



**That's Showbiz!**  
**Wells Fargo Private Bank Sponsors**  
**Life on the Stage Series: Conversation and Film**

*Award-winning nonprofit arts and education hub receives major donation to support a year's worth of programming bridging the divide between the stage and screen*

**Pleasantville, NY – March 20, 2019** — The [Jacob Burns Film Center](#) (JBFC), a nonprofit cultural arts center, today announced Wells Fargo Private Bank – one of the nation's leading providers of wealth management services – will sponsor JBFC's 2019 Life on the Stage: Conversation and Film, an annual series presented in partnership with [The Actors Fund](#). This support represents a major investment in one of JBFC's signature series which presents audiences with a peek behind the curtain at live performances, as well as offers insights into the process of adapting a film into a Broadway show. The 2019 season kicks off on Sunday, May 5 with [a special tribute to Alan Cumming](#). The evening will include clips and conversation, followed by a seated dinner in the JBFC's Jane Peck Gallery as Cumming receives the first annual Life on the Stage Spotlight Award.

In 2018, the series featured such notable programs as: *The Band's Visit* (Q&A with composer/lyricist David Yazbek, playwright Itamar Moses, and producer Orin Wolf); *Falsettos* (Q&A with director James Lapine, actor Christian Borle, and actor Anthony Rosenthal); *Children of a Lesser God* (Q&A with director Kenny Leon, producer Hal Luftig, actor Anthony Edwards, actress Kecia Lewis, and actor John McGinty); and *King Kong* (Q&A with director/choreographer Drew McOnie, set and projection designer Peter England, creature designer Sonny Tilders, and executive producer Barbara Darwell Collins).

The series is curated and moderated by Dori Berinstein, a four-time Tony-winning Broadway producer and an Emmy-award-winning director, producer, writer of film and television, and a JBFC board member. Broadway productions include: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Tony Award); *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Olivier Award), and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Tony Award). Her current Broadway musical *The Prom* opened on November 15 to rave reviews. As a documentary director, her films include *Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did For Love* (Emmy Award) and *Carol Channing: Larger than Life*.

“The JBFC has shared behind-the-scenes accounts of the process of filmmaking from the perspectives of directors, producers, actors, writers, and more, noted JBFC Executive Director Edie Demas. “Life on the Stage reveals the creative journeys of live performance. Having an exceptional supporter in Wells Fargo Private Bank will only enhance the programs we deliver to our audiences.”

“The Jacob Burns Film Center is a dynamic nonprofit educational and cultural organization and one of the most successful art houses in the country,” said Joe Benincasa, President & CEO of The Actors Fund. “We are excited about continuing our partnership and delighted to deepen our experiences through meaningful sponsorship support.”

Jason Williams, Senior Managing Director of Wells Fargo Private Bank, shared Benincasa’s enthusiasm, stating “Wells Fargo Private Bank is proud to support the Jacob Burns Film Center and the Actors Fund in their Life on the Stage series. We look forward to this unique partnership and the ability to share performing arts and cultural experiences with our clients and our community.”

Life on the Stage also receives generous support from the Toscano & Polese Charitable Fund.

“Michael Toscano and Susan Polese share our love for the arts, said Edie Demas. “We are profoundly grateful for their continued friendship, involvement, and support.”

For more information, visit <https://burnsfilmcenter.org/film>, FB: [@JacobBurnsFilmCenter](https://www.facebook.com/JacobBurnsFilmCenter), Twitter: [@JBFC\\_ny](https://twitter.com/JBFC_ny) and Instagram: [@JBFC\\_pville](https://www.instagram.com/JBFC_pville).

*[Jacob Burns Film Center](https://www.burnsfilmcenter.org/) is a nonprofit arts and education hub located on a three-building campus in the New York Metro area. The JBFC brings the transformative power of film to the surrounding community through unique programming and discussions, shared experiences, and educational initiatives. Since opening in 2001, over 3,000,000 people have enjoyed the best of current American and foreign cinema, unique film series, and special events at the five-screen theater complex. A pioneer in visual literacy education, the JBFC offers courses in filmmaking, screenwriting, animation, and more for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab, and develops media literacy curricula for schools throughout the region.*

*[The Actors Fund](https://www.actorsfund.org/) is a national human services organization that helps everyone—performers and those behind the scenes—who works in performing arts and entertainment. Serving professionals in film, theatre, television, music, opera, radio and dance, The Fund’s programs include social services and emergency financial assistance, health care and insurance counseling, housing, and employment and training services. With offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, The Actors Fund is a safety net for those in need, crisis or transition.*

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