

THEATRE HARRISBURG
PRESENTS



NEXT
to
NORMAL

JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 11, 2024
KREVSKY CENTER

WINNER OF THE TONY® AWARD AND PULITZER PRIZE

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



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THEATRE HARRISBURG

Proudly Presents
NEXT TO NORMAL

Music by
TOM KITT
Lyrics by
BRIAN YORKEY

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ABBY SPENCER
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BRYDON LIDDLE, IV
SOUND DESIGNER

DAVE OLMSTED
DIRECTOR

**MITCHELL SENSENIG-
WILSHIRE**
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LAURA DUGAN
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SET DESIGNER

MATTHEW MITRA
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NEXT TO NORMAL
Original Broadway Production Produced by David Stone, James L. Nederlander,
Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo and Second Stage Theatre
Orchestrations by Michael Starobin and Tom Kitt
Vocal Arrangements by AnnMarie Milazzo
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 the development of "Next To Normal" was provided by the Jonathan Larson
Foundation.

NEXT TO NORMAL
IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO
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PROGRAM LAYOUT

ALEXANDRA JOHNSON

SPECIAL THANKS to Lamar Advertising, Cornerstone Coffeehouse, Chris Arney, and Open Stage for their support of Theatre Harrisburg, and this production.

THANK YOU to everyone who has assisted with our production, especially if we have failed to mention you by name in our program.

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Thank you to those sponsoring Theatre Harrisburg this season!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On behalf of all of us at Theatre Harrisburg, welcome to our production of NEXT TO NORMAL- the third show of our 98th season!

As we find ourselves quickly approaching our 100th anniversary, the idea of change is something that resonates more and more deeply. Theatre Harrisburg has transformed itself- conceptually and physically- many times throughout its history, and as we embrace change within a rapidly shifting world, we also look to the things that ground us as an arts organization.

From beloved classics to new musicals and regional premieres of new plays, this season was crafted specifically to reflect the balance between history and tradition, and the exploration of new artistic territory- an especially relevant position from one of the oldest active community theatres in the country.

Though the shows chosen this season are very different, there is a fine thread of change, and the ever-present struggle that accompanies it, that winds its way through each of these works and connects them. We invite you to discover this along with us this season as we welcome you back into the theatre once again!

Sincerely,
Lorien Reese Mahay

FROM THE DIRECTOR



My first encounter with *Next to Normal* was watching a segment of the performance during the 2009 Tony Awards. I knew nothing about the show at the time and was transfixed as I watched Alice Ripley, J. Robert Spencer, and Aaron Tveit as they performed “You Don’t Know” and “I am the One”. The show went on to win several Tonys that night and eventually the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2010. I knew I had to see it – and a few months later I was sitting in the Booth Theatre watching the magic happen live. Little did I know that many years later I would have the honor of helming the production at Theatre Harrisburg.

Directing a show like *Next to Normal* takes an incredible amount of time researching the various topics covered. Unlike a “fun” musical-comedy, this one delves into the darker regions of the human psyche and tackles issues like bi-polar disorder, suicide, and drug abuse (to name just a few). We spent about two weeks with the cast doing table work to make sure we understood all of the nuances of this show and intentions behind the actions of the characters. And the cast bonded unlike any other I have worked with before. Mitchell, Laura, and I feel like proud parents of our happy dysfunctional family.

As a scenic designer, I like to approach a show with the intent of only giving the show what it needs to tell its story. I drew inspiration from the art of M.C. Escher and his so-called impossible drawings, such as “Ascending and Descending” and “Relativity”. I was also influenced by the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California. Built by Sarah Winchester, widow of William Winchester, she felt haunted by the ghosts of all who were killed by her husband’s firearms. She felt the only way to keep them at bay, was to constantly add on to the house with extra rooms, doors, and staircases to nowhere. Like Diana, she felt trapped with nowhere to go.

As the characters learn, we don’t need to strive for perfection and what others would consider normal. Sometimes our normal might be a little different from what others have, and that is perfectly fine. I have many favorite lines and lyrics from this show, but one that hits me every time is this one:

**I don’t need a life that’s normal, that’s way too far away.
But something next to normal would be okay.**

There are so many wonderful moments in *Next to Normal*, and I hope they move you the way they have moved all of us over the past several weeks. My wish is that we take away from this production a better understanding of what it means to be someone who suffers in the darkness of the various afflictions presented. And in doing so, we can have empathy for them, but also know that there will be light.

