

# **UCLA** DISABILITY as SPECTACLE International Conference

## Musical World Preview Performance Work in Progress

April 12, 2017, 7pm  
UCLA Gloria Kaufman Dance Theater

This is a special preview of scenes and songs of an original musical premiering at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on April 30, May 1, 2 & 4.

This performance will be audio described, real-time captioned, and ASL translated.

The Miracle Project's "Work In Progress" is a new musical which follows the lives of young adults discovering their passion, overcoming obstacles, and finding their place in the world. With a cast of actors with and without disabilities, this musical aims to help others understand the value of neurodiversity in the workplace and the merits of inclusion for people of all abilities.



**Directed by** Maxwell Peters and Elaine Hall

**Musical Direction by** Zach Marsh

**Choreography by** Hannah Warren

**Written by** Maxwell Peters, Zach Marsh, Elaine Hall, and Jeff Frymer

**Cast:** Coby Bird, Domonique Brown, Tristen Miller, Clementine Turner, Dylan Maloney, Spencer Harte, Debra Pasquerette, Terri Reuther, Jordan Leshtz, Nick Brode, Harlee Davenport, MichaelAnthony Greenfield, Elena Goldberg, Matt "Taxo" Russell, Steven Fujimoto, Michelle Friedman, Hannah Warren, Geno Creese, Ryan Berman, Max Peters, Diego Sardis, Ari Naamani-Goldman, and Andrea Kaye

## Program

Opening by Vic Marks,  
Chair of UCLA Disability Studies

Preview Performance  
The Miracle Project

Q & A with the cast & creative team

Dessert Reception  
[at] Kaufman Student Lounge, 1st Floor

**The Miracle Project** is a fully inclusive theater, film, and expressive arts program for individuals with autism and other disabilities, as well as their typically developing peers. Through the use of groundbreaking and evidence-based methodology, The Miracle Project provides individuals with autism and other disabilities the tools to build communication, social skills, community, and greater self-esteem and focuses on the strengths and abilities inherent in its participants. For more information, please visit <http://www.themiracleproject.org>.

**The Miracle Project's Founder and Artistic Director, Elaine Hall**, also known as "Coach E," has been referenced by *The New York Times* as "the child whisperer" and is a pioneer in using theatre and movement practices as a portal for connection among individuals with autism and related disabilities. Elaine was a top Hollywood acting coach when her adopted son was diagnosed with severe autism. When traditional behavioral therapies did not work for him, she developed an innovative methodology combining mindfulness and the expressive arts with what she was learning from autism experts, Dr. Stanley Greenspan, Dr. Ricki Robinson, and Dr. Barry Prizant. These methods are chronicled in her book, *Seven Keys to Unlock Autism: Making Miracles in the Classroom*, which is used as a textbook in several universities, including Brown University. Elaine's memoir, *Now I See the Moon: A Mother, A Son, a Miracle* was selected by the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day, where she has been a featured speaker. Elaine has been lauded in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as on CNN, CBS, and the Oprah Winfrey Network. The Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary, *AUTISM: The Musical* profiles Elaine's early work with The Miracle Project, which has since been deemed evidence-based and is now being replicated nationally and internationally.

**Work in Progress** will be performing in the Lovelace Theatre at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on April 30 and May 1, 2, and 4. Tickets will be available for purchase at <http://tickets.thewallis.org/>.

This event was made possible with the generous support of the Tarjan Center at UCLA, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance, UCLA Disability Studies, and The Miracle Project.