

WE'LL BE THE PEOPLE WE'RE MEANT TO BE.

like the wind

MUSIC BY
ELSPETH COLLARD

BOOK & LYRICS BY
SAM ROSENBLATT



The Story

Like the Wind is a new musical that explores the lives of Bennie and Cai, two queer teenagers running away from a conversion therapy facility in the summer of 2018. Told partially in flashback, Bennie and Cai choose to change the fate that society has set for them and break through the constraints of expectations and rules. With a queer writing team at the helm, *Like the Wind* explores themes of identity, forgiveness, and queerness in young people.



Elspeth Collard

Music

Elspeth Collard (she/her) is an award-winning British-born composer, orchestrator, music director, and educator. Theatrical works include: *Like The Wind* (SoHo Playhouse, 2023; The Brick Theatre 2021); *ROSE* (NYU 2021); *A Princess Story* (Marymount Manhattan College 2023); *Twenty-Six Percent* (EAT Festival 2022); *Miroir* (NYU 2020); *Easier To Die* (NYU 2019); and *Don't Ever Change* (Edinburgh Fringe and Brickhouse Theatre, Cambridge, 2017).

Short films include *An Intimate Moment* (2022; Official Selection, New York Movie Awards); *That Little Moment When* (2022; Best Composer Award and Official Selection, Amsterdam International Film Festival), *Roomies* (2021), *New Year's Eve* (2021), and *Nice To Meet You Again* (2020; Official Selection, Venice Shorts Festival, New York Movie Awards).

With collaborator Sam Rosenblatt, she has two albums available on all major streaming services: *Little Love Notes* (2021) and *Collisions: A Concept Album* (2023). Her songs and orchestrations have been featured at cabaret venues including *Feinstein's/54 Below*, *The Green Room 42*, *Dixon Place*, *The Duplex*, and *Don't Tell Mama*.

Elspeth has also worked as a percussionist and music director on a number of concerts and productions based out of Cambridge, Edinburgh, and New York, including the original Edinburgh Fringe run of *Six*. She is a graduate of NYU Tisch (MFA, Musical Theatre Writing) and Newnham College, University of Cambridge (BA, Music), and a proud member of *Maestra*, *ASCAP*, and the *Dramatists Guild*.

www.elspethcollard.com



Sam Rosenblatt

Book & Lyrics

Sam Rosenblatt (she/they) is a queer, Jewish-Asian-American theatre artist based in New York. She holds a BS from NYU Steinhardt in Educational Theatre and an MFA from NYU Tisch in Musical Theatre Writing. Full length pieces include: *Like the Wind* (Book/Lyrics), *A Princess Story* (Book/Lyrics), *Night Witches* (Co-Book/Lyrics), and *The Girl with the Rose-Colored Eyes* (Lyrics). Short-form pieces include: *Twenty-Six Percent* (Book/Lyrics), *Behind the Front Door* (Book/Lyrics), and *The Rise and Fall of Otis* (Book/Lyrics). Albums include: *Little Love Notes from Collard & Rosenblatt*, *Collisions: A Concept Album* (upcoming).

Sam's work has also been heard at various cabaret venues, such as Feinstein's/54 Below (*Quarter Note Crisis*, *For a Million Miles*), Green Room 42 (*Unauthorized: Witching Hour!*), Dixon Place, the Duplex, and Don't Tell Mama. She and collaborator Elspeth Collard were also a part of the inaugural *New Musicals Lab* at the Ferguson Center for the Arts, as well as Shotgun Players' 3030 Vision Project. The duo were also included in *The Lotte Lenya Songbook Vol. 2*, as well as York Theatre's *In the Pipeline* Series and the *Emerging Artists Theatre Festival* in NYC.

Sam is a curator and producer for *Tin Pan Alley 2*, a Core Team Member for *Root Beer Occasion Theatre Company*, and an Artistic Director for *The Latest Draft* podcast. A wearer of many hats, Sam also enjoys stage-managing, props design, graphic design, and sock-puppet-making. She is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild, ASCAP, and Maestra.

www.theatricallysam.com

Character Tracks

Like the Wind has been written for a cast of six actors, with intentional doubling for four of the actors. The tracks are as follows:

1. Cai
2. Bennie
3. Ash, Emma, Heather
4. Dev, Isaac, Attendant
5. Cai's Mother, Farrah, Adult Woman
6. Bennie's Father, Gideon, Adult Man

See next page for character breakdown.

