

# PERFORMERS THEATRE WORKSHOP

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## Exploring the Masters

Song Interpretation with Brian Loeffler

Part 1: Mandy Gonzalez

This semester, PTW presents a revolutionary pairing: **Song Interpretation** featuring Broadway veteran and devoted educator **Brian Loeffler** alongside an exclusive PTW masterclass featuring *Hamilton* star **Mandy Gonzalez**.\*

Students who enroll in Mandy's masterclass **Your Voice, Your Story: Bonding vocal technique and dramatic interpretation to create truthful performance**, will have the opportunity to prepare select songs from Mandy's Broadway performances, ahead of the session during Brian's song interpretation semester class.

This first-of-its-kind course pairing offers students a three-dimensional understanding of different ways their voices and lived experiences might emerge across a range of repertoire from Broadway smash-hits that have featured Mandy's critically-acclaimed vocal performances, including *Wicked*, *Aida*, *Hamilton* and *In the Heights*.

### Course at a glance

Students attending Brian's song interpretation semester class will first observe and absorb Mandy's performances, as well as pivotal performances from select masters of stage and screen, then choose specific songs they'd like to prepare for their own performance during Mandy's masterclass session. With one-on-one instruction from Brian, they'll dig into a close reading of the lyric, explore their own phrasing tendencies related to vocal technique and artistic expression; receive personalized feedback on their dramatic choices emerging from skill and intuition; and hone a performance-ready song with a sharp focus on truthful storytelling. As they work together with Brian and their fellow students to achieve their next-level performance of a selection from Mandy's extensive Broadway performance repertoire, they'll adopt new skills for showcase and critical response from Mandy herself during her masterclass slated for Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020.

We will explore the distinctions among inspiration, emulation and imitation, and how each acts as a tool for emerging professionals to find their own voice. Each student will establish and refine their own interpretation of their semester songs, one that's unique to their personality, style and artistic vision.

### Meet Brian

For more than 25 years, Brian Loeffler has served the PTW faculty as a director, choreographer and instructor of acting, song interpretation, character study and audition technique. He currently serves as Chair of the Musical Theatre Department. His commitment to professional preparation, individualized instruction, and creating a non-competitive learning environment positions him as a leading expert in trusted, meaningful performing arts education.

Brian's long list of credits include the Broadway production of **Grease!** (starring Rosie O'Donnell) where he served as Dance Captain, and national/international tours including **Bye, Bye, Birdie** (starring Tommy Tune and Ann Reinking), **West Side Story** (Riff) and **Oklahoma!** (Will Parker – 50th Anniversary Production). His regional directing and/or choreographing productions include **Jerry Springer – The Opera**, **Urinetown: The Musical** (Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award and After Dark Award for Choreography), **Pirates of Penzance**, **Grease!**, **Disney's Aladdin**, **A Chorus Line**, **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, **Anything Goes**, **Damn Yankees**, **The Wizard of Oz**, **You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown**, **The Wit and Wisdom of Will's Women: A Shakespeare Celebration** (which he conceived and co-created) and **Big River** including appearances at the Mercury Theater in Chicago, Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Carousel Dinner Theatre in Ohio, Seaside Shakespeare Festival in Nantucket and Milford Theatre in Pennsylvania.

Brian is a member of both The Actors' Equity Association and The Screen Actors Guild and most recently performed in *The Taming of the Shrew* at the New York Fringe Festival. Brian is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and resides in New York City.

*\*Students will explore Mandy's Broadway performance repertoire during the first half of the semester, and a new master TBD during the second half.*

## **Participant Information**

Exploring the Masters meets Saturdays during the PTW fall semester. Song Interpret classes group by age and level; each class is limited to 12 students. All those performing in Mandy's masterclass or participating in Brian's course must audition or receive recommendation from PTW Executive Artistic Director Dean Kravitz.

PTW strongly recommends taking **Studying The Masters semester class** and **Engaging with the Masters** in tandem, to optimize critical performance enrichment and personal development, but both courses are also available separately.

## **Course tuition for Studying with the Masters**

### **Song Interpretation Semester Class:**

\$515 for 10 classes, 75 minutes per class  
(List dates of class here)

### **Tuition for Engaging with the Masters:**

\$425 for Mandy Gonzalez masterclass  
November 15, 2020, 1:00-3:30pm

## **Dedicated Pro-Track Sessions** Info TDA

## **One-on-one with Dean**

PTW Executive Artistic Director Dean Kravitz will observe students' individual performances and synthesizing of expert feedback from Brian and Mandy throughout the semester. He'll meet individually with each student who enrolls in both offerings (and their parent, if parent wishes to participate) to ensure they contextualize their growth and set new goals for upcoming semesters. Additionally, he'll clearly communicate student breakthroughs to their PTW private instructors for performance enrichment and future development of their craft.