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King Chemo

a play for young people
by Brian Guehring

Kevin is a 10 year-old boy with an active imagination who has returned to the hospital for chemotherapy to treat his leukemia (which has returned after a brief remission). Kevin is convinced that leukemia doesn't actually exist, but is rather a plot by the "Powers That Be" to control all children. Melissa is a mature 10 year-old girl who also is chemotherapy patient. Melissa very meticulously takes all medicines, studies all the available information, and following all of the doctor's advice.

When Kevin and Melissa meet, Kevin tries to convince Melissa that the doctors are the evil "Powers That Be." Their imaginations take them to a super-villain's lair, a mad scientist laboratory, an alien planet, a vampire lair, and a spy headquarters. Melissa tries to convince Kevin that leukemia should be taken seriously. By the end of the play, Melissa has regained some of the imagination and childishness she had lost, and Kevin allows the doctors to help him in his fight against his true enemy: the cancer.

Production History

King Chemo was originally produced in the spring of 1996 as a touring production of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin. King Chemo opened at Austin Circle of Theater's Playfest '96 on March 13, 1996. The play was also performed at Brackenridge Hospital's The Park pediatric oncology outpatient clinic and at the University of Texas at Austin Lab Theatre. An excerpt of the play was also performed at a regional ASSITEJ-USA (International Children's Theater Association) conference in Dallas. The production team and cast were as follows:

Director: Kati Koerner Dramaturg: Charles Adams
Costume Design: Erin Slattery Original Music: Allison Downey
Education Director: Amy Handler Stage Manager: Cheryl Green
Producer: Suzan L. Zeder

Kevin.....Guilford Adams
Melissa.....Amy Handler
Doctor.....Pamela Ribon
Nurse.....Jeff Long

King Chemo was subsequently produced by the Impromptu Players at Macon College in Macon, Georgia as the playwright's thesis production for his MFA in Children's Theater/Creative Drama from University of Texas at Austin. The production opened on April 24, 1997 on their main-stage and then subsequently toured the community with the following production team and cast:

Director: Sydney Chalfa Set and Light Design: Michael Evans Miller
Costume Design: Shelley Kuhlen Stage Manager: Shanda Bizzle
Dramaturg: Suzan L. Zeder Outreach: Michael Evans Miller
Kevin.....Jason Courson
Melissa.....Amy Ferrell
Doctor.....Rose Hunt Person
Nurse.....Michael Stewart

King Chemo was then produced by the Teens N Theater program at the Omaha Theater Company for Young People at the Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center in Omaha, Nebraska. This production and surrounding outreach was the high school interns' project in partnership with the Children's Hospital and the Nebraska Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The project was awarded a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council. The production opened on September 6, 2003 in the Hitchcock theater and then toured to a local elementary school and to Villisca Iowa with the following production team and cast:

Director:Kevin Ehrhart Producer: Brian Guehring
Light Design: Andrew Vance Marketing: Fran Sillau
Dramaturg: Michael Evans Miller Outreach: Jill Dibbern Manhart
Sound Design: Kevin Ehrhart
Kevin.....Joshua Mithcell
Melissa.....Shannon Kyler
Doctor.....Emily McTate
Intern.....Emily Greenberg
Nurse.....Erin O'Keefe
Floor Nurse.....Darrell Hobbs

**King Chemo has been honored by
Southwest Theatre Association (SWTA) (1997 Children's New Script Award)
and Nebraska Arts Council (2002 Individual Artist Fellowship)**

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Characters:

KEVIN- a ten year-old boy under going chemotherapy

MELISSA-a ten year-old girl under going chemotherapy

DOCTOR- female hemotologist/oncologist

also plays: ICE QUEEN, DR. STRANGEGLOVE, ZYBOX, COUNTESS, AGENT
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NURSE- male R.N.

also plays: PUPPET MAN, IGOR, QWICKBERT, NOSFERATU, AGENT X

Casting Notes and Expansion:

The first two productions were played with 2 males and 2 females. The Nurse could be a female if needed. The nurse and doctor parts can also be split into 4 roles. The third production had a Doctor, Intern, Floor Nurse, and Nurse.

