

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Writers: Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe

Performer: James Rowland

Director: George Perrin



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**PAINES
PLOUGH**

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Paines Plough & Pentabus Theatre Company

Q THEATRE, RANGATIRA

TUESDAY 21 MARCH-WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 6.30PM

THURSDAY 23 MARCH-FRIDAY 24 MARCH 7.30PM

SATURDAY 25 MARCH 6.30PM

SUNDAY 26 MARCH 3.00PM

1 HOUR NO INTERVAL

Great artists cause controversy, start revolutions and little by little change the world. Festivals like ours are a catalyst for change creating opportunities for artists to communicate with audiences and audiences to respond to artists' work. Throughout the Festival you will find small threads that deal with our world today. We hope that the work in the Festival can make you think, laugh, scream a little and perhaps even cry.

David and I saw *Every Brilliant Thing* together a couple of years ago in Edinburgh. We were both extremely taken by the work. It reminds us to think about the positive things in life – and this year, I too have needed that list of every good thing in life. For me things like diving through salty waves, the smell of the west coast beach and cut grass and many more things remind me that life is good.

The Festival's CEO David Inns (my partner and collaborator of many years), our Board and staff, hope you have a fabulous Festival. We hope that you enjoy the beauty and complexity of the art presented and value its importance in our society. Join the revolution.

Carla van Zon, David Inns and the Festival Team

ABOUT THE SHOW

You're seven years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's 'done something stupid'. She finds it hard to be happy. You make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Everything worth living for.

1. Ice cream
2. Water fights
3. Staying up past your bedtime and being allowed to watch TV
4. The colour yellow
5. Things with stripes
6. Rollercoasters
7. People falling over

A play about depression and the lengths we go to for those we love.

Based on true and untrue stories.

#EveryBrilliantThing

@painesplough | @pentabustheatre

"Heart-wrenching, hilarious...possibly one of the funniest plays you'll ever see, full stop."

★★★★ The Guardian

"Captivating...guaranteed to keep your eyes brimming... often very funny... takes the chill off the depths of a light-starved winter."

New York Times

"Funny, clever, and surprisingly uplifting."

★★★★ The Telegraph

GET SUPPORT

www.mentalhealth.org.nz

[www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addictions/
working-prevent-suicide](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addictions/working-prevent-suicide)

WRITER'S NOTE

Duncan Macmillan: It's hard to talk about this show without spoilers, either about the story or about the experience of the show. If someone described this show, I think I'd find it very off-putting. Its title sounds like a kids' show, but it's actually a grown-up comedy about suicidal depression with audience participation throughout. Put like that, I wouldn't want to see the show myself. How do you describe *Every Brilliant Thing* to people who haven't seen it? What do you think people should expect going in to this show?

Jonny Donahoe: It is tricky. One (very positive) review in New York started by listing all the reasons you shouldn't want to see *Every Brilliant Thing* – it's about depression, it's a one-man show with audience participation, the 'one man' in question is British ... the list of 'negatives' was endless. But, in fact, it's not a difficult show to experience and you'll only be part of the interaction if that's something you want to do. And it is funny, so I try to tell people it's the funniest thing you'll ever see about the least funny thing in the world.

Duncan Macmillan: I don't think I've laughed as much, making a piece of work, as I have with this show. And yet we had quite a seriousness of purpose. We wanted to talk about depression in a way that was accurate and which didn't alienate an audience. Considering how common depression is, it's surprising how much stigma there still is around it, how reluctant people are to discuss it. We kept reminding ourselves of the aims of the piece – to make people feel okay to talk and think about depression, to talk about it responsibly and accurately, and to provide a few tools with which to think and talk about it. That sounds quite worthy now I say it out loud. But we mean it!

Jonny Donahoe: We really do. You cannot get through life without an experience of depression, whether that means suffering from it yourself or knowing a loved one who is going through it. So talking about depression is absolutely vital but it's a bloody difficult thing to do. Hopefully we've built something that makes that just a tiny bit easier. But if you're reading this and about to experience the play for the very first time, don't concern yourself with any of that – just come with us and enjoy the story.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Paines Plough is the UK's national theatre of new plays. We commission and produce the best playwrights and tour their plays far and wide. Whether you're in Liverpool or Lyme Regis, Scarborough or Southampton, a Paines Plough show is coming to a theatre near you soon.

Paines Plough was formed in 1974 over a pint of Paines bitter in the Plough pub. Since then we've produced more than 130 new productions by world renowned playwrights like Stephen Jeffreys, Abi Morgan, Sarah Kane, Mark Ravenhill, Dennis Kelly and Mike Bartlett. We've toured those plays to hundreds of places from Manchester to Moscow to Maidenhead.

www.painesplough.com



We are the nation's rural theatre company.

Our mission is to develop and produce quality new theatre about the contemporary rural world. To tour the country with plays that have local impact and national resonance. To turn up in people's village halls, theatres and digital backyards, connecting audiences nationwide.

Over four decades we've produced 150 new plays, supported 100 playwrights and reached over half a million audience members. We've won awards, pioneered live-streaming and developed a ground-breaking initiative to nurture young writers from rural backgrounds.

