



MUSICAL THEATER SONGWRITING CHALLENGE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING.
Collaborators are Disney Theatrical Productions and
Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals company.

MAKAI KEUR & JULIAN WATSON Coaching Team

MENTOR: Shakina Nayfack

Originally from Southern California, Nayfack has enjoyed an eclectic career as a performer, director, writer, producer, and social activist. Most known for her role as Lola in the Hulu original comedy series *Difficult People*, Nayfack can also be seen on Marvel's *Jessica Jones* (Netflix) and *The Detour* (TBS). Upcoming: *Transparent Musicale Finale* on Amazon. Nayfack is also the founding artistic director of Musical Theatre Factory (MTF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing new work. Through MTF, Nayfack has supported the development of numerous new musicals by the next generation of Broadway composers. In 2015, Nayfack received a Lilly Award recognizing the remarkable contributions to the American Theatre made by women. She is also a two-time Drama League fellow.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Benjamin Rauhala

Rauhala is the associate music director for the Broadway-bound production of *The Secret Life of Bees*, directed by Sam Gold, which ran at the Atlantic Theater this summer. He worked on the music team for both Bartlett Sher's Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* and the Broadway production of Duncan Sheik's *American Psycho* during the 2016 season. He is best known for his work touring the country as the music director for Jeremy Jordan, the Tony-nominated star of Broadway's *Newsies* and The CW's *Supergirl*. He previously served as music director for *Hit List*, the meta-musical from the NBC television show *SMASH*. Rauhala also is an original programming producer at Feinstein's/54 Below, where he has created dozens of sold-out concerts, including the 'Broadway Loves' Series.