

Every Brilliant Thing - Audition Information

Performance Dates 9th November 2026 – 14th November 2026

This audition will be done in solos. In the room will be the director and the casting committee.

Character Breakdowns:

This is a one man/woman show. The only role is the Narrator. The Narrator has no specific age or gender or ethnicity. So please carry on reading, nobody is ruled out yet!

The Narrator has to tell a story. It is the story of how the narrator's mother tried to kill herself when the narrator was young and how this affected them and how they dealt with it. This will effectively be done by playing it as yourself. The story is told with the involvement/participation of the audience. Even though it deals with depression and suicide, it is a very, very funny play. It is also extremely moving.

There is a documentary on YouTube of Jonny Donahoe performing the show in New York. It is worth watching that to get a feel for the piece. I am not asking anyone to replicate what he does. Jonny is Jonny and the actors doing this will be themselves. It will give you an idea of the style and the format of the play.

The important things to me are:

- To be able to hold the attention of the audience for over an hour
- To be able to get empathy from the audience at all times
- To be able to interact easily with the audience
- To be able to improvise
- Not to look as if you are acting
- Sense of fun and playfulness

The intention is to cast two people as the Narrator. They will rehearse together. Each actor will do three nights of the run. On the other night they would be expected to be in the audience.

Audition Pieces: (From the 2025 script version)

- Page 7 to page 10 - "ok so you're the vet" to "that was my experience of death"
- Page 15 to page 19 - "Your Mother has done something stupid" to "Miss Piggy"
- Dance to "Move it on up" by Curtis Mayfield. Want it to be a thing of joy and freedom and excitement. Dance like nobody is watching. Only want 30 seconds or so! We will play the music for you.