

Commitment Issues

A Musical

Book, Music, & Lyrics

By

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COMMITMENT ISSUES: A MUSICAL

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COMMITMENT ISSUES: A MUSICAL

*For Mr. Fritz,
who got me through the college admissions process
and helped this show come to be*

COMMITMENT ISSUES: A MUSICAL

Commitment Issues: A Musical was originally produced at Adlai E. Stevenson High School directed by Lily Brill and Megan Eisenstein, featuring the following cast:

Catherine.....Ellen King
Hailey.....Rachel Anand
Amy.....Hazel Kim
Email.....Richard Schirmer
College #1Justin Shorris
College #2.....Morgan Cohen
Max.....Vibha Muppidi
Shawn.....Bradyn Booker
Ensemble.....Mistu Pradhan
Choreography by Hannah Bergman
Accompanied by Alex Day
Design by Ilex Rosen, Lily Brill, Megan Eisenstein

Commitment Issues: A Musical received a staged reading at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region IV Conference, featuring the following cast:

Catherine.....Jenna Gubran
Hailey.....Isabelle Lovejoy
Amy.....Madison Brantley
Email.....Dominique Nguyen
College #1Nikoli Smith
College #2/Shawn.....Jasmine Sadler
Max.....Barbara Machado-Requena
Accompanied/Directed by Wyn Alyse Thomas

COMMITMENT ISSUES: A MUSICAL

CHARACTERS:

CATHERINE. Senior. Female. A hard worker, on the executive board of the writing club, but not the type to take 10 APs. Quite insecure. Mezzo, strong mix.

AMY. Senior. Female. An exceptional track player, Catherine's friend. Alto, strong dancer. Kind and assertive.

HAILEY. Senior. Female. The type to take 16 APs and not let you forget it. Both is insecure and has a superiority complex.

EMAIL. Reads correspondence from colleges. Any gender. Non-singing role, but could join ensemble. EMAIL lines can be split between ensemble members if desired.

COLLEGE #1 and COLLEGE #2. Offering Amy a position at their respective colleges, strong dancers. Any gender.

MAX. Junior, an acquaintance of Catherine who she hasn't talked to in a while. Any gender.

SHAWN. A senior who commits to college. Any gender.

ENSEMBLE. At minimum, made of three people, but ideally six to eight. Includes featured lines for various characters. COLLEGE #1, COLLEGE #2, MAX are also the ensemble. Lines

A NOTE ON SCHOOLS:

The colleges that are named in the piece in spoken dialogue may be changed to suit your costuming needs or region. If a school is replaced, it should be replaced by a school of similar acceptance level (ex. Dartmouth could be replaced by Columbia but not by the University of Illinois.)

A NOTE ON YEAR:

Any years included in the script can be changed to reflect the year that the show is being performed.

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SHEET MUSIC/DEMOS:

Song 1: “Shut The Hell Up” <https://flat.io/score/6212b207e4b58900124be022-shut-the-hell-upsharingKey=e89bfce3020837ca2488390701f0e9fb188c749c4c163a53622ccd87c86c1884bf892574abdf3c4cb4a4227d222ed4bec2cf802b3f355515a5b7e0032d3f740c>

Song 2: “The College Tango”
<https://flat.io/score/61bfbe0e8e307600129acc88-the-college-tango?sharingKey=b8672a9808840b01265a4a7959917fc6d29796e1e859f9a653986f9e6c3d7226e8659a51ddbdbd3327ab962421ccf3efb219adccd2c0fb92ad8094c8fe87da3c>

Song 3: “Sixteen Schools”
<https://flat.io/score/61f03f293c23640012f956be-sixteen-schools?sharingKey=6d9a822396dd05cb1d9793541410a328e3774c2f2135aa7da947295c62ffadc120b3aed2f6cc1c1e24a6fb6c397321264e2e56df7051994ef9c4537b2aa63846>

Song 4: “Who Am I”
<https://flat.io/score/61fa188672560900131996b0-who-am-i?sharingKey=dd8b4fa46e27d66da53adf5b87fd0c49ec2ae1fc7589730eae36d604c9055d124cf821922c43260bded2df7ebf16a3c0aeaf4a32cc5432e8060f2e824cb22f0d>

Song 5: “Finale”
<https://flat.io/score/62302b6a54d4520013c9db60-finale?sharingKey=3beef22095236fb3084c110720d730e93822900130313d9593d8da6214c61b95478330a461490a6405b3f1e93c5bba8f3c3225fb0e8008c8f66b73c8e96638e8>

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Lights up. A high school hallway. MAX walks by and sees CATHERINE.

MAX. Hey Catherine!

CATHERINE. Oh, hey Max! How's junior year treating you?

MAX. So much homework, you know...

MAX notices CATHERINE is wearing an Emory sweatshirt.

MAX. *(re: the shirt)* Oh, is that where you're going?

CATHERINE. Oh, uh, no. I mean, I don't know.

MAX. Are you just waiting to hear back?

