

Audition Announcement
Grey Area Productions
La Crosse, WI

Every Brilliant Thing

By Duncan MacMillan with Johnny Donahoe

Directed by Pete Rydberg

Cast Requirements: 1 actor, any gender, late 20s to early 50s

Paid position: Actor salary TBD

Auditions: Monday June 2, 6:30-9 p.m. or by appointment
@ Cappella Performing Arts Center
*Recommended: Schedule a specific audition slot
by emailing artisticdirector@gmail.com
But walk-ins are welcome.*

Callbacks: Wednesday June 4, 6:30-9 p.m.
@ Cappella Performing Arts Center

First Rehearsal: Monday June 9*

Performances: September 11-21, 2025
Pump House Regional Arts Center

** rehearsal schedule is flexible based on actor availability*

Audition details:

This one-person show relies on exceptional storytelling skills, improvisational skills, and audience engagement. While the text reflect the original casting of a British, middle-aged, heterosexual man, we are looking for an actor of any gender / sexual orientation who can play between late-20s to early 50s. The character narrates their experiences from age 7 until their adulthood. We have the playwright's permission to modify specific British references to a Midwest lexicon.

Auditions (Monday June 2 or by appointment) will consist of prepared sides and cold reads.

Interested actors should plan to present the following monologue from memory. You are still welcome to audition even if you need to hold the text – printed copies will be available. I understand actors may learn about opportunities with minimal advance preparation time. But since this show demands the actor to memorize 80 minutes of text, demonstrating your capacity for delivering memorized materials at auditions is a clear signal of your potential to memorize the entire piece.

Callbacks will consist of cold readings and improvisation exercises.

Perusal scripts available. Content notice: Themes of suicide / self-harm.

This is a paid position.

Rehearsals / Performances will take place at Cappella Performing Arts Center (721 King Street) and the Pump House Regional Arts Center (119 King Street). Free parking available at both locations. Public performances are September 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 20 at 7:30 p.m. and September 14 & 21 at 2 p.m. Brief audience talkbacks to follow each performance.

If you would like to audition but are not available Monday June 2, would like a perusal script, or have questions about the opportunity please contact the director at artisticdirector@gmail.com or by text at 608-843-1282.

Grey Area Productions:

Grey Area Productions mission is to bring our audiences stories that ignite emotion, challenge conception, and inspire growth. We know you value enriching artistic experiences. To that end, we are committed to not only entertain, but to engage you with compelling stories and complex characters.

Every Brilliant Thing Audition Side:

And then, inside a box under my bed,
underneath some sticker albums, sea shells
and action figures, I found the list. I sat on
the floor and I read it through:

1. Ice cream.

The younger me had dealt with this so
much better. He wasn't self-righteous. The
younger me was hopeful. Näive, of course.
But, hopeful.

So once I got to the end of the list I picked
up a pen and continued where that little boy
had left off.

315. The smell of old books.

316. Andre Agassi.

317. The even numbered Star Trek films.

- 318. Burning things.
- 319. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out of your nose.
- 320. Making up after an argument.

The next morning I sat at the end of Mum's bed and I read the list to her, and she got up and left the room. I followed her and read louder.

- 516. Winning something.
- 517. Knowing someone well enough to get them to check your teeth for broccoli.

Over the next few days and weeks I would leave messages on the answer phone. I would turn off the radio or stand in front of the TV. I spent a lot of time talking to her back.

- 518. When idioms coincide with real-life occurrences, for instance: waking up, realizing something and simultaneously smelling coffee.
- 521. The word 'plinth'.

I began leaving Post-It notes around the house, stuck to various things.

On her mirror was:

- 575. Piglets.

On the kettle:

- 654. Marlon Brando.

And on her bed:

11. Bed.

Every morning I would open my door and I would see a small stack of yellow squares of paper. I became more inventive, writing on the inside of cereal packets or shoes, carving words into fruit or rearranging the fridge magnets.

201. Hammocks.

.. inside the lid of some mustard.

324. Nina Simone's voice.

... stenciled onto a baguette.

It was my aim to reach a *thousand*. I wasn't allowed to cheat, which meant:

- a. No repetition.
- b. Things had to be genuinely wonderful and life-affirming.
- c. Not too many material items.

For a few months the list became my sole focus.

761. Deciding you're not too old to climb trees.

823. Skinny dipping.

Then, the week before I left for university:

992. Knowing to jangle keys at the wildlife park if you want the otters to come out.

993. Having dessert as a main course.

994. Hairdressers who listen to what you

want.

995. Bubble wrap.

996. Really good oranges.

I started to be bothered by the thought that my Mum no longer loved my Dad. I put the thought out of my mind and returned to the list.

997. Cycling downhill.

998. Aromatic duck pancakes with hoisin sauce.

It's common for the children of suicides to blame themselves. It's natural.

999. Sunlight.

However much you know that you're not to blame, you can't help feeling like you failed them. It's not fair to feel this way. But it's natural.