



**THE ENGLISH THEATRE
OF HAMBURG**

presents

ALL NEW PEOPLE

**by
ZACH BRAFF**

STUDY GUIDE

Premiere on 30th April 2026

Preview performances at reduced prices on 27th, 28th, and 29th April

Tuesday – Saturday 19:30

selected Sundays 14:30

Wednesday/Friday 11:30 (Matinee performances weekly alternating)

THE ENGLISH THEATRE OF HAMBURG

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TICKETS

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Dear English Teachers and Friends,

The English Theatre will premiere the **ALL NEW PEOPLE** by Zach Braff on 30 April 2026, with preview performances at reduced prices on 27, 28, and 29 April. Bookings have already started. See the cover of this publication for dates and times of performances. Teachers who wish to preview the play before bringing a group of students to the theatre should contact marketing@englishtheatre.de.

About the Playwright

"Zachary Israel Braff (born April 6, 1975) is an American actor and filmmaker. He is best known for his role as John Michael "J.D." Dorian on the NB/ABC television series **SCRUBS** (2001–2010), for which he was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series in 2005 as well as for three Golden Globe Awards from 2005 to 2007. He starred in **THE BROKEN HEARTS CLUB: A ROMANTIC COMEDY** (2000), **THE LAST KISS** (2006), **THE EX** (2006), and **IN DUBIOUS BATTLE** (2016). He has done voice-work for **CHICKEN LITTLE** (2005) and **OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL** (2013). In 2004, Braff made his directorial debut with **GARDEN STATE** in which he also starred. Additionally, he wrote the screenplay and compiled the soundtrack album. He shot the film in his home state of New Jersey with a budget of \$2.5 million. The film made over \$35 million at the box office and was praised by critics, leading it to gain a cult following. He won numerous awards for his directing work and won the Grammy Award for Best Soundtrack Album in 2005. In 2014, Braff directed his second film, **WISH I WAS HERE**, which he partially funded with a Kickstarter campaign. Braff has appeared on stage in the dark comedy **ALL NEW PEOPLE**, in which he starred, and also wrote. The play premiered in New York City in 2011 before playing in London's West End. He also played the lead role in a musical adaptation of Woody Allen's **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY** in 2014" Source: Wikipedia

About the Play

Zach Braff's **ALL NEW PEOPLE** is a contemporary American comedy-drama that is very funny and fast-paced while dealing with serious issues. It concerns a group of young people who are coping with loneliness, confusion about life, and the fear of adulthood and responsibility. The language of the play is modern and sometimes provocative. It involves characters who say shocking or exaggerated things as they attempt to understand the perplexing challenges in their lives.

The play premiered at Second Stage Theatre in New York and subsequently moved to tour the UK, playing in Manchester, Glasgow and finally in London in early 2012. The play is set in a trendy beach house and centers on Charlie, a young man who is trying to commit suicide as the play begins. Emma, an expat Briton, comes in and saves him. She is there to show the property to prospective tenants. Emma believes that her arrival was divine intervention and sets about trying to help Charlie. She calls in Myron, a Long Island fire-fighter (and drug dealer) to help. Finally, Kim, an escort girl sent by one of Charlie's friends, arrives "to cheer him up." Charlie announces that he is very unhappy as an explanation for why he was trying to kill himself. As the play progresses, the reasons for how the other people came to be there are revealed.



SUMMARY

Zach Braff's
ALL NEW PEOPLE

Summary

Place: An expensive beach house on an island in New Jersey, USA.

Time: The present. Winter.

CHARACTERS

CHARLIE – A young man who feels lost and deeply unhappy. He is intelligent, sensitive and very lonely. At the beginning of the play, he is at a breaking point in his life.

EMMA – A young woman from England who is living in the United States without legal permission. She talks a lot, thinks quickly and uses humour to hide her fear of being sent away. She believes strongly in human connection.

KIM – A very young woman who arrives unexpectedly. She seems confident and superficial at first but gradually reveals vulnerability and surprising honesty.

MYRON – A local young man who works as a firefighter and knows everyone on the island. He appears careless and chaotic, but he has strong opinions about society, money and injustice.

