

PRESS FOLDER



Kulturverein Demaskiert

Cultural association for supporting performing arts with focus on theatre and musical theatre

NEXT TO NORMAL

Fast Normal

Musik von
TOM KITT

Deutsch von
TITUS HOFFMANN

BroadwayWorld Award
Austria for
Best Off-Production 2019

Buch & Liedtexte von
BRIAN YORKEY



Ausgezeichnet mit
3 Tony Awards und
dem Pulitzerpreis für
das beste Drama

November
Dezember **2020** in Wien



Original-Broadwayproduktion von David Stone,
James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Vatllo und Second Stage Theatre

Die Übertragung des Aufführungsrechtes erfolgt in Übereinkunft mit
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (EUROPE) LTD, London
Bühnenvertrieb für Österreich:
JOSEF WEINBERGER WIEN, GESMBH.

PREMIERE ON 05.11.2020

BROT FABRIK WIEN

Ankersaal

ABSBERGGASSE 27, 1100 VIENNA

Index

Next To Normal – Almost Normal Synopsis	3
Cultural Association „Demaskiert“	3
Credits	4
Original Credits	4
Actors and Actresses	4
THE CREATIVE TEAM	5
Florian Wischenbart – Production Manager and Director.....	5
Mag. Gabor Rivo – Musical Director	6
Mag.art Vanessa Eder-Messutat – Scenic Design	6
Lindbirg – Linda Hold and Birgit Noisternig – Choreography	7
Tamara Mascara – Costumes.....	7
Nina Dafert – Assistant Director	8
Ugur Özbas – Dramaturgical Assistant	8
Timon Fellingner – Graphic Design	8
Julius Schwestka – Grafische Gestaltung	9
Social Media Assistant – Florian Maček	9
OUR COACHES.....	9
Univ. Prof. Dr. Christian Simhandl	9
Mag. phil. Dr. scient.pth. Stefan Bienenstein.....	10
Mag. Dunja Tot.....	10
ACTORS AND ACTRESSES	11
Maaïke Schuurmans – Diana Goodman	11
Carsten Lepper – Dan Goodman	11
Fin Holzwart – Dr. Madden / Dr. Fine	12
Florian Sebastian Fitz – Gabriel Goodman	13
Shireen Nikolic – Natalie Goodman.....	13
Jakob Wirnsperger – Henry	14
FACTS	15

Next To Normal – Almost Normal | Synopsis

This rock musical from Brian Yorkey (libretto) and Tom Kitt (music) is about a mother struggling with a bipolar disorder and the impacts of this illness on her family. The play, which is settled in the suburban milieu, also thematizes other complex topics like grief, suicide, drug abuse and contradictions between ethics and psychiatry.

Brian Yorkey (*23. October 1970 in Omaha, Nebraska) is an American playwright and lyricist, who won the Pulitzer Prize 2010 for the libretto of the musical "Next To Normal" and also the Tony Award 2009 for Best Original Score. **Thomas Robert Kitt** (*28. February 1974) is an American composer, conductor and musician. For his music for the musical "Next To Normal" he won the Pulitzer Prize for theatre and two Tony Awards. **Titus Hoffmann** is a German writer, translator and director. 2013 he translated and staged the German premiere of the musical "Next To Normal" in Fürth.

Cultural Association „Demaskiert“

After the successful production of "Spring Awakening" in 2016/17, Florian Wischenbart founded the cultural association "Demaskiert" together with Jasmin Bilek. They got to know and appreciate each other during a theatre production in 2013. In 2016, Florian had the idea to stage his own personal production of Frank Wedekind's classic "Spring Awakening". He brought Jasmin Bilek and 11 young actors and actresses into the team and had four very successful and sold-out series of plays in various casts, in the Vienna Off-Theater, the Ateliertheater, the Dschungel, the Museumsquartier and lastly in the Theater Akzent in 2019 in Vienna. It is the intention of the young association to perform stage plays, which are adapted to the present time, together with young actors and actresses concerning theatre and musical theatre. "It is important to me that art breaks the boundaries and that attention is drawn to where the problems lie in our society" says Wischenbart, who was confronted with life through his childhood in an orphanage in Romania.

