

I always knew in the back of my mind that going into a career for musical theater would be difficult, but I pursued it nonetheless. I do not regret my time as a Musical Theater student and am thankful to have had many opportunities and experiences that have taught me invaluable lessons, which I implement in my own teaching today. I often question my transition to teaching and the slow pull away from performing and if it is the right decision even to this day. Many thoughts come to mind, feeling like I would never be able to succeed in this business because of my size, the dread and embarrassment of signing with an agent at my college graduation to not succeeding in auditions due to Covid making me lose all motivation. The person I am interviewing is an Alum from my undergrad, Marymount Manhattan College, who also happened to be my teacher for many courses during my time there. She has experienced first hand being a musical theater student in a grueling program, as well as the shift from performer to educator. She is one of the most influential teachers I have had and has always made me feel valued as a student and as a person. She advocates for her students daily, understands the importance of diversity and representation on the stage, pushes the boundaries, creates meaningful and impactful pieces of theater, and makes anyone feel seen and appreciated for being themselves. I want to discuss with her her journey of being a successful performer to her switch to teaching and if she would ever grace the stage again. I also want to hear her thoughts on the theater industry and how it has transitioned over the years, the unrealistic expectations set for performers, the lack of opportunities, as well as the many benefits of creating theater, sharing stories, speaking up, and sharing these experiences with others.