



Theater Alaska Presents *Every Brilliant Thing*

Powerful one-person show about family and mental health

Juneau, AK, January 3, 2022 - Theater Alaska announced that the play *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe will perform in Juneau, January 14-20 at multiple locations. Theater Alaska company member Tommy Schoffler performs, and the production is directed by Theater Alaska Producing Artistic Director Flordelino Lagundino. All performances are free to the public.

In *Every Brilliant Thing*, a six year old boy finds out his mom is in the hospital. She's "done something stupid," his father tells him. She finds it hard to be happy. So the boy starts to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Everything that's worth living for. 1. Ice cream. 2. Water fights. 6. Roller Coasters. 25. Wearing a cape. Soon, the list will take on a life of its own. Humorous and poignant, *Every Brilliant Thing* is a play about mental health and the things we do to support the ones we love.

Every Brilliant Thing is produced by Theater Alaska in partnership with NAMI Juneau, Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, and Juneau Public Libraries. It is also supported in part by the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council and the City and Borough of Juneau. The media sponsor for the production is KTOO.

"Mental health is an important issue in Alaska and we are excited to present a play that tackles it with humor, joy, and warmth," says Theater Alaska Producing Director Flordelino.

"We are grateful for Theater Alaska bringing *Every Brilliant Thing* to our community and for the opportunity to partner with them," says NAMI Juneau Executive Director Aaron Surma. "The storyline of this production helps to bring awareness to suicide, which is the first step in reducing stigma and promoting mental health care."

At each performance, there will be a talkback and NAMI Juneau and Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition will provide information about mental health.

Every Brilliant Thing will feature set, costume, and properties design by An-Lin Dauber, and sound design by Matt Otto.

CONTENT ADVISORY: *Every Brilliant Thing* contains descriptions of depression, self-harm, and suicide.

PERFORMANCES

Saturday, January 14 @ 2:00PM - Mendenhall Valley Public Library (3025 Diamond Pk Lp)

Saturday, January 14 @ 7:00PM - Resurrection Lutheran Church (740 W 10th St)

Sunday, January 15 @ 2:00PM - McPhetres Hall (325 Gold Street)

Tuesday, January 17 @ 6:30PM - Glory Hall (8715 Teal St)

Wednesday, January 18 @ 7:00PM - Sealaska Heritage Institute Clan House (105 S. Seward Street)

Thursday, January 19 @ 7:00PM - Douglas Public Library (1016 3rd St, Douglas, AK)

Friday, January 20 @ 7:00PM - UAS Egan Library (11066 Auke Lake Way)

LEAD ARTISTS

Tommy Schoffler (Performer) is a proud native West Virginian and first fell in love with Juneau over a decade ago when he came to co-direct *[title of show]* with Generator at Perseverance Theatre in 2011. Other favorite acting credits: The Baker in *Into the Woods* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre), Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (WV Public Theatre), Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* (Perseverance Theatre), Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* (Theatre West Virginia), Jinx in *Forever Plaid* (Oregon Cabaret Theatre), Finch in *How to Succeed in Business...* (Depot Theatre, NY), Yepihodov in *The Cherry Orchard* and Cripple Billy in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Warehouse Theatre, SC), Touchstone in *As You Like It* (Theatre at Monmouth, ME) and David in *The Santaland Diaries* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre & Sycamore Rouge, VA). He has directed in New York for both the Connelly Theatre's Dark Nights Series and the SoHo Think Tank Series, and regionally for the The Theatre at Monmouth, The Depot Theatre, Perseverance Theatre, Sycamore Rouge, and North Carolina Stage Company. Tommy is the Resident Movement Coach for the Rustic Mechanicals, WV's only professional Shakespeare company. Associate Professor of Theatre at WV Wesleyan College, Tommy is also a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique and presents masterclasses and workshops across the country to students ranging from professional arm wrestlers, corporate executives, and performers of all stripes. www.tommyschoffler.com.

Flordelino Lagundino (Director) is the Producing Artistic Director of Theater Alaska. His directing credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* (Theater Alaska); *Fuente Ovejuna*-upcoming (Theater for a New Audience); *Aubergine* (Park Square Theatre); *FOB* (Drama League DirectorFest); *Trigger* (Leviathan Lab); *Deliverance*-workshop (Syracuse Stage); *Un-workshop* (Pan Asian Rep); *Sweeney Todd*, *Doubt*, *Yellowman*, *Cedar House*, and *Animals Out of Paper* (Perseverance Theatre); *Flipzoids*, *The Reincarnation of Stories*, *True West*, and *Shakespeare's R&J* (Generator Theater Company); *Sweeney Todd* (Juneau Symphony); *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Stone Cold Dead Serious*, *In the Blood* (Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company). As an actor, his credits include: *Vietgone* (Mixed Blood Theatre) - Ivey Award for Best Ensemble; *Measure for Measure* (The Old Globe); *Camino Real* (The Shakespeare Theatre Company); *Willy Wonka* (The Kennedy Center); *The Long Season*, *Yeast Nation*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Hair*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Noises Off*, *The Last Five Years*, *The Inspector General* (Perseverance Theatre); *Invisible City 14th Street* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). Producing: artistic director of Park Square Theatre, Generator Theater, and Leviathan Lab; associate producer at La Jolla Playhouse, founding producer of the graduate theater company Romp of Otters at Brown University. Directing fellowships: SDC Sir John Gielgud Classical Directing Fellow, Drama League NY Directing Fellow, Kennedy Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival FAIR Fellow, Arena Stage Allen Lee Hughes Fellow. Education: MFA in directing, Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company; MFA in acting, University of Texas at Austin.

ABOUT THEATER ALASKA

Theater Alaska brings vibrant theatrical events directly into community spaces. We are a theater for all and create accessibility to the arts through equity and inclusion. Theater Alaska shares stories that connect with its Alaskan community. For many, there exist significant barriers to attend theatrical events. To increase accessibility, the company brings free theatrical productions to venues such as community centers, schools, parks, correctional facilities, and other non-traditional venues, meeting people where they are most comfortable. The theater also performs for paying audiences at traditional theater venues. Theater Alaska is modeled after Ten Thousand Things, Minneapolis, MN, which tours professional productions to community venues. www.theateralaska.org.

ABOUT NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) JUNEAU

Mission: At NAMI Juneau, we provide education, advocacy, support and public awareness so individuals affected by mental illness can build better lives. Purpose: To help those impacted by mental illness build better lives.

For more information, please visit www.namijuneau.org or call (907) 463-4251.

ABOUT JUNEAU SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION (JSPC)

JSPC is committed to reducing the loss and suffering caused by suicide and suicidal behavior by offering community information and education relating to suicide, and support to those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

Our hope is to reduce the stigmas associated with suicide and mental health and to create a community where all individuals have a sense of belonging, connectedness to others, and value their lives. The coalition is open to community members wanting to promote community wellness.

To learn more, please contact juneausuicideprevention@gmail.com.

CONTACT: Flordelino Lagundino, flordelino@theateralaska.org

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