

“I don’t know what to do without you....”

Hello and welcome to *Love Me More: A (Fully) Unauthorised Mitski jukebox musical*.

Rose (she/her, producer) and Catherine (she/her, director) decided to put together this project after seeing Mitski perform live in Boston last summer. Something of a creative watershed moment, we were as struck by Mitski’s innovative choreography, production design, and affecting performance as we were by her famously poignant songs of love, heartbreak, alienation, isolation and youthfulness, and her distinctly female and Asian-American perspective made these themes something which the two of us could actually connect to, rather than them feeling like stories about other people’s lives.

Enthused by this, we set about constructing an outline for a story we wanted to tell, informed by and infused with — but not completely creatively dependent on — Mitski’s songs. We are still in the process of writing it collaborative together, and if you are interested in joining this process (either in addition to performing in the show, or just writing), feel free to shoot us an email at rose.bae@yale.edu or catherine.alam-nist@yale.edu. We’d love to hear from you :)

But the best part about writing a show full of good songs is that now we need actors to perform this show and sing all these good songs! Hence, these auditions. (Though audition is a scary word. We’re really not looking to turn away anyone who genuinely wants to be part of the show.)

We’re also aiming to counter the narrative that art being stressful/painful/competitive/status-obsessed makes it inherently better art. In fact, we are quite sure that this is flipped, and that the best art comes from releasing the ego, genuinely caring about your collaborators and the work, and finding beauty in every minute detail of the project that you can - not needing to do more, but instead loving what you can do, and what your collaborators can do.

We are looking for two higher voices comfortable playing women, one lower voice comfortable playing a man, and one either low or high voice comfortable playing a non-binary character. However, as the show is original work, these voice types and character gender identities are all flexible. We are also interested in possibly having a small ensemble of singers and/or actor-musicians, but this will be dependent on how many auditionees we see who would be suitable/interested in this kind of involvement.

With that said, here’s an approximate breakdown of the characters we hope to cast:

Abby, 17, woman-identifying. High schooler in Texas with a love of painting, music, existentialist poetry, and her cat. Father is a conservative tax attorney who disapproves of most things she does.

Val, 18.5, woman-identifying. International student doing a homestay at Abbey's house. Caring, a worrier, but has a fiery inner spirit that starts to come out over the course of the show.

Dan, 21, man-identifying. Brother of an acquaintance of Abbey's who disappeared for several years — whether this was college, a job, or jail, nobody is totally sure — and carries with him a simultaneous charisma and destructiveness. Starts a relationship with Abbey.

Isaiah, 18.5, nb-identifying. A first-year at a local art college staying with his aunt, kind-hearted and sweet, but secretive. Has a lot of ghosts in his closet. Starts a relationship with Val.

Jamie, 17. Friend of Abbey and Val who knows a little more about Dan's past than she cares to reveal.

Potential ensemble of friends, partygoers, high schoolers, parents, etc. Also other roles could conceivably be written in if there is interest in this.

Other key info:

- We aim to put up the show the last weekend of April, but are also open to pushing it into reading period if people would prefer that.
- The show will never rehearse or perform Friday evening, Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon, due to the director's religious obligations.
- Average time commitment will be 1-2 hours per week until the week of April 3, at which point it will increase to a level commensurate with how much time the cast and team is able/willing to put in (probably around 4-6 hours per week, but this will be flexible.)
- This show will quite possibly take place in an unconventional performance space (a lecture hall, someone's apartment, etc.) for the creative possibilities this offers.

To audition:

- Sign up for a 15 min audition slot on Yale College Arts. (If you can't sign up for a slot, it's probably because you need to make an account on the website.)

- Auditions are 7-9:30, Tuesday Jan 24 in LC 101. If no 15-min slot in this block works for you, please email catherine.alam-nist@yale.edu and we will find another time that works for you.
- We'd love to hear you sing any song that you like and that feels good in your voice — this can be any genre and any style. Anywhere between 1-3 mins works timewise, and you're fine to read lyrics or music while you sing if you need to. Please be prepared to sing either unaccompanied or with a backing track from the internet, and no need to bring sheet music.
- Your song does not have to be from a stage show, but regardless of the genre, we'd love to see you put intention and thought into how you are performing it, so we can get some sense of how you act through song.
- After hearing you sing, our 'acting audition' (not really though — again, very chill) is that we'd like to hear you rant about a subject that you feel strongly about. It can be literally anything, and can be a positive or negative rant, but it should be something you care about and are excited to talk to two strangers about passionately for 1-2 mins.

Please reach out with any questions! Excited to see you soon :)