

GROUND FLOOR THEATRE AND
DEAF AUSTIN THEATRE PRESENT:

NEXT TO NORMAL



MUSIC BY TOM KITT
BOOK & LYRICS BY BRIAN YORKEY
DEC. 5 - 21, 2019
THUR - SAT: 8 PM
SUN: 5 PM
GROUNDFLOORTHEATRE.ORG

UNDERWRITERS AND DONORS

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GROUND FLOOR THEATRE & DEAF AUSTIN THEATRE
PRESENT

NEXT TO NORMAL

Music By
TOM KITT

Books & Lyrics by
BRIAN YORKEY

Directed by **BRIAN CHESLIK & LISA SCHEPS**

Musical Direction by **ADAM ROBERTS & DR. ELLIE JARRET SHATTLES**

Choreography.....**KELSEY OLIVER**
Scenic Design.....**ZAC CROFFORD**
Lighting Design.....**AMBER WHATLEY**
Costume Design.....**PATTI NEFF-TIVEN**
Sound Design.....**JEFF MILLER**
Properties Design.....**PATTI NEFF-TIVEN**
Production Stage Manager.....**KELSEY MORINGY**
Stage Manager.....**DANIELLE GRISKO**
Assistant Stage Manager.....**JACKSON POUNDS**
Graphic Design.....**DREW RILEY**
Photographer.....**DAVE HAWKS**
ASL Coordinator.....**SHARON PLOEGER**

December 5—21, 2019

Ground Floor Theatre

NEXT TO NORMAL

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www.mtishows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



THE NEXT TO NORMAL CAST

Diana.....MEGG ROSE
KERRY McGINNIS

Gabe.....RILLEY WESSON

DanJIM LINDSAY
SETH WASHINGTON

Natalie.....SANDRA MAE FRANK*
MARYANNA TOLLEMACHE

Henry.....DANIEL PONCE
TARIQUE SYLVESTER

Dr Madden.....JO ROSE BENFIELD
KIRK KELSO

** Member of Actors' Equity Association*

THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

THE NEXT TO NORMAL ORCHESTRA

Conducted by Dr Ellie Jarret Shattles

Piano.....DR ELLIE JARRET SHATTLES

Violin.....ELIZABETH WARREN

Cello.....HECTOR MORENO/TOM LAWSHAE

Guitar.....STEVIE TRUDELL

Bass.....BRAD SHELTON

Percussion.....SEAN HARVEY

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prelude
Just Another Day
Everything Else
Who's Crazy/My Psychopharmacologist And I
Perfect For you
I Miss The Mountains
It's Gonna Be Good
He's Not Here
You Don't Know
I Am The One
Superboy And The Invisible Girl
Doctor Rock
I'm Alive
Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling
A Good Step
I Dreamed A Dance
There's A World
E.C.T
I've Been
Dad, That's Bullshit!
Didn't I See This Movie?
A Light In The Dark

ACT II

Entr'act
Wish I Were Here
Song Of Forgetting
Hey #1
Seconds And Years
Better Than Before
Aftershocks
Hey #2
You Don't Know (Reprise)
Music Box
How Could I Ever Forget?
It's Gonna Be Good (Reprise)
Why Stay?
A Promise
I'm Alive (Reprise)
The Break
Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling
Maybe (Next To Normal)
Hey #3/Perfect For Your (Reprise)
So Anyway
I Am The One
Finale: Light



Ground Floor Theatre fosters an environment for creative thinkers and artists to produce works by and for underrepresented communities, lifting voices that need to be heard to people who need to hear them. .

We believe in theatre for everyone!

For more information please visit groundfloortheatre.org

Deaf Austin Theatre (DAT) is a non-profit organization, whose purpose is to enrich, inspire, educate, create and entertain the Austin community by producing live theatre experiences in American Sign Language (ASL), theatre workshops and acting camps

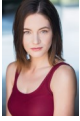
For more information please visit deafaustintheatre.org



ABOUT THE CAST



JO ROSE BENFIELD (*Dr Madden*) is the Director for the Gallaudet University Regional Center South at Austin Community College. She earned her 3 B.A. degrees & her M.A. from Gallaudet. Theatre, song signing, and stage performing have been a passion of hers since she was 5. In 2014, Jo Rose was on the Jimmy Kimmel Live show, performing in a sign language rap battle alongside Wiz Khalifa. She also interpreted Justin Timberlake's 2018 Pepsi Superbowl Halftime Show. She is currently a primary member of Deaf Austin Theatre, a Deaf Interpreter, and a board member of Deaf Television Foundation. Her dream is that someday there will be full access to communication for deaf and hard of hearing people everywhere