All Infos at: demaskiert.at
Premiere: Thursday 5. November 2020
Running Time: 5. November 2020 – 19. December 2020
Shows: 10 dates at 7:30 p.m. (on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.)
Location: Brotfabrik Wien, Ankersaal, Absberggasse 27, 1100 Vienna

Credits

Production	Kulturverein Demaskiert
Director	Florian Wischenbart
Musical Director	Mag. Gabor Rivo
Scenic Design	Mag.art Vanessa Eder-Messutat
Choreography	Lindbirg – Linda Hold and Birgit Noisternig
Costumes	Tamara Mascara
Assistant Director	Nina Dafert
Dramaturgical Assistant	Ugur Özbas
Graphic Design	Timon Fellingner
Graphic Design	Julius Schwestka
Social Media Assistant	Florian Maček
Coaches	Univ. Prof. Dr. Christian Simhandl Mag. phil. Dr. scient.pth. Stefan Bienenstein Mag. Dunja Tot
Publisher	MTI / Stage & Music / Josef Weinberger

Original Credits

Music	Tom Kitt
Libretto	Brian Yorkey
Director	Michael Greif
Musical Director	Sergio Trujillo

Actors and Actresses

Diana Goodman	Maaïke Schuurmans
Dan Goodman	Carsten Lepper
Dr. Madden / Dr. Fine	Fin Holzwart
Gabriel Goodman	Florian Sebastian Fitz
Natalie Goodman	Shireen Nikolic
Henry	Jakob Wirmsperger

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Florian Wischenbart – Production Manager and Director



Was born in Romania and grew up in Germany. At the age of six already on the stage as an actor and at the age of 14 on the road as a director and writer, Florian started pursuing his goal with early and fast steps. His way led him from a young age until today e. g. to the Vienna Volksoper, Vienna Volkstheater, Dschungel Vienna, Theaterhaus für junges Publikum, Vienna Theater Akzent, Schlossfestspiele Langenlois, Dom im Berg (venue in Graz), Pepper Theater Munich and most recently to the Vienna Burgtheater. He also shot various short films, as well had small roles in ORF tv-series. Florian completed his theatre education at the Krauss acting school in Vienna (acting) and the Performing Academy Austria (musical), as well at the Vienna Conservatory (acting & musical). Florian also attended various workshops e. g. with Mag. Dunja Tot, Kristian Wanzl Nekrasov and Ulrich Meyer-Horsch.

In 2013 Florian started the concert series “A musical flea market”, the occasion was his birthday. The next concert will take place on November 30 in 2020 in Vienna, also in the Ankersaal, under the title: "A musical flea market - musical gala with the stars of the Viennese production of Next To Normal - Almost Normal & guests". In 2016 Florian founded the cultural association DEMASKIERT together with Jasmin Bilek, for which there has been an artist agency since October 2020 (artist agency DEMASKIERT). Most recently, Florian produced a very successful staging of "Spring Awakening" in Vienna with the cultural association "Demaskiert", for which he edited and adapted the text to the present time. In 2021 "Anna Louise and Anton" by Erich Kästner, adapted for the stage by Inken Böhack, Dagmar Leding and Götz Loepelmann, will be seen at the Vienna Theater Akzent. Premiere on April 12 in 2021 at 7:00 p.m. More Infos: demaskiert.at



Mag. Gabor Rivo – Musical Director

He composed over 50 works, including 5 musicals, and directed Austria's leading musical training centers for over 18 years. As a concert pianist and popular piano accompanist, he traveled to four continents. Gabor Rivo has conducted many operas, operettas and musicals across Europe, including world premieres and Austrian premieres. He is a sought-after speaker for choral music, jazz and song interpretation. He was e. g. musical director of the Austrian premiere of "The Musical Showroom" production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects Of Love" in Vienna.



