

## **TSF Tour LIVE: Ginna Claire Mason and Mary Kate Morrissey**

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**Intro:** Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you today. We've got a great show in store. Today we have my friends, your favorite witches from Wicked the musical, Ginna Claire Mason and Mary Kate Morrissey.

Throughout this whole month you've been hearing all of our That Sounds Fun tour live conversations from June. If you've missed any of them, go back. They are so fun, so different, so good. We did save some of each interview just for the live audience in the room, but you're gonna hear most of it here, and of course, live feedback from the audience.

Ginna Claire is currently Glinda on Broadway opening again in September and Mary Kate is Janis on the Mean Girls National Tour. During the pandemic, they created a virtual musical theater school called Double Name Witches. They're some of my dearest friends. Y'all have heard them on the show and you love them. I do too. I loved having them with me at our Milwaukee, stop and listen, you've got to stick around to the end. You're just not ready. You're not ready. So don't go anywhere. This whole conversation is so good with a special treat at the end. So here is my chat live in Milwaukee with two of my dearest friends, Ginna Claire and Mary Kate.

**Annie Downs:** Will you please join me in welcoming our friends, Ginna Claire Mason and Mary Kate Morrissey. Oh, my gosh. I know.

**Ginna Claire:** I love you.

**Annie Downs:** Oh, I love it. Right? I know. Wow, look at you. Look. Nice. That was you.

**Ginna Claire:** You're looking green, Mary Kate.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, you're looking so green.

**Mary Kate:** You too.

**Annie Downs:** Welcome, everyone. You have to talk into your microphone. You look excited, but you have to be in the microphone.

**Mary Kate:** I didn't even say anything. I was just like breathing heavily. I was like, h, ha, h, ha

**Ginna Claire:** We tell our students when they're nervous that excitement feels a lot like nerves. So we just have to change the mindset. We're just excited.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah. Start there. Who are your students? What do you mean? Some of them are here tonight.

**Mary Kate:** We do have students here tonight.

**Annie Downs:** Where are y'all?

**Mary Kate:** They're over here.

**Annie Downs:** Yay! Hi friends. Hi. Okay, so what happened? How did you get students? What happened?

**Ginna Claire:** We had a lady boss brunch with you.

**Annie Downs:** Oh, my gosh, that's not, but we did.

**Ginna Claire:** And we had pancakes.

**Mary Kate:** Actually, that is how it happened.

**Ginna Claire:** Trevor made a compote. Is that how you say it?

**Annie Downs:** Yeah. Yeah, your fiancé at the time made a compote.

**Mary Kate:** That's right.

**Ginna Claire:** No, boyfriend at the time, then fiancé.

**Annie Downs:** Right. Y'all weren't even engaged yet?

**Mary Kate:** I know. Crazy.

**Annie Downs:** That's awesome.

**Ginna Claire:** I don't know. Where do we start?

**Mary Kate:** Where do we start?

**Annie Downs:** Start with... so, in 2020, you were on Broadway as Glinda in Wicked. You were on the road on the touring cast of "Mean Girls" as Janis.

**Mary Kate:** Correct.

**Annie Downs:** And then pandemic.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. And then both of our shows were shut down, which was crazy. It was so weird to see. Because I was in Fort Lauderdale when the show shut down. And that's where all of the cruise ships are docked. And I don't know if you remember, but the cruise ships were hit first. Like that was one of the first things that was like a red flag for the United States. And Fort Lauderdale was one of those places. So we were going from sold-out houses to like, "Okay, now there's only a third of the audience filled."

**Annie Downs:** Oh, wow.

**Mary Kate:** "This is weird." So weird that my dad came to the show and heckled the whole show and it was fine. I wasn't even embarrassed. I was like, "This one doesn't even count. Nobody is here. This one's just for dad."

**Annie Downs:** "My dad's the only person in the audience."

**Mary Kate:** I have this line that like, "Art, art, art." And then from this row, I heard, "Art, art, art." Oh, my gosh, my boyfriend is feeding him old fashions. Anyway, and GC was on Broadway, obviously playing Glinda in Wicked and they basically were like, "This is no longer safe for anybody. Not safe for your audiences and not safe for your actors or your backstage." There are so many people who are affected by it. And so we both went home.

I mean, I flew back to Downingtown, Pennsylvania where my parents live and GC went to her beautiful home in New Jersey to her husband. We were like a month in and GC was saying like, "This isn't so bad."

**Ginna Claire:** You call me and you're... we had taught individually sort of on the road little masterclasses here and there with universities and things. And MK was like, "I think it's time we start our teaching business." Actually just-

**Annie Downs:** Were you scared? When it ended, when Broadway shut down, before you have the new idea for... your business is called Double Name Witches because you're both in Wicked.

**Ginna Claire:** We have double names.

**Annie Downs:** And you both have double names. And you're not act-

**Ginna Claire:** Actual witches.

**Mary Kate:** No. No, no.

**Annie Downs:** Just to be clear, they are lovely people.

**Ginna Claire:** We are Christians.

**Annie Downs:** They're Christians. We're Christians. I mean, were you scared in that window of time between Double Name Witches and Broadway?

**Mary Kate:** I think what was interesting is we kept hearing... I mean, I think maybe everybody in every industry was like... Well, when we originally shut down, it was like, "Broadway will be back in one month." And then after that, it was like, "Two more months." And then it was like, "This fall." Then it was like, "Next year." It kind of came in digestible chunks, I guess. So that was good.

