

Dear Friends,

The Utah Shakespeare Festival, through generous partners, is humbled to offer free productions of Duncan Macmillan's play *Every Brilliant Thing* for public district high school in the state of Utah, in an effort to help address the problem of youth depression and suicide. The play celebrates and cultivates the use of proactive, life-affirming communication when confronted with depression. It emphasizes the themes; (1) you are not alone, (2) you are not weird, (3) it gets better, (4) and life goes on. The play provides opportunities for positive communication about depression, suicide, and life through an entertaining and interactive audience participation format.

After each performance, playgoers will be invited to a talk-back with artists involved in the show to discuss artistic vision and how the team artistically and strategically approached the material. Resources and information on how students can get help will be available after each performance. We encourage all schools and counseling offices to prepare their own suicide prevention efforts.

The play's plot:

The story begins when, at seven-years old, the lone character learns that his mother is in the hospital after her first attempt to take her own life. Afterwards, he begins a list. A list of everything brilliant about the world. Everything worth living for. With humor and inventiveness, the story explores depression and hope, uncertainty and change, relationships and solitude, risk and resilience, guilt and forgiveness. Throughout the play the character interacts with audience members to share his story.

Process:

Between two touring companies, free performances will be scheduled through individual school districts and high schools. Many schools and teachers have already booked performances. The play will be primarily performed in school auditoriums without complex technical demands. If theatre departments and auditoriums are unavailable, we are prepared to offer suggestions to those who have questions. Some performances will be hosted by community partners such as Harman Hall of West Valley and other public entities to be determined at a later date.

These touring productions are mad possible through funding obtained from the State of Utah, The Utah Department of Heritage and Arts, Utah Division of Arts and Museums, Southern Utah University – Rural Health Scholars and the Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway foundation.

The Festival will be contacting your school with an opportunity to book this performance. You may also contact us at [brillianttour@bard.org](mailto:brillianttour@bard.org) or 435-865-8333 if you have questions or would like to book a performance now.

The Festival is looking forward to partnering with you as we share this wonderful production with your students.

Michael Bahr  
Education Director  
Utah Shakespeare Festival