

# WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Westport Country Playhouse's Opening Night for "Next to Normal"

Westport Country Playhouse officially opened its production of the three-time Tony Award®-winning musical and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, "Next to Normal," on Saturday, April 9. The musical runs through Sunday, April 24. It is directed and choreographed by Marcos Santana, who helmed the Playhouse production of "In the Heights" in 2019. Featuring a six-piece live orchestra, the pop/rock score is by Tom Kitt, with book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey.

Opening Night party guests – Photos by Harold Shapiro

NTN-015 Mary Maggio, Broadway producer; Danny Decker, composer and lyricist.

NTN-026 Lee Stump, Artspace New Haven board member; Debby Applegate, Pulitzer Prize-winning author; Bruce Tulgan, CEO of RainmakerThinking; Abby Santamaria.

NTN-028 Annika Pergamant, Spectrum Networks anchor; Michael O'Looney, head of corporate communication for Barclays.

NTN-035 Ashley Day, actor/singer/dancer; Jenny Day; Adam Kaplan, actor/singer.

NTN-039 Tracey Knight Narang, Westport Country Playhouse trustee, Anil Narang, co-founder of Alliance Entertainment Corporation; Stacey and Josh Aronson.

NTN-050 Jennifer Ashley Tepper, Broadway producer, creative and programming director at Feinstein's/54 Below; Nick Frenay, musician; Neal Rubinstein, Broadway producer.

NTN-053 Mark Lamos, Westport Country Playhouse artistic director; Andy Marlatt, creator of SatireWire.com; Susan Marlatt, assistant professor at Yale Medical School.

NTN-055 Mark Lamos, Westport Country Playhouse artistic director; Ania Czekaj-Farber, Westport Country Playhouse board chair; Terry Nardozi, Westport Country Playhouse trustee, president/CEO MANM Productions; Pietro Marghella, Westport Country Playhouse theater council member.

NTN-058 Abby Roth, New Haven alder; Bruce Tulgan, CEO of RainmakerThinking; Donald Brown, New Haven Review theater critic; Tony Menchaca; Debby Applegate, Pulitzer Prize-winning author; Michael Barker, Westport Country Playhouse managing director.

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**WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE**

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[westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org)

NTN-059 Katherine Carter, theatrical director; Mary Ellen Marpe, Westport Country Playhouse trustee, Mark Lamos, Westport Country Playhouse artistic director.

NTN-061 Valeriano Ramos, CT Humanities board member; and Tere Luna, vocalist, dancer, arts educator.

Production Sponsor for “Next to Normal” is Czekaj Artistic Productions. Corporate Production Partner is Bank of America. Additional support is from cthumanities. 2022 Season Media Sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio.

Performance schedule is Tuesday at 7 p.m., Wednesday at 2 and 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Special series include Backstage Pass (April 20), Thursday TalkBack (April 21), Post-Play Dialogue (April 22), and Open Captions (April 24).

Single tickets for “Next to Normal” start at \$50 and are subject to change based upon availability. Buy early for best prices. For information on special offers, including discounts for students, senior citizens, educators, military and first responders, Indigenous peoples, professional playwrights, and groups, as well as options for pay-what-you-will and Westport Library pass, visit [www.westportplayhouse.org/visit/box-office/](http://www.westportplayhouse.org/visit/box-office/).

All play titles, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

All audience members must present proof of vaccination and booster and wear a mask at all times while inside Westport Country Playhouse. Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S., requires that actors perform only at theaters where audiences wear masks. For updates on Covid-19 health and safety protocols at the Playhouse, visit <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/visit/covid19safety/>

For more information and to buy tickets, visit [www.westportplayhouse.org](http://www.westportplayhouse.org), or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529, or visit Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

## **ABOUT WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE**

The mission of Westport Country Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten, and engage the community through the power of professionally produced theater of the highest caliber and the welcoming experience of the Playhouse campus. The not-for-profit Playhouse provides this experience in multiple ways by offering live theater experiences of the highest quality, under the artistic direction of Mark Lamos; educational and community engagement events to further explore the work on stage; the New Works Initiative, a program dedicated to the discovery, development, and production of new live theatrical works; special performances and programs for students and teachers with extensive curriculum support material; Script in Hand play readings to deepen relationships with audiences and artists; the renowned Woodward Internship Program during the summer months for aspiring theater professionals; Family Festivities presentations to delight young and old alike and to promote reading through live theater; and the beautiful and historic Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round. Charity Navigator has recently awarded its top 4-star charity rating to the Playhouse in recognition of its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

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