#### $\star$ LANGHAM COURT THEATRE PRESENTS $\star$



SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 15, 2016

# **NEXT TO NORMAL**

TOM KITT

MUSIC BY BOOK & LYRICS BY **BRIAN YORKEY** 

DIRECTED BY **GREGG PERRY** 



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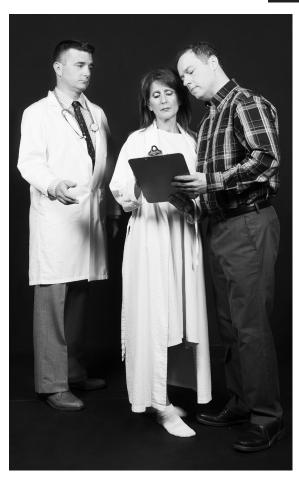
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# President's Message



As President of the Victoria Theatre Guild, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 1st play of our 88th Season. Next To Normal is an ambitious start to an ambitious season of plays. Thoroughly contemporary, with music that might be characterized as devilishly difficult, it is a testament to the depth and breadth of talent and dedication that we are able to draw on in our south island theatre community. This awardwinning show will delight lovers of modern musical theatre, and may surprise newcomers to Langham who might have expected more conventional community theatre fare. If you like what you see, keep in mind it's all created and delivered by volunteers, and you could be one of them. We look forward to seeing you again, in our audience or as part of our creative community.

**Kevin Stinson** 

### **Director's Notes**

Traditionally two masks have symbolized the dramatic arts: tragedy and comedy. I feel that *Next To Normal* makes a good case for there being a third: everyday life. Life is difficult, but not always tragic, and sometimes profoundly good. It is full of highs and lows, joys and sorrows, moments of grief and acts of grace. According to psychology, people are congenitally optimistic, a survival trait that helps us through the dark nights of the soul, anticipating the light of a new day. Although our show revolves around a struggle with mental illness, it could be any human struggle, and it is not the outcome, the success or failure, but the manner in which we face the trial and treat our fellow pilgrims that reveals our nobler nature.

I hope you will enjoy *Next To Normal* as much as I have enjoyed working with this patient and dedicated cast and the excellent production team of Langham Court. It has been a treat!

# Langham Court Theatre

# **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

New York Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York. February 2008
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 Next To Normal was provided by the Jonathan Larson Foundation

#### Welcome to our 88th season!

Welcome to the 2016/17 season at Langham Court Theatre. The creation of a 6 play season is always a balancing act as we strive to offer plays that entertain, engage, and challenge our audiences. We have chosen to open this season with Next to Normal, winner of Tony Awards and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

This season is pennered with plays of passion and invest we are

This season is peppered with plays of passion and joy and we are delighted to open with this powerful and dramatic musical.

- ROGER CARR AND KEITH DIGBY

#### WARNING: Strobe lights will be used during the performance

Director **GREGG PERRY** 

Music Director STEVE HORAK
Assistant Director LEAH MOREAU

Producer MICHAEL GOSSELIN

Stage Manager CAITLIN REID

Costume Design GELI BARTLETT & DIANA KEATING

Conductor/Lead Guitar

Bass Guitar

Percussion

Lighting Design ADAM WILKINSON
Properties/Set Decor DREW WAVERYN
Set Design CAROLINE MITIC

Set Design CAROLINE MITIC
Vocal Coach GEORGE AUSTIN

CAST	BAND

Diana FRANCESCA BITONTI
Gabe ZANDER FELTON
Dan DWAYNE GORDON
Natalie MOLLY LYDON
Henry ROWAN WOLFE
Dr. Madden CRAIG WILSON

/Dr. Fine

Violin
Keyboard
/Rehearsal Pianist

Keyboard ALEX DENIS
Guitar DOUG MCLEOD

STEPHEN HORAK

**BRIAN TETLOW** 

**RUSSELL LOVAT** 

### **Production Team**

**Head Scenic Carpenter** Chris Clarke

Sound Engineers/Operators Larry Taylor, Jason King

Set Construction Michael Kuss, Dave Burbank, Gordon Alexander,

Julius Maslovat, Doug Craig, Charlie Encell, Tom Holder

Barry Putz, Natalie Shaw, Jennifer Illingworth, **Lighting Operators** 

David Larsen

Assistant Stage Managers Koral Houlahan, Jim Goodman

**Lighting Crew** Perry Burton, Adam Wilkinson, Jennifer Illingworth,

Paul Hilton, Zander Felton, Gregg Perry

Set Painters Karen McCarthy, Jeevan Fortier, Barry Putz,

Virginia Stark

Elodie Adams, Lisa Simpson, Sheryl Helm, Dressers

Dick Newson

Gloria Snider, Jessica Dafoe

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Bookkeeper Jon Scheer

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Gil Henry, Jean Topham, Blair Morris, TD Royal and Macpherson Theatre Societies, Paul Croy, R.M. Simmons, Andrew Blanchard

