YOUNG TALENT BIG DREAMS

YTBD 2020

ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE
at the Miracle Theatre

FINALS

SEP 26 / 2020
THE MIRACLE THEATRE CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
BARBARA S. STEIN  
Executive Producing Director, Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre

JAMES R. HAJ  
President/CEO, The Children’s Trust

EARL MAULDING  
Master of Ceremonies and Director of Children’s Theatre, Education and Young Talent Big Dreams, Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre

FINALS JUDGES  
David Arisco...Artistic Director, Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre  
Howard Cohen...Features Writer, Miami Herald  
Christine Cruz...WSVN 7 News Anchor  
Gabrielle Graham...Carbonell Award–Nominated Musical Theatre Actress  
Suki Lopez...Multiplatform Creative and Arts Education Professional, Best Known for her Role of “Nina” on Sesame Street

LEADERSHIP  
Constanza Aguado...Young Talent Big Dreams Project Manager, Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre  
Brooke Noble...Public Relations Manager, Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre  
Ximena Nunez...Director of Communications, The Children’s Trust  
Sandra Camacho...Media Liaison and Community Outreach Specialist, The Children’s Trust  
Felix Becerra...Communications Manager, The Children’s Trust  
Jackie Zucker...Audience Services Manager, Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre  
Linda Faber...Actors’ Playhouse Board of Directors  
Fran Sevcik...Actors’ Playhouse Board of Directors  
Natalia Amador, Carlos Correa, Gemma Laudicina, Amanda López...Actors’ Playhouse Administration  
We are the Porters...Photography  
Diego Pocovi...Cinematography and Editing

Founded in 1988 by Chairman Dr. Lawrence E. Stein, Actors’ Playhouse is a nonprofit regional theatre company located in the historic Miracle Theatre Coral Gables. One of Miami-Dade County’s Major Cultural Institutions and a Florida Cultural Presenting Organization, Actors’ Playhouse is celebrating 32 years of award-winning theatre and cultural programming for adults and children.

The Children’s Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future.
different music genres. She is active in many affairs and has performed in numerous plays in Miami. Azul will be attending high school at the New World School of the Arts.

Jessica Jeanty (16) attended Miami Senior High from which she transferred to do study in the medical field with plans to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, saving hearts one step at a time. Jessica has been singing for 5 years and plans to share her voice on social media.

GROUP DANCE

Artevivo Dance Studio
Leticia García (15) attends Coral Reef Senior High, Alejandro Valencia (13) attends West Miami Middle School, Angelo Maltese (17) attends Miami Senior High, Daniella Rafa (15) attends Coral Park High School, Kassandra Solis (16) attends Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High School and Joyce Fuentes (15) attends Coral Park High School - all are students at Artevivo Dance Studio. The group loves to give opportunities to young talent to grow in different dance styles. This team has been dancing together for a while and they are very grateful to pass to the finals. They thank their choreographer Yaimara Cardoza and also wish all the contestants good luck.

Bowl of Cherries
Gabrielle Lieberman (14) attends Ransom Everglades School and Georgie Weir (12) attends Southwood Middle School. The team is delighted to bring Marie-Louise Gaschler’s choreography to life in “Bowl of Cherries.” The duo began dancing with Ms. Gaschler and Ms. Kristin Douthit Richards, the founders of Miami Dance Collective, when they were toddlers.

While they have enjoyed training and performing side by side as part of a larger team, this is their first time taking the stage with just each other.

Falling in Love
Neo Del Corral (8) and Ella Hall (8), both homeschooled, are best friends who train in the art of dance at Stars Dance Studio. They also enjoy singing and acting, and have both appeared in productions at the Miracle Theatre. These young triple threats have huge ambitions of working professionally as dancer/singer/actors, and both hope to someday perform on Broadway.

