NEXT TO NORMAL

Music by
Tom Kitt

Book & Lyrics by
Brian Yorkey

Original Broadway Production Produced by David Stone,
James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo and Second Stage Theatre

Carole Rothman, Artistic Director    Ellen Richard, Executive Director
‘Next To Normal’ was subsequently produced by Arena Stage in November 2008

Developed at Village Theatre, Issaquah, WA (Robb Hunt, Executive Producer, Steve Tomkins, Artistic Director).
An earlier version was presented in the 2005 New York Musical Theatre Festival. Support for
the development of “Next to Normal” was provided by the Jonathan Larson Foundation.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Vincent Van Gogh suffered from bipolar disorder many generations before it had a name, or before there was even a cursory understanding of the condition. In a letter to his brother Theo, he wrote, “Though I am often in the depths of misery, there is still calmness, pure harmony and music inside me.”

Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey capture this multilayered description of mental illness in Diana Goodman in their Pulitzer Prize-winning *Next to Normal*. We follow Diana as she experiences her “manic magic days and dark depressing nights” and everything in between, all the while with the sense that there is still a light of hope somewhere to be found.

When I first saw this show some years ago, I was, as most people who see it for the first time, struck by the powerful music and the twists and turns of Diana’s story. But what stuck with me most and continues to fascinate me is the complexity of the characters created by Kitt and Yorkey.

This may be Diana’s story, but we also see it through the perspective of her family, all of whom have been thoroughly affected in their own way by Diana’s illness. All of the characters are presented in an admirably honest and genuine way. Their actions and motivations are not heroic or villainous; they are simply real.

In each of the Goodmans, we can see ourselves, which forces us to turn inward to answer the questions posed by Kitt and Yorkey throughout the show. What does it mean to be normal? What does it mean to be a family? How should we approach mental illness, and how do we help those who suffer from it to find a “light in the dark?”

In our efforts to explore these questions, we opted for a more intimate setting for our production, befitting the up-close-and-personal environment of Next Act Theater. Gone are the steel beams, LED lighting, scaffolding and “rock show” aura of the Broadway production. Instead, we bring this show into a typical household, knowing that the story that plays out onstage is not unlike the stories many of us could share about our own experiences with mental illness, or about loved ones or friends who have similarly suffered.

There is no need to suffer alone. There will be light.

*National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK*
*Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Greater Milwaukee: http://www.dbsa-grm.org/*
It’s hard to believe that it’s been nearly three years since All In Productions was officially founded. Throughout our first two seasons and so far in our third we have been extremely fortunate to have been embraced by Milwaukee actors, artists and theater goers.

Next Act has been our gracious hosts for *The Last Five Years*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Dogfight* and *The Wild Party*. We are excited to work with Next Act’s team and with our tremendous cast and crew to bring this captivating show to life in an intimate setting.

We are officially a 501c(3)! This registration will allow us to seek out more sustainable sponsorships so we can continue providing local artists with an outlet to hone and display their talents. There is a lot to be excited about, and it’s all thanks to the audiences, artists and sponsors who continue to lend us their support.

Tonight we bring you the story of a family. Growing up, we often find ourselves entering the homes of our friends or family members. Every home is different. Every house defines “home” a little uniquely. At times it would be refreshing to see the challenges that face other families, because it reminds us we are not alone. Other times it would be frustrating, seeing the homes of those that do not face the same challenges we do in our own. We encourage you to share you stories and thoughts with each other after this performance. Our season’s theme is “Let’s Talk”, so tell us what you think!

We want to thank our featured Milwaukee artists who have dedicated their time to make this production a success. We are working toward becoming a company that can give you more than thanks. For now, thank you for taking this journey with us.

Thank you for joining us tonight, and enjoy the show!

Tim Backes  
Niko King  
Robby McGhee  
Alex Scheurell  
Amber Smith
CAST

Diana.................................................................................................................................................. Carrie Gray
Dan ...................................................................................................................................................... Steve Pfisterer
Natalie .................................................................................................................................................. Hailey Hentz
Gabe.................................................................................................................................................... Austin Dorman
Henry ................................................................................................................................................... Connor Dalzin
Doctor Fine/Madden......................................................................................................................... Adam Qutaishat