Dave Olmsted
Director/Designer

THE MUSICIANS

Conductor/Piano.....	Mitchell Sensenig-Wilshire
Bass	Tim Crane
Cello.....	Andrew Jackson
Drums/Percussion	Mark Hunsberger
Guitar	Ken Geist
Violin/Synthesizer	Andrew Vinton

THE CHARACTERS

DIANA.....	Christine Beutel
GABE.....	Ryan Smetzer
DAN	Brian Fosnocht
NATALIE	Melody Carsey
HENRY	Moses Handy
DOCTOR MADDEN/DOCTOR FINE	Brian Silva

THE SETTING

A Suburban Household in America.

CONTENT WARNING:

This show contains language, themes of death, grief, drug use, sex, mental health, electroshock therapy, neglect, emotional abuse, and suicide.

Due to these themes and situations, this show is not recommended for audiences under 16.

THE SONGS

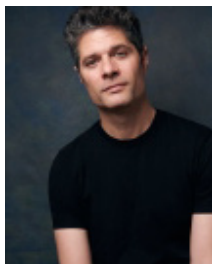
ACT I

"Prelude (Light)"	Band
"Just Another Day"	Diana, Natalie, Gabe, Dan
"Who's Crazy/My Psychopharmacologist and I" ..	Dan, Diana, Dr. Fine, Voices
"Perfect For You"	Henry, Natalie
"I Miss the Mountains"	Diana
"It's Gonna Be Good"	Dan, Gabe, Henry, Natalie
"He's Not Here"	Dan
"You Don't Know"	Diana
"I Am the One"	Dan, Gabe
"I Dreamed a Dance"	Diana, Gabe
"There's a World"	Gabe
"I'm Alive"	Gabe
"Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling"	Dr. Madden, Dan, Gabe, Diana, Natalie
"A Light in the Dark"	Dan, Diana
"Superboy and the Invisible Girl"	Natalie, Diana, Gabe
"I've Been"	Dan, Gabe
"Didn't I See This Movie?"	Diana

ACT II

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

THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE TEAM



TOM KITT is a two-time Tony, two-time Emmy, Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award winner. As a musical theater composer, he has written the music for six Broadway shows: *NEXT TO NORMAL* (Tony Award), *IF/THEN* (Tony Nomination), *ALMOST FAMOUS* (Tony Nomination), *FLYING OVER SUNSET* (Tony Nomination), *HIGH FIDELITY*, and *BRING IT ON, THE MUSICAL*. His work for the stage has also been seen Off Broadway at Second Stage (*NEXT TO NORMAL*, *SUPERHERO*), The Public Theater (*THE VISITOR*, *SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK*) and he has worked at some of the most prestigious regional theaters including The Old Globe, Arena Stage, Berkeley Rep, The Signature Theater, and ART. In addition, Tom's Broadway credits as an orchestrator include: *NEXT TO NORMAL* (Tony Award), *THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL* (Tony Nomination), *JAGGED*

LITTLE PILL (Tony Nomination), *ALMOST FAMOUS*, *HEAD OVER HEELS*, *EVERYDAY RAPTURE*, and *AMERICAN IDIOT*. Tom has also been active in the world of film and TV. As one of the vocal arrangers working on the *PITCH PERFECT* films, Tom most notably helped create the classic "Riff-off." Tom also served as music supervisor/arranger/orchestrator for *GREASE LIVE* and contributed songs for *ROYAL PAINS* and *PENNY DREADFUL*. He also provided music supervision for the NBC series, *RISE* and has written numerous songs for *SESAME STREET*. And he is known for his two original opening numbers for The Tony Awards, "Live" in 2019, written with David Javerbaum for James Corden, and the Emmy Award winning "Bigger" in 2013, written with Lin-Manuel Miranda for Neil Patrick Harris. Tom is also proud that his musical adaptation of *FREAKY FRIDAY*, co-written with Bridget Carpenter and Brian Yorkey was turned into an original movie musical for Disney Channel. Most recently, Tom served as a Supervising Music Producer on the new Bobby Lopez/Kristen Anderson-Lopez/Steven Levenson Thomas Kail musical television series *UP HERE*.



