

## Enthusigasm – Musicals

### Content Warnings

- Innuendo
- Discussions of: anxiety & stage fright
- Mentions of: food & alcohol, child endangerment, war, illness & death

**HELEN**

It's such a hard musical to sing along to...

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

**HELEN**

... you're, like, '*enyah-heppen-rah-wroaahh-ner*' the whole time!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Oh, I love it!

**[Show Theme - Intro]**

**HELEN**

Rusty Quill presents Enthusigasm.

Hello friends and fans, and welcome to Enthusigasm, the show where we talk about a few of our favourite things. I am your host, Helen Gould, one of the best Rusty Quillers, and today we're talking about **[sings]** 'musicals'!

**ALL [singing]**

*Musicals, musicals! Ahhh, la-la-la-la-la!*

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

And I am clearly ecstatic to be joined by Liz, Lowri and Shamini. We're going to introduce ourselves alphabetically starting with Liz, so Elizabeth, what are your pronouns and what do you do?

**LIZ**

So, my pronouns are she/her, and I just loiter now...

**(laughter)**

... I loiter at Rusty Quill. Basically, for each year that you work, you get a half a years' worth of loitering that you are allowed to do before you get booted out!

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**SHAMINI**

Ooh, nice!

**LIZ**

So, that's what I'm mostly up to!

**SHAMINI**

Employment bonuses – sounds great!

**LIZ**

Yep.

**HELEN**

Yeah!!

**LIZ**

I mean, Magnus Archives, man, that was like three years, or something – five seasons? Some amount of time!

**(laughter)**

I'm sure I've got at least another half a year left before they realise that I'm still hanging around! Eating the biscuits...

**(laughter)**

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... drinking Nico's tea!

**LOWRI**

Ahh, that's where the Hobnobs are going!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN *[laughing]***

And Lowri, what are your pronouns and what do you do?

**LOWRI**

Hello! I'm Lowri. My pronouns are she/her and I produce Enthusigasm!

**ALL**

Yayyyy! Hurray!

**LOWRI**

Yes! And I do other things around Rusty Quill – a lot of different things.

Something nice that I'm doing, actually, is making puzzles for Patreon at the moment – I'm really enjoying that.

**HELEN**

Oooohh...

**LOWRI**

Yeah, logic puzzles! That's a little thing I'm doing. Yeah!

**LIZ**

Finally, that maths degree is really paying off!

**LOWRI** *[laughing]*

Yes! It's really paying off!

**HELEN**

I feel like having a maths degree and using it to make puzzles is the dream.

**LOWRI**

Do you know what? Yes!

**SHAMINI**

A very valid life choice!

**LOWRI**

I don't use the maths degree at all in it, actually, but yeah maybe I should incorporate it a bit more – make them a bit more difficult!

**SHAMINI**

More maths puzzles!

**LOWRI**

Yayy!

**LIZ**

People love maths.

**LOWRI**

They do.

**HELEN**

Famously! And Shamini, can you give us your pronouns and tell us what you do?

**SHAMINI**

Yeah, hi, so I use mostly she/her, and I'm pretty, pretty new to Rusty Quill. I've had some fun table-top role-playing game times with Helen and Lowri before, and I'm kinda hoping, maybe, to have some more?! But I also do some over with the RP geeks and we have a Dungeons & Dragons and science show, where we put our science degrees to good use by explaining all the science that happens in our campaign, basically!

**LOWRI**

I love that!

**SHAMINI**

So, I also spend a lot of time doing that, yeah.

**LIZ**

Is your campaign just, like, archaeology so you're... each week it's, like, you dust off more dust from something and then you, like, quietly glue it together, but you've got to roll for it so see how many shards you actually manage to get?!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

It's just a very calm game. That would be a lot more relaxing than, you know, flying through space and getting stabbed and shot at, which is in fact what happens!

**LIZ**

Oh okay, I see. Fair enough!

**HELEN**

Do you end up trying to explain time travel?

**SHAMINI**

We haven't had time travel yet, but our cover story for the game is that we are archaeologists so... we just never get to do any actual archaeology. It's very sad!

**(Helen laughs)**

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**LOWRI**

Oh, one day!

**HELEN**

Archaeologists who are forced to become scientists!

**LIZ**

The Harrison Ford method of archaeology!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

Right, well, we're going to get right into it, I think. We'll start at the beginning...

**LOWRI and SHAMINI [simultaneously] *[laughing]***

A very good place to start!

**HELEN**

Yes!

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

I mean, you deserved that! You deserved it!

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**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

First musical reference!

**SHAMINI**

Oh, high five, Lowri, high five!

**HELEN**

It *is* a musical reference! Who, which one?

**LOWRI**

*Sound of Music!*

**SHAMINI**

In the beginning... we're talking about a few of our favourite things, Helen!

Like, you're dropping all the references!

**HELEN**

I've never seen *The Sound of Music!*

**SHAMINI [whispering]**

You've never seen it? What?

**LOWRI**

You've never seen it..?

**LIZ [gasps]**

What?! Amazing!

**HELEN**

No, I've never seen it!

**LOWRI**

I mean, it's very long, and there are a lot of points you're, like, oh, it's the end, oh, it's not... okay, no, that's fine...

**(laughter)**

... we'll watch more!

**SHAMINI**

I haven't seen it for many, many years, I think a lot of the musicals and films that I saw many, many years ago as a child, maybe it's best that I don't re-watch them!

**LOWRI**

You know what, I've recently re-watched *My Fair Lady* – watched it over Christmas – and was just incandescent with rage...

**(laughter)**

... like, oh my god the way they're treating this woman is awful!

**SHAMINI**

Oh yeah, it's pretty bad!

**LOWRI**

So bad!

**LIZ**

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**HELEN**

We should probably say up top; many musicals do not have a great concept behind them, especially the older ones, like, *My Fair Lady* is, sort of, you can only fall in love with someone if they are Upper Class, or something along those lines...

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

You know, it's an interesting story...

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**HELEN**

... and yet, I really like 'The Street Where You Live'...

**LOWRI**

Yeah, that's a lovely song.

**HELEN**

... is, like, one of the most beautiful songs, even though he's stalking her...

**LOWRI**

Mm hmm...

**HELEN**

... as indicated by the title, and yet the musicality of it is very nice.

**LOWRI**

I've just realised that I am going to struggle so much. One of my things that's quite annoying is that if you say a song, I will sing it...

**(laughter)**

... I literally had to swallow singing that...

**LIZ**

Do it!

**LOWRI**

... I was like, no, Lowri, don't do it!

**LIZ**

Go for it! This is the option...

**HELEN**

Don't worry, the only reason that I did not start singing that song was because I was also talking at the same time, and I have, as of yet, not figured out a way to talk and sing at the same time.

**SHAMINI**

That would be the dream!

**HELEN**

So my actual first question was going to be, like, what was the first musical you saw.

**LOWRI**

Ooh...

