

Director's Note

This has been one of the most exciting projects I have worked on. These student artists have worked closely with me to develop a piece that is complicated yet accessible to youth, a combination of fun and educational, takes risks but is responsible to its audience, energetic but focused. By starting with character descriptions, a classroom setting, and a scene which gave light to relationship dynamics, we worked together to develop the rest of the story. The care with which these students dove into the subtlety of character was heartwarming, exciting, and inspiring to me as a writer. I had a feeling much like the character Mila's "Can't we just do them all!" Unfortunately, we couldn't. So many creative ideas had to be left for our own enjoyment. My goal as their collaborator was to do my best to make sure everyone had an element in the show that reflected their own creativity in the final piece.

There were various strategies used to develop this piece. Parts of the script were written using Mad-Libs style, written with blank spaces and calling for an adjective, adverb, a noun or verb. Parts of the script were developed by first building a set or "world" for the character to improv in. Parts of the script are reflective of some of the challenges we as collaborators faced: How can we be inclusive of various ideas? How can we make sure everyone's voice is heard? What responsibilities do we have to each other and ourselves in classroom and collaborative spaces? How and when do you ask for help? Extra special thanks to Mike Arquilla who provided support in the polishing of the script. This process created the show you are about to see. Thank you for being here!