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Queens Musical  
Theatre

# HEATHERS

THE MUSICAL



Program

DIGITAL  
PROGRAM



"HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL"

Book, Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy.  
Based on the film written by Daniel Waters, "HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL" was  
originally directed Off-Broadway by Andy Fickman and choreographed by  
Marguerite Derricks.

"HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL" is presented by arrangement with Concord  
Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We cannot tell our story today without first acknowledging the original storytellers of this land. This theatre is located on the territory of the Anishinaabe, the Huron-Wendat, and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

QMT is deeply grateful for the opportunity to tell our stories on this land. We recognize that this privilege comes from the stewardship of the Indigenous Peoples who have lived here for millennia. We also recognize that this land acknowledgement is only one step of the process of reconciliation and that Indigenous stories are still being told on this land.




## HEATHERS: "ON THE MUSICAL"

"Are there any happy endings?"

The teen black comedy film *Heathers* following Veronica Sawyer, troubled teen J.D., and the popular clique, the eponymous *Heathers*, was released in 1989. Written by David Waters and directed by Michael Lehmann, the film sought to skewer the positive and family-friendly version of high school found in most teen movies at the time. This film tackles subjects of bullying, suicide, murder and high school violence, all in its own unique, sardonic way. Since its release, *Heathers* garnered a cult following and continued to live in popular culture. This was helped by Waters' decision to invent his own teen slang and not rely on current teen lingo, which would date the movie. Despite this, it remains a snapshot of the high school ethos of the late 80s in small-town America.


Production on a musical adaptation of the film began by 2009 and, after time in Los Angeles, premiered Off-Broadway in 2014. With music, book, and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy, *Heathers: The Musical* both recaptures and reinvents the film it adapts. The musical follows seventeen-year-old Veronica Sawyer in her final year at Westerburg High. The musical's opening number establishes Veronica, her best friend Martha, the school dynamics and most importantly, the *Heathers*: the popular clique who rule the school.




Their leader, Heather Chandler, is cruel in equal measures to the inner circle and the rest of the student population of Westerburg High but is still very popular. When they learn Veronica can be useful to them, the Heathers allow her into their clique, making Veronica leave Martha behind. Further complicating things is the arrival of Jason "J.D." Dean, a mysterious new boy who shocks the students by standing up to the jocks Kurt and Ram. However, his violent nature intrigues Veronica, leading her to fall out with the Heathers in more ways than one.

Heathers leans into the idea of people taking other people's tragedy for themselves, satirizing some of the ways mental health and suicide are viewed in media and real life. A change from the film comes in the form of Heather Chandler appearing as a ghost to Veronica, haunting her for the rest of the show. This ghost echoes the words of what Veronica has absorbed from the expectations of her family, the Heathers, her school, and society at large.

"I wish your dad were good; I wish grownups understood. I wish we'd met before they convinced you life is war," is the thesis of the musical. Being in high school for most people feels like hell, and Heathers takes that to the extreme. It is messy, violent, romantic, harsh, and unfair. Heathers: The Musical doesn't shy away from any of the film's dark subject matter. If anything, the musical doubles down and goes deeper into some of the film's dark themes. Making J.D. a more fleshed-out character and exploring a troubled relationship with his father, the death of his mother, and his relationship with high school go a long way to humanize him while not excusing his violent actions.



Despite all the violence and chaos, there is optimism in Heathers. It is a cynical and dark story, but there is optimism; the "war" eventually ends. The final number of the show, "Seventeen (Reprise)," allows the characters to simply be flawed teenagers, not forgiving or condoning the bad but allowing for the possibility of good. The closing number reiterates that they are all just seventeen years old and in high school, and things will hopefully get better. Heathers knows what to poke fun at and what to take seriously. This is evident in its satirical exploration of the musical's many themes, such as bullying, violence, sexual assault, eating disorders, parental neglect, mental health and suicide. It is because of Heathers' ability to shine a light on so many serious subject matters in a way that feels approachable, (mostly) respectful, and entertaining, along with its endlessly catchy songs, that it's become a classic in its own right.



**Elliot Norman**  
**Dramaturg, Heathers: The Musical**

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Thank you so much for coming to see our production of *Heathers: The Musical*. The show you're seeing today is the result of countless hours of dedication from a team of over one hundred students. The cast, diamond team, creative team, production team, crew members, and our amazing band make up the heart and soul of this club. This show simply would not be possible without the hard work of each and every one of them.

*Heathers* is a dream show. It's a cult classic that, despite its heavier subject matter, feels like home for many young theatre fans. It was important to me to choose a show with a strong ensemble. We have an overwhelming abundance of talent here at Queen's, and I wanted to showcase as much of it as possible. While the show tackles complex themes—often through satire—its core message is about kindness and community, which aligns perfectly with QMT's mission.

Directing with QMT has been a dream of mine since my very first show in second year. Three years and six productions later, I'm beyond grateful to have had this opportunity. A huge thank you to the QMT board, our awesome producer Nathan, genius co-TDs Robert and Charlie, stellar PM Olivia, iconic SM Quinn, incredible choreographer Allie, inspiring VD Ryan, and our phenomenally talented cast.