SANDRA MAE FRANK* (*Natalie*) is thrilled to return to Ground Floor Theatre after playing Joan in *Fun Home* last Year,. It's truly an honor to be a part of the first fully inclusive production of *Next to Normal* here in Austin, TX! She welcomes you to open your mind and heart to this beautiful yet heartbreaking story and how both worlds come together; Deaf and hearing. She is Best known for her role in *Spring Awakening* on Broadway . Catch her in *Daybreak* on Netflix, Queer Holiday Film's *Season of Love*, and coming soon to theaters, *Entangled!* Instagram & Twitter: @sandy21mae



KIRK KELSO (*Dr Madden*)) is feeling incredibly privileged to do his first show with Ground Floor Theatre and Deaf Austin Theatre! Kirk has been involved in theatrical productions from Georgetown to Wimberley with a few of his favorites being *The Wizard of Oz* (Cowardly Lion) with Zilker Theatre Productions, *A Tuna Christmas* (Arles Struvie, Didi Snavelly, Vera Carp, et al) with Georgetown Playhouse, *Pageant the Musical* (Miss Texas) with City Theatre, and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Dr. Frank-N-Furter) with Austin Theatre Project. In his spare time, Kirk is a personal trainer/yoga instructor (www.kirkwerks.com). Favorite hobbies include volleyball, photography, and napping with his dogs and, of course, keeping Austin weird.



JIM LINDSAY (Dan) could not be more grateful or proud to be part of this N2N family. Jim has been playing lead roles in Austin for the past 10 years, some of which include *Fun Home* (Bruce) at this very theatre, *Evita* (Peron), *42nd Street* (Billy) and many others at The Palace, *Blood Brothers* (Mickey) at Trinity Street and *12 Angry Men* (Juror Eight). He often sits in the Director chair from time to time to deliver outstanding productions to our community: *Mame* (Palace), *Pageant*, *Nunsense* and *Ruthless* (City), among others. Prior to his Austin theatre life was a Dallas and New York theatre life that garnered him many other roles as well. As always, for David.



KERRY MCGINNIS (*Diana*) is over the moon to be in the cast of Ground Floor Theatre/ Deaf Austin Theatre's *Next to Normal*. She was last seen as Miss Hannigan in *Annie* with TexARTS. Prior to relocating to Austin, Kerry performed throughout the San Francisco Bay Area as The Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Magenta in *Rocky Horror Show*, Mazeppa in *Gypsy*, Rita in *Lucky Stiff*, Marty in *Grease*, and in her cabaret show *Everybody's Girl*. Kerry thanks her ever patient and supportive husband Robby and daughter Addy for making her theater life possible. In loving memory of Sam.



DANIEL PONCE (*Henry*) is very excited to be performing in his first Ground Floor Theatre Production. His most recent roles include Ritchie Valens in *Buddy- The Buddy Holly Story*, Agustin Magaldi in *Evita*, Elvis in *Million Dollar Quartet*, Leaf Conybear in *The 25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee* and Joseph in *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He has loved performing ever since his first time on stage at the age of 14. He is glad to be back in Texas after living in New York for 11 years. He would like to thank his family, friends and most of all husband for their support and encouragement. Because of them, he is here today and able to do what he loves!

ABOUT THE CAST (CONT.)



MEGG ROSE (*Diana*) has been a performer all her life. She comes from a hearing family of musicians & found her love for signing music in American Sign Language. Megg is a proud mom of 2 Deaf children: Yamila & Kai. She has performed with Deaf West Theatre, National Theatre of the Deaf, and Austin theatres as well as appearing in Lifetime movies, Screen Actors Guild (SAG) & independent films. Megg is a passionate musician, ASL Deaf Performing Artist, dancer, licensed esthetician, certified make-up artist, director, teacher and former Miss Deaf Oregon. She founded Deaf Women of Faith ministry www.DeafWomenofFaith.org, You can visit her website: www.meggrose.com. Taking on the role of Diana, is a great comeback for her acting career & she looks forward to the outcome of this show. IG:[meggrosecloset/aslsoundofmusic](https://www.instagram.com/meggrosecloset/aslsoundofmusic)



TARIQUE SYLVESTER (*Henry*) goes by TK. He has been a crew member for several plays in high school such as *Peter and the Star Catcher* as well as *Noises Off*. He is excited to step into the spotlight as Henry in *Next to Normal*. TK loves to play soccer and read books and is currently a second year student at ACC with plans to get a degree in public relations. He speaks two languages — English and ASL. He is a huge fan of rainy days, running (he was on the track and cross country teams), pizza (pineapple belongs on pizza!), and shipping characters on shows such as elite. I'm excited to work with our wonderful cast, crew and directors. And put on a fantastic *Next to Normal*.



