

THE STYLE THAT BINDS US

JANUARY 2024

YOUR GUIDE TO JANUARY

HOW TO ACHIEVE FINANCIAL
SUCCESS IN 2024

NAMES & BRANDS TO KNOW

JANUARY ARTS & CULTURE GUIDE

EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to our January Mini Mag! Happy New Year! We cannot wait to see what 2024 has in store for us all. This month, you'll get the inside scoop on new books to read, movies/tv shows to watch, what to do, where to eat and what to see. We're excited to share our beauty must-haves for January. In this issue, you'll meet a tea brand, bodycare brand, coffee brand, nonprofit, dessert brand, RTW brand, fitness concept, vitamin brand and mocktail brand. You'll get top financial tips & **so much more**. ***Our Mini Mag is shoppable - you can click on any of the images and all text that's orange & underlined is clickable to learn more.**

We hope you enjoy the issue!

Xoxo,

Alison & Delia





Meet AhHa!Broadway

Meet their Founder & CEO,
Heather Edwards, in this
Q&A:

What is AhHa!Broadway?

Serving the New York City area, and reaching into many other states, AhHa!Broadway is a non-profit, women-led organization which provides access to performing arts programming and education and even learning technology, movement classes, and initiatives to encourage literacy. We focus our impact on under-resourced and underserved children, senior citizens, US veterans, and neurodivergent and homeless adults. Everyone must have a fair opportunity to Learn. Perform. Believe. No matter their social or economic reality.

What led you to start AhHa!Broadway?

Originally created to supplement work as a teaching artist in schools, AhHa!Broadway really became more than that because the arrival of the pandemic created a much larger need in the absence of in-school and after-school programming and resources in community centers. We saw the massive need amongst children and also seniors and veterans, and quickly scaled up, developed online workshops and activities, and boot-strapped our way into making an impact. Over time, as schools and other opportunities re-opened, we grew our in-person activities. Also important to us was to build an organization that recruited superb teaching artists and fostered an environment of respect, equality, and positivity - something that is not always found in other similar organizations. So, overall, we saw a need, did our best to meet it, created the company we always wanted to work with, and have tried to grow and matter going forward.

What sorts of things does AhHa!Broadway offer?

AhHa!Broadway provides arts education and programming in musical theatre, dance, singing, acting, improvisation, comedy writing and performance, stage makeup, creative arts in technology, puppetry, and literacy advocacy, along with community events and performances to promote ideals such as kindness. These are provided via in-school and after-school programs, in senior and veterans community centers, and facilities for neurodivergent adults. Additional programs are offered to individuals directly through both online and in-person workshops and classes. And we offer an annual 2-week summer musical theatre day camp that culminates in a full performance of a Broadway-style musical.

Is AhHa!Broadway for all ages?

While originally founded to serve children, we quickly realized the need for arts programming and education exists for adults as well, particularly underserved seniors and veterans. We have created offerings tailored to multiple demographics as a result, without an age limit.



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AhHa!Broadway aims to launch special programs on our roster, specifically designed for people who want access to performing arts. But for them, it's a challenge, including comedy, writing and expression for neurodivergent adults, dancing for kids with English as a second language, and opportunities for kids without local theater programs in targeted New York City schools.

We intend to provide expanded dance movement classes for senior centers in the New York City area and bring those already successful programs to veteran centers as well. And we'll widen our successful comedy workshops to more neurodivergent adults and duplicate the program in other New York City area facilities.

For our Summer Musical Theatre Camp (which will feature a very exciting show this year), instead of simply accepting any interested student as we have done previously, we will invite as many as 5 very talented kids from previous years of our summer camp to participate in student leadership roles. We hope to fully fund 20 additional spots through private and corporate donations or grants, which will allow us to open another 20 spots to especially deserving students from a number of New York City area schools. Each school will be asked to nominate a single student based on socioeconomic challenge and exceptional aptitude, who can have the opportunity to attend the camp at no cost.

Will you share some of the effects AhHa!Broadway has had on the community?

This year alone, we accomplished so much.

We shared a message of kindness and promoted literacy, along with providing a carload of new books through live performances of the Kindness Project.

Students across four underserved schools from kindergarten through high school received a comprehensive STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math) education program, including puppetry, acting, drone technology, and even 3D virtual reality design. We provided comedy writing and performance workshops and movement classes to underserved veterans, senior centers and other community facilities across New York City for neurodivergent, formerly homeless adults. We gave a co-op of homeschooled children their first real taste of learning lyrics and choreography for a performance.

And, of course, our summer musical theater camp production of Disney's High School Musical Jr. was a smashing success by inspiring kids to what they're capable of and exposing them to all facets of the Broadway musical process onstage and behind the scenes.



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Perhaps the most exciting effect of our work is seen in the faces of children and adults, when we witness what we call their "AhHa!" moment. In that moment, we witness that they "get it", they have found their confidence, they master a skill, they realize their potential, they feel vital again, they live a dream, or they see what's possible, and they now believe in themselves in a new way, and they know someone has their back to be sure they have the opportunity to learn and grow. We know a life has been transformed, and that life will touch so many others around them going forward. Mission accomplished.

How our kids develop will shape our world. We must provide them with their best chance. And how our seniors and veterans stay healthy and vibrant is our duty. What if you never had an opportunity to be a part of a team, explore your inner creativity, find your confidence, truly express yourself, or speak publicly? Or learn how to dance, or sing, or even perform? Or what if you couldn't access online education? Amazingly, even in the USA in 2023, this is far too common. Far too many schools have no performing arts education or programming, and so many seniors and veterans have lost access to any of this programming in their community centers. Demand is growing, and support is shrinking. For seniors and veterans, it's a crucial link to community, staying healthy, and feeling self-worth. For children and teens, it's critical to their development into balanced, responsible, and fully realized adults who will be the future of our nation. It's time to turn the impossible into possible. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for children, seniors, and veterans to believe: "I'm Possible".

How can our audience get involved/support you in your endeavors?

With more than \$550 Million now being cut from New York City Schools alone, AhHa!Broadway is more important than ever. We are small but have the ability to be mighty, thanks to the support so many have shown over time. You can support our current campaign for the "I'm Possible" initiative at ahhabroadway.org/possible, and anyone can see what we're about and any current offerings at ahhabroadway.org. And we are an open book with our daily activities on social media @ahhabroadway. It's extremely helpful to follow, like, and share our social media posts to spread the word! If you want us in your school, senior center, homeschool co-op, or neighborhood venue, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us via our website.

What's next for you?

We have exciting plans for the next year to expand our programming and provide an opportunity for many more people to believe "I'm Possible" Our current focus is on raising funds and resources and forging new partnerships to make this all happen. And, of course, we're eagerly delivering services in schools, community centers, and much more each week. We are always open to new ideas and possibilities.

Where can people find you?

Visit ahhabroadway.org or find us on Instagram, Facebook, and X @ahhabroadway. We love to engage with you!



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