Mag.art Vanessa Eder-Messutat – Scenic Design



Develops a wide variety of room solutions with a particular preference for interdisciplinary projects in which the areas of theatre, film, festival, video design and musical theatre require symbioses. Studied scenography and scenic design at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Since 2003 she has been creating scenic designs for e. g. the Schauspiel Frankfurt, Schauspielhaus Hamburg, Recklinghausen Festival and the Burgtheater Vienna. Since 2008 scenic designs in short film projects, commercials in Berlin and Hamburg as well as installations in Wuppertal, Hanover, Hamburg and Berlin. Since then, collectives such as "Vierfüreins" or later the "Scenographic Office" have been founded in collaboration with female colleagues. By training as an animation designer at the Animation School Hamburg with the graduation film "Be Nice", her field of work expanded to animation film, visualization and illustration. In 2011, she worked in the event sector in Vienna as a designer of stage and room concepts for international companies with events from Helsinki to Shanghai.

Lindbirg – Linda Hold and Birgit Noisternig – Choreography

Linda Hold and Birgit Noisternig studied acting, singing and dance in Vienna and after their studies they were engaged in numerous productions at renowned theatres in German-speaking countries. (*Mamma Mia*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Grease*, *A Chorus Line*, *Der Schuh Des Manitu* and many more) In 2010 they came back to Vienna, because of Udo Jürgens' „I've



Never Been To New York“, where they played in the Raimund Theater in Vienna. This was followed by the German premiere of „Natürlich Blond“ at the Ronacher Theater, in which Linda was seen as fitness queen Brooke Wyndham and Birgit as cheerleader captain Serena. Their passion for creativity prompted them to found the company lindbirg. Lindbirg develops creative entertainment in the theatre, advertising and event sectors. Backstage, they take on artistic tasks such as choreography, direction, show concepts, production setup and much more. Most recently they choreographed the Austrian premiere of „Aspects Of Love“ in Vienna. Their customers for shows and entertainment have already included many well-known companies, such as T-Mobile, Campari, Das Schwarze Kameel, WKO, AMA, AK, Deichmann and Vereinigte Bühnen Wien. More Infos at: www.lindbirg.com

Tamara Mascara – Costumes



Tamara Mascara is a drag queen, fashion designer, DJ and burlesque performer from Vienna. Having been in the scene for more than ten years, her style and saucy elegance has been internationally recognized and admired by many. Aside from being a glamorous socialite, Tamara is also the co-founder of "The Circus", the biggest LGBT party in Austria. Fashion has always been an important part of Tamara's life and career. She graduated from the Hetzendorf fashion school in Vienna and specializes in corsets, ball gowns, wedding dresses and stage costumes. All outfits are handcrafted by her personally.

Nina Dafert – Assistant Director

Born in 1996 in Salzburg, studied acting, dance and singing at the Sunrise Studios Conservatory and graduated in 2020 with distinction. She gained her first theatre experience at the Landestheater Salzburg as an intern at „Tanz in 80 Tagen um die Welt!“ Already during her studies she was regularly on stage at Theater Drachengasse Vienna, Theater Arche Vienna, MuTh Vienna as well as at the Steyr Music Festival. She was also seen in films e. g. as the leading role in „Mara“ (2019, director: Sonja Aufreiter) and as young Sophia in „Ground Control“ (2020, director: Helmut Karner). In addition to her work as an actress and host, she plays the violin in the Linz ensemble Weng Schui.



Ugur Özbas – Dramaturgical Assistant



Was born on April 17 in 1991 in Vienna. Is currently doing a bachelor's degree in theatre, film and media studies at the University of Vienna. Before that, he studied tourism and event management at the WU Executive Academy and law at the Juridicum Vienna. He completed his 3-year acting training at the theatre workshop "Theater Sahne". He had his first stage appearances in various in-house productions. Further appearances followed, among others, in 2017-2018 for „A Midsummer Night's Dream“ in the WUK and for the dance theatre production „Momentos" in the Lalish Theaterlabor. He also worked as an assistant director and screenwriter in the production of short films for "Colorblind Cinematography".

