

**HORIZON**  
THEATRE COMPANY

**"CHARMING! CAPTIVATING!"**

—NEW YORK TIMES

# EVERY Brilliant THING

by Duncan MacMillan  
with Jonny Donahoe



Shelby Hoffer • Megan Hayes • O'Neil Delapenha

**JAN 28-FEB 27, 2022** • Press Opening: Feb 4

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**At Horizon, we seek to bring you new plays that connect us to each other, our communities and the world; stories that make us laugh, cry and think.**

Whether funny or provocative, inspiring or challenging, suspenseful or celebratory, the plays bring us together with fresh perspectives on ourselves and our world. And in our intimate space, the audience and actors are part of a unique shared experience that we hope lifts you or fills you in a way that you can't quite do with your screen at home.



**You are our intelligent, generous and adventurous audiences, who make Horizon possible.**

It's an audacious act—supporting high quality, intimate theatre for our community by artists who live and work here. By “buying local”, you support jobs here in Atlanta for artists, administrators and technicians—people who contribute to our community on and off stage. **Whether you are in the audience today for the first time or for the one hundredth, we thank you for choosing to spend a few precious hours with us in our artistic**

**home. If you're lifted, tell a few people about it. And come back and see us again!**

**—LISA AND JEFF ADLER,**  
Co-Founders and Co-Artistic Directors

Pictured (from top): TC Carson & Brittany Inge in **BLACKBERRY DAZE** • The cast of **CITIZENS MARKET** • Abby Holland & Jennifer Alice Acker in **FREAKY FRIDAY**



**We welcome your feedback, volunteer assistance, or contributions.**

Horizon Theatre Company, PO Box 5376, Atlanta, GA 31107  
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# EVERY *Brilliant* THING

BY **DUNCAN MACMILLAN**

WITH **JONNY DONAHOE**

DIRECTED BY **JEFF ADLER**

Scenic & Properties Designers

**MORIAH CURLEY-CLAY\*\***  
**ISABEL CURLEY-CLAY\*\***

Lighting Designer

**MARY PARKER**

Costume Designer

**HEIDI CLINE MCKERLEY**

Sound Designer

**THOM JENKINS**

Properties Master

**ALEXIS MCKAY**

Interim Stage Manager

**SALLY EGGLESTON**

Stage Managers

**ASHLEY BINGHAM**  
**SHIRA LEBOVICH**

These actors will be performing the play's sole role in rotation:

**O'NEIL DELAPENHA**

**MEGAN HAYES**

**SHELBY HOFER**

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**This play is presented without an intermission.**

*Taking pictures or making recordings of any kind during the performance is prohibited.*

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EVERY BRILLIANT THING is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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 Domanian Productions.

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The Designers at this Theatre  
are Supplemented by  
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Horizon Theatre Company is a professional, nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation.

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Scenic Charge.....	ASHLEY BINGHAM
Master Electrician.....	AIDAN CROWE
Electricians.....	NOAH AUTEN, STEPHEN BROYLES
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## A NOTE FROM THE CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Welcome back! It's been a long 22 months!** None of us would have ever guessed it would be that long when we closed our doors due to COVID just a week after the end of our triumphant production of *Once* in March 2020!

We adapted quickly to the new world. We immediately moved our programming online through our **Horizon at Home** platform. We became expert at Zoom shows and video and experimented with using the talents of our artists in many new ways – a cooking show (***Cooking Ala Lala***), talk shows, classes, live performances on Zoom, hybrid video/live performances, full productions on video, serial shows (***Southbound: True Life Tales from the Atl and Beyond*** – now performing live at Horizon, next episode Monday, Feb 28 and hosted by *Every Brilliant Thing* star Megan Hayes), and more. Many of these shows are still available on our website: [horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home](http://horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home). **We were thrilled to be awarded the *Atlanta Magazine's* Best of Atlanta 2020 Award for Best Virtual Programming.**

**And we invested deeply in creating new work and new artists for our future.** We worked with over 100 artists on short-form performance shows, introducing us to new talent – including actor/writer/director O'Neil Delapenha who is one of our performers in *Every Brilliant Thing*. We created our **New Georgia Woman Project: Black Women Speak** ([horizontheatre.com/black-women-speak](http://horizontheatre.com/black-women-speak)), commissioning 9 Black Southern women writers to create new plays based on conversations with black women of Atlanta in Zoom “coffee chats”. And we commissioned **Associate Artist Thomas W. Jones II** to write a new musical based on the famed **Royal Peacock Lounge** on Auburn Avenue and its colorful founder Carrie Cunningham. You can look for public readings of these plays this spring and summer.

