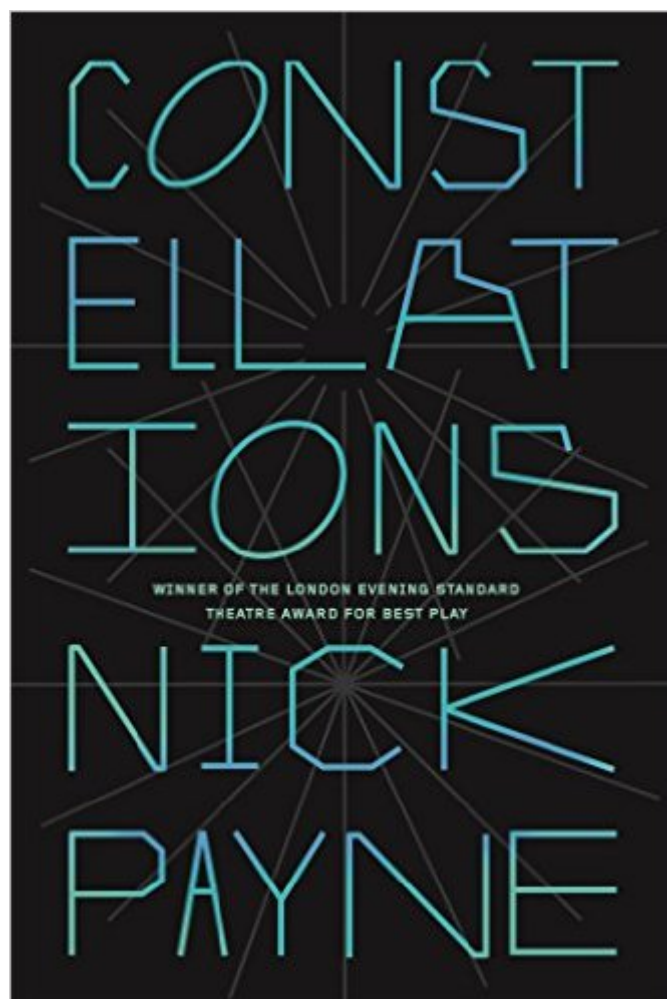


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# Constellations: A Play



## Synopsis

"A singular astonishment." — John Lahr, *The New Yorker* One relationship. Infinite possibilities. In the beginning Marianne and Roland meet at a party. They go for a drink, or perhaps they don't. They fall madly in love and start dating, but eventually they break up. After a chance encounter in a supermarket they get back together, or maybe they run into each other and Marianne reveals that she's now engaged to someone else and that's that. Or perhaps Roland is engaged. Maybe they get married, or maybe their time together will be tragically short. Nick Payne's *Constellations* is a play about free will and friendship; it's also about quantum multiverse theory, love, and honey.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This play truly was something special. If you've ever read or seen "Sure Thing" by David Ives, this runs right down a similar path. However, this is a full-length play... at least it's longer than "Sure Thing." It is grounded in reality which allows each individual scenario to be believable in its own right. I laughed out loud and I felt my heartstrings being plucked by cruel realities and unfortunate timing. **\*MINOR SPOILER\*** While this is a celebration of the idea of alternate realities, it deals with the idea that we as humans actually do not have any control over the big picture. Everything will always fall as it always was going to fall. The constellations in the sky are always the same. You can't change the destination, so why not change the journey? Decide what you can, and let fate decide the rest.

Saw this a few weeks ago with Jake Gyllenhal and Ruth Wilson and just loved it! It is David Ives' All

in the Timing with a British accent. It is funny; it is sad; it is imaginative. It is all of the things most new plays aren't. As with Logan's Red this play will be done all over America and at 70 minutes long with only two actors it is going to be a young actors' dream roll. Buy it and enjoy the wonderful twists of language. You will not be disappointed.

A key element of this play is that some lines are repeated in different circumstances, with different tones and emphases--thus, would read this script only if you're an actor, otherwise would recommend watching it live.

Constellations comes with praise from high quarters: John Lahr called it "a singular astonishment" (The New Yorker), two different reviewers in the New York Times waxed ecstatic over it (Matt Wolf: "The nearest I've come across in ages to a play that feels heaven-sent." Ben Brantley: "[It] gets in your head and under your skin with an immediacy that sometimes tickles and often hurts."). It won the London Evening Standard award for best play. What makes Constellations exceptional is its combination of emotional warmth and experimental form. There are two characters, Marianne, a physicist, and Ben, a beekeeper. They meet, dance around each other, either fall in love with each other or don't, either stay together or don't, and things happen to Marianne that puts all that has gone on before at risk. The play unrolls like a film clip that can be pulled back and run again, and can be altered, old lines leading to new consequences. Marianne's starting speech is said three times over in the first five minutes on stage, with different follow-up each time, and so on and so on till the very end of the play. The ending too cycles back and you're left unsure what's going on between Marianne and Ben or what it will lead to and if the ending of it all has to be sad or not. This is a very good play.

The sheer virtuosity of Payne's writing is stunning. He took an idea from quantum mechanics and used it to rewrite our concept of dramatic structure as thoroughly as quantum mechanics has rewritten our concept of physical reality. The emotional resonance of this play has haunted me ever since I first saw it performed, but it works as well on the page as it does on the stage.

Love it. Thought provoking. It's a play so it's in a different style of course. But it has the back and forth of the desire of wanting to rewrite your life over that one scenario that could've changed everything. It was tender and lighthearted. I would love to change to see this show performed.

Multiverse! Delightful, deliciously short. Engaging, witty, and believe it or not, suspenseful. Recommended for intelligent open minded audience. Wish I could see this performed.

Do we live in parallel universes? If so, for a spectator to whom time is linear, as it is to us, the experience of watching it could be similar to Constellations.

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