



RETIREMENT MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
Invites you to a presentation on Webinar, Jan 20, at 11:00 a.m.
To view the Webinar, log on to: <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>

Kai Harada

“What Do All Those Buttons Do? A Sound Designer’s Journey on Broadway”



Have you ever walked past a giant sound console at the back of a Broadway theater and wondered why it is there, and who is responsible for your aural experience? Our speaker this week is Kai Harada, a Tony Award winning Sound Designer for musical theatre whose work has spanned the globe. In his presentation, Kai will take us not only through his world of sound design, its history and its challenges, but will talk about the process of putting up a Broadway show. A sound designer is tasked with specifying all equipment from microphones to loudspeakers, and then dictating how each and every element sounds

when blended together for the audience to experience. A successful sound design relies on an intense, positive collaboration with many people who can influence the sound design, including directors, composers, writers, other designers, and producers.

Kai will also address why we need sound designers, even though in the old days Ethel Merman could belt a tune all the way to the back row without a microphone. Drawing on his experience designing different style musicals (such as Million Dollar Quartet— with actors playing the roles of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins— or the 2014 Broadway Revival of the classic On the Town, with a twenty-eight piece orchestra), he will discuss his philosophy on creating an intimate listening experience for the audience without simply turning up the volume, no matter what the style of musical.

Mr. Harada was born and raised in Greenwich, and trained as a pianist. He discovered theater while at Greenwich Country Day School, an activity he continued at Greenwich High, and later at Yale University. His professional career began at age nineteen, assisting renowned sound designer Tony Meola, most recently on worldwide productions of Wicked. Kai has designed over fifty shows regionally, off-Broadway, and internationally; his Broadway credits include Million Dollar Quartet, Follies (Tony® Award Nomination, Drama Desk Award Nomination), On the Town, Gigi, Fun Home, Allegiance, Sunday in the Park With George, The Band’s Visit (Tony® Award and Drama Desk Award recipient), and Head

Over Heels. He is looking forward to a Covid-19-free world so that he may get back to work.

Next Program: January 27, Dr. John Hughes, MD, Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, "The Moral Imperative to Say No: The Inevitable Link between Equity and Rationing"

The Greenwich Retired Men's Association offers a free Webinar program every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. For additional information see www.greenwichrma.org or contact us by e-mail at info@greenwichrma.org.