MARYANNA TOLEMACHE (*Natalie*) is a Performance Theatre major at McCallum: Fine Arts Academy. Previous work includes Summer Stock Austin's *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Robert), MacTheatre's *Starmites* (Eleanor/Bizarbra), and Center Stage Theatre: Elite Ensemble's *Les Miserables* (Fantine). She is a part of Creative Action's Youth Cinema Collective, and the Long Center's College Audition Program! She loves to create films on social justice topics and cuddling up to her cat as she continues college applications. *Next To Normal* has been a favorite show of Maryanna's since the 6th grade, and is so honored to be a part of this show. She thanks the entire company as well as her family, Tyler Mabry, Dede Clark, Ginger Morris, Coy Branscum, Angela Irving, Joshua Denning, Marcelo Teson, Ana Treviño, and her YCC family



SETH ANDRUS WASHINGTON (*Dan*) is thrilled to make his debut at Ground Floor Theatre. This show gives him hope to see both worlds coming together, creating more opportunities for Deaf actors. Well known for his acting work at Gallaudet University. College Theatre Credits: *Lysistrata* and *Dr. Faustus*. Directing Credits: *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, *Beauty and The Beast*, and *Dracula*. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Linguistics of American Sign Language. He is currently a teacher assistant and the varsity cheerleading head coach at Texas School for the Deaf. Instagram: [my_journey_9](https://www.instagram.com/my_journey_9)



RILEY WESSON (*Gabe*) is thrilled to be making his debut with Ground Floor Theatre & Deaf Austin Theatre in a dream role of his. Select credits include *First Date* (Aaron), *Tail End Charlie* (Robert Dobson), Zach Theatre's *A Christmas Carol* (Apprentice Scrooge), *All Shook Up* (Dean), *Ragtime* (Willie Conklin/Ensemble), *Hamlet* (Laertes), *The Wizard of Oz* (Featured Dancer), *Bad Jews* (Liam), and *Legally Blonde* (Elle's Dad/Swing). He would like to thank Lisa, Brian, and Adam for this opportunity, as well as Mom and Dad for your unending support, without which he would not be where he is. Gratitude and love to Madison for keeping him sane, and Jesus Christ for his endless blessings. Psalms 126:2. You can keep up with Riley at rileywesson.com.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS & PRODUCTION TEAM

LISA SCHEPS (Co-Director, Founder & Co-Director Ground Floor Theatre) Lisa is the founder and co-director at Ground Floor Theatre and is thrilled to be co-directing this groundbreaking production of *Next to Normal*. At Ground Floor Theatre (GFT), she has directed *Parade*, *Gibberish Mostly*, *White Rabbit/Red Rabbit* (kinda), *Fun Home* (B. Iden Payne award for direction) and *TRANSom*. Lisa has the unique distinction of playing the camel's rear end on Broadway. Besides running the theatre with Patti Neff-Tiven, Lisa hosts local radio show *Off Stage and On The Air* on KOOP community radio. She is honored and humbled to work with Deaf Austin Theatre and this incredible cast and creative team.

BRIAN CHESLIK (Co-Director, Co-Director Deaf Austin Theatre) Brian is the co-artistic director for Deaf Austin Theatre. Brian is no stranger to the stage, having performed in over 50 productions, between Ohio, Washington DC, and Austin. Some of his favorite roles include Pa in *Selkie*, Magistrate in *Lysistrata*, Artie Shaughnessy in *House of Blue Leaves*, Student 2 (Juliet) in *Shakespeare's R & J*, and Miss Strict in *Zombie Prom*. Brian teaches high school theatre at Texas School for the Deaf, where he is also the coordinator for the TSD Performing Arts Program. Brian would like to thank Lisa for the opportunity to share creative energy to bring this powerful show to life. To the cast, crew, and everyone involved in *Next to Normal*, "Let it shine, Shine, SHINE!"