Timon Fellingner – Graphic Design

Just moved out of home and now lives with a friend in a shared apartment and is discovering Vienna. Timon has already taken over the graphic design of the poster for the production of „Anna Louise and Anton“ and is looking forward to further work for the cultural association „Demaskiert“.



Julius Schwestka – Grafische Gestaltung



We are very happy that Julius Schwestka supports us again. He has accompanied the cultural association Demaskiert since it was founded and has already created flyers and posters for the association for „Spring Awakening“ 2016 in the Off Theater, „Spring Awakening“ 2017 in the Ateliertheater, „Spring Awakening“ 2018 in the Dschungel Vienna and „Spring Awakening“ 2019 in the Theater Akzent Vienna.

Social Media Assistant – Florian Maček

Florian Maček was born on 21 April 1996 in Vienna, Austria. After a technical high school he went to university but paused due to many offers from model agencies. 2018 he started to travel a lot around the world, learned a lot and had a really good time. He visualized all his travels on his social media channels and especially his Instagram account got a lot of attention. Nearly 800k people joined his journey of modeling and traveling. 2020 he started to focus even more on social media and released his own clothing line with his business partner from Belgium and he is really excited to push their brand to the next level.



OUR COACHES

Univ. Prof. Dr. Christian Simhandl



Was born in Vienna in 1956. Also studied there and graduated in July 11 in 1980 as Dr. med. univ. at the University of Vienna. He completed his psychiatric training under Prof. Dr. P. Berner until October 1st, 1986 at the Vienna General Hospital. Worked in the rehabilitation center for chronic psychoses of Caritas, is a sports doctor since 1986, PSD Vienna, emergency service PSD Vienna. Other tasks involved e. g. psycho-oncology and psychotherapy, lectures und co-training on logotherapy & existential analysis, collaboration in the lithium clinic of the Univ. Clinic in Vienna and its later

management shaped his field of work. 1992-93 management activity in the pharmaceutical industry in the field of clinical studies for the development of psychotropic drugs. Head of the clinic of the Social Psychiatric Univ. Clinic Vienna 1994 to 1996. Private clinic with focus on bipolar diseases 1996-2000 in Vienna, Primarius and establishment of the department for psychiatry and psychotherapeutic medicine at the KH Neunkirchen 2000-2008. Private clinic & Bipolar Center Wiener Neustadt since October 2008. Founder (2004) and longstanding president of the Austrian Society for Bipolar Diseases. 2017 professorship for psychiatry at the SFU Private University Vienna, Faculty of Medicine; Lectures and written contributions for those affected, relatives, specialists and specialist journals.

Mag. phil. Dr. scient.pth. Stefan Bienenstein

Studied philosophy at the University of Vienna and FU Berlin. Doctoral degree in psychotherapy sciences, psychotherapist for K-I-P, teaching therapist with partial teaching authorization from Ögatap, registered ÖBVP supervisor & coach and member of the European Association for Psychotherapy. Supervision and coaching for teams and individuals. (teambienenstein.at) Teaching assignments: Sigmund Freud University Vienna & Linz; Medical University of Vienna, MPH course; AKH Academy for special training; FH Campus Vienna. Psychotherapeutic focus: life or motivational crises, burnout, fears and depression, eating disorders, addiction and general self-awareness, teaching therapy.



Mag. Dunja Tot



Dunja Tot was born in Zagreb, former Yugoslavia, now Croatia. During the war in Yugoslavia, she was active in the platform “Peace Initiative for Dialogue between the Peoples of Yugoslavia”. She was trained as a theatre and film director e. g. in Zagreb, Boston (Harvard and Boston University) and Berlin (Komische Oper, with Harry Kupfer). She completed her training as a film coach in Hollywood, Los Angeles (Jeremiah Comey Studios). Dunja has been teaching Meisner for 15 years and has completed her training as a Meisner coach with Larry Silverberg, USA. Her directorial work includes theatre, opera, musical, puppet theatre, music theatre and television. She has lived and worked in Vienna since 1986, both as a director and as an acting and film

10



coach. She has taught at numerous acting schools and runs her own acting studio "PALLAS". Dunja is married, has a daughter and a dog.