BRIAN YORKEY received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the 2009 Tony Award for Best Score, and the Outer Critics Circle Award for *NEXT TO NORMAL* and was also nominated for the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical. He partnered again with the *NEXT TO NORMAL* team on *IF/THEN* (Tony Award Nominee for Best Score) starring Idina Menzel. Brian co-wrote the libretto for *THE LAST SHIP* (Outer Critics Nomination, with John Logan), with a score by Sting. He wrote lyrics for the Disney Theatricals musical adaptation of *FREAKY FRIDAY*, which also became a Disney Channel Original Movie. Brian most recently served as the Executive Producer and Co-Showrunner for the Netflix series

ECHOES. Prior to that, Brian was the Creator, Executive Producer and Showrunner of *13 REASONS WHY* for Netflix and Paramount Television. He has also directed for theatre and television. Brian is a graduate of Columbia University, where he was artistic director of the Varsity Show, an alum of the BMI/Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and a proud member of the Dramatists Guild, the WGA, and the DGA.

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide. MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students.

THE TEAM



DAVE OLMSTED (he/they) (Director/Designer) | This is Dave's 22nd production with Theatre Harrisburg! Other theatre credits include *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (Director/Designer) at Theatre Harrisburg, *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG* (Director/Designer) at Allenberry Playhouse, *PETER & THE STARCATCHER* (Director/Designer) at Allenberry Playhouse, *SPRING AWAKENING* (Director/Designer) at Rose Lehrman Arts Center, and *MR HOBBS' VACATION* (Director/Designer) at Mt. Gretna. Heartfelt thanks to this amazing cast,

crew, production team; and my two boys Gryphon & Okie for keeping everyone well fed with treats!



MITCHELL SENSEMIG-WILSHIRE (he/him) (Music Director) Mitchell is no stranger to Theatre Harrisburg, having previously Music Directed *SPELLING BEE*, *THE SECRET GARDEN*, and *I LOVE YOU BECAUSE* along with the *ARTS AWARDS* and holiday cabarets. Other shows he's recently music and/or vocal directed in the area include *42nd STREET*, *ONCE*, and *URINETOWN*. Mitchell studied music at Mansfield University and is currently in demand as a singer, conductor, and collaborative pianist throughout Central Pennsylvania. Mitchell is bass section leader of the Susquehanna Chorale where he also serves on the Board of Directors.

He is conductor of the Susquehanna Young Women's Chorale and Design Consultant for the Ephrata High School Marching Unit where he previously served as Assistant Director for 7 seasons. Mitchell wishes to thank his husband, John, for tolerating his busy schedule and supporting his passions!



LAURA DUGAN she/her (Stage Manager) | This is Laura's 11th production with Theatre Harrisburg! Past roles at Theatre Harrisburg include *NOW AND THEN* (Stage Manager), *THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL* (Stage Manager), *OH, JOY! OH, RAPTURE!* (Stage Manager), *A CHRISTMAS STORY* (Stage Manager/Assistant Stage Manager), and many other crew and ASM positions. Laura also wrote an adaptation of *LITTLE WOMEN* for Open Stage. Laura would like to thank the incredible local theater community for their unending support. "The price of love is loss, but still we pay. We love anyway." This one's for you, Dad.

THE CAST



CHRISTINE BEUTEL (she/her) (Diana) | This is Christine's first production with Theatre Harrisburg! Past credits include, *PIPPIN* (Catherine) at Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg. She is a member of the musical improv troupe *THE OFFBEATS* at Harrisburg Improv Theatre and has had numerous onscreen roles in short films for *HARRISBURG VIDJAM* (48-hour filmmaking event). Christine is honored to be a part of this production and would like to thank the cast and crew for a wonderful experience as well as her family and partner, Ben, for their love and support.

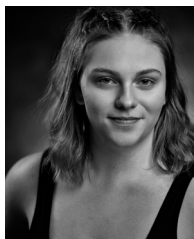


RYAN SMETZER (he/him) (Gabe) | This is Ryan's first ever production with Theatre Harrisburg! Past credits include, *GREASE* (Doody) at Washington County Playhouse, *RENT* (Mark) at Authentic Community Theatre, *CHRISTMAS EXPRESSWAY* (Featured Vocalist) at Antietam Entertainment, *DESCENDANTS THE MUSICAL* (Chad Charming) at Washington County Playhouse, and *FOOTLOOSE* (Chuck Cranston) at Authentic Community Theatre. Special thanks to the team and fellow cast at Theatre Harrisburg for the amazing warm welcome! Such a fantastic organization.



