

ALL AT ONCE!

Where the Noise Becomes Music

Book, Music & Lyrics by Richard Ehrlich | Full-Length Musical | Two Acts | 2h20–2h30 with Intermission | 16 Songs | 22 Scenes

THE SHOW

Jules Chen is seventeen, brilliant, and exhausting to be around. Her ADHD makes the world feel loud, fast, and wildly alive. When she glimpses who she'll become if she keeps disappearing a little at a time — an older woman at a dinner table, her eyes drifting, not sad, not aware — she makes a choice. Act II tracks what that choice costs her.

"When did I stop being in the room?"

This is not a show about what ADHD is. It's about what it costs when the world decides it doesn't belong.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT

The Spine. Most shows about neurodiversity are about acceptance. ALL AT ONCE! is about time. Jules isn't fighting to be understood. She's fighting against becoming someone who arrives at herself too late.

The Shadow. Marcus Williams appears to have figured out his ADHD. Two songs reveal a man who succeeded at every accommodation asked of him and arrived somewhere empty. His final line to Jules: "Go do whatever you're going to do. Before you learn not to miss it."

The Opposition. The antagonists are not villains. "Fair Isn't Equal" makes a coherent, intelligent argument against accommodation. Jules cannot argue around it. She has to argue through it.

THE SCORE

Act I — The Path of Least Resistance

1. **Seventeen Directions** — Jules
2. **The Learning Curve** — Sam, Maya, Jules
3. **What If There's Nothing Wrong With Me?** — Jules, Marcus, Maya, Derek
4. **Not Alone Anymore** — Full Group
5. **Almost Works** — Jules
6. **Not Yet / Right Here** — Young Jules / Older Jules

Act II — The Cost of Choosing Yourself

7. **Now There's No Going Back** — Jules
8. **The Cost** — Company — Pressure Canon
9. **Chosen Family** — Jules, Sam
10. **All of You** — Derek
11. **Somewhere Along the Way** — Marcus
12. **I Did Everything Right** — Marcus
13. **Hyperfocus Magic** — Jules
14. **Fair Isn't Equal** — Board / Opposition
15. **All at Once!** — Jules / Full Company
16. **Where the Noise Becomes Music** — Full Company

THE CHARACTERS

JULES CHEN, 17 — Soprano

Her brain catalogues everything. The question is not whether she's brilliant — it's whether she can stay herself when the world offers a quieter version.

MARCUS WILLIAMS, 19 — Baritone

The show's dark mirror. Ends at the edge of the circle — not yet inside it. Beginning.

DEREK MARTINEZ, 18 — Tenor

Genuinely loves Jules. Also loves the quieter version of her. His song is a man discovering mid-song that love is harder than he understood. He stays.

SAM MARTINEZ, 23 — Baritone

School guidance counselor. The show's most practical idealist. When told to back down: "I'm not backing down."

MAYA RODRIGUEZ, 35 — Mezzo-soprano

Raising Emma with the same wiring and the determination not to pass down the shame.

EMMA RODRIGUEZ, 8 — Treble

Her description of her brain stops a school board cold. Requires a mature 8–10 year old performer.

PRODUCTION PROFILE

Cast. Principal cast of 10, plus 6–8 ensemble

Design. Moveable unit set. Lighting carries the narrative.

Music. Contemporary musical theater. Primarily acoustic with subtle electronic texture. Architecturally unified score.

Vision Sequence. Act I Finale — no special effects. The audience's realization is the scene working correctly.

CURRENT STATUS

- Complete two-act script — book, music, and lyrics by Richard Ehrlich
- All 16 songs with production demos available for workshop/pitch use
- Member, Dramatists Guild of America

THE AUTHOR

Richard Ehrlich is a playwright, composer, and lyricist whose work explores identity, family, and the cost of becoming who the world prefers. His theatrical portfolio includes *The Long Present*, *The Outlier*, *The Interview*, *TONIC: Finding Euphoria*, *The Breath: Coming Home*, and *The Third Chair*. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.