

DAYBREAK



< **‘Hamilton’ streamable in July**
The Walt Disney Company said it will put the live capture of the original Broadway cast of “Hamilton” on Disney TV Plus starting on July 3. It had been slated to be in movie theaters in October, 2021.

How to help your pets stay sane in the time of pandemic **Page D3**

Two simple stories



RICHARD HUBERT SMITH/AUDIBLE

Jake Gyllenhaal hopes hearing a ‘Sea Wall/A Life’ is like a phone call with a friend

By THOMAS FLOYD
The Washington Post

EARLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT of “Sea Wall/A Life,” director Carrie Cracknell considered seating a handful of audience members onstage. The double bill of monologues, performed by Jake Gyllenhaal and Tom Sturridge with stripped-down authenticity, didn’t have much need for an elaborate set, anyway.

Cracknell ended up nixing that idea before the production played off-Broadway in early 2019 and had a nine-week Broadway engagement later in the year. But with a recording of the two-part play now available as an Audible Original, Gyllenhaal believes the audio version achieves the intimacy of joining the two actors onstage.

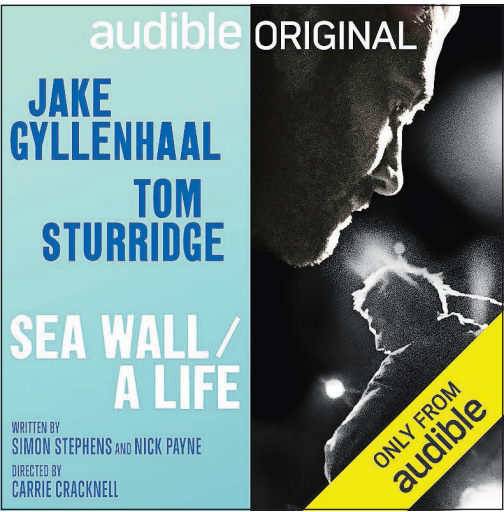
“This is what that experience would have been like,” he says during a recent phone interview, “right next to us, with us telling the story directly to you.”

Gyllenhaal plays Abe, a music producer processing the death of his father and the birth of his first child, in playwright Nick Payne’s wistful “A Life.” For Simon Stephens’ “Sea Wall,” Sturridge inhabits another young father coping with a family tragedy.

Kate Navin, the artistic producer for Audible Theater, read both works and expressed interest in an audio recording of the show well before it was staged. When Navin saw “Sea Wall/A Life” off-Broadway, she became even more confident that it would resonate beyond the live theater medium.

“These stories that these men are telling are so personal, and so intimate, and that really works beautifully in audio,” Navin says. Regarding Gyllenhaal’s recording, she adds that “you can hear how open he is. He obviously knew the material so well at that point — it was in his soul.”

SEE JAKE PAGE D2



COURTESY OF AUDIBLE

Nick Payne’s “A Life” is performed by Jake Gyllenhaal, above, while Simon Stephens’ “Sea Wall” is performed by Tom Sturridge.

His dying wife wrote a viral essay, ‘You May Want to Marry My Husband.’ Now Jason Rosenthal is telling his story of love and loss in a new memoir.

By NARA SCHOENBERG
Chicago Tribune

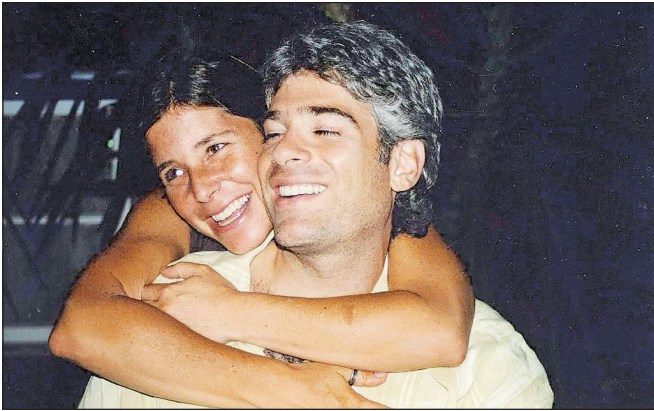
Chicago author Amy Krouse Rosenthal was dying of ovarian cancer when she wrote an essay about her beloved husband, Jason

She told readers how she fell in love with him in a day, how he showed up at her first ultrasound with flowers, how he still presented her with gum balls when he emerged from gas stations and minimarts. He reveled in art,

live music and his kids, she wrote, and — bonus! — he was quite the looker. And if all of this sounded like the world’s most unlikely personal ad, that was no accident.

