

Wagner College grad cast in Broadway show

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Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical "Dear Evan Hansen" is adding Wagner College Theatre alumni Alex Boniello to its cast list.

Boniello, a WCT major who graduated in 2013, got his big break as the voice of Moritz in Deaf West's acclaimed 2017 Broadway revival of "Spring Awakening." As of this year, he is taking over the role of Connor Murphy, originated by Tony nominee Mike Faist.

"This role resonated with me the first time I saw it off-Broadway," Boniello told SILive. "I knew that somehow, someday, I wanted to be a part of this production. I'm really excited that it's happening. I'm excited to start."

Faist's final performance is May 13 — Boniello joins the "Dear Evan Hansen" company May 15.

MORE ABOUT THE SHOW

"Dear Evan Hansen," with music and lyrics written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, captures the zeitgeist

of modern day. Using catchy songs and a high-tech set design to bring suicide awareness into the conversation, the show has generated the most massive mainstream stage stir since "Hamilton."

The titular character, Evan Hansen, is a high school senior who suffers from social anxiety disorder, which inhibits his ability to connect with other people. After the death of one of his classmates (Connor Murphy), he fabricates a lie that inadvertently brings him closer to the classmate's family while also allowing him to gain a sense of purpose.

WCT BUDDIES REUNITE

Boniello isn't the only Wagner College alumni on the "DEH" cast list: Former WCT majors involved in the production are assistant stage manager Danielle Buccino and Olivia Puckett, an understudy.

"DEH" marks the ninth show Boniello and Puckett have been in together. Among that list are Wagner College Theatre's productions of Stephan Sondheim's musical revue "Putting It Together" and "RENT."



Alex Boniello, right, with co-star Olivia Puckett in Wagner College Theater Department's production of "The School of Lies." Boniello is taking over the role of Connor Murphy in Broadway's "Evan Hansen." Karen O'Donnell