

# A New Brain

**By: William Finn**

**Director: Alanna  
Aquino Vassallo**

## Synopsis

“A New Brain” is a musical by William Finn and James Lapine that revolves around Gordon Schwinn, a struggling composer who faces a life- changing event when he collapses into his lunch and is diagnosed with a brain tumor. The story explores Gordon’s journey as he undergoes surgery and grapples with mortality, all while reflecting on his relationships, dreams, and the creating process. With poignant humor and heartfelt songs, the musical delves into themes of life, love, and the pursuit of artistic fulfillment within personal crisis.

## Characters

- Gordon Schwinn - vulnerable, lovable and sarcastic composer that is too ambitious for his own good.
- Rhoda - Gordons business manager and best friend which means she is caring and supporting but also must get him to work.
- Mr. Bungee (may play other roles) - Director and producer of his own children’s television show. He is an arrogant human overall.
- Nancy D (ensemble) - is a supportive nurse that is working with Gordon but is also sarcastic. Still she must do her work so she provides unwavering encouragement to the protagonist during a challenging time in his life
- Richard ( ensemble)- charismatic and flamboyant showman who brings humor and eccentricity to the protagonist's journey of self-discovery amidst a health crisis.

- Mimi Schwinn- Mother of Gordon, she has gone through a lot but is the type of person that tries to look put together when in reality everything is crumbling.
- Roger (may play multiple roles) Gordon's boyfriend who loves to sail. He comes in when the situation is at an all-time high, and his one job is to calm Gordon down.

## **General Information**

Hello Alanna here! I'm so so excited that you are considering auditioning for this amazing show just a couple of reminders. Please come as prepared as possible to ensure a successful audition. What I mean by that is do your research!!! You might have seen that Nancy D and Richard have "ensemble " next to them in parenthesis that means that when going up to sing for them you sing the ensemble track. Another question you might have is if you sing the whole cut or just the ensemble part, yes there is a little back and forth in the ensemble cut please sing the whole thing in whatever character you are choosing to audition for.

## **Audition Material!**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A5kGX11u4B6pz5DqgRpCPI3\\_H-jaT0sH](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A5kGX11u4B6pz5DqgRpCPI3_H-jaT0sH)