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# Unmuted

By

ALVARO SAAR RIOS

Music and lyrics by

DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

**Dramatic Publishing Company**

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

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Music and lyrics by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

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(UNMUTED)

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*Unmuted* was originally commissioned and premiered virtually by First Stage, Milwaukee, on April 30, 2021 (Jeff Frank, artistic director).

**CAST:**

Student #1 ..... Ailie Snyder  
Student #2 ..... Noel Rubalcava  
Student #3 ..... Ariel Nelson  
Student #4 ..... Reese Bell  
Student #5 ..... Dayanara Sanchez  
Student #6 ..... Annie Sturtz  
Student #7 ..... Ryon Davis  
Student #8 ..... Naima Gaines

**PRODUCTION:**

Director ..... Anna Skidis Vargas  
Musical Directors ..... Deborah Wicks La Puma,  
Jeff Schaezke  
Music Mixing & Mastering ..... Temperance Sara Davis  
Sound Editor ..... Natalie Mayo  
Video Editor ..... Coltyn Giltner  
Virtual Production Coordinator ..... Melissa Wanke

# Unmuted

## CHARACTERS

STUDENT #1: Any gender.

STUDENT #2: Any gender.

STUDENT #3: Any gender.

STUDENT #4: Any gender.

STUDENT #5: Any gender; fluent in Spanish, preferably Latinx.

STUDENT #6: Any gender.

STUDENT #7: Any gender.

STUDENT #8: Woman of color.

SETTING: Virtual middle-school gym class.

TIME: 2020.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. Unmuted.....	7
2. Love by Autocorrect .....	18
3. Student #7's Dance .....	24
4. I Miss .....	25

## PRODUCTION NOTE

Below is a list of the students' screen names that should be visible for each character. They start off as initials and change to fun names.

STUDENT #1: L.G. to 414-->713

STUDENT #2: V.Q. to The Rock

STUDENT #3: F.J. to Enter Name Here

STUDENT #4: Z.Y. to Honorificabilitudinitatibus

STUDENT #5: T.K. to Xochiquetzal

STUDENT #6: A.R.L.R. to Omega

STUDENT #7: W.I. to Yo Soy Awesome

STUDENT #8: M.B. to Mighty Monarch

# Unmuted

*(We are in a virtual classroom. It's a gym class and all the STUDENTS [#1-8] are currently running in place in slow motion.)*

STUDENT #1. Dad! If you need to put stuff in my room, please put a shirt on. I'm in class.

STUDENT #2. So hungry.

*(STUDENT #1 stops running.)*

STUDENT #1. Who said that?

STUDENT #2. You can hear me?

STUDENT #4. I can hear you both.

*(Except for STUDENT #7, all the rest eventually stop running.)*

STUDENT #3. I thought it was my mom speaking from the other room.

**(#1: “Unmuted”)**

STUDENT #6. What's going on?

STUDENT #5. Ugghhhh! Another one!

STUDENT #7. How much longer, Mr. Rivers?

STUDENT #8. B.R.B.

*(STUDENT #8 turns off camera.)*

STUDENT #1.

I'M UNMUTED



STUDENT #4. I wonder if there's homework.

STUDENT #6. I hope it snows today.

STUDENTS #1 & #2.

I'M UNMUTED

STUDENT #3. Mom! Not so loud, please. I'm still in class.

*(STUDENT #8 reappears.)*

STUDENT #8. I'm back. Oh wait. Hold on.

*(STUDENT #8 turns off camera.)*

STUDENT #3.

I'M UNMUTED

STUDENT #4.

I'M UNMUTED

STUDENT #6.

CAN YOU HEAR ME HEAR YOU

STUDENT #4.

IS THIS EVEN ALLOWED

STUDENTS ODD.

I'M UNMUTED

STUDENTS EVEN.

I'M UNMUTED

ALL.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

IS THIS OUR ROOM NOW?

STUDENT #4. Hey. Where's the gym teacher?

STUDENT #5. Mr. Rivers, did you turn off your camera?

STUDENT #7. He did say something about having spotty internet.

STUDENTS ODD.

SHOULD WE BE GOOD OR BAD  
HOW MUCH FUN CAN BE HAD?

STUDENTS EVEN.

CAN YOU RESIST  
IN A SPACE THAT DON'T EXIST?

STUDENTS ODD.

WOULD ANYONE OF YOU CARE  
IF MAYBE WE OVERSHARE?

STUDENTS EVEN.

TALKING TO A SCREEN  
A NIGHTMARE OR A DREAM?

ALL.

OUR VOICES  
FLOATING  
THROUGH AN ELECTRON CLOUD  
OUR TEACHER IS MISSING  
SO C'MON  
C'MON  
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO GET LOUD!

