



For Immediate Release
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"After the Crash"

Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County along with Ontario Brain Injury Association are pleased to present a dramatic play *After the Crash* at historical MacKenzie Hall, on Thursday, February 17, 2011.

"We are extremely pleased to be teaming up with the Ontario Brain Injury Association in order to have *After the Crash* performed here in Windsor," says Melanie Gardin, President of the Brain Injury Association of Windsor Essex County. "We have heard great reviews about the performance and can only image the impact the play will have on our local attendees", she continues. This is the first time the play will be held in the area.

"After the Crash" is about what comes after the brain injury. The play was written and directed by Julia Gray as part of a Toronto Rehab research project led by Drs. Angela Colantonio and Pia Kontos. *After the Crash* is based on information gathered from brain injury survivors, their family caregivers and health care providers in a series of focus groups along with findings from a literature search. The result is a moving even disturbing story about the devastating effects of a traumatic brain injury on Elliott, a lawyer, his wife, family and friends as he goes through the rehabilitation process and attempts to recover. The play takes the audience through a roller-coaster ride of emotions, and explores topics such as grieving and loss of self, how to deal with behavioural issues arising from brain injury, how to engage patients and families in the rehabilitation process and how to communicate effectively with a person who has sustained a brain injury.

While the play is written with Health Care Providers, Case Managers and Care Decision Makers in mind, anyone can benefit from learning about the after effects of brain injury. Brain injury can be catastrophic and often happens suddenly. "Your whole life could change overnight" says Ms. Gardin. The actors in this play reinforce the need for compassion for survivors and providing them with respect, choice and control.

Traumatic brain injury is a leading cause of death and disability for people under 40 years of age with motor vehicle collisions and falls accounting for the majority of injuries. These sudden injuries can result in physical, emotional-behavioural and psychosocial impairments that can be temporary or permanent.

"The play is effective because it appeals to your emotional side while being extremely educational. I am sure the knowledge that we learn from the play will be remembered by our guests, which is our goal", says Gardin.

After the Crash will take place on Thursday, February 17th at 6:30 pm at McKenzie Hall. Tickets are \$15 and include Hors D'oeuvres along with a cash bar. For more information or for tickets please contact the Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County at 519-733-4900 or by email at info@biawe.com. This event is sponsored by Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital, Bayshore Home Health, and FJD Disability Management.

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