

next to normal



AUDITION INFORMATION PACK

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
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)

CO-DIRECTOR
TIELAH-JADE CANNON

CO-DIRECTOR/
CHOREOGRAPHER
JEMMA ALLEN

MUSIC DIRECTOR
DYLAN RUFUS

An intimate portrait of a modern family, *Next to Normal* is the story of suburban wife and mother Diana Goodman and her family.

Haunted by her past, Diana has lived with Bipolar 1 disorder for the past seventeen years. The illness has affected everyone in her life, and has nearly torn her family apart on several occasions. With subject matter rendered achingly recognizable by Brian Yorkey, and a dynamic, energetic pop-rock score by Tom Kitt, *Next to Normal* is a show that explores pressing issues of trauma, loss, mental health treatment, and the meaning of family.

IMPORTANT SHOW INFORMATION

Next to Normal includes heavy themes of loss, grief, addiction, self harm and depictions of a suicide attempt and complex mental health struggles. While the production team will have support systems in place to help prioritise the safety of all cast in the show while portraying these themes, we want to ensure that all auditionees are aware of the show's content before auditioning.

Due to the heavy themes of the show this production is strictly 18+ only; all auditionees must be 18 at the time of auditioning.

VENUE ACCESSIBILITY

Hills Musical Company (HMC) are extremely lucky to be able to rehearse in the venue we perform in, Stirling Community Theatre, for the majority of our rehearsals. The Stirling Community Theatre is a wheelchair accessible venue, but it is not considered wheelchair "friendly". Though there are accessibility ramps into the auditorium, there is no step-free access to the stage or side stage areas.

Please contact us directly at info@hillsmusical.org.au for any specific queries.

HILLS MUSICAL COMPANY

HMC is a community theatre company based in Stirling, SA which aims to produce creative theatre at a community level. We are passionate about fostering an inclusive and fun atmosphere for all involved in our productions, and make this a priority in our day-to-day operations.

We encourage everyone involved in a HMC production to embrace this approach and help create a welcoming and productive atmosphere at all rehearsals.

KEY INFORMATION

KEY DATES

AUDITION DATES: Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December 2026

LOCATION: Stirling RSL, Apex Park - Merrion Terrace, Stirling

Potential Callbacks the evening of Wednesday 16th December.

FIRST REHEARSAL: Sunday 31st January 2027, 10am to 1pm

GENERAL REHEARSALS: Monday and Wednesdays 7:30pm to 10:30pm,

Sundays 10am to 1pm

SPECIAL EXTENDED REHEARSALS:

- Easter Monday, 29th March 10am to 5pm TBC (might not be required, no rehearsal Easter Sunday)
- Sunday 11th April 2pm to 5pm Sitzprobe (following usual 10am to 1pm rehearsal in the morning)
- Sunday 18th April 10am to 5pm TBC (as needed for Production Week)

PRODUCTION WEEK: Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd April 2027 (6pm call time)

PERFORMANCES: 7:30pm (6pm call time) - April 23rd, 24th, 30th & May 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th;

2pm Matinee (12:30pm call time) - May 2nd;

4pm Twilight Show (2:30pm call time) - April 25th (ANZAC Day)

Cast will also be called for a 'Dry Run' of the show on April 29th 7:30pm

Please make sure to check your availability for all of the above dates and note any expected absences at auditions so that we might be able to plan rehearsal scheduling in advance. Unavailabilities during production week must be discussed with the Production Team ahead of time, and any unavailabilities for performances cannot be accommodated.

This show will be casting swings in addition to main cast. Each swing will have a guaranteed show for their designated priority track. Main and swing cast will still need to be available and present for all shows.

More information on swings is available in the Character Information section.

HMC FEES & PROMOTIONS

Everyone cast in a HMC production is required to become a member of HMC (\$35). For full details of all the benefits of HMC membership, please visit our website www.hillsmusical.org.au/getinvolved

Performers will also be required to pay a production fee (\$40) to assist with the cost of costumes, set and other production related expenses. The total cost of participating as a performer with HMC for this production is \$75; this is exceptionally competitive, but vital to the quality and sustainability of our productions.

HMC will organise a promotional photo shoot during the rehearsal period and will be taking footage to publish on our social media accounts. In the case that you would not be comfortable being in any promotions if you were cast, please discuss this with the production team at your audition.

REHEARSAL COMMITMENT

If you are successful in gaining a place in the cast of *Next to Normal* you will be required at most rehearsals scheduled for:

- Mondays: 7:30pm - 10:30pm
- Wednesdays: 7:30pm - 10:30pm
- Sundays: 10am - 1pm

Additional rehearsal requirements and commitments have already been mentioned above in the 'Key Dates' section of the info pack.

