

2020 Spotlight Non-Classical Voice Semifinal Panel

Barrett Foa starred on Broadway as Princeton & Rod in *Avenue Q*, Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and the original cast of *Mamma Mia!* Off Broadway credits include: *The Drunken City*, *Jesus in Godspell* (2000 cast recording), *Cupid & Psyche*. Regional: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Lady In Question*, *Pirates!*, *Camelot*, *Kept*, *Just So*, *The Fantasticks*, *Gypsy*, *Children of Eden* and *The Sound of Music*. Mr. Foa studied at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, England and is a graduate of University of Michigan Musical Theatre Department.

Ilene Graff is a Grammy-nominated recording artist (for her CD, *Baby's Broadway Lullabies*) who made her Broadway debut in the musical *Promises, Promises*. She also starred on Broadway as Sandy in *Grease* and created the role of Cleo in *I Love My Wife*. Ms. Graff co-starred with Glenn Close in the Disney Company film version of *South Pacific*. Other theatre credits include *Rose* in *Gypsy*, *Charley's Aunt* with Charles Grodin and *Annie Get Your Gun* as Annie. She performs her cabaret concert *First You Dream* from coast-to-coast, and teaches Vocal Performance. Ilene is best known for the 51/2 seasons she spent as Marsha Owens in the TV comedy, *Mr. Belvedere*.

Daniel Guzman has appeared on Broadway in *Cyrano*, *The Musical* and *Les Miserables* as well as having appeared in national and international tours including *Camelot*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Sweet Charity*, *Evita*, *West Side Story*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The King and I*, and *A Chorus Line*, among others. Mr. Guzman has performed several shows at The Hollywood Bowl, highlights which include the honor of singing for Stephen Sondheim at his 75th birthday concert, as well as performing in *Les Miserables* as Grantaire. Mr. Guzman executive produced the feature film *First Comes Love* and can be seen in the new series for his production company Laughing House Productions, *The Secret Office*, both which are available online at Amazon.com. His musical *SAVE THE GIRL* is now being work shopped and hopefully will have a full production soon.

Carla Renata was last seen on Broadway playing “Gary Coleman” in the Tony Award winning musical *Avenue Q*. Other Broadway credits include *The Lion King* (NAACP Theatre Award Nominee), *Smokey Joe's Café*, *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and *The Who's Tommy*. Ms. Renata, who now recurs on NBC's *Superstore*, is the only African-American actress to recur on four episodic series on one season...TWICE. A graduate of Howard University and Adjunct Professor her book “An Actors Guide to Self-Marketing: How to Brand and Promote Your Unique Image” drops January 2019. As a Rotten Tomatoes approved Critic, her film reviews can be seen weekly at Black Hollywood Live and at TheCurvyFilmCritic.com. Ms. Renata is proud to be a Spotlight Judge for more than ten years.

Gabrielle Ruiz is most recently known for her work as Valencia Perez on The CW's *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. You can also catch her on *Modern Family*, *25 Words or Less*, *Better Things*, *Alone Together*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and *Sesame Street*. She was last seen on Broadway in *If/Then* with Idina Menzel, *Evita* with Ricky Martin, and *In The Heights* with Lin-Manuel Miranda. In 2017, Ms. Ruiz was asked to address Members of Congress in support of Arts Education Week, and she was the Keynote Speaker at the Human Rights Campaign Gala in 2019. She received her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance Performance from Oklahoma City University. She's been a host and guest artist for Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre, Syracuse University, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma University, The Hangar Theatre, Motivated Movers of New York City, and many others. @gabrielleruiz

Christopher Youngsman has appeared on Broadway and National Tours of: *Urinetown*; and *Grease!* Off Broadway/Regional productions include: *The Gorey Details*; *Just So!*; *Hair*; *Pageant*; *Forever Plaid* (jazz and standards); *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*; and *Gypsy*. Television credits include: *Hannah Montana*; *The Tonight Show*; *Rescue Me*; *Starved*; *Love Monkey*; *Tony Awards*; *Between the Lions*. Film: *Across the Universe*. He has produced events for CTG, GLAAD and AIDS WALK SF, directed and cast productions for The Wallis Annenberg, taught improvisation for The Deborah Gibson Electric Youth Camp and playwriting for The Virginia Avenue Project. Every Summer he performs with the Transcendence Theatre Company in Sonoma and every Winter is a featured singer at Hong Kong Disneyland.