



Information & Audition Pack

Creative Team

Director - Cat Nicol
Musical Director - Andrew Taylor
Choreographer - Emily Garner

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 16th November	AUDITIONS	11:00 - 17:00	Ross Street Community Centre - Community Rm
Wednesday 19th November	AUDITIONS	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Ross Street Community Centre - Community Rm
Friday 28th November	RECALLS	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Orchard Park Community Centre
Tuesday 27th January 2026	Rehearsals Start	7.00pm - 10.00pm	TBC Central Cambridge
Sunday Rehearsals	8/2, 22/2, 8/3, 29/3, 12/4		
Wednesday 15th & Saturday 18th April	Sitzprobe & band call with cast	TBC	TBC
Sunday 19th April	Get in and Tech	TBC	ADC Theatre
Monday 20th April	Dress Rehearsal	TBC	ADC Theatre
Tuesday 21st April - Saturday 25th April	Shows, INC. Sat Matinee	TBC	ADC Theatre

Rehearsals

Rehearsals predominantly take place on Tuesday and Friday evenings, with some Sundays.

**** N.B. You may be required for extra rehearsals on alternative days – this will be agreed with cast and creative team throughout the process.**

Link to the audition form

Sign up for your audition here <https://forms.gle/iPmuRHAS48YwytPp7>

Notes from the Director

Background

Next to Normal tells the story of Diana, a suburban wife and mother who suffers from bipolar disorder and is haunted by grief following an earlier trauma. The effects on her family are profound as she goes through different treatments including hypnosis and electric convulsive therapy in attempts to manage her condition.

The show does not shy away from difficult topics and presents images of mental illness, including mania and depression, that aren't typically seen in musicals. But it's also a musical about a family struggling to find connection and yearning for a perceived 'normality'.

Music

The show is predominantly sung-through, although there are some small sections of underscored dialogue - but these are minimal so the majority of the story is expressed through song. The music is quite complex at times and places exceptional demands on the actors playing the family, who need to be able to sing vocally challenging material at the same time as creating moments of high emotional intensity.

Movement

There is very little dance as such in the show although there are some elements of movement which punctuate scenes and reflect Diana's manic episodes.

Challenges

For me, the key to this show is the believability of the different relationships and the ability of each actor to get under the skin of their character. Emotional resilience is important for all the cast but particularly for the family members. You will need to be able to show vulnerability and gain an understanding of the factors which influence your character, including trauma, grief and mental illness. It could be a challenging rehearsal process for the actors but will hopefully, ultimately, be satisfying.

Visual Design

The recent Donmar Warehouse production went for a highly realistic and very clever kitchen set but I prefer the visual approach of the original Broadway production, which had a more pared-back feel. It is a rock musical and therefore suits a more abstract set and lighting design and that's the style we will create.

Auditions

For first auditions, we'll assess your vocal range, strength and ability, as well as how you act through song. We might ask you to do things again in a different way to see how you take direction. For recall auditions, we'll also be looking at how people work together to help us cast a believable family unit.

Audition Information

Next to Normal is open to any applicants over the age of 16 as at 31 August, 2025. Please be aware there is no ensemble for this production and we are only looking to cast the named roles.

Our stage is for everyone. It's important our productions reflect the diverse people in our communities, so we especially welcome performers from the global majority, as well as trans and non-binary artists. Talent doesn't come in one shape, age, or style, so we're excited to see applications from people of all generations and from those who are neurodiverse. Our goal is to create an inclusive cast that feels authentic and is aligned with our mission to produce professional quality theatre with the talent in Cambridge and surrounding areas.

Next to Normal deals with some hard-hitting topics. The cast will be dealing with themes of mental illness, grief, loss, suicide, drug use, adult language and medical treatment. Please do talk to us if you have any concerns.

While we understand performers may wish to take on multiple projects, *Next to Normal* is a demanding show with a small cast and as such you will be required at all rehearsals. Please do take this into consideration when making decisions and talk to us if you foresee any potential clashes.

Please be aware that there are some costs associated with being cast in the show. We ask for a £10 Pied Pipers membership fee and £60 show fee. This is a contribution towards the costs of the production, which are considerable and ever-rising. Pied Pipers is a not-for-profit community organisation and your show fees go solely towards making sure the show can happen. The fees should not be a barrier to you participating in our shows, so please do talk to us if you have any concerns around these.