THE PRESENT

Charlie has decided that he wants to commit suicide. He is standing on a chair with a noose around his neck, the other end fastened to the ceiling. But before he can kick the chair out of the way he is interrupted by Emma who comes into the house, rushes to him and saves his life. Charlie is angry with her for saving him and asks who she is and why she is in the house. She says she is a real estate agent and needs to prepare the house for a Jewish couple who are interested in possibly renting it the following summer. If she doesn't find a renter soon,

she will be fired and sent back to England because she doesn't have a green card or a visa. She is English and wants desperately to stay in the United States.

Emma asks Charlie why he wanted to kill himself, but he refuses to talk about it. She suggests that God sent her there to save him or maybe it was just fate. Then she admits that she is super-stoned so she may just be talking nonsense. Charlie wants her to leave, but she refuses because she feels it is her duty to stay to protect Charlie from trying again to kill himself. He tells her he is not happy and she replies, "Who is?" She lectures him, saying, "God gave you life and you've come back to whine for happiness. Life should be enough." Charlie tells her to stop with the religious talk, that he doesn't believe in God. Emma's cell phone rings. It's her friend Myron. She tells him where she is and what is happening and asks him to come over with the delivery he has for her. Finished with her phone call, she tells Charlie that Myron is in love with her. She could marry him and that would give her American citizenship and keep her safe from deportation back to England, but she doesn't love Myron and is not sexually attracted to him. She adds that Myron is one of those people who straddles the line of insane and sane. She thinks Charlie is too sane, but that he thinks too much which could drive him crazy.

When Charlie asks Emma to just be quiet, she walks over to a piece of African art that is made of hundreds of tiny beads woven together. When she fondles it, the beads fall all over the floor, destroying the artwork. She promises to fix it with the help of her friend Myron.

Charlie blurts out that he killed six people and that is why he plans on killing himself. She asks if he is going to kill her and he says he hasn't decided yet.

Myron comes in and she introduces him to Charlie who has claimed that the house belongs to his parents. Myron says that that is not true, that the house belongs to Kevin O'Donnell, a super-rich stockbroker. Charlie admits that the house belongs to Kevin, but that Kevin, who went to college with Charlie, offered him the use of the house. Because of Myron's fireman attire, Charlie



asks if he is a fireman. Myron replies sarcastically, "No, I'm a gay stripper." He had been getting bored at the fire station and bizarrely finds it exciting that Charlie was going to kill himself. Emma says Charlie confessed to having killed six people, but Myron doesn't believe her. He asks if she is stoned and she admits that she is.

Charlie heads for the bar to get a drink, but on his way, he slips on the beads on the floor and falls on his back. Emma rushes to him and asks if he is okay. Charlie gets up and pours himself a drink at the bar. He holds his back which hurts from the fall. Myron asks Charlie to pour him a drink too, but Charlie refuses to do so because if there is a fire somewhere Myron needs to be sober. Myron explains that there is no danger of there being a fire in the off season when it is so cold and snow is falling. He asserts that he'll have several drinks if he wants to.

Emma tells Charlie that Myron does other things now that it is the off season. He is a drug dealer, she says. But Myron says he prefers being called a "Purveyor of Distractions." Charlie has had enough of both Emma and Myron. He tells them that if they don't get out of the house, he is going to get a gun from the other room and blow their "fucking heads off!" They don't take him seriously. Emma asks why he would want to kill his new friends, possibly the only friends that he has. Myron believes Charlie is talking "bullshit," and both he and Emma remain seated on the couch. Emma claims all she needs is a green card and she asks Charlie if he can steal one for her.

FLASHBACK to London

Emma is sitting across from a man named Badger, a British man. He tells her it will be done on Monday, the day before a man they know will be paroled. He tells Emma she needs to leave the country and have no contact with anyone she knows. She is to forget she ever met him because she did something wrong. If she doesn't follow his instructions, he will slit her father's throat.