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#### **GREGG PERRY** Director

Gregg was the first producer of the Chemainus Theatre Festival, where he both acted and directed. He also acted in and directed shows for the Cowichan Musical Society, Bard@Brentwood, and The Mercury Players. Credits include *Pirates of Penzance, The Music Man, Sylvia, Maggie's Getting Married, Twelve Angry Men, and Guys and Dolls.* He is delighted to be directing his first show at Langham Court and has enjoyed working with this talented and dedicated cast.



#### MICHAEL GOSSELIN Producer

Michael has previously produced *People, You Can't Take It With You* and *August: Osage County* for Langham Court. He also acted in the latter two plays as well as *The Graduate*. When he is not acting or producing you will find him backstage or in the booth.

# **Production Biographies**



#### **CAITLIN REID** Stage Manager

Caitlin is glad to be back for her third season with Langham, and excited to be making her Langham stage management debut. Caitlin moved to Victoria shortly after graduating from York University's Theatre Production program, specializing in stage management. Previous stage management experience includes Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (University of Toronto), Humble Boy (Langham Court – ASM), and The Little Mermaid (Four Seasons Musical Theatre).



#### **GELI BARTLETT** Costume Co-ordinator

After 14 years of working with Langham Court in a variety of roles and positions this is Geli's first venture into the costume department. Geli thanks her lucky stars that the cast and crew are so understanding as she flounders in the "deep end." And she thanks the cast and crew, too, of course. Working on this fascinating production is enlightening and entertaining.



#### **DIANA KEATING** Costume Co-ordinator

Diana wishes to thank Geli, her co-coordinator and all the dressers for their hard work. They have risen to the challenge of numerous costume changes, some lightening quick, most admirably. Thank you also to the actors who were so generous in assisting to costume this show. Diana wishes to dedicate *Next to Normal* to lill.



#### **ADAM WILKINSON** Lighting Design

Adam is delighted to be back with friends at LCT. There are so many wonderful memories of shared joys. Production credits at Langham include: The Boyfriend, Abelard and Heloise, Dark of the Moon, The Night Sky, Betrayal, The Lion in Winter, Our Town, That Face, The Graduate, and, most recently, Stepping Out. Adam is most grateful to be able to work in such a welcoming theater. Adam is gainfully employed at the Royal and McPherson Theatres, loves to travel with his son Dylan, and to picnic on the beach with Mom



#### **DREW WAVERYN** Properties / Set Decor

Since joining LTC in 1985 Drew has been involved in more than 30 productions, both on stage and behind the scenes. Last season Drew did props for *Stepping Out* and appeared in *You Can't Take it With You*. Drew is thrilled to be a part of *Next to Normal* and having the opportunity to work with so many talented people in the cast, production team and crew.

# **Production Biographies**



#### **CAROLINE MITIC** Set Design

Caroline is a freelance graphic designer in Victoria, and has been living and working here almost her entire life. In 2005 Caroline got her degree in set design from UVIC, and soon realized that a career in theatre was not going to be possible. Instead, she taught herself graphic design, and now volunteers in the theatre when she's able. When Caroline isn't behind her computer, she's out walking her pup along Dallas Road.



#### **LEAH MOREAU** Assistant Director

Recently seen in Edwin DroodandPenelopiad, Leah's biggest N2N contribution was choreography and crying (sometimes at the same time). A school vice principal by day, Leah gives big thanks to Gregg, Sylvia, and an incredible cast/crew for believing in her ability to work with actors older than 12.

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# **About the Playwright**



#### TOM KITT Composer

Thomas Robert Kitt grew up in Armonk, New York, of Westchester County NY. He has worked as a composer, conductor, orchestrator and musician. Tom's first Broadway appearance was as the Music Director and Conductor of *Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical* in 2002. He went on to compose the music for *High Fidelity* in 2006 before sharing the Pulitzer Prize with Brian Yorkey in 2010 for *Next To Normal*. Thomas also received the Frederick Loewe Award for Dramatic Composition for *Next To Normal* in 2009.



#### **BRIAN YORKEY** Playwright, Lyricist

Brian, born in Omaha, Nebraska, attended Columbia University. He became involved with Village Theatre in Issaquah, Washington where he served seven years as Associate Artistic Director. While there Yorkey wrote and staged four musicals; Funny Pages, Making Tracks, The Wedding Banquet and Play it by Heart. Yorkey and Tom Kitt teamed up to create the 2010 Pulitzer Prize winning Next To Normal after collaborations with The Village Theatre.