WE'RE UNMUTED  
WE'RE UNMUTED  
YOU CAN HEAR ME  
HEAR YOU  
EVEN DOWN THE HALL

WE'RE UNMUTED  
UNDISPUTED  
SAY WHAT YOU WANT  
BECAUSE NOW IT'S OUR CALL

STUDENTS #3 &amp; 8.

UNMUTED

STUDENTS #2 &amp; 4.

NOW IT'S OUR CALL

STUDENTS #3 &amp; 8.

UNMUTED

STUDENTS #2 &amp; 4.

NOW IT'S OUR CALL

#3 &amp; 8.

UNMUTED

#2 &amp; 4.

NOW IT'S  
OUR CALL

#1 &amp; 5.

HEAR ME

#6 &amp; 7.

UNMUTED

NOW IT'S  
OUR CALL

HEAR YOU

UNMUTED

NOW IT'S  
OUR CALL

HEAR ME

*CAN YOU  
HEAR ME?  
CAN YOU  
HEAR ME  
NOW?*

UNMUTED

NOW IT'S  
OUR CALL

HEAR YOU

*CAN YOU  
HEAR ME?  
CAN YOU  
HEAR ME  
NOW?*

UNMUTED

NOW IT'S  
OUR CALL

HEAR ME

*CAN YOU  
HEAR ME?  
CAN YOU  
HEAR ME  
NOW?*

UNMUTED

NOW IT'S  
OUR CALL

HEAR YOU

*CAN YOU  
HEAR ME?  
CAN YOU  
HEAR ME  
NOW?*

*(In hip-hop style, these words are meant to be spoken in a poetic, rhythmic fashion. The specific rhythms of the words are left for the individual artist to interpret, but the overall pace is indicated in the score by where the words are above the measures.)*

## STUDENT #5.

Escucha mi voz tan afinada	(Listen to my voice so fine)
Ahora mi aula es reactivada	(Now my class is unmuted)
Virtual vida	(Virtual life)
Realidad Zoom	(Reality zoom)
Más un día	(One more day)
Broadcasting from my room	
Esperando una cura	(Waiting for a cure)
La escuela es una una locura	(School is ridiculous)
Si sustituye todo	(If you substitute everything)
No hay modo	(There's no way)
Que no es difícil	(It's not hard)
And not just for me, still	
Adelante	(Onward)
No te rindas	(Don't give up)
Pinta con palabras lindas	(Paint the world with beautiful words)
Mi casa es tu clase	(My house is your classroom)
¡Atención!	(Attention!)
¡Ya venga tu nueva educación!	(Here comes your new education)

ALL.

VOICES  
FLOATING  
THROUGH AN ELECTRON CLOUD  
OUR TEACHER IS MISSING  
SO NO TIME TO WASTE  
THIS IS OUR  
CHANCE TO GET LOUD!  
  
WE'RE UNMUTED  
WE'RE UNMUTED

STUDENT #7. Ho!

ALL.

YOU CAN HEAR ME  
HEAR YOU  
SO LET'S MAKE IT BOOM  
  
WE'RE UNMUTED  
YES, INCLUDED!  
WE CAN CRASH THIS ZOOM  
FORGET PANDEMIC GLOOM  
HOPE TEACHER'S NOT BACK SOON  
AND SAY WHAT YOU WANT

STUDENT #2. I want a taco.

STUDENT #7. I need water.

ALL.

BECAUSE NOW IT'S OUR ROOM  
WE'RE UNMUTED

STUDENT #7. Can I stop running?

ALL OTHERS.

*YES!*

STUDENT #4. I don't know about you all, but I love, love, love slow-motion cross-country running.

STUDENT #2. Do you know what they serve at school on Tuesdays? Crunchy beef tacos.

STUDENT #7. I still don't understand why Mr. Rivers changed our names to just initials.

STUDENT #1. He is the worst substitute gym teacher.

STUDENT #6. Agree one million percent.

STUDENT #3. I never thought I would say this, but I dislike virtual gym class.

STUDENT #5. I dislike virtual everything.

*(This comment gets all the students riled up. Some agree. Some disagree. Not much can be understood because they are all talking over one another.*

*Moments later, silence. All STUDENTS have been muted except for STUDENT #8.)*

STUDENT #8. You all have been muted. Yes. I have control of the room. I guess when Mr. Rivers was kicked off, control was given to me. I am happy to unmute you again. But we can't talk at the same time. We still have some time left in class. So, until Mr. Rivers gets back, let's do something fun.

*(All STUDENTS are unmuted.)*

STUDENT #2. What if we order some food?

STUDENT #4. Anyone have a better idea?

STUDENT #1. I got one. Let's play "SorD." (*Pronounced "sword."*)

STUDENT #6. Yeah. Anyone else ever played it?

STUDENT #4. I have.