ACTORS AND ACTRESSES

Maaïke Schuurmans – Diana Goodman

Maaïke Schuurmans from the Netherlands, graduated from the Amsterdam Theatre School in 1990 with a diploma in cabaret and musicals. In the Netherlands she was seen as e. g. Lina Lamont in *Singin 'In The Rain*, as Peter Pan in *Peter Pan* and Suus Bruys in *Ciske De Rat*. In Germany she played the narrator in the musical *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Essen), Magda in *Dance of the Vampires* (German premiere in Stuttgart), Baroness von Waldstätten in *Mozart!* (Hamburg) and Grizabella on the German tour of *Cats*. In 2006 the premiere of her first solo show *Anyone Whow Had A Heart* took place in the Netherlands. In 2008 Maaïke Schuurman played Lucy Harris in *Jekyll & Hyde* (Bad Hersfeld) and was awarded the Hersfeld Prize for her performance. She then appeared there as Anita in the *West Side Story* and as Bagheera in *The Jungle Book* and played Prospera in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. In Vienna she was seen at the Ronacher Theater first in *The Visit of The Old Lady* and then as Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins*. After Maaïke played Madame Giry in *Love Never Dies* in Hamburg, she would be engaged again as Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins*, this time in Stuttgart and Hamburg. In 2018/2019 she could be seen again as Anita in *West Side Story*, this time at the State Opera in Hanover. Maaïke is also a qualified vocal coach in Complete Vocal Technique.



Carsten Lepper – Dan Goodman



Carsten Lepper studied at the University of Music and Theater in Saarbrücken and, as a full scholarship holder, singing at the Stella R1 Academy Hamburg. He played Alex Dillingham in *Aspects of Love* at Theater Bern, Valentin in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* in St. Gallen, Luigi Lucheni in the German premiere of *Elisabeth* (NRW Critics' Prize as best actor in a musical), Thomas Andrews in the German premiere of *Titanic* on Theater Neue Flora Hamburg,

Raoul in Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, Claude in *Hair*, Jack Favell in the world premiere of *Rebecca* at the VBW Vienna, the baker in *Into the Woods* in Bozen, Junker Jörg in the world premiere of *Martin L.* at the Domstufen Festival in Erfurt, Fernand Mondego in the world premiere of *The Count of Monte Christo* at the St. Gallen Theater, Chris in the Austrian premiere of *Miss Saigon* at the Klagenfurt City Theater, Tony in *West Side Story* at the Magdeburg Opera and at the Trier Theater, Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Hagen Theater, the Baron in the *Grand Hotel* at the Ettlingen Summer Festival, Lord Farquaad in the German-language premiere of *Shrek* in Düsseldorf and Berlin, Tony in *West Side Story* at the Leipzig Opera, Zach in *A Chorus Line* at the Klagenfurt Theater, in the Cologne musical dome Sy Spector in *Bodyguard*. He is the German dubbing voice of Patrick Wilson as Raoul in the film version of *The Phantom of the Opera*. He made his debut as a director at the Theatercouch Vienna with Andrew Lloyd Webbers *Tell Me on a Sunday*, where he immediately took over the direction of *The Last Five Years*.

Fin Holzwart – Dr. Madden / Dr. Fine

Born in Schleswig-Holstein, he completed his bachelor's degree in musicals at the Institute for Music at the Osnabrück University in 2015. During his studies, Fin Holzwart played Nathan Leopold in the chamber musical *Thrill Me* at the Osnabrück Theater. He played the leading role in the family musical *Robin Hood* at the Freilichtspiele Tecklenburg. This was followed by roles in the Webber musical *Cats*, in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Theater Dortmund and in *Kiss me, Kate*.



