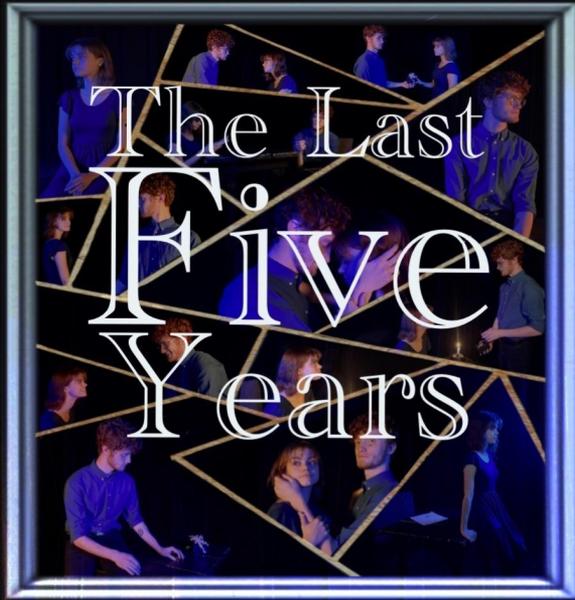


SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY



Written & Composed by  
Jason Robert Brown

October 29th and  
30th at 8PM

Directed by Antonio Vettrai  
Music Directed by Laura Blanchard

## Cast



**Cathy Hiatt:** Madison Wiley



**Jamie Wellerstein:** Austin Bickel

***\*The Last Five Years* will be performed with NO Intermission.**

## Songs and Settings

“Still Hurting” - Cathy

- 2019, Cathy and Jamie’s Apartment

“Shiksa Goddess” - Jamie

- 2014, Steps of Cathy’s Apartment

“See I’m Smiling” - Cathy

- 2019, Pier in Ohio

“Moving Too Fast” - Jamie

- 2015, Jamie’s Apartment

“I’m A Part of That” - Cathy

- 2018, Bookstore

“The Schmuel Song” - Jamie

- 2015, Cathy and Jamie’s Apartment

“A Summer In Ohio” - Cathy

- 2016, Dressing Room in Ohio

“The Next Ten Minutes” - Jamie and Cathy

- 2016, Central Park

“A Miracle Would Happen” - Jamie

- 2017, Bar

“Climbing Uphill” - Cathy

- 2015, Audition Rooms

“If I Didn’t Believe In You” - Jamie

- 2018, Cathy and Jamie’s Apartment

“I Can Do Better Than That” - Cathy

- 2014, Cathy’s Apartment

“Nobody Needs to Know” - Jamie

- 2019, Cathy and Jamie’s Apartment

“Goodbye Until Tomorrow/I Could Never Rescue You” - Cathy and Jamie

- 2014/2019, Cathy’s Apartment/Cathy and Jamie’s Apartment

## Director's Note

Working on this show has been a dream of mine since the moment I first listened to it back in 2016 (...Five Years Ago). I think about how much has changed within that time frame. I was starting my senior year of high school, in a relationship, unsure of where my life was going to take me post-graduation. And now jump to 2021 I am here completing a project that to me never seemed possible. Directing has always been a huge passion of mine. Directing a full-length show has always been the goal, and I had the amazing privilege of seeing that goal finally come to fruition in directing *I and You* last semester. Especially during a pandemic, I couldn't believe I was able to look at a full production I created and see my soul in it. The next question was... what now? Which made me want to dip my hands in directing a musical.

This show has always felt very personal to me and I feel that it is such an easy show for anyone to connect to. Even though I have not had the exact same experiences as Jamie, I can still relate to the determination he has to become one of the greats in his field. I relate to his drive while also sharing in his fear of mediocrity and never settling for average. And with Cathy, I also feel the same struggle to be an emotionally open person while also striving/fighting for success and not letting any inconvenience drag me down. What I find in listening to/watching this show, is because of its relatability, it almost feels cathartic in a way for any sort of personal issues I might be feeling at the time. How can we look at any sort of grief/loss in our life and find the answers within our time with those people to find acceptance and become the best version of ourselves on the other side. This show I hope leaves people with a sense of acceptance for any sort of loss they have experienced in their lives.