All cast selected are subject to a 4-week probationary period from the commencement of rehearsals.

Attendance will be closely monitored and any cast who are routinely attending late, or cancelling attendance at short notice will receive one formal warning. Any further lateness/absences may result in a change to their role/s in the show (and in extreme cases, the cast member may be asked to leave the cast). **Any unavailability during production week must be discussed with the production team ahead of casting. Unavailability for performances cannot be accommodated.**

We encourage auditionees to include any dates/times for which they are unavailable in your audition form so that a detailed rehearsal schedule might be worked around these commitments. **You will be expected to be available for all rehearsals except where you have previously mentioned your unavailability. The special extended rehearsals will be compulsory for all cast and anyone accepting a role is confirming their availability for these times.**

Most rehearsals will be held at the Stirling Community Theatre. However, due to the shared nature of the venue, there will be rehearsals held at other venues, and these will be communicated to the cast on the rehearsal schedule. When the theatre is not available we will endeavour to have rehearsals at a venue local to the Stirling area. Rehearsals are CLOSED to anyone outside of the production team, cast, HMC Committee members and those that have prior arrangements with the production team.

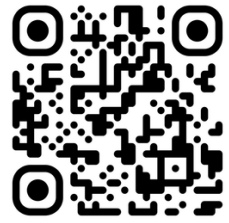
COSTUMES

While you may be asked to assist in sourcing certain items, most costumes will be provided by HMC. Cast will be asked to supply their own shoes and smaller items at their own expense i.e. stockings and socks.

Any further enquiries or clarification can be directed to info@hillsmusical.org.au or by calling 0493 392 013. **Please do not contact the production team directly.**

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Auditions will be held on the **12th and 13th of December 2026, 10am to 6pm**. If they are needed, callbacks will likely be held on the 16th of December, 7:30 to 10:30 pm (these may conclude earlier). **It is not guaranteed that we will be doing callbacks, and they also may not be needed for every character. All auditionees must be 18 years old at the time of auditioning.** Ages listed are as a guide of stage age only. **Book your audition using the QR code to the right.**



BOOK NOW



FORMS

Auditions will be held in **individual slots of 15 minutes each, and there will be no choreography required in the audition process.** While the show will include basic movements in some songs, there will not be any traditional “choreography” included in the staging. Auditionees will be called in individually to perform their predetermined audition pieces. Auditions will be filmed to assist the audition panel with making any casting decisions. **To give yourself the best chance at a successful audition, please review the following information.**

Auditionees are required to complete the audition application form before arriving for their audition using **the QR above.**

We welcome actors of all ethnicities to audition for any role. We welcome trans, non-binary, and any LGBTQIA+ auditionees to audition for all characters regardless of gender expression or a character's specified gender. Some characters will be presented within a traditional gender binary due to the themes of the show, but as long as you are happy to present as this gender onstage and can reach the correct vocal range, we encourage anyone to audition. We will consider all auditionees for roles they have selected they are happy to do.

AUDITION MATERIALS

Please prepare the relevant extracts, which can be downloaded from the HMC website or by the **QR code on the next page.** The Co-Directors and Musical Director may workshop these extracts with you during your audition, **please be aware that you may only get to present certain sections of the extracts.** The Musical Director may also conduct harmony exercises with you. **You do not need to memorise your dialogue or music extracts; you may bring the music or script with you.** The Musical Director will accompany you on the day, so backing tracks will not be accepted. Keep in mind **that there may be differences between the keys on cast recordings and the score**, so please practise with the provided music.

For this show, we will be asking auditionees to focus on **bringing out their characterisation throughout the whole performance, across music and dialogue.** *Next to Normal* includes very little in terms of dialogue only scenes, with most of the story happening over music or in song. Due to this, not every character has been provided with a dialogue extract for auditions. Instead, **we would like to encourage auditionees to focus on acting equally throughout their dialogue and vocal excerpts, and make clear character choices to suit the context of each vocal excerpt within the plot.**

Please use a general American accent for both dialogue and songs.

CHARACTER INFORMATION

The show will require **6 main cast members** which are listed below. Audition material can be found using the **QR code below**.

Along with the 6 main cast, we will also be casting **swings** for these roles (2-3 swings, each with the potential of covering multiple characters). For this production, **our swings will get one priority track with a guaranteed performance of this track**. Swings may cover multiple tracks throughout the show, but will only be guaranteed a scheduled performance for their priority track which will be designated by the production team. **You can select on the audition form if you would also like to be considered to be a swing if not selected to be a main cast member. This will not have an effect on if you are considered to be a main cast member or not. Swings will need to be available for all shows, and the main cast will still need to be available for the swing shows.**

There is **no ensemble** for this production.

