



AMBER ARDOLINO

BROADWAY PERFORMER

"I'D RATHER BE STRONG AND WRONG THAN MEEK AND TIMID WITH MY CHOICES. IT OPENS SO MANY DOORS WHEN YOU YOU'RE UNAPOLOGETICALLY YOURSELF."

The brights lights of Broadway called Amber from a young age. Although being a Broadway Performer requires dedication and long days, she couldn't see herself doing anything different.

WHAT IS YOUR UNIQUE GENIUS?

"The ability to give people the opportunity to come live in a world that they don't normally get to live in through dancing, singing and acting."

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER?

"I started at a very young age. I started dancing when I was three years old and I started singing around the age of 12. From there, I was always in dance class, singing class, and acting camps growing up. I went to Performing Arts High School when I was about 14 and it just kind of took off from there. I had the bug at such an early age."

IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR CAREER A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU?

"I never saw myself at a typical 9 to 5 job. This job fulfills me creatively in ways that I don't know if another job could. I started performing because I just love performing. I love doing it for me. I was always drawn to dancing, singing, acting, whether I was on a stage or whether I was doing it alone in my bedroom."

"Something inside of me tells me I have to do this. There's nothing else I want to do besides this."

WHAT DOES A DAY IN THE LIFE LOOK LIKE?

"As a performer, we do eight shows a week. In the morning I'll spend some time with my dogs and have a moment for myself. Then I'll head to the show. In my current show, there's a lot of tap dancing, so I always give myself a proper warm up. After that, I start getting ready and then I wait for the call."

In between shows I like to grab some food and get ready for the second show. The second show is the same situation. I get out of my show around 11 p.m. every night. You start your day early and end your day late."

WHAT SKILLS DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR JOB?

"The obvious skill is being well trained in dancing, singing and acting. But you are also constantly navigating criticism. Having a backbone in this business is an important skill. Another skill is dropping every facade and showing people who you are."

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

"When I was younger, I had a lot of people tell me I couldn't do certain things. It lit a fire under my butt to prove to them that I could. Your intuition and your gut is always right. If people try to put you in a box, don't let them."

"Looking back, I know that every bit of this journey has got me to where I am now. I believe in that, I trust in that, and know that what I'm doing is enough."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF ON YOUR JOURNEY?

"Something that I am really proud of is having people come see *Funny Girl* and say they came for me. A lot of people come to see the leads or for the show itself, but to have someone say they came to support me, that is something I'm really proud of."

WHAT IS THE COOLEST PART OF YOUR JOB? WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

"I get to wear really cool costumes every night. I get to work with really talented people and perform for new audiences nightly. I love giving people the opportunity to be immersed in something that they normally don't get the chance to be in."

It's challenging to get through a week—it's a really crazy schedule. Not a lot of people put their bodies through the wringer day in and day out. So physically being able to get through the challenges of constantly working and being on the go is challenging."

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIELD/JOB?

"What people don't know is some of the skills you need to have in this job. Can you go through an entire rehearsal process and get through it emotionally? There's so many demanding things about this job."

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

"I went to a performing arts high school growing up so the next step was college, but something in me knew I wasn't meant to stay in school. I went to college but found every opportunity to put myself in the middle of New York City. I ended up booking a show when I was a freshman so I left college and went straight to the city. That's how I got my start in my career."