NEWSFLASH!
A MINI-MUSICAL

In Association With
UC Berkeley TDPS

Streaming online
May 7th and 8th
7:00-7:30 PM (PDT)
Q&A Following

Written By:
Eleanor Hammond
and
Emily Beihold

Directed By
CATHERINE HILL
PRESENTS

NEWSFLASH!
A Mini Musical

CREATED BY
ELEANOR HAMMOND
EMILY BEIHOld

DIRECTED BY
CATHERINE HILL

STAGE MANAGER
KAITLIN WEINSTEIN

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JACK GRABLE

MAY 7 AND 8 AT 7PM PDT

TDPS student workshops are designed as advanced study experiences, providing laboratories for nascent work. These workshops provide opportunities for student writers, directors, and performers to develop ideas and get them on their feet. Workshops focus on language and performance with minimal technical production. For information about future workshops, visit tdps.berkeley.edu/workshops
First for a little background, I first met my co-writer Emily as a gangly, awkward thirteen year-old in middle school. When I saw her across the room in the “easy” math class I knew we would be friends. We collaborated well together from a young age, singing a duet cover of “The Show” by Lenka at the school talent show that I will always remember fondly.

Emily and I lost touch when we both transferred for high school. Right before the pandemic, we caught up over the phone one day. Both still pursuing music, and me having finished producing my musical, Walls, I suggested writing a musical together could be fun. Then, the pandemic happened and we both were trapped at home. TDPS advisor Michael Mansfield mentioned the theater department lets students submit proposals for student workshops. Emily and I decided to write a musical about students struggling with not being “enough” based on their accomplishments. We got the go-ahead from the department and focused the story on college graduates as Emily recently graduated from UCSD one year early, and struggled with finding a job post-graduation. I saw that as writers, we were able to be honest with each other and always had in mind the best interest of the story. We connected with the musical on so many levels — wanting to believe in ourselves but doubting if we had what it takes to do what we love, getting rejected, wanting independence but living with our parents, and both finding a good friend in one another to relate to. We thought Newsflash! could be relatable to UC Berkeley audiences, as well as audiences everywhere.  

I want to thank: Professor Philip Gotanda for being an amazing creative advisor and guiding us while writing this project, Peter Glazer for advising the production of the project, my lovely, talented, risk-taking cast for trusting each other to create this new story and for putting their artistic liberties into the characters, Jack Grable for his technical assistance and fun, Kaitlin Weinstein for being my stage manager again on an original musical of mine and being so wise and talented beyond her years, Caty Hill for being such a creative, positive, and vivacious director, and finally, Emily Beihold for agreeing to do crazy shit like this with me. We hope you enjoy the show and know that “Newsflash! Even when you reach your dreams, you’re still not quite as happy as you thought you’d be,” and that’s perfectly okay. Thank you for coming!

— ELEANOR HAMMOND
Welp. Eleanor kind of said it all, but let’s talk about the process! When the two of us found out that the musical would have to be performed on Zoom due to the pandemic, we definitely had our reservations -- but then swooped in our miraculous director, Caty Hill! Caty brought in so many fresh and dynamic ideas for the piece that all of a sudden, Eleanor and I were almost excited to have the production happen virtually as opposed to in-person. Every obstacle became an exciting learning experience as we navigated teaching music to our four incredible actors living in different parts of the country, recording and creating theatrical aesthetics over Zoom, and finally putting all the puzzle pieces together. I’d like to acknowledge Camilla Leonard, Arlyss Ray, Kasia Baranek, and Tai White for being up to the challenge of being part of a virtual musical and going with the flow as we charted new territory in making the production happen. Another important shout-out goes to our amazing Stage Manager, Kaitlin Weinstein, who was always on top of every moving piece, keeping the production organized and efficient. Then, of course, we have our hilarious Assistant Director, Jack Grable, who distracted me a few too many times in the Zoom chat and never failed to make me laugh. And last, but certainly not least, I’d like to give special recognition to Eleanor Hammond for being such an inspiring, talented collaborator who taught me so much along the journey and allowed me to live out my dream of being an honorary UC Berkeley student.

Despite only having four weeks of rehearsal, I am thankful for the tight-knit family that became of the cast and crew, bringing a sense of togetherness during this globally difficult time. As an audience member, you have officially become the newest member of our tribe. No matter what you’re going through, we are all in this together!

— EMILY BEIHOOLD
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

What a pleasure it has been to produce something so vibrant, light, lovely and fun—this piece is a stark contrast from the arduous time we are collectively experiencing. Navigating through distance, lack of funding, new-director nerves, and general Zoom struggles (ie: lag, graphic design, framing, lighting, fatigue) was an exciting, yet challenging feat. Our cast and crew was spread across three states and five cities; unfortunately, most of us have never even met in person. As a director, building a foundation of trust in which my actors feel comfortable to express their vulnerability is very important to me. I strived to break the distance and build an empathetic, kind, communal space within our virtual landscape where the actors could explore their craft of character building in a safe environment. More than that, though, I wanted rehearsal to be a pleasant escape, an intangible mental space where we could brush off the stresses of our day and create something happy. As a director who has a passion for movement and physicality, the limitations of Zoom were particularly challenging to navigate—too much movement, and the piece looks messy, not enough, and it is boring. A lot of my process was spent discovering and learning how to embrace the platform I was constricted to. Within those limitations, however, we also found freedom. Freedom to chop, play, design, and connect. We were able to create something unique and telling of its time. Thank you to the actors for bringing so much to the table, for being open to my ideas and concepts, and for inspiring me, challenging me, and encouraging my directorial abilities. Thank you to the writing/music team, who were always open to my suggestions, and who mixed the music in a timely, professional manner. And last but certainly not least, thank you to our wonderful stage manager, who kept us on top of our schedule and went above and beyond to ensure we made something worthwhile. I hope you enjoy Newsflash! — CATHERINE HILL
CAST

