



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Erasing the Distance presents *The Holidays Unwrapped*

A HOLIDAY WORLD PREMIERE!  
December 11-20, 2017

The Edge Theater, 5451 North Broadway, Chicago, IL.

CHICAGO - Erasing the Distance is proud to announce *The Holidays Unwrapped*, the first Erasing the Distance performance to explore the touching moments and the frustrating fights of the holiday season.

“The chaos and commotion of the holidays is inescapable. We’re surrounded by Rockwellian images of family harmony, and often our families don’t look the same. *The Holidays Unwrapped* features a collection of real family stories about the holidays,” says Artistic Director Amy Sarno.

A music-filled performance that braids together the real stories of nine people, *The Holidays Unwrapped* is a humorous look at how to manage stress throughout the holiday season. The stories bring to light the funny interactions, the emotional trials, the disappointing struggles, and the bonds individuals share with their families. *The Holidays Unwrapped* highlights the relationships and annual events individuals invent to thrive through the holiday season.

“Since all of our work at Erasing the Distance is sourced from interviews with individuals, there is sure to be a holiday experience everyone can relate to. Some of the people we interview have been diagnosed with mental health disorders, others are individuals managing their mental health on their own. All of these stories are essential in our goal to humanize mental health issues through theatre,” continues Sarno.

Music will be performed live by Steve O’Connell and Joshua Wentz, both original scores and holiday favorites are part of the show.

### TICKETS:

General Admission: \$20

At the Door: \$25

Student: \$17

Groups of 10+: \$15

Purchase at Brown Paper Tickets: [holidaysunwrapped.brownpapertickets.com](http://holidaysunwrapped.brownpapertickets.com)

## Cast

*Wade/James*: Dave Belden

*Jesse/Ron*: Robert Hardaway

*Nancy/Clara*: Millie Hurley\*

*Eileen/Mali*: Karissa Murrell Myers

*Rachel*: Katie Relkin\*

## Production

Director: Amy Sarno

Clinical Company Liaison: Beto Chavez, Psychotherapist

*\*Erasing the Distance Company Member*

## **About Erasing the Distance**

Founded in 2005, Erasing the Distance uses the power of performance to disarm stigma, spark dialogue, educate, and promote healing surrounding issues of mental health. Erasing the Distance collects true stories from people whose lives have been impacted by mental health issues. We sculpt the stories into theatrical pieces for the stage, which are then performed by professional actors. Every performance is followed by a moderated, interactive dialogue with the audience that addresses the themes they have just seen.

Erasing the Distance is artistically led by Amy Sarno, a theatre artist engaged in social action through oral history, archival research, and interactive community workshops. Sarno joined Erasing the Distance in 2016. Since the organization was founded in 2005 by Brigid O'Shaughnessy, Erasing the Distance has reached over 60,000 audience members through public performances, custom programs and training and education programs. For more information about us, please visit [www.erasingthedistance.org](http://www.erasingthedistance.org).

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