



BE MORE BE CHILL

THE MUSICAL

MUSIC & LYRICS

by JOE ICONIS

BOOK

by JOE TRACY

DIRECTOR

MEREDITH MELVILLE

CHOREGRAPHER

SARAH GONGALEZ

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

TANERA YOUNG

CONDUCTOR

MICHAEL K. PEREZ

Be More Chill

Music and Lyrics by Joe Iconis

Book by Joe Tracz

Based on the Novel by Ned Vizzini

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www.concordtheatricals.com

The world premiere production of Be More Chill was commissioned and originally produced by Two River Theater Company in Red Bank, NJ
John Dias, Artistic Director / Michael Hurst, Managing Director

This work was supported by a Theatre Commissioning and Production Initiative grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Orchestration and Arrangements by Charlie Rosen

A NOTE FROM THE DRAMATURG

On one hand, *Be More Chill* has a backstory that is only possible in the 21st Century. After a poorly received world premiere at a small regional theatre in New Jersey in 2015, this little show with Book by Joe Tracz and Score by Joe Iconis seemed destined to be forgotten. However, when a cast recording of the songs was released online, it soon racked up more than 100 million streams. After finding the songs via streaming outlets, devotees from around the globe gathered on platforms such as YouTube and Tumblr, forming what was at the time the 2nd-biggest musical theatre online fandom in the world --- behind only *Hamilton*. And they weren't just passive consumers; they were active creators: fan art, animatics, cosplay performances. All this activity attracted the attention of commercial producers, and this little show was propelled to off-Broadway and, in 2019, Broadway.

But in many ways, the origin of this show is just like dozens of others that came before it: *Les Misérables*, *Showboat*, *Cabaret*, and many others all started life as novels. In 2004, 23-year-old writer Ned Vizzini published his first novel: *Be More Chill*. It tells the story of a high school student who has a computer implanted in his brain that tells him how to be popular. This brief summary might sound silly, but like most science fiction, it contains a strong thread of social satire: the codes and signs of "coolness" reveal themselves to be astonishingly easy to manipulate. We see how far people will go in order to fit in. Plus, it is remarkable how eerily prescient this 20-year-old book is about Artificial Intelligence.



The book also falls under the label Young Adult Literature, or YA Lit. This is a broad term, covering hundreds of different titles of all different genres, from *The Hunger Games* to *The Hate U Give*. While topics like peer pressure and high school cliques are certainly a part of YA Lit, so are any number of powerful themes that depict real teens' concerns. Vizzini's most famous novel is *It's Kind of a Funny Story* (later turned into a movie), which depicts a teenager's hospitalization for depression and suicidal ideation. It was a fictionalized version of his own experience. Sadly, his struggles never really ended, and he died by suicide in 2013 at the age of 32. He left behind a body of work in which young adults have seen themselves ever since.

-Thomas A. Oldham, Ph.D.

Be More Chill

THE CAST

Jeremy Heere	Joshua Sneed
Christine Canigula	Naomi Medina
Michael Mell	Samuel Ingram
Jake Dillinger	Frank Villalvazo
Rich Goranski	Mason Bowling
Chloe Valentine	Madisen Piontkowski
Brooke Lohst	Brooklin Alexander
Jenna Rolan	Sarah Roller
Mr. Heere / Ensemble	Robbie Wilt
Mr. Reyes / Ensemble	Nelson Thornton
Scary Stockboy / Ensemble	Preston Sneed
The Squip	Jalen Wheaton
Ensemble	Izzy Cantu
Ensemble	Abby Corbett
Ensemble	Zee Jones

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

More Than Survive.....Jeremy, Michael, Students
I Love Play Rehearsal.....Christine
More Than Survive (Reprise 1).....Jeremy
The Squip Song.....Rich, Ensemble
The Squip Song (Reprise 1).....Jeremy
Two-Player Game.....Jeremy, Michael
The Squip Song (Reprise 2).....Scary Stockboy
Be More Chill.....The Squip, Jeremy, Brooke, Chloe, Shoppers
Sync Up.....Jeremy, Jake, Brooke, Chloe, Rich, Ensemble
A Guy That I'd Kinda Be Into.....Christine, Jeremy,
The Squip, Ensemble
Upgrade.....Brooke, Jeremy, The Squip, Jake, Christine, Ensemble
Loser Geek Whatever Jeremy, Ensemble