Setting:

MONDAY: Scene 1- the torture chamber of the Ice Queen

Scene 2 -Melissa's hospital room

Scene 3 -the evil laboratory of Dr. StrangeGlove

TUESDAY: Scene 4-Melissa's hospital room

Scene 5- the bizarre atmosphere of planet Wuwomp

Scene 6- Kevin's hospital room

WEDNESDAY:Scene 7-Melissa's hospital room

Scene 8- the creepy vampire lair of the Countess

THURSDAY:Scene 9- Kevin's hospital room

Scene 10- the high tech secret agent command center

NEXT FRIDAY: Scene 11-Kevin's hospital room

The hospital settings are anteseptic, metallic, and shiny with harsh, white lighting. The fantasy settings are colorful, darker, and imaginative.

Transitions between scenes during the same day should be as quick as possible.

Set notes:

Despite the fanciful set descriptions, this play can be produced very simply. The original production used one bed, two IVs, three rolling screens, many props, great costumes and lots of audience imagination to create all the locations for the show.

The second production had a beautiful, elaborate set that was able to transform and create all the fantastic locations from Kevin's imagination.

MONDAY

(Monday, Scene 1: Super-hero music fades up as lights reveal an icy prison-like torture chamber {remarkably also slightly resembling a hospital room}. A shiny icy substance covers all furniture. KEVIN is trapped in the room)

KEVIN *(in a recorded voice-over)*

Welcome back to "THE ADVENTURES OF INVINCIBLE BOY, Defender of Youth." When we last left our hero {a normal boy in appearance, but born of superhuman strength, agility, and intelligence}, he had just been captured by his evil arch enemy, the Ice Queen

(The ICE QUEEN enters wearing an ice-blue villainess costume {slightly resembling pastel blue hospital scrubs})

{the famous rising figure skating star who tragically crashed through thin ice transforming her into a villainess with an ice heart} and her devoted lackey, Puppet Man

(PUPPET MAN enters wearing a marionette outfit {also remarkably resembling hospital scrubs})

{the famous championship rock climber who was caught in an trecherous avalanche changing herm into a brainless, spineless sidekick}.

KEVIN *(live)*

So, we meet again Ice Queen.

ICE QUEEN

Yes, Invincible Boy, and this time there is no escape.

KEVIN

Don't be so sure.

ICE QUEEN

Puppet boy, get our prisoner a glass of ice water.

PUPPET MAN

Yes, your iciness.

(PUPPET MAN goes to get a glass of water)

ICE QUEEN

I want you to feel welcome in my ice castle. Is it cold enough for you?

KEVIN

You can't freeze me, Ice Witch.

ICE QUEEN

We'll lower the temperature more and see, won't we?

KEVIN

You'll never keep me here, you Frozen Freakazoid.

(PUPPET MAN returns with water and ICE QUEEN trips him sending the water into KEVIN's face)

ICE QUEEN

Did that sting? Your pathetic powers are no match for me.

KEVIN

I'll enjoy seeing you sweat in a hot jail cell.

ICE QUEEN

You should really give up that heroism thing. It's so passé. You should really join our side.

KEVIN

Join you? Doing what?

ICE QUEEN

To eliminate fun, imagination, and everything that brings happiness. To create a world where pain, seriousness, and logic dominate the world. To establish a planet where only the Ice Queen will rule.

KEVIN

How do you plan to accomplish this?

ICE QUEEN

By stealing toys, freezing amusement parks, and making boring television. If all else fails, we'll kill all the happy people.

(PUPPET MAN laughs evilly)

Why are you laughing in my presence?

PUPPET MAN

My Queen, it was an evil laugh, not a happy laugh.

ICE QUEEN

I don't care.

(ICE QUEEN pulls PUPPET MAN's string so PUPPET MAN slaps himself)

PUPPET MAN

Sorry.

ICE QUEEN

I could use you, Invincible Boy. Your superhuman strength, agility, and intelligence would help us. What do you say, partners?

KEVIN

Never.

ICE QUEEN

Maybe we can change your mind. Puppet Man, give him "the pill."

(PUPPET MAN brings out a pill)

PUPPET MAN

This will help you cool off.

KEVIN

I won't take it.

ICE QUEEN

I think you will.

(ICE QUEEN opens a drawer and dry ice smoke falls out as she selects a torture device {resembling a stethoscope}. ICE QUEEN places the torture device on KEVIN's back)

KEVIN

AAAAHHHHH!

(PUPPET MAN drops pill in the shivering KEVIN's open mouth)

ICE QUEEN

So sorry, was that cold for you?