INSTRUMENTAL GROUP/ BAND

Ameyal
Ameyal is part of Ameyal Mexican Cultural Organization. Lizbeth Viera (16) attends Miami Springs Senior High, Javier Benitez (17) attends International Historic Charter High School, Brittany Arellano (15) attends Miami Arts Charter School and Mateo Cano (18) attends Miami Beach Senior High. Sharing an interest in the arts and Mexican Culture, the music Cascabel is the result of a combination of factors; it is a “son jarocho” from the sotavento region that was chosen to personalize after being immersed in the musical and communal environment. Ameyal means spring water in the original Nahuatl language, which in the 15th century served as the Aztecs’ principal language of administration, culture, and commerce.

Conflei
“Conflei” is a Miami-based guitar duo consisting of two Cuban-American teens, Ari J. Willig (16) and Kevin Puig (15), who both attend Coral Reef Senior High School. The duo focuses on playing traditionally Hispanic music.
in order to honor and preserve their Latin roots. The name, “Conflei,” is a Spanglish word for cereal often used by many Cubans in Miami. The group name was chosen to represent the boys’ experience of being torn between two worlds, one Hispanic and one American. Playing in concert houses to perform around their local communities, this musical duo hopes to represent the beauty of their culture and inspire others with their music.

**Soul Gypsies**

Soul Gypsies was born a year ago by Vanessa Ricardo (18) and Claudia Archetti (17) who both attend Miami Arts Charter School, in their orchestra class. Like soul mates, they connected instantly for their love towards music. They were called “Gypsies” in class due to being able to hear a song and play it right after; this is how the duet name “Soul Gypsies” came to life. Claudia and Vanessa entered this competition to show that any dream is possible to achieve when you put your soul & heart to it. All thanks to music.

**GROUP VOCAL**

**Gaby and Emma**

Gaby, Gabriela Rodríguez (14) attends the New World School of the Arts in the musical theatre strand as a freshman. Gaby has enjoyed theatre for years now and was a part of a competing team that goes to districts and state for theatre. Emma Hamann (12) attends St. Louis Covenant School. Emma has been involved with musical theatre since the age of 5. This will also be Emma’s 3rd year being a part of the Actors’ Playhouse Musical Miracles.

**Micah and Malik**

Micah Clarke (16) is a singer and songwriter in his junior year at Mater Lakes Academy in Miami Lakes, FL. Micah has had the privilege of sharing his gift in front of audiences across South Florida and abroad. In addition to being a singer, Micah is also an entrepreneur, graphic designer, and writer. Malik Clarke (14) attends Mater Lakes Academy and is a vocalist and musician. Since the age of 7, Malik has been channeling his love and passion for music through various outlets.

**Sociedad Actoral Hispanoamericana - Musical Theater Group**

Juliana Moreno (14) attends Ronald Reagan Doral Senior High School, Dalila Lugo (15) attends New World of the Arts, Rachel Samantha (16) attends New World of the Arts, Agustina Coretti (17) attends Immaculata-La Salle High School, Fernando Flores (16) attends New World of the Arts and Darelis Figuera (17) attends Doral Academy Preparatory School. SAH MT was born to give wings to this musical theater group that meets week after week to develop their skills in singing, dancing and acting, as part of the SAH Conservatory of Dramatic Art (Hispano-American Acting Society). The theater group and acting school has over 13 years of bringing art to life in a bilingual way (Spanish-English). For the members of the SAH-MT, being selected as finalists gives them joy and fills them with pride to demonstrate the artistic talent of each of its members, a great artistic incentive.

**INDIVIDUAL DANCE**

Isabella Diaz (13) attends Miami Arts Charter Middle. She has been a competitive dancer since she was 5 years old at Starlight Dance Studio. Isabella has been a part of the Dance Program at Miami Arts Charter School since sixth grade, and dancing has always been her way of expressing how she feels and telling her story. She has competed in a plethora of dance competitions and has placed Top Ten in the majority of them. Isabella is humble, always finding room for growth while supporting her teammates. Dance has allowed Isabella to grow great talent, but more importantly, it has given her the confidence to be proud of the young woman she is becoming.