**We are deeply grateful to all of our loyal donors and subscribers** who helped us maintain our staff and programming during this time. Thank you especially to all of you who helped advocate for the national **Shuttered Venue Operators Grant**. This grant saved Horizon and American theatre, music, and dance organizations across the nation from closing their doors permanently. **And now we are back with our 38<sup>th</sup> season!** We thank you for choosing to be with us, for getting vaccinated and for wearing your mask. Theatre survives despite all obstacles.

This is the perfect play to re-open our theatre. **It's intimate, personal, funny, poignant and all about how we survive through dark times by remembering life's small joys. Isn't that how we've all come through this together?** We are here, gathered in a circle, looking at each other, participating in the show and connecting with each other and the actor in a way you can only do at live theatre.

**This show is about a list of everything brilliant in the world – everything that makes life worth living.** And how that list, which the storyteller begins as a child, takes on a life of its own over decades. It's filled with humor, joy, and hope, even though it tackles the topic of mental health and its legacy in a family. And, yes, the audience helps tell the story. But it's easy! You just get to interpret parts of the list – it's your chance to shine! We hope you will leave feeling moved, uplifted, more connected to your loved ones, and appreciative of the small miracles that make life worth living every day.

**This is a one-person show – so why 3 actors?** First, we loved all of these talented actors, and the playwright encourages the role to be played by anyone – any sex, race or age. Second, we needed to be COVID safe and make sure the show could keep running. So, these three actors are rotating in the role, each performing about 3 shows a week. We also hope to take the play to other locations in the future – so let us know if you know an organization or community where the show might reach new audiences in a new small venue.

**If you enjoy the show, please help spread the word. And consider coming back!** Every night will be a different experience, with each actor and audience bringing their own stamp to the play. So come back and see it again with one of the other actors!

**What are your brilliant things? What makes life worth living? Add to our list in the lobby and/or email [htcbrilliantlist@gmail.com](mailto:htcbrilliantlist@gmail.com). We would like to reach 1,000 brilliant things to share with you!**

**Lisa Adler, Co-Artistic Director**



## ABOUT THE CAST



**O'NEIL DELAPENHA** is an actor, director, and all-around storyteller currently based in Atlanta. He's originally from South Florida and received his BFA degree in acting from the New World School of

the Arts. Previous acting credits include James T in *Barbecue* at Portland Playhouse, Candy Corn and other characters in *The Ghosts of Little Five Points* at Horizon Theatre Company, and Parolles in *All's Well That Ends Well* at The Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse. O'Neil believes that the best stories are the ones that shift and mold around the very people bearing witness to them. That shared experience is what truly bridges the gap between audience and performer. Which is why, after reading the script once, he knew he wanted to be a part of this show—to help create and share in those experiences. You may also catch O'Neil onstage at The Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse, performing as Lord Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet* select nights throughout the month of February. IG: @oneild14.



**MEGAN HAYES** is thrilled to return to Horizon Theatre for *Every Brilliant Thing*. Hayes is an award-winning writer, storyteller, and actor. She has appeared at the Horizon in *Waffle Palace Christmas*, *Sex with*

*Strangers*, *Tree* and *The Santaland Diaries* to name a few. Her film and television credits include *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, Emmy-nominated *Dolly Parton's Heartstrings: These Old Bones*, *Eastbound & Down*. She currently Co-Hosts Horizon's *Southbound: True Life Tales from the ATL and Beyond* with Brittani Minnieweather. Megan dedicates her performance to the memory of her mom, Sarah.



**SHELBY HOFER** is an actor, writer, and Co-director at PushPush Arts, where she develops distinctive opportunities for artists to explore new ideas and collaborate across the

globe. She has appeared on many stages over the last two decades locally, nationally, and internationally. In Atlanta, her stage performances include multiple productions at Horizon, including *The Good Times Are Killing Me*, *Escape from Happiness*, *Almost Maine*, and *Bad Dates*. Her performances of *101 Humiliating Stories* (Lisa Kron) at PushPush garnered numerous awards including one of the Top 50 Shows of the Decade and a Best Actress award from *Creative Loafing*. Prior to the pandemic, she performed standup for three years while she was creating her most recent project, *High Risk, Baby!*, an autobiographical comedy about a woman's inner child clashing with her grown-up self, as she tempts fate with a journey to an in-vitro clinic in Ukraine. This show marks her eighth at Horizon, and she is thrilled to be back.

