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PLAYBILL

BRÜKA THEATRE OF THE SIERRA

All The Amazing Things The Universe Has To Offer
Surviving the Shadow of Suicide 2024

EVERY *Brilliant* THING

Written by Duncan Macmillan
With Jonny Donahoe
Directed by Holly Natwora
Featuring Mary Bennett

BRÜKA PRESENTS

January 26, 27, 31(A)
February 1, 2, 3, 2024 @ 7:30 PM
SUNDAY Matinees: January 28 &
February 4* @ 2 PM
*Followed by a Talkback with Company

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Senior/Student/Military \$26
General Tickets \$30
All Tickets \$35 at the Door
A = Artist Night \$17 All Tickets

Brüka Theatre • 775-323-3221
99 N. Virginia Street, Reno NV

www.bruka.org



EVERY BRILLIANT THING was first produced by Paines Plough and Pentabus Theatre, on 28 June 2013 at Ludlow Fringe Festival. The play had its North American premiere at Barrow Street Theatre, New York, on 6 December 2014, where it was presented by Barrow Street Theatre and Jean Doumanian Productions.

BRÜKA THEATRE MISSION
"TO CREATE & SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF INNOVATIVE THEATRE."
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN DOWNTOWN RENO

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EVERY BRILLIANT THING**



Too much of anything is bad,
but too much good whiskey is barely enough. - Mark Twain

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**Photo Credit - Dana Nollsch
Mary Bennett in Every Brilliant Thing (Brüka Theatre)**

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Ymi Costumes

DEBORAH MORRISON
COSTUMER

YMICOSTUMES@YAHOO.COM

[linkedin.com/in/deborah-morrison-6b353523](https://www.linkedin.com/in/deborah-morrison-6b353523)



BRÜKA THEATRE

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The Show Must Go On

MAIN STAGE SEASON 2023/24

THE REFLECTIONS OF TARANTULA JONES
CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS
The BIGGEST little Theatre Festival 13
EVERY BRILLIANT THING
THE BOOK OF WILL
KEN LUDWIG'S MOON OVER BUFFALO
SIDE SHOW - THE MUSICAL

BRÜKA THEATRE FOR CHILDREN
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FALL 2023
MOMMA NURTURE & THE BRIGHT SIDES SPRING 2024

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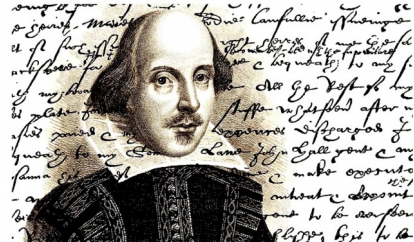
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THE BOOK OF WILL

WRITTEN BY LAUREN GUNDERSON
DIRECTED BY STACEY SPAIN

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BLOOMS

BRÜKA
EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Appropriate for ages 16 & Up
Running Time: Approximately 70 Minutes



DOWNSTAIRS

Feel free to order from Nicky's before and after the show.
A full bar (no ice) includes liquor selections, wine, beer, and snacks.
Restrooms are located downstairs in Sub-Brüka.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

There is elevator access to our basement through the Masonic Building if needed.
We must accompany you, so please check in with our box office for assistance.

PLEASE TURN CELL PHONES OFF!

VIDEOTAPING, VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHY, OR AUDIO ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

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<https://www.renriver.org/>

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ADVISORY:

Every Brilliant Thing is suitable for ages 16 and up. Mature Themes. This play deals with suicide and its effects on those left behind.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

All The Amazing Things The Universe Has To Offer
Written by Duncan Macmillan With Jonny Donahoe
Directed By Holly Natwora Featuring Mary Bennett

January 26, 27, 31(A) February 1, 2, 3, 2024 @ 7:30 PM
SUNDAY Matinees: January 28 & February 4* @ 2 PM
Only 8 Performances!

