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***Every Brilliant Thing* opens New Festival Season at ASF**  
**First production under new artistic leadership brings the audience onstage**

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.,** (September 18, 2018) — The New Festival Season at Alabama Shakespeare Festival, under the leadership of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt, opens with *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan with Johnny Donahoe, a funny and moving new play about the lengths we will go to for those we love.

The play is an immersive experience—members of the audience will be seated on the Festival Stage and are integral to telling the story. The play’s title refers to a list of everything wonderful in the world that the narrator writes to combat negative thoughts and depression.

With a story spanning nearly three decades and several life-changing events, evoking laughter and tears in equal measure, *Every Brilliant Thing* has received critical acclaim in London, Edinburgh, and New York; the production also aired as a documentary on HBO in 2016. British Theatre Guide calls it “the funniest play you’re ever likely to see about depression, and also the most moving.”

*Every Brilliant Thing* is directed by Rick Dildine and stars David Lee Nelson, who received his MFA from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival/University of Alabama program. An award-winning actor, playwright, and solo performer, David has appeared with Theatre: 59E59, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Out of the Loop Festival, Piccolo Spoleto, Capital Fringe, Cincinnati Fringe, SPACE at Ryder Farm and in TV/Film: *Turn* (AMC), *Nashville* (CMT), *The Inspectors* (CBS), and *Daytime Divas* (VH1).

“The story is told in an unexpected way and the experience is unique, intriguing, and beautifully simple,” said Dildine. “Audiences are fully immersed from the moment they walk onto the stage. There’s jazz music, a full bar, and David Lee Nelson greeting everyone.”

Performances will run September 29 through October 20, with Tuesday through Saturday performances at 7 p.m., Saturday performances at 2 p.m., and Sunday performances at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$42, and are available now through the ASF Box Office (located at 1 Festival Drive in Montgomery, AL; open Monday through Saturday, noon to 5:00 p.m.), by calling 800.841.4273, or by visiting asf.net. Seating for this production is limited, so it is best to reserve early.

***EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY – ONE STORY AT A TIME.***

*Alabama Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit organization under the direction of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF is a leader in education and outreach, serving more than 40,000 students annually with artistic programming. ASF is supported by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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