## ABOUT THE PLAY

***Every Brilliant Thing* began as an adaptation of a short story by Duncan MacMillan, performed by him and others.** He worked on it for over a decade and several incarnations before it became the full-length play it is today. Actor and stand-up comedian Jonny Donahue eventually took on the role, and it was first produced in this version by Paines Plough and Pentabus Theatre Company in June 2013 at Ludlow Fringe Festival in Great Britain. It premiered off-Broadway at the Barrow Street Theatre in December 2014. Jonny Donahue received a Drama Desk Award nomination for his performance, and both he and writer Duncan Macmillan received Lucille Lortel Award nominations. The show was so well-received that it led to a television adaptation for HBO. The current script was published after two years of revising and performing around the UK and NYC for hundreds of audiences; the play has now been produced by theatres all over the country and the world.

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**DUNCAN MACMILLAN'S** plays include *People, Places and Things* (2015-2017, National Theatre/Wyndham's Theatre, West End); *1984*, adapted from George Orwell (2013-2017, Headlong/Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company, West End, Broadway, international tours, co-adapted/co-directed with Rob Icke); *Every Brilliant Thing* (2013-2017, Paines Plough/Pentabus Theatre, Edinburgh Festival, UK and international tours, HBO); *City of Glass*, adapted from Paul Auster (2017, 59 Productions, HOME, and Lyric Hammersmith); *2071*, co-written with Chris

Rapley (2014-2015, The Royal Court/Hamburg Schauspielhaus); *The Forbidden Zone* (2014-2016, Salzburg Festival and Schaubühne Berlin); *Wunschloses Unglück*, adapted from Peter Handke (2014, Burgtheater Vienna); *Reise Durch Die Nacht*, adapted from Friederike Mayröcker (2012-2014, Schauspiel Köln, Festival d'Avignon, Theatertreffen); *Lungs* (2011-2016, Paines Plough and Sheffield Theatres/Studio Theatre, Washington, DC); and *Monster* (2006, Royal Exchange Theatre).

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**JEFF ADLER** (*Director*) is co-founder and co-artistic/technical director of Horizon Theatre Company. He has directed numerous productions for Horizon including critically acclaimed and popular productions of *Sex with Strangers* by Laura Eason, *The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarias (nominated for a Suzi Award) *Superior Donuts* by Tracey Letts, *The Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris, *Madame Melville* by Richard Nelson, *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonough, and *All in the Timing* and *Mere Mortals* by David Ives. Other Horizon favorites include *Altar Boyz*, *Racing Demon*, *Voir Dire*, *Marvin's Room*, *The Film Society*, *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, *Heathen Valley*, *The Secret Rapture*, *Full Moon*, *Wonder of the World*, and the first production in Georgia of *Almost, Maine*. From 1995-2010, he led the Horizon Theatre Senior Ensemble, an outreach program that trained seniors in acting and playwriting and toured plays by and about seniors. He is in this seventh year serving as the drama teacher for The New School through Horizon's partnership with this innovative intown high school. He also directs Horizon Theatre's technical and production staff and manages the facility. He studied at the Goodman School of Drama and holds a BA in Theatre from Roosevelt University.

**ISABEL CURLEY-CLAY & MORIAH CURLEY-CLAY** (*Scenic & Properties Designers*) are thrilled to be back creating live theatre at Horizon. As resident scenic designers at Horizon, they have designed all of Horizon's sets for the last decade. Some favorite past Horizon designs: *Once*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *Constellations*, and *Cowgirls*. Other recent designs include *Hands Up*, *7 Testaments* - Alliance Theatre, *Reparations* (AUDELCO Award Best Scenic Design, 2019-2020) - Billie Holiday Theatre, *America in One Room*, *My Lord What a Night*, and *The Buddy Holly Story* - Florida Studio Theatre, *Downstairs*, *Hometown Boy* - Actor's Express and *Native Gardens* - Aurora Theatre. Moriah and Isabel are the recipient of multiple Suzi Bass Awards for designs in Atlanta. In addition to designing

scenery in the Atlanta area and in regional theatre around the country, Isabel and Moriah teach scenography at Spelman College and are members of United Scenic Artists 829. [axisstudiosdesign.com](http://axisstudiosdesign.com)