-INTERMISSION-

ACT TWO

Halloween.....Jake, Brooke, Chloe, Rich, Jenna, Ensemble
Do You Wanna Hang?.....Chloe
Michael in the Bathroom.....Michael, Ensemble
Guy That I'd Kinda Be Into (Reprise).....Christine, Jeremy
The Smartphone Hour (Rich Set a Fire).....Brooke, Chloe, Jenna,
Ensemble
The Pants Song.....Mr. Heere, Michael
The Pitiful Children.....The Squip, Jeremy, Jenna, Ensemble
The Play.....Jeremy, Michael, Christine, Brooke,
Chloe, The Squip
Voices in My Head.....Jeremy, Michael, Christine, Mr. Heere,
Jake, Brooke, Chloe, Rich, Jenna, Ensemble

THE BAND THAT YOU'D KINDA BE INTO

Orchestra Director: Michael Kris Perez

Percussion

Paul Bowman

Bass Guitar

Brandon Lowe

Electric Guitar

Daniel Benavides

Woodwinds

Matthew York

Trumpet/Recorder/Theremin

Mateo Reyes

Keyboard 1

Michael Kris Perez

Keyboard 2

Natalie Rumfield



SPECIAL THANKS

TAMUCC Simulation & Clinical Learning Center

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ABOUT THE WRITERS

Joe Iconis is a musical theater writer and performer.

He has been nominated for a Tony Award, four Drama Desk Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, two Outer Critics' Circle Awards, and is the recipient of an Ed Kleban Award, a Jonathan Larson Award, a Richard Rodgers Award, the ASCAP Harold Adamson Lyric Award and the MAC Board of Directors Award.

His show *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S.*

Thompson Musical premiered at La Jolla Playhouse last summer. Joe is the author of *Love in Hate Nation*, *Broadway Bounty Hunter*, *Bloodsong of Love*, *Punk Rock Girl!*, *The Black Suits*, *ReWrite*, *Things To Ruin*, *The Plant That Ate Dirty Socks*, and *We the People*. His music appeared on season two of NBC's *Smash* and he frequently performs at 54 Below and the Laurie Beechman Theater. Joe is hugely inspired by Robert Altman, Dolly Parton, The Muppets, and the Family of artists he frequently surrounds himself with. www.MrJoelconis.com



Joe Tracz is a writer whose work has been seen on Broadway in *Be More Chill* (with Joe Iconis) and *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (with Rob Rokicki; Drama Desk nominee for Outstanding Book). Other credits include the musical *Poster Boy* (with Craig Carnelia, Williamstown Theatre Festival). TV: Netflix's *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* (Peabody Award recipient; Emmy,

Humanitas Prize, and WGA Award nominee) and *Dash & Lily*, which premiered on Netflix in 2020. Joe is an alumnus of the Ars Nova Play Group and a former Playwrights Realm writing fellow. He has an BA from Kalamazoo College and an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Ned Vizzini was the author of *It's Kind of a Funny Story* ("insightful and utterly authentic" --*New York Times Book Review*), *Be More Chill*, and *Teen Angst? Naaah....* His work has been honored by the American Library Association, BookSense, and the New York Public Library and has been translated into several languages.