Rosenthal wanted her husband to find love again when she was gone, and she was casting a wide net, with an essay framed as a call for candidates.

Millions read that essay, published in The New York Times in March 2017 just 10



days before Rosenthal died. And many wondered, what would become of the man Rosenthal so vividly depicted as a real-life romantic hero?

Jason Rosenthal offers answers in his new memoir, “My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me: A Memoir.”

A lawyer and now a public

speaker on the topic of grieving, Rosenthal, 55, tells a love story that begins with two Chicago 20-somethings on a blind date. There’s love, as well as adventure and the joy of a tight-knit, growing family.

And throughout a 26-year-marriage, there’s a striking lack of conflict and frustration.

“I know that it sounds a bit like a fairy tale,” Rosenthal said. “And the truth is we

SEE GRIEF PAGE D2

tipping point

our pick & pans

Jerry Seinfeld: 23 Hours to Kill
Netflix

Jerry Seinfeld’s opening jokes in this new standup special feel so much more wistful than they must have when the show was filmed in October, long before everyone started quarantining. It’s about the hassles of going to a show, being with friends, and going out (only to look forward to going home). Ah, those were the days, when going to a show could be considered a pain in the neck! Seinfeld, in comically agitated mode, scrambles through a range of topics, from Pop-Tarts to buffets to talking versus texting. The first half of the show is a little underwhelming, but when Seinfeld starts zeroing in on relationship quirks, that’s where “23 Hours” kills. He jokes about his wife’s complaints that he’s yelling when he insists he’s not. He has a funny bit about how women are forever asking questions, and another one comparing raising a kid to growing a pet alligator in a bathtub. This isn’t Seinfeld’s best standup special, but it certainly has enough amusing material to be worth a watch.

— Kristina Dorsey

Earth

EOB

Ed O’Brien, who might in less than charitable fashion be thought of as one of the guys in Radiohead not named Thom Yorke or Jonny Greenwood, reinforces the anonymity by releasing his debut album, “Earth,” under the acronymic EOB tag. Subtle but effective — which is an apt description for the work itself. Clever, that EOB. The best part of this record — anchored in a hypnotic flow that doesn’t preclude electronic pulse and sculpted structures (“Shagri-La,” “Olympik,” “Brasil”) or slow tides of lulling acoustic guitar or lush keys (“Mass,” “Cloak of the Night,” “Sail

On,” “Long Time Coming”) — is just the pleasant consistency of melodic and thoughtful songcraft. Don’t look back, Jonny and Thom. EOB might be gaining on you.

— Rick Koster

Living in a Ghost Town

The Rolling Stones

It’s odd to think, relatively speaking, how little attention this new single received. Granted, the world is in a pandemic — and, yes, the lyrics and title reflect the situation — but it just goes to show you that time moves on. A lot of age-appropriate Stones fans are shopping for retirement communities, and a lot of younger folks who’ve

heard of the band probably think it was founded by Paul McCartney and Roger Daltrey. In any case, it’s the first new RS song in eight years. Reportedly written in 2019 and then lyrically adapted by Jagger to fit the current health crisis, “Living in a Ghost Town” has a seductive, two-chord, nod-out groove you might find at 4 a.m. in an after-hours bar in Jamaica. If we can all get behind the contemporary urge to be snippily politically correct — Jagger bemoans the difficulty of having rich-person fun with all the virus restrictions — the truth is that it’s a pretty catchy and instantly identifiable Stones tune.

— Rick Koster