CATHERINE. Actually, I haven't finished applying yet.

MAX. Oh, are you—

Song 1: "Shut the Hell Up"

MAX freezes.

CATHERINE. *(sings)*

SHUT THE HELL UP

SHUT THE HELL UP

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING TO COLLEGE

I'M SORRY

IF THAT'S INCONVENIENT

I HAVEN'T MADE A DECISION

I'VE HAD THIS SHIRT THREE YEARS
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN MY PLACE IS THERE
BUT NOW IT'S SENIOR YEAR
SO EVERYBODY SUDDENLY CARES
ABOUT MY FUTURE

I PROMISE I'M STRESSING ABOUT IT
A LOT MORE THAN YOU ARE
SO IF YOU'D JUST STOP ASKING
I WOULDN'T HAVE TO RUN YOU OVER WITH MY CAR JUST

CATHERINE, ENSEMBLE.

SHUT THE HELL UP
SHUT THE HELL UP

CATHERINE.

I WANNA GO THERE MORE THAN ANYTHING

HAILEY.

SHUT THE HELL UP
IT'S OCTOBER

AMY.

I HAVEN'T MADE A DECISION

CATHERINE.

I AWAIT THAT DAY
WHEN I KNOW
WHEN I GET TO MAKE THE INSTAGRAM POST

ENSEMBLE. (*choir-like*)

THE COMMITMENT INSTAGRAM POST

SHAWN. (*wearing a Southern Mississippi shirt*) I'm so excited to announce that I will be continuing my academic career at the University of Southern Mississippi. Go eagles!

CATHERINE, AMY, HAILEY ENSEMBLE.

THE COMMITMENT INSTAGRAM POST

CATHERINE, AMY.

BUT I'M NOT THERE YET SO

CATHERINE, AMY, HAILEY.

SHUT THE HELL UP

CATHERINE, AMY, HAILEY, ENSEMBLE.

SHUT THE HELL UP

CATHERINE gets a message on her phone that interrupts the music. She opens it up expectantly.

EMAIL. Safety school #1. University of Kentucky. October 20th, 2021. Congratulations on submitting your early action application to our university! Due to an influx of applications this year, you can expect to hear back from us by January rather than the December date that was previously announced.

CATHERINE.

I JUST WANNA KNOW

AMY.

I JUST WANNA KNOW

HAILEY.

I JUST WANNA KNOW

CATHERINE.

WHERE I'M GONNA GO

AMY.

WHERE I'M GONNA GO

HAILEY.

WHERE I'M GONNA GO

CATHERINE.

I JUST WANNA SEE

AMY, HAILEY.

I JUST WANNA SEE

AMY.

WHERE I'M

HAILEY.

WHAT I'M

CATHERINE.

WHO I'M

CATHERINE, HAILEY, AMY.
GONNA BE

EMAIL. Safety school #2. Kennesaw State University. November 12th, 2021. Congratulations! We are thrilled to offer you a spot in the Class of 2026!

CATHERINE. *(relieved)* I got into college!

AMY high fives her.

SHAWN. *(walking by, overhears)* Congrats! Is that where you're going?

CATHERINE, AMY, HAILEY, ENSEMBLE.
SHUT THE HELL UP

End of Song 1: "Shut the Hell Up." ENSEMBLE MEMBERS cross and exit as CATHERINE and AMY are walking to class.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER. Early action applications are due tomorrow?

ENSEMBLE MEMBER. Wait, there's a difference between early action and early decision?

ENSEMBLE MEMBER. Can I just say I'm a rower?

ENSEMBLE MEMBER. Stay safe you guys, I'm going to trade school.

CATHERINE and AMY are alone.

CATHERINE. I swear, how do people not understand that I have to hear back from every college before I decide?

AMY. For real, my poor grandmother is on the edge of her seat.

CATHERINE. At least I have most of my applications in.

AMY. That's good!

CATHERINE. Ok, technically, I have half of them in. And by half I mean three out of eight. I don't get how every other senior finds time to get everything done! I can barely find time in between Writers Club's workshops and executive board stuff, but there are people that are president of, like, thirteen clubs and they're already done with Ivy league apps.

AMY. I don't get how they can afford all the application fees. I mean I do, they're rich. But I'd just call it a day and start off at community college if it wasn't for track scholarships.

CATHERINE. I get it, I have money saved, but I don't like that my college fund is going down the drain to fees when I don't even know if I'm gonna get in, you know?

AMY. Well, I mean, I know where I'm into... but I'm even more stressed now, I have no idea what I'm going to choose.

CATHERINE. What? You're already into colleges?

AMY. Well yeah, I have offers for track, it's between UGA and LSU. I just have to commit, but both coaches want me. I have to go on a couple more visits before I can know for sure.

CATHERINE. But, like, you know it's one of those two?

Song 2: "The College Tango"

AMY.

