

COMING SOON TO  
WINE COUNTRY THEATRE



*OVER THE RIVER AND  
THROUGH THE WOODS*

By Joe DiPietro

**March 22– April 7, 2019**

Nick Cristano regularly goes “over the river” to the home of his four Italian-American grandparents in New Jersey every Sunday for dinners that are governed by the three “F’s” - family, faith and food. The job he’s been waiting for—marketing executive—would take him away from his beloved, but annoying, grand-

parents. Besides the usual tactics of emotional blackmail, in order to keep him safe at home, these wily elders cook up a matchmaking scheme. Will the prospect of true love keep Nick from moving across the country? *Over the River and Through the Woods* is a warm-hearted, boisterously funny, and touching story about intergenerational relationships, deep familial love, and the inevitable little heartbreaks that occur as time passes and children grow.

"A hilarious family comedy that is even funnier than his long-running musical revue *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. —BackStage.

"Loaded with laughs every step of the way." —Star-Ledger.

**Directed by Kristen Saunders**

**AUDITIONS: January 5, 2019 1pm - 4pm**

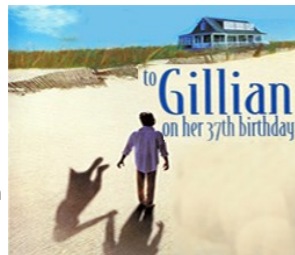
**January 7, 2019 6pm - 9pm**

*TO GILLIAN ON HER 37TH BIRTHDAY*

By Michael Brady

**May 17—June 2, 2019**

Michael Brady's beautifully romantic play follows a young widower's emotional re-birth during a summer weekend at a beach house in New England.



**Directed by Brent Keast**

**ALSO SCHEDULED:**

**BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS** by Neil Simon  
**THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING** by Joan Didion

More information coming soon!  
Check our website or follow us on FaceBook.



# NEXT TO NORMAL

Book & Music by Tom Kitt

Lyrics by Brian Yorkey



**Presented at the Park Ballroom  
November 16-December 2, 2018  
Paso Robles, California**

**WineCountryTheatre.com**

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International

# NEXT TO NORMAL - SONGS

Book & Music by Tom Kitt — Lyrics by Brian Yorkey

## ACT ONE

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

**\*\* INTERMISSION \*\***

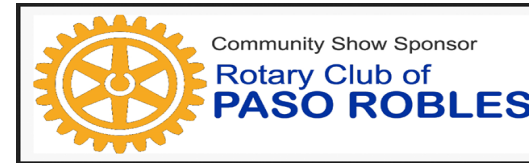
## ACT TWO

"Entr'acte" - Orchestra  
"Wish I Were Here" – Diana, Natalie  
"Song of Forgetting" – Dan, Diana, Natalie  
"Hey #1" – Henry, Natalie  
"Seconds and Years" – Doctor Madden, Dan, Diana  
"Better Than Before" – Doctor Madden, Dan, Natalie, Diana  
"Aftershocks" – Gabe  
"Hey #2" – Henry, Natalie  
"You Don't Know" (Reprise) – Diana, Doctor Madden  
"How Could I Ever Forget?" – Diana, Dan  
"It's Gonna Be Good" (Reprise) – Dan, Diana  
"Why Stay?" / "A Promise" – Diana, Natalie, Dan, Henry  
"I'm Alive" (Reprise) – Gabe  
"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" – Diana, Dan, Natalie, Gabe, Henry, Doctor Madden

## SHOW SPONSORS

### WINE COUNTRY THEATRE

Board of Directors: Kent Kenney, Cynthia Anthony, Laurie Zenobio, Garrett Larsen, Geoff Higgins, Kristen Saunders, Veronica Surber, & Beth Marshall



### ACORN EVENT MANAGEMENT

Brett Van Steenwyk, Debbie Lorenz, Ashley Lorenz

**MARK LISA  
THE ANTHONY FAMILY  
THE ZENOBIO FAMILY  
BETH MARSHALL**



### WINE SPONSORS

**VIA VEGA VINEYARD & WINERY  
LE CUVIER WINERY**

Ticket sales alone do not cover our costs.  
Every dollar donated helps to keep  
Live Theatre alive!  
Thank you for your support.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Board Producer.....Geoff Higgins  
 Directed by .....Gregg Wolff  
 Musical Direction.....Mark Robertshaw  
 Co Director & Stage Manager.....John Hernandez Borjan  
 Set Design.....Gregg Wolff  
 Set Construction.....Geoff Higgins, Libby Higgins  
 Painting.....Geoff Higgins, Libby Higgins, Ella Gomez  
 Sound Operator.....Geoff Higgins  
 Lighting Design.....Gregg Wolff, Kristen Saunders  
 Lighting Operator.....Kristen Saunders  
 Follow Spot Operators.....Ella Gomez, Will Goldammer  
 Photography.....Ritchie Bermudez & John Hernandez-Borjan  
 Box Office.....Laurie Zenobio  
 Concessions Manager.....Cynthia Anthony  
 Wine Manager.....Pamela Bratz  
 Poster & Program Design.....Laurie Zenobio, Denise McLean  
 Program & Poster Printing .....The Blueprinter

**Special Thanks:** Vincenza Zenobio, Libby Higgins, Ella Gomez, April Gomez, Kristie Steele, and Shannon Lowrie.



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT AWARD WINNER

The lovely lady with the generous smile and long blonde hair, that greeted you as you entered the theatre, is our Volunteer Spotlight Award Winner, JODY BIRKS.