DR ELLIE JARRET SHATTLES (Co-Musical Director/Keyboard) is thrilled to be music directing and playing the keyboard for Ground Floor Theater's production of *Next to Normal*. She received her Doctorate in Opera Performance from The University of Texas Austin where she performed Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*), Lucretia (*Rape of Lucretia*), Mistress Quickly (*Falstaff*), Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*), Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Maddy (*Three Decembers*), Mme de Croissy (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*), La Principessa (*Suor Angelica*), Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*), and Jo (*Little Women*). Most recently, Dr. Shattles performed the "Pie Jesu" from Durufle's *Requiem* with the Austin Symphony under the baton of Peter Bay, as well as Dinah (*Trouble in Tahiti*) with the Canton Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Gerhardt Zimmerman. Apart from her performing schedule, Dr. Shattles teaches private voice in the Austin area where she specializes in several vocal techniques including musical theatre, jazz, opera, rock/pop, and works as a collaborative pianist and musical theater coach for many organizations including The Long Center Education Program, St. Edwards University, Zach PPC Apprentice program, and many high schools in the surrounding Austin area

ADAM ROBERTS (Co-Musical Director) Adam Roberts is thrilled to return to Ground Floor Theatre, having previously served as musical director of both *Fun Home* and *Parade*. In addition to GFT, you can find Adam around Austin at St. Luke United Methodist Church (Director of Music), TILT Performance Group (Co-Founding Artistic Director), The Actor's School (Voice Faculty/Head of Musical Theatre), The Long Center for the Performing Arts (Resident Musical Director for Education), Ballet Austin (Musical Theatre Dance Faculty), The River City Pops (Interim Artistic Director), and as a freelance conductor, director and choreographer on a variety of projects. Learn more about Adam and his work at adamkroberts.com and adamrobertsvoice.com, on Facebook @adamkrobertspage, and on Instagram @adam_k_roberts .

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

KELSEY OLIVER (*Choreographer*) is a freelance choreographer and performer in the digs for ridiculously experimental theatre, film, and concert dance. She is currently Artistic Director of physical theatre troupe Frank Wo/Men Collective, which spawned from a desire to create collaboratively fervid, humorous, and idiosyncratic devising processes with multi-fielded artists. Kelsey has collaborated on works with the Rude Mechanicals, Underbelly Theatre, Magdalena Jarkowicz, The Theorists, Body Shift, Capyac, UT New Theatre, Ground Floor Theatre, Heloise Gold, CB Goodman, Cordova Quartet, + more. Kelsey has also been an adjudicator, choreographer, and dance instructor for studios and teams throughout Texas. She received a B.F.A. in Dance in 2015, studying at the University of Texas at Austin and Le Centre National de Danse Contemporaine in Angers, France. (Kelsey-Oliver.com)

ZAC CROFORD (*Scenic Designer*) is an award-winning puppeteer, technical director, designer, actor, and general roustabout. Most recently, he has been working on forensic set-piece reproduction for *Shit-Faced Shakespeare*, the Suzanne Vega short *Lover Beloved*, *The Tonight Show* and Trevor Noah at Bass Concert Hall, and a passel of other projects. He is the technical director for Salvage Vanguard Theater, and runs the Austin Scenic Co-op, along with many, many other jobs. Upcoming projects include ongoing work at Bass Concert Hall, the Austin Puppet Incident, and a very, very well-earned break. If you have a dog that needs petting, he has availability .

AMBER WHATLEY (*Lighting Designer*) is happy to be back at Ground Floor Theatre where she last designed *black do crack*. She holds her BFA in Production Design with a concentration in lighting from Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA in 2018. She is pursuing an MFA in Lighting Design at The University of Texas at Austin. She spent this summer 2019 Programming for the illustrious Pacific Conservatory Theater in California. Her most recent designs include *Fall For Dance 2019*, and *Blast Force Turbo* for which she received a SCAD Ovation award for best media design. .

JEFF MILLER (*Sound Designer*) has over 35 years of experience and has served as Sound Engineer on Broadway and National Tours of *A Chorus Line*, *South Pacific*, *Zorba*, *Singin' in The Rain* and *The Mystery Of Edwin Drood* , as well as shows at Radio City Music Hall, New York Shakespeare Festival and numerous films, videos, and national commercials. His regional credits include Sound Design for over 200 productions at Ground Floor Theatre, Zach Theatre, TexArts, Tilt Performance Group, Austin Jewish Repertory Theatre, Austin Theatre Project, Different Stages, City Theatre, Austin Theatre for Youth, Second Youth Theatre, Summer Stock Austin, University Of Texas, Texas Arts Project, Abby Productions, Trinity Episcopal School, St. Andrews Episcopal School, Leander High School, McCallum Fine Arts Academy, Capitol City Playhouse and Aguddas Arts.