PUPPET MAN

This should answer any more questions you have about the plan of attack.

(PUPPET MAN hands him a pamphlet)

KEVIN *(reading)*

"Cold-bloodedness and You: How an Emotionless Existence Increases Longevity." I'll never join you.

ICE QUEEN

Then we have no choice but to kill you.

KEVIN

You can't.

ICE QUEEN

Do you think you are strong enough to resist?

KEVIN

I've trained three times a day, eat lots of superheroes power snacks, and spend five hours each day on video fight simulation.

PUPPET MAN *(to ICE QUEEN)*

He trains more than you do.

KEVIN

Would you like to be tortured or just put to death quickly?

ICE QUEEN

Neither. Puppet Man, begin the ice treatment.

PUPPET MAN

As you wish, your coldness.

KEVIN

You can never defeat me. I am Invincible Boy, Defender of Youth!

ICE QUEEN

You won't be for much longer.

*(PUPPET MAN attaches a torture device {somewhat resembling an IV} on KEVIN's arm.
KEVIN braces himself for the pain)*

This treatment will slowly replace your blood cells with ice crystals. Later we'll replace your bones with icicles and your spinal fluid with ice water. You have four days to either join our side or permanently become Icicle Boy.

KEVIN

I'm strong enough to resist you.

ICE QUEEN

We'll see. For now, sit back and chill, Invincible Boy. We'll be back soon to start with your bones and spinal fluid.

PUPPET MAN

Ready for your next prisoner? The new girl?

(PUPPET MAN hands ICE QUEEN a folder)

ICE QUEEN

Yes, the potential Polar Princess. Very logical and serious already. Let's go.

(ICE QUEEN and PUPPET MAN begin to leave as KEVIN begins to take out IV)

Oh, and Invincible Boy, I know what you are thinking, and I suggest that you don't take it out.

Your body will go into immediate withdrawal, and you'll die now instead of Friday. Think about my offer, Invincible Boy.

(ICE QUEEN and PUPPET MAN leave. KEVIN stands with his icy IV)

KEVIN

Four days to escape this fiendish imprisonment and to save that poor girl. First I must avoid my ice surgery, then I must find the girl. The adventures of Invincible Boy, Defender of Youth have begun again!

(KEVIN exits with IV to dramatic fanfare)

(Monday, Scene 2: The fantasy music fades into a sound collage of a hospital. Lights reveal a small room very similar to the set of the last scene, but now clearly a hospital room. {Note: the blocking during the first part of this scene parallels the blocking of the previous scene}. MELISSA is sitting in her room as NURSE and DOCTOR enter)

MELISSA

Good morning.

DOCTOR

Good morning, Melissa. How are you doing today?

MELISSA

Pretty good.

NURSE

Melissa, would you like a glass of ice water?

MELISSA

Yes, please.

(NURSE goes to get a glass of water)

DOCTOR

Make sure you don't trip this time.

NURSE

I'll be extra careful not to spill it again.

DOCTOR

Melissa, we want you to be as comfortable as possible here. Is the room temperature OK?

MELISSA

It's fine.

DOCTOR

Good.

(NURSE hands MELISSA drink)

MELISSA

Thank you.

DOCTOR

We are about to start the treatment, but remember I can't do this alone. I need your help.

MELISSA and DOCTOR

Partners.

NURSE

This is to help you so you won't get nauseated.

(Handing MELISSA a pill)

MELISSA

Zofran?

(NURSE nods and MELISSA swallows pill)

DOCTOR

Now I'm just going to check your breathing. I'm sorry but this might be cold.

(DOCTOR uses stethoscope to check MELISSA's breathing)

NURSE

We brought you another pamphlet.

(NURSE hands MELISSA a pamphlet)

MELISSA

"Chemotherapy and You: How a Nutritious Diet Aids Treatment." Thanks.

(MELISSA adds new pamphlets to her hoard of information.)

DOCTOR

Do you have any questions about the pamphlets we gave you last time?

MELISSA

I don't think so. I knew most of the information already. The one on clinical trials was pretty interesting, but the general one about cancer was so simple. I think it would be more appropriate for a younger age group.

DOCTOR

I'll take a note of that.

MELISSA

So what's going to happen today?

DOCTOR

Let's look and see what tests you're scheduled for....

MELISSA

Oh, I'm scheduled for a bone marrow test and a spinal tap to make sure the cancer cells haven't come back. I just wanted to know when the tests are.