**LIZ**

Oh... Yeah, I know that! That's easy for me.

**HELEN**

Oh, you do! Go ahead.

**LIZ**

Oh, the one that I have very strong memories of, and I honestly don't think I saw anything before that, was *Cats*.

**SHAMINI**

Really?

**HELEN**

Aha!

**LIZ**

Because, coming from small town New Zealand, you just didn't get theatre and musicals and the such, and I'm sure *Cats* toured and, I mean, my mind was blown because I had basically never seen, like, a stage production, I'd seen very little stage productions, and never really seen a musical live, and never seen an enormous tyre, like, just coming out of the sky...

**(laughter)**

... and I just remember being, like, blown away by, like, you know, the staging could happen, so yeah, I have very strong memories of going to see that and just thinking that it was the most amazing thing I'd ever seen, I think, at that stage.

**HELEN**

Have you seen the film?

**LIZ *[laughing tentatively]***

Yes.

**SHAMINI**

We don't have to talk about that, though!

**HELEN *[laughing]***

We don't have to talk about it – I was just curious to know whether that was an equally transformative experience!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

Just in a very different way!

**LIZ**

I mean, people wanted to kick us out of the theatre because the group that I was with was enjoying it so much – there was a lot of people enjoying that film.

**SHAMINI**

Oh, that's lovely!

**LIZ**

There was one poor person in that audience who wanted to enjoy it in the more traditional way...

**SHAMINI**

Oh...

**LIZ**

... whereas we were enjoying it in the way that *Cats* can really be enjoyed, with much shouting and hollering, and the such...

**(laughter)**

... you know when you watch something where you can see every decision where they thought they were making the right decision and it just ends up not working...

**HELEN**

Mmm...

**LIZ**

... and you're like, you can see the effort and it's just terrible!

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**LOWRI**

I have not seen it.

**HELEN**

I saw it.

**LOWRI**

And I'm okay with that.

**LIZ**

Oh, no, it's brilliant. You should go see it. You've got to see it with friends...

**LOWRI**

... mmm...

**LIZ**

... possibly a little bit on the schnapps...

**(laughter)**

... and just enjoy it for what it is! Weird!

**(laughter)**

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**LIZ**

Moving along!

**HELEN**

But it's so weird. So, the first musical you saw, Liz, was *Cats*...

**LIZ**

Yep.

**HELEN**

... anyone else got any... any other takers?

**SHAMINI**

All mine were... sort of the ones that stick in my memory was being in them in school and doing the school shows...

**HELEN**

Mmm...

**SHAMINI**

... which was definitely what got me obsessed, I think; especially with musicals – there's something about, sort of, like, hearing the songs over and over again, and knowing them really well – that I tend to like things more the more and more I hear them so, yeah, all those shows we did. We did *The King and I* in Year 8 and me and my best friend were little Siamese princesses! I'm going to

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not think back over any problematic elements of that, so no one point anything out, thank you!

**(laughter)**

We had a great time! Yeah, I was... like from school, basically, I was hooked on it.

**HELEN**

Yeah. I was in an extra-curricular drama club. I think one of my earliest memories of that is being in their production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

**LOWRI**

Ahhh...

**SHAMINI**

Wow!

**HELEN**

Like, it was a kids' amateur dramatics society. Mostly, I remember 'Truly Scrumptious'...

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

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**HELEN**

I remember that being... that was my favourite song.

**LOWRI**

That's a lovely song.

**HELEN**

Yeah! But in my memories now, I don't remember being on stage – I remember the photographs of me on stage...

**LIZ**

Mmm...

**LOWRI**

Oh, interesting.

**HELEN**

... because I was that young.

**LOWRI**

Yeah.

**LIZ**

So little, aww...

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**HELEN**

So that's the first musical I remember, but only vaguely!

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

I've learned something tonight because I've never seen *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and I always just thought it was, like, a comedy. I didn't realise it was a musical. So there we are!

**LOWRI**

Ahh, well I mean it's a musical comedy

**HELEN**

Yeah!

**SHAMINI**

Very much a musical, yeah!

**HELEN**

Do you not know what it's about, Liz?

**LIZ**

Like, there's a car that flies?

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**HELEN**

Yeah, it's a magic car!

**SHAMINI**

There's a whole song about the car that flies and they sing 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' a lot!

**LIZ**

Yeah.

**HELEN**

Yes.

**LOWRI**

A very pleasing thing to sing with harmony!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

And the car is magic and flies, and they end up in a different, like a different world, or something.

**LIZ**

Oh god!

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**LOWRI**

Is it ever clarified where they are?

**HELEN**

Yeah, they end up somewhere else, but there's a King, and there's this terrifying villain called the Child Snatcher...

**LOWRI *[singing]***

'What do you do...' that doll!

**SHAMINI**

And she's a doll for some reason... and she's pretending...

**LOWRI**

Yeah, that sounds amazing!

**HELEN**

Yeah, and the Child Catcher does what it says on the box and goes around stealing children...

**LIZ**

Okay.

**HELEN**

... for nefarious purposes, but I don't know whether he's going to kill them or, like, if he's just, like, child labour.

**LIZ**

Right.

**LOWRI**

I don't think they specify do they – just were, like, well this is a nice musical so let's not look too far into that! Let's just be, like, he just steals them!

**SHAMINI**

No one wants to know the answer.

**HELEN**

Then why is he in there?!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Why is he?!

**LIZ**

Basically, like, 2022/2023 season of Netflix there is gonna be an adaptation of this which is the dark version...

**SHAMINI**

Dark, gritty Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, I mean, it's already got all the dark...

**LOWRI**

Gritty Gritty Bang Bang!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI** *[laughing]*

Gritty Gritty Bang Bang! Yes Lowri, yes! Oh my god!

**LOWRI**

Oh, that's a different film, that's a different film!!

**SHAMINI**

Wait, oh no, is it?

**LIZ**

Yeah, that one's already out!

**LOWRI**

Okay!

**LIZ**

Oh no, I mean, ugh! But, yeah, I mean, it sounds like it's ripe for adaptation so it's going to be coming out soon. So, I'll get to see that version!

**(she laughs)**

**HELEN**

You can imagine, like, the weird indie pop cover of like some breathy female vocalist going, 'Oh... you... Chitty Chitty Ba...' and, like, it's sinister music and, like, weird chords strikes and, like, the silhouette of a car slowly comes into... anyway, sorry, we're doing a weird pitch now!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

It's like the *Pinocchio* song over the Ultron trailer...

**ALL**

Yes!

**SHAMINI**

... just really slow and creepy, but with Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

**LIZ and LOWRI**

Yes, yes!

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**LOWRI**

You know, one of my favourite songs is from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*,  
'Hushabye Mountain' bloody love it...

**HELEN**

Aww...

**LOWRI**

... it's just so lovely. It's so lovely and gentle. I adore it.

**HELEN**

Thanks for getting us back on track!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Oh, hey, you're welcome!

