

# Jeremy & Robert

**“This is what we call love. When you are loved, you can do anything in creation.”**

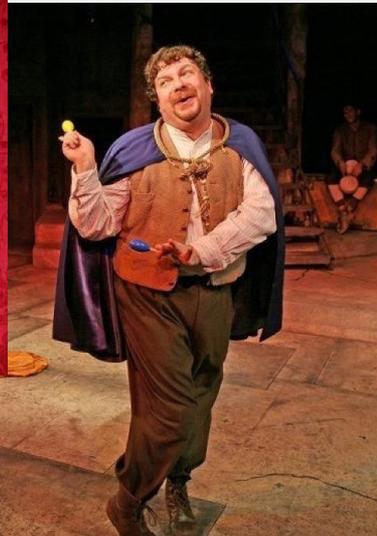
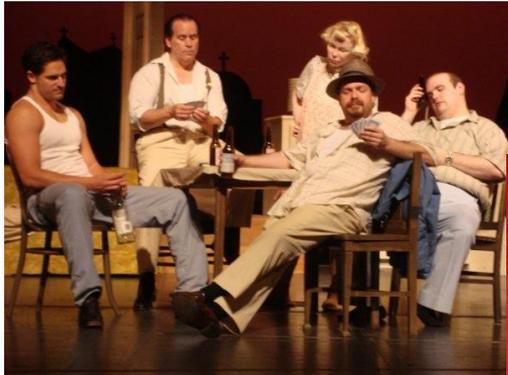
**Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist**

# Hello!

We're Robert and Jeremy and we're grateful you're taking the time to read this book and considering us as adoptive parents of your child. We cannot begin to imagine the careful thought that you are making. We truly value the awesome responsibility that it is to bring a child into this world and we appreciate you taking the time to get to know us.

# Who We Are & What We Do

We grew up very differently—Jeremy in Ohio and Robert in New York—but the values that our parents instilled in us have powerful similarities. Our families taught us the importance of genuine kindness, hard work, determination, learning from failure, and using those lessons to pursue our dreams. We are excited to pass on that love and kindness and shape a young person who can confidently create their own place in the world.



*Though we are very connected by our professions in theatre—the way in which we work looks quite different— Robert as an Actor and Jeremy as a Theatre Teacher & Director.*

# How Robert Works

Robert shines on the stage. He has worked as a professional actor for 25 years— appearing on and off Broadway and throughout the entire country. He knows what a privilege it is to make another person smile, and feels blessed to get to do that on a daily basis. He has been fortunate to work with so many kind and talented people who have become very important chosen family members in our lives.

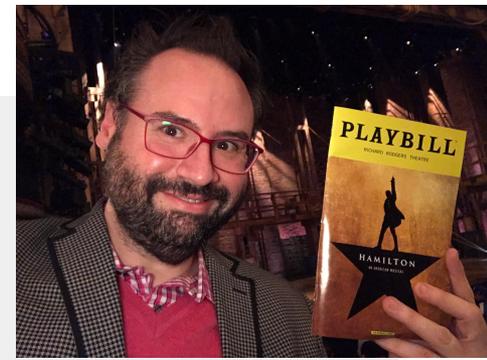


*Whether flying through the air, wearing a mask, or singing a show stopping number, my work brings joy to no only me, but the audience for whom I get to perform.*

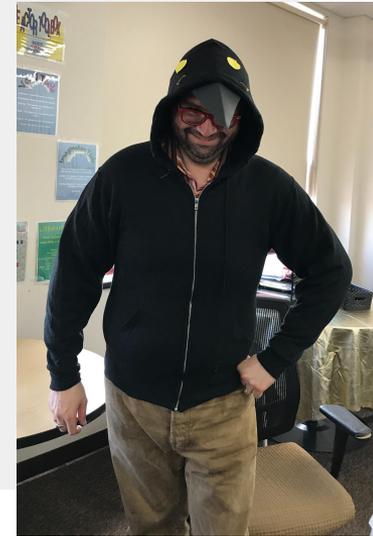
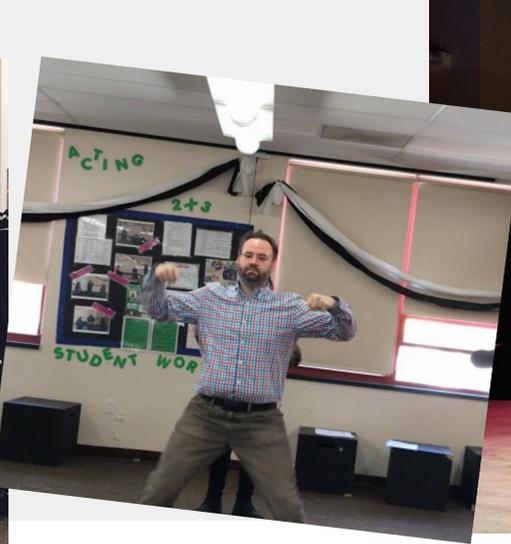
# How Jeremy Works

While Jeremy previously worked as a professional theatre director, he has turned his attention to using those skills to inspire a younger generation through theatre education.