BRIAN FOSNOCHT (he/him) (Dan) | This is Brian's first production with Theatre Harrisburg! Past credits include, *JESUS CHRIST SUPER STAR* (Pontius Pilate) at Mickey's Black Box, *JEKYLL AND HYDE* (Simon Stride) at Lebanon Community Theatre, *STARMITES* (Space Punk) at Harrington Theater Arts Company, and *APPLAUSE* (Bill Sampson) at Harrington Theater Arts Company. I am so thankful for the support from my fiancée Valeria and my three daughters. I would like to dedicate this show to my sister Pamela who passed away at 4 years old from Leukemia before I was born.

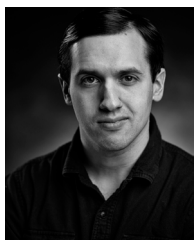
THE CAST



MELODY CARSEY (she/her) (Natalie) | This is Melody's first production with Theatre Harrisburg! Past credits include, *RENT* (Maureen Johnson) at Capital Area School for the Arts, *LEGALLY BLONDE* (Elle Woods) at Schuylkill Haven Area High School, *PETER PAN* (Mrs. Darling) at the Majestic Theatre, and *4 IS ENOUGH* (Natalia) at Capital Area School for the Arts. Thank you so much to everyone in the cast and crew who have made this show so incredibly fun and meaningful!



MOSES HANDY (he/him) (Henry) | This is Moses' first production with Theatre Harrisburg! Past credits include *THE ADDAMS FAMILY* (Lucas Beineke) at Capital Area School for the Arts. Thank you to my friends and family for coming to see the show, and a big thank you to Melody for getting me to audition in the first place.



BRIAN SILVA (he/him) (Doctor Fine/Doctor Madden) | This is Brian's fourth production with Theatre Harrisburg! Past credits include, *DEAR SOLDIER BOY* (Featured Male/Swing) at Blue Gate Theatre, *THE HOME GAME* (Featured Male/Swing) at Bird-In-Hand Stage, *RENT* (Tom Collins) with Bare Bones Theatre Ensemble, *PUFFS* (Wayne Hopkins) at Keystone Theatrics, and *THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL* (Perch Perkins) at Theatre Harrisburg. He would like to thank his friends, family and everyone out there for their love, inspiration, and supporting the arts all across Pennsylvania.



Theatre Harrisburg receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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In the world of theater, an "Angel" is a financial backer who ensures the show will go on. Angels have never been more important than in the past year and a half in allowing us to preserve the past, protect the present, and prepare for the future of Theatre Harrisburg. Our angels help to keep the lights burning bright so that we can continue to provide the high-quality productions you have come to expect from Theatre Harrisburg.

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2023-2024

ANGEL FUND CAMPAIGN

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(This list reflects gifts for our 23-24 campaign year received before October 18, 2023)

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In honor of Michael Greenwald on behalf of Holly M. Leggett

In Honor of Jay Krevsky's 90th Birthday from Julie Sherman & Marty Rogoff

In Honor of Nancy & Jay Krevsky from Jerry Woolf

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In Honor of Krevsky & Rosen, P.C. and the Krevsky and Rosen Families

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In Honor of Jay Krevsky's Birthday from Marjorie Sherman

In Honor of Laura Dugan from Tim & Jeanie Boucher

In tribute to Jay, Nancy, & Sol Krevsky, Mike Greenwald, Betty Hungerford and all my old friends at Theatre Harrisburg. Your dedication to the community we shared will always take center stage in my heart! - Lisa B. Ramirez

"If the music stops, continue with the dance" -Steve Smith

In Memory of Alan England from Nancy & Jay Krevsky

In Memory of Mel Brownold by Jay & Nancy Krevsky

In honor of Rowan's First Birthday from Laura Dugan

Happy Birthday, Jay! from Michael Greenwald

In Honor of Jay Miffoluf from Lori Myers

Happy Birthday, Jay! from Bill & Betty Blando

In Memory of Patsy Bray Mahoney

In Honor of Jay Krevsky by Betty Hungerford

In Memory of Dave Dugan, whose time in concessions was short-lived but well loved