**(Helen laughs)**

I don't remember my first musical that I saw, but I think it was probably an operetta because my mum did a lot of amateur dramatics and then I joined her in doing them as well, and she started by doing operettas and then that company slowly evolved into doing musicals.

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**HELEN**

Mm...

**SHAMINI**

As so many of them do.

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

**SHAMINI**

As the audience for Gilbert & Sullivan just gets older and older, and everyone's, like, oh let's do a proper musical now!

**LOWRI**

Yep, yeah.

**SHAMINI**

And it all gets really expensive!

**LOWRI *[laughing]***

I literally have the entire works of Gilbert & Sullivan over there!

**LIZ**

Oh my god!

**LOWRI**

They have a place in my heart! So, I think the first one I vaguely remember is *Naughty Marietta* because I remember my mum used to sing me to sleep with the alto lines while she was practising...

**HELEN**

Awww...

**SHAMINI**

Ohh...

**LOWRI**

... which is pretty sweet!

**LIZ**

That's really cute.

**LOWRI**

Yeah, the first musical... I remember the musical I heard that made me go, I actually might pursue acting and musicals, and it was *Wicked*.

**LIZ**

Oh yes!

**LOWRI**

It's quite basic, but I remember listening to it and just being, like, oh my god, I love this!

**SHAMINI**

Wicked is great.

**LIZ**

Yeah...

**SHAMINI**

Wicked, yeah for me also one of the first ones where I'm, like, this is amazing – it was my favourite musical for a long time – it's just so solid, it's really good.

**LOWRI**

Yeah, except for one... two songs you have to skip! But the rest of them you... aahhh, bangers all the way through!

**HELEN**

When did it come out?

**LOWRI**

I guess I was, like, early 20s so, 15, 16 years ago, maybe. I don't know.

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**HELEN**

Wow. For some reason I thought it was so much more recent than that.

**ALL**

Yeah!

**LIZ**

Yeah, yeah, yeah!

**SHAMINI**

2003 apparently.

**LOWRI**

Ooooh.

**HELEN**

Wow!

**LOWRI**

Oh, so 19 years ago!

**HELEN**

Oh noooo...

**LOWRI** *[laughing]*

Don't look too hard at it! Don't fall into the pit!

**(Helen laughs)**

**LIZ**

It's still the noughties, right? It's, like, 2008 now?! Is that right?

**SHAMINI**

Nah, it was ten years ago, 2003, don't worry about it!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

It's fine. It's all fine! Okay. We've already alluded to this, but I have a feeling that some of us, in fact, do sing and/or dance and/or perform ourselves in terms of musicals, so I would like to hear where we started in terms of that. Because I was doing it since I was in the single digits.

**LOWRI and SHAMINI**

Ahh, ohh...

**LOWRI**

I was doing it single digits in terms of, so like, in school we'd have... I don't know whether I've brought this up on Enthusiasm before, but the Eisteddfod, which is a Welsh folk...

**HELEN**

No!

**LOWRI**

... kind of like... I'm going to describe this so badly, I'm sorry every Welsh person out there who's just, like, come on Lowri... it's like a festival celebrating poetry and music, and the schools compete in it. There's, like, a youth version so we'd to do, like, gymnastics competitions, choir competitions, there's a thing called "cyd-adrodd" where you all chant together, I don't know, you speak a poem together, I guess...

**(laughter)**

... or speak a story together. It's kind of weird, but also really, like, ooh... So, I guess, those are my first, kind of, forays into that... oh, and Mary, sorry – humblebrag...

**(laughter)**

... Mary in the Nativity, of course, when I was very small.

**SHAMINI**

Oh, you're one of them, are you?! One of the people who played Mary in the nativity...

**HELEN**

Wow

**LOWRI**

Apparently I stole the baby Jesus off Joseph because he was stealing the limelight. I don't know, either!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

I've never understood the criteria for who gets to be Mary. I was always an angel.

**LOWRI**

I'll be honest, I don't really remember. I think I was an angel the following year.

**SHAMINI**

In playgroup I was the Christmas tree on which the angel was on top of once.

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Was the angel another child?!

**SHAMINI**

I think they were just standing on a chair behind me, so it was fine!

**(laughter)**

You know, sticking their arms out over the top of my head, and I was a Christmas tree. It was great!

**HELEN**

Oh my god, you've just unearthed a memory of when I must have been in reception or Year 1, and we did a little Nativity in front of the school. That's the only time I remember having proper stage fright because I could not remember my line at all.

**LOWRI**

Ohh...

**HELEN**

We all only had one line...

**(laughter)**

... and we were all standing next to each other in front of the assembly, and I just opened my mouth and did not know what I was meant to say.

**LOWRI**

Oh, that's horrible.

**SHAMINI**

The worst line-forgetting experience I've had is we did a 24-hour rehearsal version of *We Will Rock You*, which is a Queen jukebox musical, right?

**LOWRI**

Oh, yes

**LIZ and HELEN**

Yes, yeah.

**SHAMINI**

And I played the villain, Killer Queen-

**LOWRI**

Oh, yes!

**SHAMINI**

And at the end she comes out and has one little solo bit in, I think it was in 'Bohemian Rhapsody', yeah, in 'Bohemian Rhapsody', right, so it's the big ending and I'm backstage by myself and I'm about to go on and sing the famous line from the famous song – everyone else is on stage – and I suddenly go, what's the... what's the line? And not only is there no one around to ask,

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but I know for sure that every single person in that audience knows every lyric to 'Bohemian Rhapsody' except for me, in that moment!

**ALL**

Oh no...

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

I can't remember what I did. I think I just [*mner, mner...*]...

**ALL**

Oh, noooooo...

**HELEN**

Shamini, no!

**LOWRI**

How horrible.

**SHAMINI**

I feel like you get some slack from having been up all night rehearsing, to be fair!

**LOWRI**

Yes, that's 24... yeah!

**HELEN**

That sounds like a... 24-hour rehearsal before an actual performance...

**SHAMINI**

Yeah!

**HELEN**

... is a terrible idea!

**SHAMINI**

It's a fun challenge! No, and I love it because you can't spend too much time on it, you can't get it perfect and you still get all the fun of doing a show.

**LOWRI**

Was that in London?

**SHAMINI**

It was a student, not a student event.

**LOWRI**

Oh, okay. Oh my god!

**HELEN**

Mm.

**SHAMINI**

It was great!

**LOWRI**

The worst thing I've had, it wasn't so much mis-remembering, but I did a Sondheim concert with these people and we took songs out, we put songs in, but one that always stayed was 'Not Getting Married Today'. And I don't know if you know that, but it's like really fast patter song...

**SHAMINI**

Ohhh, you can't mess that up!

**LOWRI**

And once you start you've got to keep going, and ugh, rest in peace, Sondheim, but oh my god!

**(laughter)**

Verses two and three start with the word 'listen' – it's either listen or... they start very similarly and I bloody started verse three...

**SHAMINI [gasps]**

Oh no!

