

ALL AT ONCE!

Where the Noise Becomes Music!

Book, Music & Lyrics by Richard Ehrlich
Based on the book GoYou! Focus Forward
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Runtime: 1h20m (no intermission)

Scene-by-Scene Overview

Scene 1: Explosion Point (8 min)

- **Setting:** Chemistry classroom with moveable desks and whiteboard. Unit set design allows for quick transitions.
- **Action:** Jules struggles with D-minus test grade while experiencing sensory overload from fluorescent lights, Derek's tapping, and Madison's lip gloss. Derek shows intrigue when Jules identifies his "Bohemian Rhapsody" tapping pattern. Mr. Hendricks offers compassionate guidance, sharing his daughter's similar journey and recommending Dr. Vasquez's support group.
- **Song:** "*Seventeen Directions*" --- explosive opener introducing Jules' mind as both overwhelming chaos and potential symphony, building from quiet vulnerability to triumphant self-acceptance.

Scene 2: Collision Course (10 min)

- **Setting:** Coffee shop with corner tables and warm lighting. Sam studies while Maya works with Emma nearby.
- **Action:** Derek explains chemical equilibrium using music theory, creating deeper connection with Jules. Maya recognizes ADHD patterns and shares her own struggles. Emma demonstrates fidget collection with mature wisdom about brain differences. Sam recognizes Jules' needs and invites group to Wednesday support meeting.
- **Song:** "*The Learning Curve*" --- Sam, Maya, and Jules share transformation journeys from self-blame to self-acceptance; Derek commits to learning Jules' language rather than trying to fix her.

Scene 3: Raw Truth (22 min)

- **Setting:** Support group circle two weeks later. Intimate folding chair arrangement with Dr. Vasquez facilitating.
- **Action:** Marcus reveals repeated organic chemistry failure despite accommodations, contemplating pre-med abandonment. Derek realizes he's been "managing" rather than

supporting Jules. Jules pushes back against being treated as broken thing needing backup brain. Maya teaches Derek about rhythms vs. management. Group explores fundamental question of being different vs. being broken.

- **Songs:**
 - *"What If There's Nothing Wrong With Me?"* --- Jules leads vulnerable exploration of self-worth, joined by Marcus (angry self-doubt), Maya (parental fears), and Derek (confusion but commitment)
 - *"Not Alone Anymore"* --- Marcus initiates group solidarity anthem celebrating found community and shared understanding

Scene 4: Family Crisis (8 min)

- **Setting:** Chen family kitchen one month later. Clean but tense atmosphere with report cards and bills visible on counter.
- **Action:** Jules excitedly shares art program interview news, but parents focus on disappointing grades (C+ chemistry, D calculus, incomplete English). Linda explodes about real-world expectations while David questions accommodations. Linda breaks down over missing diagnosis for 17 years. Jules calls out parents for making it about their guilt rather than her future. Derek witnesses family dynamics and supports Jules' decision to leave.
- **Song:** *"Chosen Family"* --- Jules and Derek walking to Sam's apartment, defining love that accepts rather than conditions, choosing support over blood obligation.

Scene 5: Make or Break (12 min)

- **Setting:** Art studio at State University two weeks later. Formal interview setup with three skeptical interviewers and portfolio display.
- **Action:** Jules faces dismissive interviewers who see "chaos" in her "Hyperfocus Storm" piece. Instead of apologizing, she educates them about her creative process, challenging their narrow definitions of discipline and structure. Demonstrates sixteen hours of sustained focus. Unveils "Seventeen Directions" multimedia work representing simultaneous thought streams.
- **Song:** *"Hyperfocus Magic"* --- Jules demonstrates her creative process in real-time, celebrating intense concentration as superpower while actually creating art piece, transforming interviewers' understanding.