CREATIVE TEAM

Director .............................................................................................................................................. Tim Backes
Music Director ................................................................................................................................... Julie Johnson
Stage Manager .................................................................................................................................. Kathy Staats
ASM/Deck Chief ............................................................................................................................... Jessica Betts
Set Designer ..................................................................................................................................... Mitch Weindorf
Costume Designer ............................................................................................................................ Christy Siebers
Lighting Designer.............................................................................................................................. Mike Van Dreser
Sound Designer/Engineer .................................................................................................................. D. Buckles
Master Carpenter ............................................................................................................................... Tom Backes
Dramaturg .......................................................................................................................................... Nancy Backes
Graphic Designer ............................................................................................................................. Brian Bzdawka
Production Manager/Assistant Director ............................................................................................ Robby McGhee

ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keyboard ........................................................................................................................... Julie Johnson
Guitar .................................................................................................................................................... Jay Kummer
Bass ....................................................................................................................................................... Jerry Becker
Violin ...................................................................................................................................................... Kaila Bingen
Cello ...................................................................................................................................................... Jenna Pepitone
Drums ................................................................................................................................................... Ken Marchand

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(For better sleep, pain relief, fewer colds, and less stress—seriously)

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### MUSICAL NUMBERS

#### ACT I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUSICAL NUMBERS</th>
<th>Cast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prelude</td>
<td>Orchestra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Another Day</td>
<td>Diana, Natalie, Gabe, Dan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everything Else</td>
<td>Natalie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who's Crazy / My Psychopharmacologist and I</td>
<td>Dan, Doctor Fine, Diana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perfect for You</td>
<td>Henry, Natalie</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Miss the Mountains</td>
<td>Diana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's Gonna Be Good</td>
<td>Dan, Natalie, Henry, Diana</td>
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<tr>
<td>He's Not Here</td>
<td>Dan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Don't Know</td>
<td>Diana</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Am the One</td>
<td>Dan, Gabe, Diana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superboy and the Invisible Girl</td>
<td>Natalie, Diana, Gabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>I'm Alive</td>
<td>Gabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make Up Your Mind / Catch Me I'm Falling</td>
<td>Doctor Madden, Diana, Dan, Natalie, Gabe, Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Dreamed a Dance</td>
<td>Diana, Gabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>There's a World</td>
<td>Gabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>I've Been</td>
<td>Dan, Gabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't I See This Movie?</td>
<td>Diana</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Light in the Dark</td>
<td>Dan, Diana</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### ACT II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUSICAL NUMBERS</th>
<th>Cast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wish I Were Here</td>
<td>Diana, Natalie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song of Forgetting</td>
<td>Dan, Diana, Natalie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hey #1</td>
<td>Henry, Natalie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seconds and Years</td>
<td>Doctor Madden, Dan, Diana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better Than Before</td>
<td>Doctor Madden, Dan, Diana, Natalie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aftershocks</td>
<td>Gabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hey #2</td>
<td>Henry, Natalie</td>
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<tr>
<td>You Don't Know (Reprise)</td>
<td>Diana, Doctor Madden</td>
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<tr>
<td>How Could I Ever Forget?</td>
<td>Diana, Dan</td>
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<tr>
<td>It's Gonna Be Good (Reprise)</td>
<td>Dan, Diana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why Stay? / A Promise</td>
<td>Diana, Natalie, Dan Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>I'm Alive (Reprise)</td>
<td>Gabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Break</td>
<td>Diana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make Up Your Mind / Catch Me I'm Falling (Reprise)</td>
<td>Doctor Madden, Diana, Gabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maybe (Next to Normal)</td>
<td>Diana, Natalie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hey #3 / Perfect for You (Reprise)</td>
<td>Henry, Natalie</td>
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<tr>
<td>So Anyway</td>
<td>Diana, Natalie</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Am the One (Reprise)</td>
<td>Dan, Gabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Diana, Dan, Natalie, Gabe, Henry, Doctor Madden</td>
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There will be one 15 minute intermission.
Carrie Gray (Diana) could not be happier to be making her All-In debut in NEXT TO NORMAL. Carrie has been seen on many Milwaukee area stages. Recent/Favorite productions include; Skylight Music Theatre (Sweeney Todd), Greendale Community Theatre (Songs for a New World, Wedding Singer, Jesus Christ Superstar), Sunset Playhouse (25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Musical Mainstage Concert Series) Waukesha Civic Theatre (A Little Night Music), and Theatre Unchained (Company). Many thanks to this amazing cast and crew, and even bigger thanks to Tim and All-In for entrusting me with this unbelievably beautiful role.