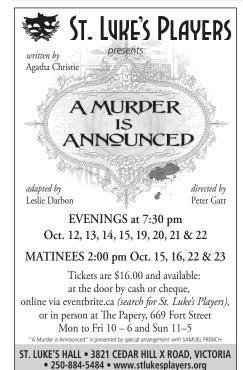


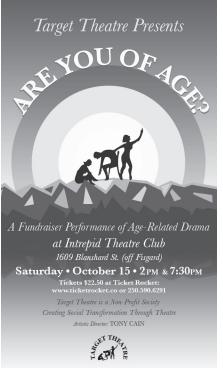
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Cast and Crew of Next to Normal





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# **Cast Biographies**



#### FRANCESCA BITONTI Diana

Francesca is a veteran performer but this is her first appearance on the Langham Court stage. It is an honour to play this role with honesty and respect for the subject matter and to tell this very important story alongside an incredibly talented and committed cast, crew and production team. Other theatrical credits: Gypsy (Rose), The Wizard of Oz (Wicked Witch), White Christmas (Martha), Charlie Brown (Lucy). She hopes that you will be moved as well as entertained.



#### ZANDER FELTON Gabe

Zander Felton is a 3rd year Vocal Performance Major at the University of Victoria studying with Susan Young and Benjamin Butterfield. Recent roles include Antonio in *The Gondoliers* (GNS), Couferac in *Les Miserable* (VOS) and Chorus in Verdi's *Otello* (POV). Zander is a choral scholar for 6 choirs in Victoria and plays professionally on violin when schedules permit. Zander is grateful to have had an amazingly supportive and talented team at Langham Court Theatre.



#### **DWAYNE GORDON** Dan

Dwayne's feeling a little bi-polar himself, after playing the comic role of Galahad in VOS's *Spamalot* just a few weeks ago. He has recently been seen locally, with FSMT as Archibald in *The Secret Garden*, with SHP as Tommy in *The Who's: Tommy* and as a member of *Variety Fare*. His only performance on the Langham stage was an emergency, standing in as Peter in *Company*. After 15 years, Dwayne is happy to be back.



#### MOLLY LYDON Natalie

Molly is excited to be a part of her first Langham show! Favourite credits include Mary Poppins (Spectrum), Let's Make an Opera / The Little Sweep (Belfry/POV), The Addams Family (Kaleidoscope) and Broadway (VOS). She feels incredibly blessed to be a part of this ground-breaking musical that depicts mental illness with such strength and clarity and hopes that this show continues to spark conversations and break stigmas regarding mental health. Love to her wonderful family, Sylvia, Christie, and Margaret.



#### **ROWAN WOLFE** Henry

Rowan graduated from Spectrum Community School, where he had been immersed in the fine arts programs including musical theatre and dance. He recently played the role of Bert in the Spectrum production of *Mary Poppins: The Broadway Production*, under the direction of Tim Barss. He is passionate about music and the arts and is extremely grateful for every opportunity he gets to work with people who share that passion.



#### CRAIG WILSON Dr. Fine / Dr. Madden

Craig is thrilled to be back performing on the Langham Court Stage after a 14 year absence. Craig has appeared in *Company, Blood Brothers, Jitters,* and *Mother Courage* at Langham Court and *Miss Saigon, Crazy for You, Guys and Dolls, Beauty and The Beast, Sweeney Todd, Brigadoon,* and *Oklahoma, West Side Story, Grease, Will Rogers Follies, The Wizard of Oz* and *Broadway Decades in Revue* at VOS. Craig truly hopes that this piece sparks and allows conversation about Mental Illness. Thank you to my friends and family cast and crew for their support. "There will be Light"

# **Band Biographies**



#### STEPHEN HORAK Music Director/Conductor/Electric Guitar

Primarily a performing and recording musician, Stephen is the black sheep of a theatrical family. At home on a loud club stage, his personal projects always include a theatrical touch. He found his way into musical theatre, beginning with Sooke Harbour Player's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, followed by the highly successful run of *The Who's Tommy*. Stephen is honoured to lead the band in Langham Court's first venture into rock musical territory.



#### BRIAN TETLOW Bass Guitar

Brian is a retired High School math teacher, and has played bass in numerous musicals for Shawnigan Lake School over the past ten years. He has been a semi professional musician in the Victoria area over the past 45 years, playing various styles from Dixieland Jazz to Classical. Brian is currently a member of the Gypsy Rovers, a popular trio which performs at seniors retirement residences in the Victoria area. He also plays classical music with the Cowichan Consort orchestra in Duncan.