As a high school theatre teacher, he uses theatre to foster students' self-confidence. His classroom is a space in which students can feel safe to explore and experiment and be themselves. He takes great pride in what he does and hopes to empower inquisitive, passionate, generous and kind young adults.



*Winning a special grant and taking our High School students to see Hamilton on Broadway*



***Building Sets, Making Costumes, Teaching Acting & Choreography & Empowering Students To Share Their Voices & Talents Through Performance***

# How We Met

In May 2008, Match.com brought us together. After a few weeks of enjoying the back and forth virtual banter, we met for coffee at a Starbucks in Manhattan. We were surprised upon meeting at the effortless of our conversation and felt like we were talking to an old friend. We quickly set up another date to see a Broadway show. It didn't take long to know that we had found our soulmate.



*(right) Posing at a friend's wedding by the Brooklyn Bridge*



*(below) Diving into the ocean in the Caribbean*



*Trying to stay warm on a boat ride in Boothbay Harbor, Maine*



*Playing hide & seek with our friend's children. We're really good at hiding.*



*Our first trip together as a couple to the Outer Banks.*

# Our Wedding

Some five years later, our wedding serves as a model of how we approach our marriage day in and day out. We were joined by family and friends in Long Island honoring our commitment. While we both grew up with different family traditions, we chose to create a ceremony that honored both of our families. And since we are both "theatre people", many of our friends sang at the wedding creating a balance of both honesty and a theatrical flair... encapsulating how we hope to live our lives.



# Holidays & Celebrations

We were lucky enough to find in one another two people who genuinely loves surrounding themselves with their family. Robert's mom Ann is the queen when it comes to Christmas. We spend Christmas Eve by attending a 4pm Mass and then 30–40 of our family members gather at her home for a festive meal and grab bag gift exchange. Aunt Rita hosts the exchange as Mrs. Claus, in full costume. Once everyone leaves and the kids go to sleep, we help Ann prepare for Christmas morning... setting up "Santa's Gifts" for all of the grandchildren. Christmas morning— we all meet at Ann's, open up the presents and spend the entire day together. We can't wait to have a child of our own to celebrate the joy of this holiday with us.



*(above)— Celebrating the holiday with Charlie! Santa was very good to him this year.*



*(above & right)— Annual decorating Christmas Cookies & Christmas Morning with the Family*



*(above) Jeremy's mom traveling from Phoenix to celebrate Christmas on Long Island with Robert's family*



*(right) Aunt Rita decked out as Mrs. Claus for our Christmas Eve grab gag*

# Holidays & Celebrations

Thanksgiving is a holiday we rotate between Long Island and Cleveland. We all gather Thanksgiving morning to watch the parade, eating bagels and pastries with our morning coffee. We can't wait to have a child to share the excitement of the parade and floats with. Whether in Cleveland or Long Island, Robert makes his Grandmother Rose's Italian Stuffing. Jeremy on the other hand, is always trying new recipes — creating a spin on the classics. The day is always filled with taking time to share with each other all the things that we are thankful for.



*(above)– Aunt Rita decked out as a turkey for Thanksgiving*



*Jeremy's Dad and Step Mom traveling from Cleveland to celebrate Thanksgiving with Robert's Family on Long Island at his brother Tom's House*



# Holidays & Celebrations

We love playful costumes for Halloween and pass out candy to the many kids in our building. There's always various activities in our lobby for the kids to participate in when done trick-or-treating. We can't wait to help our child choose their Halloween costume.



*Jeremy likes a "pun" costume. Above he is a "copycat."*



*Robert as Augustus Gloop from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*



*Not only do we take Halloween Seriously... so does our dog, Charlie!*



*Robert and Friends recreating the Scooby Doo Crew!*



# Vacations

Typically we take 2 vacations throughout the year. In the winter we head to Arizona where we have family and friends. The second annual trip we take is to a resort area in the Poconos. Robert's father Mike built a house there and the family has been going for the same summer week for over 50 years. In July, 30–40 family members come to the Pennsylvania resort and spend a week playing games, boating and kayaking in the lake, swimming in the pool, and seeing shows and comedians.

We also love bringing up a group of friends throughout the year and sharing one of our favorite places on earth. We look forward to having our child participate in these adventures.