I do remember when Broadway actually shut down, I was in Florida filming a TV show. It was Central Florida and the pandemic had not affected Central Florida at all. I was going to TJ Maxx being like, "What is happening? What is corona?" And then I remember my manager called and I was just walking around the pool and he was like, "I think it's gonna be September before Broadway is back." And was like, "You're crazy. Not a chance." And then here-

**Annie Downs:** And now it's September of 2021-

**Ginna Claire:** And here we are.

**Annie Downs:** ...before Broadway comes back.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie Downs:** What do you know about God now that you didn't know that day?

**Mary Kate:** Well, I mean, everybody says it, but you can... He laughs at your plans, man. Literally. I'm like, "I'm gonna finish this contract in August. It's gonna be great. I'll go back to New York, make my Broadway debut. God's up there like, "No, you're not." He laughs at your plans.

But I think that we cannot plan what God can. I think that He like... everything that GC and I... I just said this to you. Everything we speak into existence, it happens, it happens, but it doesn't happen at the time where we expect it to or our timeline. But I think what I have learned through the pandemic is to just like, "All right, I have made it this far with your grace and your love and my life has only gotten so much better since I've turned my heart to you, that like, whatever. Here we go. Let's ride this wave and whatever's for me is for me, because that's what you want."

**Annie Downs:** That's beautiful.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah, God's timing. I think God shows His sovereignty in His timing. And if we just sort of release control and let it all unfold, His plans are better than ours. And even when we're trying to like dream really big and God size our dreams, it's still better than we could have ever hoped.

**Annie Downs:** In the last year and a half when you weren't working, what happened in your life?

**Ginna Claire:** I had a baby.

**Annie Downs:** She had a baby. She had a baby.

**Ginna Claire:** He's over there. He's got a TSF (That Sounds Fun), DNW (Double Name Witches) custom onesie on.

**Annie Downs:** He also has a backstage pass that is the size of a half a card. It's adorable. It's perfectly his size.

**Ginna Claire:** It says his name in everything. He's so cute.

**Annie Downs:** I mean, so you end up having a year and a half off of work, and it just is the right time for you and Eric to have a baby.

**Ginna Claire:** God's timing is perfect.

**Annie Downs:** Right. I mean does it-

**Ginna Claire:** It was like a built-in maternity leave.

**Annie Downs:** With no money. That's cool.

**Ginna Claire:** One of our students is here. It was really fun because I found out pretty early on into our teaching time and it was really fun the date we got to tell the students too. Remember that, Molly? You were there.

**Annie Downs:** When you got to tell them that you were pregnant?

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah.

**Annie Downs:** How early did you tell them?

**Ginna Claire:** I think it's like five months.

**Annie Downs:** Okay. Oh, yeah. Because I guess they're watching on screen. So it's not like they know.

**Mary Kate:** I don't want to claim this but she did tell me before her husband.

**Ginna Claire:** Wait, it's true. It's because we were having a planning meeting for our fall classes.

**Annie Downs:** And Eric wasn't there.

**Ginna Claire:** And Eric wasn't there. And I had just found out. I was like, "Before we schedule eight classes, I just have to let you know." It's okay. I told him a couple days later.

**Mary Kate:** In-person.

**Ginna Claire:** He's a pilot. I had to wait and tell him in person.

**Mary Kate:** In-person.

**Annie Downs:** And how about you during your break?

**Mary Kate:** During my break, I got married.

**Annie Downs:** You got married. Y'all did not have casual 2020s and 2021s.

**Mary Kate:** No, I mean, we did not at all. We did walk about like... the pandemic is awful. It is so terrible and no one is disputing that. Right? It is terrible. But my year was so fun. It was so

fun. We created DNW, which was so life-giving. I mean, if you don't know our business is that we have online virtual musical theater studio and we have about 100 students at any given time. We created three separate curriculums with-

**Annie Downs:** It's unbelievable.

**Mary Kate:** It's crazy. We did it ourselves. We built it and then we did it. And what ended up happening is that because the foundation of our business is friendship, our kids are all friends.

**Ginna Claire:** It's so sweet.

**Mary Kate:** It's so cool. And so in a time where kids don't have community and they're at a school, and it's this awkward period of them kind of stepping into who they want to be, right, they had a place to go that was on our watch. It felt amazing.

**Ginna Claire:** I think it's cool. Mike was talking about online school, and it was really sweet for us to see, you know, I think a lot of us got zoomed out during the pandemic. But seeing students, artists, creatives hungry to pursue this craft that even maybe after a long day of Zoom school would come to class hungry to learn and to dive into this craft in a Zoom Box and figuring out creative ways to make that work.

**Annie Downs:** They would send me the link to the recitals at the end of every class, and you're watching like six-year-olds perform in their living room on Zoom and they have Broadway stars being like, "That was great." Yeah, you're great." And she's like six. How in the world is she getting this opportunity? It was unbelievable.

**Mary Kate:** But because of that they changed. We've seen so many, especially like, especially like our young women, they change. They're so told by society to be one thing, to think one way. And they come to our class and we're like, "No, do you." What makes you feel good? What sounds fun? What makes your brain creative? Lean into that. And then because of that, especially our students we've had for a long period of time, we see them change. And it's so weird and so cool.

**Ginna Claire:** It's really sweet. Because the ones who are here tonight have been with us for a year now. We were at Panera with them this afternoon being like, "You've grown so much in the last year."

