

Monday, August 17, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jill M. Vandegriff, Director of Marketing & Communications  
Indianapolis Opera  
317-283-3531 x1010; [vandegriff@IndyOpera.org](mailto:vandegriff@IndyOpera.org)

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### ***INDIANAPOLIS OPERA OFFERS PRE-SHOW PANEL DISCUSSIONS "HOW DO YOU DEFINE A HUMAN BEING?"***

**WHAT:** Understanding Brain-based Diseases: A Catalyst for Community Dialogue

**WHEN:** Panels begin **two hours** prior to each opera performance.  
Friday, August 21 at 6 p.m. / Saturday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. and  
Sunday, August 23 at 12:30 p.m.

**WHO:** The panelists and the date of their appearance are as follows:

FRIDAY: Brandy Matthews, M.D., I.U. School of Medicine  
Linda Altmeyer, Alzheimer's Association  
Tina McIntosh, Joy's House

SATURDAY: Mike Sermersheim, MD, JWM Neurology  
Cynthia McGarvey, MD, JWM Neurology  
Linda Altmeyer, Alzheimer's Association  
Candace Preston, Joy's House  
Tim Brimmer, PhD, Butler University

SUNDAY: Dr. Syed Hasan, Psychiatrist and Clinical Faculty for Community Health Network's new psychiatry residency program  
Todd Wagoner, MSW, LSW, Geriatric Social Worker, Touchpoint **Healthy Aging Transition Services**, Community Health Network  
Zonda Stead, Director supporting Behavioral Health, Community Health Network and family member  
Suzanne Clifford, Senior Vice President, Integrated Primary Care Services, Community Health Network

The panel discussions will focus on numerous topics including but not limited to care giver self-care, memory loss, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, the neurology of opera, mental illness, and suicide prevention.

**WHY:** Opera is a multi-sensory experience, but what if you are an individual with senses that are different than what is defined by our society as normal? *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat* explores the main character's wrestling with a neurological condition known as visual agnosia, a condition in which a person can see but cannot recognize or interpret visual information.

**WHERE:** Schrott Center for the Arts on the campus of Butler University  
46<sup>th</sup> Street and Sunset Boulevard

- more -

**Opera Panel Discussions / Page 2**  
**Monday, August 17, 2015**

**HOW:** Members of the public are encouraged to attend these free panel discussions and ask questions of the panelists as well as visit information tables of the participating agencies. ***Tickets are not required for the panels.***

Tickets are required for the opera performance. Single tickets start at \$25 and are available online at [IndyOpera.org](http://IndyOpera.org), by calling the Opera ticket office at 317-283-3531, or at the door. Subscription packages will also be sold.

**About the Indianapolis Opera**

Since 1975, Indianapolis Opera has delivered passion, excitement and art of opera throughout Indiana with compelling educational, cultural and community activities. The Indianapolis Opera Ensemble program reaches 30,000 children and adults statewide each year, with additional performances in Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky. In 2014, the company embraced an intensive organizational assessment process to examine its business operations, gather audience feedback and understand community needs in a changing environment. One of several outcomes includes the hiring of Kevin Patterson in February 2015 as Indianapolis Opera's General Director.  
[www.IndyOpera.org](http://www.IndyOpera.org).

- 30 -