

## BRAIN STORM

Produced by LUCID LUDIC - Conceived of and Directed by Taliesin McEnaney

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### Play Synopsis

#### **PLOT SYNOPSIS**

Kate has suffered a brain injury, completely upending her sensory perception and relationship to the world. As she struggles to navigate her new life, she looks to her deceased grandmother, a medium who communicated with the spirit of famous neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield, channeling his message of hope for a conscious mind that survives the physical brain. At the core of Kate's path to recovery is a desire to create art that speaks to her new perceptions, but the process is fraught with seemingly unsurmountable obstacles. Told in a physical and poetic style, **BRAIN STORM** is a visually arresting journey which asks the question; are our brains magic, machines – or both?

#### **CREATION HISTORY**

**BRAIN STORM** is a highly personal work for director Taliesin McEnaney. Her grandmother was a 'script mentalist medium' –she channelled written messages from the 'spirit realm' to her home in 1970s suburban Ontario. One message, from deceased neuro-surgeon Dr. Wilder Penfield, (If the name sounds familiar but you can't place it, click on this link: <https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/wilder-penfield>) proclaimed that the mind does go on separately from the physical brain when it dies or gets damaged. Fast-forward 40 years and Taliesin is dealing with a major brain injury within her own family and struggling with many of the questions that Penfield devoted his work to. Using a physical and visual style of story-telling, **BRAIN STORM** is her metabolization of these decade-spanning events, and a way to confront the life-changing and reality-shifting event of a brain injury.

**BRAIN STORM** was created using the Repère method, which uses a system of devising that foregrounds the actor's connections to specific object or narrative resources. A major resource for the creation of this show was the scripts from McEnaney's grandmother's messages that she channelled from "theatres elsewhere".