**Mary Kate:** "And you're also so much shorter than I thought you were."

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah, on the monitor of my basement, you guys were ginormous. No, just, yeah... And the gift of getting to be part of their life.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie Downs:** MK, a lot of our friends who have known y'all both actually through multiple podcast episodes in the last... four years? Three years? Four years? Forever.

**Mary Kate:** Forever. Yeah, maybe.

**Annie Downs:** You were not married when we met you.

**Mary Kate:** No, I wasn't.

**Annie Downs:** Will you tell us about Trevor?

**Mary Kate:** Oh, man. I mean, Trevor Blake.

**Annie Downs:** Y'all can tell the story because I don't think you told it on the podcast. Did you?

**Mary Kate:** How GC picked him?

**Annie Downs:** Yeah. GC swiped on Trevor, who MK married.

**Mary Kate:** We were doing a musical workshop of Sheryl Crow's musical. I don't know if I can say that, but we were doing it. And we were working downtown and my ex was there. And GC-

**Ginna Claire:** Oh, you gonna go there?

**Mary Kate:** I'm gonna go there.

**Ginna Claire:** She's going there.

**Mary Kate:** So Annie is me-

**Annie Downs:** Always.

**Mary Kate:** ...and GC is my ex and I'm GC. And GC is just like this.

**Annie Downs:** Just blocking.

**Ginna Claire:** And Mary Kate looked up at me like, "What are you doing?" I was like, "I'm just being a mama bird." I was like, "This is a fancy workshop. Sit down. We have to... Come on. Let's be cool."

**Mary Kate:** And she's like, "No, he's here." And I'm like, "Oh, my gosh." And I had never met him in real life. I was just like, "That's him. That's him." So I'm like-



**GINNA CLAIRE:** Friends have like an “ex” radar.

**ANNIE DOWNS:** Yes.

**MARY KATE:** Seriously.

**ANNIE DOWNS:** Yes. Yes.

**MARY KATE:** Seriously. So GC takes me out for Manhattans in Manhattan and she's like, "We're doing this. We're setting up your Bumble profile. We are going for it." And then because she's her, she did and made me look amazing and sound really funny, which I love.

**GINNA CLAIRE:** "None of these pictures are doing you justice." She was like, "I don't want to get anyone's expectations too high."

**MARY KATE:** I was like, "I just want to look like my photo even if I'm coming from running or whatever it is."

**ANNIE DOWNS:** Right. Right.

**MARY KATE:** You know what I mean?

**ANNIE DOWNS:** I want to over-serve when I get there, not under-serve.

**MARY KATE:** Yes. Sandbag them. Sandbag them.

**ANNIE DOWNS:** That's right. That's right.

**MARY KATE:** That's the key honestly.

**ANNIE DOWNS:** That is the key.

**MARY KATE:** Make them think you're ugly and show up hot.

**ANNIE DOWNS:** That's it. Make them think you're ugly and show up hot.

**MARY KATE:** Hey Blake.

**ANNIE DOWNS:** That's actually it.

**MARY KATE:** Sage dating advice from Mary Kate Morrissey - Blake.

**Ginna Claire:** Hey, I'm married now, aren't I?

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, it worked.

**Mary Kate:** It worked.

**Annie Downs:** It worked.

**Mary Kate:** It worked. So GC... she's swiping through, and she's swiping on all of the boys that she thinks she wants me to date.

**Ginna Claire:** And I said, "He's cute. He's in finance. He's not an actor. He loves Jesus. He's perfect."

**Mary Kate:** And I was like, "Okay." So I'm like sending the same message to each guy.

**Ginna Claire:** Is it the Whole Foods line?

**Mary Kate:** It was like, "I'm going to Whole Foods. Do you need anything?"

**Ginna Claire:** Because if they didn't say cheese, you'd be like, "Fine," or whatever.

**Mary Kate:** Crushed, crushed almond butter.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah, something fu... like, show me you're funny.

**Mary Kate:** But for Trevor, I was like, "No, no, I need to write something to him."

**Annie Downs:** Right away you felt something different?

**Mary Kate:** Well, I was just like, "Yeah, let me..." He's interesting. And I had never met anybody from Bumble, and he's the only one I did. Like, well, that go around. But he was the only one I did. So I was like, "Let me actually take my time here and just construct something that matches his profile so we can actually feel each other out." And then he almost didn't come to our first date, but then ended up showing up late, but it was okay.

And we spent the whole day trying to look for a bar because he was like... he took me to this wine bar, it was too crowded. He took me to this other bar, it was too crowded. He took me to this other bar, and finally, he was like, "Do you just want to go to a dive bar."

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, just go to a dive bar.

**Mary Kate:** I was like, "Yes, let's go." So we went to this dive bar that was still decorated for Christmas and stayed there for eight hours, I think, drinking Guinnesses. I was probably wasted. And he just kept ordering more. I'd be like, "I can't have another one," and he'd be like, "Well, we'll just share one then." And I'm like, "I want to stay. I want to stay and talk to you so I'm good as... Okay, fine." Then I'm like, "You know, call me an Uber. I got to go home."

**Annie Downs:** Right.

**Mary Kate:** Anyways, fast forward from there, I mean, he's just the best guy and he is... I don't know, he's the man of my dreams, you know. He's not the guy that I would have expected myself to marry or be with long-term. But I think there's God, like, won't He do it.

**Annie Downs:** Won't He do it.

**Mary Kate:** Here's a man who sees you, believes in you, points you towards Jesus, and will carry you through all of your dreams. And she picked him. She's like, "Right." Right? And then, two weeks before my wedding gave birth and then came to my wedding.