Thank you to my family for raising me on musical theatre and encouraging me to take on this role.

Over the past three years, QMT has become my home. This club is an incredible space for students to learn, grow, collaborate, make friends, and build community. I'm constantly inspired by the passion and creativity of my peers. Right now, funding for the arts is precarious, and our university is no exception. We've faced many challenges this year because of it—but the show must go on. If you're able, please consider supporting the arts. Donate to QMT. Support your local theatre. Musical theatre offers a home to so many, and these communities must be protected.

For us, theatre is our community. But today, our goal is simple: to entertain. So please—enjoy the show.

**Sarena Abramson**  
**Director, *Heathers: The Musical***

# PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to Queen's Musical Theatre's 83rd Production of *Heathers: The Musical*! For the past 55 years, QMT has been a cornerstone of the artistic community at Queen's. Each season, we strive to create an environment that empowers emerging artists to learn, grow, and push the boundaries of what they believe to be possible. With *Heathers*, we have continued to do just that.



Today's production is the culmination of thousands of hours of work from over one hundred dedicated team members, each of whom has gone above and beyond to redefine what student theatre can be at Queen's. To our endlessly talented band, riveting cast, and tireless production team—thank you. Your dedication never ceases to amaze me. Additionally, I would like to extend a special thanks to our Director; Sarena Abramson, whose tenacity pushed this production to unyielding heights; and our Producer, Nathan Zhe, whose relentless passion brought this show to fruition against all odds.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the community for their support of both QMT and this production. This year has been particularly challenging, with administrative cutbacks and diminished support for the arts. However, thanks to your unwavering encouragement, QMT has not only persevered but thrived, selling out shows and impacting hundreds of student artists. While there is still much work to be done, this success is a testament to why this art form matters.

Finally, on behalf of the outgoing QMT Board, I can say that seeing this team bring *Heathers* to life has been nothing short of extraordinary. Fostering an environment where artists grow—both as individuals and as a collective—has been the highlight of our time with this club. As you leave today, I urge you to continue supporting emerging artists in Canada, just as you have today. They are shaping the cultural identity of tomorrow.

With that, I hope you enjoy the show.

Sincerely,  
**Robert Herz**  
President, Queen's Musical Theatre



# PRODUCER'S NOTE



Welcome to Westerburg High! Over the past few months, our team has poured heart, soul, and a whole lot of sweat into bringing *Heathers: The Musical* to life on the Kingston stage. We've shared joy, laughter, stress, and unforgettable moments—and now, you, one of our lucky audience members, get to experience it all with us.

*Heathers: The Musical* marks the third production I've had the honour of producing during my time at Queen's. This journey has been nothing short of incredible—challenging, rewarding, and deeply meaningful. Building a team of over 100 passionate and talented individuals has been one of the most unique and fulfilling experiences of my life. From logging into the Concord Theatricals website to secure the rights, to witnessing J.D. and Veronica share a heartfelt moment in "Seventeen," I've had the privilege of watching this production evolve from a vocal book into a reality.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the QMT Board for entrusting me with this opportunity and for the invaluable learning experience. To Sarena—thank you for embarking on this journey with me as an incredible Director. To Robert and Charlie—thank you for stepping in as Technical Directors when we needed you the most. To Olivia and Quinn—your leadership during tons of meetings and rehearsals kept us grounded and moving forward. And to our entire production team: thank you for your dedication, your spirit, and your willingness to grow together. I hope this experience has brought you as much joy and learning as it has brought me.

Finally, thank YOU—for picking up this program, for buying a ticket, and for supporting student theatre. *Heathers: The Musical* has made history as one of the fastest-selling shows in Kingston's theatre community, and you are a part of that story. I hope this show brings you laughter and tears, just as creating it has brought us. Here's to sharing a moment together—and, like Veronica, moving boldly toward our next chapter.

