



## Be More Chill Audition Pack

### **Audition details:**

Thursday 10 January 2019

7pm - 10pm

Friday 11 January 2019

7.30pm - 10pm

### **Audition location**

Fly in the Loaf (upstairs room)

13 Hardman Street

Liverpool

L1 9AS

You only need to attend one of the dates above. No appointment necessary.

### **Call backs**

Sunday 13 January 2019

From 2pm

### **Call backs location**

Hope Street Theatre

Rehearsal Room 1 (upstairs on the right)

22 Hope Street

Liverpool

L1 9BY

### **Production details**

Thursday 9 - Saturday 11 May 2019

Hope Street Theatre, Liverpool

**You must be available during the daytime on Sat 4 and Sun 5 May as well as each evening from 6-11 May.**

### **Production Team**

Producer: Amy Gornall

Director: Jessica Sutcliffe

Musical Directors: Josie Conti and Mark Newberry

### **Be More Chill**

Book: Joe Tracz | Music and Lyrics: Joe Iconis | Based on a 2004 novel of the same name by Ned Vizzini

## Synopsis

Jeremy Heere is just an average teenager. That is, until he finds out about “The Squip” – a tiny supercomputer that promises to bring him everything he desires most: a date with Christine, an invite to the raddest party of the year and a chance to survive life in his suburban New Jersey high school. But is being the most popular guy in school worth the risk?

BE MORE CHILL is based on the novel by Ned Vizzini. Check out the soundtrack here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN44OAZnihM>

## Characters

The characters are bold and varied. A number of characters have playing ages of 16/17 but we will be considering a much wider age range of people for these roles as decisions will be made on how the cast works as a whole. The full team will be a true ensemble cast, with a mixture of talents and strengths. All actors must sing and will need to be comfortable with movement. We are happy for people to audition for more than one part.

When reading, please speak with an American accent, unless otherwise stated in the character notes below.

Please read the character descriptions below and if you have any questions, please contact Amy (amy@wwdn.co.uk).

## Character descriptions

Cast must have strong character acting and singing ability, as well as being comfortable with movement.

JEREMY HEERE.

Range: G2-A4

- Male, playing age 16/17
- Jeremy is a typical, awkward teenager, very average and unassuming. He’s a sweet and well-meaning boy who is nothing special. Fed up with being bottom of the pile, he wants to do something about his social standing. He jumps at the chance to change his life when he learns of a super-computer he can take as a pill to make him cool and get him the girl of his dreams!
- Must have warmth, great comedic timing and a great rock/pop voice

MICHAEL MELL

Range: C3-A4 (B4 once)

- Male, playing age 16/17
- Typical gamer geek, 80s/90s retro kid
- Jeremy’s music-loving, weed-smoking best friend who’s perfectly happy to be an outsider – with Jeremy by his side. Easy-going and optimistic in his best friends presence, though shy and introverted around others
- The role requires great comedic timing and a strong pop/rock voice

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### CHRISTINE CANIGULA

Range: G3-D5

- Female, playing age 16/17
- Theatre geek, highly opinionated and temperamental. Can't settle on any one thing – passionate about anything
- Small, sparky and full of energy
- Must have lots of energy and a strong pop/rock voice

### RICH GORANSKI

Range: B2-A4 (also rock falsetto)

- Male, playing age 16/17
- Jeremy's bully
- Rich appears to be an aggressive, angry little dude. One of the popular kids, but he has a bit of a sad past, ultimately befriending Jeremy and convincing him to get a SQUIP to improve his special standing like he did
- Little powerhouse with a strong pop/rock voice

### BROOKE LOHST

Range: Eb4-C5

- Female, playing age 16/17
- Second most popular girl in school – following in Chloe's footsteps. A little bohemian-meets-preppy, sweet natured, a little naive and very insecure, very much a follower.
- Strong pop voice

### CHLOE VALENTINE

Range: Eb4-C5

- Female, playing age 16/17
- Arguably the hottest, most popular girl in school. Appears to exude confidence, but in fact relies on the attention. She feels the need to fight to defend her 'Queen Bee' title
- Strong pop voice

### JENNA ROLAN

Range: B3-D5

- Female, playing age 16/17
- Total busybody, Jenna knows everything about everyone. Deep down she fears everyone hates her since no one seems to have the same interest in her
- Strong pop/rock/belting voice

### JAKE DILLINGER

Range: D3-Gb4 (Bb4 once).