RUNNING TIME: 70 ISH MINUTES * NO INTERMISSION

CAST

PERFORMERMARY BENNETT

CREATIVES & CREW

PRODUCER MARY BENNETT
DIRECTOR HOLLY NATWORA
STAGE MANAGER KAITLYNN COOPER
PROP MASTER/CREW OF LOVE ROSE SAMBRANO
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - SOUND OPERATION & LIGHTING DESIGN DAVID SIMPSON
ORIGINAL SET (LOOKING GLASS LOUNGE) LEWIS ZAUMEYER
NICKY'S/CREW OF LOVE RILEY MCKINNEY, JESSEY RICHARDS
SPECIAL THANKS TRACY VUCOVICH, KAYDENCE LANGSTAFF, THE WILD RIVER GRILLE, ALI PAULETTO

BRÜKA THEATRE

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARY BENNETT
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR DAVID SIMPSON
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR HOLLY NATWORA
BOOKKEEPER SUE KEPHART
DRAMATURG JESSICA JOHNSON
COMPANY MANAGER KAITLYNN COOPER
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT KRISTINA WORTHLEY
COMPANY PHOTOGRAPHY BILL QUINBY & DANA NOLLSCH
POSTER DESIGN MICHAEL GRIMM
NEON ART JEFF JOHNSON
BRÜKA THEATRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DELORES AIAZZI,
PEGGY JONES, MICHAEL PETERS, WESTON SPANN, KRISTI STENQUIST,
BOB WHITEFIELD, LEWIS ZAUMEYER
BRÜKA SPECIAL THANKS JEFF JOHNSON, G3
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BRÜKA THEATRE MISSION
TO CREATE & SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF INNOVATIVE THEATRE

ABOUT BRÜKA THEATRE

Brüka Theatre is celebrating its 31st season of live theatre in downtown Reno. Brüka's theme for the 2023/2024 season is: "The Show Must Go On" embracing the excitement and magic of live theatre alongside the fun and challenges that go with creating a show. As an artistic leader in the region, Brüka is recognized for innovative productions, exceptionally talented artists and acclaimed Theatre for Children touring series since its founding in 1992. Central to Brüka is the commitment to the re-investigation of contemporary and classic plays and developing new plays within Brüka's Artistic Collective, a group that includes winners of the Nevada Arts Council and Sierra Arts Foundation artist grants and nine local best actor honors. Brüka was named "Best Theatre Company" by Reno News and Review for twenty-one years. Brüka is a non-equity, small, not-for-profit member theater company and affiliate of the national TCG (Theatre Communications Group). Brüka Theatre has produced over 200 shows in our downtown Reno location. Sign up for our newsletter by going to our website at www.brüka.org.

If you are associated with a **local charity** that you believe in and would fit with our season line-up, please reach out to marybruka@gmail.com and we will do our best to access and serve the needs while we enhance the experiences of the organizations.

PRICES: General admission: \$30. Admission for Students/Seniors/Military: \$26. All tickets are \$35 at the door. Artist Night Tickets are \$17. Additional Ticket fees will be incurred on all online and phone ticket transactions.

REQUIREMENTS DUE TO COVID - 19: If you are feeling sick or feel that you have been exposed to COVID - 19 please use precautions, communicate and wear a mask to the theatre so as not to expose others to illness. We appreciate your understanding and support as we continue to navigate keeping our theatre safe and a vital part of the Reno community. We reserve the right to change these protocols based on CDC guidelines. All ticket holders will be notified well in advance if changes arise.

RESERVATIONS are available in person through the Brüka Box Office (775) 323-3221, online at www.brüka.org or at the Melting Pot World Emporium @ their location: 1049 S. Virginia Street, Reno. Our box office is open Thursday through Saturday from 3-6 PM and on Wednesdays by appointment. We are closed on most holidays. Our 2023/2024 Season Tickets are on sale beginning September 1, 2023. Individual tickets go on sale the Monday after the previous show closes. Check us out at www.brüka.org. All Brüka mainstage evening shows begin at 7:30 PM. Matinees begin at 2:00 PM. Doors open 30 minutes before curtain time. There is NO late seating and all ticket sales are final.

PARKING: Court Street parking lot across from The Pioneer Theater. FREE after 5:00 PM weekdays and NO CHARGE on weekends. We validate parking at the Parking Gallery on First and Sierra Street.