Characters listed have a “stage age” - you will still be considered for roles if you are not in that age bracket, especially as **all auditionees must be 18 at the time of their audition**.

DIANA

Stage age: late 30s-40s

Gender expression: Femme

Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano G3-F#5

Audition Excerpts:

- **I Miss the Mountains** (m39-End)
- **Didn't I See This Movie** (m50-End)
- **So Anyway** (m1-23)
- **Dialogue #1**
- **Dialogue #2**

A suburban mother suffering from delusions caused by Bipolar 1 disorder. Once full of life before the death of her son in his infancy, the key trauma for the Goodmans that regularly goes unacknowledged, Diana has severe mental health struggles and often flips between periods of severe depression and manic episodes. Despite this, she is sharp, witty, and determined to keep her focus on being the perfect family.

***May include stage kisses with Dan and Henry, must be comfortable with this.**

****Diana also attempts suicide onstage, and while this will be portrayed artistically and will not be graphic, we would like to emphasise that performers auditioning for Diana should be aware of this scene prior to auditions.**

GABE

Stage age: 18

Gender expression: Masc

Vocal Range: Tenor B2-C5

Audition Excerpts:

- **I'm Alive** (m88-End)
- **There's a World** (Whole Song)
- **I am the One Reprise** (m13-38 top harmony)

Diana and Dan's firstborn son who died as an infant. He appears as a teenager throughout the show to represent Diana's delusions, and the anger and sadness of her grief. He is the depiction of the perfect “golden child” son, and also functions as a manifestation of the mental health struggles of each of the family members. He is playful, manipulative and sinister, but also very vulnerable and fragile in his own way, terrified of being abandoned or forgotten.



AUDITION MATERIAL

DAN

Stage age: late 30s-40s

Gender expression: Masc

Vocal Range: Baritone Ab2-B4

Audition Excerpts:

- **I've Been** (m42-End)
- **It's Gonna Be Good** (m75-End)
- **I Am The One Reprise** (m5-13 & m27-37 bottom harmony)

Diana's husband. While he genuinely loves Diana he is overworked, worn down, and tired from the years of her episodes and delusions, resulting in a sense of complacency. He longs for the life of their earlier selves, before the loss of their son. He refuses to acknowledge the impact their life and loss has had on his own mental health.

***May include stage kisses with Diana, must be comfortable with this.**

NATALIE

Stage age: 16

Gender expression: Femme

Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano G3-G5

Audition Excerpts:

- **Superboy and the Invisible Girl** (m55-End)
- **Wish I Were Here** (m50-73 top harmony)
- **Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling** ("She's Not There" Belt, m79-84)
- **Dialogue #1:** Read as dialogue

Diana and Dan's daughter. A high-strung overachiever, she has spent her life in the shadow of her brother's memory. Natalie is a raw nerve who is terrified to end up like her mother. She often experiences the brunt of the emotional dysfunction of her family while her own needs get ignored, causing her to rebel and push those closest to her away.

***May include stage kisses with Henry, must be comfortable with this.**

HENRY

Stage age: 17

Gender expression: Masc

Vocal Range: Baritone G#2-B4

Audition Excerpts:

- **Perfect For You** (Whole Song)
- **Hey #1** (Whole Song)
- **Dialogue #1**

Natalie's classmate and eventual boyfriend. He is unserious, unmotivated, highly philosophical and a stoner who unintentionally sparks Natalie's spiral into addiction. He cares for Natalie and wants to prove his love for her will survive the complications of her life.

***May include stage kisses with Diana and Natalie, must be comfortable with this.**

DR.FINE/DR.MADDEN

Stage age: 30s-50s

Gender expression: Any

Vocal Range: Baritone A2-A4

Audition Excerpts:

- **Dr. Fine: Dialogue #1**
- **Dr. Madden: Dr. Rock 3 Belts** (Whole Song*)
- **Dr. Madden: Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling** (m3-34* & m86-93)

**incl. dialogue*

Plays both of Diana's doctors: the uncaring and dry psychopharmacologist Dr. Fine, and the "rockstar" psychologist Dr. Madden who treats Diana when medication fails. Dr. Madden cares deeply about Diana's recovery, and is determined to help her heal from her trauma.

Checklist:

1. Read this info pack in full
2. Book an audition time
3. Download audition pieces
4. Complete the audition form

Please complete these before arriving at your audition.

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