FRANCESCA
Arlyss Ray

DEVON
Camilla Leonard

ADA
Kasia Baranek

THE SECRETARY
Tai White

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR
Catherine Hill

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Jack Grable

STAGE MANAGER
Kaitlin Weinstein

PROPS COORDINATOR
Kaitlin Weinstein

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Catherine Hill

COSTUME DESIGNERS
Catherine Hill
Eleanor Hammond
Kaitlin Weinstein

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Jack Grable

SOUND DESIGNERS, MUSIC DIRECTORS, & COMPOSERS
Emily Beihold
Eleanor Hammond

VIDEO EDITOR
Eleanor Hammond
STAFF & FACULTY ADVISORS

CREATIVE ADVISOR
Philip Kan Gotanda

PRODUCTION ADVISOR
Peter Glazer

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Jamila Cobham

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER
Emily Fassler

MARKETING DIRECTOR
Ben Dillon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Zahra Dowlatabadi
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Hadi Dowlatabadi
Jennifer Liu
Nika Litt
Catherine Lopez
Olivia Henry
Brigit Comeau

Matilda Schulman
Mykaela Barnes
Jeremy Salholm
Logan Ainger
Tanvi Agrawal
Michael Mansfield
Elysse Green
Wendy Morrell
Yasmine Abbasi
CAST & CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

**KASIA BARANEK** is thrilled to be making her TDPS debut as Ada. The Chicago native is a third year at Cal studying Sustainable Environmental Design and has previously been focusing on vocal performance with features in Noah Torrito’s album ‘I Know Fish Can’t Really Hurt Me’ and various performances with the UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus. Excited to be returning to theater, Kasia would like to thank the amazing cast and production team of *Newsflash* for their direction, love, and support.

**EMILY BEIHOLD** is a 2020 graduate of UC San Diego where she got her B.A. in Communication and minored in Business. While *Newsflash!* marks her playwriting debut, Emily has been a songwriter for the past seven years, releasing original music that recently passed a total of five million streams. You can listen here: linktr.ee/embeihold. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this production such an incredibly memorable and valuable experience.

**JACK GRABLE** studies theater and comparative literature. This is Jack’s 3rd show as an Assistant Director, though he enjoys participating both on and offstage as an actor and a member of the production team. He thanks all that participated in this project for making it a fun and much needed experience!
ELEANOR HAMMOND is a fourth-year studying Theater at Berkeley. She is an actress, musical theater composer, and singer-songwriter. She also recently acted in TDPS’s play *Stupid F##king Bird* as “Mash.” She is currently working on her single “Combustion” that will be released this summer. You can find her music on Spotify and SoundCloud (https://linktr.ee/eleanorhammond). She will be graduating Berkeley in December 2021 and pursuing acting and music in LA after graduation.

ARLYSS RAY will be graduating from Cal this spring with a BA in Music. She is also a recent alumni of the National Theater Institute’s Theatermakers program. When not acting or making music, Arlyss loves to hike and play board games with her friends and family. She is honored to have worked with such incredible artists to bring this amazing show to life.

CAMILLA LEONARD is a senior at UC Berkeley majoring in Media Studies and minoring in Theater and Creative Writing. She has previously appeared in UC Berkeley’s *Stupid F##king Bird* as Emma and Lamplighters Music Theatre’s *Princess Ida* as Melissa. Camilla has received The Pillsbury Award for an Actress of Excellence from UC Berkeley’s TDPS Department. After graduation, she will be pursuing her Master’s Degree in Acting at University of San Diego and The Old Globe’s MFA Program. In her free time, Camilla enjoys playing video games, board games, and knitting. See more at camillaleonard.com!
KAITLIN WEINSTEIN is graduating from UC Berkeley this May with a double major in Theater & Performance Studies and English. Some of her favorite TDPS shows to work on have been *Tartuffe*, *Curly Fries*, and *Stupid F##king Bird*. She has also served on the boards of two UC Berkeley student theater companies, BareStage Productions and The Golden. She is so thankful to the *Newsflash* team for making her last show of undergrad so memorable.

TAI WHITE is a 3rd year theater major. He has done 9 shows at Berkeley including *Ago*, *Curly Fries*, and most recently *Stupid F##king Bird*. He had a lot of fun making this show!
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Thank you so much for attending the first ever workshop of *Newsflash!: A Mini Musical*. The writers would love to hear your thoughts below in hopes to improve the show for the future.

https://forms.gle/HQ1eaWshqDhRu2tN8