EVERY BRILLIANT THING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Date: February 13, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Jim Torres - 617.529.1670

PRESS DATE: Sunday, March 4 – 3PM or by request. Sign up here.

(BOSTON) – From March 2-31, 2018, SpeakEasy Stage Company will proudly present the Boston premiere of the charming and life-affirming solo show **EVERY BRILLIANT THING.**

Written by British playwright Duncan Macmillan (*Lungs*; *People, Places, and Things*) , and originally performed by British comedian Jonny Donohoe, **EVERY BRILLIANT THING** explores depression, and looks at the lengths we will go to help those we love. The story begins when a young girl compiles a list of things worth living for in an effort to ease her mother's sadness: things like ice cream, and water fights, and staying up past your bedtime to watch TV. Through adulthood, as the list grows, she comes to understand the deep significance the list has had on her own life, and the irrepressible resilience inside us all.

Adrianne Krstansky will star in this one person show, which explores this delicate topic with equal parts grace and humor. Ms. Krstansky recently won both an Elliot Norton and IRNE Award for her work as Lola in the Huntington Theatre Company's production of *Come Back, Little Sheba.* Her SpeakEasy credits include lead roles in the Boston premieres of *Tribes*, *Body Awareness*, and *Snakebit.*

Marianna Bassham will be making her SpeakEasy directing debut with this production**.** Ms. Bassham received both an Elliot Norton and IRNE Award for her performance in SpeakEasy's production of *Blackbird.* Her other SpeakEasy acting credits include *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*; *Reckless*; and *Hand to God*. Ms. Bassham most recently appeared in as Marc Antony in an all-female production of *Julius Caesar* for Actors' Shakespeare Project.

The design team for **EVERY BRILLIANT THING** includes Eric Levenson (scenic and lighting); Amanda Ostrow Mason (costumes); Lee Schuna (sound), and Abby Shenker (props).

Becca Freifeld is the Production Stage Manager.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING will run for five weeks, from March 2-31, 2018 in the round in the Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

Ticket prices start at $25, with discounts for students, seniors, and persons age 25 and under. For tickets or more information, the public is invited to call the box office at **617.933.8600** or visit **www.SpeakEasyStage.com**.

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Show History

EVERY BRILLIANT THING was first produced by Paines Plough and Pentabus Theatre on June 28, 2013, at Ludlow Fringe Festival. It was directed by George Perrin and performed by British comedian Jonny Donahoe. The show enjoyed sold-out runs at three consecutive Edinburgh Festivals before embarking on a worldwide tour.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING had its North American premiere in December, 2014 at the Barrow Street Theatre, again directed by Perrin and performed by Donahoe. This production was taped by HBO for a special that aired in December, 2016.

The text was published after two years of devising, several trial performances around the UK, runs in Edinburgh and London, and a four-month run at the Barrow Street Theatre in NYC. It has been filtered through Jonny Donahoe's interactions with hundreds of audiences.

Artist Information

DUNCAN MACMILLAN (Playwright). Plays include: *People, Places and Things* (2015-17 - National Theatre/Wyndham's Theatre, West End/St Ann's Warehouse, New York); *1984*, adapt. George Orwell (2013-17 - Headlong/Nottingham Playhouse/West End/Broadway/international tours, co-adapted/co-directed with Rob Icke); *Every Brilliant Thing* (2013-17 - Paines Plough/Pentabus Theatre/Edinburgh Festival/UK and international tours/HBO); *City of Glass*, adapt. Paul Auster (2017 - 59 Productions, HOME and Lyric Hammersmith); *2071*, co-written with Chris Rapley (2014-15 - Royal Court Theatre/Hamburg Schauspielhaus); *The Forbidden Zone* (2014-16 - Salzburg Festival and Schaubühne, Berlin); *Wunschloses Unglück*, adapt. Peter Handke (2014 - Burgtheater Vienna); Reise Durch die Nacht, adapt. Friederike Mayröcker (2012-14 - Schauspielhaus Köln, Festival d'Avignon, Teatertreffen); *Lungs* (2011-16 Paines Plough and Sheffield Theatres/ Studio Theatre, Washington DC) and *Monster* (2006 - Royal Exchange).

