



ELIZABETH DEROSA
CLASS OF 2000

Elizabeth was born and raised in Point Pleasant, graduating from Point Pleasant Borough High School in 2000. She still has her infamous “Class of 2000” t-shirt from attending kindergarten at the original Ocean Road School! Elizabeth was second in her class and gave the Salutatorian’s speech at graduation. She was a member of Student Council and the Honor Society. She played basketball and ran with the State Championship cross-country team. Elizabeth was very involved in the high school’s Performing Arts department, which she had dreamed of being a part of since being a young girl watching concerts, assemblies and performances by the older high school kids! She was in the mixed chorus, madrigals/show choir, and performed in many plays and musicals. Among other roles, Elizabeth played Rosemary in *“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying”* and Domina in *“A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum.”*

Elizabeth was an active member of the Point Pleasant Beach Presbyterian Church where she was in the Youth and Chancel Choirs, the Bell choir, and served as director of the Children’s Choir for a year during high school. Her proud parents are Joseph, a retired account executive for Avery/CCL Labels, and Robin, a retired high school guidance counselor and director of guidance. They still live in the area, and remain members of

the congregation and help keep her connected to the church family and the community as a whole.

Elizabeth went on to study musical theatre (acting, singing and dance) in the prestigious theatrical conservatory at Carnegie Mellon University. She graduated with Honors with a BFA in Acting/Music Theatre in 2004. While in school, Elizabeth practiced the skills she was learning by performing at various regional theatres during summer breaks. Her most memorable role being Eliza in *“My Fair Lady”* at the Surfflight Theatre in Beach Haven, NJ. She also performed in the Utah Shakespearean Festival as well as in Pittsburgh where she earned admittance into the professional actor’s union, Actor’s Equity Association. Also during college, Elizabeth was an award winner at the National Association for Teacher’s of Singing vocal competition and received the Jerry Herman Legacy Series Scholarship and the William H. Thurnhurst Scholarship, both for musical theatre performance. After college, Elizabeth was a lead singer on the Silver Seas Cruise Line, travelling the world while doing the thing she loves most. Memorable stops include the French and Italian Riviera, the Greek Islands, and Spain, to name a few!

Elizabeth returned to live in New York and held various jobs while pursuing her dream of acting on Broadway, perhaps the most important and vital one being that of nanny. Over the years Elizabeth was able to audition (‘pound the pavement’, as they say) and market herself as an actor while babysitting for a few very special families. Little did she know that this “side job” was actually acting training for a future role! Elizabeth is currently in the Broadway company of *“Mary Poppins”* where she is a member of the ensemble and understudy to the role of Mary Poppins. She is honored to be living her dream in such a well received and beautiful musical.

Elizabeth lives in Brooklyn with her husband Robert W. Hellner, a civil litigation attorney in Manhattan, and their dog Teddy and cat Madeline.