EB Keime (17) attends Coral Reef Senior High School. She was honored in 2019, with her 8-year-old partner Andrea Rosell, as the YTBD Group Dance Winners. Since then, EB has won her second national dance title as a soloist, earned a national choreography award, starred as the Nutcracker’s “Snow Queen,” and performed in 3 community theatre productions. Her solo includes a face wrap coming off to show the unrecognized beauty underneath. EB’s solo takes on added meaning for a generation yearning to remove their masks and be young and beautiful once again.

Sophia Torrens (13) attends St. Rose of Lima Catholic School and dances at Vladimir Issaev School of classical ballet, and she has been training there for 10 years. Her passion in life is dance, and she doesn’t know what she would be doing without it. Sophia was invited to Germany for a dance festival in 2019, and she won 1st place in MIBC, UBC and STG, in a contemporary group dance. Sophia won 5th place last year, and 4th this year in the STG Competition. In the MIBC online competition she got a free entry to a competition in Asia, among other accomplishments.
INDIVIDUAL VOCAL
BROADWAY/ JAZZ /
CLASSICAL

Vanessa Bittar (16) is a junior attending School for Advanced Studies - West. Musical theater consists of the three things she loves the most: singing, acting and dancing. It is truly amazing to be able to put yourself in a character’s shoes and incorporate music to tell their story. She has been in various musicals such as The Little Mermaid and Mamma Mia.

Yesenia Lobaina (17) attends Florida Christian School and has been an active member of her high school theater troupe and honors ladies choir. She has appeared in many productions, her favorite roles include: “Snoopy” in You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown, “Alice Sycamore” in You Can't Take It With You, and “Sponge” in James and The Giant Peach. Yesenia was awarded Critics Choice in Duet Acting at the District 8 Thespian Festival and All Star Cast for her role as “Snoopy” at the District 8 One Act Play Festival. She loves musical theater and intends to pursue it as a career after high school. Yesenia is grateful to her beautiful mother that sacrifices so much time and energy for her theatrical endeavors, and to her supportive family.

Juliette Ojeda (17) attends Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer. Singing since she was around 10, she has a great passion to perform. She has a soft spot for musical theatre, and hopes to be on Broadway one day. She aspires to become a successful artist and to keep performing for as long as she can. She learned how to roller skate a year ago for her first musical and has been roller skating ever since; it's her favorite hobby!

INDIVIDUAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

Lucas Netto (15) is a sophomore at New World School of the Arts in the Music Program. He started playing the piano at the age of 5. In 6th grade, he learned to play the clarinet, followed by the saxophone one year later. Lucas has played with numerous bands and groups in the last several years. He has been fortunate to have had great Saxophone/Jazz teachers including Dr. Ed Calle, Eugene Timmons, Tom McCormick, Mark Small and Jim Gasior. Lucas has been selected for the All State Jazz Band and Concert Bands for 3 years in a row. His love for music is now inspiring him to give back with his own service project to help younger musicians. He is thankful for YTBD!

Maria Luisa (14) attends Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer. She was born in Caracas, Venezuela. She started playing violin when she was 6 at “El Sistema”. When she was 7, she got into “La Orquesta Infantil” and at 9 she got into “La Orquesta Juvenil.” During that 5 years, she witnessed how music changed the life of hundreds of kids in spite of the situation in Venezuela. Maestros Abreu and Dudamel have been her inspiration, inspiring her to mentor beginning violinists. Music connects her and her Dad, who’s a musician at heart.

Jessica Oliver (15) attends Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer and has been playing the cello since she was 10 years old in her school’s orchestra. Her family couldn’t afford lessons, so she started searching for instructional videos online. Later on, she was accepted with a scholarship to a non-profit music program, where she was offered cello classes. She has been playing cello for 5 years and has participated in multiple orchestras and events like All-State, GMYS and the YOLA National Festival. Her dream is to become a professional cellist and a music teacher. Jessica loves volunteering and has reached over 400 community service hours by helping beginning music students at a nonprofit organization and at her former middle school.

