

Los Feliz Ledger

February 1, 2021

Free & Virtual: Unravelled & Live from Storybook Theatre

BY MARILYN TOWER OLIVER ON FEBRUARY 1, 2021

For almost a year theatergoers have missed the thrill of seeing a live production. There is, however, a glimmer of hope on the horizon.

The celebrated Fountain Theater has been approved by the city of Los Angeles to install a temporary outdoor stage in the adjacent parking lot.

The space will accommodate up to 84 audience members with adequate spacing for social distancing. Twelve high top tables will be available for members of the same households. All will meet COVID-19 safety guidelines.

“Pandemic permitting, we hope to open our first outdoor production in the summer,” said Stephen Sachs, artistic director for the Fountain, one of the theatrical gems of our area.

The award winning theater has a long history of producing plays that reflect the diversity of Los Angeles.

While we’ll have to wait a few more months before we can go the outdoor stage, there is a noteworthy virtual production you may want to check out in February.

Unravelled, a new drama by Jake Broder, which will have a free online premiere on February 25th, sponsored by the Global Brain Health Institute at the University of California San Francisco and Trinity College in Dublin.

The play explores the connection between the works of Canadian artist Anne Adams (1940-2007) and French composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937).

Both suffered from a form of dementia, which apparently altered the circuits in their brains which resulted in a surge of creativity.

When Adams, a famous scientist, was in her 50s she lost interest in science and began to paint.

Obsessed with Ravel's masterpiece, *Bolero*, she painted her most famous work, *Unravelling Bolero*, in which she transcribes the music bar by bar.

Seeking to understand her behavior, her husband, Robert, took her to see Dr. Bruce Miller, director of the Memory and Aging Center at the Global Brain Health Institute at the Univ. of California at San Francisco.

In the play **Lucy Davenport** (*Gangs of New York, Alice in Wonderland*) stars as Adams. L.A. Drama Critics Circle award-winning actor **Rob Nagle** portrays her husband Robert and Obie award-winning actor **Leo Marks** portrays Dr. Miller.

"The science is fascinating," said director Nike Doukas. "The real theme of the play revolves around identity and love."

There's also something for children in February.

Live from Storybook Theatre, will present six favorite fairytales on demand on You Tube. Classic favorites include *Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, The Princess and the Frog, Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Goldilocks*.

The plays are written and performed by artists of Theatre West. Storybook Theater has been producing plays for the younger set for over 30 years. The free plays are non-violent in content.

Unravelled streams on February 25th at 4 p.m. and will be available through March 31st [here](#). Live seminars with Dr. Bruce Miller and other experts in the field will follow productions on February 25th after the 4 p.m. show and March 3 after the 9 a.m. show. **Free**

Live from Story Book Theatre can be found on YouTube [here](#).

Cover photo: A scene from Unravelled with Lucy Davenport as Anne Adams. Photo Credit: Corwin Evans.

Marilyn Tower Oliver

Ledger Theater Critic