**Annie Downs:** That's right.

**Mary Kate:** Was a bridesmaid and danced her booty off, which was-

**Ginna Claire:** It was really fun.

**Annie Downs:** Two weeks after birth.

**Mary Kate:** Come on.

**Ginna Claire:** Wasn't it the best wedding, Annie?

**Annie Downs:** That was the best wedding. We had so much fun.

**Mary Kate:** It was the best wedding.

**Ginna Claire:** It was part one.

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just taking a quick break to talk about one of my favorite brands and today's sponsor, Rothy's. It's 2021 and none of us have time for uncomfortable shoes. That's where Rothy's comes in. Rothy's surveyed thousands of customers and the number one word they use to describe their shoes is "comfy."

So what makes Rothy's so good? It's their unique seamless design. It's insanely comfortable the moment you put them on. Their fan favorite styles are sustainably made with materials like

plastic water bottles, fully machine washable, which I think is why I've been able to wear them so much and still feel like they're brand new. And they're available in tons of shapes, styles, and colors. You can always find the right one for you.

Start summer off on the right foot with comfortable bestsellers like flats, loafers, and sneakers from Rothy's. With sandals and an array of colors to shoes made for exploring their newest styles, have you covered. Plus their spacious washable bags are perfect for summer getaways. I love wearing Camo Cat sneakers all the time and I'm always super comfortable in them while I'm on the road, between setup, and just being on my feet all day. I've been eyeing some of their lace-up sneakers for my next order because they are cute.

Also, did you know that Rothy's launched a men's line? Yes, their newly launched men's shoes are intentionally designed with a high level of detail and created with nearly zero waste. The men's shoes are still durable, washable, and better for the planet. Plus, rigorous testing during R&D results in perfect fit wash after wash.

To help you welcome summer in style, Rothy's is doing something special. That's right. They gave us the chance to share this super rare opportunity with our listeners for a limited time. So through August 1, 2021, you get \$20 off your first purchase of \$100 or more at [Rothys.com/soundsfun](https://Rothys.com/soundsfun). That's [Rothys.com/soundsfun](https://Rothys.com/soundsfun). Trust me, you don't want to miss this. Head to [Rothys.com/soundsfun](https://Rothys.com/soundsfun) to find your new favorites today.

And now back to our conversation with Ginna Claire and Mary Kate.

**Annie Downs:** It's just incredible. A lot of y'all who've been friends with the three of us for a while, it's just incredible to watch what God has done in both of your lives. I mean, can you imagine the day we sat on the floor recording in San Antonio? Y'all may remember the story, but Mary Kate heard God say, "I have a plan for your life." And had not really heard God before that in a way that you remembered?

**Mary Kate:** I went in to GC and I was like, "This isn't even a part of my-

**Ginna Claire:** Vocabulary.

**Mary Kate:** ...vocabulary." Like, "Why in the world would I... Why would this be my inner monologue? Explain to me how this is not God intervening in my life? As I'm like, watching these birds fly across, how is there any other explanation for it?" Right?

**Annie Downs:** And now?

**Mary Kate:** And now-

**Annie Downs:** Oh, my gosh.

**Ginna Claire:** And then she said that you sneaky Jesus'd her.

**Mary Kate:** And then you sneaky Jesus'd me. Annie talks about sneaky Jesusing people, it's true. She's sneaky Jesus'd me.

**Annie Downs:** I was saying to someone earlier, watching... having a front row seat, you have given me as one of your best friends and our friends here a front-row seat to when someone says, "I think God might be real and I'm gonna live like it." And it has changed my life. And it has changed yours... I sat at her wedding marrying this man who loves God and a family who loves God. And your family loves God. I could barely be a person because I've seen you decide that God really cared about you, and then live like it. And it's just one of my favorite stories in my whole life, and I'll never be okay.

**Mary Kate:** Something that's cool is having a New York Times bestselling author help you write your wedding vows.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, that's true. Oh, please tell that story. Oh, y'all are gonna hate me for this. Well, Trevor might.

**Mary Kate:** Sorry, Trevor. This is hours before the ceremony, she is like, "Did you write vows?" I was like, "No, I didn't write them. I don't know what I will say. I don't know."

**Ginna Claire:** It was perfect.

**Mary Kate:** And he goes, "Okay, well, I'm just gonna... do you want a mimosa?" It's like, "Yes, I want a mimosa." Annie says, "I'm gonna bring this pillow over here and I'm just gonna sit here and I'm gonna ask you some questions and we're gonna write your vows." And I'm looking at my friend, I'm like, "This is my super... not to make this love fest, but it's a love fest. I'm looking at my super accomplished, just recently best-selling author friend sit on a pouf... on a pouf next to me and say, "Tell me the things that are important to you about your relationship." And I talked for maybe half an hour, 45 minutes. And she would do her Annie thing and would be like, "Oh, this is good."

**Annie Downs:** They were good. I will not lie.

**Mary Kate:** This is good. This is good. And then he handed me the vows to read and I wept. I mean, just because you heard everything I wanted to say and you made it tangible and you made it real, you gave me the words for what I needed that day. And I will never forget that. It was amazing. It was amazing.

**Annie Downs:** Why do vows matter? I haven't done that yet. Tell me-

**Mary Kate:** GC should speak on this.

**Annie Downs:** Both of you talk about... I mean, the only person I've made a vow to is Jesus. I haven't done that with a person. You're new to it, but they mattered so deeply to you what we said. But GC, you've been in it for seven?

