



# CWCT'S BE MORE CHILL CONTENT GUIDE

## What is *Be More Chill*?

*Be More Chill* is a coming-of-age story about teenagers trying to navigate the social complexities of high school life. The musical explores many issues relevant to young people including popularity, social pressure, sex and romance, drug use, friendship, individuality, and self-esteem. Written in the candid and authentic voice of modern teens, *Be More Chill* contains mature themes and content as outlined in the guide below. **All actors and parents are required to review this guide prior to auditions.**

## How will CWCT address the controversial themes and sensitive content of *Be More Chill*?

Part of the mission of CWCT is to advocate for young people and help them mature and grow by exploring the challenging issues in their lives through theatre. To help actors, parents, and audience members examine and learn from the sensitive topics and themes presented in *Be More Chill*, CWCT will:

- conduct a masterclass-style rehearsal process designed to provide teen cast members with more individualized attention and intensive direction as they explore sensitive themes and refine their musical theatre skills
- challenge teen cast members to connect the messages from *Be More Chill* to their own lives through a thoughtful and age-appropriate analysis of characters, scenes, and themes including popularity, social pressure, sex and romance, drug use, friendship, individuality, and self-esteem
- inspire teen cast members to challenge stereotypes, develop empathy, and explore the perspectives of others through scene and character studies of *Be More Chill* and ultimately in their own lives
- employ the expertise of Lindsay Kujawa, founder of **Re: Theater**, to guide actors and the CWCT staff in creating a safe, productive, and thoughtful environment for exploring and learning from sensitive themes
- create engagement opportunities for actors, parents, and audience members to have a dialogue about how important topics like mental health and sexism affect our community; examples of community engagement opportunities include an interactive, educational lobby display at the theater, themed pre-show guided discussion sessions for parents and teens, post-show talkbacks, and take-home Q&A discussion guides

## How can I explore specific examples of the mature content included in *Be More Chill*?

Below you will find an in-depth overview of some of the most sensitive themes included in this production which are organized under these five categories: positive messages and role models, language, drugs and alcohol, sex and relationships, and mental health. You can also explore the full lyrics with annotations providing insights and background at [www.genius.com/albums/Be-more-chill-ensemble/Be-more-chill-original-cast-recording](http://www.genius.com/albums/Be-more-chill-ensemble/Be-more-chill-original-cast-recording).

Please note: **All actors and their parents are required to review the content below prior to auditions.**



## POSITIVE MESSAGES & ROLE MODELS

Teen characters in *Be More Chill* engage in both struggles and victories throughout the show which make them relatable, positive role models for young adults. Examples include:

- Teens worry about fitting in, being losers or geeks, and being accepted by peers
- Teen friends support and confide in one another about identity, self-esteem, and surviving high school
- Teen friends compliment each other, boost each other's confidence, and pledge support to one another
- Teens talk candidly about having big emotions, changes they are going through, and worries about life
- In the songs *More Than Survive*, *Two-Player Game*, and *Michael in the Bathroom*, teen characters share relatable, heartfelt, and vulnerable insights about acceptance, identity, friendship, resilience, and loneliness



## LANGUAGE

Teen characters in *Be More Chill* use strong language frequently throughout the show. Examples include:

- hell, ass, p-ssed, sl-tty, sl-t, sh-t, f---ing, f---ed, motherf---er, screwing, Jesus Christ



## DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Several teen characters in *Be More Chill* take a pill called a squip (Super Quantum Unit Intel Processor) that allows them to “be more chill,” or in other words, become cool, popular, and achieve their desired social status. Squips are described as being “better than drugs.” Other drug and alcohol references include:

- Teen characters sing about using drugs and alcohol at a party in the song, *Halloween Party*:  
 “Everybody’s got a red solo cup. Fill it up, fill it up. Hear the beer spill on the ground.”  
 “Let’s catch up, let’s smoke up! Look how many drinks I’ve downed.”  
 “Cuz a Halloween Party’s a rad excuse to put your body through mad abuse. And I might pass out, but it’s alright. Cuz I’m Halloween partying hard tonight.”  
 “Jello shots! It’s Halloween. Liver spots from Halloween.”
- A teen male character talks about how he likes to smoke pot and is a stoner
- In the song, *The Smartphone Hour*, teen characters talk about a peer getting drunk and high:  
 “So he’s behaving hazy like a tweakin’ junky”  
 “He’s gotta learn to handle his high, shouldn’t drink so much for a small guy”



