



Powerful theatre, mental health awareness – “Every Brilliant Thing”

A funny and moving play, *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe is a powerful piece of theatre about Depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love. After being told that her Mum can't think of anything worth living for, a little girl begins a list of everything brilliant about the world; everything worth living for. At seven years old, her list includes things like ice cream, being allowed to stay up past your bed time and things with stripes. As the little girl grows up, the entries mature along with her and as the list grows, she learns the deep significance it has on her own life. “Every Brilliant Thing” has been performed around the world and comes to Sullivan County in the way of a fundraiser and awareness raiser for NAMI Sullivan County, NY, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness for a limited engagement in various venues around the County. Its premiere local performance will be co-sponsored by SUNY Sullivan and held on the Loch Sheldrake campus on April 15th. Subsequent performances will be held on May 1st to kick off Mental Health Month at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and then as a joint fundraiser for NAMI Sullivan and Orange Counties on May 6th at the Thrall Library in Middletown. Another Sullivan County performance is slated for late July, details to be announced, pending rights.

The show shines hilarious and compassionate light in dark corners of the human condition, and the way in which the creators have constructed the performance is refreshingly theatrical. A reminder that hope is never truly lost, the show is a testament to the healing power of storytelling. While it is a one character show, the audience is given snippets of the list to help tell the story. There are no bright lights with the people sitting in the dark – it's an immersive experience; the lights are kept up all the way through and the audience shares in something meaningful as a room full of people becoming a community. “Every Brilliant Thing” is directed and performed by Lori Schneider who is the Executive Director of NAMI Sullivan County, NY and has been involved in local Community Theatre for over three decades as an award-winning director and actress. She combines her passions for mental health advocacy and for theatre in bringing this important show to local audiences.

The SUNY Sullivan performance will be held on Sunday, April 15th at 2:00 pm in the Kaplan Student Union of SUNY Sullivan, 112 College Road in Loch Sheldrake. The Bethel Woods performance will be Tuesday, May 1st at 7:00 pm in the Event Gallery at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. On Sunday, May 6th, the Middletown Thrall Library performance will be held at 2:00 pm. Meant to be played in an intimate, “theatre in the round” setting, seating is limited and general admission is \$20. Tickets will be available at the door, but reservations are suggested. The production is not recommended for children under the age of 16. All proceeds stay local and go to benefit NAMI Sullivan County, NY and are earmarked for hands-on initiatives for people recovering from serious mental illness and their families. If other NAMI affiliates would be interested in a joint fundraiser with NAMI Sullivan, contact Lori for additional information at (845) 794-1029 or NAMIOfSullivan@gmail.com *Every Brilliant Thing* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. For information or to make a reservation, phone (845) 794-1029.

NAMI Sullivan County, NY
THE COUNTY'S VOICE ON MENTAL ILLNESS
Presents as a Fund Raiser

You're seven years old. Mum's in the hospital. Dad says she finds it hard to be happy.
So you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world.
Everything worth living for. A heart-wrenching, hilarious play...one of the funniest plays you'll ever see about Depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love.

"Charming...captivating..."
- New York Times

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Tuesday, May 1st
7:00 pm
Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Event Gallery
\$20
General Admission

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN

Directed and Performed by
Lori Schneider

By **Duncan Macmillan**
with Jonny Donahoe

HOSTED BY
Bethel Woods
CENTER FOR THE ARTS
At the historic site of the 1967 Woodstock Festival

PROCEEDS STAY LOCAL AND GO TO BENEFIT NAMI Sullivan County, NY
Information/Reservations: (845) 794-1029

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.

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THE COUNTY'S VOICE ON MENTAL ILLNESS
Presents as a Fund Raiser
Co-Sponsored by SUNY Sullivan

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- New York Times

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Sunday, April 15th
2:00 pm
SUNY Sullivan
Kaplan Student Union
\$20
General Admission*

* SUNY Sullivan Students
First 25 Students Admitted FREE
Afterward, \$5/Student

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN

Directed and Performed by
Lori Schneider

By **Duncan Macmillan**
with Jonny Donahoe

HOSTED BY
SUNY SULLIVAN

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