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# AUSTIN-BASED NONPROFIT THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL WELCOMES TONY AWARD-WINNER BEN PLATT THIS MAY 17 AND ‘SHAZAM!’ STAR JACK DYLAN GRAZER ON JUNE 1

*THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL also announces a presentation of ‘West Side Story’ at Dell Fine Arts Center; ADDERLEY alum Jack Dylan Grazer, teen star of ‘It’ and ‘Shazam!’ to present scholarships to students on closing night*

(AUSTIN, TEXAS - Feb. 28, 2019; source: Juice Consulting) - **THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL** announces that Tony award-winning performer and ADDERLEY alum **Ben Platt** is coming to **ACL Moody Theater Saturday, May 18** and will be making an appearance in a private fundraising event for the THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL hosted by Austin arts patrons **Linda** and **Cliff Mountain** on **Friday, May 17**. Though the event is invite only, interested patrons may contact [austin@theadderleyschool.com](mailto:austin@theadderleyschool.com) for more information about possible attendance. See [here](#) for a video about Platt’s experience with the ADDERLEY program. For more info on THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL, please see [www.theadderleyschool.org](http://www.theadderleyschool.org).

“I was lucky enough to be a student at The Adderley School for 10 years starting when I was six years old,” said **Ben Platt**. “The extent to which it changed my life is hard for me to fully express. The Adderley School nurtured my love for musical theater and planted this seed in me that has lasted my whole life. The lessons I learned there are so varied and invaluable and I want to thank Janet and all the teachers that have really shaped my entire life. I’m just very grateful that I was a part of it and I’m thrilled now to have the opportunity to give back”.

THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL is also excited to announce its presentation of “**West Side Story**” at **The Dell Fine Arts Center at Saint Andrew’s Episcopal School** on **May 31** and **June 1**. THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL invites the Austin community to see the classic retelling of Romeo and Juliet set to the music of Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein with a story all the more poignant at a time when our nation is longing to find its way back to togetherness, mutual respect and love. This performance will honor the 100th birthdays of the creative masterminds behind this timeless and transformative Broadway classic - Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins. The shows will take place on **Friday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m.** and **Saturday, June 1 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.** Public tickets are on sale now [here](#).

On closing night, ADDERLEY alum **Jack Dylan Grazer** will be in attendance to award two students in need (one boy and one girl) with an **ADDERLEY Conservatory Scholarship** from the fund in his own name. He will also be the honored guest at a second Austin fundraiser on **Sunday June 2**, details to be announced. Grazer is the breakout teen star of the hit **Stephen King** remake “IT,” the highest grossing horror film in history, and star of the upcoming DC Comic’s superhero film “Shazam!” Last year, ADDERLEY hosted “**An Evening with Jack Dylan Grazer**” in collaboration with **The Austin Film Society**. The event showcased ADDERLEY’S Advanced Conservatory, highlighting the significant ways in which it impacts the lives of students and the community as a whole. The events incorporated opportunities to meet Jack and a silent auction fundraiser to support ADDERLEY’S nonprofit children’s musical theater school.

“I started acting at The Adderley School with Janet and Alana when I was about seven years old, and from the moment my feet hit that stage I was hooked!” said **Jack Dylan Grazer**. “The skills and life lessons that Adderley taught me have changed my life. Adderley is dedicated to helping students like me come alive through dedication, team building, hard work, and having fun! I want to share the magic that I discovered at The Adderley School with others, and so I’ve decided to pay it forward with the creation of a scholarship fund. If I can do it, some spastic little kid who just wanted to make people laugh, you can do it. With the help of amazing teachers anything is possible, and I wanna help make other kids’ dreams come true. I wanna help kids who need a shot in life to pursue their calling and do what they love.”

See [here](#) for a video about Grazer’s experience with the ADDERLEY program.

“These are the best days of my life ... to revel in the accomplishments of my students - past and present - to watch them step up one by one in support of each other,” said **Janet Adderley, ADDERLEY SCHOOL Founder**. “There are no words to express my joy and satisfaction. I am so grateful to Ben and to Jack for their selfless example and stewardship!”

THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL will also participate in Amplify Austin this **Thursday, Feb. 28 - March 1**, in an effort to continue enriching, inspiring and transforming the lives of children through the performing arts. THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL hopes to reach their goal of \$5,000 during the 24-hour day of giving. To donate to THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL, visit [here](#). Donors may enter #lovetitos at checkout and Tito’s Vodka will add \$5 to incoming donations. For additional info, please see [here](#).

With the support of the community, THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL provides partial and full tuition waivers to underserved students from low-income Austin communities and stages live performances, which

offer Austin youth the opportunity to experience the magic of musical theatre. As a component of The Austin Community Foundation, a public charitable 501(c)(3) ADDERLEY "levels the playing field," giving all Austin children the opportunity to grow and flourish in its transformative theater school program, regardless of their ability to pay tuition. THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL has been operating for the past 25 years on the West Coast and moved its headquarters to Austin in 2015. In four short years, the program has exploded and now teaches over 300 kids annually in seven local locations. In addition, Adderley is thrilled to announce its community outreach efforts with after-school workshops to be held at Blackshear Elementary sponsored by Beverly Dale beginning in February.

"I have spent the lion's share of my career impacting the lives of countless fortunate children who could afford to pay tuition," said **Adderley**. "As a woman of color from modest beginnings, who grew up in Texas in the late '60s, I was also one of the 'fortunate ones.' I was blessed with brilliant, dedicated parents who supported me and taught me by example to dream big dreams. They made great sacrifices to expose me to everything - theater, ballet, music and art. Sadly, we are not all so lucky. I am determined to be a role model for those less fortunate children among us who don't have the opportunities and support in life that I had. Musical theater changed my life. Becoming a nonprofit has allowed THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL to give all children in Austin the opportunity to benefit from our life changing musical theater school program."

Janet Adderley created THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL in 1993 in an attempt to teach her shy, young daughter how to be heard.

"If I were a color, I'd be fire engine red," said Adderley. "If my daughter were a color, she'd be lavender. I created THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL to help my lavender girl find her red voice. The training students receive at ADDERLEY fortifies them for life - building confidence, strengthening problem-solving skills, instilling the importance of teamwork, accountability to something greater than oneself and respect for others, not to mention an amazing experience in theater. THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL promotes literacy and a passion for the power of the written word."

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#### **MEDIA NOTE:**

For RSVPs to either performance, general inquiries or for coverage of THE ADDERLEY SCHOOL's programs, please contact the team at Juice Consulting:

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