- Male, playing age 16/17
- Very athletic, plays for just about every sports team in school. Not very bright, but pretty easygoing and likeable. He is very much trying to fill the void of his home life with his extra curricular activities
- Strong pop/rock voice

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## THE SQUIP

Range A3-Ab4

- Male, age 20+
- Has a look of Keanu Reeves about him. The Squip starts off innocent enough, but becomes more controlling and manipulative as time goes on. Has no problem breaking Jeremy down to get him to do as he says. Snarky, smooth talking with an attitude and quick wit
- Strong pop/rock voice

## MR HEERE/JEREMY'S DAD

Range: Bb2-G4

- Male, around age 40
- Dorky, embarrassing kind of Dad completely out of touch with his teenage son. Bit of a pushover, divorced – doesn't wear pants
- Strong pop voice

## SCARY STOCKBOY

- Male, adult, non-singing role
- Shady guy who works at Middleborough Malls PayLess Shoes outlet. Sells SQUIPS from the back room. Blatantly lives in his mother's basement

## MR REYES

- Male, adult, non-singing role
- Strange and bitter school drama teacher. Resents the kids and hates his job, but loves the theatre

## Audition songs

JEREMY HEERE

**More than Survive - (b.30-63) Second Verse**

Part of song: [https://youtu.be/l6Hp\\_ni5hus?t=44](https://youtu.be/l6Hp_ni5hus?t=44). Starts at 0:44

Lyrics:

Should I take a bus or walk instead?  
I feel my stomach filling up with dread  
When I get nervous my whole face goes red  
Dude, weigh the options calmly and be still  
A junior on the bus is killer weak  
But if I walk when I arrive I'm gonna straight up reek  
And my boxers will be bunchy and my pits will leak  
Ugh, God, I wish I had the skill  
To just be fine and cool and chill

I don't wanna be a hero  
Just wanna stay in the line  
I'll never be your Rob DeNiro  
For me Joe Pesci is fine  
So I follow my own rules  
And I use them as my tools  
To stay alive  
I don't wanna be special, no, no  
I just wanna survive

MICHAEL MELL

**Michael in the Bathroom (b.50-82)**

**Part of song: <https://youtu.be/Dj1P-5Ey4dU?t=105>. Starts at 1:45.**

Lyrics:

I am hiding, but he's out there, just ignoring all our history  
Memories get erased, and I'll get replaced, with a newer, cooler version of me  
And I hear a drunk girl sing along to Whitney through the door, "I wanna dance with  
somebody"

And my feelings sink, 'cause it makes me think: now there's no one to make fun of  
drunk girls with anymore!

Now it's just Michael in the bathroom, Michael in the bathroom at a party

I half regret the beers

Michael in the bathroom, Michael in the bathroom at a party

As I choke back the tears

I'll wait as long as I need, until my face is dry

Or I'll just blame it on weed, or something in my eye!

I'm just Michael who you don't know, Michael flyin' solo

Michael in the bathroom by himself!

CHRISTINE CANIGULA

**I Love Play Rehearsal (b.1 - 28)**

Part of song: <https://youtu.be/OYml2PEosOo>. Starts at 0:00.

Lyrics:

I love play rehearsal  
Because it's the best!  
Because it is fun  
I love play rehearsal  
And I get depressed as soon as it's done

But not depressed as in like kill yourself depressed  
No, I'm not into self-harm  
Dude, I swear, here check my arm!

