



For Immediate Release

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**UnRavelled Outreach,
“Festival” of Brain Health to Raise Awareness of Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD),
To Run Concurrently with World Premiere of UnRavelled,
Play about the Astounding True Story of
Canadian Painter/Biologist Dr. Anne Adams and French Composer Maurice Ravel,
Inexorably Linked by (FTD) 100 Years Apart**

**Festival, Designed to Deepen Audiences’ Connection Play’s Themes, Includes
First Major Art Exhibition of Dr. Adams’ Paintings,
Debut of Groundbreaking LA-Specific FTD Caregiver Guide,
Array of Pre- and Post-Performance Interactive Self-Guided Displays and Kiosks, Talk-Backs,
Art Therapy Workshops, and Medical Presentations about FTD and Dementia**

**Friday, October 17, 2025, 7:30 pm
Saturday, October 18, 2025, 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 19, 2025, 2:00 pm
at Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills**

(Los Angeles, CA – September 24, 2025) ***UnRavelled***, an award-winning play offering a unique perspective on the extraordinary power of the human mind in the face of neurological disease by noted playwright **Jake Broder** (*Louis & Keely Live at the Sahara*, *Our American Hamlet*), an Atlantic Fellow at the Global Brain Health Institute, receives its highly anticipated world premiere – surrounded by **UnRavelled Outreach**, a fascinating and enlightening brain health festival offering audiences a deeper dive into the play’s themes – October 17-19, 2025, at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. The play centers on the stirring true story about the remarkable connection between the work of Canadian painter and eminent biologist **Dr. Anne Adams** (1940–2007) and French composer **Maurice Ravel** (1875–1937), both of whom lived with the same brain disease, **frontotemporal dementia (FTD)**, almost 100 years apart.

FTD is the most common form of dementia in people under age 60, which manifests with behavioral or language alterations – not memory loss or paralysis typical of other types of dementia. FTD is the same kind of dementia that afflicts actor **Bruce Willis**.

Running concurrently with the play, the brain health festival, led by Outreach Director **Samantha Rose Williams**, features an array of pre- and post-performance activities, including an art exhibition, informative talks, art therapy workshops, and engaging interactive self-guided displays and kiosks designed to deepen the audience's connection to the play's themes and to transform the conversation around dementia to spread a message of hope, possibility, and creativity. The displays, developed by For Their Thoughts® Foundation, also offer clarity, connection, and a sense of empowerment presented in a format that meets viewers where they are.

Among the festival highlights, the **first-ever major art exhibition of Dr. Adams' extraordinary paintings** which will be on display in The Wallis lobby along with brain scans showing the changes in her brain that correlate to the different phases of her painting to as her FTD progressed.

Talk-backs accompany each of the three performances with a mix of medical experts, scientists, caretakers, advocates, and artists providing different perspectives on the issues raised by the play. One of the key panelists is the doctor who helped diagnose Dr. Adams – **Dr. Bruce Miller**, director of both **UCSF's Memory and Aging Center** and the **Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)**. Further helping to increase public awareness of FTD, free copies of books about dementia are available. They include *Mysteries of the Social Brain* by Dr. Bruce Miller and Dr. Virginia Sturm; *ABC of Invertebrates* by Anne and Robert Adams; and *The Unexpected Journey* by Emma Heming Willis, Bruce Willis' wife and primary care partner.

Pop-ups providing self-guided hands-on **experiential exhibits**, presented by **For Their Thoughts Foundation**, which is dedicated to bettering the lives of those impacted by dementia, are available before and after each show in The Wallis' Grand Hall, Sculpture Garden, and Theatre Lobby.

The mix of passive and interactive experiential exhibits features tactile displays that enable people to step into Dr. Adams' shoes. This immersive experience simulates the overstimulation, language or motor barriers often felt by people with FTD or dementia, bridging our perception to their reality and empowering participants with empathy. The Wallis' Sculpture Garden, transformed into The Redwood Forest, provides a calm space for reflection and highlights caregivers and their vital role in helping loved ones afflicted with dementia.