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION

Aydan Lopez (16) attends the New World School of the Arts. His notebook, his ukulele, and, most importantly his voice, got him through quarantine. Every time he sings, he is transported to another world, a world, where everything is calm and collected. He wants to share his gift to the world and help others like himself. Music is a language that everyone no matter race, gender, sexuality, etc., can understand. His goal in life is to make everyone feel their best one song at a time.

Isabella Rose Sky (14) Homeschooled is an actor/singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist. She recently traveled across the US & Canada with the 1st National Tour of School of Rock: The Musical. Her other credits include: “Child” in Evita at the Actors’ Playhouse and “Gary Colman” in Avenue Q, School Edition at JCAT. Isabella plays saxophone with JECC, sings with Miami Children’s Chorus, and plays guitar, bass and drums with Live! Modern School of Music. She started composing original songs at 5 and has been performing them live and virtually ever since. When off stage, she enjoys competitive horseback riding, indoor skydiving and crocheting.
Story Walker (12) attends Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer and has always had a passion for the arts! As a young child, you could find her humming tunes and as she got older, her love of singing and acting emerged. During quarantine, Story discovered a new passion: song writing! After receiving a ukulele for her birthday, Story taught herself how to play by watching YouTube videos. Her first song, “Reflections,” was so well liked by her family and friends that she decided to enter it in to YTBD. Story dreams to become an actor, singer-songwriter and dancer when she grows up and she’s well on her way!

**SPOKEN WORD**

Eimy Benitez (14), a freshman at Miami Lakes Tech, recently graduated from Hialeah Middle School Theater Magnet Program. She is passionate about performing, specifically, acting. Eimy was born with several health issues, in which she had dealt with through her early childhood years. Making it through that, Eimy became a confident warrior who feels like she can face the world no matter its difficulties. She loves her friends and teachers, but her family is the most important thing in her life. Eimy wants to inspire others on how they too can make it through struggles no matter how hard it gets.

Brenis Bostick (18) attends Miami Norland Senior High School and is a model student, with a strong work ethic with a passion for writing and expressing himself through many forms, specifically poetry. He has been a member of the Viking Freedom Writers, a poetry club at his school where he had the opportunity of performing and showcasing his talents across the school district. He is the winner of the Piano Slam 12 2020 competition and was number one high school poet in Miami Dade County Public School’s district science category for his poem “Mother Miami.” Brenis devotes the majority of his time trying to obtain knowledge to better himself and his community.

Arsimmer Yaheli McCoy-Smith (10) attends North Dade Center for Language Arts. She comes from a family deeply connected with the art of public speaking and activism, McCoy-Smith found her voice at an early age. Yaheli’s first speaking performance would be a tiny part in her kindergarten Black History performance that immediately proved she had tremendous talent. Her accolades include. but are not limited to; 1st place winner in 2016 & 2017 in the MDC Theodore Gibson Oratorical Competition, Youth Performer - United We Dream Congress, Guest Orator - 305 Black Youth Rally - Torch of Friendship, Miami Film Festival introduction film “Liyan” and Maroon Poetry Festival.
GRAND PRIZE

Los Angeles Plus $500 cash

Airfare, hotel, and passes for two to attend the Teen Choice Awards in Los Angeles Plus $500 cash

WELLS FARGO

TEEN CHOICE 2020

Baptist Health South Florida

Dr. Marta Perez School Board Member, District 8

CORAL GABLES GYMNASIUM

Individual Vocal (Broadway/Jazz/Classical)

