

THANK GOD



FOR THAT!

Written by

Brooke Dennis

Music and Lyrics by
Semler

Arranged by
Alan Bell

Content Advisory: Contains references to homophobia, transphobia, self-harm/suicide, sex/sexuality, religious abuse, Bigotry/violence/hateful language based on cultural or religious identity, profanity, singing, gender-based violence, discussion of religious themes, mention of pornography

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance

K-State Theatre Presents
THANK GOD FOR THAT!

By Brooke Dennis

The Cast

The Seeker	Madeline Vanderiet
Pastor Joanna	Kevina Cherie
Elijah	Zac Mead
Reverend Noah.....	Jonah Nichols
Tabitha.....	Jay Garrison
Pastor Joel.....	Francis Sheehan
Seth	Jacob Rogers
Lydia	Josey Bartlett
Abigail.....	Gerianne Meals

Production

Stage Manager.....	Jonah Nichols
House Managers.....	Donovan Watts
Box Office Staff.....	Samantha Kohlbrecher
Pianist.....	Joel Wood
Light and Sound Board Operator	Ashlyn Wills

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Student Government Association (SGA)
and Arts and Sciences Student Fees

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices.
Texting, recording, and photography of any kind are prohibited.

Production Advisors

Sound and Light Advisor **James K. Davis**
Academic Advisor.....**Shannon Skelton**
Directing Advisor.....**David Mackay**

Cast Bios

Francis Sheehan (Pastor Joel) is a senior theatre student at Kansas State University. You may recognize him from In The Next Room, A Number, Working, or several other K-State shows. He also enjoys working at the K-State scene shop as a carpenter. In the future, Francis hopes to join a theater company in order to continue his acting journey.

Jay Garrison (Tabitha) is super excited to be a part of her very first Jukebox musical and a very important one at that. She is honored to have been selected to help in the reading of this play and honored to be able to work with such an amazing group of people. Enjoy and thank you for supporting K-State Theatre!

Madeline Vanderiet (The Seeker) is a Sophomore majoring in theatre. This is Madeline's second production at Kansas State University, the first being the stage reading "IX". She is working as an Assistant Director for the youth theatre program at JCLT, "ASTRA". She has also been involved in many production at Junction City Little Theatre and Junction City High School. Some of her favorites roles include, Dorothy (Wizard of Oz), Abigail Williams (The Crucible), and Uzo (Godspell). Madeline is excited for what is to come in her following years at Kansas State University!

Kevina Cherie (Pastor Joanna) (she/her) is a senior here at K-State majoring in theatre arts. She would like to thank the director for choosing her as part as her masters project. And the cast for the inclusive, fun rehearsal process!

Josey Bartlett (Lydia) (she/her) is a freshman theater major and this is her first show here at K-State. She is so happy to have her first show be one that is so meaningful and to have such a great cast to have worked with.

GeriAnne Meals (Abigail) (she/her) is a freshman this year and dual majoring in theatre and English. She is extremely excited to be taking on the role of Abigail for this production!

Jonah Nichols (Reverend Noah) (he/him) is a super senior who is graduating in December, and excited for the audience to see this show!

Cast Bios

Zac Mead (Elijah) (he/him) is thrilled to be playing Elijah in Thank God for That, his first K-State performance. He is currently a sophomore studying history and is on the pre-law track. He would like to thank his parents and grandparents, Carter and Thomas, Jenna, Isabella, Rachel, Brookie, and especially Ginger Harris and the McCain stage crew

Jacob Rogers (Seth) (he/him) is a first year double major in music theatre and dance, and is more than excited to be in the first ever debut of Thank God for That as Seth. Thank you for supporting live theatre and sit back, relax, and prepare those tissues.

Writer's Notes

Thank God for That is the culmination of the past ten years of my life. Growing up in a conservative evangelical denomination meant that I didn't understand that there could be alternate, progressive interpretations of the Bible verses about homosexuality until I was in my undergrad years. I spent the next several years wrestling with these interpretations and the ones I grew up with, trying to make heads or tails of what God was trying to convey when He allowed those verses to be penned. I had wanted to write a version of this story for years, but ultimately felt that it wasn't my lane to do so. Until it was.

At first, I thought I was just being a good ally, wrestling with these questions, until one night in October 2020, when I realized that I wasn't an ally; I was bisexual. I had been hiding from that reality since my senior year of high school. I spent the next year and a half wrestling with what that meant for me and where I ultimately fell on sexual ethics, more progressive or more conservative.

I wrote this show for all the people like me, who wrestle with God about their queerness, even when He puts their hips out of joint. I also wrote this for those who are comfortable in their answers, in hopes of making them a little more uncomfortable.

While I do fall on a side, my overall stance is this; if you long to belong to God, you do, and no one can take that away from you. As for issues like this, He can work out the rest. He is patient and He has time for your doubts and questions. There is a place for you at His table.

Thank God for that.