Spring Show
*13 the Musical*
Performance Preview Guide

Music and Lyrics by *Jason Robert Brown*
Book by *Dan Elish and Robert Horn*

April 17th-May 5th, 2020 at First Stage, 120 Front Street North, Issaquah

The show will run approximately 90 minutes.

**Parents Note**

Only parents are qualified to determine what is appropriate for their children. This Production Guide and a copy of the script are available at the box office to help you make the decision that is right for you and your family.

**The Program and Process**

The Ensemble production is performed entirely by young students. It is a school year production program for the younger KIDSTAGE students. Directed, designed, and produced by adult theatre professionals, the rehearsal process includes script analysis, character development, learning choreography and staging, and strengthening the vocal instrument. The result of this program is a fully-produced show.

Ensemble is a process-based production, with an emphasis on building skills that allow our students to become independent performers. It is expected that each student comes in with basic knowledge of how a show is put together. They will build the skills necessary to create a character and develop a show from script to stage as a performer.

**Synopsis**

“Geek. Poser. Jock. Beauty Queen. Wannabe. These are the labels that can last a lifetime. With an unforgettable rock score from Tony Award-winning composer, Jason Robert Brown, (*Parade, The Last Five Years, Bridges of Madison County*) 13 is a musical about fitting in – and standing out!”
Evan Goldman is plucked from his fast-paced, preteen New York City life and plopped into a sleepy Indiana town following his parents’ divorce. Surrounded by an array of simpleminded middle school students, he needs to establish his place in the popularity pecking order. Can he situate himself on a comfortable link of the food chain... or will he dangle at the end with the outcasts?!” – MTI

Script Content Details

Please note: the following may contain plot spoilers.

Language: There is minimal language in the show. The word “hell” is used several times, and Lucy calls Kendra a slut. There are many references to adult subjects, such as circumcision (in reference to the Jewish religion), inbreeding is mentioned as a joke (it’s the only thing to do in Indiana)

Sexual Content: Most of the sexual content in 13 is in dialogue instead of shown. Much of the plot revolves around relationships, and trying to get “the tongue,” aka French kissing, which is referenced throughout the script between many different characters. Archie says he’ll take care of Kendra’s ‘special needs,’ when talking to Evan about trying to get a date with her. Lucy implies that there are sexual favors that she will give to Brett, to keep Brett in a relationship with her. These ‘sexual favors’ are the reason Brett puts up with being with Lucy. In “Bad, Bad News,” the boys call Lucy “the slut with the fabulous butt.” In “A Little More Homework,” Kendra says that she signed a virginity pledge, and Lucy says, “I did not sign a virginity pledge.”

There are several instances of kissing in the show: Lucy and Brett, Kendra and Brett, Brett and Archie, and Evan and Patrice.

Drug/Alcohol Usage: No alcohol or drug use is depicted in 13, though there are several references in the script. The lyrics, “Wanna get drunk” and in the song ‘A Little More Homework,’ Charlotte says she got drunk. Evan says his mom is “weaning off the meds” that she was using to cope with her divorce from Evan’s dad. One of the students references stoners (students who smoke marijuana).

Violence: There are several references to violent imagery, and several moments of violence in 13. The students go see The Bloodmaster, an R-rated horror movie, and trick Evan’s mom into buying tickets for them. There are sound effects of blood, chainsaws on bodies, splats and other similar sounds of death, though no imagery is shown. Lyrical reference to the types of violence they are seeing on screen in the song “Any Minute” (see lyrics below).

Physical violence: Brett threatens to beat up Evan, and when Kendra gets in the way he forcibly drags her away. Kendra responds by kicking Brett in the groin. Brett thinks that Kendra is cheating on him, from a lie that Lucy spreads, and Evan and Brett get in a fight at the Dairy Queen. Brett and Evan shove each other, then Brett punches Evan in the face.
**Additional Content:** 13 is a show about the transition of young students into their teenage years. As such, it presents many topics that teens deal with that can be difficult subjects to talk about and/or witness.

- The plot of 13 is set in gear by Evan’s parents getting a divorce. It is implied that his father cheats on his mother, and so this forces him to move from NYC to Indiana.
- Stereotypes – There are many stereotypes that are presented in the show. Some examples: Kendra is considered the ‘popular girl,’ being attractive but not very smart. Brett is the stereotypical jock, all brawn, no brains and resorts to violence/bullying to get his way. Evan represents typical Jewish stereotypes, and even references things his mom saying as having a different ‘Jewish’ translation. Each character within the production is a degree of representation of high school/teenage stereotypes to seen throughout media and literature.
- Bullying is a central theme to 13. A couple examples include: Archie and Patrice are deemed losers by the rest of the students and refuse to go to Evan’s Bat Mitzvah if those two are invited. Evan plays along with that and treats Patrice poorly so that he can get the ‘cool kids’ to come to his party. Lucy and Kendra claim to be best friends, but Lucy wants Kendra’s boyfriend Brett and works to undermine her and spread rumors about her to keep them apart so she can be with Brett. There are many other examples, some that explicit and some that microaggressions (indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination) – it is recommended that you look through the script if you are concerned about the topic of bullying as it presented in 13.
- Terminal Illness – Archie is born with muscular dystrophy and uses crutches to walk around. He is teased and bullied for his illness, though he often brushes comments off. He also uses his illness to garner sympathy and make people do what he wants; Evan and Archie use this in the song, “No One Says No to a Boy With a Terminal Illness,” in which they plot for Archie to use his illness to get Evan’s mom to buy the whole class tickets to the R-rated horror movie, The Bloodmaster.
- Gay as a derogatory term – Brett is disgusted by kissing Archie, who was trying to kiss Kendra, and other students make fun of them both for kissing. Brett also says that expressing his feelings is, “gay,” used in a derogatory way.

**Any Minute Violent lyrics:**

*Brett:*
Someone got his eyelids torn off
And I’m sitting here
And I should be doing something
That guy got an axe in his throat
And she’s sitting there
And I don’t know why I’m waiting

*Kendra:*
Someone got his skull chopped in half
And he’s sitting there
And maybe he doesn’t want me
Maybe it was something I said
Or maybe my breath
Why did I eat those pork rinds’

Cause oh, any minute
He could turn and kiss me
And we’ll be where we ought to be
Any minute

Brett:
She just set his penis on fire

Kendra:
This is weird