Jody has been a theatre volunteer since 1988, when she volunteered for Pioneer Players. And she hasn't stopped since! She has volunteered for Wine Country Theatre since our humble beginnings four years ago. "I love the theatre!", she exclaims, "It is such a dynamic, interactive experience, even for the audience because they affect the actor's performances." Most importantly, states Jody, "I love to meet new

people, welcome back our returning audiences, and to hear their feedback." Can you see why we just love her?

Jody is a home-grown, local Paso Roblan, having graduated from Paso Robles High followed by her college years at Cal Poly where she earned a degree in Environmental and Systematic Biology. She raised two children here who are both creative in their own right. Daughter Brianna Birks is a dancer, singer, actress who has been in many Wine Country Theatre productions, most notably as the deliciously ditsy blonde running around in her underwear in *Noises Off*. Her son, Wyatt, worked at Daniels Woodland for three years as a Creative Welder, creating art pieces. He is currently an Agricultural Welder.

Jody's adventures don't stop at home, however. She chases solar eclipses and has seen four of them – in Norway, the United States, Turkey and China. She's been a 4H leader for over 22 years and an Awana leader for 18 years. Not only does she usher and serve as House Manager for Wine Country Theatre, she also works as an usher at Vina Robles and serves as a Floor Captain at the SLO Performing Arts Center.

This amazing volunteer urges others to volunteer. Jody leads by example, and encourages you to get involved. "Ushering is easy, and fun. We are the face of the theatre. Wine Country Theatre is worth supporting, by giving of your time and money. The high quality work on stage, family atmosphere and exciting growth of the company makes this a great way to volunteer. Come join me."

## THE COMPOSER AND LYRICIST

By Elyakeem Avraham and Richard Hatcher

Tom Kitt is an American composer, conductor, orchestrator and musician. For his score for the musical *Next to Normal*, he shared the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama with Brian Yorkey. He also won the Tony Award and 2008 Outer Critics Circle Award, and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for *American Idiot* and *Everyday Rapture*. Kitt attended Byram Hills High School in Armonk, NY, where he participated in various theatrical productions. After graduating in 1992, he attended Columbia College in New York City, graduating with a degree in economics in 1996. During his time at Columbia, Kitt was also a member of the Columbia Kingsmen. Kitt composed the music for the musicals *High Fidelity* and *Next to Normal* and the play *From Up Here*. He met Brian Yorkey while they were both students at Columbia University, and they attended the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop as a team. He won the 2008 Outer Critics Circle Award Outstanding New Score, and was nominated for the Drama Desk Award Outstanding Music; and Tony Awards for Best Original Score Written for the Theatre and Best Orchestrations, all for his rock score to *Next to Normal*. He also shared the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama with Brian Yorkey for *Next to Normal*. The Pulitzer Board called it "a powerful rock musical that grapples with mental illness in a suburban family and expands the scope of subject matter for musicals."

Brian Yorkey is an American playwright, lyricist, and theatre director. He shared the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2009 Tony Award for Best Original Score with composer Tom Kitt, and was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for *Next to Normal*. A native of Issaquah, Washington, Yorkey graduated from Columbia University, where he served as the artistic director of the Varsity Show. He also is an alumnus of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop. Prior to bringing *Next to Normal* to Broadway, Yorkey was affiliated with Village Theatre, where he began as a KidStage student and eventually progressed to a six-year tenure as associate artistic director. Five musicals written by Yorkey - *Funny Pages* (1993), *Making Tracks* (2002), *The Wedding Banquet* (2003), *Play it by Heart* (2005), and *A Perfect Fall* (2007) - were staged there. *Next to Normal* began as a ten-minute-long piece called *Feeling Electric* recent college graduates Yorkey and Kitt wrote as a final project for the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop at the end of the 1990s. Their inspiration was a segment about electroconvulsive therapy Yorkey saw on Dateline NBC. Yorkey has observed that it is "exponentially harder to write an original musical. Musicals that go wrong can be ridiculous because it's a ridiculous art form. People bursting into song can be ridiculous. But musicals that go right can be sublime."

"Who's crazy?  
 The husband or wife?  
 Who's crazy?  
 To live their whole life  
 Believing that somehow  
 Things aren't as bizarre as they are?"  
 Brian Yorkey's lyrics.