(Biographies and photos courtesy of Concord Theatricals)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Meredith Melville
Stage Manager	Gracie Johnson
Asst. Stage Manager	Edwin Edwards
Music Director	Tamera Young
Choreographer	Sarah Gonzalez
Asst. Choreographer	April Bourg
Scenic Designer	Kevin Loeffler
Asst. Scenic Designer	Madisen Piontkowski
Costume Designers	Daniella De La Rosa, Jamie Grime
Lighting Designer	Alex Mason
Properties Lead	Kevin Loeffler
Hair & Makeup Designer	Megan Bain
Dramaturg	Thomas A. Oldham
Technical Director/Scene Shop Supervisor	Jordan Bohl
Costume Shop Supervisor	Alexandra Shaw
Head Electrician	Robbie Wilt
Faculty Mentor for Costume / Makeup / Hair	Rosa M. Lazaro
Scenic Run Crew	Jay Munselle Woods, Ava Zabel
Properties Run Crew	Isabella Zambrano
Wardrobe Run Crew Head	Nex Richard
Wardrobe Run Crew	Robert Garza, Erin Jones, Gabriella Lopez
Hair & Makeup Run Crew Head	Alina DeJesus
Hair & Makeup Crew	Ben Domingue, Nicholas Duve, Izzy Guillot, Aniya Mosley
Electrics Crew	Tyler McCoy, Korey Sayre
Light Board Operator	Miranda Glidewell
Follow Spot Operator	Christine Garza
Front of House Engineer	Mark Capuano
Microphone Technician	Isaac Empson

PRODUCTION STAFF (CONTINUED)

Scenic Construction Crew	Alexis Aguilar, Anisah Ali, Aurora Alvarado-Crowder, Sullivan Blanco, April Bourg, Isabella Cantu, Natalie Festari, Sonya Garza, Miranda Glide-well, Kevin Hammond, Cloey Hollar, Zoe Jones, Colton Ledbetter, Tyler McCoy, Rynna Miori, Kailey Smith, Noah Smith, Joshua Sneed, Syd Urias, Emily Villarreal, Zaniel Watts, Jay Munselle Woods, Ava Zabel
Scenic Paint Crew	Elijah Galvin, Summer Laich, Madisen Piontkowski, Sarah Roller
Lead Stitchers	Alina DeJesus, Lucas Collins, Alexandra Shaw
Stitchers	Tara Niedbalski, Spencer Elmore, Ren Christensen, Meghan Morrissey, Drake McElyea, Grace Brinkmeyer, Lenny Compton, Jude Rangel, Christian Hernandez, Rozlin Haynie, Doris Agard, Havyn Bennett, Sai Nicholson, Juan Borrero, Jordyn Gonzalez, Ryan Perez-Castañeda, Aniya Mosley, Ray Villarreal, Nelson Thornton, Nex Richard, Ben Domingue, Erin Jones, Aurora Usai, Robert Garza, Nicholas Duve
Marketing / Graphics Designer	Alison Frost
Box Office	Meredith Melville, Megan Bain, Aniya Mosley
House Manager	Meredith Melville
Front of House	Kole Dornseifer, Jaxon Mabry, Rynna Miori, Syd Urias, Aurora Alvarado-Crowder, Nico Reyna, Christian Hernandez

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FACULTY AND STAFF

Alison Frost, Department Chair of Theatre & Dance

Kevin Loeffler, Director of Theatre

Jilissa Cotten, Director of Dance

Rosa M. Lazaro, Professor of Theatre

Kelly Russell, Professor of Theatre

Meredith Melville, Associate Professor of Theatre

Thomas A. Oldham, Associate Professor of Theatre

Sarah Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Dance

Alex Mason, Assistant Professor of Theatre

Marco Muñoz, Assistant Professor of Theatre

Jason Tate, Adjunct Professor of Fight Direction

J. Don Luna, Professor Emeritus of Theatre

Jordan Bohl, Technical Director

Alexandra Shaw, Costume Shop Supervisor

Megan Bain, Student Office Assistant

Aniya Mosley, Student Office Assistant

Gabriel Almager, Student Shop Assistant

Ren Christensen, Student Shop Assistant

Shameka Cobb, Student Shop Assistant

Abby Corbett, Student Shop Assistant

Daniella De La Rosa, Student Shop Assistant

Alina DeJesus, Student Shop Assistant

Lucas Collins, Student Shop Assistant

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The Marketing and Communications Department of TAMUCC

Jeff Janko, Photographer

CONTACT US

Website: <http://theatre.tamucc.edu>



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