Additionally, local dementia and FTD organizations, including the Association for Frontotemporal Dementia, Global Brain Health Institute, Cedars-Sinai, UCLA, Alzheimer's Los Angeles, The

BrightFocus Foundation, Lilly Pharmaceuticals, and Hilarity for Charity will provide advocates to share resources and information.

UnRavelled Outreach also brings to the Los Angeles community a groundbreaking **LA Caregiver Roadmap for FTD** produced by Cedars Sinai, in partnership with UCSF and Emma Heming Willis. This first-of-its-kind resource guide was created to connect LA-based caregivers to local services, research and drug trial opportunities, and community support for individuals diagnosed with FTD. The LA Caregiver Roadmap for FTD is a much-needed tool that will help ensure that patients and caregivers can access the essential support they need. The guide, available to audience members, will also be provided to healthcare providers and dementia organizations for even wider distribution and impact.

In addition to the numerous public-facing activities available at The Wallis, other programs will directly target the frontline medical, academic, and FTD communities, including a **grand rounds medical presentation** for healthcare professionals led by Dr. Miller at **Cedars-Sinai** addressing FTD awareness and developments in diagnosis and care.

Finally, a series of free **art therapy workshops** in music, visual art, movement, and storytelling created specifically for those living with FTD and their caregivers are available to the FTD and larger dementia communities (by advance reservation). Inspired by Dr. Adams' approach to trans-modal creativity, which fosters communication without relying on language, the workshops are designed to help sustain meaningful human connection for as long as possible, supporting resilience in both patients and caregivers. They will be led by **Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health from GBHI Cathy Correa Lopera, Magda Kaczmarek, Laura Calderón Cuevas, and Verónica Rojas**, international leaders in artistic interventions for people with dementia.

UnRavelled Partner Organizations and Supporters

UnRavelled and its ancillary programs are presented in partnership and with the generous support of the Dana Foundation; Global Brain Health Institute; Kristin Holloway; Lilly Pharmaceuticals; The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration; The Kissick Family Foundation; UCSF Memory and Aging Center; Kestrel Neuroscience; 3F Foundation; and Robin Donohoe. Local partners include Cedars-Sinai; For Their Thoughts Foundation; UCLA Brain Research Institute; UCLA Easton Center; The BrightFocus Foundation; and ALZ-LA. Support is also generously provided by the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

Tickets and Information

For more information about UnRavelled, please visit www.unravelledplay.com. For tickets and ticket information for UnRavelled (\$32 - \$77) and information, please call 310-746-4000 or visit www.thewallis.org. Tickets also include the exhibition of Dr. Adam's paintings, a talk-back, and pre- and post-show experiential displays on dementia and FTD. The Wallis is located at 9390 N Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnRavelledPlay>

X: <https://x.com/unravelledplay>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unravelledplay/>

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE CALENDAR LISTING:

WHAT:

UnRavelled (World Premiere)

Created and Written by Jake Broder

CAST:

Lucy Davenport (Dr. Anne Adams)

Andrew Borba (Robert Adams)

Larry Poindexter (Dr. Bruce Miller)

Leo Marks (Maurice Ravel)

Tracey A. Leigh (Ida Rubinstein)

MUSIC ENSEMBLE:

Rachel Iba, violin

Michelle Elliott Rearick, cello

Aron Kallay, keyboards

Nathaniel Edison, winds

Randy Gloss, percussion

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Director: James Bonas

Executive Producer: Cath Brittan

Composer & Sound Designer: Mark Grey

Movement Director: Cydney Uffindell-Phillips

Set Designer: Emma Kingsbury

Lighting Designer: Masha Tsimring

Video Designer: Adam Larsen

Costume Designer: Molly Irelan

Outreach Director: Samantha Rose Williams

Production Manager: Kerstin Heinrich

WHEN/SCHEDULE:

