

The Tabard Theatre Company announces auditions for **A NEW BRAIN**, a musical with songs by William Finn (*Falsettos*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), book by Finn and James Lapine (*Into the Woods*, *Sunday in the Park with George*), and vocal arrangements by Jason Robert Brown (*The Last Five Years*). Though this will be a Top of the Stairs production (i.e. adult content or language), rather than a part of the regular Tabard subscription season, it nonetheless follows our season theme of “New Beginnings.”

The Show... Gordon Schwinn dreams of being a Broadway composer, but he’s writing sappy songs for a kids’ TV show to pay the bills. When a sudden medical crisis threatens to silence Gordon’s creative gifts forever, he is forced to reevaluate his ambition, his past and future life, and his closest relationships. Told almost exclusively through song, **A NEW BRAIN** is a powerful story about the possibility of change and the healing power of music. With songs like “I Feel So Much Spring,” “Eating Myself Up Alive,” “Sailing,” and “Heart and Music,” it has helped to cement Finn’s reputation as one of the liveliest, most accessible, and most emotionally rewarding composer/lyricists of his generation.

"Apt and original [...] A fascinating story." – The New York Post

"Filled with beguiling, buoyant melody [and] witty and original lyrics." – InTheatre

The Staff... Director: Kevin Kirby. Music Director: Samuel Cisneros.

Available roles: All roles involve a significant amount of singing. We’re looking for actors with strong voices who can learn and retain multi-part harmonies while delivering emotionally powerful performances. (A handful of numbers will also involve simple choreography.) Actors of all ethnicities are encouraged to audition; we’d like to assemble a cast that is as diverse as possible in terms of ethnicity and age. Characters are as follows:

Gordon Schwinn (M, 25-45): A neurotic songwriter stuck in a creative funk. Tenor (G2-G4).

Mimi Schwinn (F, 45-65): Gordon’s slightly overbearing Jewish mother. Copes with stress through a combination of denial and cleaning. Mezzo/Alto (F#3 - C#5).

Roger Delli-Bovi (M, 25-45): Gordon’s adoring boyfriend. A sailing enthusiast. Baritone (A2 to G4).

Rhoda (F, 20-45): Gordon’s friend and coworker. Pushes him to reach his potential. Mezzo/Soprano (A3 to E5).

Mr. Bungee (M; 35-65): The star of a children’s TV show, and Gordon’s boss. On-camera, he’s a friendly frog. Off-camera, he can be tyrannical and demeaning. Baritone (B2-G4).

Homeless Woman (F, 20-70): Street-wise, tough exterior. Capable of showing empathy, craftiness, and belligerence. Mezzo with strong belt (F3 to Eb5).

Nancy D. (F, 20-35): A brusque nurse. Also plays a peppy waitress. Soprano (A3 to G5).

Richard (M, 25-45): “The nice nurse.” Lyrics make it clear that he is significantly overweight. Baritone with strong belt (G2 to G4).

Doctor (M, 30-70): A brain surgeon with terrible bedside manner. Baritone (G2 to E4).

Minister (M, 25-50): A slightly clueless hospital cleric. Tenor (C3 to A4).

What to prepare: Please prepare 32 bars of an up-tempo Broadway number. (Actors specifically auditioning for Gordon, Mimi, or Roger may also present 16 bars of a Broadway ballad if they wish.) As there will be no readings at the first round of auditions, please choose a song that shows off your acting ability as well as your voice. Bring sheet music in your key. An accompanist will be provided.

Auditions: By appointment only – To schedule an appointment, e-mail kknb2019@gmail.com, noting your availability to audition (dates/times). Please include headshot and resume.

Preliminary Auditions – You only need to attend one date:

Sunday, August 4th, 6-10 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6th, 7-10 p.m.

Callbacks – Saturday, August 10th, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Prior to the audition, an audition application/packet will be e-mailed that will include the address for the audition. Those auditioning should bring the application to the audition filled out along with headshot, resume and conflict calendar that covers rehearsal and performance period as noted in the packet.

Rehearsals: Currently scheduled to begin in late October. No rehearsals will be scheduled between Nov. 27 and Dec. 1 (long Thanksgiving weekend) or between Dec. 20 and Jan. 1 (Christmas/New Year's). Rehearsals will be held in the greater San Jose area.

Performances: January 10-26, 2020, at Tabard Theatre, 29 N. San Pedro Street, Downtown San Jose

JANUARY 2020			
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
9 8PM [§]	10 8PM	11 3PM*	12 2PM
	17 8PM	18 8PM	19 2PM
23 8PM	24 8PM	25 3PM	26 2PM

[§] Pay-What-You-Will Preview

* 1:30-2pm Free hands-on presentation for visually impaired patrons. Everyone welcome.

Questions... Contact Kevin Kirby, director: kknb2019@gmail.com.