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A New Brain:

A New Brain is a musical about a composer/songwriter Gordon, a man who suffers a Arteriovenous Malformation which affects his brain. In the show Gordon is forced to confront how little he has done in life and what that means for himself and those around him. The setting and relationships are explorations of his fears and aspirations with each character being a representation of different aspects of his sub conscience. For instance, Richard, the nice nurse, is the embodiment of his fears about body image and what he could become: Poor, unsuccessful and fat. It's a show about making the most out of life in the face of despair and tragedy and understanding what you have and appreciating it.

Mr Bungee:

Mr Bungee is a frog-like humanoid character that is meant to be an homage to children show mascots of decades past. Characters like Barney The Purple Dinosaur, The Muppets, the Sesame Street gang, Mr Tumble and so on. The character is the star of his own television show and it is very much like Pee-wee's playhouse and Basil Brush in that it is based in a live action setting with a live audience there to clap and cheer along. It's the kind of show your kids would watch on Disney+ or Cbeebies nowadays and is very much intended for younger audiences, with Mr Bungee referring to the children as 'little tadpoles'. However, Mr Bungee isn't just a character from the show, he's also the show's creator. Bungee as a person isn't seen much but from what we do see of him we can see that he is the exact opposite of Bungee the character. Mr Bungee (showrunner) is egotistical, proud and often throws a temper tantrum when things don't go his way, unlike Mr Bungee (The character) who is zanny, bouncy and cheerful.

Relationship to Gordon:

Mr Bungee is a recurring character within the play but is never present in a physical sense. He is the figment of Gordons imagination and is brought on from Gordons many years of working on Mr Bungee's television show. Gordon hates working on the show and blames Mr Bungee for his lack of progress in his career. In that sense, Bungee is more like a demon that is there to remind Gordon of how little he has achieved in life. He is a loud, obnoxious, condescending jokester that is a constant pain for Gordon to deal with. As the show goes however we see things change between them. In songs like 'Be Polite' for example we see there may be more to Mr Bungee's purpose than what it seems initially. He goes from being a pain to a motivator for Gordon, an annoying motivator but a motivator nonetheless. It makes you reflect and think that maybe this whole time Mr Bungee was less of a problem for Gordons to deal with but more like a friend that cares enough to bully you into achieving what you want in life. By the end Mr Bungee has disappeared, Gordon finally learns his lesson meaning Mr Bungee as a character has served his purpose and exits the story.

My Inspirations:

I took inspiration from characters of popular children's tv shows: Pee-wee Herman, Mr Tumble, The Muppets, The Teletubbies, The Wiggles, Barney The Purple Dinosaur and so on were perfect reference material. These characters could be loud, condescending, zanny, bouncy, friendly and/or innocent, the exact kind of characteristics Mr Bungee can have. For me, I think playing into the zanny, condescending nature of the character works best as Bungee is constantly in Gordons face and telling him what to do. Bungee is often played with either an American accent or a more RP/English quality. I decided a more American cartoon

style of voice helped with the zaniness, absurdity and joyful qualities of Bungee but will change to a Boston accent when playing Mr Bungee the show runner. I chose this accent because it is both completely different to the one I have as Mr Bungee (The Frog) but also because the Boston accent has an interesting mix of being both aggressive and hilarious; Mr Bungee (The Showrunner) described it in two words. I didn't want him to be a complete cartoon however so to help ground the character in some sense of reality I took inspiration from people that are basically real life cartoons. Mr Bungee is for kids, yes, but if I don't bring some sense of reliability to him I feel my performance will be more of a distraction from the show rather than a part of it. Graham Norton, Phil Gallagher, Conan O'Brien, Robin Williams and Jim Carrey are just some examples of performers, hosts and entertainers of a more zanny quality that are funny, yet real.

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