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PRESENTS

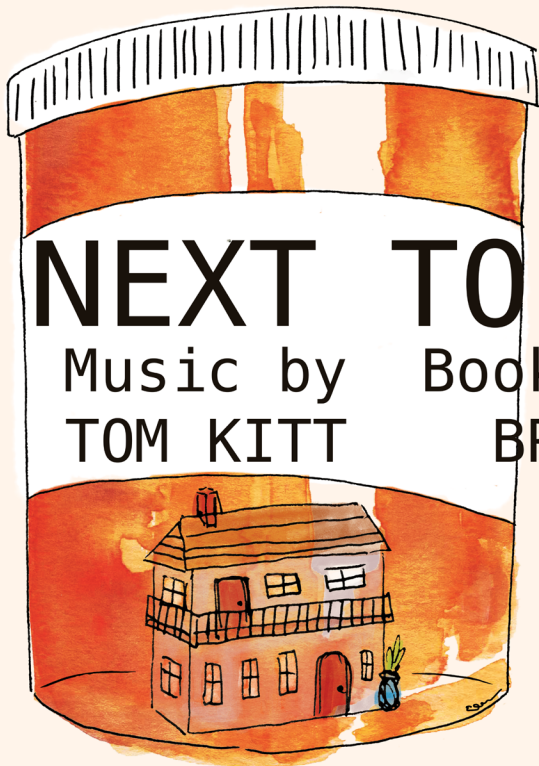
NEXT TO NORMAL

Music by TOM KITT Book & Lyrics by BRIAN YORKEY



NEXT TO NORMAL is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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NEXT TO NORMAL

Music by **TOM KITT** Book & Lyrics by **BRIAN YORKEY**

KIRK LARSON

director

CATHERINE RAHM

musical director

MARGARET HARRINGTON

co-producer

DANIEL KRUGER

co-producer

RICHARD SANTILENA

associate producer

JON SPARKS

costume & wig designer

MICHAEL THORPE

lighting designer

MARIE GLEERUP

movement coordinator

SHAWN SUMMERER

set designer & master builder

SUSAN STANGL

sound designer

Director's Statement

Next to Normal isn't a typical night at the theater—and it's not trying to be. This is a story about a family doing their best to function when life feels anything but stable. The characters aren't polished or perfect—they're messy, complicated, and human.

They say the wrong things, make difficult choices, and keep going anyway. That's part of what makes *Next to Normal* so powerful.

More than anything, this show asks a simple question: what does "normal" really mean? And is it something we ever truly reach?

Thanks for being here and spending this time with us. If you enjoy the show please consider becoming a subscriber and supporting live theater in your community.

KIRK LARSON
director

Musical Numbers

ACT I

Prelude	Musicians
Just Another Day	All
Everything Else	Natalie
Who's Crazy/My Psychopharmacologist and I	All
Perfect For You	Natalie, Henry
I Miss The Mountains	Diana
It's Gonna be Good	All
He's Not Here	Dan
You Don't Know	Diana
I Am The One	Gabe, Dan, Diana, Natalie
Superboy and the Invisible Girl	Diana, Gabe, Natalie
I'm Alive	Gabe
Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling	All
I Dreamed A Dance	Diana
There's A World	Gabe
I've Been	Gabe, Dan
Didn't I See This Movie?	Diana
A Light In The Dark	Diana, Dan

ACT II

Wish I Were Here	All
Song of Forgetting	Diana, Dan, Natalie
Hey #1	Natalie, Henry
Seconds and Years	Diana, Dan, Doctor
Better Than Before	Diana, Dan, Natalie, Doctor
Aftershocks	Gabe
Hey #2	Natalie, Henry
You Don't Know (Reprise)	Diana, Doctor
How Could I Ever Forget?	Diana, Dan
It's Gonna Be Good (Reprise)	Diana, Dan
Why Stay?	Diana, Natalie
A Promise	Dan, Henry
I'm Alive (Reprise)	Gabe
The Break	Diana
Make Up Your Mind/ Catch Me I'm Falling (Reprise)	Diana, Gabe, Doctor
Maybe (Next to Normal)	Diana, Natalie
Hey #3/Perfect For You (Reprise)	Natalie, Henry
So Anyway	Diana
I Am The One (Reprise)	Gabe, Dan
Finale: Light	All

Cast

(ALPHABETIC BY ACTOR'S LAST NAME)

Dr. Fine/Madden

Diana

Natalie

Dan

Gabe

Henry

DEONTE ALLEN

ELIZABETH BOUTON-SUMMERER

NICO FISHER

BEN HESS

SAM PAPIER

ELLIOTT PLUNKETT



Meet the Cast



DEONTE ALLEN – DR. FINE/MADDEN

Deonte Allen is a graduate of Santa Monica College and UCLA, born and raised in Los Angeles. Growing up spending most of his free time in sports, he was surprised and excited to discover a new passion for the performing arts. Some of his favorite roles includes Benny (*In The Heights*), Gargoyle (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), Banquo (*Flamenco Macbeth*), Shrek (*Shrek*), and Ton-Ton (*Once On This Island*). He is excited to be participating in his 2nd production with Kentwood Players and sharing the stage with the wonderful and talented cast and crew of *Next to Normal*.