NURSE

You're scheduled for 2:00 this afternoon. We're going to begin your IV now so we can start your chemotherapy soon.

(NURSE begins hooking up her IV to her infusaport)

DOCTOR

Have you been eating well?

MELISSA

Yes, ma'am. Three balanced meals each day, no salty or fatty foods, lots of fluids, and only healthy snacks.

NURSE *(to DOCTOR)*

She eats better than you do.

MELISSA

Would you like a rice cake or some soybeans?

DOCTOR

No thank you. Is there anything you need?

(MELISSA shakes her head. DOCTOR and NURSE begin to leave)

DOCTOR

We'll be back shortly to begin the treatment.

MELISSA

Should I buzz the call button to remind you?

DOCTOR

Only if we aren't here by 2:05.

NURSE

I'll get Kevin so we can start his tests.

(NURSE and DOCTOR exit. MELISSA starts to read pamphlet. KEVIN sneaks into the room and sees MELISSA)

KEVIN

Hey! Don't read that!

MELISSA

What are you doing in my room?

(KEVIN rushes and takes the pamphlet away from her and starts jumping up and down on the pamphlet)

KEVIN

Don't believe a word in this.

MELISSA

What are you doing?

KEVIN

I'm destroying the evil propaganda from the Ice Queen. She gives it to everyone.

(KEVIN shows MELISSA his pamphlet)

MELISSA

What are you talking about?

KEVIN
I'm saving you from the evil villainess who wants to destroy us!
(KEVIN rips up the pamphlets)

MELISSA
You're ripping up pamphlets on nutrition.

KEVIN
You can thank me later.
(KEVIN throws pamphlets in trash)

MELISSA
Who are you?

KEVIN
Who am I? Who are you?

MELISSA
No, who are you?

KEVIN
Who are you?

MELISSA
I asked first.

KEVIN
I asked second.

NURSE *(Off-Stage)*
Kevin!

KEVIN
Shhhh!
(KEVIN grabs MELISSA and both hide behind partition. NURSE enters and looks around. NURSE can't find KEVIN or MELISSA)

NURSE
Kevin? Melissa?
(NURSE exits. KEVIN and MELISSA come out from behind the partition)

MELISSA
What are you doing in my room, Kevin?

KEVIN
Playing a game with the nurse, Melissa. Don't worry he thinks its lots of fun. So what brings you here?

MELISSA

Considering this is the cancer floor of a hospital, it's probably a safe bet I have cancer.

KEVIN

Sassy. I like that. When were you diagnosed?

MELISSA

That's none of your business.

KEVIN

You must be a rookie. You see, I've been doing this for over a year now. I'm the king of chemotherapy. If you have any questions, just ask me. I've helped a lot of young kids get through chemotherapy.

MELISSA

How do you help?

KEVIN

I fill them in on what's really going on. For instance,...
(KEVIN goes to the hall to check for signs of the doctor)
You have to watch out for the "doctor".

MELISSA

Why? She's been very nice to me.

KEVIN

Acting nice to you, but in reality she is pure....
(NURSE opens door and KEVIN and IV dive behind curtain)

NURSE

I'm sorry to disturb you, Melissa, but you haven't seen Kevin, have you?

MELISSA

Who?

NURSE

I guess not. If you had met Kevin, you'd remember. I'm sure you'll meet him soon. He's another leukemia patient. Thanks anyway.
(NURSE exits)

KEVIN

Hey, thanks. You're alright.

MELISSA

What is the doctor really?

KEVIN

Pure Evil. She won't be able to hide it for much longer if you watch closely.

Kevin, not all doctors are mean.

MELISSA

Not all doctors. Just her.

KEVIN

Why would she be mean to me?

MELISSA

Because you're a leukemia patient.

KEVIN

She's mean to all leukemia patients?

MELISSA

Yes. You see, only the really special kids get leukemia. The few, the proud, the leukemia kids. It's actually a great honor to be chosen for chemo.

KEVIN

Chemotherapy is an honor?

MELISSA

No. Chemo is terrible. The honor is being chosen. It means you were too strong to be broken through the usual means.

KEVIN

Who wants to break us?

MELISSA

The Powers that Be.

KEVIN

(KEVIN pulls out his charts and maps)

See, there is someone out there trying to control us Earth children. Obviously the entire hospital staff is in on the plan. I'm not sure who's behind it yet, but I think it's the "doctor".