**Ginna Claire:** Monday is eight years.

**Annie Downs:** Eight years.

**Ginna Claire:** Eight years. No, I knew you guys would want to hear that story because it was so... I mean, I was just sitting on the floor cross-legged doing my mascara while this was all happening. But you turned to me and you're like, "What's mattered in your marriage?" And it was sweet that you let us into this really special day in a lot of ways.

I mean, having a front row seat there in Dumbo under the Brooklyn Bridge and watching the magical exchange of vows that happened was really, really special. Trevor did a great job too of writing his vows.

**Annie Downs:** He sure did.

**Mary Kate:** He said them like this though. "I Trevor Blake vow to you Mary Kay Morrissey..."

**Ginna Claire:** For the people in the back.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, there was a train. It was great.

**Ginna Claire:** Subway. Kshhh, brrrrrr!

**Mary Kate:** And I'm looking at him like, "It's okay to smile. It's our wedding day." So what's important about wedding vows to you?

**Ginna Claire:** You know, we didn't do like the personalized wedding vows, which I think are really special and sweet. But I don't know. I liked the way that the OG ones were written. But I remember... I mean, I have wedding video of me sort of boohoo laughing and crying through our vows. But we were just talking about marriage advice, but yeah, just the fact that that person is there no matter what, and that you're signing up to be in it for the long haul. Forever sounds like a lot of fun when you're in a pretty dress in front of your friends and family and forever feels harder sometimes when you're in the thick of it in a new city-

**Annie Downs:** And the baby crying in the middle of the night.

**Ginna Claire:** Well, when we first got married, I moved to a place where I didn't know anybody and I didn't have a job. And that felt scarier and different. But eight years later, it's... I mean, anybody knows, who's married, there's highs and lows, but it's so worth it. It's worth it. And Eric is definitely worth it.

**Annie Downs:** I like both of your husbands very much. I absolutely agree. What happens now? Broadway comes back September?

**Ginna Claire:** September 14th.

**Annie Downs:** September 14th. I'll be there. Y'all want to come. We're all gonna be there at Wicked to watch Ginna Claire reopen the show. I mean, that moment where you come down in the bubble-

**Ginna Claire:** Iconic.

**Annie Downs:** ...what's your line?

**Ginna Claire:** "It's good to see me, isn't it?"

**Annie Downs:** People are gonna lose their actual mind when you say that.

**Ginna Claire:** I'm going to lose my mind.

**Annie Downs:** We're going to lose our mind. If you haven't seen the video of Mary Kate night with Ginna Claire debuted on Broadway, her first, we're both laughing and crying harder than you can imagine. Our faces were just like... we look like insane people watching. And we'll do it again on September 14th.

Something we've been talking about in these nights on the tour is in VIP when they ask questions, or sometimes that happens out here too, but this idea of like when you know a season is ending, what would you do; if you don't know a season is ending, what would you do? I mean, you know this season of being home and not being Glinda is ending, and you'll be back to being Glinda in three months, four months? What do you want to learn? What do you want to happen in these four months? How do you want to mark the end of this?

**Ginna Claire:** Oh, man, that's hard. Well, I'm gonna circle back for a second.

**Annie Downs:** Sure.

**Ginna Claire:** Because I was telling you backstage that tonight's been like many revelations, but hearing you say that made me realize why I clung so tightly to the end of tour with Mary Kate.

It's like I didn't want that season of fun to end at all. I mean, we did it opposite each other for a whole year on the road.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, like eight shows a week for an entire year you traveled around the country.

**Ginna Claire:** And it was so fun. Every day was so fun. And talking to you on the pod in San Antonio and being like, "We were just dreaming up ways that we can keep being best friends and working together." And it's cool because I think what I didn't know then is that it just keeps getting better. I'm finding ways to keep having fun.

But I think a little bit living large the next couple of months just because I think what's daunting about going back into it is realizing, I mean... it's like you go into total self-preservation mode and taking care of your voice and making sure your body and everything is where it should be so you can deliver the show that you want to give eight shows a week. And I think that feels daunting because to go to a restaurant and being able to use your voice and talk over sound or-

**Annie Downs:** Or when we rode a roller coaster.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah.

**Annie Downs:** We went on a roller coaster while they were still doing Wicked, and they aren't allowed to yell. So we're at SeaWorld, right?

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah.

**Annie Downs:** And we're on a roller coaster-

**Ginna Claire:** The Steel Eeel.

**Annie Downs:** ...and I'm like, "Ahhhh!" And they're both like, "Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha." Am I ly... yeah, "Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha." That's all they could do.

**Ginna Claire:** That's all you get.

**Annie Downs:** I was dying laughing. I was like, "This is so terrifying what the two of you are doing."

**Sponsor:** Hey, friend! Just interrupted this conversation real quick to tell you about one of our amazing partners KiwiCo. As a previous elementary school teacher, I love the satisfaction of knowing that the projects my students and I were doing together would stick with them for a long time. I mean, it's true, right? Our childhood experiences impact who we are today just like our investment in childhood education.



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And now back to the show.

**Annie Downs:** So you're about to have to go back into that mode of preserving your voice and sleeping. How do you do eight shows a week? Will you explain that to us?

**Ginna Claire:** How?

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, there's only seven days.