## SEX & RELATIONSHIPS

Teen characters use sexual language and innuendo, describe sexual encounters, and engage in sexual situations throughout the show. Some sexism and gender stereotypes are also present. Specific examples include:

- A sexually frustrated teen tries to download porn on his computer
- Teen characters make references to porn and masturbation
- Teen characters gossip about peers having sex
- Teen characters make references to being a virgin
- Teen characters make references to body parts including “balls” and “penis”
- Teen characters make jokes about being gay and one teen character coming out as “bi”
- Several teen female characters are portrayed as unintelligent, superficial, and obsessed with sex and gossip
- A female teen character uses innuendo to ask a male character to have sex in the song, *Do You Wanna Ride*:  
 “Do you wanna get inside my mother’s car? Drive it on home, don’t ya say no, can you be coerced?”
- Two teen characters sing about having sex in the song, *Upgrade*:  
 “I’ll tenderly guide you. Just take me inside you.”  
 “Don’t worry about the guilt you feel. Just take a breath and seal the deal.”
- A female teen character tries to convince a male teen character to have sex in the song, *Do You Wanna Hang*. When he refuses, she kisses him and yells to a peer outside to go away because they are “busy screwing.”



## MENTAL HEALTH

Teen characters speak about mental health issues such as suicide, depression, and self-harm in blunt, off-handed, or cavalier terms. Examples include:

- “I’m not depressed as in, like ‘kill myself.’ No, I’m not into self-harm. Dude, I swear, here, check my arm.”
- “Everything about me is just terrible. Everything about me makes me wanna die.”
- “I wish I stayed at home in bed, watching cable porn, or wish I offed myself instead, wish I was never born.”
- “There are voices in my head, many voices in my mind. They can yell and hurt like hell, but I know I’ll be fine.”



## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.

CWCT understands that you may have questions or concerns due to the sensitive nature of the themes in this show. While we have worked diligently to design a thoughtful and age-appropriate approach to this production for both actors and audience members, we welcome your feedback as always. Please do not hesitate to reach out directly to Justin Evans, Artistic Director, at [justin@mycwct.org](mailto:justin@mycwct.org) OR 715.842.4416 to discuss any issues or questions you may have. We also look forward to seeing you at the pre-show guided discussion sessions for parents and teens as well as the post-show talk-backs for interactive opportunities to help your child(ren) explore, grow, and learn from this production.



# CWCT'S BE MORE CHILL CONSENT FORM

*Be More Chill* explores many issues relevant to young people including popularity, social pressure, sex and romance, drug use, friendship, individuality, and self-esteem. The show is written in the candid and authentic voice of modern teens, and contains mature themes and content. **All actors and their parents are required to complete this form in order to participate in auditions.**



Parent  
Initials

Student  
Initials

*By initialing at left, parent and student agree to the following terms related to Central Wisconsin Children Theater's production of Be More Chill:*

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\_\_\_\_\_

I have carefully read CWCT's *Be More Chill* Content Guide.

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I understand that *Be More Chill* contains sensitive and mature content including teen characters using strong language, making references to drugs and alcohol, describing sexual encounters, and engaging in sexual situations.

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I understand that all teens who are cast in CWCT's production of *Be More Chill* will be discussing and exploring the sensitive and mature themes of the show and connecting what they have learned to their own lives and experiences.

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I understand that if I am uncomfortable or have concerns about the content at any time during CWCT's production of *Be More Chill*, I should contact Justin Evans, Artistic Director, at [justin@mycwct.org](mailto:justin@mycwct.org) OR 715.842.4416.

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I give my child permission to participate in CWCT's production of *Be More Chill*.

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Parent Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

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Date

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Date