BRÜKA THEATRE INCLUDES: Holly Natwora - Operations Director, Mary Bennett - Producing Artistic Director, David Simpson - Technical Director
Photo Credit: Bill Quinby

BRÜKA THEATRE - 31 YEARS OF LIVE THEATRE

As we reflect back on our 30 years, we champion the incredible dedication of our staff, board of directors, actors, directors, stage managers, crews, writers, costumers, set designers, lighting & sound designers, graphic artists, business partners, supporters, foundations, community leaders, volunteers and our patrons, who have helped to keep us here, through thick and thin, good and challenging times and have kept the dream of producing, creating and presenting live theatre that flourishes in downtown Reno.

Cheers & respect to all who have gone before us and to those who may follow in our footsteps. It is an honor to serve the community by producing and creating for Brüka Theatre.

In great love & appreciations,
Mary Bennett
Producing Artistic Director
Brüka Theatre

THE STORY BEHIND "EVERY BRILLIANT THING"

The making of *Every Brilliant Thing* from 2009-2013
Shared from the Paines Plough Guide

"The way Duncan tells it, *Every Brilliant Thing* began as a favour. Rosie, an actress in his first play, came up to him on their final night. She was in two scenes but had no lines and was required to keep her back to the audience.

After the performance, she took his face in her hands and said: 'You owe me.' A few months later he was invited to write a short play for The Miniaturists and it seemed like a good opportunity to repay the favour. He wrote her a monologue.

Having been in a play where she said nothing, she was now able to stand on stage and talk constantly for fifteen minutes which, knowing Rosie, suited her much better.

As the girl grows up, so does the list. It takes on a life of its own, other people start adding to it, writing in the margins, making amendments, providing footnotes. The purpose of the list is forgotten and her mother's depression doesn't go away.

Eventually, as a grown woman, she reaches her self-imposed target of one million entries.

She calls the list 'Every Brilliant Thing'. People who heard Rosie read the monologue enjoyed it greatly and so over the next few months, she was asked to perform it again and again at different theatres.

A little while after that, Duncan was invited by Paines Plough to perform something he'd written as part of LATER, which was a monthly event conceived by Mark Ravenhill, where playwrights would read or perform their own work. Duncan decided to read SLEEVE NOTES, and set about changing anything gender specific and making the list in the story feel a bit more macho.

3675. Shoes became

3675. Marlon Brando

I really liked how he performed it. It felt honest. Autobiographical maybe. Despite not particularly having enjoyed the experience of performing it the first time round, he reluctantly relented and agreed. I noticed once more how the simplicity, warmth and hope of the story moved people.

Check out the full story at from the
Portland Center Stage at the Armory

<https://www.pcs.org/features/the-story-behind-every-brilliant-thing>



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is not often a script of this significance and an actor of this magnitude come together to create an evening of truly brilliant theatre... but here we are. *Every Brilliant Thing* and Mary Bennett will reach you in ways that are unexpected and profoundly moving as they deal with a subject, which unfortunately, affects the families of over 50, 000 Americans each year. Suicide and its aftermath remain the last social taboo, rarely spoken about and often hidden by the friends and family left behind. Theatre at its best should pull back the curtain and shed light on the struggles we all face as we try to navigate this fantastic voyage called life. We are reminded as we watch *Every Brilliant Thing* that we are not alone, nor do we have to suffer in silence the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. To be or not to be is a question most of us will ask at some point in our lives. This play gives us hope and reminds us that things do in fact get better. They might not always get brilliant. But they get better. ~ Holly Natwora

If you or someone you love is contemplating suicide, there are organizations which can help.

Suicide Prevention Resource Center: <https://sprc.org/>

988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline: <https://988lifeline.org/> or call 988.

For children who need help with the loss of a loved one you can contact The Solace Tree: <https://www.solacetree.org/>



2003 ~ 21 Years ~ 2024

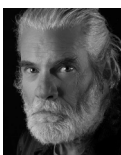
SUPPORTING GRIEVING CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS

BRÜKA THEATRE CREATIVES



MARY BENNETT - BRÜKA THEATRE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mary Bennett's training and performances include American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco), Bay Area TheaterSports, Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) Dell'Arte International Theatre Company, New York Stage & Film, B Street Theater, Reno Philharmonic, Reno Jazz Orchestra, Sierra Nevada Ballet, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, and Kennedy Center training as a teaching artist, Arts Integration Specialist and mentor. Currently, Producing Artistic Director of Brüka Theatre & Theater Artist-in-Residence with Nevada Arts Council and Sierra Arts Foundation. Her *Dorothy Parker...Shivering and Sighing* won Best of The San Francisco Fringe Festival, and was performed in NYC, June, 2017. Named "Best Actor" in Reno News & Review ten times. She organizes and artistically directs the Carson City Ghost Walk and has appeared on screen, most recently in Nowhere Nevada and Dear George, and commissioned for solo shows with NAMI and The Nevada Museum Of Art. Mary is currently the drama instructor at Doral Academy.



