



Our Mission: Empower people with disabilities and their families through creative expression and sensory exploration.

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CAST SPOTLIGHT: EMILIA MICHAUD AND NOAH KING

April 16, 2021 by Brigid O'Leary

FREDERICKSBURG, VA—The day before the opening performance of “A Special Covid-19,” a musical based on the pandemic of 2020, reflecting the challenges of our current times as lived by someone with a disability, and everyone involved is abuzz with anticipation. Two of the 10 cast members of the first two-act musical completely written, directed, and performed by people with disabilities are Emilia Michaud and Noah King, both with significant roles in the show.

“[The song ‘It’s Okay, Tim’] really expresses how I help Joey [Guyton, who plays the character of Tim] get through the pandemic challenges much like my Mom And Dad are doing for me.”



Emilia Michaud

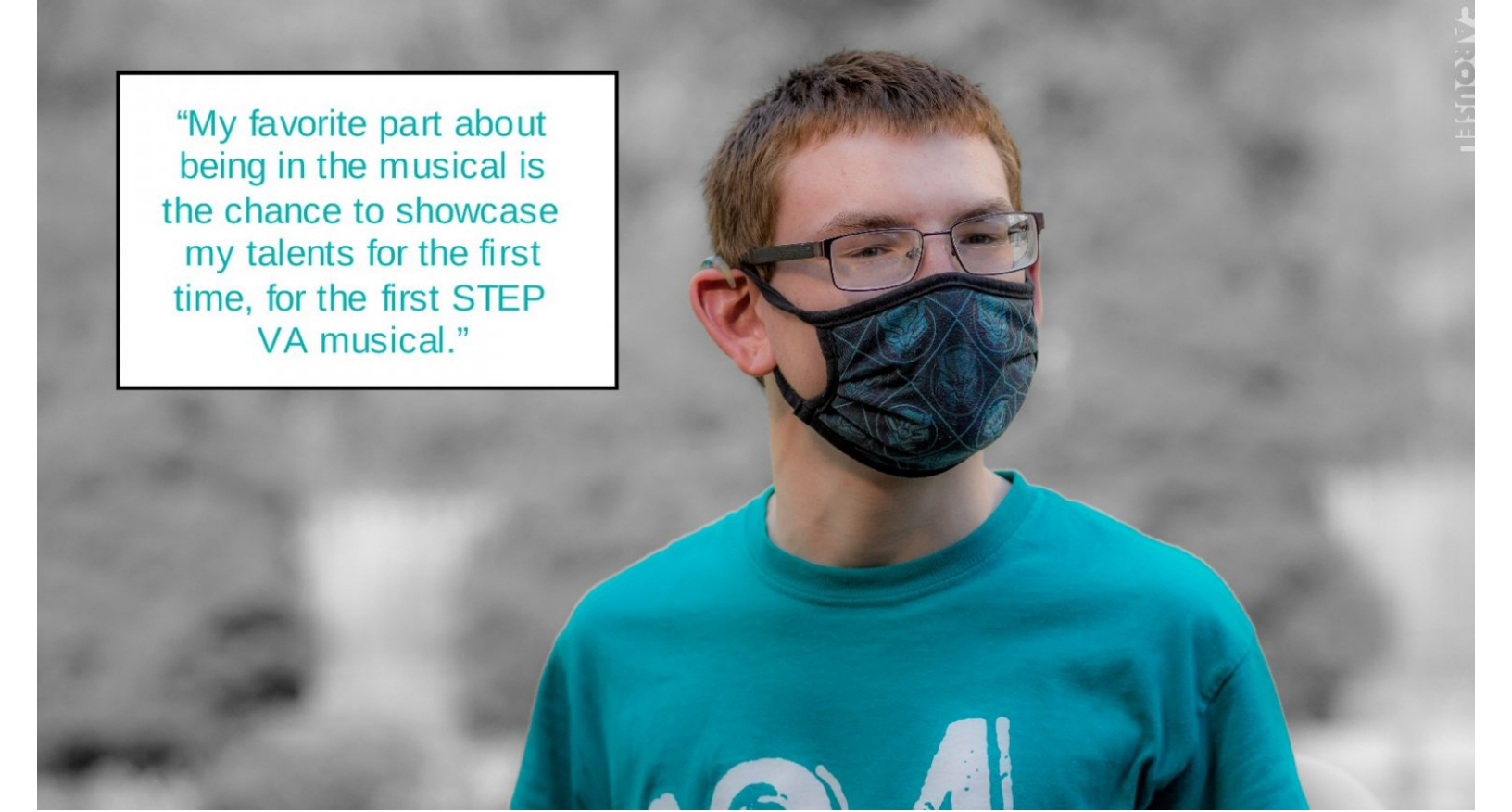
Michaud, who sang in her high school chorus, gets her first taste of acting as Tim Croakee’s (main character’s) mom. Though she feels like the only difference between herself and her character is their ages—at 18 she’s far from being a parent herself—she approaches the role of Mrs. Croakee the way she does life.

“I’m kind, sweet, and understanding,” Michaud said.

She channels that understanding for her role as she sings “It’s Ok Tim,” to her onstage son. It’s her favorite song of the musical.

“It really expresses how I help Joey [Guyton, who plays the character of Tim] get through the pandemic challenges much like my Mom And Dad are doing for me,” she explained. And that support from her parents has been crucial for Michaud, as the family had their own brush with the virus, having been exposed through a visitor to their house.

“It [reflects] real life very well,” she said of the musical. “Since I was exposed to Covid-19, I’ve been very sad and I had to cope with the changes that this virus has brought like staying home a lot.”



“My favorite part about being in the musical is the chance to showcase my talents for the first time, for the first STEP VA musical.”

Noah King

Opposite Michaud, as Mr. Croakee (main character’s dad), is 15-year-old Noah King, who carries the role with maturity that belies his age.

“My favorite part about being in the musical is the chance to showcase my talents for the first time, for the first STEP VA musical,” said King.

Though he pulls off the older persona as Mr. Croakee, King is the only actor in the cast with dual speaking roles. He swaps out his bow tie for a tool belt in the second act, playing Jeffery, the friend who can fix anything that the audience meets on the Zoom call. It’s been a new experience, but one that King has embraced.

“I was a bit shy about trying to become part of STEP VA’s full musical debut, but I grew more accustomed to it as we started,” he said.

Sponsored by STEP VA Inc, a local 501c nonprofit that “empowers people with special needs through artistic expression and sensory exploration,” the musical will hit the stage at Fredericksburg Christian School this Saturday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m., and again on April 18 at 2:30 p.m. Both shows have limited seating due to the ongoing pandemic. All tickets must be purchased in advance, as no tickets will be sold at the door. For those unable to attend in person, it will be available online for Saturday’s show. The link will be made available to online ticket holders on April 17th.

Tickets for both general admission, in-person seating and the online show are available online at stepva.org.

For more information, to donate, or to purchase tickets, please, visit www.stepva.org.

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