

Alex Weisman

Class of 2006

Since Alex Weisman graduated from NSU University School in 2006, he has been a success on both the stage and screen with a career that's taken him from *Sesame Street* to Hogwarts. In 2010, Weisman earned his bachelor's degree in theater from Northwestern University. During his time in college, he found a home with TimeLine Theatre Company, where his performances were consistently acclaimed by theater critics and newspapers.

He has been nominated for Chicago theater's prestigious Joseph Jefferson Awards several times and has won the honor twice: first, as Best Supporting Actor in a Play for his performance as Posner in *The History Boys*, and later, as Best Actor for his dual role of Jason and Tyrone in *Hand to God*. Weisman made his Broadway debut in 2018 as part of the original cast of the Tony Award-winning play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. On television and in film, Weisman has played memorable roles on *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago Med*, *New Amsterdam*, *Inventing Anna*, Stephen Cone's *Black Box*, and *An Acceptable Loss*, among many others.

Weisman received the Donate Life Hollywood Inspire Award for his role as a heart organ donor in *New Amsterdam*, a role that mirrors his personal history of having multiple open-heart surgeries. Weisman recalls his friends and USchool teachers coming together to support him through one of those procedures the summer before his Junior year. Weisman is proud to provide representation coupled with his work with the Adult Congenital Heart Association.

In 2021, Weisman starred in an episode of *Sesame Street* in which he became a part of television history. In the episode "Family Day," he plays the character Frank, one of two fathers in a family unit introduced to the neighborhood. Frank says to Elmo, "There's all kinds of different families. But, what makes us a family is that we love each other." The episode won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Children's Programming, furthering *Sesame Street's* legacy of promoting diversity and inclusion in children's media.

Weisman credits USchool with teaching him to prioritize well-roundedness, a quality that protects against the artistic tendency to see the world through a myopic lens. Instead, he uses his work to breathe life into multiple points of view. He traces his deep love of literature back to classes taught by Mrs. Winrow and Mrs. Morris. Over the decades, Weisman has remained an avid reader, and as an actor, he considers text analysis his favorite part of taking on new jobs.

During his time at USchool, he and his fellow Forensics Program teammates (namely Noah Cantor, Michael Allen, and Sarah Moore) made waves on the national circuit, despite the program's modest size. Together, they won a national championship in Duo Interpretation his Junior year. Staying true to their passions and convictions, Weisman and his teammates helped revitalize USchool's Forensics Program, which has grown to see much success in subsequent years.

He looks back fondly on his USchool education, including chorus with Mr. Gress, AP Physics with Dr. A, and math classes with Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Dubin, and Mrs. Pohlman. More highlights of his time at USchool include performing in school productions including *Peter Pan*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *Crazy for You* and building the Homecoming celebrations as part of Student Council.

In 2008, he returned to the USchool stage to take part in the *Alumni Reunion Musical Revue* for which the cast reprised "best of" moments from the school's musical theater canon. His talent was certainly on full display, as was his joy of reuniting with fellow alums to give back to the school. Weisman also gave back to his theater community by participating in Broadway Bound Kids' *Broadway Bee* in support of arts education programs. Today, he resides in New York City, where he just completed his five-year journey on the Broadway stage in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.