DAVID SIMPSON, BRÜKA THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

David Simpson, born in Reno, Hug High School graduate, learned the art of photography during five years in the Navy as a Photographer's Mate aboard the U.S.S. Constellation. In the early 90's he was introduced to theatre in Modesto, CA and has been involved since "sometimes immersed in it, sometimes not [with] various duties, a few roles, numerous venues, a lot of shows." At Brüka, Dave brings stage productions to life through his lighting and sound expertise. Artists and audiences throughout the region have benefited from his tireless work ethic and attention to detail when building a world on stage with sight and sound.



HOLLY NATWORA – DIRECTOR/ BRÜKA OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Holly Natwora received her MFA from Columbia University in NYC and has acted in over 75 plays including two summers at Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival, touring The Caucasian Chalk Circle in Berlin, Germany and performing as Lady Macbeth in the first ever New York Fringe. Holly has also appeared in television and film, most notably in Law & Order and Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Since moving to Reno in 2005, she has performed or directed at the Brüka Theatre, Reno Little Theatre, Good Luck Macbeth, and TheatreWorks of Northern Nevada. Holly currently teaches Theatre at Truckee Meadows Community College and Shakespeare for Social Justice at High Desert State Prison. She is the Operations Director at Brüka Theatre-her theatrical home.



KAITLYNN COOPER - BRÜKA COMPANY MANAGER/STAGE MANAGER

Kaitlynn is our company manager at Brüka, overseeing human resource details and working behind the scenes and as stage manager for many of Brüka's productions including *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *The Crucible*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Anne Frank*, *Clue*, *Mr. Burns*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Dollhouse 2*, multiple *Buttcrackers*, *Kinky Boots*, and *The Reflections of Tarantula Jones*. She is an English teacher at McQueen High School.

BRÜKA THEATRE CREATIVES



LEWIS ZAUMEYER - SET DESIGNER/ BRÜKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A practicing Architect and Artist, I have been enthusiastically involved at Brüka Theater since 1997, Acting, doing Set Design and Construction, Directing and serving on the Non-Profit Board of Directors. I've worked on almost every project since I showed up and a quite a few memorable acting projects include *Hair*, *King Lear*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Cabaret*, *Buried Child*, *The Underpants*, *Metamorphosis*, *Irma Vep*, *The Goat*, *Richard III*, *MacBeth*, then most recently *Tooth of Crime*, *Stupid Fucking Bird* & *Acknaton*.



SUE KEPHART - BRÜKA BOOKKEEPER Bookkeeper and QuickBooks expert, Sue began by volunteering for the organization. She continues to upgrade the accounting systems used in Brüka Theatre and other businesses around town.



KRISTINA WORTHLEY - BRÜKA PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Kristina is the assistant to the producer. Brüka is a place she calls home. Kristina has performed at many theaters around Reno. She attended UNLV to earn a bachelors in English with a minor in Theater Arts. Kristina is a high school teacher at Spanish Springs High School. She teaches a program that provides life skills, job training, career and trade skills, and problem solving skills.



ROSE SAMBRANO - PROP MASTER

This is Rose's Assistant Director debut with Bruka. She has worked on projects with Bruka such as *Kinky Boots* and *Reflections of Tarantula Jones*. She is extremely grateful for this opportunity and thankful to Mary for the trust.



RILEY MCKINNEY -NICKY'S/CREW OF LOVE

Riley has been working with Brüka since she graduated high school in 2015. You've seen her in many *Buttcrackers*, *The Crucible*, *Green Show*, and serving drinks at Nickey's! Riley is a 2020 graduate of UNR with a degree in theater where you may have seen her as the titular *Eurydice* or Assistant Directing *Twelfth Night*.