**Ginna Claire:** I don't know.

**Annie Downs:** I don't know either. Give me the math on eight shows a week.

**Ginna Claire:** Tuesday, sometimes two Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, two Saturday, and then two Sunday if you don't have that matinee on Wednesday. So the schedule kind of changes

throughout the year. But they figured out a way to get an eight. Sometimes nine around the holidays.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah. And so your voice you just have to care of it.

**Ginna Claire:** Take care of it.

**Annie Downs:** So the end of this season for you is more preparing for the next one.

**Ginna Claire:** Definitely, yeah. So I think talking to Eric even these past couple weeks and being like, "What do we want to do? Do we want to go to the Jersey Shore? Do we want to go to Nashville? Yes." Like going places and doing things because I know once the show starts back up, it's gonna be giving everything I can to be a mom when I'm at home and giving everything I can to be the best company member I can be when I'm at the show.

**Annie Downs:** It's very nice that you say company member when you're Glinda. I'll show up and do my best out there as the star of the musical.

**Mary Kate:** Sparkliest on stage.

**Annie Downs:** Sparkliest one on stage.

**Ginna Claire:** Wait. Can I tell you something about sparkles?

**Annie Downs:** Yeah. Duh.

**Ginna Claire:** Right before the pandemic, they decided to build me a new bubble dress, which is really exciting. There's 60 petals. There's 60,000 sequins.

**Annie Downs:** Oh, my gosh.

**Ginna Claire:** It's a lot of sparkles. And it looks like a cupcake when you first get it. But yeah, I have my final costume fitting a few weeks before the last show. So when Broadway reopens, I'll have a brand new bubble dress.

**Annie Downs:** A new bubble dress. That's the blue one we see when you come down. So just for our friends that are watching online and friends that are here, you don't have to tell us how long you'll be Glinda, but we can go anytime in the near future and it'll be you.

**Ginna Claire:** Come on down.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** Having fun. Are you guys coming? Yeah?

**Annie Downs:** Great. Great. MK, what happens next for you?

**Mary Kate:** We have four months, which sounds fun, right?

**Annie Downs:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** For me is always like if I have a gig, I let myself have fun in the chunks of time leading up to it because like Ginna Claire, I take my work so seriously when I'm on the road. And it is. It's like you can't go out to dinner or you can do hardly anything but work out eat sleep and your show. So, as New York City starts to open, I'm just like, "What can we do? Meredith will come in our business Wrangler of DNW. She'll come into the city and we'll walk from Columbus Circle to the Vessel and then we'll walk all the way down to the village. Like just eat everything, see everything, hear everything, see everybody. My seven is just like on fire.

**Ginna Claire:** We're still teaching too, which is really fun. We're teaching in private and we're teaching a music theater history class, which is really fun. Maybe that sounds boring, but it's really fun.

**Mary Kate:** It's so fun.

**Ginna Claire:** We have our friends come in and teach original Broadway choreography and we assign songs from different shows to the decades and talk about what was happening in theater and art and where the overlap is in the 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, and so on. So we're still teaching. And then Mary Kate, I wrote a show last weekend.

**Annie Downs:** You wrote a show?

**Ginna Claire:** Sort of.

**Annie Downs:** How do you do...?

**Ginna Claire:** Sort of.

**Annie Downs:** What?

**Ginna Claire:** We took that class... You tell them.

**Mary Kate:** I mean, this theater that I love was like, "Hey, do you have 90 minutes of music?" And I was like, "No, but GC and I do." Since your first podcast we did with you, we talked about doing a show together that was ours. And we turned to stages that show that Ginna Claire was just talking about into this cabaret, where we sung a bunch of songs from it and gave our favorite

tidbits of history and talked about how theatre is such a mirror to the human life and how it's cyclical. And so we can look back to the 20s and see what's happening today.

**Annie Downs:** So y'all literally you wrote a show?

**Mary Kate:** Well, no, we sang... we kind of did. Yeah, I guess.

**Annie Downs:** Are we gonna see it?

**Ginna Claire:** We wrote it on a Saturday and we performed it on a Sunday.

**Annie Downs:** Well, that's normal. That's normal. That's what all of us do, certainly. So at some point will you tour it?

**Mary Kate:** The dream, if we dream big, which GC always says, "Dream big," right?

**Annie Downs:** Yes.

**Mary Kate:** ...dream big is to tour with symphonies. So, hopefully, it would be like to come back to Milwaukee and do like Milwaukee Pops, and Double Name Witches and wear ball gowns and sing our favorite musical theater songs with a full orchestra.

**Annie Downs:** Oh, that's awesome.

**Ginna Claire:** But until then...

**Mary Kate:** I'm saying it out loud.

**Annie Downs:** Now y'all have to because all of us want to go.

**Ginna Claire:** But until then we are available for your backyard for the next four months.

**Annie Downs:** Wait. Are you going back at-

**Mary Kate:** We just need a keyword.

**Annie Downs:** In September do you go back to "Mean Girls"?

**Mary Kate:** I go back in October. And I'm playing in Milwaukee.

**Annie Downs:** When will you be in Milwaukee? Do you know?

**Mary Kate:** I think I'm playing in January. Is that right? I think.

**Ginna Claire:** I think, yeah.

**Mary Kate:** I think it's January.

**Annie Downs:** Okay. So you need to get tickets clearly to go see "Mean Girls" whenever you're in town.

**Mary Kate:** It'll be so fun.

**Annie Downs:** That's awesome. And you're going to Nashville?

**Mary Kate:** And someone needs to tell me where I need to go to church. We're going to Nashville too.

**Annie Downs:** Oh, yeah, tell people... we're in a church even here.

**Mary Kate:** Oh, I guess it's kind of far. It's not really Milwaukee, is it?

**Annie Downs:** No, it's Waukesha, right?

**Mary Kate:** No. It's Worcestershire Sauce.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah. You're exactly right. Okay, tell us... I love asking both of you this. Well, for starters, I want us to note something. You're doing a beautiful job. When you're thinking about September and October, a lot of people would think, "I just am ready for the next thing," and like hurry, hurry, hurry. And instead, y'all are both showing us, "I'm just living right here. I'm excited about that but I'm going to live big right here." And for anybody who's about to change jobs, or get married, or try something new, don't rush to it. It's gonna come when it's gonna come. But man, just love your life today.