**LOWRI**

... in place of verse two and it's a different length, and I knew what I'd done...

**HELEN**

You've just got to continue doing it.

**LOWRI**

... but I was, like, there is nothing I can do now. I just have to let the words come out. It was horrible, and we had to do it the next night again and, yeah, I just was alone side-stage, and just sitting there, rocking, like, I can't... what if, what is going to happen?

**HELEN**

Ohhh, honey...

**LOWRI**

It was awful. I don't know if anyone noticed because I kept speaking. Don't know what I was saying!

**(laughter)**

It was coming out!

**HELEN**

That is one thing that is very reassuring, like, the audience doesn't usually notice when you've made a mistake.

**LOWRI**

Well, actually... I think the kind of audience that we had were... because it was, like, a fringe thing, they were, like, Sondheim buffs, so they all know the song...

**ALL**

Oh noooo....

**HELEN**

Okay, except for in that particular instance!

**(laughter)**

All other audiences are fine!

**LOWRI**

Yeah! They were very lovely audiences!

**HELEN**

What about you, Liz, have you ever taken to the stage?

**LIZ**

No, not really. I did piano when I was, you know, young, and so I had to do the whole recital sort of thing...

**LOWRI**

Oh wow.

**LIZ**

... but it was just piano. I did, like, some choir, but you know you're just singing with some people, random songs assigned to you by the choir teacher, so nothing exciting in terms of performance.

**HELEN**

Can you still play the piano?

**LIZ**

Not only can I still play the piano, but I have one sitting beside me that you can't see!

**(everyone whoops and hollers)**

I'm... I won't say poorly, but I'm fairly mediocre, like, I got up to, like, I think Grade 8 level...

**LOWRI**

Liz, that's not mediocre!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

Grade 8!

**HELEN**

That's the highest grade!

**SHAMINI**

Yeah, is that not the top you can get to?!

**LIZ**

You know, like, I'm not like, er... I'm not a performer. I'm not really much of a performer in terms of, like, some people rise to the occasion...

**(laughter)**

... I don't.

**SHAMINI**

You tend to sink, somehow?

**LIZ**

Yeah, I tend to die. So, I do the thing where the bits that I have been struggling with, I manage to do and then a bit that I've always been fine with, never had to practise much, I'll just stumble over it; and I don't really enjoy that, sort of, really high pressure...

**HELEN**

Sure.

**LIZ**

... and I think also, partly because I don't remember our school really having much in terms of performance things so if you don't really practise it, you, kind of, had, like, you know, this performance that you have to do once a year which is to do your exams – very stressful – so you don't really build up much of a taste for performance.

**HELEN**

And, of course, you do it by yourself, right, so...

**LIZ**

Yep.

**HELEN**

... so all you associate with it then is exams and not, say, pizza with your friends while you're in lengthy intermission or something like that.

**LIZ**

Yeah.

**LOWRI**

Grade 8, mediocre... Jesus!

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

I mean, I wasn't passing like, top of the class or anything... I just got to a certain level and then I was, like, well are you either becoming a teacher or wanting to go into performance, and I was like, I'm not doing either of those so...

**(laughter)**

... I just have it for my own pleasure.

**LOWRI**

Oh, that's lovely.

**HELEN**

Good.

**LOWRI**

Yeah.

**HELEN**

I highly recommend having hobbies that are just for ones own pleasure and necessarily monetised because, you know...

**LIZ**

Yeah, no... absolutely love that I got the, had the lessons and everything. I guess there wasn't, like, going to be some career out of it, but that's actually true, probably, for most people that learn an instrument, right? Like, it's going down the career path is actually...

**HELEN**

Very difficult.

**LIZ**

Yeah, you know. It's a hard path so...

**SHAMINI**

I don't know why I haven't gone into it. I've got, like, Grade 5 so I could easily, obviously, have gone on to become a professional pianist... but for some reason it just didn't work out – yeah, don't know what happened there!

**HELEN**

On that encouragement, I think we're going to go to a break.

**BREAK**

**HELEN**

And welcome back. So, we have talked about our first musicals, we've talked about the musicals that we may or may not have been in. Now we're going to talk about our faves.

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

**HELEN**

Our favourite musicals. I'm going to ask someone else to start because I had about 12 come into my mind at the same time, so...

**(laughter)**

... I can't actually start this one. Sorry.

**LIZ**

It's so hard to pick a favourite.

**LOWRI**

I know immediately! Like, you know, as with all favourites, it does vary, but consistently, my favourite is *The Last Five Years* by Jason Robert Brown.

**SHAMINI**

Oh!

**LOWRI**

Oh, my god, I love it so much! I want to be Cathy. Why can't I be Cathy? Not in life...

**HELEN**

What's it about?

**LOWRI**

Oh, it's brilliant! It's, okay... it's a love story, well, yeah, it's a story of a relationship, it's just a two-hand, just a man and a woman, and it documents their relationship over five years...

**HELEN**

Mmm...

**LOWRI**

... from, I was going to say from conception, but, like...

**(laughter)**

... from when it starts to when it ends, but you see him travel from the beginning to the end, but she starts from the end...

**LIZ**

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah...

**HELEN**

Ohhhh...

**LOWRI**

... and goes back in time, and her opening song is, like, it's done, it's over, it's such a beautiful song. And then they meet in the middle and have this... and they're never on stage at the same time, or at least not in, like, the original production, and the only have one song where they interact, or two, technically – they have one in the middle which is, like, their marriage song, and then they go their separate ways, and she gets happier and he gets sadder. And then at the end they have, like, a little duet where they're not in the same place at the same time, but... oh, it's so good!

**LIZ**

Oh wow!

**HELEN**

That's such a good concept.

**LOWRI**

It's fantastic. There is a film of it which I have not watched because I just.. maybe I'm being negative Nancy, but I just don't wanna... I just don't wanna watch it. I just don't wanna watch it!

**SHAMINI**

I don't think you should watch it!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

In case it's bad!

**SHAMINI**

Mm. I just don't think you should!

**LOWRI**

Have you seen it or are you just, like, I'm supporting this?

**SHAMINI**

I've never... so, I know a lot of the songs but I've never actually seen *The Last Five Years*, but yeah, I'm also not super-keen on watching the film unless I think, well, if I'm gonna watch it for the first time, it should be on stage. That sounds really snobby!

**LOWRI**

I think the first time I watched it, I think it's online is the first time I watched it. I think they did, like, an R&D of it or something, or, like, an early version of it. It's so good. It's just so good.

**HELEN**

What about you, Shamini?

**SHAMINI**

Mine changes. You know, I mentioned earlier it used to be Wicked, and then that got replaced by Matilda – I really, *really* rate Matilda...

**ALL**

Oooh... oh... yes...

**SHAMINI**

... as a show, absolutely fantastic – really beautiful songs, really clever, lovely story, really emotional. Again, just one of those nice, perfect little packages. But, yeah, I think... I really like modern musical theatre in general and I really like how new shows come out and just, sort of, like, change the medium and do new things with them. So, I find it really hard to pick, to say what's your favourite musical because it's such a... musical is always such an arbitrary category right?