I want to thank Dryden for being an amazing friend and collaborator during this process and for keeping me sane. Laura for being an amazing music director and an insanely talented pianist for this difficult show. Madison and Austin for being some of the best cast members a director could ask for. Jeremy Barnett for being an amazing motivator throughout this process, and constantly pushing me to keep going when I had my doubts. And finally, David Gram for all of the assistance on this show, and the trust he's given me the past four years. This production, and my passion for directing would not have been possible without his guidance and the constant support he's given me since day one.

Enjoy the show!

Antonio Vettrains

## **Production Staff**

**Stage Manager:** Dryden Zurawski

**Musical Director/Piano:** Laura Blanchard

**Lighting Designer:** Eileen Brennan

**Faculty Advisors:** David Gram, Jeremy Barnett

**Promotional Photos/Poster Design:** Kassie Dunaj

**Marketing Manager:** Carly Uhrig

### **THE PIT**

**Violin:** Amanda Crecelius

**Bass:** Waylon Krolczyk

**Cello:** Miceala Muzzarelli

**Guitar:** Ben Pruehs

**Special Thanks:** David Gram, Jeremy Barnett, Kerro Knox III, Alissa Hetzner, Andrew Toering, Christa Koerner, Tony Guest, Josh Young, Bella Javier, Kassie Dunaj, Sarita Alvarado, Gwyn Labine, Ben Smith

**Any video and/or audio recording of this  
production is strictly prohibited.**

The Last Five Years

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

## Bios

### **Madison Wiley (Cathy)**

Madison Wiley is a Junior Musical Theatre major and is stoked to be sharing this production of *The Last Five Years*. This is the first musical Madison has been cast in and will *perform* (thanks covid) with Oakland University! Madison has previously been cast as a sophomore in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Cabaret* during her freshman year at Oakland. “A huge thank you to my cast (ha), my amazing director Antonio and assistant director/stand in Dryden, and the queen herself Laura Blanchard on keys.” Instagram: madison\_wiley

### **Austin Bickel (Jamie)**

Austin is a Sophomore Musical Theatre major and is beyond ecstatic to take part in this production of *The Last Five Years*. This is Austin’s first musical at Oakland. Austin had the privilege of performing in *Exes* written by OU's very own Kassie Dunaj at the end of last year's second semester. Austin would like to thank Madison for putting up with him getting a little heated over a debate regarding Avatar the Last Airbender, his stage manager Dryden, and his body double and director, Antonio. Also his dumbass roommates for being dumbasses. Instagram: austinbick01

### **Antonio Vettrano (Director)**

Antonio is a Senior Musical Theatre major and is more than thrilled to be sharing this production of *The Last Five Years*. This is Antonio’s first full-length directed musical, and the first show he’s directing in person. Antonio had the privilege of directing his first play, *I and You*, last semester virtually, and a ten-minute play entitled *Shades* last December. Instagram: antoniov\_123

### **Laura Blanchard (Music Director)**

Laura Blanchard is thrilled to be the music director for *The Last Five Years*, especially since it’s been her favorite musical for at least the last 15 years! This is the first show she has had the opportunity to work on at OU and she has loved every minute of it. This is Laura’s 5th year at OU where she vocal coaches, plays lots of piano and teaches Musicianship to the Musical Theater majors. Laura would like to thank her husband and daughters for their support and understanding during the rehearsal process. She would also like to thank Madison, Austin, Antonio and Dryden, for being amazing and so much fun to work with.

### **Dryden Zurawski (Stage Manager/AD)**

Dryden is a recent Alumnus of OU with a BFA in Acting. You may have seen him this past summer alongside Antonio in Shakespeare Royal Oak's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or as Don John in Wishing Well Theatre's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Prior to the pandemic, he frequented OU's Main Stage and Second Stage as the titular role in *Macbeth*, Will Bennett in *Blue Stockings*, King Menelaus in *Orestes*, and in a number of other roles. He is very thankful to his good friend, Antonio, for reaching out to assist on this project, and he is happy to have the opportunity to flex and stretch his artistic muscles on other areas of collaboration within the theatre off the stage. This process has been a great understanding, and he is proud to have been able to lend his support wherever he could.

## **UPCOMING THEATRE PERFORMANCES**

**The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee November 11– 21**

For tickets and information on upcoming performances please visit  
[oakland.edu/smt.d](http://oakland.edu/smt.d).