

after zoe

a new musical

Written and directed by Adam Hester
Lyrics and music by Jenavene Hester Bazacas,
Conrad Hester and Martha Heady
Musical direction by Dr. Chris Hollingsworth
Conducted by Fred Griggs

June 21-22, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

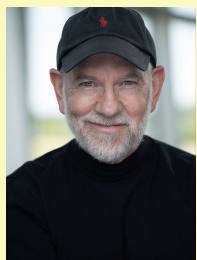
June 23, 2024 at 2 p.m.

Fulks Theatre • 2023-24 season



AFTER ZOEY

Book, Music, Lyrics, Orchestration



Adam Hester
Writer & Director

Jenavene Hester Bazacas
Lyrics & Music

Conrad Hester
Lyrics & Music

Martha Heady
Lyrics & Music

Joseph Mohan
Orchestration

AFTER ZOEY

Cast



Lauren MacLeod
"Zoey"

Po Kiu Ryan Chu
"Cliff"

Nouwen Craft
"Connie"

Christine Pinson
"Mrs. Agnew (Mama)"

Will Thompson
"The Other Guys"

Swings

Taylor Herndon, Matthew Lietz

Settings/Time

After Zoey takes place from 1974-1976

Zoey's bedroom
A Park
Agnews' home

A hospital
Johnny Ray's pickup
The Paradise Dance Hall

Statement of Mission

The Abilene Christian University Department of Theatre is committed to providing quality training and opportunity for the disciplined theatre artist in a nurturing environment that models Christian values.

Musical Numbers

ACT I

"It's Time" Zoey
"She's Fine" Mama, Doctor, Connie
"Just Right" Zoey, Robbie
"Doctors, Nurses" Mama
"Catch You Later, Goodbye" Zoey, Connie
"Milky Way" Zoey, Cliff
"Rain Hurts Clouds" Connie, Mama, Zoey
"Did It Cross Your Mind" Zoey, Cliff
"In February" Mama, Connie
"Loved and Kept" Connie, Cliff, Zoey, Mama

10 minute intermission

ACT II

"Over You" Zoey, Connie
"The Long Distance Waltz" Mama
"Deny Yourself" Jerry, Zoey, Connie
"Just Beneath The Surface" Zoey, Cliff, Jerry
"Doctors, Nurses" Cliff
"San Antonio Rain" Connie
"Our Chance/Don't Tell Me" Zoey
"Feeling Better" Zoey
"The Song That Is You" Johnny Ray
"Milky Way Reprise" All Cast

Band

Keyboard.....Fred Grigg
Violin.....Thomas Roberts
String Bass.....Stacey Nash
Guitar.....Robert Colley

Production Team

Producer.....Dawne Swearingen Meeks
Director.....Adam Hester
Vocal Director.....Dr. Chris Hollingsworth
Stage Manager.....Kayla Brookshire
Assistant Stage Manager.....Rose Lee-Alliston
Choreographers.....Taylor Herndon, Will Thompson
Scenic Design.....Gary Varner
Scenic Builders.....Andrew Wheeler, Zeke Merchant, Evan Owens, Ty Naicker

Production Team Continued

Digital Background Designer.....	Eric Pitney
Costume Design.....	Donna Hester
Costume Assistant.....	Martha Heady
Wig Styler.....	Nora Vellis
Costume Strike.....	Catherine Baumgardner
Dresser.....	Samantha Brant
Lighting Designer.....	Josh Hervey
Light Board Op.....	Devin Braswell
Spot Ops.....	Melissa Henderson, Ty Naicker
Sound Support/Sound Board.....	Christian Martinez
Master Electrician.....	Collin Mitten
Props Designer/Sound Set Up.....	Téa Merchant
Backstage Crew.....	Matthew Lietz, Téa Merchant, Taylor Herndon
Fly Rail.....	Zeke Merchant
Accompanist & EQ Sound Tech.....	Fred Grigg
Videographer.....	Caleb Shields
Dramaturg.....	Donna Hester
Box Office/Patron Services Director.....	Devin Braswell
Program Designer.....	Devin Braswell
Program Cover Design	Holly Harrel, Adam Hester
Production Photographer.....	Paul White
Program / Publicity / Web Design.....	Adam Hester
PR / Fundraising / Box Office.....	Caleb Shields, Madi Sipe
House Management.....	Caleb Shields, Melissa Henderson

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Director's Note

Developing a musical is hard y'all. Did you know that writer Anaïs Mitchell spent more than a decade crafting the book and lyrics for the Tony Award-winning musical *Hadestown*? I began working on *After Zoey* in 2014, though the concept had been brewing for years prior. Originally titled *Losing Mellie*, the story mirrored the romance of the main characters Mellie and Tripp, who later evolved into Zoey and Cliff. Connie, Mellie's sister, and Mama were in those first 16 pages, but the Other Guys was a later device. The names in *After Zoey* were carefully chosen for their deeper meanings.

In 2015, I had the incredible opportunity to workshop *After Zoey* in New York, fulfilling a long-held dream. A fully staged production followed at ACU in 2016, yet in my mind, it remained a work in progress as I continued to refine the musical. Both the New York workshop and the ACU production featured my daughter Jenavene, who composed and wrote many of the songs. While not autobiographical, *After Zoey* draws inspiration from my sister-in-law, Martha, a woman of courage and faith. Her remarkable life served as the foundation for the fictional narrative. I hope the truth of *After Zoey* bears witness to her indomitable life. Several songs in the musical were penned by Martha, and I vividly recall listening to her sing those very melodies on a cassette tape decades ago after Donna and I married.

My son, Conrad, wrote many poems that Jenavene later set to music, six of these are included in *After Zoey*. In 2005, Conrad and Jenavene both graduated – he from college and she from high school. They marked this significant milestone together in a joint concert with some of their friends playing in the band, Jenavene singing the songs and Conrad serving as MC. As you can tell, the evolution of *After Zoey* spanned many years with its roots deeply embedded in our family's creative endeavors.

The realization of this musical wouldn't have been possible without the exceptional gifts of Juilliard-trained musician Joseph Mohan who orchestrated the songs in 2016. But today, I'm so grateful for this current cast and production team. After our gracious producer and advocate Dawne Meeks asked if I would bring *After Zoey* back, I couldn't imagine doing the play without Jenavene performing Zoey and my son-in-law, Seth, playing Cliff. But here we are today with an amazing cast whose passion and commitment have infused new energy into these roles, our extraordinary stage managers as well as our outstanding music director, Chris Hollingsworth, scenic designer Gary Varner, and the rest of the talented production team.

A special word of appreciation goes to my wife, Donna, who has championed *After Zoey* from the beginning. Her unwavering support, constructive feedback, costume design contributions, and overall encouragement have been invaluable in shaping this narrative into what it is today. I trust that you, the audience, will discover hope and inspiration within the story of *After Zoey*.

-Adam Hester

Acknowledgments

Rick Piersall, ACU Department of Music (Projection screen, projectors),
HSU Department of Theatre (Lighting Equipment),
Donna Hester (Various props),
Abilene Community Theatre (gurney),
ACU School of Nursing (IV pole),
Cande Flores, Fire Chief, Abilene Fire Department (fireman's uniform)
Arlene Kasselmann- Seven and One Books (books)

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