

Tiny Beautiful Things

Based on the book by
Cheryl Strayed

Adapted by
Nia Vardalos

Directed by
Rosalind Faires

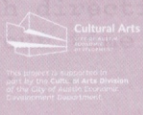


**January 10 -
February 2**

Austin Playhouse
at ACC's Highland Campus

Thurs - Sat @ 8pm
Sundays @ 5pm
Matinee Sat Jan 25 @ 2pm

Tiny Beautiful Things
contains adult
language and themes.
Recommended for ages 18+.



austinplayhouse.com | 512.476.0084

AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE

Don Toner Producing Artistic Director
Lara Toner Haddock Artistic Director

presents

TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Based on the Book by Cheryl Strayed

Adapted for the Stage by Nia Vardalos

Co-Conceived by Marshall Heyman, Thomas Kail,
and Nia Vardalos

Directed by Rosalind Faires

Production Stage Manager Mary Agen Cox* ♦

Set Designer Mike Toner

Lighting Designer Don Day

Costume Designer Molly Karrasch ♦

Sound Designer Robert S. Fisher

Properties Designer Jennifer Singletary

Original New York Production by
The Public Theater

Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director Patrick Willingham, Executive Director

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Tiny Beautiful Things January 10-February 2, 2020
Austin Playhouse ♦ P.O. Box 50533 Austin, TX 78763

phone: 512.476.0084 ♦ email: info@austinplayhouse.com ♦ www.austinplayhouse.com

THE CAST

Sugar.....**Barbara Chisholm***
Letter Writer #1.....**Lowell Bartholomee**
Letter Writer #2.....**Crystal Bird Caviel**
Letter Writer #3.....**John Christopher***

♦Austin Playhouse Company Member

*Member Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

Setting: March 2010. The play takes place over one night in the family room of a two-story home, late evening to early morning.

The play runs approximately 85 minutes, without intermission.

Photography, video and audio recording, and cell phone use (including texting) are strictly prohibited during the performance.

STAFF AND CREW

Producing Artistic Director.....Don Toner
Artistic Director.....Lara Toner Haddock
Box Office Manager.....Cyndi Williams
Business Manager.....Kenedi Delgado
Theatre for Youth Coordinator/Marketing Manager.....Marie Fahlgren
Development Manager.....Tonya Nartowicz
Development Associate.....Brian Coughlin
Box Office Associate.....Leigh Fisher
Poster Design.....Five and Four Design
Set Construction.....Mike Toner

This play contains mature content including, but not limited to, adult language and frank discussions of sexual assault.

Please check in with the box office prior to the performance if you have a specific content question.

CHERYL STRAYED

Cheryl Strayed is the author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir *Wild*, the New York Times bestsellers *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Brave Enough*, and the novel *Torch*. *Wild* was chosen by Oprah Winfrey as her first selection for Oprah's Book Club 2.0. Strayed's books have been translated into nearly forty languages around the world and have been adapted for both the screen and the stage.

The Oscar-nominated movie adaptation of *Wild* stars Reese Witherspoon as Cheryl and Laura Dern as Cheryl's mother, Bobbi. The film was directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, with a screenplay by Nick Hornby. *Tiny Beautiful Things* was adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos, who also starred in the role of Sugar/Cheryl. The play was directed by Thomas Kail and debuted at The Public Theater in New York City in a sold-out run in 2016.

Strayed's essays have been published in The Best American Essays, the New York Times, the Washington Post Magazine, Vogue, Salon, The Sun, Tin House, The New York Times Book Review, and elsewhere. Strayed was the co-host of the New York Times/WBUR podcast Dear Sugars, which originated with her popular Dear Sugar advice column on The Rumpus, and she co-authored, along with Steve Almond, The Sweet Spot advice column in the New York Times Thursday Styles section. Strayed holds an MFA in fiction writing from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

Biographical info courtesy of cherylstrayed.com.