See, I just use the word to emphasize a point  
Show the passion that I've got  
I am passionate a lot

I have mad, gigantic feelings  
Red and frantic feelings  
About most everything  
Like gun control, like spring  
Like if I'm living up to all I'm meant to be  
I also have a touch of ADD

RICH GORANSKI

**The Squip Song (b. 6-27)**

Part of song: <https://youtu.be/YazYbBjf7vo?t=11>. Starts at 0:11.

Lyrics:

Freshman year  
I didn't have a girlfriend or a clue  
I was a loser just like you  
Good times would only  
Soar by  
I was gross  
As every female would attest  
My sexting was a futile quest  
My little penis was depressed  
He was so lonely  
Poor guy  
I was  
Hopeless, hopeless  
I was  
Helpless, helpless  
Every time I'd walk the hallway  
I would trip  
I was  
Stagnant and idle  
I was  
So suicidal  
And then  
Then, then  
Then, then  
Then, then  
Then, then  
Then, then  
Then, then  
Then, then I got a Squip



BROOKE LOHST

**Upgrade (b.1-20)**

Part of song: [https://youtu.be/Y\\_qiMcu\\_pe4](https://youtu.be/Y_qiMcu_pe4). Starts at 0:00.

**SING BOTH PARTS (INC. SQUIP LINES)**

Lyrics:

[BROOKE]

Being here

With you right now

Our future is so clear

Our union is so near

[BROOKE & THE SQUIP]

Being here

With you right now

I'll tenderly guide you

[THE SQUIP]

Just take me inside you

Forever

CHLOE VALENTINE

**Do you wanna hang? (b. 4-47)**

**Part of song: <https://youtu.be/SX9i5ERBF0c?t=16>. Starts at 0:16.**

Lyrics:

Do you wanna hang?

Do you wanna hang?

Do you wanna hang for a bit?

Just you and me

Intimately

Talking about all of our feelings and shit

Do you wanna get

Do you wanna get

Do you wanna get really deep?

We could connect

If I get wrecked

You could rock this baby fast asleep

Do you wanna stop?

Do you wanna stop?

Do you wanna stop bein' coy?

Do you wanna get

Do you wanna get

Wanna get inside my diaper, boy?

JENNER ROLAN

**The Smartphone Hour (b. 40-79).** Including spoken lines.

**Part of song:** <https://youtu.be/AI9VsvgBJBs?t=49>. **Starts at 0:49.**

Lyrics:

No! Because I heard from Dustin Kropp  
That Rich had barely touched a drop  
Which means that you can't blame the things he did on alcohol  
It's just so terrible, I don't want to relive it all  
But do you want me to tell you?

[CHLOE]

Spit it out! Spit it out!

[JENNA]

You really want me to tell you?

[CHLOE]

Spit it out! Spit it out!

[JENNA]

I'll tell you 'cause you are my closest friend!

[CHLOE]

No I'm not?

[JENNA]

Yeah, I know  
But here's what happened at the party's end

Rich set a fire and he burned down the house! (Woah)  
Rich set a fire and he burned down the house! (Woah)  
I thought I was dreaming  
Everybody was screaming!  
When Rich set a fire and he burned down the house  
When Rich set a fire and he burned down the house

JAKE DILLINGER

**Upgrade (b.48 - 73)**

**Part of song: [https://youtu.be/Y\\_qiMcu\\_pe4?t=61](https://youtu.be/Y_qiMcu_pe4?t=61). Starts at 1:01.**

Lyrics:

Do you wanna come over  
To my place tonight?  
We'll get all sporty  
And play cricket  
Or get a forty  
And just kick it

My parents won't be home  
So it's alright  
They laundered money  
Now they're on the run