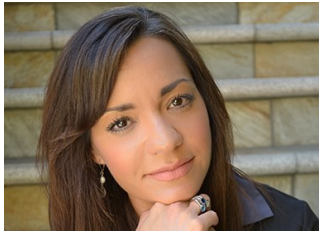
### DIRECTOR GREGG WOLFF — THEATRE BIO

**AS ACTOR**—SLO Rep: *Lost In Yonkers* (Eddie); *Our Town* (Doc Gibbs); *Life x 3* (Hubert); *When The Rain Stops Falling* (Gabriel York/Assistant Director); *Wit* (Dr Kelekian); *Time Stands Still* (Richard); *A Chorus Line* (Zach); *Good People* (Mike); *A Christmas Story* (Ralph); *Psychopathia Sexualis* (Howard).

Other roles: *Cats*; *Adams Family Reunion*; *Love Town*; *Tuesdays With Morrie* (Mitch); *Dinner With Friends* (Tom); *Gun Shy* (Carter); *Rumors* (Glenn); *The Full Monty* (Keno); *Miss Saigon*; *Side Show*.

**AS DIRECTOR:** *The Arsonists* (SLO Rep); *Fuddy Meers* (CCTA); *The Last 5 Years* (Wine Country Theatre).

## CAST



### Veronica Surber as Diana

Veronica is thrilled to be back with Wine Country Theatre, acting in one of her dream shows! She recently moved back from a year in Michigan where she was featured in a production of *Grease* (Marty), won 1st place in the Western Michigan Fair's Sizzling Summer Sing-Off, and was granted the West Shore Community College Theatre Award.

Past credits include: *Fiddler On The Roof* (Golde), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Rosie Alvarez), *A Chorus Line* (Diana Morales), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Woman 1), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive), *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Linda), *Reefer Madness* (Sally), *HAIR* (Sheila), *Into The Woods* (The Baker's Wife), and *RENT* (Mimi). Veronica is mother of two, a Wine Country Theatre board member, and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree/Credential in Elementary Education.



### Gary Borjan as Dan

A theatre veteran of over 20 years, Gary is EXTREMELY excited to return to the Wine Country Theatre stage with this incredibly talented cast. Having fallen in love with *Next To Normal* when seeing the first national tour starring Alice Ripley, Gary feels very blessed to have the opportunity to bring the character of Dan Goodman to life. *Next To Normal* addresses so many issues that most people

deal with daily. Having lost his best friend to suicide back in 1996 whom also had a diagnosis of bi-polar disorder, Gary feels very connected to this material and feels it is most important to place a spotlight on that which most will not talk about, mental illness. Gary believes that in this day and age, we have to be open to talking about our struggles so that we are able to address them head on, prior to losing control and feeling hopeless.

When Gary is not singing or dancing (which is rare), he can be found managing the Atascadero Branch of Pacific Premier Bank. Gary's favorite past theatre credits include Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*, Bob in *White Christmas*, Man 2 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, Frederick in *Pirates of Penzance*, Bamatabois in *Les Miserables*, and the Wolf in *Into the Woods*. Gary hopes to explore more of the directing side of things in the upcoming year and would love the opportunity to start his own local theatre troupe.



### Elliot Peters as Gabe

Elliot Peters is new to Wine Country Theater. He most recently performed alongside his brother Phineas in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (Hysterium), and before that, *Lost In Yonkers* (Jay Kurnitz) on the main stage at SLO Rep. Previous favorite roles include, Bob (*Beau Jest*), Farkas (*A Christmas Story*), and Springer in the world premiere of *Morality Play* at the Gamm Theatre in Rhode Island.



### Julia Seibert as Natalie

Julia Seibert is very excited to make her Wine Country Theatre debut as Natalie in this production of *Next to Normal*. This show has personally impacted her life, and she feels honored to be a part of this truly important story. Mental Health is something that needs to be discussed not just for the ones who are suffering with it, but also for the

loved ones who are also affected by it all.

Julia is a PCPA graduate and some of her past credits are Kyra in *Bare: A Pop Opera*, Shprintze in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and a Spirit in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Outside of theatre, Julia recently received her yoga teaching certification, and lives in Pismo Beach with her boyfriend, Joe, and loving pug, Pugsley, (named from *The Addams Family*.)



### Phineas Peters as Henry

Phineas Peters is proud to be joining Wine Country Theater for the first time. He most recently appeared with his brother Elliot in the main stage SLO Rep show, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (Protean,) and earlier this spring in *Lost In Yonkers* (Arty Kurnitz). He also performed as the title character in the ACT staged reading, *Peer Gynt*. Before moving to California, he

appeared as Oliver Twist in *Oliver!* at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence Rhode Island, among other roles.



### Ritchie Bermudez as Dr. Madden/Fine

Ritchie is thrilled to be returning to the stage with the extremely talented cast of Wine Country Theatre's *Next To Normal* – one of his favorite musicals of all time. The production had a profound impact on him after seeing the original cast on Broadway. He believes the show is more important today than ever, as it raises awareness

around the issues of mental health and illness.

He's proud to have sung with the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, Cuesta College Chamber Singers, and the James Madison University Chorale. Past credits include *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Into The Woods*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, and *Sweet Charity*. When he's not prescribing medicine or performing hypnosis, he handles the marketing at Cuesta College. He lives in Atascadero with his husband Will and two cats, Lexi and Lily.

Volunteer!  
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