PRODUCTION BIOS

Don Toner (Producing Artistic Director) founded Austin Playhouse in 2000. Before that he was Producing Artistic Director of the State Theatre Company/Live Oak Theatre for thirteen years. Prior to coming to Austin he was Associate Producer for the inaugural season of the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Associate Producer/Director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park for three seasons, and founder of Theatre Center of Mississippi - the state's first Equity theatre. He also produced and directed at New Stage Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Theatre Midland, and Theatre Four in New York City. For Austin Playhouse he has produced and directed over sixty productions, most recently *Holmes and Watson*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Immigrant*, *This Random World*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Bloomsday*, *Baskerville*, *A Little Night Music*, *Satchel Paige*, *Disgraced*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *The Real Thing*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Mountaintop*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Foreigner*, *The Liar*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Noises Off*, *Other Desert Cities*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Born Yesterday*, *Boeing-Boeing*, and *The Lion in Winter*. He has appeared in *And Then There Were None*, *Heroes*, *Afterplay*, and *The Three-penny Opera*.

Lara Toner Haddock (Artistic Director) has directed over twenty productions for Austin Playhouse including *The Book of Will*, *Summer and Bird* (world premiere), *Monroe* (world premiere), *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Silent Sky*, *The Explorers Club*, *The Norwegians*, *Roaring*, *Venus in Fur*, *And Then There Were None*, *A Room With A View* (which she also

adapted), *Age of Arousal*, *Dug Up*, *Women Who Steal*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and *A Texas Romance*. She also directed *Age of Arousal* at Southwestern University. She is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. Favorite Austin Playhouse roles include Tracy in *The Philadelphia Story* (Austin Chronicle Top 10 Performances of 2015), Catherine in *The Foreigner*, Brooke in *Other Desert Cities*, *The 39 Steps*, Hypatia in *Misalliance*, Lottie in *Enchanted April*, and Thomasina in *Arcadia*.

Rosalind Faires (Director) is an Austin-based director and actor. She was the 2016 recipient of Capital T Theatre's New Directions fellowship and was nominated for Outstanding Direction by the Austin Critics' Table Award for her production of *Marie Antoinette*. Regional directing credits include *The Book of Will* (assistant director, Austin Playhouse), *The Wolves* (assistant director, Hyde Park Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Something For Nothing), *Sense and Sensibility* (assistant director, Dallas Theater Center), *Macbeth* (Rude Fusion), and *Gabriel* (Southwestern University). She received dual degrees in Plan II Honors and Theatre and Dance from The University of Texas at Austin.

Mary Agen Cox (Production Stage Manager) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. Some of her favorite Austin Playhouse productions are *Roaring*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Born Yesterday*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Women Who Steal*, and *Blithe Spirit*. For Austin Playhouse she has stage managed *Time Stands Still*, *And Then There Were None*, *Exits and Entrances*, and *Private Lives*.

AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE ACTING COMPANY

Joey Banks
Brian Coughlin
Mary Agen Cox
Jacqui Cross
Rachel Dendy
Marie Fahlgren
Babs George
Claire Grasso
Boni Hester
Margaret Hoard
Huck Huckabay
Molly Karrasch
Samuel Knowlton

Christopher Loveless
Stephen Mercantel
Barry Miller
Toby Minor
Bernadette Nason
Jason Newman
Carla Nickerson
Andrea Osborn
Tom Parker
Marc Pouhé
Rick Roemer
Steve Shearer
Scott Shipman

David Stahl
David Stokey
Benjamin Summers
Zac Thomas
Zach Thompson
Lara Toner
Hans Venable
Laura Walberg
Cyndi Williams
J. Ben Wolfe
Lara Wright

Mike Toner (Set Designer) has designed sets for Austin Playhouse productions of *She Loves Me*, *Holmes and Watson*, *The Book of Will*, *Copenhagen*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Monroe*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Immigrant*, *Miss Bennet*, *This Random World*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Bloomsday*, *Baskerville*, *Silent Sky*, *A Little Night Music*, *the Explorers Club*, *Satchel Paige*, *Disgraced*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *The Norwegians*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *The Mountaintop*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Foreigner*, *Roaring*, *Born Yesterday*, *Proof*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Mike has also served as lead carpenter on over 30 Austin Playhouse productions.

