

# The Company

Jacqueline du Pré ..... Anna Beth Baker  
Cellist..... Jacqueline Ultan  
Keyboard..... Harrison Wade

# The Production Team

Book Writer, Composer & Lyricist..... Benjamin Emory Larson  
Director.....Scott Ford  
Music Directors .....Christine Wade & Harrison Wade  
Festival Producer..... Elissa Adams  
Stage Manager ..... John Novak\*  
Production Assistant.....Meghan Gaffney  
Festival Production Manager .....Christian Erben  
Lighting Designer/Operator .....Andrew Norfolk  
Sound Designers/Operators..... Lea Brucker & Julie Zumsteg

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers  
\*\*Associate Member of SDC, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union

**Special thanks to Jungle Theater, Theatre Elision, and John Novak**

*This presentation runs 75 minutes with no intermission*

# ***HOW TO PLAY THE CELLO (UNTIL YOU DON'T)***

Book, Music & Lyrics by Benjamin Emory Larson

Direction by Scott Ford

Music Direction by Christine Wade & Harrison Wade

*With gratitude to our Producing Partner John Sullivan*

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What is a cellist who can't play cello?

When theaters were shut down by COVID-19 in 2020, and it sank in that they wouldn't be reopening, I felt like I had wasted my life. I had poured everything I had into musical theater, and now it was gone, possibly for a long time. In 2024, my friend Anna Beth (the performer of this piece) told me she had always wanted to play Jacqueline du Pré, and I jumped at the opportunity to write something for her, as well as explore the story of another artist who had lost their ability to make art.

The plan was simple: write a nice little show about a gifted cellist, compose some classical crossover songs, and maybe process a few feelings along the way. I didn't expect to encounter in Jackie du Pré a person whose journey—albeit a little more exciting—so closely mirrors mine. I found a kindred, fun-loving spirit, a fellow weird kid, and another musician who plays too loud and head bangs too much.

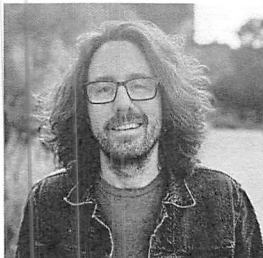
Writing about Jackie has healed me and challenged me and broken my heart in a hundred ways. I hope spending an evening with her does the same for you. If you walked into the theater carrying shattered dreams of any size in your heart, I hope you leave knowing you are not alone.

I'm so grateful to Anna Beth for bringing this character to life with me. I'm so grateful to Elissa, my creative team, and the staff at Latté Da for investing their time and resources into this piece and shaping it so powerfully. And I'm grateful to you for being here, even more so if you're able to stick around for the talkback and share your thoughts with me and the team.

If you'd like to chat or yell at me or ask me anything, don't hesitate to chase me down after the reading or reach out online: [benemorylarson@gmail.com](mailto:benemorylarson@gmail.com).

- Ben

P.S. A cellist who can't play cello is: a cellist.



Benjamin Emory Larson