

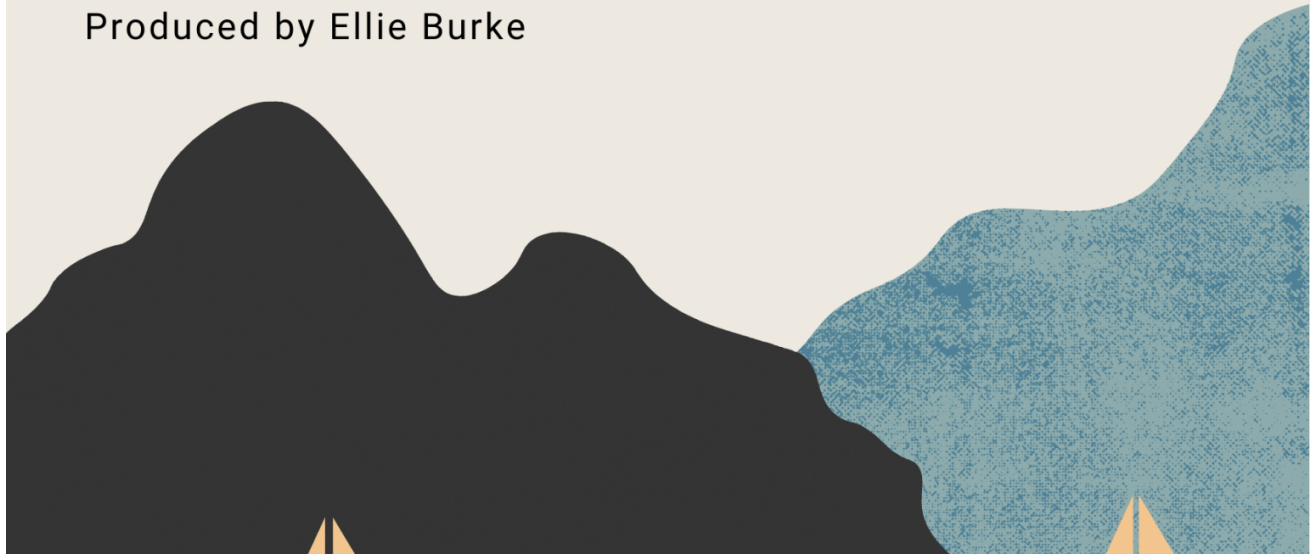


# A New Brain

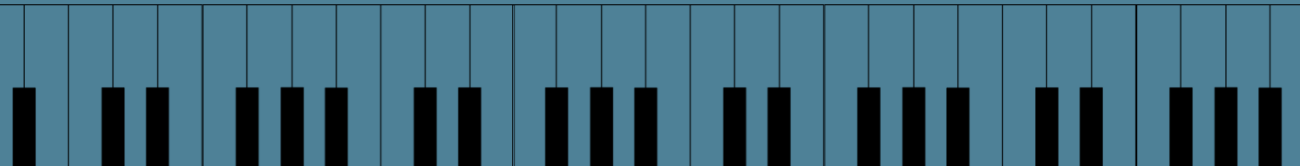
By William Finn and James Lapine

Directed by Ian Berlin

Produced by Ellie Burke



March 3-5, 2022



# A NEW BRAIN

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for *A New Brain*! This packet hopefully contains all the important information about our production and how to audition for it—but if you have any questions please feel free get in touch with our producer, Ellie ([ellie.burke@yale.edu](mailto:ellie.burke@yale.edu)), our director, Ian ([ian.berlin@yale.edu](mailto:ian.berlin@yale.edu)), or our music director, Peter ([peter.sykes@yale.edu](mailto:peter.sykes@yale.edu))!

## MEET THE TEAM

**Director:** Ian Berlin (he/him)



Hello! My name is Ian and I am thrilled to be directing *A New Brain*. I am a junior in Pierson College majoring in *Ethics, Politics, and Economics*. I am currently working as the assistant director on *Onward and Upward*, and I have previously performed in *Wakaresaseya*, *Our New World*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Outside of theater, I also am the pitch of Mixed Company, I have served as an advising fellow for Matriculate, and I enjoy contributing to campus publications such as the YDN and *The Politic*.