THE PRESENT

Charlie tells Emma he is not a thief and cannot steal a green card for her. He is a fighter pilot, not a criminal. Myron thinks that Charlie is lying about being a fighter pilot just to impress Emma. Charlie admits he did lie about claiming that the beach house was his parents, but he

explains that Kevin O'Donnell and he went to college together and because he was having a hard time, he told Kevin he wanted to be alone. Kevin therefore allowed him to stay at his beach house. The doorbell rings. Emma is afraid it is the Jewish couple wanting to look at the house. She asks Myron if he told anyone he was coming to the house. He says he didn't, but he did park his fire truck nearby. Finally, Myron opens the door. It is Kim, a beautiful young woman who, having seen the fire truck, asks if there is a fire. Myron replies that he has already put it out. Kim is looking for Charlie because Kevin O'Donnell sent her from New York City as a gift to cheer him up on his birthday. She points out that she is an escort, not a prostitute. Kim is ready for a party and asks if they have any tequila and cocaine. Charlie insists that they will not be having a party and tells her to "get the fuck out." He says he is not feeling well and is trying to get rid of the guests he already has. Kim assures him that he doesn't have to have sex with her. They can just sit and talk since Kevin bought her for the whole night.

Kim wonders if Charlie is upset about the fire and he tells her there was no fire. Myron says it was more like a mini-holocaust. "Where are all the other firemen," she asks. Myron, Emma and Charlie tell her they are dead. Then Kim realizes they are "fucking" with her. Myron says, not yet, but they're looking forward to that. Kim tells Charlie that she rode three hours to get there and her ride has already gone. Myron offers to take her back in his fire truck, but Emma puts a stop to that idea by asking Myron if he shouldn't be grieving for all the dead firemen. She asks Myron for the drugs called "Canadian anti-depressants" because she "feels a downward spiral coming on." Kim wants to know what Emma is on and tells her what drugs she takes. Emma answers that her drugs don't really have a name because she is an illegal alien so she takes what she can afford from Canada. They're just called "Happier" because she can't afford "Happiest."

Kim thinks that all illegal aliens are Mexican because that is what they show on the news. She can't understand why Emma speaks with a British accent if she is Mexican. Emma patiently explains. She gets flustered, however, when the slow-witted Kim asks her why she doesn't just return to England.



Charlie tries again to get his three unwanted guests to leave, but Emma tells him they are not going to leave him alone. Kim is upset that Charlie is the first man who has turned down her sex services.

FLASHBACK to Kevin O'Donnell's expensive New York loft

Kevin and Kim have just finished having sex.

Knowing that Kim is a prostitute, Kevin anxiously asks her if she has AIDS and if she used the anti-baby pill. When she answers no to both questions, he tells her she must take the morning after pill because he can't afford to get her pregnant. His wife is already pregnant. Kim, an aspiring singer, asks him to help her pay for her demo. Kevin sees this as blackmail. She tells him he should just think of it as supporting the arts. Kevin protests that he already supports the arts, having just donated a quarter-million dollars on some "bullshit" African art that he put in his beach house. It's made up of hundreds of little beads, he says. He asks how much she would need for a demo and she replies that fifty thousand dollars would work. He agrees to pay for the demo, but he wants to see her take the pill, so he knows she won't get pregnant.

THE PRESENT

Kim tells the others that Kevin had been very supportive of her music career. She claims to be a singer/songwriter who works as an escort just to pay the rent. Myron wants to know how much Kevin paid her for sex and is shocked when she says he paid her fifteen-thousand dollars. Charlie is also surprised when he finds out that Kevin paid Kim the same amount to come to the beach house and have sex with him. Charlie is not interested but he thinks it was kind of Kevin to pay so much money to send him some company. Charlie is amazed that people will do anything to avoid being alone. He wants to be alone now but there was a time when he would do anything to avoid being alone. Kim doesn't understand why Charlie wants to get rid of them if he is lonely. Emma wonders how he can be lonely when he is surrounded by her, Myron and Kim.

FLASHBACK to Myron (a teacher), sitting across from Ramona, a school principal

Ramona accuses Myron of giving a party where some of his students were drinking and consuming narcotics.. Myron claims that the kids were happy and that it was

nice to be around them in contrast to the adults he meets in the teachers' lounge who always have something to complain about. The principal listens to his excuses. Then she tells him he is fired.