I'M STUCK AT THIS FORK IN THE ROAD
READY TO HAVE THE REST OF MY LIFE DECIDED
HOW DO I CARRY THIS LOAD?
I FIND MYSELF DIVIDED

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COLLEGE #1 (UGA) and COLLEGE #2 (LSU) enter seductively. They circle AMY, and eventually start a tango, spinning her around and pulling her away from one another as they fight over her.

COLLEGE #1. (UGA)

CAN'T YOU PICTURE YOURSELF HERE?
WALKING AND TALKING AND LAUGHING AROUND THE
QUAD
WE CAN SEE IT SO CLEAR

COLLEGE #2. (LSU)

BUT WAIT
OUR TRACK'S BEST IN THE STATE
THIRD IN THE USA, THERE'S NO WAY
YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE ELSE

COLLEGE #1.

WE'VE GOT PERFECT WEATHER
IF YOU COME HERE, TOGETHER WE CAN—

COLLEGE #2.

WE CAN GET YOUR FIRST CHOICE OF CLASSES
OUR STUDENTS ARE KICKING—

COLLEGE #1.

ASSETS HERE ARE ABUNDANT

COLLEGE #2.

NOT TO BE REDUNDANT BUT TO BE CLEAR

WE BEAT THEIR TEAM LAST YEAR

AMY.

THAT'S FUNNY, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY?

Rather than circling her, COLLEGE #1 takes her hand and then tango-walks her.

COLLEGE #1.

WE'LL GIVE YOU A HALF RIDE
AND WE'LL THROW IN ROOM AND BOARD

COLLEGE #2 snatches her away and does the same in the opposite direction.

COLLEGE #2.

YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD HOW 'BOUT
A YEARLY 50K REWARD

COLLEGE #1.

WE'RE MORE COSTLY,
BUT EDUCATION IS SO—

COLLEGE #2.

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM
JUST THINK ABOUT THE DOUGH

COLLEGE #1.

WE'LL GIVE YOU THE RESOURCES THAT YOU NEED TO
THRIVE

COLLEGE #2.

WE SELL CHAI LATTES FOR ONLY 3.95

COLLEGE #1 AND #2.

WE CAN BE THE PLACE FOR YOU

TELL US WE'RE THE PLACE FOR YOU

YOU CAN'T OUTFRAN US, THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE

YOU JUST NEED TO DECIDE

Dance break.

COLLEGE #1 AND #2.

JUST DECIDE

DECIDE

DECIDE

DECIDE

AMY is carried away– think ensemble carrying Roxie in Chicago. End of Song 2: “The College Tango.” CATHERINE is left alone. Transition to her alone at a table in the school, trying to write an essay on her computer. Montage.

EMAIL. Target school #2. Florida State University. November 16th, 2021. Reminder that your application is due in two weeks!

CATHERINE. I know, I'm working on it.

EMAIL. Reach school #1. University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. November 29th, 2021. Reminder that your application is due tomorrow!

CATHERINE. I know!

EMAIL. Arizona State University. It's not too late to apply! Please!
Please apply!

CATHERINE. Unsubscribe.

ENSEMBLE and HAILEY begin to enter. CATHERINE is in the school hallway.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER. UGA decisions are out!

CATHERINE opens her email.

EMAIL. Target school #1. University of Georgia. December 14th, 2021. Congratulations! We are thrilled to offer you admission!

CATHERINE. Oh my gosh.

EMAIL. Click below to pay your deposit to commit. You will receive financial information on—

HAILEY walks up behind her and sees the screen.

HAILEY. You got in?

CATHERINE. Oh, hey Hailey! Yeah, I did!

ENSEMBLE MEMBER. Same!

ENSEMBLE MEMBER. I didn't... but if I go anywhere other than Florida, my parents will disown me anyway.

HAILEY. *(to CATHERINE)* Do you think you're gonna go there?

CATHERINE. It's an option.

HAILEY. Gotcha, they were one of my safeties, too.

CATHERINE. Oh, they weren't my safety, they were—

HAILEY. Huh?

CATHERINE. Nevermind. Uh... What'd you get on the stats test?

HAILEY. An A, are you done with all of your applications?

CATHERINE. No...

HAILEY. Me neither.

CATHERINE. Oh, thank goodness! I feel like I'm so behind, like, Amy already has it narrowed down to two options...

HAILEY. Yeah, sucks that not everyone can have it as easy as athletes. We actually have to work for things.

CATHERINE. Well, I mean, Amy works for—

HAILEY. My parents have to dish out so much money all because I can't kick a soccer ball. Not that they'd let me go to a sporty school.

CATHERINE. My parents said wherever I go is fine, they'll still love me...

HAILEY. Aw, do they not believe in you?

CATHERINE. What?

HAILEY. Where all are you applying?

CATHERINE. Oh, well, I'm applying to the University of—

HAILEY. No, I mean how many places are you applying to.

CATHERINE. Oh, the counselors said do six to eight, so I'm doing eight. Only have two to go though.

Beat. HAILEY is staring at her in anticipation. Music starts.

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