**(laughter)**

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

... you know, what's your favourite comedy musical? What's your favourite serious musical? There's so many, so I think, like you said, Helen, I'm like, I could list a whole bunch of musicals right now! This could be the just listing musicals episode of Enthusiasm, it'd be great!

**LOWRI**

We could take it in turns!

**SHAMINI**

Yeah!

**HELEN**

Yeah, and then you'd just get a load of recommendations, and I'm sure the audience would appreciate that!

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

**SHAMINI**

I was going to say that I have, in terms of right now, this week, I have been singing the *Encanto* soundtrack, just...

**HELEN**

Ohhh...

**SHAMINI**

... obsessively. I watched it just, like, a few weeks ago – it's on Disney+ – someone lent me their login, and I don't want to be a massive Lin-Manuel Miranda fan person, but it's great! I love it! It's good, I like it!

**LOWRI**

I saw it last week and loved it. I cried so... like, ugly-cried...

**HELEN**

Oh!

**LOWRI**

... at it. It was... I loved it. So, yes, I'm going to watch it again! I've only seen it once so far.

**HELEN**

Liz, what's your favourite?

**LIZ**

Oh, I think I'm like everyone else and probably have a list which changes depending on the context. I really loved *Jesus Christ Superstar* for various reasons, mostly Judas-related!

**(laughter)**

Because whenever... whenever there's a Judas...

**HELEN**

I respect that!

**LIZ**

... yep, I love Carl Anderson in the film adaptation and I... also there was an outdoor theatre, I can't remember what they're called...

**SHAMINI**

Regents Park.

**LIZ**

... yeah, yeah. So, they've got a Judas in that who is beautiful and if anyone knows who he is, please message me on my Twi...

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

You know you could probably Google it!

**SHAMINI**

I went to see Tim Minchin as Judas, I can't remember where that was.

**LOWRI**

Oh yeah!

**HELEN**

Oh that's interesting.

**LIZ**

Yeah, I didn't love that adaptation.

**HELEN**

Oh no!

**LIZ**

I struggled...

**LOWRI**

Is it because you don't think he's hot and you're, like, Judas is hot, though, sooo...?

**SHAMINI**

Tim Minchin's hot, what are you talking about?! That cannot have been it!

**LOWRI**

Sorry!

**(laughter)**

Rusty Quill - Enthusigasm – Musicals

Sorry Tim!

**LIZ**

I mean, a lot of my rating of the productions are how hot the Judas is!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

I don't care about those top notes Jesus has...

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

Actually, because it was one of the Spice Girls, right, her performance I quite liked in...

**HELEN**

There was a Spice Girl in..?

**LOWRI**

Mel C, is it?

**LIZ**

Mel C, yep.

Rusty Quill - Enthusigasm – Musicals

**HELEN**

Oh, good for her!

**LIZ**

One of the ones!

**LOWRI**

Sporty.

**SHAMINI**

The one who was in *Blood Brothers*?

**LOWRI**

Sporty was in *Blood Brothers*.

**LIZ**

Yeah, and it was one of those moments where I actually enjoyed a Spice Girl, which is not normally my thing.

**LOWRI**

Ohhh! I always enjoy a Spice Girl!

**(laughter)**

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**LIZ**

Last year there was *Anything Goes*, the production, which was just amazing. Just fabulous.

**LOWRI**

Was that with Sutton Foster?

**LIZ**

I can't remember.

**LOWRI**

Oh, I love her. I love her so much, she's amazing, she's amazing, she's amazing!

**LIZ**

Yeah, however led it was just amazing! That was at the Barbican, I think, or something similar. And then *Sweeney Todd* – love *Sweeney Todd*!

**ALL**

Oh, yes! Yeah!

**SHAMINI**

Sweeney is good!

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**LIZ**

I love all the big things!

**SHAMINI**

I just... we haven't mentioned enough Sondheim I feel yet...

**ALL**

Yeah! Yes!

**SHAMINI**

... in this episode.

**LOWRI**

Oh, that opening – I listen to that regularly with the big whistle, just the jarring 'eeeeeeee', oh, it's so good! But did anyone see the one with Michael Ball in it, playing Sweeney?

**HELEN**

No?

**LOWRI**

So, I was really, like, what's he gonna be like, but he was really good! And Imelda Staunton, I think, it was...

Rusty Quill - Enthusigasm – Musicals

**HELEN**

Yeah.

**LOWRI**

... as Mrs Lovett.

**HELEN**

Yep.

**LIZ**

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah!

**SHAMINI**

The film of that was really nice as well, I really loved all the...

**LOWRI [talking over SHAMINI]**

Yeah, I liked the film of that as well.

**HELEN**

What I really like about *Sweeney Todd* is that it's so difficult...

**(laughter)**

... it's such a hard musical to sing along to...

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

**HELEN**

... you're, like, '*enyah-heppen-rah-wroaahh-ner*' the whole time!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

I love it!

**HELEN [laughing]**

And I'm, like... and it goes from, like... and the notes sound wrong, but they work!

**ALL**

Yeah!!

**SHAMINI**

If you try and sing it separately, you're like this cannot be right...

**HELEN**

Yeah, like, oh, I can't remember the first bit of the line, but like, when Sweeney goes, **[sings]** '*but not for long...*' like, that, and it's, like, that doesn't sound right, but it works with the instrumentation and if you do it with enough... and then it's, like, **[sings]** '*they all deserve to die*'...

**(laughter)**

... and it's hard, and then he just sweeps into the *[sings]* 'da da da, da da da, da da da-da-da, da da da, da da da, da da da-da-la-da'. Oh my god, I just... I feel like people who don't sing, I don't know if they appreciate how difficult it is.

**LOWRI**

Yeah.

**LIZ**

And then the change... like, anything with a changing time signature or an unusual time signature...

**SHAMINI**

Mm the timing's much harder, yeah.

**LIZ**

Yeah. I do like Lloyd Webber because so many of his songs just use a more unusual time signature.

**[Mmmm...]**

Yep. Anything that does that changing, more than, say, like a key change, because key changes for, like, pop music are very, very common, and I'm not actually, like, you know, you can see it coming a mile away!

**HELEN**

Yeah! You can prepare for that!

**LIZ**

Yep.

**HELEN**

But when you have to quickly go into a completely different tempo...

**LIZ**

Yeah. Yep, yep.

**HELEN**

It's rough! And you have to, like, really be in control of your breathing. Mm.

**LIZ**

And as a listener, I think it's just, you know, your brain just activates differently when you're being given these different time signatures, these different tempos and...

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**LIZ**

... ways that the chords are constructed.

**HELEN**

It makes you listen differently.

**LIZ**

Yeah.