Don Day (Lighting Designer) has been designing professionally for over 30 years, winning both B. Iden Payne and Austin Critics' Table awards for his work. Don has designed lights for over 40 Austin Playhouse productions, most recently *Copenhagen*, *Paradise*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Smartest Girl in the World*, *This Random World*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Bloomsday*, *Baskerville*, *Silent Sky*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Explorers Club*, *Satchel Paige*, *Disgraced*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *The Norwegians*, *The Real Thing*, *Chicago*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Mountaintop*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Foreigner*, *Roaring*, *The Liar*, and *Venus in Fur*. Don holds an MFA from the University of Texas.

Molly Karrasch (Costume Designer) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. Molly has appeared onstage in Austin Playhouse's *Lucky Stiff*, *Silent Sky*, *This Random World*, *A Little Night Music*, *Disgraced*, *Chicago*, *Time Stands Still*, *Roaring*, *Venus in Fur* (Critics' Table Nomination), *The Game's Afoot*,

Proof, *Steel Magnolias*, and *The Mousetrap* and designed costumes for the Austin Playhouse productions of *Educating Rita* and *The Imaginators*. Molly is also a Company Member at Hyde Park Theatre where she has appeared in *Slowgirl* (B. Iden Payne Award), *Tragedy: A Tragedy*, and *Tigers Be Still*. She worked with Capital T Theatre as an actor in *Fool for Love* and Lauren Gunderson's *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* (B. Iden Payne Award) and directed their production of *DNA*. Molly has a B.F.A. in Theatre from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

Robert S. Fisher (Sound Designer) is a Sound Designer, musician, and performer in Austin with Rude Mechs and Hyde Park Theatre. Robert has co-created, designed and/or performed in Rude productions since 2000, including most recently *Field Guide*, *Requiem for Tesla*, *Fixing Timon of Athens*, and *Now Now Oh Now*. He designed sound for the Austin Playhouse productions of *Holmes and Watson*, *The Book of Will*, *Summer and Bird*, *Monroe*, and *Lucky Stiff*. For Hyde Park Theatre, Robert recently designed the regional premiers of *A Doll's House Pt. 2*, *The Antipodes*, *Wakey Wakey*, *The Wolves*, and last appeared in *The Night Alive*.

Jennifer Singletary (Properties Designer) enjoys designing in many different fields, including theater, film, and graphic design. Her first production with Austin Playhouse was *The Night Hank Williams Died*, and she has gone on to design props for over 20 more productions with them, her most recent being *She Loves Me*. She has art directed commercials, shorts, and music videos, worked as an art department crew member on movies and in television, designed restaurant and home interior spaces, and recently designed the set for *Cyrano de Bergerac* with The Archive Theater. She holds a BA

in Romance Languages from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Texas at Austin.

Barbara Chisholm (Sugar) has been a professional Austin based actor for more than 25 years. Recent appearances include the US premiere of *Hang* with Horizon Line productions in Austin, Annie Wilkes in Cincinnati Playhouse's production of *Misery*, productions of the solo play *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. and at the Cincinnati Playhouse; *¾ Inches of Sky* at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis; *Keep Your Forks* at Berkeley Rep; *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* at Zach Theatre; *The Women* at San Diego Rep; and *Fixing King John* with the Rude Mechs. Film credits include the Oscar-nominated *Boyhood*, *Mr. Roosevelt* and *Fast Food Nation* among others. On television she appeared in the Emmy award winning *American Crime* and *Friday Night Lights*. She has thrice been voted Best Actor in the Austin Chronicle's annual Best of Austin and is the recipient of multiple B. Iden Payne Awards, Austin Critics' Table Awards, and Drama Logue awards for acting. As Producing Director of Red Then Productions, Barbara starred in *When Something Wonderful Ends* and produced two highly successful runs of a one-man adaptation of Shakespeare's Henry V. She teaches acting at the University of Texas at Austin.

