



A funny and moving tribute to resilience and hope.

JACKSON—New Stage Theatre will present, *Every Brilliant Thing* the timely and life-affirming story of life's miracles and finding hope March 14 - 26, 2023. Curtain times and dates for performances are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m with matinee performances on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$35.00 with discounts available for students, senior citizens, military, and groups. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, charged by phone by calling the theatre at (601) 948-3533, or ordered online at www.newstagetheatre.com. This production is sponsored by the Meyer and Genevieve Falk Endowment Fund for Culture and Arts. Security provided and patrols during performances. *Recommended for: Ages 14+ for mentions of suicide and suicidal ideation.*

Could you name a hundred things that make life wonderful? A thousand? How about a million? A boy's mother attempted suicide and in response, he started a list of things to live for. As he grows up, the list takes on a life of its own. This surprising and immersive theatrical experience speaks openly about depression, mental illness, and suicide. With poignant humor and joy, it takes us on a journey through grief, healing, falling in love, and (re)discovering all that life has to give.

I am so excited about *Every Brilliant Thing*, a refreshing play told in collaboration with the audience that has touched audiences worldwide", says artistic director Francine Reynolds. "One of the reasons this play was chosen is because it addresses mental health. Societal trends and the pandemic have uncovered an upsurge of mental health issues. In a recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, it was found that an overwhelming majority of people in the United States think the country is experiencing a mental health crisis. Not only is *Every Brilliant Thing* an irresistible play about sadness that celebrates the world's joys, it is an event that provides an unforgettable communal experience that reminds us of the power found in connecting with the people around us. The play welcomes audiences into the story. While participation is optional, from time to time the two actors will invite patrons to take part. Ray McFarland and Ali Dinkins are the perfect actors to guide the *Every Brilliant Thing* experience," says Reynolds.

Audience Interaction: This production involves audience participation. All Interactions are optional, confirmed by consent. The production may be enjoyed with or without directly participating.

The cast includes: New Stage Theatre's production of this solo *tour de force* will feature two actors who will rotate in the role at different performances. The actors are audience favorites Ray McFarland* and Ali Dinkins.

**Ray McFarland appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.*

NEW STAGE Theatre

1100 Carlisle Street
Jackson, Miss. 39202
Phone (601) 948-3533

Discount Nights/Events

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS, MISSISSIPPI: NAMI, Mississippi will be sponsoring pre-show resources at every performance along with a post-show event at the March 22 matinee performance at 2:00 p.m.



MENTAL HEALTH AND THE CREATIVE MIND INITIATIVE: MHCMI will be sponsoring a post-show event. Details TBD.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN MATINEE: Patrons can come to the box office one hour before the show begins on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. If tickets are available they can be purchased at any value with cash, check, or credit card (\$5 minimum is required if using a credit card). This offer is only valid for the March 15, 2023 matinee performance.

YOUTH NIGHTS: Youth 18 and under can reserve \$15 tickets for a designated performance. This discount is only available by calling the box office and mentioning "youth night" for the discount.

STUDENT RUSH DISCOUNT: One hour prior to curtain for any performance, students with a current academic ID may purchase an available seat for \$10. Limit one ticket per ID.

Schedule & Ticket Information

Where:

1100 Carlisle Street, Jackson MS 39202

Dates:

Open: March 14, 2023; Close: March 26, 2023

Performance Times:

Tuesday - Saturday: 7:30 pm; Sundays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays: 2:00 pm

Tickets:

\$35; \$30 seniors/students/military

Box Office:

Telephone: 601-948-3533

Online: www.newstagetheatre.com

Email: tickets@newstagetheatre.com

Hours: Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Hours During Show:

Tuesday thru Friday: 10 am - 7:00 pm

Saturday: 4 pm - 7:00 pm; Sunday: 1 pm - 2 pm

Tickets Online:

Tickets may be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.newstagetheatre.com (a per-ticket service fee of \$3 applies to all online purchases)

Production Information

Director

Francine Reynolds

Production Stage Manager

Clara Seitz

Scenic Designer

Richard Lawrence

Costume Designer

Caleb Blackwell

Lighting Designer

Matthew McMurtry

Sound Designer

Alberto Meza

Assistant Director

Claire Justice Porter

Properties Designer

Jenna Kahley

CAST

The Narrator

The Narrator

Ray MacFarland*(Jackson)

Ali Dinkins (Jackson)



*indicates member of AEA

RAY MCFARLAND has appeared in numerous national tours and regional theatre productions of plays and musicals across the United States and in over forty productions here at New Stage including: *Clue*, *Sister Act*, *And Then There Were None*, *Hairspray*, *The Foreigner*, *Bright Star*, *Forever Plaid*, *Tuna Christmas*, *Red White and Tuna*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, as the title character in *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, and *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*. McFarland also works in television commercials and industrial films as an on-camera actor and as a voice-over artist. He recently retired from teaching acting and technical theatre classes for twenty-three years at St. Andrew's Episcopal School where he also directed the Upper School theatre productions and served as the director of the Center for the Performing Arts.

ALI ROGERS DINKINS has considered New Stage her theatre home since moving back to Mississippi as a young newlywed. As a mother of four, it's no surprise that her two favorite New Stage roles were the title characters in *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* and *The Velveteen Rabbit*. New Stage subscribers have seen her in *Morningside*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventures of the Suicide Club*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *All My Sons*, *Boeing! Boeing!*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *First Baptist of Ivy Gap*, *Shiloh Rules*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *It's a Wonderful Life: Radio Play*. Dinkins completed her undergraduate work at Baylor University and graduate work at Wayne State University, both in acting. She was a member of the Hilberry Acting company in Detroit, MI for two years. Dinkins has spent most of her career teaching students of all ages, using her acting skills in a range of roles from Preschool librarian to Adjunct Theatre Professor at Millsaps College. Outside of the theatre, Dinkins loves to take walks, linger over meals, learn new things and travel with her favorite person, John.