Steve Pfisterer (Dan) is thrilled to be making his debut with All In Productions in Next to Normal. He was last seen on the Milwaukee Stage as Archibald Craven in Soulstice Theatre’s production of The Secret Garden. Favorite past roles include Jean Valjean in GCT’s production of Les Misérables, Buddy in Follies at Soulstice, Merv in The Sister’s Rosensweig at Off the Wall and Horton in Seussical The Musical at Soulstice. Steve would like to thank his family for allowing him the time away to pursue his love of the stage.

Hailey Hentz (Natalie) is extremely excited to be a part of All In Productions’ NEXT TO NORMAL! Natalie has been one of her dream roles for a very long time and she can’t wait for everyone to love this show as much as she does. Hailey is currently in her second year of studying Theatre Education at UW- Milwaukee. Having previously appeared in Jesus Christ Superstar, The Wedding Singer (Greendale Community Theatre), and All In’s Dogfight in 2015, she is excited to get back on the stage! She wants to thank her friends and family for always being so supportive of her, and she hopes you all enjoy the show!

Austin Dorman (Gabe) is making his Milwaukee debut with All In Productions. From Madison, his regional credits include Pirates of Penzance, Candide, Fiddler on the Roof, A Christmas Carol, Wonderful Town, and Oklahoma. Other favorite performances include Anything Goes, Hello Dolly, Fools, Godspell, and The Good Doctor. Outside of theater, Austin enjoys writing and performing in sketch comedy and improv in Chicago. Thanks Mom and Matt for your love and support!

Connor Dalzin (Henry) is making his debut in the Milwaukee theater scene. He is a musical theater major at UW- Milwaukee and has had roles in Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown and A Month in the Country. He has been involved in theater since he was very young beginning with Jesus Christ Superstar at the age of five followed by numerous show throughout school. His favorite role to date is Shrek in Shrek the Musical. Connor would like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him in what he wants to do.
Adam Qutaishat (Doctor Fine/Madden) is a music and theatre professional in the Milwaukee area and is thrilled to be joining All In Productions for the first time on a dream project. Adam’s 2017 summer highlights include CAROUSEL (American Gothic Performing Arts Festival) and originating the role of Christopher Melody in the premiere staged reading of Sam Mulloly’s AMERICAN SPRING. Adam is passionate about starting and continuing conversations about mental health and he hopes that this performance helps generate these types of conversations.

Tim Backes (Director) is thrilled to be making his directorial debut with NEXT TO NORMAL. He is a member of the All In Productions executive board, and was the understudy to Jamie in the company’s debut show, THE LAST FIVE YEARS. He has also acted in many shows around the area with Greendale Community Theatre, Soulistice Theater, the Alchemist Theater, Lake Country Playhouse and more. His involvement in the Milwaukee arts scene also includes membership in Chant Claire Chamber Choir, where he serves as president, and in 5 AM A Cappella. Special thanks to: Robby for the mentorship and friendship, the AIP board for the unceasing support, this tremendous cast and production team for the hard work they have put in, and most of all, to Katie for the love and understanding that is never, ever, ever taken for granted.

Julie Johnson (Music Director) is thrilled to be working with All in Productions! She is a very active musician who loves to share her happiness and bring joy to others through music and theater! In addition to teaching piano lessons and musical theater classes, she serves as an accompanist for concerts and auditions at several area schools and theaters. Here are some of her most recent theater endeavors: 33 VARIATIONS, GYPSY, A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC (Waukesha Civic Theater), LITTLE MERMAID, SHREK, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST and COMICALITY 2016 & 2017 (Hartford Players), TICK Ttick BOOM (Lake Country Players), ENCORE ENCORE, AND THE WORLD GOES ROUND, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST and SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD (Tosa East High School), SPAMALOT, MY FAIR LADY (Falls Patio Players), THINGS ABOUT MEN (New Theater on Main), and SEIZE THE DAY (DSHA). Thanks to my family and friends and my fellow cast members for this wonderful opportunity to be a part of Next to Normal.