**SHAMINI**

That was quite an interesting thing about the recent Disney Pixar films where Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote *Hamilton*, has been doing the music and they're definitely a little bit more complex than you might expect from a Disney film, and I'm thinking, like, the poor small children who these films are aimed at, trying to sing these slightly...

**LOWRI**

You can imagine a generation of singers that are being bred because they're going to be growing up singing these really difficult things...

**[Yeah!]**

**(laughter)**

... but other than, just like, **[sings]** 'some day...'

**LIZ**

That's how to make me cry at the start, is like, put on *Moana* and I'm like,  
*[makes weeping noise]*...

**HELEN**

Aww...

**LIZ**

... Pacific...

**HELEN**

Yeah, I cried at the beginning of that the first time I saw it as well.

**LIZ**

Yeah, for me it's, like, all that music just reminds me of home. So, like...

**HELEN**

Ahhh...

**LIZ**

... I mean, not that England isn't home, but you know that thing where it's, like,  
summers and the type of music that you'd hear for different reasons and...

**LOWRI**

Yeah, mmm...

**LIZ**

... so, yeah. I remember the first time I listened to it and I'm, like, I'm not crying, you're crying!

**(laughter)**

... because I cry at the wrong moments!

**(laughter)**

So I cried... the start of *War Horse*, I just started crying and I was in the audience and I'm, like, it's about war!

**(laughter)**

The whole first half is about war.

**HELEN**

You're not wrong!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

No, that's very accurate!

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**LIZ**

I just immediately, because anything to do with war I'm normally, like, you know, waterworks, but... people hadn't come on stage...

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

There's an anticipation. I like that!

**LIZ**

Yep, yeah.

**HELEN**

I think I have an unusual choice, which is, it's like... I dunno if you'd call it an independent musical, it's not, like, on Broadway or anything, but it's online, it's on You Tube and it's called *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals*.

**SHAMINI**

*[sings] 'Didn't like, didn't like, didn't like to like 'em'...*

**HELEN**

That's the one! Hell yeah!

**LOWRI**

I still haven't watched this!

**HELEN**

It's so funny and, yeah, but the writers of it, they've done lots of other stuff, and they always have this thing of, like, writing something that's very funny, but still has a lot of heart?

**[Mmm...]**

And you end up caring about everyone, and...

**LOWRI**

Wait, it's not Star Kid, is it?

**SHAMINI**

It's *Star Kid*.

**HELEN**

Yeah, it's *Star Kid*. It's *Team Star Kid*.

**LOWRI**

Ohhhhh...

**SHAMINI**

And I just love all of the stuff, because, one of the things I want to say is, like, theatre, live on stage, is just out of reach for a lot of people, you can't go in and go and see that...

**[Yeah!]**

**HELEN**

And they plonk it all on You Tube...

**SHAMINI**

... *Star Kids Combo*, yeah, like, new stuff, like, funny stuff – all available for free on You Tube. It's great.

**LOWRI**

My favourite one of theirs is the *Batman* musical. I love it.

**(Helen laughs)**

Have you seen... like...

**HELEN and LOWRI [sing]**

*'Holy musical, Batman'...*

**SHAMINI**

I like *Twisted*, the, sort of, *Aladdin* spoof which was very nice!

**LOWRI**

Oh, I didn't make it through *Twisted*.

**HELEN**

*Twisted* was my favourite until *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals*, yeah!

**SHAMINI**

And *Starship* as well, because *Starship* was, like, felt really original, all about alien bugs.

**LOWRI**

I sing 'Kick It Up A Notch' all the time! It's such a banger!

**SHAMINI**

Get yourself going!

**LOWRI**

His voice is amazing as well!

**HELEN**

That's such a sexy song as well – even though it's a giant scorpion singing it, right?

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Oh, it's so good!

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**HELEN**

It's because the singer's Dylan something...

**LOWRI**

Yes!

**HELEN**

... right? And he's got such a powerful...

**LOWRI**

I was expecting you to say Dylan Thomas and was, like, no Lowri, that's...

**(laughter)**

... someone else! Yeah, his voice is just *[chef kiss]* beautiful!

**LIZ**

I think we watched that... we watched that together once actually, the... you've introduced it to the rest of Rusty Quill.

**HELEN**

Yes, I think there has been at least two occasions where I have said, do you want to watch this thing with me?

**LIZ**

Yep. And to maintain the friendship, eventually you've just got to knuckle down and watch it!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

This is what's expected of me! It's just a hurdle!

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

It's happening, it's happening! I didn't realise they had other productions out, so that's cool, I'll have to look them up.

**LOWRI**

Yeah, I think the one that made them big was *The Very Potter Musical*, which I did love.

**HELEN**

That's great!

**LOWRI**

And it's so long!

**SHAMINI**

Yeah, classic!

**LOWRI**

And again, Hufflepuff's are finders!

**SHAMINI**

But it doesn't feel long because it's online, you know, you're not watching it all in one go. It's sort of...

**LOWRI**

Oh I am!

**(laughter)**

But yeah, sure!

**SHAMINI**

Or you are, possibly, just watching it all in one go. But it's, like, you can do different things with stuff online, which I think is really interesting.

**HELEN**

Yes, like you can control all the camera angles and stuff like that, and, yeah, but there's still, like, a live orchestra or something, so one of my favourite things to look at is where, in the shots, you can see the pianist or something

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasgasm – Musicals

laughing along to the jokes. There's a very funny one in their show, *The Trail to Oregon*...

**(laughter)**

... one of them just forgot his line, and just said [*bom, bom, bom, bom, bom, bom*]...

**(Helen laughs)**

... and you can see the guy he's saying it to is the one who wrote the musical...

**(laughter)**

... and he's just looking at him, like, I can't believe you did that!

**LOWRI**

Oh, I might go and watch some Star Kid after this, actually!

**SHAMINI**

Yeah!

**LOWRI**

But you're right, it is still good... it is amazing, like, because they are so good and, just, it's all free. All free, just watch.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**HELEN**

Yeah, the production is great.

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

**HELEN**

Well, the more recent ones the production is great, like, obviously *The Very Potter Musical* one's not so much, but it was early days of You Tube!

**SHAMINI**

That's the joy of it, though!

**LOWRI**

But it started as a student thing, right?

**HELEN**

Yes, exactly.

**LOWRI**

Because they all went to college together, not that I was a huge fan or, you know, fangirl or anything!

**(laughter)**

Rusty Quill - Enthusigasm – Musicals

But, yeah!

**SHAMINI**

I only started watching *Glee* because I was like, Darren Criss is going to be on *Glee*.

**LOWRI**

Oh yeah...

**SHAMINI**

And I was like...

**HELEN**

Harry?

**SHAMINI**

... yes, this is the best thing that's ever happened, and then he appeared and he'd chopped all his lovely curly hair off, and I was, like, what? This is...

**LOWRI**

What is this?!

**SHAMINI**

... awful. Where's the hair? I was only here for the hair!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

Ah, but yeah, that the one that I'd call my favourite, *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals*, because it's, like, it's a horror comedy, which is one of my favourite genres anyway, and to make it horror comedy musical...

