

next



company

Book & Lyrics by **BRIAN YORKEY**
Music by **TOM KITT**

Content Warning

Next to Normal contains language, themes of death, grief, drug use, sex, mental health, Electroconvulsive Therapy, emotional abuse, and attempted suicide by cutting. Viewer discretion is advised. Patrons are welcome to leave the theatre at any moment, if necessary.

Performance runs approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes with a 15-minute intermission.





2002

10-minute workshop of *Feeling Electric* featuring Sherie Rene Scott & Norbert Leo Butz

2005

A more comprehensive draft of the workshop is performed at the New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF) with Amy Spagner, Joe Cassidy, and Annaleigh Ashford

2008

Opened Off-Broadway at the Second Stage Theatre and transferred to the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

2009

The Broadway production opened at the Booth Theatre on April 15, 2009 and closed on January 16, 2011 after 227 performances, plus 11 Tony Award nominations and 6 wins.

2010

Alice Ripley returned for the National Touring production that took off in Los Angeles, California at the Ahmanson Theatre on November 23, 2010.



Tom Kitt

MUSIC

- Graduated from Columbia College, New York in 1996 with an Economics degree.
- Began working Off-Broadway in 2002 where he was the Music Director for *Debbi Does Dallas: The Musical*.
- In addition to *Next to Normal*, Kitt was nominated for an Outer Critics award for *From Up Here* which he composed as well.
- Music Supervisor, Orchestrator, and Music Composer for *American Idiot* which opened on Broadway in 2010.
- Collaborated with Lin-Manuel Miranda and Amanda Green on *Bring It On: The Musical* the following year.
- Collaborated with Brian Yorkey again on *If/Then* featuring Idina Menzel.





