

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: June 19, 2012  
Contact: Joel Abels (917) 513-6793



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

StageWorks Fresno announces the  
**Fresno *Premiere* of the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical**

# ***NEXT TO NORMAL***

**Limited Engagement-JULY 13-29**  
**The Dan Pessano Theatre**

StageWorks Fresno presents the Valley premiere of the musical ***Next to Normal***, a 3 time Tony Award winner for 2009 as well as the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, with performances July 13<sup>th</sup> through the 29th at the Dan Pessano Theatre.

In 2010, the Pulitzer committee lauded ***Next to Normal*** as “a powerful rock musical that grapples with mental illness in a suburban family and expands the score and subject matter for musicals.” Inventive, emotional and thrilling. ***Next to Normal*** follows manic-depressive housewife Diana Goodman as her illness spirals out of control, wounding both herself and her family. After Diana and her daughter Natalie, husband Dan and son Gabe deal with suicide, grief, drug abuse, and the damaging effects of electroshock therapy, it seems that life will never be normal.

*“A work of muscular grace and power. It is much more than a feel-good musical; it is a feel-everything musical!”* -The New York Times

Directed by J. Daniel Herring, the company consists of Melinda Parrett as Diana, Joel C. Abels as Dan (both of whom appear courtesy of Actors Equity Association), Daniel Rodriguez as Gabe, Taylor Abels as Natalie, Adam Schroeder as Dr. Madden and Aaron Bollinger as Henry.

The Production Team for ***Next to Normal*** includes, musical direction by Terry Lewis, conducted by Anthony Taylor, lighting design by Ben Holley, and scenic design by Kris Cadieux. The Stage Manager for this production will be Brianna Kersten.

Coming off the heels of StageWorks Fresno’s acclaimed production of ***Master Class***, ***Next to Normal*** is the second production in the season, and will be followed in September by Stephen Sondheim’s ***A Little Night Music*** and in December with the family favorite, ***A Year With Frog and Toad***.

**Of note to our patrons**, as a direct result of our new partnership with Etix, we have been able to lower our per ticket price as well as improve customer service and significantly lower online processing fees. You WILL notice the difference!

Tickets are currently on sale exclusively via the StageWorks Fresno website. *Please be advised this production contains adult language and content.* For more information, to follow us on Twitter, become a fan on FaceBook, or to purchase tickets, please visit the website at [www.stageworksfresno.com](http://www.stageworksfresno.com).