Over the next four decades we'll tour further than ever before, work with new and established playwrights, extend our young writers' programme and continue to push at the boundaries of what theatre can be.

Pentabus is a registered charity (number 287909). We rely on the generosity of our donors, small and large, to help us to make brilliant new theatre.

www.pentabus.co.uk

PERFORMER



JAMES ROWLAND

James has performed in Theatre, Radio and Television. Recently he has done lots of immersive theatre including *The Crystal Maze*, *Heist* and *You Once Said Yes*. He has also performed musical comedy under the stage name 'James Rowland' and is a member of the cabaret band *The Idiot Circus*. He performed his debut storytelling show *Team Viking* in London and Edinburgh

and won The Origins Award (Vault Festival, 2016).

Up-coming

100 DIFFERENT WORDS FOR LOVE (James Rowland) Vault Festival 2017.
EVERY BRILLIANT THING (Paines Plough), International Tour.

Previous

THE CRYSTAL MAZE (Little Lion Entertainment) Angel, 2016-2017.
TEAM VIKING (James Rowland) Vault Festival and Just The Tonic, 2016.
HEIST (Difference Engine) Theatre Delicatessen, 2015.
THE DRAGON (Southwark Playhouse) 2015.
YOU ONCE SAID YES (Look Left Look Right) Roundhouse 2012,
Edinburgh 2013, Perth International Festival 2014.
NIGHTMARE LIVE (Electric Talent), Edinburgh and Southbank (inc. National Tours) Current-2013.

BIOGRAPHIES



Duncan Macmillan

Writer

Duncan Macmillan is an award-winning playwright, whose work includes the acclaimed adaptation of George Orwell's *1984* (Headlong/Nottingham Playhouse, UK tour, Almeida Theatre and West End), *Reise durch die Nacht* adapt. Friederike Mayröcker (created with Katie Mitchell and Lyndsey Turner,

Schauspielhaus Köln), *Lungs* (Paines Plough), *Don Juan Comes Back from the War* adapt. Ödön von Horváth (Finborough Theatre), *Monster* (Royal Exchange/ Manchester International Festival) and *Eugene O'Neill* (adapt), *I Wish to Apologise for My Part in the Apocalypse*, *So Say All of Us* and *Family Tree* (all BBC Radio).



Jonny Donahoe **Co-Writer**

Jonny Donahoe is an actor, comedian and writer, best known as the front man of comedy-band, *Jonny & the Baptists*. As a comedian, he has toured across the UK, Ireland and Europe. Credits include *The Now Show*, *Sketchorama*, *The Comedy Club* and *Infinite Monkey Cage* (Radio 4). Television credits include *Every Brilliant Thing* (HBO/World of Wonder), *Live from TV Centre* (BAC/BBC TV Centre), *Fresh from the Fringe* (BBC TV) and *The Gadget Show* (Channel 5). Theatre credits include *Marcus Brigstocke's Early Edition* (Latitude Festival and 2012 Edinburgh International Festival) and *Nine Lessons and Carols for Godless People* (Bloomsbury Theatre).



George Perrin **Director**

George is joint Artistic Director of Paines Plough and was formerly joint Artistic Director of nabokov. Directing credits for Paines Plough include: *Love, Lies and Taxidermy* by Alan Harris, *Growth* by Luke Norris, *I Got Superpowers For My Birthday* by Katie Douglas (Roundabout season 2016, Edinburgh Festival Fringe and national tour), *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe (national and international tour/Barrow Street Theater, New York), *The Silver Drills* by Robin French (BBCRadio4), *Lungs* by Duncan Macmillan, *The Human Ear* and *The Initiate* by Alexandra Wood, *Our Teacher's a Troll* by Dennis Kelly (Roundabout season 2014/15, Edinburgh Festival Fringe/national tour), *Not the Worst Place* by Sam Burns (Sherman Cymru/ Theatr Clwyd); *Sea Wall* by Simon Stephens (Dublin Theatre Festival/ National Theatre Shed); *Good With People* by David Harrower (59East59Theatres New York/Traverse/Òran Mór), *London* by Simon Stephens (national tour), *Sixty Five Miles* by Matt Hartley (Hull Truck), *The 8th* by Che Walker and Paul Heaton (Latitude Festival/Barbican/Manchester International Festival/national tour), *DIG* by Katie Douglas (Òran Mór/national tour) and *Juicy Fruits* by Leo Butler (Òran Mór/ national tour). As Trainee Associate Director of Paines Plough, directing credits include: *House of Agnes* by Levi David Addai, *The Dirt Under the Carpet* by Rona Munro, *Crazy Love* by Che Walker, *My Little Heart Dropped in Coffee* by Duncan Macmillan and *Babies* by Katie Douglas. Directing credits for nabokov include: *2nd May 1997* by Jack Thorne (Bush); *Terre Haute* by Edmund White (59East59 Theatres New York/ West End/ national tour/Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Festival Fringe); *Is Everyone OK?* And *Public Displays of Affection* by Joel Horwood and *Camarilla* by Van Badham (nabokov).

CORE FUNDERS



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