**LIZ**

Yep, yep...

**HELEN**

Very, very good, and also there's a song in it called 'Showstopping Number' which is exactly what it sounds like! It does, indeed, stop the show. It involves a professor doing intricate choreography and talking about how he'd always wanted to be on stage instead of being a chemist. Anyway, yep, recommended!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Okay, I'll watch it.

**LIZ**

It is fun!

**HELEN**

I'm going to ask an even more difficult question now, which is if anyone has a favourite song from a musical...

**(Lowri sighs heavily)**

... and I know, I know...

**SHAMINI**

You look so pained, Lowri!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

Lowri's look of despair!

**LIZ**

I quite like, I've always had a soft spot for 'Another Suitcase in Another Hall'...

**LOWRI**

Ahhh... that is lovely.

**LIZ**

... from *Evita*.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**HELEN**

That's a good one.

**LIZ**

Just that, like, that melancholy...

**SHAMINI**

Yeah...

**LIZ**

... and just, like, a woman getting by.

**LOWRI**

Mm.

**LIZ**

It's not the, you know, it's not banging ones, it's like the...

**SHAMINI**

And it's not, like, super-tragic, it's very grounded, right?

**LIZ**

No. Yeah.

**SHAMINI**

Just, yeah, this is life.

**LIZ**

Yep, not really falling in love, just having to move on as well. Yeah, just really enjoy that.

**SHAMINI**

Interesting choice. I like that!

**LOWRI**

Mmm.

**LIZ**

And then all the other songs!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

And also...!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Like, literally, I think I've listed about 50 songs in my... I'm just, like, 'uuurrrrhhh'...

**HELEN**

So, this might be coming out of leftfield, but I really like, in *Moulin Rouge*, the arrangement of 'Roxanne'.

**LOWRI**

Oh, yes, that's sexy! I used to dance to that all the time!

**LIZ**

I'm going to be controversial and say that's the only good part in *Moulin Rouge*, the film!

**(Helen gasps)**

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

Hot take!

**SHAMINI**

At least we're agreeing that we like 'Roxanne' in *Moulin Rouge*. We agree on that!

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

Yeah, I remember watching it and going, this is the only time in this film where I haven't been just playing the music video for the original song in my head during the thing.

**(Helen laughs)**

**LOWRI**

Oh, that scene with, what's her name, Caroline O'Connor, is it? Is it Caroline O'Connor? She's one of the baddies in it, right? Oh, just... oh, it's so good! Sorry! I got really...

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

We're just watching you, just everything is amazing!

**LOWRI**

With intensity.

**HELEN**

I love how much you care!

**LOWRI**

I just love... I'm very enthusiastic about musicals!

**HELEN**

Good! It's what you're here for!

**SHAMINI**

I'm just going to answer the question with what's in my head again, which is just so biased because I saw *Encanto* recently, so everything... but, like, just from the very first time watching 'Surface Pressure' from *Encanto*...

**LOWRI**

Ohhh...

**SHAMINI**

... I was absolutely blown away. There's no many songs that really hit me like that on first listening. Usually you have to, kinda, listen a few times. Yeah, it's salient in my mind! There are lots of other good songs, but I felt that one in my heart.

**LIZ**

Mmm.

**LOWRI**

Yeah.

**HELEN**

Yeah. I'm probably not going to watch *Encanto*, but that's purely because I don't really like animated films in general.

**LIZ**

Oh my god!

**(Helen laughs)**

How do we communicate because I only understand animation!

**(laughter)**

I don't understand these shapes before me that I can see on this call. There's just, like, a blur of, like, forms...

**LOWRI**

Just light!

**LIZ**

... it's not outlined in animation!

**HELEN**

I, like, I still haven't seen *Finding Nemo*, for example.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasgasm – Musicals

**LIZ**

Oh, well, don't watch that, that's not really...

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

There are no songs in that, don't worry about it!

**HELEN**

No songs in that!

**LOWRI**

Encanto is... like, there's so many great characters, like, the strong lady, I was like, I love you, I love you, immediately!

**SHAMINI**

The lady is the best!

**LIZ**

Yeah, apparently the merch is going out the doors for that character as well.

**SHAMINI**

I saw that today!

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**LIZ**

And, like, Disney didn't want that character...

**SHAMINI**

They didn't think it would be a match for the big, muscly lady – they were, like, here have the beautiful flower princess, and the little kiddies are like, no!

**LOWRI**

No, she's cool...

**SHAMINI**

She is so cool!

**LOWRI**

But we want big muscle-lady!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

She is cool!

**HELEN**

Lowri, did you say your favourite one?

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**LOWRI**

I haven't said my favourite song yet.

**HELEN**

Okay.

**LOWRI**

Oh, bugger!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

You can do this. We believe in you! Come on! Come on, you can do it!

**LOWRI**

I think...

**SHAMINI**

Drumroll...

**LOWRI**

... oh, it's not going to be worth it!

**SHAMINI**

No pressure!

**LOWRI**

... okay, what I've been singing a lot recently is 'Out of the Blue' from *The Wild Party*, the musical, not the show... the play. I love *The Wild Party*, it's such a good, crunchy musical...

**(Helen laughs)**

... and that's really, like, 'hmmm'...

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

I haven't seen it, but I'm going to go and listen to 'Out of the Blue' from *The Wild Party*.

**HELEN**

Mm.

**LOWRI**

Do you know what, I haven't seen it, but I've listened to the soundtrack. It was one of those ones I just used to listen to on repeat, just... oh, it's so good! I immediately just thought of, like, another 12 songs, but...

**(Helen laughs)**

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

... but yeah! Pretty much all of Cathy's track from *The Last Five Years*.

**(Helen laughs)**

**HELEN**

I will put one out there for 'Sunrise' from *In The Heights*...

**LOWRI**

Oh my god!

**HELEN**

... just because I really like the slow build of the song. It's very pretty.

**LOWRI**

The opening number of *In The Heights*...

**HELEN**

Oh yeah, very fun!

**LOWRI**

Ah, love it! Has everyone seen that film?

**SHAMINI**

Not yet.

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasgasm – Musicals

**HELEN**

I haven't seen the film, but I saw it on stage.

**LOWRI**

I loved it!

**(Helen laughs)**

I think it had bad reviews, I was like, that was just bloody fun and it's great!

**LIZ**

Mm.

**(Helen laughs)**

**HELEN**

We're starting to come to the end of our time...

**LOWRI**

Noooo...

**HELEN**

... so I have one last question to round us off with...

**LOWRI**

... oh gosh!

**HELEN**

... and that question is, what musical would you recommend to someone who had, like, never seen a musical before, like, what would be your ideal introduction? Because, for me, it probably would be Moulin Rouge because it's pop songs that the person is probably likely to know, but done in a different way and with a narrative joining them all together...

**LOWRI**

Yeah.