**HEIDI CLINE MCKERLEY** (*Costume Designer*) is a proud Horizon Theatre Artistic Associate and has directed thirty-five projects over 25 years for this incredible company. She will direct *Natsha*, *Pierre* and *the Great Comet of 1812*, coming in September of 2022. Heidi has been fortunate to work with most other professional theatres in Atlanta during her 33 years of living here; including, the Alliance, City Springs, the Jennie T. Anderson Concert Series, Georgia Shakespeare, Atlanta Shakespeare, Aurora Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Ensemble, Actor's Express, Atlanta Lyric, Theatre Emory, Dad's Garage, Fabrefaction, Jewish Theatre of the South, Theatre in the Square, Push Push Theatre, and has been a guest artist for the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, Berry College, Kennesaw State University, the Lagrange Lyric, and the University of Georgia. She designed the costumes for *The Water Coolers* at Horizon and has also designed costumes for 40+ shows at Art Station, Buicentennial Productions, Theatre in the Square, Stage Door Players, Onstage Atlanta, and Soulstice Repertory Ensemble. Heidi is the Co-Producing Artistic Director of Soulstice Repertory Ensemble 2.0 and has been nominated for 13 Suzi Bass Awards, and won for Best Director of a Musical in 2011 for *Avenue Q* at Horizon. Big love to Jeff and my family xoxo!

**MARY PARKER** (*Lighting Designer*) is over the moon to return as resident lighting designer at Horizon. This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year Mary has called Atlanta home. She is very proud to have had the pleasure of designing for almost every professional theatre company in town, as well as several regional theatres throughout the Southeast. Some favorites include: *Book of Will* and *The Royale* at Theatrical Outfit; *Great Gatsby* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre; *Tarzan* and *Ragtime* at Atlanta Lyric; *Les Liaisons* and

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

*Venus in Fur* at Actor's Express. Mary is super grateful to have been nominated and won several awards over the years. "The purpose of art is washing the dust of our daily life off our souls." – Pablo Picasso

**ASHLEY BINGHAM** (*Stage Manager*) is an Atlanta-based artist who specializes in multiple aspects of stage production. She is thrilled to be teaming back up with Horizon to kick off their 2022 season! Notable past productions include *Once* (Horizon), *Shout* (Legacy), *Cabaret* (Market), *Hamlet* (Shakespeare in the Park, Anderson SC), *Heathers* (Market), *Godspell* (Foothills) *The Lower Room* (Lionheart), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Center Stage). She

would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support! [www.ashleybingham.me](http://www.ashleybingham.me)  
IG: @ash\_bingham\_

**SHIRA LEBOVICH** (*Stage Manager*) a graduate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she earned her BFA in Design and Technical Production with a concentration on Stage Management. She spent two years working as a Stage Management intern in Sunny Sarasota Florida at Florida Studio Theatre. She is a recent Atlanta resident and spends her days as a teacher at the Jewish Kids Group. Shira is thrilled to be working on her first project with Horizon Theatre Company.

# Stories that need to be told.

WarnerMedia is proud to support Horizon Theatre Company and their inspirational stories that promote positivity throughout the community.

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**HOSTS**

**Megan Hayes**  
(featured in *Every Brilliant Thing*)

**Brittani Minnieweather**

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**FEATURING** the premiere of a short film *From My Package to Yours* by actor/writer/filmmaker Megan Hayes (Horizon's *Every Brilliant Thing*), writer/actor Topher Payne (Horizon's *The Santaland Diaries*), musical guest Christian Magby (*The Flash*, *One Night in Miami*, Horizon's *Freaky Friday*), and writer/improv artist Isabelle Gilbert.



# CITY LIGHTS

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## ABOUT HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY

**Now in our 38<sup>th</sup> season, Horizon Theatre Company is a professional contemporary theatre that connects people, inspires hope, and promotes positive change through the stories of our times.**

Horizon brings you exciting area and world premieres of contemporary plays from around the world that are smart, funny, provocative, relevant and hopeful. Plays by today's writers, created by Atlanta's best professional actors, directors and designers in our intimate theatre. Since 1983, Horizon has produced over 190 contemporary plays and reaches over 35,000 patrons every year with an adventurous mix of nationally and internationally acclaimed plays and our own Atlanta stories.

Horizon annually offers a mainstage season of 5-7 contemporary plays for diverse Atlanta audiences and a Family Series for younger audiences. Horizon also develops new audiences and artists through our education and play development programs: the New South Play Festival, the New South Young Playwrights Contest and Festival, Horizon In-School Playwriting Workshops, the Horizon Apprentice Company (early career professionals), the Intern Program (for college students) and the high school theatre program at The New School.