[CHRISTINE, spoken]  
Wait- Th- That's illegal

[JAKE]  
Which means the house is empty  
So, that's fun  
Oh yeah, yeah

Never hung with a girl like you before  
I don't know if you know it  
But I am sure  
That, for me, you are an upgrade

## THE SQUIP

**Be More Chill (Part 1) (b. 2-33). No spoken bits.**

**Part of song: <https://youtu.be/f1xUdHt1R7c>. Starts at 0:00.**

Lyrics:

Take your hands out of your pockets  
Arch your back, puff out your chest  
Add some swagger to your gait or  
You'll look like a mas-tur-ba-tor  
Fix your posture, then the rest

All your nerdiness is ugly  
All your stammering's a chore  
Your tics and fidgets are persistent  
And your charm is non-existent  
Fix your vibe, then fix some more

Oh, everything about you is so terrible  
Whoa, everything about you makes me wanna die

So don't freak out  
And don't resist  
And have no doubt  
If I assist  
You will  
Be more chill

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MR HEERE / JEREMY'S DAD

**The Pants Song (b. 3-45)**

Part of song: <https://youtu.be/MgyX2caA50U>. Starts at 0:00.

Lyrics:

Jeremy

Is in big bad trouble right now

It's trouble that he can't see

And I gotta help him somehow

I don't know what he wants

But I know what he needs

He'll need a dad so strong

To help him not slip away

I haven't been a dad for so long

But I think I'm ready today

The situation is grave

Now's the time to be brave

I'm gonna finally make that climb

One leg at a time!

When you love somebody

You put your pants on for them!

When you love somebody

You take a chance just for them

Chance just for them!

If the road gets muddy

Focus on the goal 'till the rough stuff's gone

When you love somebody

You put your pants on!

For all other parts and ensemble parts, please sing any of the above. If you have any questions regarding the music, please contact Josie and Mark (josie@wwdn.co.uk; mark@wwdn.co.uk)

### **Audition process**

Everyone who auditions will require a good level of both singing and acting ability, with a focus on strong character acting. We will also be looking for those who are comfortable with movement.

On the day of the audition, someone will greet you, sign you in and answer any questions that you may have. There'll be a short form to fill out when you can tell us a bit about you and your strengths.

Please note that there are no set audition times and therefore, there may be a short wait before you are able to audition. If you need to audition at a particular time, please let us know in advance.

As well as singing one of the songs above, we'll give you a short piece of script to read in character, in an American accent. If you are auditioning to be part of the ensemble please select any part to read in an American accent.

We will provide all audition materials on the day, you do not need to bring any scripts or sheet music with you and we will have a pianist to play for you.

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals will be twice a week on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and will mostly take place at Hope Street Theatre but on some occasions at other locations in the centre of Liverpool. You will be notified in advance when we are using other locations.

Our first rehearsal will be held on **Sunday 20 January 2019**.

We ask that you are available from 1pm-5pm on Sundays and from 7-9.30pm on Wednesdays. Please give us notice of your availability once cast, so that we can be as flexible as possible with our schedule.

We rehearse more regularly nearer to the production and will expect full cast and production team to be available for the two weekends prior to the show. We will ask you for availability information on your audition form to identify any major clashes, however we strive to be as accommodating as possible, given the high standard of performance we want to achieve.

### **Fees**

What We Did Next is a community interest company, producing non-commercial theatre. We are able to put on high standards of theatre through funding from ticket sales and from a small contribution from the cast and crew. Unfortunately we are not in a position to pay any cast or crew involved in the production.

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You do not need to pay anything to audition but, if cast, we require a £10 annual membership fee (which covers your insurance for rehearsals and the performance) as well as a £40 contribution to the cost of this show. This can be paid in one lump sum, or across instalments.

