

PLAYBILL®

The **Adult Children Of Divorce Committee**
Of FamilyKind Welcomes You to Our
Second Annual Fall Friendraiser



Featuring

SCENES FROM **GRAND HORIZONS**

2020 TONY NOMINATED BEST PLAY

A delightful evening of music and theater virtually, featuring a talkback with playwright **Bess Wohl** and performance of select scenes from her play.



FAMILYKIND Is Proud To Present

**The ACOD Committee Of FamilyKind Welcomes You
To Our Second Annual Fall Fundraiser**

SCENES FROM
GRAND HORIZONS

2020 TONY NOMINATED BEST PLAY

We thank Bess Wohl for allowing us to feature her work today. We thank our sponsors and volunteers for all the help and support coordinating today's event.

THE ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE COMMITTEE



The **ACOD committee** has formed to help identify and increase awareness of the impact of divorce on adult children. The committee was created to provide resources and programs that foster resilience and recognition of those impacts in order to empower adult children of divorce.

Divorce hurts whether children are thirteen or thirty. The **ACOD committee** wishes to look more closely at the trauma suffered by those whose parents divorced during their children's adulthood, at a time when its prevalence is on the rise (gray divorce rates have more than doubled since 1990). The **ACOD committee** brings light to the unique and too often unspoken issues facing this demographic. For instance, adult children often question what was and wasn't true about their childhood and was there ever real love or was it all a lie. Thank you for your support of our effort to illuminate and increase understanding of the unique challenges facing adult children of divorce.

2020 Tony Nominated Best Play
Grand Horizons
A Play by Bess Wohl

FamilyKind's ACOD Talkback with Bess Wohl

Directly following scenes from the play

The ACOD committee is proud to present a Talkback with Bess Wohl. Bess, will share her experiences and profession, and discuss the unique characteristics of being an adult child of divorce.

Tonight's Theater Benefit

Original cast members of **Grand Horizons**, **Ashley Park**, **Ben McKenzie**, **Matthew Scott** and **Michael Urie** will perform selected scenes from the play. Playwright **Bess Wohl** will share her personal experiences and motivation for writing the play during a talkback. *Grand Horizons* expertly explores a family turned upside-down by ACOD in both funny and painfully honest.

Jazz pianist and prodigy, **Aaron Parks**, will perform selections from his two albums. At age 16, he began studying at the Manhattan School of Music and has performed with many jazz greats, most notably, Terrance Blanchard. In 2001, Parks was named the Cole Porter Fellow of the American Pianists Association.

Justin Mann, bartender extraordinaire, designed a special ACOD cocktail/mocktail to commemorate the event. An ingredient list will be provided in advance so you can make the libation along with Justin while he shows you the flourish of a talented bartender and shares the secrets of a great cocktail.

Biographies of Tonight's Stars

Bess Wohl's plays include *SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS* (John Gassner Outer Critics Circle Award, top ten lists in *The New York Times*, *The New York Post*, *The Guardian* and others), *MAKE BELIEVE*, *AMERICAN HERO*, *BARCELONA*, *TOUCHED, IN*, *CATS TALK BACK* and the musical *PRETTY FILTHY* with composer/lyricist Michael Friedman and *The Civilians* (Lucille Lortel and Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Musical). In 2015, Bess won the Sam Norkin special Drama Desk Award for "establishing herself as an important voice in New York theater, and having a breakthrough year." This month, her play, *Grand Horizons*, which means so much to all of us at FamilyKind, was nominated for the 2020 Tony Award for Best Play. She also writes screenplays and has developed multiple original television projects for HBO, ABC, USA, FOX, Disney, Paramount and others. She is a graduate of Harvard and the Yale School of Drama.

Michael Lorenzo Urie is an American actor, presenter, director, and producer. He is known for his portrayal of Marc St. James on the ABC dramedy television series *Ugly Betty*. Urie was born in Houston, Texas, and raised in Plano. Urie studied at Collin County Community College before being accepted at the Juilliard School in New York City and graduated in 2003. Urie has a long list of film, television and theater credits. He originated the role of Brian in *Grand Horizons*.

Ashley Jini Park is an American actress, dancer, and singer. She is known for her works on Broadway as Tuptim in the 2015 revival of *The King and I* and for originating the role of Gretchen Wieners in the 2018 Tony-nominated musical, *Mean Girls*, for the latter of which she received Drama Desk Award and Tony Award nominations. Park was born in Glendale, California and grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She attended the University of Michigan, earning a BFA in musical theatre from the School of Music, Theater, and Dance in 2013. She has a long list of film, television and theater credits and originated the role of Jess in *Grand Horizons*.

Benjamin McKenzie Schenckan is an American actor, writer, and director. His first high-profile role was in 2003, starring as Ryan Atwood in the television series *The O.C.* and subsequently starred as Ben Sherman in *Southland*. From 2014 to 2019, he starred as James Gordon in the television series *Gotham*, for which he also wrote and directed episodes. He has numerous film and television credits. In January 2020, McKenzie made his Broadway debut in the Bess Wohl play *Grand Horizons*.