PATTI NEFF-TIVEN (*Costume & Properties Design*) Patti is Co-Director of Ground Floor Theatre and a long time Austin-based theatre artist. She recently directed Ground Floor Theatre's premiere production of Raul Garza's *There and Back* and will be directing the world premier of Lane Stanley's *Rain Falls Special on Me*. Outside of GFT, other recent credits include work with Zilker Summer Musicals, Fusebox Festival, Scriptworks Out of Ink and Fronterafest. As Managing Artistic Director for Weird City Theatre, she has adapted and directed several productions including *Night of the Living Dead*, *The Servant Girl Annihilator*, *A Teenager's Guide to Love and Grotesque & Arabesque: Poe Retold*. She also has countless credits as an actor, stage manager, props designer and box office manager for many Austin companies including the Blue Theatre, State Theatre, Tutto Theatre Co, Rude Mechs, Hyde Park Theatre, City Theatre and Salvage Vanguard Theatre.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

KELSEY MORINGY (*Production Stage Manager*) Kelsey is a born & raised unicorn of Austin, TX. She studied Performance & Production at Texas State University with an emphasis in stage management & directing. Previous Ground Floor Theatre shows Kelsey has worked on include *Fun Home*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *Dex & Abby*, *TRANSom*, and *There & Back*. Kelsey has also been lucky enough to work with other local talent such as Theatre Synesthesia, Penfold Theatre Company, and the sexy geniuses behind Agent Andromeda. Kelsey would like to thank Lisa, Brian, the cast, the crew & especially Danielle for always supporting me throughout this uncharted territory. Being normal is vastly overrated, but being *Next To Normal* will suffice!

DANIELLE GRISKO (*Stage Manager*) is a stage manager and actor with her BFA from Texas State University. Recent Stage Management credits include *TRANSom* and *Fun Home* (Ground Floor Theatre), *The Wanderers* (Sarah Street Collective), *Sunset Baby and marfa Lights* (Texas State University). Danielle would like to thank the GFT family for the challenge and encouragement, her family for all of their support, and Fitz for holding her umbrella. Enjoy the show!

Administrative and Production Staff:

Set Crew.....**Brandi Alexander, Zac Carr, Connor Hopkins, Jackson Pounds**
Paint Crew.....**Sophie Kruij, Talena Martinez**
Lighting Crew.....**Noah Tucker, Shambrea Jones**
American Sign Language Lead Interpreter.....**Sharon Ploeger**
American Sign Language Interpreter Team..... **Barbara Beggs, Dany Casey**
Sarah Dyson, Taylor Flanagan, Remy Joslin, Saul Lopez
Melissa March, Mindi McCarty, Maria Nelson, Rebecca West
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MOTLEY CREW

MEDIA

THE CURTAIN SPEECH

Normally at Ground Floor Theatre, Lisa or Patti will get up and give a (very entertaining) curtain speech. For *Next To Normal* we're shaking things up and there will be no curtain speech, SO PLEASE READ THIS.

First: A big thank you to all of our production sponsors and donors, we would not survive without you. If you'd like to help us do our mission driven work, please go to GroundFloorTheatre.org and empty your wallet. And while you're at it, Deaf Austin Theatre wants your love too... deafaustintheatre.wordpress.com

Second: We are sending someone to New York to see a Broadway show and have a backstage experience for THIRTY BUCKS! Please see someone in the lobby to purchase some raffle tickets (unfortunately, our normal canine raffle seller, Gigi will not be here, but we will try to be just as cute). The drawing is just a few weeks away so you will know if you are a winner soon. Raffle tickets are \$30 or four for \$100.

Last: Please tell your friends that THEATRE EXISTS IN AUSTIN. You are here... you know about GFT, DAT, and other great small theatres here in Austin, but your friends, colleagues, and family may not... please tell them to go and see theatre in Austin. Promise us.

- LISA & PATTI, CO ARTISTIC DIRECTORS – GFT
- BRIAN, CO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – DAT

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SPECIAL THANKS:

Jackson Pounds, Greg Ciotti, Jim Lindsay, Isaac Byrne, Erin Kehr, Texas State University Theatre Dept, Seth Tiven, Kalee Gower, LMSW; Emily Bent, MA, LPC; Courtney Czar, LMSW; Jess Sprengle, LPC; Louis Laves-Webb and Associates ST Lukes Methodist Church, Sharon Ploeger, Motorblade, Mitzi Chaffetz and Austin Natural Funerals