In 2016 Fin Holzwart played again Nathan Leopold in *Thrill Me* at the KATiELLi Theater. In summer 2016, Fin Holzwart played Kay in the German premiere of the musical *Artus-Excalibur* at the Freilichtspiele Tecklenburg and was part of the dance ensemble in *Saturday Night Fever*. At the Stadttheater Bremerhaven he appeared as Arthur Holmwood in *Dracula* in the 2016/17 season and played Peter Pan in *Shrek* and Robert in *Rebecca* at the Freilichtspiele Tecklenburg. He appeared at the Staatstheater Darmstadt as Ren McCormack in *Footloose* and was part of the ensemble of *Les Misérables* and *Spamalot* (Tecklenburg). At the Alten Schauspielhaus Stuttgart he was seen as Claude in *HAIR*. In summer 2019 he was part of the Thunerseespiele in the Udo Jürgens musical *I've never been to New York* (cover Fred) and most recently appeared at the Theater für Niedersachsen as Robert in the Sondheim musical *Company*.

Florian Sebastian Fitz – Gabriel Goodman



The Waldviertel actor and singer completed his education at the Music and Arts University Vienna. Since then he has tried the balancing act between theatre, musical, film and television. He was seen e. g. as Lyngstrand in „The Lady from the Sea“ (Armes Theater Vienna), as Dr. Otto Siedler in „Im Weißen Rössl“ and in the title role in „Eating Raoul“ (MUK-Theater Vienna), as cover Fridolin Weber in „Mozart - The Musical“ (Shanghai Culture Square), as well as in the TV productions „Tatort: Grenzfall“ and „SOKO Donau - Killer im System“. He can currently be seen in the revue operetta „Three Men in the Snow“ at the Munich Gärtnerplatztheater and in his continuous supporting role as Patrick Jaric in the ORF tv-series „Walking on Sunshine“.

Shireen Nikolic – Natalie Goodman

Born in Vienna, she completed her musical studies in Vienna and has worked as an actress and director ever since. Even during her studies she was involved in a number of productions, such as „A Very Potter Musical“, „Twisted“, and „The Trail To Oregon“. She was also part of the TUI Mein Schiff Flotte for a while and performed on it as a soloist in the entertainment department. In addition, she was seen as the talent of the 8th season „The Voice Of Germany“ on television, where she ultimately decided on the team Yvonne Catterfeld. Most recently she was seen as Isabell in the musical „The Orange Girl“, which will be revived in September 2020. In the summer of 2021 Shireen will be seen in the musical „Sister Act“ on the Felsenbühne Staatz.



Jakob Wirnsperger – Henry



Born in Vorarlberg, he moved to Vienna in 2017 to start his musical studies, from which he graduated with honors in June 2020. Even before his studies, Jakob had already had singing lessons for around 10 years and was on stage at concerts, theatre and musical productions. He also took part in various productions during his studies. Among other things, he played the role of Henry Witherspoon in the musical „Lucky Stiff“ in 2018. In 2019 Jakob played the young Alan in the German premiere of the play „Babes In Toyland“ at the Plauen-Zwickau Theater. He also started a musical course for children with his girlfriend in 2019.

FACTS

„Next To Normal – Almost Normal“

- Premiere:** 5. November 2020
- Running Time:** 5. November 2020 – 19. December 2020
- Shows:** 10 dates at 7:30 p.m. (on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.)
- Location:** Brotfabrik Wien, Ankersaal, Absberggasse 27, 1100 Vienna
- Prices:** Regular 40€ (Premiere 50€), Reduced 25€ (Premiere 30€), School groups 15€ (free for teachers), Last Minute 25% reduced (from 1 hour before play start)
- Tickets at:** Wien-Ticket.at
-
- Site Entry:** 2 hours before play start
- On Location:** DJ/Drinks/Food and Box Office
- Hall Entry:** 30 minutes before play start