Next to Normal – background information

Next to Normal, with book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey and music by Tom Kitt, had its off-Broadway debut in 2008. Winner of three 2009 Tony Awards, including Best Musical Score and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize, *Next to Normal* was also chosen as "one of the year's ten best shows" by critics around the country, including The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Rolling Stone and The New York Times.

Dad's an architect; Mom rushes to pack lunches and pour cereal; their daughter and son are bright, wise-cracking teens, appearing to be a typical American family. And yet their lives are anything but normal because the mother has been battling bipolar disorder for 16 years. *Next to Normal* takes audiences into the minds and hearts of each character, presenting their family's story with love, sympathy and heart.

This deeply moving piece of theatre provides a wonderful opportunity for performers to explore dramatic material and showcase vocal talents with an energetic pop/rock score. *Next to Normal* is an emotional powerhouse that addresses such issues as grieving a loss, ethics in modern psychiatry, and suburban life.

Character List

Diana Goodman: 30s - 40s. Female-identifying performer.

Diana is a wife and mother dealing with the aftermath of having lost her son many years ago. Throughout the musical, the ups and downs of Diana's mental health are explored in relation to how they affect the relationship that she has with those around her. Diana wrestles with her desire to be present with her family while also being stuck in the past.

Dan Goodman: 30s - 40s. Male-identifying performer.

Dan is a husband and father attempting to keep his family together while also acting as a supportive and stabilising presence for his wife. Owing to Dan's attempts to heal his family and move beyond the past, he has bottled up his own internal battle.

Natalie Goodman: 17. Female-identifying performer.

Natalie is the daughter of Diana and Dan. She is an incredibly talented and overachieving student, but she feels ignored by her parents, especially her mother. She has always felt overshadowed by the memory of her brother, which has led to feelings of resentment and isolation.

Gabe Goodman: 18. Male-identifying performer.

Gabe is the son of Diana and Dan. He is charming, athletic and intelligent.

Henry: 17. Male-identifying performer.

Henry, who is laid-back and funny, is Natalie Goodman's boyfriend and acts a loving, supportive presence in Natalie's life. Henry is a person Natalie can turn to, to escape her dysfunctional family and find comfort.

Dr Madden: 30+. Male-identifying performer.

Dr Madden is Diana's psychiatrist, who provides both medication management and therapy. Diana undergoes several treatment options under his supervision, including medication and electroconvulsive therapy. He is a professional yet compassionate individual who helps Diana to confront her mental illness and her past. Dr Madden also plays Dr Fine in early scenes.

Audition Process

Your audition should last no more than 15 minutes and will be a solo singing audition. All audition material should be prepared/learnt in advance. You may use sheet music during the audition. As *Next to Normal* is a rock opera, your acting will be assessed through your singing performance and there is no additional text to learn. There is no dance audition as we will tailor movement to the ability of those cast.

We are asking you to sing songs from the show based on the character you are looking to audition for. These can be found below. You may be asked to perform your song/s in different ways. Where there are two songs listed, please prepare both. You may not be asked to sing all or both on the day. This is not a reflection on your ability but it may be that we have seen all we need to from you.

We have prepared recordings and music for the audition pieces, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/NTNPPAUDITIONS> . The cast recordings are from the London Donmar production. These are provided for your convenience in learning the songs, don't feel you have to copy these. We want you to make the song/s you own!

You may also be asked to sing scales or other vocal exercises so we can check your vocal range. Sign up for your audition here <https://forms.gle/iPmuRHAS48YwytPp7>

Vocal Ranges

Next To Normal - Vocal Ranges

(Men's parts sound an octave lower than written)



Some of the extreme high notes in the men's parts can be taken in falsetto.

Audition Songs

DIANA

I Miss The Mountains
You Don't Know

DAN

He's Not Here
I Am the One

NATALIE

Everything Else
Superboy and the Invisible Girl

GABE

I'm Alive
There's a World

HENRY

Perfect for You

DR MADDEN

Doctor Rock (including spoken lines)
Make Up Your Mind

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you at an audition soon!