Christy Siebers (Costume Designer) is a Milwaukee based costume designer. She holds a BFA in Theatre Design Technology in Costume Design from UW Stevens Point. Local costume design credits include MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Optimist Theatre), THE WILD PARTY, ORDINARY DAYS, DOGFIGHT, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (All in Productions), and ANY GIVEN MONDAY (Pink Banana Theatre Co). Christy also has done work for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Ballet, and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. She currently works as the wardrobe supervisor for the Milwaukee Ballet.
Mike Van Dreser (Lighting Designer) has been working professional theatre in Milwaukee for thirteen years. In his time here in Milwaukee, Mike has worked as Lighting Designer for WINTER TALES, PAUL ROBESON IN CONCERT, VALUE OF NAMES, BIG BOYS, ONE TIME, A KODACHROME CHRISTMAS, IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE LIVE RADIO SHOW, NO CHILD, BRAVO CARUSO, and UNSILENT NIGHT (Next Act Theatre); WHEN THE CURTAIN FALLS, MIKADO, and LAST FIVE YEARS (Milwaukee Opera); PALEONTOLOGY OF A WOMAN, and several other DanceWorks Productions. This will be Mike’s fourth show as Lighting Designer for All-In Productions. In the past, Mike has designed All-In productions of: THE LAST FIVE YEARS, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, and last season’s WILD PARTY. Mike has had the good fortune of working with and learning from renowned Lighting Designer Jason Fassl and knows his guidance and continuing education will help make him more successful. Mike looks forward to many more productive shows with All-In and any new opportunities that may come his way.

D. Buckles (Sound Designer/Engineer) is an award winning sound designer and engineer originally from Chippewa Falls, WI. D has worked in theatre for most of their life, finding a home in live audio. They have worked with artists such as: Panic! at the Disco, Bon Iver, Phillip Phillips, and broadway actor Chester Gregory. D is currently the House Sound Engineer at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, as well as a freelance designer. D is overjoyed to be joining All In Productions on yet another production.

Mitch Weindorf (Set Designer) returns to All-In after directing CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION and performing as Burrs in THE WILD PARTY. He is a theatrical artist located here in Milwaukee, and enjoys creating theatrical experiences in all aspects. As he writes this, he is attempting to pay off some more of his vast student loans. Any donations are gladly accepted. He would like to thank Lindsey, his family, friends, and mentors for their continued love and support. Love and be loved.

Tom Backes (Master Carpenter) returns to All In Productions where he previously built sets for ORDINARY DAYS and WILD PARTY. He is pleased to be working again with the talented design team, actors, and staff at AIP. In the past he has enjoyed working on sets for BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON at Soulstice Theatre, many sets for high school productions and for the Bay Players. By day Mr. Backes is a high school technology education instructor.

Nancy Backes (Dramaturg) is thrilled to work again with All In Productions and to be part of the talented cast and crew of NEXT TO NORMAL. Recent work includes ORDINARY DAYS and THE WILD PARTY (All In Productions) and BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON (Soulstice Theatre). She feels lucky to be in a theatrical family, and shares her love of the stage with her stage carpenter husband, Tom, and her actor/director son, J.T.
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Brian Bzdawka
(Graphic Designer)
likes art, tacos, and being nice.

Kathy Staats (Stage Manager) is a stage manager, performer, designer, and, oh yeah, public health professional born and raised in the Milwaukee area! She has stage managed a number of shows throughout her time at UW-Eau Claire, with the UWEC Players, Broom Street Theater in Madison, at the Milwaukee Jewish Community Center, and most recently SPAMALOT with the Falls Patio Players and IF/THEN with Greendale Community Theatre. She’s endlessly thankful for the love she shares with her theatre village, family of all sorts, pets, and super cute husband David.

Jessica Betts (Assistant Stage Manager/Deck Chief) is thrilled to be back working on her fourth show with All In Productions. Besides being a Deck Chief here, at Next Act, she currently works at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater’s Ticket Office. She hopes you will come back and check out more shows here at Next Act. Jessica would like to thank everyone in this production, for being so awesome and of course her parents for whom this crazy life would not be possible.

Robby McGhee (Production Manager/Assistant Director) co-founded All In Productions with Alex Scheurell in 2014. Since then, he has been honored to direct THE LAST FIVE YEARS, DOGFIGHT, and THE WILD PARTY. Recently, he directed SPAMALOT at Falls Patio Players. He has acted on many stages in Milwaukee including Skylight Music Theatre (VIOLET, 2016), Greendale Community Theatre (RENT, HAIRSPRAY, THE WEDDING SINGER, and more), First Stage (THE BOY WHO FELL INTO A BOX, 2017), and The Milwaukee Repertory Theater (THE FOREIGNER, 2016). Thank you for joining us for NEXT TO NORMAL. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

SPECIAL THANKS

Next Act Theatre
Matt Kemple and Milwaukee Comedy
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Cudahy High School
Paula Foley Tillen

Anne Van Deusen
Dr. Anthony Meyer
Dennis Johnson
Patrick Thompson
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Interested in supporting AIP?
You can still donate online as part of our 2017 #AIPLetsLove campaign at gofundme.com/AIPLetsLove or by emailing allin.mke@gmail.com to find out about more ways that you can support AIP!

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