Matthew Scott is a talented performer who has appeared in Broadway shows such as *An American in Paris*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *A Catered Affair*, and *Jersey Boys*. He has also appeared in regional performances of *Beaches*, *First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb*, *Ragtime*, *1776*, and *My Fair Lady*. Matthew Scott has also appeared on the television show *All My Children*. He received a BFA with honors from Carnegie Mellon University. He played Ben, Tommy and Brian as an understudy in *Grand Horizons*.

Aaron Parks is a pianist, composer, and improviser known for making music that seamlessly explores the intersections of the jazz tradition, classical composition, popular music, and folkloric songs. He has recorded for Blue Note Records, ECM Records, and Ropeadope Records. His latest release is "Little Big II: Dreams of a Mechanical Man" (2020).

Program

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Friday, October 30 — 6 to 7:30 pm

Welcome

Patty Murray, Communications
Director, FamilyKind

Libation

Bartender **Justin Mann** demonstrates how to make a Dark Manhattan

Ingredients:

- 2.5 ozs 6 year old Rye-Whistle Pig Piggy Back preferably
- 5 ozs dry Italian Amaro
- 5 ozs Snap Liqueur
- 3 dashes coffee bitters
- 2 dashes angostura
- Lemon peel

Other Items Needed: Jigger, knife, barspoon, ounce glass, martini glass, ice.

Greetings & Toast

Lesley Friedland,
Executive Director, FamilyKind

Music

Performance by Jazz Prodigy, **Aaron Parks**

Keynote

Bess Wohl, playwright of *Grand Horizons*, nominated for the 2020 Tony Award for Best Play

Performances

Scenes from *Grand Horizons* performed by Original cast members **Ashley Park**, **Ben McKenzie**, **Matthew Scott** and **Michael Urie**

Talkback

Q&A with **Bess Wohl**

Thank You

Lesley Friedland

Acknowledgements

Thank You to Our ACOD Committee

Lauren Behrman, PhD, Co-Chair

Robyn Mann, Esq., Co-Chair

Nancy Adler | **Laura Eidlitz**

Lesley Ann Friedland | **Nicole Goldstein**

James Grimaldi | **Sallie Mullins Thompson**

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2020 SPONSORS

SILVER SPONSORS

Amy Carron Day, Esq.
Day Law & Mediation

BRONZE SPONSORS

Miller Law Group

SUPPORTING PATRONS

Kate Bar-Tur, LCSW, FIFA
Michael Duncanson
Drohan Lee
Robyn Mann Law
Murray Public Relations
Dr. Kathryn Smerling and Mr. Robert Smerling

PATRONS

Dr. Lauren Behrman and Dr. Jeffrey Zimmerman
Lesley Friedland, Esq. and Dr. Andrew Propper
Melissa and Barry Gillman | Nicole Goldstein
Amy L. Reiss, Esq. | Dr. Barbara Rothberg
Sallie Mullins Thompson, CPA PLLC

SPECIAL THANKS

Justine Drohan | National Association of Divorce Professionals | Joey Propper
We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS
SAG-AFTRA

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation
in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.



ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

A support group for those who were 18 or older when their parents divorced.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS



Learn about our Virtual Meetings.

Visit our website: familykind.org/acod-committee

We understand that parental divorce can be deeply disruptive to young adults, and have a significant impact on how their adult lives evolve. There is a false message from our culture that the divorce of parents does not really matter when you are a young adult because you may be away at college, living on your own, or even married with your own children.

Group discussions will focus on the common themes that exist for Adult Children of Divorce:

- Adjusting to parents as new people and their new partners
- Role changes following parental divorce and the impact on sense of identity
- Implications for intimacy and romantic relationships following parental divorce in adulthood
- Difficulties around setting boundaries and navigating holidays and special events with separated parents

Group sessions will be conducted via a HIPAA-compliant version of Zoom. However, due to the virtual nature of this space, it is not fully private, confidential, nor is it considered a therapy group. Participants are encouraged to be respectful and mindful of one another and to practice discretion.

Participants are asked to commit to attending all 6 sessions. However, participants facing difficult financial circumstances, can reach out to discuss a payment plan.

For more information, please contact: Robyn Myler Mann at rjmann423@gmail.com or 718-316-2219

Group facilitators: **Lauren Behrman, PhD** | laurenbehrman@gmail.com

Laura Eidlitz, PhD | leidlitz@gmail.com



We request a \$90 contribution from all participants to FamilyKind, Ltd. for the 6 sessions.

Facilitators of this group have both experienced parental divorce in addition to being professionals in the field.

Open to adults whose parents divorced or separated when they were 18 or older.

**Our Sincere Thanks To Our Members
For Making This Evening Possible.**

FamilyKind's ACOD Committee Members

Lauren Behrman, PhD, *Co-Chair*
Robyn Myler Mann, Esq., *Co-Chair*
Nancy Adler
Laura Eidlitz
Lesley Ann Friedland
Nicole Goldstein
James Grimaldi
Sallie Mullins Thompson

FamilyKind Board Members

Elliot Wiener, *Chair*
Patricia Ann Fersch
Lesley Ann Friedland, *Executive Director*
Nancy Goodman, *Secretary*
Andrew Propper
Jennifer Safian
Stacy Statkus
Sallie Mullins Thompson
John Yacos

Proudly Brought To You By



[https://familykind.org/
acod-committee/](https://familykind.org/acod-committee/)



<https://familykind.org>