungle of high school. Auli'i Cravalho will be coming fresh off of the *Sunset Boulevard* revival at the Kennedy Center to play Janis, Cady's outcast bestie who launches a revenge plan against Regina George. Finally, [Jaquel Spivey](#) will be coming off starring in the Tony award winning musical *A Strange Loop*, a show he was Tony nominated for. If this cast has anything to say about it, this movie is going to be amazing!





## ***Star of the Week:* Derek Klena**

It's that time again! This week's **Star of the Week** is the one and only Derek Klena. Tony Award Nominee Derek Klena is an actor and singer from San Dimas, California. He is most likely best known for his role as Dimitri in the Broadway adaptation of *Anastasia*, which he starred in alongside frequent collaborator Christy Altomare. Some of his other notable theatre roles include Tommy Ross in the short lived *Carrie* revival (his first off-Broadway show, also starring Christy Altomare), Michael in *The Bridges of Madison County*, Eddie Birdlace in Pasek and Paul's *Dogfight* alongside Lindsay Mendez, Fiyero in *Wicked*, and Nick Healy in *Jagged Little Pill*, the role he garnered a Tony nomination for.



Currently, Derek Klena is playing Christian in *Moulin Rouge* on Broadway -- a performance the studio's dance director Aimee Lawlor got to see on her honeymoon in New York City! As previously mentioned Aaron Tveit will be returning to the role in the New Year, but afterwards Klena will be hopping right back in! Klena and Tveit have been fairly closely linked in terms of roles throughout the years, so this is a fun little switcheroo! Recently, in fact just last September, Klena and his wife Elycia welcomed their first child into the world, a boy they named Dax (they love "D" names in this family, apparently, if Derek and his brother Dillion have anything to say about it)! Congratulations to the lovely couple, and congrats to Derek on all of his musical theatre success! Another wonderful **STAR OF THE WEEK** in the books!

**Remember to check out the "Tick...Tick...NEWS!" playlists on Spotify!:**

**[CFPA & Tick Tick News Present: Star of the Week](#)**

**[CFPA & Tick Tick News: Song of the Week!](#)**



## Songs of the Week: Baby One More Time & Without Love

This week's **Songs of the Week** one again bring us two completely unrelated songs that I just think sound really great - one from a new musical, chosen by me, and one from an early 2000s musical - chosen by two CFPA Broadway Division students!



The first song of the week is from Broadway's latest showstopper & *Juliet*, which is absolutely taking the world by storm! The jukebox musical covers songs produced by Max Martin, from Britney Spears and Jessie J to The Backstreet Boys to Bon Jovi! This is "...Baby One More Time", sung by Juliet when she wakes up to find that Romeo has died, with music and lyrics by Max Martin and performed by Miriam-Teak Lee: [https://youtu.be/5L1AT\\_3DeIA](https://youtu.be/5L1AT_3DeIA)

The second song of the week was chosen by the High School group's **Brittney & Imani** - thanks ladies! They chose "Without Love" from *Hairspray*, one of the catchiest songs ever put to the stage (also, funnily enough one of my top 5 most streamed songs on Spotify Wrapped this year)! Following the central characters, *Hairspray*'s Link, Tracy, Seaweed and Penny sing about their love for one another and how much the world would suck without a good bit of love! This is "Without Love" from *Hairspray*, with music by Marc



Shaiman, lyrics by Shaiman and Scott Wittman, and performances by Shannon Durig (Tracy), Aaron Tveit (Link), Tevin Campbell (Seaweed), and Diana Degarmo (Penny): <https://youtu.be/VNmQ8dUQ-fs>