Scene 6: The Real Fight (20 min)

- **Setting:** School board meeting room that evening. Formal setup with skeptical board members and hostile parents in audience.
- **Action:** Sam presents peer mentoring proposal facing aggressive opposition. Emma gives profound testimony about her "kaleidoscope brain" needing sensory tools (fidgets), not different treatment. Marcus shares switching from pre-med to psychology as finding where his mind belongs. Jules delivers passionate advocacy about accommodation as access, not excuse. Close 4-3 vote approves six-month

pilot. Derek arrives with scholarship acceptance. Parents arrive having witnessed meeting, ready to learn rather than judge.

- **Songs:**
 - *"All At Once!"* --- Jules leads company-wide advocacy anthem using the "seventeen radio stations playing at once" metaphor, celebrating neurodivergent minds and building from individual testimony to collective demand for understanding
 - *"Where the Noise Becomes Music"* --- gentle finale acknowledging ongoing journey while celebrating difference as harmony, with Jules' final declaration about beginnings

Scene Chart

Scene	Duration	Setting	Key Action	Songs
1. Explosion Point	8 min	Chemistry classroom	Jules' sensory overload meets Derek's musical recognition and teacher's compassionate guidance	1. <i>Seventeen Directions</i>
2. Collision Course	10 min	Coffee shop	Organic community formation through Maya's ADHD recognition, Emma's wisdom, Sam's professional insight	2. <i>The Learning Curve</i>
3. Raw Truth	22 min	Support group circle	Marcus' failure/career pivot, Derek learns support vs. management, group explores difference vs. broken	3. <i>What If There's Nothing Wrong With Me?</i> 4. <i>Not Alone Anymore</i>
4. Family Crisis	8 min	Chen kitchen	Parents resist ADHD reality despite achievements, focus on grades over growth, Jules chooses self-respect	5. <i>Chosen Family</i>
5. Make or Break	12 min	University art studio	Scholarship interview requires authentic self-presentation, live art demonstration challenges preconceptions	6. <i>Hyperfocus Magic</i>
6. The Real Fight	20 min	School board room	Emma's testimony, Marcus' advocacy, Jules' leadership, real opposition, hard-won victory, family reconciliation begins	7. <i>All At Once!</i> 8. <i>Where the Noise Becomes Music</i>

Board Chair Park presides with Board Members Johnson and Torres.

Teachers are present; MR. HENDRICKS stands at the back.

Technical Notes

- **Set Design:** Unit set with moveable elements allows seamless scene transitions without breaks
 - **Lighting:** Primary tool for distinguishing locations and emotional shifts
 - **Props:** Strategic and specific - sensory tools (fidgets), art supplies, portfolios, report cards, test papers
 - **Art Creation:** Scene 5 requires functional art supplies for live creation during "Hyperfocus Magic"
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Pacing Strategy

The streamlined 80-minute structure maintains momentum while deepening character development:

- **Opening (18 min):** Establishes Jules' sensory world and introduces supportive community
 - **Heart (22 min):** Deep dive into support group authenticity and relationship dynamics
 - **Crisis (20 min):** Family rejection and high-stakes interview build maximum tension
 - **Resolution (20 min):** Public advocacy, victory, and family reconciliation provide earned conclusion
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Character Arc Tracking

Mr. Hendricks: cautious/old-rules → present/listening → supportive; commits to “fidgets welcome” policy.

- **Jules:** Defensive/overwhelmed → Curious/connecting → Vulnerable/honest → Confident/authentic → Advocacy leader
- **Derek:** Well-meaning manager → Student of difference → True supporting partner
- **Marcus:** Failing/self-hating → Questioning/exploring → Accepting/redirecting career path
- **Maya:** Struggling alone → Community member → Fierce protective advocate
- **Parents:** Denial/grade-focused → Crisis/guilt-ridden → Willing to learn/support
- **Emma:** Wise child → Powerful testimony → Bridge between generations

From the back, MR. HENDRICKS: "Lab policy update starts Monday—fidgets welcome."

The board approves a six-month pilot (4–3); Sam notes the pilot launches in three weeks.

The tighter structure ensures each character moment serves Jules' central journey while maintaining authentic emotional development that makes the musical both entertaining and impactful for neurodivergent audiences and their families.