Brian Yorkey

BOOK &
LYRICS

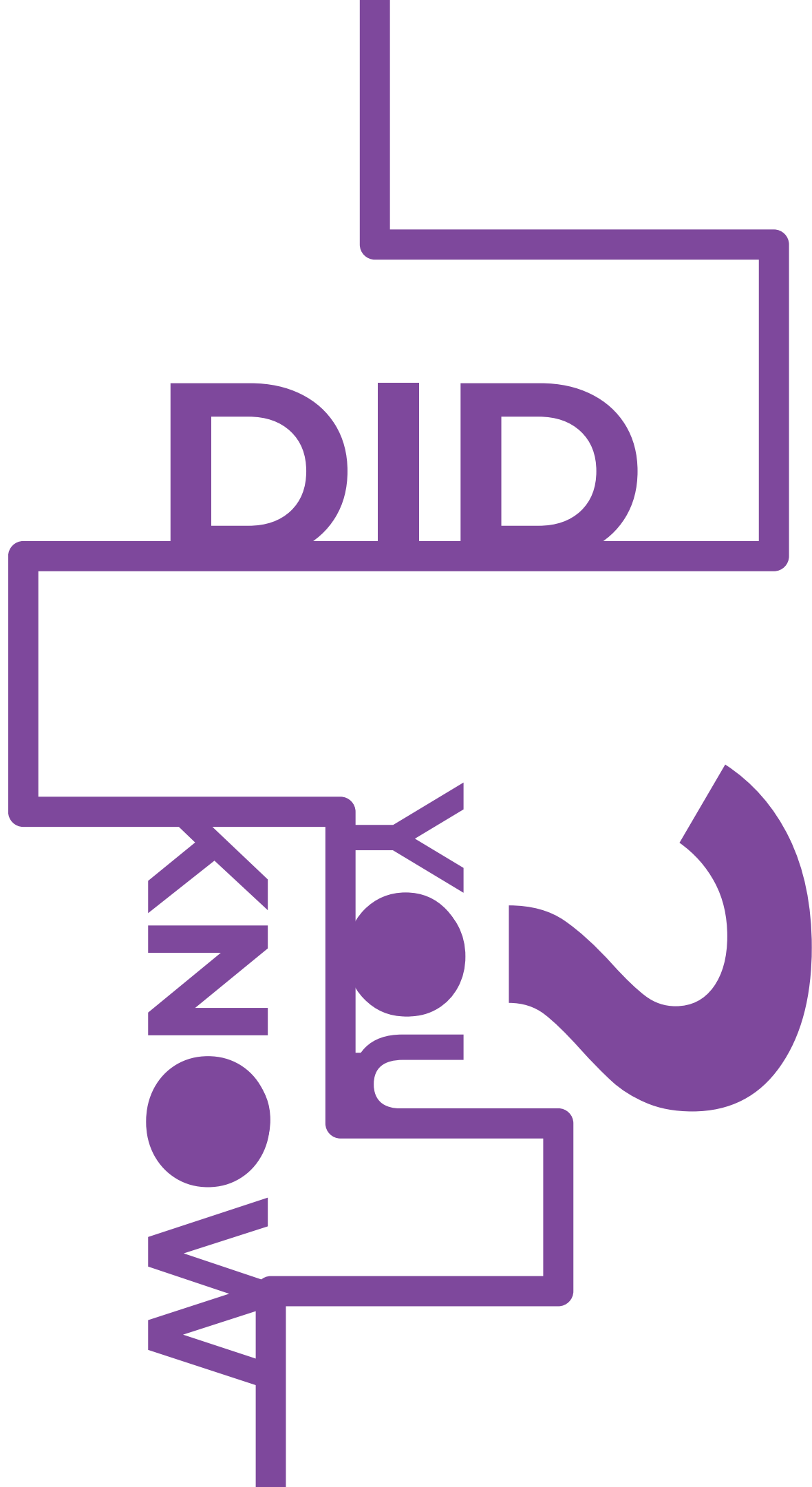
- Also graduated from Columbia College, New York three years prior in 1993.
- After *Next to Normal*, *The Last Ship* opened on Broadway in 2014, a collaboration with Sting and co-librettist John Logan.
- Co-wrote the Book and Lyrics for *Jesus in My Bedroom* at the Village Theater.
- Wrote the music for *Freaky Friday* alongside Tom Kitt.
- Adapted *13 Reasons Why* from a novel into a four-season Netflix television series.
- Scripted the motion picture titled *Sluts* for Lionsgate Films.
- Recently signed another deal with Netflix for *Echoes*, an adaptation of Neil Schusterman's book *Game Changer* into a series.





Inspiration

Brian Yorkey pitched the idea of *Next to Normal* to Tom Kitt at the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop after watching a segment on Dateline about Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) which turned into a ten-minute presentation titled *Feeling Electric*.



Bipolar Disorder

- Bipolar is one of the top three causes of hospitalizations between patients ages 15-40, according to the World Health Organization
- Approximately 5% of the world is on the bipolar spectrum with only 1-2% diagnosed
 - Around 4.4% of adults will develop bipolar disorder at some point during their lives
- In adolescence, bipolar disorder is more prevalent in females (3.3%) than in males (2.6%)
- More than 90% of people who have a manic episode will have another as bipolar is a recurring illness.
- Around 60-70% of manic or hypomanic episodes occur before or after a major depressive episode
- Treatment is successful in the majority of cases. Approximately 20-30% of people living with bipolar type I disorder and 15% of those with bipolar II disorder experience significant symptoms despite treatment compliance
- The average age of symptom onset for men and women is 20, although it can occur at any age.

common side effects of **ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY**

1. Nausea
2. Headache

3. Myalgia
4. Confusion

*what is
ect?*

Most commonly used in patients with severe major depression or bipolar disorder that has not responded to other treatments, Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) involves a brief electrical stimulation of the brain while the patient is under anesthesia



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mental health has affected
you and your loved ones
(friends, family, etc.) and have
your story shared here/on our
social media platforms