



University of Melbourne Music Theatre Association

presents



22nd – 30th October 2010
Guild Theatre
Union House, University of Melbourne

Creative Team

Director	Allie Sutherland
Assistant Director	Emily Wilden
Musical Director	Nathaniel Taylor
Choreographer	Lauri Uldrikis

Audition Information Pack

SYNOPSIS

Gordon Schwinn, a talented young songwriter, works at his piano to meet a deadline. Gordon is irritated because he must write a song about Spring for a children's television entertainer who dresses as a frog. He takes a break from his writing and meets his agent Rhoda at a restaurant for pasta. During lunch, Gordon clutches his head and falls face first into his meal. Rhoda calls an ambulance, and Gordon is taken to the hospital. He learns that he has an arteriovenous malformation. Gordon needs an operation, and if he doesn't have it, he could die or never regain the use of his faculties.

While in the hospital, Gordon contemplates his situation. His greatest fear is dying with his greatest songs still inside of him; and so from his hospital bed, and while in a coma, and all throughout his ordeal, he begins writing the songs. He also has several hallucinations that involve various people whom he has encountered. In particular, a homeless lady that he met on his way to get pasta with Rhoda continually pops up.

Gordon eventually has the surgery and recovers completely. The creative block he was experiencing before his ordeal lifts, and he gains new insights. His near death experience encourages him to re-evaluate and better appreciate the people and relationships in his life.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Gordon Shwinn – Tenor	A lovable but sarcastic composer
Mr Bungee – Baritone	The slightly tyrannical director/producer/star of his own children's television show
Mimi Shwinn – Mezzo	Gordon's loving yet unstable mother
Rhoda – Soprano	Gordon's agent and best friend
Roger Delli-Bovi – Baritone	Gordon's charming and affectionate lover
Richard – Baritone	A kind and compassionate nurse
Lisa – Mezzo	A homeless lady
Waitress / Nancy D – Soprano	The waitress is overbearing; Nancy is a mean nurse
Dr. Jafar Berensteiner – Baritone	An unsympathetic doctor
The Minister – Tenor	A somewhat clueless man of the cloth at the hospital

INDIVIDUAL AUDITION

Auditionees will be required to have prepared two contrasting songs. It is not important that the songs chosen closely match the music style of the show, instead the songs should be chosen to best demonstrate your vocal ability and range, as well as showcasing your ability to act through song. Please provide sheet music for the pianist in the correct key – there will be no facility to play backing tracks.

Please remember to fill out the audition form attached at the end of this information pack, and bring it along with you to your audition – attach your performance resume if you have one. A photo will be taken of you during the audition, so you don't need to worry about providing a headshot.

Audition Times (at venue on campus TBC):

Thursday 22 nd July	5pm – 8pm
Friday 23 rd July	5pm – 8pm
Tuesday 27 th July	6pm – 9pm
Wednesday 28 th July	6pm – 9pm
Thursday 29 th July	6pm – 9pm

**You must book a time for your audition by emailing
auditions@ummta.org**

Get in quick, because appointments will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis!

CALLBACK AUDITION

Based on your performance in the individual audition, we will be selecting certain auditionees to attend callback auditions held at the following time:

Saturday 31 st July	12pm – 5pm
--------------------------------	------------

The callback process will concentrate on determining suitability for principle roles, and you will be required to participate in script readings and possibly learn some excerpts from the show – material will be provided at the audition.

You will be informed of the requirement to attend the callback auditions before the date.

IMPORTANT DATES

By auditioning for the show, you agree to make yourself available for at least the following dates – note that this list is not exhaustive, and may be subject to change:

First rehearsal:	Tuesday 3 rd August
Subsequent rehearsals:	Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Sundays
Intensive rehearsal week:	23 rd – 26 th September, 10am – 5pm each day
Bump-in:	Sunday 17 th October
Final rehearsals and preview:	18 th – 21 st October
Performance dates:	22 nd – 30 th October

SHOW FEES AND COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

All successful cast members will be required to pay a non-refundable show fee of \$25 for their participation in the production, and are also required to be members of UMMTA. To become a lifetime member of the company incurs an additional \$5 fee, and a membership card will be provided.

Cast members are not required to be students at the University of Melbourne, nor must they be members of the Melbourne University Student Union.



University of Melbourne Music Theatre Association

Audition Form – A New Brain

Personal Details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

University of Melbourne student: No Yes Course: _____

Which role are you auditioning for?

please tick the appropriate boxes

<input type="checkbox"/>	Gordon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bungee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mimi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhoda	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roger	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waitress / Nancy D.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Berensteiner
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Minister				

Recent theatre experience, if any:

complete the following or attach performance resume

Year	Show	Role	Company

Vocal type and range (if known): _____

Availability from August 2010 – October 2010:

please include details of any planned unavailability, travel, other show commitments or any other conflicts