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**Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play—**  
**Female:** Marcie Millard, *The Cake*, 2019

**Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play—**  
**Male:** Alan Edwards, *The Cake*, 2019

**Outstanding Production of a Play:**  
*The City of Conversation*, 2016 • *Time Stands Still*, 2012 • *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*, 2010

**Outstanding Production of a Musical:**  
*Avenue Q*, 2011

**Outstanding Featured Actress:**  
Carolyn Cook, *Citizens Market*, 2018  
Leslie Bellair, *The Toxic Avenger*, 2016

**Outstanding Scenic Design:**  
Isabel A. Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay for *Citizens Market*, 2018 • *Elemeno Pea*, 2014  
*Time Stands Still*, 2012 • *Avenue Q*, 2011

**Outstanding Lighting Design:**  
Mary Parker, *Avenue Q*, 2011  
**Outstanding Costume Design:**  
Isabel A. Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay for *The Toxic Avenger*, 2016

**Outstanding Projection Design:**  
Bradley Bergeron for *Project Dawn*, 2018

**Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award:**  
Suehyla El-Attar for *Third Country*, 2013  
Margaret Baldwin for *Night Blooms*, 2010

**ATLANTA THEATRE FANS AWARDS**  
*Time Stands Still*, 2012:  
Best Play, Direction, Leading Actress, & Scenic Design

**CREATIVE LOAFING**  
Best Theatre Company - Critic's Choice

# Applause for Horizon Stars

Horizon would like to thank the real STARS OF HORIZON - the individuals, corporations, foundations, and small businesses who have so generously contributed to our 2021 season and special projects (*names are listed from January 1, 2020 through January 24, 2022*).

If you have made a contribution, and your name is not listed or listed incorrectly please contact Keena Redding, Development Director, at [keena@horizontheatre.com](mailto:keena@horizontheatre.com) or 404.523.1477 ext 114.

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JAN 28-FEB 27  
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by Duncan MacMillan with Jonny Donahoe

## the Light

by Loy Webb

MAR 19-APR 17  
PRESS OPENING: MAR 25

"A DEEPLY INTIMATE PLAY...I SAW TEARS FLOW...I WATCHED COUPLES  
MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER...FURTHER APART." -CHICAGO TRIBUNE

DIRECTED BY MARGUERITE HANNAH

A surprise marriage proposal takes an unexpected turn that upends the world of Genesis and Rashad, forcing them to confront secrets from the past. Featuring two of Atlanta's most dynamic actors, Enoch King and Cynthia Barker, **The Light** is a roller coaster journey of laughter, romance and reckoning that unfolds in real time, peeling away layers of truth, doubt, pain and ultimately, the power of love.

## roe

by Lisa Loomer

MAY 6-JUNE 12  
PRESS OPENING: MAY 13

"GET READY FOR A BIG BRUISING PLAY OF THE  
CONFLICTING IDEAS AND EMOTIONS ROILING AT THE  
CENTER OF THIS DEBATE." -MERCURY NEWS (SAN JOSE, CA)

DIRECTED BY LISA ADLER

In turns shocking, humorous and poignant, **Roe** reflects the fierce debate over Roe vs. Wade through the personal journey of "Jane Roe" herself. This historically sweeping play by award-winning author Lisa Loomer cuts through the headlines to reveal the twists and turns in the amazing true story of Roe in the years following the fateful decision.

## Square BLUES

by SHAY YOUNGBLOOD

JULY 8-AUG 14  
PRESS OPENING: JULY 15

"A VIRTUE OF GUT, URGENCY AND NECESSITY..." -EDWARD ALBEE,

BY THE PLAYWRIGHT OF HORIZON'S SUZI AWARD-WINNING  
SHAKIN' THE MESS OUTTA MISERY • DIRECTED BY THOMAS W. JONES II

In Odessa Blue's neighborhood café, three generations of a Black southern family share a passion for activism, art, and following your heart. But they don't always agree on the methods, especially when their protests threaten their freedom and safety. In this **expansive, timely and magical comedy-drama**, the Blue family faces a crossroads. Only together can they find the courage to stand up for their beliefs as they redefine what makes a family and what holds it together.

## NATASHA, PIERRE AND THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

BOOK, MUSIC, & LYRICS  
BY DAVE MALLOY

SEPT 30-NOV 6  
PRESS OPENING: OCT 7

"A WITTY, INVENTIVE ENCHANTMENT...BEST NEW MUSICAL SINCE *HAMILTON*!"  
-THE NEW YORK TIMES

DIRECTED BY HEIDI CLINE McKERLEY

Natasha is young, Anatole is hot, and Andrey isn't here...But what about Pierre? Based on a 70-page slice of *War and Peace*, this Tony Award-winning musical is Tolstoy like you've never experienced. Step into a glamorous, romantic world of chandeliers, vodka and caviar in the salons and opera houses of 19th century Moscow, where passions ignite as Napoleon's war rages outside the city. With the cast and musicians swirling among audience members, this new musical brings to life the heart of literature's most epic tale of love and fate.

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