**Ginna Claire:** Let it unfold.

**Annie Downs:** And let it unfold like a petal on your dress. When we think of you in the next few months, years, when this comes out in July, when we are in the audience for Wicked or for "Mean Girls" and our friends say, "That is my friend Mary Kate, that's my friend Ginna Claire," what do you want us to pray?

**Ginna Claire:** I felt like this when we were watching the VIP Q&A. You have us go so far back and forth to literally laughing and crying. It's like whiplash.

**Annie Downs:** My apologies.

**Ginna Claire:** I mean, you know, but like I wanted to play Glinda my whole life. I saw the original cast when I was 13. So I do feel like I've stepped into this dream role. But I do feel like having this sweet little baby like I've stepped into this role of a lifetime and just being the best mom I can be, I think that's something that feels scary and exciting about going back to eight times a week and sort of that self-preservation. Because I feel like parenthood so far and motherhood with a nine-week old, it's like the opposite of self-preservation. Well, it's like preserving the child.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, you have to keep him alive now.

**Ginna Claire:** To give him everything. So figuring out what that looks like. Also, I think I kind of thought when I was studying musical theater, like getting my Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theater, I was like, "I'll go to New York and I'll play Glinda and then I'll move somewhere and be a mom." And then stepping into this industry and seeing how many incredible women just do it all. There's this Facebook group called Broadway Baby Mamas-

**Annie Downs:** Oh, that's cool.

**Ginna Claire:** I'm in it with like Audra McDonald and Laura Benanti, all these awesome moms, who I think actually stepping into this career, and I know you've seen it too, there's these women who are living the theater dream and also being incredible mothers. And having that sort of community, even just on a Facebook group, like you comment, anything, and the ladies are there for you. Yeah, wanting to be a good mom. Thanks for your prayers in advance.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah. We will pray... Also you are a good mom. You are a good mom. And you will continue to be. So we will pray for that. But we also know that both are true. MK?

**Mary Kate:** That's a hard question. I feel because it makes you really think about what you're vulnerable about. I think that with any big change, there can be an opportunity for an identity crisis. Am I a teacher? Am I a wife? Am I a mom? Am I Janis in Mean Girls?" Am I singing this...? Am I a writer? Am I writing this book? Am I...? So I think that with the identity crisis, it's easy for me to get really caught up in what I do is what defines me.

And what I really need prayers with is to always remember that God defines me. My heart for Jesus defines me. That is what I can always come back to and I can always rest in and I can... that can be the foundation of where I work from. You saying, work from a place of rest, not work to a place at rest, right? But letting Jesus be the rest. Let that just be the solid place so that I don't have to look to my husband all the time, or look to my career all the time, or to my best friend. That I have someone steady that I can always go to in times of big change when I am most likely to break down.

**Annie Downs:** That's beautiful. Both of you really. Is there anything we didn't talk about that you want to talk about? Because I got to ask the fun question. I feel like we covered it all.

**Ginna Claire:** Is there anything we didn't talk about, guys? This is the tattoo I got with Annie.

**Annie Downs:** Oh, yeah, we got tattoos on the same day. And someone last night... we got tattoos in New York. from a guy named Dean. I think. I think it's Dean. I know. I just remembered. In that moment-

**Mary Kate:** He was very young.

**Annie Downs:** He was very young. Well, I wasn't trying to date him.

**Mary Kate:** I know.

**Annie Downs:** I just wanted a tattoo.

**Mary Kate:** No, I was looking at him like, "Do I trust this man with a needle on my skin?"

**Annie Downs:** Right, right, right.

**Mary Kate:** What we're not gonna do is...

**Annie Downs:** What we're not gonna do is. And my girl last night at VIP said, "I went to that same tattoo guy that you came to in New York." And he said, "A lot of people show up from us." So you're welcome, Dean. Okay, well, then... I love y'all so much. Because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

**Ginna Claire:** Wait, being your friend is so fun.

**Mary Kate:** It's so fun. It is so fun.

**Ginna Claire:** You said this at the VIP because someone asked for like, "What do you look for in a friend?" And it was somebody you want to talk to, you still have things to talk about in three weeks. And I think about at the beginning of our friendship when we first met in Nashville and clicked and then you booked flights to come to Toronto so we could have a week of fun in Toronto.

So I guess before we get to the fun question, what I wanted to add was being your friend is so fun. And just thank you for showing up for us in so many... the ways are innumerable. But you are someone who shows up at opening nights and at weddings and-

**Mary Kate:** Help write your vows.

**Annie Downs:** Helps write your vows is what Mary Kate said, you know, to when you have a baby. You just come over and you hold little Coops. So just thank you for being a friend that keeps showing up. And yeah, the friend that you are to everyone else. It's so real.