ELIZABETH BOUTON-SUMMERER – DIANA

A 25-year member of Kentwood Players, Elizabeth is excited to be a part of this wonderful production of *Next to Normal*. She was last seen on the Kentwood stage as Gert in *Lost in Yonkers* and Maggie Jones in *42nd Street!* A few of her past Kentwood credits include Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown, the Musical*, M'Lynn Eatenton in *Steel Magnolias*, Miss Shingle in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, Judy Bernly in *9 to 5*, Sandra Bloom in *Big Fish*, Inga in *Young Frankenstein*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Nancy in *Oliver*, Lucille Frank in *Parade*, Edwin Drood in *Edwin Drood*, Molly Brown in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and Gabby/Bobbi in *City of Angels*. A huge thank you to Kirk and Cat for this amazing opportunity and kudos to this very talented cast and crew! She would like to dedicate this show to her sister, who is the strongest person she is blessed to know! Love SKS - FLAMES MM!



NICO FISHER – NATALIE

Nico Fisher is ecstatic to be playing a dream role in a dream show with this dream team! This is Nico's 4th show with Kentwood, they were last seen on the Westchester Playhouse stage as Medium Alison in *Fun Home*. Other favorite credits include: Portia (*Something Rotten*), Ariel Moore (*Footloose*), Emma/Alyssa s/b (*The Prom*), and Cinderella (*Into The Woods*). Nico would like to thank the cast, crew, creative team, and their family for their continued support. "The price of love is loss, but still we pay. We love anyway." Enjoy the show!
@nicofisher13

Meet the Cast



BEN HESS – DAN

Ben is excited to make his Kentwood debut! Previous roles include Applegate (*Damn Yankees*), Tarleton (*Misalliance*), Lombard (*And Then There Were None*), Cinderella's Prince/Wolf (*Into the Woods*), Turpin (*Sweeney Todd*), Father (*Ragtime*), Dr. Craven (*The Secret Garden*), Falstaff (*Merry Wives*), and Badger (*The Wind in the Willows*). Love and thanks to Melanie, Nolan, and Holland for their patience and support!



SAM PAPIER – GABE

Sam Papier is very excited to be doing his first show with Kentwood Players! Some of his previous credits include *Rent* (Roger Davis), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip Tolentino), and his personal favorite, *Hedwig and The Angry Inch* (Hedwig). He recently moved to Los Angeles after graduating with a BFA in Musical Theatre from both Circle in the Square Theatre School and Eckerd College. He'd like to thank his fellow cast and crew, his family, his friends, his girlfriend, and every audience member and member of Kentwood Players that make these productions possible, and for giving him the opportunity to perform a dream role like this one.



ELLIOTT PLUNKET – HENRY

Elliott is incredibly excited to be in this show!! Not only is this an amazing show, but a piece that speaks to him incredibly personally as well. Some of his past works include Tony in *West Side Story*, Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Jay in *Lost in Yonkers*, And Simon West in *O' Beautiful*. He would like to thank his parents for the support, the cast, and his best friend Kian for everything.

Meet the Production Team

KIRK LARSON – DIRECTOR

Kirk is glad to be back and directing one of his favorite shows. His last directing effort for Kentwood was the 2022 Subscriber's Favorite, *9 to 5 the Musical*. He has been a member of Kentwood Players for over 25 years and considers it his second home. Some of his favorite directing credits include *Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got the Will*, *Olive & The Bitter Herbs*, *Sordid Lives*, and *Sabrina Fair*. Kirk would like to thank the Play Reading Committee and the Board for taking a chance on this show and the wonderful cast for bringing it to life. "Flames. GMJS."

CATHERINE RAHM – MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Next to Normal marks the 18th mainstage musical that Cat has music directed at Kentwood Players. It is always a joy to watch each cast grow as they take the music and make it their own special creation.

MARGARET HARRINGTON – CO-PRODUCER

Margaret reconnected with local theater by joining Kentwood Players three years ago. Since then she has served on the production crew for *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville*, *The Producers* and *42nd Street*; on the Hospitality team; and on the Board as Publicity Chair. There's always lots to do at Kentwood, so if you love theater, too – come join us!

DANIEL KRUGER – CO-PRODUCER

Daniel started with Kentwood Players in 2015 and has worked on 23 shows, both on and off the stage. *Next to Normal* is the third show he has co-produced. He hopes that you enjoy the show.

RICHARD SANTILENA – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

This is the first time Richard has been part of the producer's team and is excited to be working on such a dynamic and hard-hitting show as *Next to Normal*. Richard has been involved in many other ways at Kentwood Players and enjoys being part of a theater that constantly puts on such great productions. Best wishes to the cast and crew of *Next to Normal*.