MELISSA

And why do they want to control us?

KEVIN

Not sure. Probably for world domination.

MELISSA

Why are you telling me?

KEVIN

My mission is to discover who they really are and save the world's children from their evil plots.

MELISSA

Oh.

(Going back to her journal)

KEVIN

What are you doing? Don't bother doing any homework. Just tell your teachers you were too tired to finish. They won't say anything.

MELISSA

It's my health journal, not homework.

KEVIN

Good, because school is the number one way the Powers that Be try and control kids.

MELISSA

How do they use school?

KEVIN

To brainwash us.

MELISSA

And how do you fight this?

KEVIN

I think for myself. That really frustrates my teacher.

MELISSA

I believe it.

KEVIN

They tried to break me by making me repeat the 2nd grade, but I was too smart for them. I still didn't learn anything.

MELISSA

How do the Powers that Be use leukemia?

KEVIN

Because they can't control me through school, they're trying chemicals. It won't work though. They can't control this mind.

MELISSA

Kevin, this may be a crazy idea, but have you ever considered the possibility that the chemotherapy is to stop the cancer?

KEVIN

Melissa, Melissa, Melissa. You are so young and naive. I can tell I have a lot to teach you about the real world. I'm not sick. They made this cancer thing up.

(NURSE enters as KEVIN hides again)

NURSE

I'm sorry, Melissa. I thought I heard something.
(NURSE exits and KEVIN re-emerges)

MELISSA

They didn't make cancer up.

KEVIN

They did.

(KEVIN pulls out a chair for a witness stand)

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I'm here to prove that leukemia doesn't exist. I would like to call an "alleged" leukemia patient to the stand. Miss Melissa, do you sweat to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you Elvis?

(KEVIN swears MELISSA in using a bedpan.)

MELISSA

Sure.

(MELISSA sits in chair)

KEVIN

Now Miss Melissa, does your cancer hurt like a broken bone?

MELISSA

No.

KEVIN

Do you get a fever like you do when you get the flu?

MELISSA

I did.

KEVIN

But do you now?

MELISSA

No.

KEVIN

Ah-ha! Why are you still in the hospital, then?

(Before MELISSA can answer)

Melissa, can they show you an X-Ray and point out the leukemia?

MELISSA

Not an x-ray. But they have tests. They can extract a sample of bone marrow from your hip and determine if you have leukemia.

KEVIN

What does bone marrow even look like?

MELISSA

I don't know. I've never seen it.

KEVIN

Mmm-Hmmm, then how do you know if your bone marrow has leukemia?

MELISSA

They show you the test results.

KEVIN

Which are what? Photos? Numbers? Charts? Graphs?

MELISSA

They show you the number of cancer cells.

KEVIN

Numbers? Could they make up these numbers?

MELISSA

They wouldn't...

KEVIN

Only answer the question, ma'am. Could they make up these numbers?

MELISSA

Well yeah, but...

KEVIN *(Cutting her off)*

Ah, ha! Now, ma'am, is leukemia contagious?

MELISSA

No.

KEVIN

Then how did you get it?

MELISSA

They don't know yet how people get leukemia.

KEVIN

Because it doesn't exist? Ladies and gentlemen, I rest my case.

MELISSA

Why did I get leukemia then?

KEVIN

Look you're going to have to be quicker than this if you are going to hang with me. They are trying to control all of us children.

MELISSA

Why was I given cancer, then? I'm a good student. According to you "Powers that Be" are already dominating me.

KEVIN

You're probably a control case.
(Pause)

MELISSA

You're weird.

KEVIN

At least keep a close eye on the "doctor".

MELISSA

Why should I?

KEVIN

Will it hurt you? No. And on the off chance that once again I'm right which I always am so you better get used to it, it could save your life.

MELISSA

Fine. I'll watch her.
(NURSE enters quietly wearing gloves)

KEVIN

Keep an eye on the nurse, too. I'm still not sure about him.
(NURSE clears throat. KEVIN hits the floor to hide behind the bed, but his IV is still clearly visible.)

NURSE

Hoarding all the IV's, Melissa? Kevin, you can come out now.

KEVIN *(In a high pitched voice)*

He's not here.

NURSE

Kevin, your bone marrow test and spinal tap are scheduled for right now.
(DOCTOR enters taking off her gloves)

DOCTOR

We might as well move on to the next patient, if we can't...