**Annie Downs:** You're very kind.

**Ginna Claire:** It's almost like this show when I was watching your set, it felt like a set because I was like, "It feels like someone just gave my best friend the mic." I was like, "Talk about things that you like and that are funny to you. And then you get to watch a friend just go off. I was like, "This is the best." And then I was like, "I think everybody here feels that way. This is amazing." So-

**Annie Downs:** So what sounds fun to you is the question.

**Ginna Claire:** Okay, that's the question. Sorry.

**Annie Downs:** Jeez!

**Mary Kate:** Come back.

**Ginna Claire:** We didn't tell each other but we think we have the same answer. You go first.

**Mary Kate:** Oh, no. What if it's not?

**Ginna Claire:** It's gonna be really disappointing.

**Mary Kate:** Oh, my gosh. All right.

**Ginna Claire:** You want me to go first?

**Mary Kate:** No, I'm gonna go first because I trust myself. What sounds really fun to me is what I was just talking about, singing with an orchestra with my best friend. That's what sounds really fun to me.

**Ginna Claire:** I'm glad that I get to be part of it. Thank you.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** I was gonna say your bachelorette party got canceled.

**Annie Downs:** Yes, her bachelor party got canceled.

**Ginna Claire:** So what sounds fun to me is putting on our new matching tie-dye-



**Annie Downs:** Sweatshirt.

**Ginna Claire:** ...sweatshirt and going to Miami and running around in the beach with your friends. And celebrating you because you deserve bachelorette party, Mary Kate Morrissey-Blake.

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, you deserve bachelorette party. For Mary Kate, we had three parties planned that didn't go off because of COVID.

**Ginna Claire:** It's okay.

**Mary Kate:** COVID is the worst.

**Ginna Claire:** I get to have like two weddings though.

**Annie Downs:** That's true. Two weddings. So she went. Same guy.

**Ginna Claire:** Same guy. Same guy.

**Annie Downs:** Same guy but two weddings.

**Mary Kate:** New me.

**Annie Downs:** Can I tell you what sounds fun to me?

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** What? What?

**Annie Downs:** Is there a world where y'all would sing to us?

**Ginna Claire:** Wait, I'm being Glinda and you're being Elphaba.

**Mary Kate:** Okay, okay, okay.

**Ginna Claire:** We should do it. Yeah, let's do it.

**Annie Downs:** Okay.

**Mary Kate:** It would feel weird for us to upstage you though. So let's move your chair down.

**Annie Downs:** No, no, I really do like this.

**Mary Kate:** Oh, yeah. No, no, I want you to have a-

**Annie Downs:** No, I do have a front row seat.

**Ginna Claire:** I know he's gonna... I already asked him.

**Annie Downs:** This is perfect for me. I'm gonna be right here. Y'all do it. I've seen it from that side a lot. I want to see from this side.

**Mary Kate:** No, you...

**Annie Downs:** Yeah, this is it. I've seen it from the audience a lot. I've never seen it this side. This is it. Here we go.

**Mary Kate:** I'm gonna have to go sing over there then.

**Annie Downs:** Oh, do you hear the people?

[Ginna Claire and Mary Kate singing]

I've heard it said  
That people come into our lives  
For a reason  
Bringing something we must learn  
And we are led to those  
Who help us most to grow if we let them  
And we help them in return  
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true  
But I know I'm who I am today  
Because I knew you

Like a comet pulled from orbit  
As it passes the sun  
Like a stream that meets a boulder  
Halfway through the wood  
Who can say if I've been changed for the better  
But because I knew you  
I have been changed for good

It well may be  
That we will never meet again  
In this lifetime

So, let me say before we part  
So much of me  
Is made of what I learned from you  
You'll be with me  
Like a handprint on my heart  
And now whatever way our stories end  
I know you have rewritten mine  
By being my friend

Like a ship blown from its mooring  
By a wind off the sea  
Like a seed dropped by a sky bird  
In a distant wood  
Who can say if I've been changed for the better  
But because I knew you  
Because I knew you  
I have been changed for good  
And just to clear the air  
I ask forgiveness  
For the things I've done, you blame me for  
But then I guess  
We know there's blame to share

And none of it seems to matter anymore  
Like a comet pulled from orbit (like a ship blown from its mooring)  
As it passes the sun (by a wind off the sea)  
Like a stream that meets a boulder (like a seed dropped by a bird)  
Halfway through the wood (in the wood)  
Who can say if I've been changed for the better  
I do believe I have been changed for the better  
And because I knew you  
Because I knew you  
Because I knew you  
I have been changed

**Mary Kate:** Don't act embarrassed.

**Annie Downs:** It feels weird.

[Ginna Claire and Mary Kate singing]

For good

**Annie Downs:** Look at the people. I know. I get to as well. I did nothing to help with that, but I will take it back. Right? Mary Kate, Ginna Claire, ladies, and gentlemen.

**Outro:** Oh, you guys, aren't they the best? And that song at the end, who can deal? Who can deal? That whole conversation. I just love them so much. Are you following Ginna Claire and Mary Kate? Be sure to follow them, especially as Broadway comes back and we see where their careers continue to take them. Tell them thanks so much for being on the show today and being with us in Milwaukee.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. All the places you may need me, that's how you can find me. And I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. And I will do the same. Have a great week. And we'll see you back here on Wednesday as we continue our live podcast tour shows with everybody's favorite novelist and one of our pastors of the pod, Charles Martin. We'll see y'all Wednesday.