JESSEY RICHARDS - NICKY'S/CREW OF LOVE

Jessey as been working with Brüka both on and off stage since 2013. You most recently saw him as Jov Bon Johnnie in *Buttcracker: Rockstar!* You may have also seen him in *Nation Of Two*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and a plethora of other shows! He is currently in Brüka touring Theatre For Children, *The Paramount* and *Sometimes Wildly Ridiculous History of Nevada*.



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\$310 DOLLARS
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2023/2024 Season



GOAL: \$31,000

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~ MARGARET MEADE

Thank You

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PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING BRÜKA THEATRE

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PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR FRIENDS OF BRÜKA TODAY

- Neighbor \$100 & under
- Ally \$101 - \$500
- Confidant \$501 - \$1000
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BRÜKA THEATRE

Thirty Wonderful Years

SPRING & SUMMER 2024

THE BOOK OF WILL

The Enduring, Hilarious & Heartfelt Power Of The Bard
March 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 13(A), 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 @ 7:30 PM SUN Matinees: March 10, 17* @ 2 PM

KEN LUDWIG'S MOON OVER BUFFALO

A Screwball Valentine To The Stage
April 26, 27 May 2, 3, 4, 8(A), 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18 @ 7:30 PM SUN Matinees: April 28 & May 5* @ 2 PM

SIDE SHOW - THE MUSICAL

The Search For Love & Acceptance Amidst The Spectacle Of Fame
June 21, 22, 26(A), 27, 28, 29 July 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20 @ 7:30 PM SUN Matinees: June 30 & July 7* @ 2 PM



LIVE THEATRE

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BRÜKA THEATRE FOR CHILDREN
MOMMA NURTURE & THE BRIGHT SIDES - SPRING 2024
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PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A FRIEND OF BRÜKA

Brüka Celebrates 30 Years of Live Theatre. Becoming a donor and a friend supports our programming from our main stage productions, our summer workshops for kids, Master Workshops, our Artist In The House Series, our original works series and our Theatre For Children. Without your support we wouldn't be here. We appreciate your care and patronage so very much. ~ Brüka Theatre.

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Rochlin, Heidemarie
Smith, Michael & Karren
Tenney, Elizabeth

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Aiazzi, Dave & DeLores
Great Basin Brewing Company
The Solace Tree
The Wild River Grille

In Memory

Dunn, Kahele
Hull, Lady
Lear, Moya
Martin, Jim
Plunkett, Tommy
Tenney, Jim

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The Nevada Arts Council
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Young, Mona

Brüka Theatre is a Proud Member of:



BRÜKA THEATRE 2023/2024 SEASON SURVEY

1. How many shows have you seen at Brüka?
2. Where are you from? City: State: Postal Code:
3. Please check your opinion of our theatre based on our unique ratings scale:
*One of the great highlights of my existence *Excellent – just can't get enough *Great ~ I go if I can, but I'm a busy person *I'm a middle of the road person. * I could take it or leave it. *I am underwhelmed
4. How did you hear about our production? (Please circle that apply)
*I'm on the mailing list * Word of mouth * Website
* Newspapers (News & Review, Reno Gazette, Sparks Tribune, NV Appeal, Other) * Radio * Another way:
5. How did you get tickets for this production? (Please circle)
Season Tickets. * Purchased them online * Purchased at the Melting Pot World Emporium
* Purchased through the Brüka Box office by phone * Through the Brüka Box Office in person * They were a gift
* Another way: _____

6. What is your age? (Please Circle any that apply)
*0–20 * 21-30 * 31-40 *41–50 * 51–60 *61–70 * 71....

7. Male or Female?

8. Where do you park?

9. What is your favorite Brüka show? VGT6

10. What show would you like to see produced at Brüka?

11. Your feedback/comments:

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL: _____

Forms may be dropped off at the box office desk or can be mailed back to Brüka. (99 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89501 or faxed to 775.323.8209) If you include your information you will be entered into a drawing to win a gift certificate to a Brüka Show. Drawings held at the end of the run of each show.

Thank you for taking the time. We are listening.

FILL IT OUT ONLINE AT: <https://forms.gle/167enmwZh9vk6fjC7>