

## ***Authenticity: The Musical*, an award-nominated family friendly comedy, debuts at the Hollywood Fringe to expose the toxic social media influence!**

***Authenticity* is about finding yourself in a sea of fake profiles. The full length stage show written by twenty-three year old Johnny Cassidy based on his feature film shot during the pandemic. He's trying to get the attention of High Schools and Community Theater to share his stories closer with the teenage audience.**

LOS ANGELES - "The theme is the title of the show- authenticity." says Johnny Cassidy: "being authentic nowadays is one of the most risky things to be. Because of technology, the political climate, expectations... it's important now more than ever to form genuine relationships." While it's all satire, the moral of the story is based on the dark truths of expectations teenagers are dealt with. "Everyone is a victim, but everyone is also a bully."

The Fringe Festival will only be featuring a taste of *Authenticity*. It will be a condensed version of the first hour of the original show. "The idea with Fringe is to see if people like the first half and core characters. If they do, we can go to the full fleshed out show and premiere it in another theater for the full experience.."

Johnny Cassidy started writing *Authenticity* in 2018. Not only has it been re-written from the ground up more than five times, it also has gone through several forms, composers and creative teams. "We started out as a stage show. When the pandemic hit, it was clear that it was meant to be a feature film. After the film gained traction from film festivals, we thought it would be the perfect time to show the story as it was originally intended, on the stage."

At one point the musical was fully composed, but two of the original composers dropped out before production. The entire 18 song show was re-written solely by Michael Van Bodegam Smith, a recent graduate and award winning composer. "I originally signed on to write the opening number for *Authenticity*, but after a series of events led to the musical needing a complete restart, I was happy to welcome the challenge of composing the entire book on an expedited schedule. While I found myself writing and producing three to four songs a day, the payoff was undoubtedly worthwhile."

"After watching this movie, I hope the audience feels a sense of responsibility. Allow ourselves to take accountability for how we treat others both on and offline. The only solution to the never ending fight against bullying is empathy. The saddest thing I realized about humanity is that if we think we have a reason to oppress an individual, we do. And it needs to be recognized and fixed.

## **Authenticity: The Musical**

Written and Directed by Johnny Cassidy

Music by Michael Van Bodegam-Smith

Produced by Noelle Hall

Assistant Directed by Vanessa Hanish

Choreographed by Avery Potemri & Melaney Garcia

### **FILM TRAILER:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXURNx\\_AZ1c&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXURNx_AZ1c&feature=emb_title)

### **SYNOPSIS:**

When the social media star of highschool realizes she has no genuine friends, she attempts to connect to someone by catfishing the only genuine guy in school. But after people start to discover her true identity, she has to quickly choose between popularity and authenticity.

### **LIVE & STREAMING:**

August 9th @9pm

August 14th @12pm - Streamed

August 17th @6pm

August 26th @8:30pm

August 29th @1:30pm

### **From:**

Stephanie Feury Theater  
5636 Melrose Ave,  
Los Angeles CA, 90038

### **Prices:**

\$15 Live

\$10 Discount/Live Streamed

### **For More Info:**

[AuthenticityTheMusical.com](http://AuthenticityTheMusical.com)

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#OriginalMusical, #Authenticity, #SocialMedia, #featurefilm