Cast of Characters

(to be played by six actors)

CAI	17 and headstrong. Leads from her head. Intelligent and sometimes hot-headed. Lesbian. Mezzo.
BENNIE	16 and empathetic. Leads from his heart. Sensitive and bright. Pansexual. Tenor.
ASH	17 and flirty. The pastor's daughter. Cai's first love. Bisexual. Doubles as EMMA and HEATHER. Alto.
DEV	17 and in denial. Quick and sharp with words. Bennie's first love. Gay. Doubles as ISAAC and ATTENDANT. Baritenor.
CAI'S MOTHER	40's and scared. Judgemental. Straight. Doubles as FARRAH and ADULT WOMAN. Soprano.
BENNIE'S FATHER	40's and disapproving. Hard. Closeted. Doubles as GIDEON and ADULT MAN. Baritone
GIDEON	30's and religious. Clouded. Doubles as BENNIE'S FATHER and ADULT MAN. Baritone.
FARRAH	30's and religious. Follower. Doubles as CAI'S MOTHER and ADULT WOMAN. Soprano.
HEATHER	17 and trying too hard. Optimistic. Doubles as ASH and EMMA. Alto.
ISAAC	16 and suppressing himself. Hopeful. Doubles as DEV and ATTENDANT. Baritenor.
EMMA	18 and inquisitive. Doubles as ASH and HEATHER. Alto.
ATTENDANT	18 and bored as hell. Doubles as DEV and ISAAC. Baritenor.
ADULT WOMAN	30's and proud. Doubles as CAI'S MOTHER and FARRAH. Soprano.
ADULT MAN	30's and thoughtful. Doubles as BENNIE'S FATHER and GIDEON. Baritone.

Development History



L-R: Alia Cuadros-Contreras, Mikey Friedman

May - July, 2021: Shotgun Players commissions Collard & Rosenblatt to write a five minute musical based on Bonnie and Clyde. The musical premiered on July 8th as part of Shotgun Players' 3030 Vision Project (then titled ***The People We're Meant to Be***). It starred Alia Cuadros-Contreras (*Cai*) and Mikey Friedman (*Bennie*). Watch [HERE](#).



L-R: Sarah Allbrandt, Remy Thompson, Renee Kauffman, John Byrd, Diego Bly, Matt Stevenson

July, 2021: Collard & Rosenblatt were selected for the New Musicals Lab Residency at Ferguson Center for the Arts in Newport News, VA. Collard & Rosenblatt workshopped ***Like the Wind*** and presented a thirty-minute excerpt featuring Renee Kauffman (*Cai*), John Byrd (*Bennie*), Remy Thompson (*Ash, Emma, Heather*), Matt Stevenson (*Dev, Isaac, Attendant*), Sarah Allbrandt (*Cai's Mother, Farrah, Adult Woman*), and Diego Bly (*Bennie's Father, Gideon, Adult Man*).

Development History



L-R: Diego Bly, Matthew Harper Stevenson, Renee Kauffman, John Byrd, Remy Thompson, Sarah Allbrandt, Kalonjee Gallimore

December 2021: *Like the Wind* debuted at the Brick Theater in Brooklyn, NY with a sold-out run. The entire cast from the New Musicals lab reprised their roles, with Alia Cuadros-Contreras and Kalonjee Gallimore as swings. The staged reading was directed by Daniella Caggiano and music-directed by Rai Arsa Artha, with stage management by Isabel Schwartzberg. Highlights reel [HERE!](#)



L-R: Bern Tan, Kalonjee Gallimore, Mark Aguirre, Alia Cuadros-Contreras, Sophie Tyler, Elena Ramos Pascullo, Nicky Redd

March 2023 : *Like the Wind* was performed in concert form benefitting the Trevor Project Off-Broadway at SoHo Playhouse. The cast featured Alia Cuadros-Contreras, Mark Aguirre, Sophie Tyler, Kalonjee Gallimore, Elena Ramos Pascullo, and Bern Tan, with Nicky Redd as an understudy. Daniella Caggiano and Isabel Schwartzberg reprised their positions as director and SM respectively, with Jorden Amir as music director.

Performance Videos



"Like the Wind"

Alia Cuadros-Contreras (Cai), Mark Aguirre (Bennie), Elena Ramos Pascullo (Cai's Mother), Bern Tan (Bennie's Father), Kalonjee Gallimore (Dev), and Sophie Tyler (Ash)



"The Feelings in Me"

Alia Cuadros-Contreras (Cai), Lauryn Ciardullo (Cai's Mother), Mads Witmer (Ash)

Performance Videos



"Kissing the Prince"
RJ Christian (Bennie) and Nathan Fosbinder (Dev)



"With God as My Witness"
Matthew Harper Stevenson (Dev) and Remy Thompson (Ash)

Performance Videos



"Bennie and the Attendant"
John Byrd (Bennie) and Matthew Harper Stevenson (Attendant)



"Garden in the Sky"
Renee Kauffman (Cai)

Contact Info

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