

2021 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

MIKE FAIST

GRADUATED: 2009

RESIDES: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Mike Faist graduated from Gahanna Lincoln High School in 2009 moving to New York City at the age of 17. Mike was in the original Broadway company of "Newsies", where he was nominated for an Antoinette Perry award. Mike originated the role of Connor Murphy in the award winning Broadway production of "Dear Evan Hansen" earning him a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Featured Role in a musical in 2017.



Mike received a Grammy award for the best musical theater album (Dear Evan Hansen), along with a daytime Emmy award for outstanding musical performance in a daytime program (NBC Today show performance).

Mike has been in numerous Off-Broadway productions working with playwrights such as Steven Levenson, and Branden Jacobs - Jenkins. Faist will be starring on the big screen as Riff in Steven Spielberg's film adaptation of "West Side Story", set to be released in December 2021.

"Mike's talents on stage and on camera speak for themselves. Not everyone gets a Tony nomination, fronts two Broadway powerhouse shows, and gets hand selected by Steven Spielberg to play a lead in "West Side Story" before they are 30. But there is an aspect of Mike that perhaps should earn him a spot in the Hall of Fame beyond his talent: his humility." commented Gahanna Lincoln High School teacher, Chris Wagner.

Mike chose Lincoln High School for its theater program where he felt accepted and seen amongst the staff and his peers. He still remains very close with his theater class and his mentors who have always been there to give him advice. He is grateful for the support that Gahanna has always provided for him and still feels at home whenever he visits.

Gahanna Lincoln High School theatre director, Cindi Macioce said, "Mike is the type of student we want all our students to be: curious, compassionate and caring. His work ethic is unmatched. Mike is a man of integrity, character and passion."