October 17-19, 2025

Friday, October 17

9:30 AM-9:50PM Anne Adams Art Gallery

6:30 PM interactive lobby open

7:30 PM PERFORMANCE

9:00 PM panel discussion (on stage) – *UnRavelling Bolero: The Case that Started it All**
Explores the medical case of Dr. Anne Adams through a blend of scientists, caretakers, & artists
9:00-10:00 PM interactive lobby open

Saturday, October 18, 7:30 PM

9:30 AM-9:50PM Anne Adams Art Gallery
6:30 PM interactive lobby open
7:30 PM PERFORMANCE
9:00 PM panel discussion (on stage) – *What's Coming Next?***
Addresses the future of FTD through a policy, science, and advocacy lens, exploring the current roadblocks to early diagnosis, federal funding, and increased public awareness
9:00-10:00 PM interactive lobby open

Sunday, October 19, 2:00 PM

12:00 PM-4:15 PM Anne Adams Art Gallery
12:45-1:45 PM interactive lobby open
1:30 PM panel discussion (on stage) – *Doing Better than Diagnosis to Death ****
Explores how we can change the narrative around dementia as storytellers & advocates
2:00 PM PERFORMANCE
3:30-4:15 PM interactive lobby open

WHERE:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

RUN TIME:

90 minutes with no intermission

NOTE:

Exhibition of Dr. Anne Adams' paintings, talk-back, and pre- and post-show interactive self-guided displays and kiosks on dementia and FTD, which are part of the brain health festival, are included with play admission

TICKET INFORMATION:

\$32 - \$77
310-746-4000
www.thewallis.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNRAVELLED:

www.unravelledplay.com

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnRavelledPlay>
X: <https://x.com/unravelledplay>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unravelledplay/>

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List of Talk-Back Panelists (by date):

Friday, October 17, 9-9:30 pm

**UnRavelling Bolero: The Case that Started it All*

Explores the medical case of Dr. Anne Adams through a blend of scientists, caretakers & artists

Panelists include:

Dr. Bruce Miller (A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professor in Neurology, Director, Memory and Aging Center, and Founding Director, Global Brain Health Institute, UCSF)

Ryan Kissick, (Co-President, Kissick Foundation)

Jake Broder (playwright/actor/ Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Institute)

Lucy Davenport (actress)

Dr. Victor Valcour (Site Director of GBHI at UCSF and a geriatrician at the Memory and Aging Center at UCSF)

Dr. Marilu Gorno-Tempini (behavioral neurologist, Director of Language Neurobiology Laboratory of the UCSF Memory and Aging Center)

Moderated by **Emily Silverman**

Saturday, October 18, 9-9:30pm

****What's Coming Next**

Addresses future of FTD through a policy, science, and advocacy lens to explore the current roadblocks to early diagnosis, federal funding, and increased public awareness

Panelists include:

Dr. Bill Seeley (Professor of Neurology and Pathology, UCSF Memory and Aging Center; Director, UCSF Neurodegenerative Disease Brain Bank)

Susan Dickinson (CEO, The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration)

Emma Heming Willis (FTD caregiver and advocate)

Linde Lee Jacobs (nurse, FTD research advocate)

Dr. Brandy Matthews (Vice President of Global & US Medical Affairs, Alzheimer's Disease, Lilly Pharmaceuticals)

Moderated by **Indre Viskontis**

Sunday, October 19, 1:30-2:00 pm

*****Doing Better than Diagnosis to Death**

Explores how we can change the narrative around dementia as storytellers and advocates

Panelists include:

Dr. Sarah Kremen (Director, Behavioral Neurology Program and Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry Fellowship at the Jona Goldrich Center for Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center)

Dr. Dan Geschwind (Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics, Neurology, and Psychiatry, UCLA)

Cindy Weinstein (author; Eli and Edythe Broad Professor of English at the California Institute of Technology)

Robin Richards Donohoe (venture capitalist; Board Chair, Blue Field Project)

James Keach (filmmaker/director - *Walk the Line*, *Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me*);

moderated by **Zach Bandler** (director/screenwriter; first recipient of the Miller Artist in Residence at UCSF Memory and Aging Center)

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