Lowell Bartholomee (Letter Writer #1) created the video designs for Austin Playhouse's *Roaring* and *Lucky Stiff*; and appeared onstage in the Austin Playhouse production of *The Foreigner*. He recently received B. Iden Payne Awards for his sound and video designs for En Route's

Some Humans Were Harmed In the Making of This Show. He has created video and/or sound designs for Capital T, Street Corner Arts, Hyde Park Theatre, Zach Scott, Austin Shakespeare, Teatro Vivo, UT, and several other Austin companies. He is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Crystal Bird Caviel (Letter Writer #2) is an actor, writer, director and activist from Austin. She appeared in the Austin Playhouse productions of *Monroe* and *Disgraced* (Critics' Table Award) She was seen in *Not Every Mountain* and *Fixing Troilus & Cressida* with The Rude Mechs. She played with Hyde Park Theatre on *The Moors* and *The Tree Play*. She worked on *Spunk* as an actor with Spectrum Theatre Company, and directed their production of the *Juneteenth Chronicles*. Most recently, she presented her solo show *Sick/Lionheart* in Salvage Vanguard Theatre's Three Headed Fest. She is the recent founder of SpiritHouse Theatre Company. Crystal has a BFA in Performance and Production from Texas State University.

John Christopher (Letter Writer #3) Originally from Austin, John moved to Los Angeles and studied theatre at The Los Angeles Theatre Academy. While there he appeared in *National Pastime*, *Intimate Apparel*, and *A Raisin In The Sun*. After graduating from the conservatory he appeared in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and *Our Lady Of 121st Street* at The Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles. He also sang with the San Luis Obispo Opera in *Showboat*. Since moving back to Austin he has appeared in *The Comedy Of Errors*, *The Brothers Size*, *Fixing Troilus And Cressida*, *Rub A Duck*, and *It Is Magic*. He also participated in Zachary Scott's Theatre for families productions of *The Tortoise And The Hare* and *Jungalbook*.

Playwright's Note

The letters are real... I thought, as I read Cheryl Strayed's incredibly moving book, *Tiny Beautiful Things*.

People wrote these letters.

A few years ago, author Cheryl Strayed gave advice as Sugar for the literary website, The Rumpus, and later collected the letters into a book. Journalist Marshall Heyman gave his friend, director Thomas Kail, the book and Tommy gave it to me suggesting it could become a play. As I read the letters exchanged, I wept, smiled, and was astonished by the raw and extraordinary candor.

Sugar and the writers of the letters reveal themselves and we find ourselves in their conundrums and sorrows, in their lives lived and roads traveled. I yearned to be as bold, audacious and willful. As I adapted the book into a play, I found the words so illuminating that I grieved and moved on from certain events of my own.

Still, if I had one letter to write, it would be:

Dear Sugar, I hope to be as brave as the writers of the letters and as open as Cheryl Strayed.

-Nia Vardalos

Austin Playhouse Mission Statement

Austin Playhouse is dedicated to providing opportunities for Austin artists and audiences to celebrate the human experience.

Austin Playhouse will nourish your mind, delight your spirit, and enrich your life through professional productions of classic, contemporary and musical plays.

COMING SOON!

OUR 20TH SEASON CONTINUES WITH TWO AUSTIN PREMIERES AND THE RETURN OF A BELOVED CLASSIC!



Indecent

by Paula Vogel April 3- April 26, 2020

Dive into the fascinating true story of Sholem Asch's controversial play, *The God of Vengeance*, and the passionate artists who risked everything to bring it to the stage. *Indecent* celebrates the love, magic, and hope of the theatre even in the face of insurmountable adversity.

Arcadia

by Tom Stoppard May 29- June 28, 2020

Often hailed as the greatest play of our age, *Arcadia*, takes place in the drawing room of the Coverly estate across two distinct timelines. The intricacies of the relationships in each time weave a spectacular tapestry and the result is an utterly delightful dance to the music of time.



Ada and the Engine

by Lauren Gunderson June 5- June 27, 2020

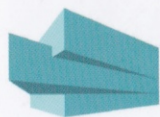
As the British Industrial Revolution dawns, we meet Ada Byron, a curious young woman and mathematician who is being pushed into a prestigious marriage. A story of love and intellectual soul mates, Gunderson's take on the mother of modern computer science is endearing, with a few surprises up its sleeve.



Ada and the Engine runs in repertory with *Arcadia*. Please see www.austinplayhouse.com for the full schedule.

Save the Date!

AMPLIFY AUSTIN is March 5 at 6pm - March 6 at 6pm



Cultural Arts
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This project is supported in part by the **Cultural Arts Division** of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.