THE PRESENT

Emma says that since Myron was a teacher for ten years, he should be able to put on a show for them and provide some entertainment for Charlie's party. Myron refuses, saying he is a public servant, not a court jester. Kim says she will let him feel her breasts if he entertains them. Myron accepts the offer and asks Charlie what he would like to hear. Charlie doesn't know, but he recalls a play that he was involved in in high school that meant a lot to him. It was *The Merchant of Venice*. So Myron expertly recites some of what Shylock says during the play. Kim then says they should all do what they do best to entertain Charlie on his birthday. She will sing one of her songs. Emma says she will search the house for some decorations and presents. Emma and Kim go upstairs together.

Myron and Charlie are now left alone. Myron asks Charlie why he made up the story about being a fighter pilot. Charlie admits he just wanted to seem a bit more than he is. Myron finds it weird that someone intent on committing suicide cares about impressing people. He asks if Charlie left a note. Charlie says that what he would have written would have been too long to fit into a note. Myron also wants to know why Charlie would choose hanging as a way out. Why not do something painless like carbon monoxide in a car, he asks. Charlie answers that the next time he tries to commit suicide he will do it in a way that is less upsetting to Myron. Myron wants Charlie to give him something truthful about himself and then he will leave him alone. Charlie confesses that, instead of being a fighter pilot, he was an air-traffic controller.

FLASHBACK to an air traffic controller office (This is a mixture of past and present.)

Charlie talks to Myron in the present about the past. He tells Myron that one day while working as an air-traffic controller he was distracted by two ants on his console. The ants were fighting over a tiny crumb from a Pop-Tart he had eaten earlier. He went into a kind of trance as he watched the two ants. For the first time in his life he



felt a close connection with God. He thought he should pray and his prayer went like this: "God? I'm here and I need your help. And I know I'm not starving, I know I'm not fighting in some war, I'm not sick, but I am stuck in this pit. Can you pull me out? Can you help me? Can you help me with a sign?" As Charlie was distracted by the ants and his prayer, he neglected his controller duties and as a result two planes, that had not been warned of the dangerous proximity they were in, crashed and six people died. The inquiry into the collision was ruled as an accident, but Charlie was suspended for one hundred days. Charlie felt responsible and that is why he sentenced himself to death.

THE PRESENT

Emma and Kim return from upstairs. Emma tells the men that she and Kim didn't find decorations, but they found Christmas lights and an exercise ball. She throws the ball to Charlie who catches it. Kim shows Charlie a ukulele that she found and tells him she is going to play a song for him. Myron helps Emma string the Christmas lights around the room. Emma tells Charlie he is really cute and suggests that he marry her so she and their children will all have beautiful blue American passports. Then she corrects herself. "Not passports," she says, "but someone to love so it matters that we're here."

Myron, who genuinely loves Emma, is feeling possessive. He tells Emma that she has a lot of nerve talking to Charlie like that when she knows how he feels about her. She warns Myron not to start talking about his feelings for her when they are having a party for Charlie. She explains that she enjoys and appreciates him but that she cannot love him. She wants to get off the subject and suggests that they each say something nice about Charlie. She goes first telling him how happy she is that she was able to save him and that he is a very lovely boy. Then she tells Kim it is her turn. Kim says that when she first saw Charlie she was "looking forward to fucking him, that he is really cute and she loves soldiers, especially fighter pilots." She adds that she hopes he changes his mind about having sex with her. Emma tells Myron that it is his turn. Myron then tells Charlie, although he knows it is not true, that he is the first fighter pilot he has ever met, and that he is a brave soul. He hopes Charlie will live long enough to know that he matters and that he is not alone. He finishes by saying there is love and compassion for

Charlie from the three kind strangers he has come to know and that he will discover something that makes his life worth living. Emma tells Myron that his words were beautiful, and Kim says they were pretty.

Then Myron suggests they should go around the room and tell Charlie about the darkest moment in their lives, so Charlie won't feel so alone in his sadness. He asks Emma to go first and tell Charlie the real reason she can't go back to London. Emma objects vehemently and challenges Myron to go first if he is so committed to helping Charlie. Myron agrees to go first. He tells Charlie that he was fired from being a teacher because he did drugs with his students at a high school party. Now Myron tells Emma it is her turn to confess. Since she refuses, he decides to tell her story against her will. When he starts, however, Emma interrupts and decides to tell her story herself.