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Varshavski-Shapiro Piano Duo

*Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 4 PM
Whitaker Center*



Galvin Cello Quartet

*Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:30 PM
Market Square Presbyterian Church*



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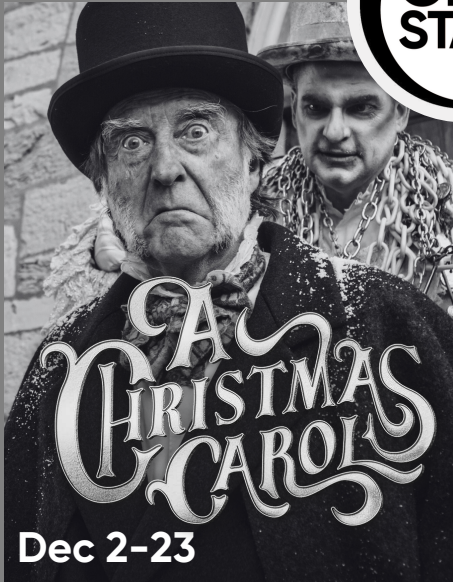
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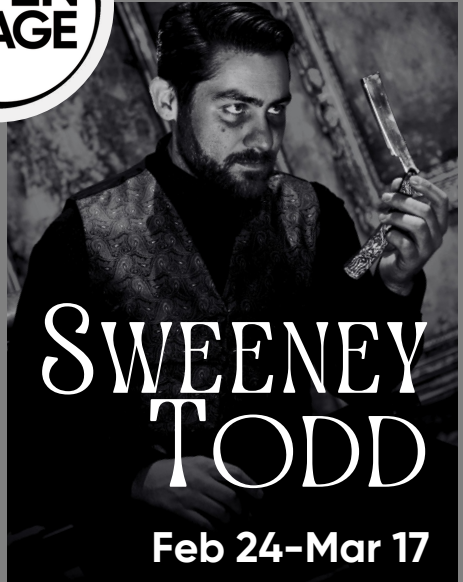
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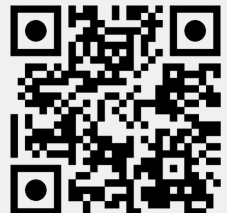
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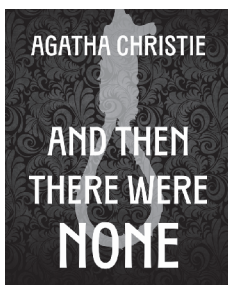
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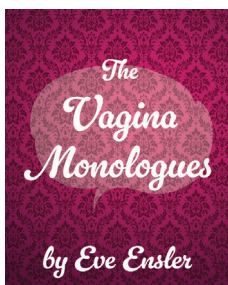


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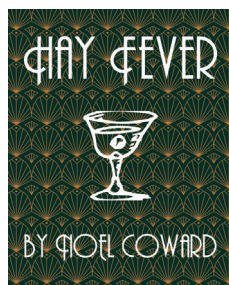
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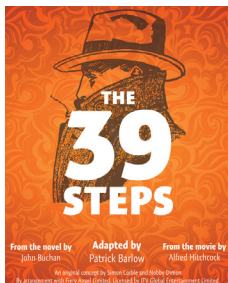
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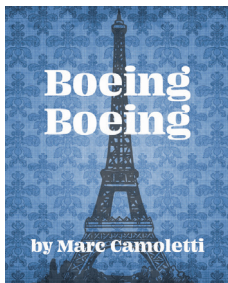
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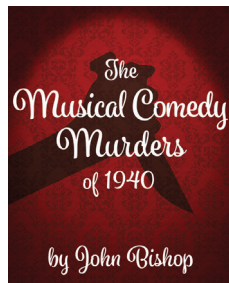
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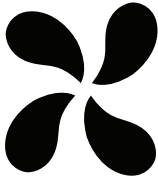


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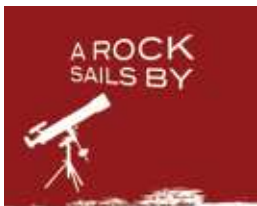
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