#### **RUSSELL LOVAT** Percussion

Russell has been living in Victoria for the last six years and been playing drums for twenty-five. He was last seen in Langham Court Theatre playing drums for *Cabaret*. His most recent foray into theatre was *The Who's Tommy*.



#### VICTORIA HARTMAN Violin

Victoria has been playing the violin for over 18 years, and has been a member of both the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra of Victoria. She has always been a lover of musical theatre but this is her first production with Langham Court.



#### JULIAN GREENWOOD Keyboard

Julian had a full career in teaching, engineering and law before retiring to concentrate on the one thing that really mattered – music. A capable pianist and organist, he has been for many years one of the busier accompanists in Victoria, rehearsing with choirs, musical shows, or other soloists or groups, filling in on church organs, teaching piano lessons, or simply relaxing at one of his two classic grand pianos in his comfortable home studio.



#### **ALEX DENIS** Keyboard

From Montreal, Alex studied Jazz Piano with George Essihos, Brent Jarvis in Victoria. In 2004 he earned a diploma in music majoring in composition with Stephen Brown at the conservatory of music Victoria with a minor in Jazz piano improvisation and Jazz orchestra with Gord Clements. He has performed in many Jazz, big band, funk and rock ensembles since 2000 notably: The Wassabi Collective, Chameleon and The flyfunk Experiment, The VCM honors Jazz orchestra.



#### **DOUG MCLEOD** Guitar

Doug McLeod has been playing guitar in bands and churches for more years than he cares to think about, and got started in musical theatre with Sooke Harbour Players' production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 2005. JCSS is where he met this show's musical director, Stephen Horak, and since then has been involved with a number of musical theatre runs, most recently *The Who's Tommy*. Doug has also served as Stephen's Whipping Boy.

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# Halloween party like it's 1899! (or 1959)

The Langham Court Theatre Costume Loft offers affordable costume rentals in a wide variety of periods and styles for men, women and children. Costumes rented for Halloween between October 1 and 21 are six weeks for the price of three. Details and open days and hours at: langhamtheatre.ca/costumes.



#### **Art Exhibition**

#### Margaret Hantiuk www.margarethantiuk.com

I enjoy drawing and painting. In my drawings I use water media, watercolour pencils, graphite, conté, collage, chalk and oil pastels. For paintings I employ either watercolours or oils.

I was raised in rural Alberta and have always enjoyed being outdoors. I often take photos out in nature and work from them. I as well work "plein air" with watercolours or oils in warmer weather, enjoying the immediacy and challenges of painting outside.

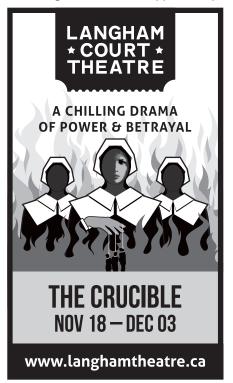
I am interested in the memory of a place: the light, the shadows, the feeling of being there, the mood. Often a narrative develops or the painting becomes somewhat allegorical. Then there is the materiality of the paint, the colour palette and values, the formal pictorial concerns. I like abstracting shapes to create a dynamic composition.

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Award winning realtor Rashida Malik, with Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty, is passionate about her community of Rockland, including Langham Court Theatre. Rashida and her husband own The Laurels, the charming Rockland mansion that neighbours Langham Court Theatre. As many may be aware, the theatre building was originally a carriage house for The Laurels. As a patron of the theatre and the arts, Rashida Malik has created a unique program that provides a generous fundraising opportunity for Langham Court Theatre: For each referral from Langham Court Theatre that results in a completed real estate sale, Rashida will donate 25% of her commission to Langham Court Theatre!

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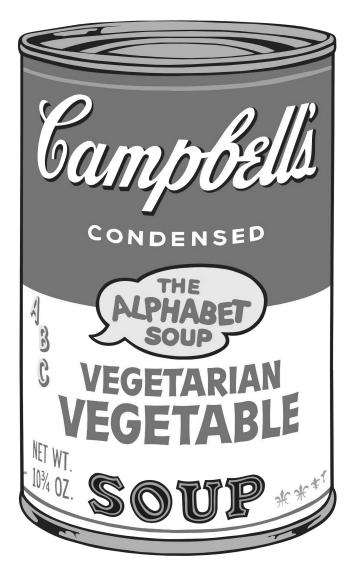
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Andy Warhol, Campbell's Soup II, Vegetarian Vegetable, 1965, serigraph, 35"x23"

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