*Robert playing mermaids with our niece, Maddie.*



*Spending time with Jeremy's family in Phoenix. The kids love having us jump on the trampoline.*



*Jeremy making a witches potion with the kids out of baking soda and vinegar*



# Vacations



*Whether it be enjoying nature, swimming in the pool, kayaking, playing games or seeing a show... our summer vacation in the Poconos is always packed with family fun.*

# Family & Friends

We feel lucky that Robert's family is so close in proximity to us and that we can take a quick weekend trip to visit Long Island. But we feel doubly lucky that we have an army of friends that live in the New York area. We're fortunate that we live in a wonderful neighborhood near two parks and close to the theatre district. Because of the close proximity we get a lot of friends stopping over and we are often hosting a game night or an awards show viewing party.



*(above)– Robert's family joining us in the city for dinner at one of our favorite Italian Restaurants f*



*(left)– Jeremy's friends Wendy & Jamie and son Liam visiting from Cleveland*

*(Right) A weekend winter getaway with friends to the Poconos*



# Family & Friends



*(left)– our friend Jen & her daughter*

*(below) My sister Abbey in NY enjoying a local delicacy*



*(above) Trying on some headbands with my two childhood best friends Scott & Barry and Scott's daughter.*

*(below) Jeremy's friends Jodi & Elise visiting New York for a mini High School Friend Reunion*



*Celebrating the Kentucky Derby with family & Friends*



*(above)– Staying dry with some rain bonnets... courtesy of Robert's Mom & Aung Rita*

## Jeremy's Thoughts on Robert

No one makes me laugh like Robert does. He is the most decent and genuine human being I know. He sees the world with such optimism and has the most enormous and generous heart that I have ever met. He is deeply passionate about being part of a world that treats people with equality and love. His compassion knows no limits. The respect and love that he gives me makes me think how truly lucky I am to trust someone who knows me so deeply. He is my rock.



# Robert's Thoughts on Jeremy

It is truly impossible not to love Jeremy instantly. I said in my vows to him, "I take an oath to be your soulmate. And not because I can't live without you. But because I don't want to live without you". I have never met a kinder soul than Jeremy. He is more himself than anyone I've ever met, which makes everyone around him feel at ease. His fashion sense is unparalleled. Wherever we go, someone is always commenting on how fabulous he looks. None of this, though, even comes close to the person he is inside. To see his relationship with my mother, it's a happiness I could never put into words. As a teacher, he is invaluable. The children he has in class know how lucky they are to have Jeremy as their educator. Simply put, he is the best person I know.



# Why We Want A Child

For as long as we can remember— we knew that we wanted to be parents. We both were instilled with the belief that family is one of the most important foundations of our lives. We have parents who helped shape our values, challenged us, and encouraged us to develop into independent, generous, and loving people.



# How We Plan To Raise A Child

We are excited at the opportunity to raise a child, but know that it is an extraordinary responsibility.

We make the following promises to your child:

- ★ We plan to make sure that your child knows that they are loved, and they will hear the words “I love you” every day.
- ★ We will make sure that they are given hugs and kisses and will create a home where they can become whoever they want to be.
- ★ We will make sure that they laugh every day and know how it is to lead with joy and love.
- ★ We will be a part of making sure that your child becomes a kind, compassionate, generous and genuine person who can do anything and accomplish anything that they want.
- ★ We will support their dreams and passions, offer them opportunities to discover, and challenge them to develop independent and personal goals and values.
- ★ We will make sure your child knows that during the most challenging times, they have parents who will always be there to support them, guide them, listen to them, and help them face any of life’s difficulties.
- ★ We will make sure your child is exposed to a wide range of cultures and learn about people that are different from them while honoring their personal heritage.
- ★ We will make sure that they know that the most important thing in our lives is our connection to our family and that will include their birth family. We will work tirelessly to make sure that your child knows that they are the greatest gift of our lives and we will forever be grateful.

# Thank You

We are so thankful you've taken some time to get know a little about us and are considering us as prospective adoptive parents. We want your child to know where they come from and for us to be able to instill in them a sense of the history, heritage, and culture of their birth family. We would love if you wanted to speak with us more!

We have a toll free number you can reach us on at 1 (888) 234-1299

We can receive calls and text messages at 917-740-2716

Or you can email us at [robertandjeremyadoptionjourney@gmail.com](mailto:robertandjeremyadoptionjourney@gmail.com)

And if you have any questions you can always feel free to contact our lawyer, Suzanne Nichols at her toll free number 1-800-255-1415.

She is happy to speak with you and answer any of your questions.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Whatever your decision, we wish you peace and serenity.

With our love,

Jeremy & Robert