Leila Boyer (11) Metropolitan International School
Nova Brown (14) Coral Reef Senior High School
Harlan Honig (11) Nease Day School
Alyssa Jamison (17) Coral Reef Senior High School
Leila (Pamela Rosario) (17) St. Thomas University
Gabrielle Lieberman (14) Rosary Everglades School
Covadonga Martinez (15) Westminster Christian School
Raymond Miranda (15) Miami Arts Charter
Gabrielle Ortega (14) Leon Art Center
Aristide Reinoso (16) Miami Beach Senior High School
Ellie Reyes (16) Arthur and Polly Marks Conservatory of the Arts
Isabella Rodrigues (15) St. Brendan High School
Ava Simone (11) St. Agnes Academy
Estefania Veliz (15) Fatcat
Samanthia Zeitmeier (16) Miami Arts Studio 6-12

Group Dance

Dafstar
Jimena Villada (18) Sunflower Academy/Dafstar
Yoko Mac (9) Cross Elementary/Dafstar
Naila Peraza (8) Miami Academy/Dafstar
Priscilla Samillan (9) Riviera Elementary/Dafstar
Lysymary Ubando (10) Oxbridge Elementary/Dafstar
Ximena Andrade (11) Riverwood Academy/Dafstar
Akoya Austin (16) Arthur & Polly Marks Conservatory of the Arts
Natasha Santos (16) Arthur & Polly Marks Conservatory of the Arts
Danthella Pujadas (11) Good Shepherd Catholic School/Wannamaker Dance Company
Demi Pujadas (11) Good Shepherd Catholic School/Miami Dance Company

Individual Dance

Mia Arthur (12) Arthur & Polly Marks Conservatory of the Arts
Juliette Blais (14) Miami Art Studio/Dafstar
Mara Levenson (12) Coral Reef Senior High School
Samantha Santacruz (15) Coral Reef Senior High School
Isabella Zeller (15) Miami Arts Studio 6-12

Individual Vocal (Pop/Rock/Rap)

Julie Bondoc (13) St. James Catholic School
Mia Cruz (15) Coral Reef Senior High School
(Daniel Cannon) (11) Frank E Martin
Natalie Fernandez (16) St. Brendan High School
Jeffrey Gerald (17) North Miami Middle School
Rebecca Gonzalez (16) Terra Environmental Research Institute
Lucy Iglesias (11) Dr. Agnes K. Carson Elementary School
Adanna Linares (15) Norman S Edelcup
Janeen Llorado (17) Miami Adventist Academy
Jasmin McCall (12) Miami Arts Studio/Zelda Glazer
Luna Menezes (15) Renaissance Middle Charter School
Ariylas Romero (11) James H. Bright Elementary
Joyce Russell (13) Homestead Senior High School
Adelayn Samayoa (14) Coral Reef Senior High School
Isabella Velasquez (9) Miami Beach South Pointe Elementary

Individual Musical Instrument

Jose Arias (12) Miami Arts Studio/Zelda Glazer
Nicolas Beltran (15) Coral Gables Senior High School
Maximo A Canino (12) W. Washington Center Career Middle School
David Gonzalez (16) Coral Gables Sr High School
Jesús Sebastian Herrera (12) Pineland Preparatory Academy Middle School
Valentino Illions (16) Homeschool
Angelo Pantano (15) W. C. Cramer Elementary
Anthony Rodrigues (9) Academy Charter School
Joshua Safont (11) South Miami K-8
Angelina Santino (15) Coral Reef Senior High School
Miki Singer (8) North Beach Elementary
Heaven Bliss Vega (9) Miami Dade Online Academy

Original Composition

Valerie Marie Alonso (15) TERRA Environmental Research Institute
Pablo Amat (17) Inocente La Salle
Samanthia Zaitman (14) Miami High School
Vanessa Faith (16) Miami Arts Charter
Triton Hall (13) Archbishop Academic
Maria Maricel (Valentine Baptist), (13) Miami Beach Northside Middle School
Lucas Melendez Gallo (10) Virginie A Brown High School
Georgia Stump (16) Westminster Christian School

Spoken Word

Cutting Cooper (11) Leewood Elementary K-8

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 SEMIFINALISTS!
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR ARTISTS!
Join us for Young Talent Big Dreams 2021
actorsplayhouse.org