JON SPARKS – COSTUME & WIG DESIGNER

Jon is a 25 year member of the Kentwood Players and is honored to work with this great team! For the past two decades, he has performed, directed, wiggged, costumed, and produced shows all over Los Angeles and Orange County. Jon is a proud member of IATSE Local 706, the Make-Up Artist and Hair Stylist Guild. Jon is an accomplished wig creator/designer, having worked at Disneyland as well as many local theaters.

Meet the Production Team

MARIE MADERA GLEERUP – MOVEMENT COORDINATOR

Marie has been actively involved in all aspects of theatre for more years than she'd like to count. She was last involved at Kentwood as Choreographer for *9 to 5*. She knows how vital the audience is to every production and every show, so thank you to everyone reading this for supporting live community theatre. For all the time and effort put in by everyone on this production team and cast, thank you for helping to keep live theatre vibrant and thriving.

SHAWN SUMMERER – SET DESIGNER & MASTER BUILDER

Originally from Michigan, Shawn got his start in theatre playing "The Letter K" in preschool. He received his BFA in Film Writing from USC in 2004. This is Shawn's 6th set at Kentwood, having previously designed and built the sets for *Steel Magnolias*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *California Suite*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Pippin*. Additionally, he directed *Dracula* in 2010, *The Miracle Worker* in 2012, *Into the Woods* in 2014, and *She Kills Monsters* last summer. He has designed the sound for the Kentwood productions of *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, *The Producers*, *All My Sons*, *Mame*, and *The 39 Steps*, and recently graced the stage as an actor in *All My Sons* (George Deever) and *The Producers* (Franz Liebkind). Other favorite past roles include Smudge in *Forever Plaid* and David in *Company*. Shawn also currently serves as the President of the Kentwood Players Board of Directors. DOORBELL

SUSAN STANGL – SOUND DESIGNER

Susan has designed sound for 150+ theater productions, many of them at Kentwood Players. She also acts, directs, sings and writes music, performing regularly with her band, Dreamers and Drifters.

LYNDSAY PALMER – STAGE MANAGER

Lyndsay is honored to be part of this incredible production with an A-List cast and production team. This marks Lyndsay's 10th year as a Kentwood member, and she is happy to call this theatre home. Lyndsay has produced, designed props, and done other stage crew positions for past shows. She also appears on stage from time to time in such roles as Bella Kurnitz in *Lost in Yonkers*, Phoebe D'Ysquith in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, and Amy March in *Little Women*, just to name a few. Much love to her husband and heart family. There will be light!

Production Team

Stage Manager	LYNDSAY PALMER
Asst. Stage Manager	JOSH HARPER
Lighting Assistants	HAHNAH JACKSON, WILL JOSOWITZ, DANIEL MITCHENER
Script Supervisor	GAIL BERNARDI
Set Decoration	JON SPARKS
Props	ALISON BOOLE, JAMIE DAWLEY
Costume Coordinator	MEGAN UNQUERA
Poster Design	ELORA BECKER
Photography	GLORIA RAMIREZ-PLUNKETT
Booth Operator	HOWARD MALE, NATALIE MANN
Audition Desk	JANINE ANDERSON, JAMIE DAWLEY, JOSH HARPER, COLLEEN OKIDA
Independent Advocate	ELIZABETH BOUTON- SUMMERER, LYNDSAY PALMER

Musicians

Keyboard	STEPHEN AMUNDSON
Percussion	SANDY NITCHMAN
Bass	JUAN RODRIGUEZ
Violin	COLLEEN OKIDA
Guitar	MICHAEL THORPE

Special Thanks

Doug Carlson, Jeremy Palmer, Gloria Plunkett,
Nick and Meghan Unquera

Work Saturday/Sunday

Alison Boole, Pattie Butler, Doug Carlson, Martin Feldman,
Michelle Goffeau, Samuel Goldman, Shayna Goss, Margaret Harrington,
Ben Hess, Melanie Hess, Holland Hess, George Kondrek, Daniel Kruger,
Kirk Larson, Ben Lupejkis, Howard Male, Lori Marple-Pereslete,
Tony Marple-Pereslete, Colleen Okida, Roy Okida, Jeremy Palmer,
Lyndsay Palmer, Shawn Plunkett, Richard Santilena, Chani Schwarcz,
Michele Selin, Julia Sison, Jon Sparks, Elizabeth Summerer,
Shawn Summerer, Michael Thorpe, Brian Wells

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KentwoodPlayers.org

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July 10 – August 1, 2026

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

by Joshua Harmon

Directed by Elijah Green

September 11 – October 3, 2026

OTHELLO

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Chris Aruffo

November 13 – December 12, 2026

SHE LOVES ME

Book by Joe Maseroff

Music by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick

Directed by Brian Pirnat

January 15 – February 6, 2027

CONSTELLATIONS

by Nick Paine

Directed by TBD

March 12 – April 3, 2027

KEN LUDWIG'S SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD

by Ken Ludwig

Directed by TBD

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COMING SOON!