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Director Information

MARIANNA BASSHAM (Director) is thrilled to make her professional directing debut at SpeakEasy Stage. Acting credits at SpeakEasy include *Hand to God*; *A Future Perfect*; *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play); Reckless* [IRNE Award - Best Actress]; and *Blackbird* [Elliot Norton Award - Outstanding Actress]. She has also appeared in *I Was Most Alive with You* (written and directed by Craig Lucas) and *Our Town* (directed by David Cromer) for the Huntington Theatre. Ms. Bassham frequently performs at the Gamm Theatre in Rhode Island and with Actors' Shakespeare Project, where she is a resident acting company member. Other Boston-area credits include productions with Commonwealth Shakespeare, Underground Railway, New Rep, and others. Ms. Bassham teaches acting at MIT.

Actor Information

ADRIANNE KRSTANSKY* has previously appeared at SpeakEasy in *Tribes*, *Body Awareness,* and *Snakebit.* Most recently, she won both an Elliot Norton and IRNE Award for her performance as Lola in the Huntington Theatre Company revival of *Come Back, Little Sheba*. Other area credits include *A Doll's House (*Huntington Theatre); *Paradise Lost*, *Britannica, Ubu Rock* (American Repertory Theater); *Blackberry Winter*, *Imagining Madoff*, *On the Verge*, *Holiday Memories*, *Three Viewings*, *2.5 Minute Ride* (New Repertory Theatre). Ms. Krstansky has also performed at the Lyric Stage, Gloucester Stage, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Israeli Stage, and New Century Theatre. Her regional credits include roles with Steppenwolf and La Jolla Playhouse. Film credits include *Burning Woman, Olive Kitteridge,* and *The Company Men.* She holds an MFA in Acting from the University of California, San Diego.

For tickets or more information on **EVERY BRILLIANT THING**, the public can call the BostonTheatreScene Box Office at 617.933.8600 or visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

Press inquiries should be directed to **Marketing & Communications Director Jim Torres**:
Office: 617.482.3279 Cell: 617.529.1670 Email: JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com

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Calendar Listing Information

<u>EVERY BRILLIANT THING</u>
by Duncan MacMillan

1. Ice Cream 2. Water Fights. 3 Staying up past your bedtime and being allowed to watch TV. These are just a few items on a list of things worth living for, compiled by a young girl trying to ease her mother's depression. As the girl grows older and the list grows longer, she learns the deep significance the list has for her own life, in this charming and moving new work about the irrepressible resilience inside all of us.

Presented by: SpeakEasy Stage Company, The Calderwood Pavilion Resident Theatre Company at the Boston Center for the Arts; Paul Daigneault, Producing Artistic Director

Performed by:	Adrianne Krstansky
Directed by:	Marianna Bassham
Design Team:	Scenic & Lighting: Eric Levenson Costumes: Amanda Ostrow Mason Sound: Lee Schuna Props: Abby Shenker
Production Stage Manager:	Rebecca Freifield
Performing at:	The Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End.
Performance Schedule:	March 2 - 31, 2018 Wed. & Thurs. at 7:30PM; Fri. at 8PM; Sat. at 4 & 8PM; Sun. at 3PM. Additional performance Thursday, March 29th at 2PM.
Estimated Run Time:	70 minutes with no intermission
Ticket Prices:	Tickets start at $25. Seniors: $5 off at all times except gallery seats. Age 25 and under: $25 at all times.
Student Rush:	$15 with valid college ID, in person at the box-office only, two hours before curtain, subject to availability. Limit – one rush ticket per valid ID.
Box Office:	617.933.8600; <u>www.SpeakEasyStage.com</u>
Press Contact Only:	Jim Torres – 617.529.1670 (cell – not for publication)

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