She left England, Emma says, because she was raped. Myron interjects that that is not the whole story. He continues, saying that Emma had her rapist killed when he was about to get out of prison for good behavior. He was found in prison with a sharpened toothbrush handle in his heart. We all have pain, Myron says, and no one is killing themselves today or ever again. He tells Charlie that all his favorite movies end with a twist and maybe Charlie's twist is that he found something to live for on his birthday. He found some companionship.

Emma asks Charlie when God is going to shed his grace on her, that it has been a really long time since anyone's told her that everything was going to be okay and she could believe them. Charlie replies, "What if we say just for tonight...everything is going to be okay."

Kim starts talking about an experience she had. She used to work at a phone sex place where there was an old black woman who used the name Sensation. Kim praised her highly, saying she could keep men on the phone longer than all the rest of the women who worked there. One day Kim was in a bad mood, and she was crying in one of the bathroom stalls. Suddenly, Sensation, who had come in the rest room, flung open the stall door where Kim was crying. She called her Princess, the name Kim was using for her clients, and she told her, "In a hundred years, there'll be all new people." Kim says that she thinks about those words



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almost every day. Then she tells Charlie she is going to give Charlie his birthday present, one of the songs she has written. She picks up her ukulele and sings:

WHEN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY TO MAKE
THINGS BETTER
I SLING MY ARM AROUND YOUR SHOULDER LIKE A
SWEATER
TRY TO BEAR SOME OF THE BURDEN THAT YOU'RE
WEARING
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO LIFT YOU

WE'LL RALLY, RALLY
WE'LL RALLY AROUND YOU
WE'LL RALLY, RALLY AROUND YOU

Myron, who has gone outside to smoke, looks at them through the window.

Charlie says he didn't write a suicide note because he didn't have anyone to write it to. Emma tells Charlie it's nice to be with friends on your birthday. They look into each other's eyes and Charlie smiles as the lights fade to blackout.

As the snow begins to fall outside, she continues:

THE END

Objective Questions

1. What is Charlie trying to do in the beach house at the beginning of the play?
2. Who does the beach house really belong to?
3. Why can't Emma return to England?
4. Explain why Myron was fired as a teacher.
5. How does Emma feel about Myron who says he is in love with her?
6. Why does Charlie claim he is a fighter pilot?
7. Why does Kim come to the beach house?
8. How does Kim earn money? What does she aspire to?
9. How did Charlie kill people?
10. What do Ema, Myron and Kim say or do to cheer up Charlie on his birthday?

For Discussion or Written Work

1. What genre would you place ALL NEW PEOPLE in – comedy or drama or something in between?
2. Do you think it's a good thing to use humour to talk about serious subjects? Why or why not?
3. Is this simply a play about young people behaving and talking badly? Or is the author trying to say something more serious about the lives of young people today?
4. Discuss how the characters in the play are coping with loneliness, lack of success and the fear of taking responsibility in life. Is this typical of all young people today?
5. Why do you think the author titled his play ALL NEW PEOPLE? In your opinion, have the characters developed a meaningful sense of connection with each other by the end of the play?

Answer Key

1. Charlie is trying to commit suicide by hanging himself.
2. The beach house belongs to Charlie's friend, Kevin O'Donnell, a rich stockbroker.
3. Because in England Emma arranged to have her rapist killed.
4. Myron was fired because he gave a party where his students consumed alcohol and narcotics.
5. Emma says she enjoys and appreciates Myron but is not in love with him.
6. Charlie claims he is a fighter pilot to seem more than he really is.
7. Kim was hired by Charlie's friend, Kevin O'Donnell, to have sex with Charlie on his birthday.
8. Kim earns money as a prostitute but aspires to be a singer/songwriter.
9. While working as an air traffic controller, Charlie was distracted and allowed two planes to crash, killing six people.
10. Among other things, Kim plays the ukulele and sings a song, Myron says there is love and compassion for Charlie, and Emma decorates the beach house with Christmas lights.