

Ryan Haddad '15 Young Alumni Award

In celebration of his breakthrough work as an actor, playwright, and autobiographical performer, the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to present the Young Alumni Award to **Ryan Haddad '15**.

Ryan graduated from OWU with a degree in theatre and English—creative writing. As an OWU student, he participated in a workshop with Tim Miller, a performance artist in residence at the university. Emeritus professor and part-time instructor of theatre, Ed Kahn, who then was professor of theatre and dance, encouraged Ryan to apply for OWU Connection Theory to Practice grant for additional study with Tim Miller in New York City. Ryan received the grant and began his career.

Today, Ryan lives and works in New York City, and his acclaimed solo play, “Hi, Are You Single?,” was presented in The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival and continues to tour the country. Ryan’s one-person theatre performance and talkback explores what the dating scene is like for a gay man with cerebral palsy. In addition to other NYC performances and regional theatre, Ryan has a recurring show on the Netflix series “The Politician.” His other television credits include “Bull,” “Madam Secretary,” and “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt.”

Ryan is a recipient of IAMA Theatre Company’s Shonda Rhimes Unsung Voices Playwriting Commission and Rising Phoenix Repertory’s Cornelia Street American Playwriting Award. His work has been developed with The Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York Theatre Workshop, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Noor Theatre, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Primary Stages, and Pride Plays. His writing has been published in *The New York Times*, *Out Magazine*, and *American Theatre*. He is an alum of The Public Theater’s Emerging Writers Group and a former Queer | Art Performance and Playwriting Fellow under the mentorship of Moe Angelos.

In 2024, The Obie Awards, a scrappy but venerable annual competition honoring the best theater staged Off and Off Off Broadway, chose “Dark Disabled Stories,” Ryan’s autobiographic work inspired by his experiences navigating the city with cerebral palsy, as the best new American play.