**Music Director:** Peter Sykes (he/him)



Thanks so much for your interest in *A New Brain*! My name is Peter, and I am super excited to be music directing this production. I am a junior in Silliman College, and I am double majoring in music and computer science/math. At Yale, I have been the music director of *Our New World* as well as the assistant music director of *Sweeney Todd* and *American Idiot*. I also sing in the Yale Glee Club and Battell Chapel Choir, and I am a FOOT Leader.

**Producer:** Ellie Burke (she/her)



Hi! My name is Ellie, and I am beyond excited to be producing *A New Brain*! I am a sophomore in Silliman College and a prospective double major in history and anthropology. Here at Yale, I have produced *Mary Jane* as well as acted in *Collected Stories* and *Passion*. I also sing in the a cappella group Pitches and Tones, am a member of the Yale Drama Coalition Board, and work as a barista at the Silliman Acorn!

### ABOUT A NEW BRAIN

Based on the real life experience of composer William Finn (whose other shows include *Falsettos* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), *A New Brain* tells the story of Gordon Schwinn, a composer who discovers he has a life-threatening brain disease. Gordon winds up in the hospital, surrounded by his maritime-enthusiast lover, his mother, a co-worker, the doctor, and the nurses, each of whom has their own quirks and neuroses. Gordon's joy returning to his work is an important reminder of the healing power of art and is especially timely as we return to theatermaking post-COVID. With a small cast and a sung-through score, this show is a great opportunity for performers of all backgrounds to tell a story that is energetic, sardonic, comical and — most importantly — fun.

### CHARACTERS

**Gordon Michael Schwinn:** A lovable but sarcastic composer

**Mr. Bungee:** The slightly tyrannical director/producer/star of his own children's television show

**Mimi Schwinn:** Gordon's loving yet unstable mother

**Rhoda:** Gordon's agent and best-friend

**Roger Delli-Bovi:** Gordon's charming and affectionate boyfriend

**Richard:** A kind and compassionate nurse

**Lisa:** A homeless lady

**Waitress/Nancy D:** The waitress is overbearing; Nancy is a mean nurse

**Dr. Jafar Berensteiner:** An unsympathetic doctor

**The Minister:** A somewhat clueless man of the cloth at the hospital

Note on casting: The roles of Gordon and Mimi have already been cast. Additionally, we aim to be inclusive of actors of any gender-identity and will consider any actor for any part! We will have a space on our audition form for you to tell us what genders you feel comfortable portraying on stage, and please reach out to Ian ([ian.berlin@yale.edu](mailto:ian.berlin@yale.edu)) if there is anything we can do to make our production welcoming and inclusive of your gender.

#### PRODUCTION TIMELINE:

- December 3rd-5th: Auditions
- December 11th, 2pm-6pm: Callbacks (we won't keep anyone the entire time!)
- December 12th: CASTING DAY
- January + February: Rehearsals (music, character work, staging)
- End of February: Tech rehearsals
- March 3rd-5th: Performance dates!!!

#### AUDITION PROCESS

If you are interested in auditioning please sign up for an audition slot on our YCA page: <https://collegearts.yale.edu/events/shows-screenings/new-brain>

Our auditions will be held from **1pm-3pm on Friday, 12/3, 2:30pm-5pm on Saturday, 12/4, and from 2-3pm on Sunday 12/5**. If you are able, please try to sign up for a slot on Friday or Saturday, but we'll have a few slots on Sunday if that doesn't work for you! If none of the available slots on our YCA page work for you, please reach out to Ellie ([ellie.burke@yale.edu](mailto:ellie.burke@yale.edu)) and we'll find a time that works!

For your addition, please prepare a **32-bar cut of a musical theater song written after 1980**. 32-bars isn't a hard cutoff, just try to prepare about a minute of music to sing. 1980 also isn't a hard cutoff, we just want to hear a modern musical theater piece (i.e. not Golden Age). Please bring a copy of the sheet music for your song, ideally in the key you will be singing it in. Peter will also do a few simple vocal warmups with you to get a feel for your voice, but this is not something you should worry about preparing for.

### CALLBACK PROCESS

For some roles, we may want to see you sing some material from the show. For that, we'll have you come to callbacks on **Saturday, December 11th**. We'll send out any music we'd like to hear you do in advance, though we'll also make sure we take some time that day to teach it to you, so don't worry about perfecting it on your own! This is also a great opportunity for us to see you interact with other performers, so you may be asked to do a scene or song with another performer.

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We cannot wait to see you at auditions, and please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the team to answer any questions you may have about the show, the process, auditions, or anything else! Break a leg!!!