

THE COAST STARLIGHT

By Keith Bunin



November 14-19 at 7:30 p.m. • Fulks Theatre
Directed by Adam Hester

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.

Cast

T.J.....	Ryan Chu
Jane.....	Nouwen Craft
Noah.....	Dillon Gutierrez
Liz.....	Karis Cox
Ed.....	Landon Holub
Anna.....	Anna Grygier

Understudies

Patti Maisano
Spencer Kasselmann

Production Team

Producer.....	Dawne Swearingen Meeks
Director.....	Adam Hester
Director of Design.....	Eric Pitney
Scenic Design.....	Gary Varner
Lighting Designer.....	Josh Hervey
Co Costume Designers.....	Catherine Baumgardner, Will Thompson
Costume Mentor.....	Catherine Baumgardner
Hair & Makeup Designer.....	Rose Lee-Alliston
Sound Designer.....	Sarah Ann Miller
Props Master.....	Caitlin Martin
Technical Director.....	Andrew Wheeler

Production Team Cont.

Stage Manager.....	Collin Mitten
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Trinity Madison, Ashton Taylor
Shop Foreman.....	Vee Council, Karis Cox, Josh Hervey, Ryan Shupe
Sets Crew.....	Kayla Brookshire, Ryan Chu, Gabi Collins, Vee Council, Karis Cox, Zola Feasel, Hannah Galambos, Dillon Gutierrez, Malachi Havens, Josh Hervey, Landon Holub, Spencer Kasselmann, Mykala Lugafet, Clayton Mace, Trinity Madison, Patti Maisano, Caitlin Martin, Zeke Merchant, Sarah Ann Miller, Juan Rivera, Ella Root, Caleb Shields, Ty Naicker, Ryan Shupe, Madi Sipe, Kloey Spahni, Téa Wallace, Morgan Whitley
Costume Shop Manager.....	Rachel McNiece
Costume Shop Assistants.....	Chloe Dickson, Anna Grygier, Ainsley Houghton, Gabi Lopez, Sarah Ann Miller, Will Thompson, Catie Wilkerson
Costume Crew.....	Gabi Collins, Anna Grygier, Gabi Lopez, Caitlin Martin, Sarah Ann Miller, Jilly Nickens, Emilie Reed, Kira Tirado, Riley Wilson
Light Board Operator.....	Laci Jackson
Sound Board Operator.....	Kinley Schollenbarger
Sound Engineer (microphones)	Téa Wallace
Follow Spot Operators.....	Kayla Brookshire, Kloey Spahni
Backstage Crew.....	Mary Caroline Price
Dramaturg.....	Layla Rorem
Dramaturg Faculty Mentors.....	Adam Hester, Chris Hollingsworth
Director of Patron Services.....	Devin Braswell
Program Designer.....	Chloe Munson
Program Cover Design	Holly Harrell
Production Photographer.....	Ron Collins
Program / Publicity / Web Design.....	Adam Hester, Chloe Munson
PR / Fundraising.....	Kaycee Humphrey, Lauren MacLeod, Trinity Madison, Chloe Munson, Emilie Reed
Patron Services.....	Brayden Ashorn, Chloe Dickson, Alex Dulske, Rose Lee-Alliston, Ryleigh Moore

Acknowledgements

"THE COAST STARLIGHT was Originally Commissioned by
La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, California
Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director & Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director"

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Emily Wooten
Kyle Martin, Abilene High School
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Dr. Rick Piersall & the ACU Music Department

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Director's Notes

In 2019, one of my students, Emily Wooten (now graduated), secured an internship with the La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego. The La Jolla Playhouse has the prestigious reputation of developing new works that have transferred to Broadway including *Jersey Boys*, *Come From Away*, *Big River*, *I Am My Own Wife* (also a Pulitzer Prize winner), *The Who's Tommy* and more. Emily contacted me saying "We just had our first read through and table work, and I can honestly say this is one of the best scripts I've ever seen...I think you would love it." Later on, I was able to secure a script, and Emily was right! I loved *The Coast Starlight*. Since the play wasn't published, I had to go through the playwright, Keith Bunin's, agent to obtain the rights to produce the show. After about three months, the agent and the playwright signed off on allowing the ACU Theatre permission to produce the play. Late last month, Playbill.com announced auditions were being held for the Broadway production of *The Coast Starlight*. Lincoln Center is slated to produce the play in March 2023. It's pretty exciting to get to share a play with our audiences before it appears on Broadway.

I'm really looking forward to seeing it in New York!

The play is very different than any I have directed before. The device Bunin uses in the play is to explore the "what ifs" and the "road not taken" with six strangers who are riding the train together. He exploits the tendency we all have when riding on an airplane, a train or other public transportation to wonder about the people sitting beside us or across the aisle from us. We sometimes make up imaginary stories and even have questions we want to ask. Rarely do we do act on this, but this is exactly what happens in *The Coast Starlight*. Bunin takes those imagined conversations and creates a smart, funny and compassionate story about our need for community. The play examines how each of us yearn for connection. We all have problems to resolve and, whether we realize it or not, we need to reach out to others for help.

I am so grateful for this wonderful cast and group of stage managers I have gotten to work with. We have had a joyous and meaningful trip on *The Coast Starlight*. I hope you experience a bit of that joy and are somewhat changed because of the play.

Adam Hester
Director

Playwright's Biography

KEITH BUNIN is currently writing screenplays for Universal Pictures, Paramount Pictures, CBS Films, Fox Animation, and Likely Story/Mandalay Films, among others. He wrote the screenplay for the film *Horns*, directed by Alexandre Aja, starring Daniel Radcliffe, and based on the novel by Joe Hill, which will be released later this year. He is the author of the plays *The Busy World is Hushed*, *The World Over* and *The Credeaux Canvas*, which were all originally produced Off-Broadway by Playwrights Horizons. His other plays include *Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir*, produced by La Jolla Playhouse and City Theatre, *Vera Laughed*, produced by New York Stage and Film, *The Principality of Sorrows*, produced by Pure Orange Productions, *The King of Clocks*, produced by Lincoln Center Lab at HERE, and *A Joke*, produced by Malaparte. He wrote the book for the musical *10 Million Miles*, which was produced Off-Broadway by the Atlantic Theatre Company. He was also a writer for the HBO TV-series "In Treatment." His essays have been published in American Film Magazine and on the web at McSweeney's. He received his B.A. from Goddard College and his M.A. from Columbia University.

Study Guide

Scan the QR code to view the study guide for *The Coast Starlight* made by our wonderful Dramaturg, Layla Rorem.





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