**HELEN**

... and I think... and it's a lot... that film is a lot of fun.

**LOWRI**

Yeah.

**SHAMINI**

It's very accessible.

**HELEN**

And Baz Luhrmann's design obviously just...

**LOWRI**

It's a feast!

**HELEN**

... just an absolute spectacle!

**SHAMINI**

I think you've got to pick... you've got to pick a genre that you already like, so if you like...

**[Mmmm...]**

... epic romantic films, you know, then go see *Moulin Rouge* because, you know, musical is like a medium, not a genre, so pick your favourite thing...

**HELEN**

Yeah, that's a really good point.

**SHAMINI**

Because some people might, you know, you might be, like, oh, musicals, they take themselves so seriously, and then people suddenly start singing tragically, in which case I'd be, like, go see *Six*, it's like a pop concert with loads of puns and history jokes, like go see *Six* right now, and someone else might be, like, oh, musicals, they're so, like, fluffy and silly, and I just can't take it seriously, and then I'd be, like, go see *Come From Away*, stop crying, then...

**LOWRI**

Go see *Parade*!

**SHAMINI**

... come tell me you don't like musicals! Ah! Don't watch *Parade*, oh my gosh!

Yeah!

**LIZ**

I would probably say, if you're in London or somewhere like that, *Jersey Boys*...

**HELEN**

Ohhh...

**LOWRI**

Ahhh...

**LIZ**

... because it's very well constructed as a story, you know, the actual construction of the story is very good, and because it's, like, that, kind of, pop music which is, like, accessible to most people, because music is one of those things where you have your likes and dislikes, so I don't really like *Matilda*...

**SHAMINI**

Ohhh...

Rusty Quill - Enthusiasm – Musicals

**LIZ**

... most people do, but I just don't like the way that it sounds.

**HELEN**

Yeah.

**LIZ**

I just don't, like, it just doesn't appeal to my, my senses.

**SHAMINI**

There's different genres of musicals as well then, isn't there? Yeah!

**HELEN**

Yeah.

**LIZ**

And so I think *Jersey Boys* was one that probably, you know, like, it's something that you go to and at the time I, sort of, went, oh, I'm not that big a fan of Frankie... I think it's Frankie Valli...

**SHAMINI**

Yeah, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

**LIZ**

... but it was just so... it was so well plotted...

**LOWRI**

Mm...

**LIZ**

There was only, like, one or two moments where I was, like, you didn't... you weren't totally engaged.

**HELEN**

Mmm.

**LIZ**

*Or Anything Goes. Once again, Anything Goes...*

**LOWRI**

Classic!

**LIZ**

... is just a load of fun. Yeah, it's just got that comic to it, so I think they're both very enjoyable.

**HELEN**

And what about you, Lowri?

Rusty Quill - Enthusingasm – Musicals

**LOWRI**

Yeah, the one I've just thought about is *Little Shop of Horrors*!

**HELEN**

Oooooh...!

**SHAMINI**

Yeah, nice!

**LIZ**

Yeah!

**LOWRI**

It's just such a... it's got some heart-breaking stuff in there, it's funny, it's fantastical... yeah, because before that my answer was going to be watch a compilation video, because that's really what got me into it!

**(laughter)**

I don't know if anyone else has seen Hey Mr Producer?

**HELEN**

No.

**LOWRI**

Oh, doesn't matter. It's just a concert, basically but, yeah, I think Little Shop of Horrors is a nice one.

**LIZ**

Yeah.

**HELEN**

That's just reminded me that the one I would never tell someone to watch is *Repo! The Genetic Opera!*

**(laughter)**

Can you imagine that being someone's first introduction?!

**LOWRI**

I don't think I know what that is!

**LIZ**

No!

**HELEN**

Oh, Lowri, okay... So, it's set in the near future where people's organs are failing and people, like, have to rent their organs, basically, and if you miss a payment then the repo men come and forcibly repossess the organ, killing you in the process.

**LOWRI**

Wowww....

**LIZ**

Is it based on the film? Like, isn't there a *Repo Man* film that's similar?

**HELEN**

Yeah, that's the one I'm thinking of. I don't know if it's also on the stage.

**LIZ**

Ah!

**HELEN**

Then there's this whole plot about there is a particular repo man who has, like, this daughter, and he doesn't want to let her out into the world, and he tells her that she's sick but she's not actually sick, he just... because he's a repo man he knows how terrifying and bad everything is, and she gets out and she gets embroiled in this rich family, and there's the singer... and it's all very complicated and weird and dark and bizarre, and Anthony Stewart Head is in it.

**LOWRI**

Oh, I'm in!

**SHAMINI**

Sold!

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

And it's a musical? It's a musical. I did not know that! Because when you started describing the plot, I was, like, I've not seen it, but I just assumed it was just a straight film.

**HELEN**

No, there are songs. There are songs all the way through!

**LIZ**

Oh.

**LOWRI**

Ahhh...

**LIZ**

Okay, we have to watch that! Okay, we will be watching that at an undisclosed time and location, wink, wink!

**(laughter)**

**SHAMINI**

On the other hand, some people might not have seen a musical since, you know, since they were in school, they might be thinking, oh, well it's all the *Sound of Music* and all that, and it's really old fashioned, like, see some new different, unusual stuff because it might not be what you think. Although if anyone has got this far through a podcast episode about musicals and they don't like musicals, then like, thank you so much!

**(laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Yeah!

**SHAMINI**

That's commitment!

**(laughter)**

Appreciate that!

**HELEN**

I'm going to take the opportunity to say thank you all so much for coming on the show.

**ALL**

Ahh, yay!

**HELEN**

This has been a lovely little get together to talk about our favourite songs and musicals and things. So, thank you very much and yes, indeed, thank you listener for coming with us on this conversation. Now, I will see you in the next episode, but for now it's goodbye from me, goodbye, and it's goodbye from them... does everyone want to say goodbye?

**ALL**

Bye...

**LOWRI**

I kinda want to sing the *Sound of Music* again because we started with the *Sound of Music*!

**ALL [singing]**

*'The hills are alive, with the sound of music...'*

*'Goodbye'*

**LOWRI**

Oh, that's going to be so good!

**SHAMINI**

That's great! You're welcome, listener!

**LIZ [singing]**

*'Amadeus, Amadeus, Aa-madeus...'*

**(laughter)**

*'Amadeus, Amadeus'...* that's all I've had in my head this entire time!

**(laughter)**

**HELEN**

Really?!

**(laughter)**

**LIZ**

Yeah, because it's *'Dr Zeus, Dr Zeus, Dr-Zeus...'* and then in the other bit... yeah, anyway!

**HELEN**

Let's stop recording, eh?!

**(laughter)**

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

**HELEN**

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**[Show Theme – Outro Ends]**

Hosted and Directed by Helen Gould

Producer by Lowri Ann Davies

Executive Producers: Alexander J. Newall & April Sumner

Editing by Tessa Vroom and Cathy Rinella

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