If you have any questions about this please contact Amy ([amy@wwdn.co.uk](mailto:amy@wwdn.co.uk))

### **About What We Did Next**

What We Did Next is an ambitious musical theatre group producing great theatre for and by the community of Liverpool. It sprang up in the summer of 2008 from the realisation that the central Liverpool community had no focus to gather around in order to put on great musicals specifically, whilst having a rehearsal schedule that fits around people's busy lives and also aiming to provide a vibrant social scene. Since our inception we have expanded into original writing, workshopping scripts and straight drama pieces.

We provide a vibrant social scene that includes regular open mic events with like-minded people.

Alongside theatre, we also run a choir, which meets weekly and performs at venues in and around Liverpool. We know many people love to be connected to the stage, whether performing or contributing behind the scenes, and this love brings us together as part of a dynamic group – What We Did Next.

### **Previous Shows**

*Assassins*, Unity Theatre 2018: Stephen Sondheim's musical recreation of 9 attempted and successful assassinations of US Presidents, darkly funny and brilliantly received by critics and audiences across the city.

*Pippin*, Unity Theatre, 2017: Stephen Schwartz's (*Wicked*, *Godspell*) imaginative and darkly humorous coming-of-age musical was performed by WWDN's ensemble cast, to brimming audiences.

*Three Sides*, 81 Renshaw, 2016: WWDN presented the amateur premier of this musical romantic comedy, by the composer of *One Man, Two Guvnors*, Grant Olding. It tells the story of three passionate, neurotic and hopeless romantics lost in the tangles of the heart.

*Urinetown*, Unity Theatre, 2016: A social and political satire set in a fictional future where a 20-year drought has crippled the city's water supplies. The production played to WWDN's strengths of being a large ensemble piece with a lot of humour.

*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, Age Concern Liverpool, 2015: A promenade performance of a show which explores all aspects of romantic relationships: from the crucial first date through wedding preparations, the social isolation of having a baby and the inevitable demise of your loved one and the question of how to be intimate in your twilight years.

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*Bonnie & Clyde*, Unity Theatre, 2015: A musical telling of the famous criminal pair. With a “faultless band” and “nifty projections”, WWDN continued to show just what a non-commercial theatre company can do.

*[title of show]*, Lantern Theatre, 2014: A musical about two guys writing a musical about two guys writing a musical.

*Carousel*, Unity Theatre, 2014: We decided to put our own unique stamp on the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic with a huge cast, successfully selling out every single night.

*Batboy*, Unity Theatre, 2013: Performing a ‘classic love story with a serious bite’, to sell out audiences!

*Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens*, loisis Studio, 2012: WWDN formed another large ensemble which presented a story of love, loss, hope and laughter in memory of those who have lived with, and died from AIDS. The show was in support of Sahir House, Merseyside’s HIV Charity.

*Into the Woods*, The Black-E, 2011: Arguably our biggest challenge to date, WWDN took on the mammoth Sondheim production, returning to the Black-E. The show was well-received by audience and reviewers.

*Any Other Name: The Vines*, 2011: An original piece written by one of our members for the RSC Open Stages project, showcasing some of Liverpool’s most talented actors. The piece was picked to be performed at the RSC Open Stages regional showcase in Manchester, an achievement we are very proud of.

*Last Five Years: The Kazimier*, 2011: This Jason Robert Brown piece explores a couple’s journey throughout their five year relationship, enabling us to showcase two talented, up-and-coming performers.

*Spring Awakening*, Unity Theatre, 2011: One of the most controversial musicals ever written, *Spring Awakening* contrasts the strict society of 19<sup>th</sup> century Germany with witty dialogue and a punchy, contemporary soundtrack. The production was entirely sold out across the run and was well received.

*RENT*, The Black-E, 2010: WWDN performed their production of the musical *RENT* at the Black-E, Liverpool city centre. We were the first theatre company to be granted the rights to present the full stage version of Jonathan Larson’s hit musical in Merseyside

*Company*, The Kazimier, 2009: Our inaugural production was to sell out audiences over three nights. *Company* was a demanding musical, both in script and score, and we are pleased it was such a success.

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