NURSE

We just found him.

DOCTOR

You can't just avoid these procedures, Kevin. Not taking the tests won't change whether you are in remission or not. I know a transplant is scary idea, but you have to take these tests.

KEVIN

Why?

DOCTOR

To determine if the cancer has come back.

KEVIN

You'll try and give me a transplant no matter what your little experiments say.

DOCTOR

No, if you're in remission, no transplant. Trust me.

KEVIN

Why?

(the DOCTOR's pager goes off)

DOCTOR

Kevin, I can't argue now.

NURSE

Should we reschedule Kevin's tests for 3:00?

DOCTOR

I guess we'll have to. Melissa, we'll do your bone marrow test and spinal tap at 2. And Kevin we'll do them at 3. And don't make the entire hospital staff come find you, next time, Kevin.

(DOCTOR exits)

NURSE

If I don't have to look for you at 3:00, I'll bring you the Nintendo, Kevin.

KEVIN

Really?

(NURSE nods and exits)

Were you watching? The "doctor" is evil.

MELISSA

She is not. And even you can't think that our nurse is mean.

KEVIN

It's either a trick or he's been brainwashed. Either way the doctor wants to use me as a guinea pig for her evil experiments.

MELISSA

They aren't experiments. It's treatment to fight the cancer.

KEVIN

Then why are the “doctor” and nurse are always wearing gloves?

MELISSA

What?

KEVIN

They always have gloves on their hands when they do procedures. It's very suspicious.

MELISSA

It's so they don't touch the blood.

KEVIN

Nah, they wear gloves so they won't leave any fingerprints. They don't want to leave any evidence of their experiments.

MELISSA

You're crazy.

KEVIN

Fine, I'll prove it to you.

MELISSA

How?

KEVIN

I'll take you to the mad scientist's laboratory.

MELISSA

Where?

KEVIN

You'll see. C'mon. And don't forget your walkie-talkie.

MELISSA

My what?

KEVIN

(Pointing to his IV bag)

Your walkie-talkie.

(Using IV bag like a walkie-talkie)

Numero Uno to Veggie Salad. You can't go on a stakeout without it. Over....Girls.

(KEVIN and MELISSA exit)

Brian Guehring is the Playwright in Residence of the Omaha Theater Company, one of the nation's largest professional theaters for young people. Brian has adapted the world premiere scripts of the Newberry Award winning novel **Julie of the Wolves** (directed by Everett Quinton), **Miss Bindergarten**, **If You Give a Cat a Cupcake**, **The Misfits**, **Holidays Around the World** and **Sacagawea: Discovering History**. Brian's scripts have won several national and regional awards. His adaptations of **Where the Red Fern Grows** and **Old Yeller** and his original Theater in Education play **The Super Adventures of Pyramid Man and Dr. Nutrition** won AATE (American Alliance for Theater and Education) Unpublished Play Project Awards. His script **The Bully Show** was selected for the 2002 New Visions/New Voices new play development workshop at the Kennedy Center. Brian received a playwriting fellowship from the Nebraska Arts Council in 2002. His new adaptation of the Newberry Award winning novel **The Giver** was honored as one of the best theater productions of 2008 in Omaha by the Omaha World Herald. His original script **King Chemo** won the Southwest Theater Association's 1997 Best New Play for Children, and his original play **Creating Haley's World** was selected in 2003 for development in the inaugural Playwrights in Our Schools program. His plays have been produced by Imagination Stage in Washington, D.C., Lexington Children's Theater, Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, Barter Theater of Virginia, South Carolina Children's Theater, A.D. Players in Houston, Apple Tree Theater for Young Audiences in Chicago, Town Hall Theater in Dayton, and other schools and theaters. **King Chemo** and **The Bully Show** are published by Dramatic Publishing Company. He also contributed to Dramatic Publishing's **The Bully Plays**, an anthology of 10 minute plays about bullying for teen performers.

Brian is also the Education Director of the Omaha Theater Company which does drama and dance education outreach for every single child in over 80 local schools each year. His teen theater troupe **Pride Players** (which uses improvisation to explore issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and straight allied teens) won a Human and Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association in 2006. In 2010, Brian was elected to the Board of Theater For Young Audiences/USA. Brian earned his MFA in Children's Theater and Creative Drama from the University of Texas at Austin.