



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Art, music, brain science cross paths in ‘UnRavelled’

Global Brain Health Institute / UC San Francisco / Trinity College Dublin present virtual premiere of new drama by Jake Broder

SAN FRANCISCO (Jan. 19, 2021) — Art, music and science intersect in ***UnRavelled***, a new drama by award-winning, Los Angeles-based playwright **Jake Broder** (*Louis & Keely Live at the Sahara*), set to receive its **virtual premiere** sponsored by the **Global Brain Health Institute**, based at the **University of California, San Francisco**; and **Trinity College Dublin**, the **University of Dublin, Ireland**. Directed by **Nike Doukas** (Pinter’s *The Hothouse* at Antaeus, *Red Ink* by Steven Leigh Morris at Playwright’s Arena), *UnRavelled* is set to begin streaming on **Thursday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. PT / 7 p.m. ET** at www.UnRavelledPlay.com, where it will remain available to view, free and on demand, **through March 31**.

Based on true events and incorporating research and interviews conducted by Broder as a Hellman Visiting Artist at UCSF’s Memory and Aging Center, *UnRavelled* explores the fascinating connection between the work of Canadian painter **Anne Adams** (1940–2007) and French composer **Maurice Ravel** (1875–1937), both of whom suffered from the same rare brain disease.

According to Memory and Aging Center director and GBHI co-director **Dr. Bruce Miller**, “Ravel and Dr. Adams were in the early stages of primary progressive aphasia, a form of frontotemporal dementia, when they were working. The disease apparently altered circuits in their brains, changing the connections between the front and back parts and resulting in a torrent of creativity.”

Lucy Davenport (Scorsese’s *Gangs of New York*, Tim Burton’s *Alice in Wonderland*, Betty Friedan in upcoming feature *Roe v. Wade*) stars as Adams, a renowned scientist, who, in her fifties and at the height of her career, lost interest in science and began painting. Starting out with simple works — houses, strawberries — Adams became suddenly, inexplicably obsessed by Ravel’s famous symphonic masterpiece, *Boléro*, and began to paint in a wildly different style. The result was Adams’ most famous work, “Unravelling *Boléro*,” a virtuosic painting of brilliant design and color, in which she transcribed Ravel’s music bar by bar.

Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award-winning actor **Rob Nagle** (*The Judas Kiss* at Boston Court, *The Little Foxes* at Antaeus) stars as Anne’s husband, Robert, who, in his attempt to understand and navigate Anne’s radically changing sense of self, eventually brought her to see Dr. Miller, portrayed in the play by Obie award-winning actor **Leo Marks** (*The Hothouse* at Antaeus, *Everything That Never Happened* at Boston Court).

Finally, *LA Weekly* award winner **Conor Duffy** (*Stoneface: The Rise And Fall And Rise Of Buster Keaton* at Sacred Fools) plays Ravel, whose one-movement orchestral piece, composed as a ballet for Russian dancer Ida Rubinstein (played by **Melissa Greenspan** of *Modern Family*, *Good Girls Revolt*, *Desperate Housewives*) became his most famous work — in spite of the fact that it, too, was a radical departure in style for the composer.

Also in the cast, providing narration, is **Michael Lanahan** (Broder’s *Louis & Keely* at the Geffen Playhouse).

“The science is fascinating — the idea that this rare form of dementia allowed Anne to experience music so vividly that she felt compelled to begin painting pictures of her auditory experience — but the real themes of the play revolve around identity and love,” says Doukas. “The beauty of the writing, the humanism paired with science, and the wonderful cast are what make this project so compelling.”

The creative team for *UnRavelled* includes production designer **Corwin Evans**, sound designer **Jeff Gardner** and production coordinator **Bree Pavey**.

Two live seminars featuring experts in the field — including Dr. Miller — will take place on **Thursday, Feb. 25**, immediately following the initial **4 p.m. PT / 7 p.m. ET** stream; and **Wednesday, March 3** immediately following the stream beginning at **9 a.m. PT / 12 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. GMT**.

The Global Brain Health Institute is a leader in the global community dedicated to protecting the world’s aging populations from threats to brain health. GBHI works to reduce the scale and impact of dementia in three ways: by training and connecting the next generation of leaders in brain health through the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health program; by collaborating in expanding preventions and interventions;

and by sharing knowledge and engaging in advocacy. GBHI strives to improve brain health for populations across the world, reaching into local communities and across our global network. GBHI brings together a powerful mix of disciplines, professions, backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and approaches to develop new science-based solutions. GBHI focuses on working compassionately with all people including those in vulnerable and under-served populations to improve outcomes and promote dignity for all people.

To register to receive a free link to view the play and to learn more about the supporting live events, go to www.UnRavelledPlay.com.

Details for Calendar Listings

‘UnRavelled’

WHAT:

Art, music and science intersect in *UnRavelled*, a new drama by award-winning, Los Angeles-based playwright **Jake Broder** (*Louis & Keely Live at the Sahara*), set to receive its **virtual premiere** sponsored by the **Global Brain Health Institute**, based at the **University of California, San Francisco**; and **Trinity College Dublin**, the **University of Dublin, Ireland**. Based on true events and incorporating research and interviews conducted by Broder as a Hellman Visiting Artist at UCSF’s Memory and Aging Center, *UnRavelled* explores the fascinating connection between the work of Canadian painter Anne Adams (1940–2007) and French composer Maurice Ravel (1875–1937), both of whom suffered from the same rare brain disease.

WHO:

- Written by **Jake Broder**
- Directed by **Nike Doukas**
- Starring **Lucy Davenport, Conor Duffy, Melissa Greenspan, Michael Lanahan, Leo Marks, Rob Nagle**
- Presented by **Global Brain Health Institute**, based at the **University of California, San Francisco**; and **Trinity College Dublin**, the **University of Dublin, Ireland**

WHEN::

- Begins streaming **Thursday, 25** at **4 p.m. PT / 7 p.m. ET** and remains available on demand **through March 31**.
- Two live seminars featuring experts in the field, including neurologist and UCSF Memory and Aging Center director **Bruce Miller**, who diagnosed Adams, will take place on:
 - **Thursday, Feb. 25**, immediately following the initial **4 p.m. PT / 7 p.m. ET** stream
 - **Wednesday, March 3** immediately following the stream beginning at **9 a.m. PT / 12 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. GMT**

TICKET PRICE:

Free

HOW:

www.UnRavelledPlay.com

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