**Nathan Zhe**  
Producer, *Heathers: The Musical*



# MEET THE CAST



**ALEXA JACOBY**  
VERONICA



**CAUE GARCIA**  
J.D.



**KATE MEGGINSON**  
HEATHER CHANDLER



**NICOLE MARTIN**  
HEATHER MCNAMARA



**KAREN LEAR**  
HEATHER DUKE



**CONNOR HOUGHTON**  
RAM/COVER J.D.



**LUCAS NASU NIELSEN**  
KURT



**SARAH DOYLE**  
MARTHA



**GRACE HOLMES**  
MS. FLEMING/VERONICA'S MOM



**PETER ROGERS**  
KURT'S DAD/VERONICA'S DAD



**GRIFFEN THUSS CONKIE**  
RAM'S DAD/BIG BUD DEAN/COACH RIPPER



# MEET THE CAST



**ALICE "BASEBALL" BATTISTA**  
STUNNER CHICK  
(V/S MARTHA + FLEMING + MOM)



**ZORA JAJIC**  
NEW WAVE GIRL



**EBONY ELLIOTT**  
PREPPY STUD/OFFICER MCCORD



**HAYLEY WATSON**  
BELEAGUERED GEEK (V/S CHANDLER)



**ISABEL LIVIE**  
HIPSTER DORK/PRINCIPAL



**HANNAH CLARK**  
YOUNG REPUBLICANETTE (V/S  
MCNAMARA)



**OLIVIA PEREIRA**  
ENSEMBLE/OFFICER MILNER



**KI MCSPURREN**  
SWING (VERONICA + DUKE)



# MEET THE BAND



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# CREATIVE TEAM

SARENA ABRAMSON .....	DIRECTOR
ALLIE SIEBEN .....	CHOREOGRAPHER
RYAN KILLORAN .....	VOCAL DIRECTOR
MICHAEL CAPON .....	MUSIC DIRECTOR
SULLY FRANKS .....	ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR
AIDEN ROBERT BRUCE .....	CO-INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHER
KIMMY D'SOUZA .....	CO-INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHER
KATE MEGGINSON .....	FIGHT CAPTAIN
NICOLE MARTIN .....	VOCAL CAPTAIN
KAVINA SATHIYANARAYANA .....	SET DESIGNER
ELSA MCKNIGHT .....	LIGHTING DESIGNER
HUNTER WOLFE .....	ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER
BRIANNA WEY .....	COSTUME DESIGNER
ALLISON MARTIN .....	PROPS DESIGNER
JOSEPH GUIDO .....	SOUND DESIGNER
MARGARET YOUNG .....	HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGNER
KAITLIN MOHAN .....	FRONT OF HOUSE DESIGNER
ANNABELLE BROPHY .....	GRAPHIC DESIGNER





# PRODUCTION TEAM

NATHAN ZHE .....	PRODUCER
ALINA SIWY .....	ASSISTANT PRODUCER
OLIVIA WALL .....	PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIA CATALANOTTO .....	ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER
CHARLIE HENSEL .....	CO-TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
ROBERT HERZ .....	CO-TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
MYRA CHIU .....	ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
QUINN HAMMOND .....	STAGE MANAGER
BRIA CHALOVICH .....	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
JENNIFER ZHOU .....	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
AGUSTINA TABARES .....	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
ABBY MACDERMID .....	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
ALISTAIR LEONG .....	HEAD OF CARPENTRY
LUCIA TAYLOR .....	HEAD OF PAINT
MARIA DE CARO .....	HEAD OF WARDROBE
ISABEL FOGL .....	HEAD OF PROPS
JOEY PELMAN .....	HEAD OF MARKETING
MATTHEW MCDONALD .....	HEAD OF SOUND
LINDSAY WILSON .....	HAIR & MAKEUP COORDINATOR
NATHAN LACKMAN-CAPLIN ...	ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR
ELLIOT NORMAN .....	DRAMATURG
JORDAN MEDULAN .....	PHOTOGRAPHER
EMMA LAMB .....	VIDEOGRAPHER

# PRODUCTION CREWS

## ***COSTUME***

OLIVIA LEONG  
MADELEINE COTTREAU  
CLAIRE HUANG

## ***PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS***

SAMUEL DAVID SOMERTON  
JAVIER VILORIA-GARCIA

## ***FOH & ACCESSIBILITY***

VICTORIA ZHAO  
JACQUI DOMET  
AVA DELANEY

## ***PAINT***

SAMANTHA PAPILLA  
AURORA MALLON  
SYDNEY BLACK

## ***HAIR & MAKEUP***

CHARLOTTE OCON  
TÉA SARRA  
ELLA ARNOLD  
ANAHITA BEHPOUR

## ***CARPENTRY***

APRIL PRZONTKA  
COOPER LUKING  
JAIME TRUONG  
BEN MUCKENHEIM

## ***MARKETING***

JAVIER VILORIA-GARCIA  
AMELIA MITCHELL  
AVA LAZARE  
ATAA AMOAH-BEDIAKO

## ***PROPS***

OLIVIA RIDDELL  
JACOB SKIBA  
OLIVIA HUMPHRIES  
KIMBERLEY AMPONSEM

## ***SOUND***

SARAH BOEHMER  
DARWYN CHANG  
SAMUEL DAVID SOMERTON

## ***LIGHTING***

MADDIE LACHANCE  
NICOLE LAG-ANG  
HANNAH COX  
KYRA MEVIS  
SAIF ANDANI



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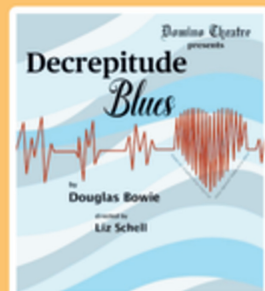
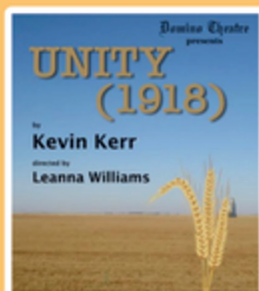
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