



Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

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Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts

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LIFE IN A MARITAL INSTITUTION

Master storyteller James Braly for two shows only at the FAC

COLORADO SPRINGS (Jan. 24, 2012) – Meredith Vieira Productions Presents: *Life in a Marital Institution* at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center for only two performances on Feb. 25- 26.

Life in a Marital Institution is a true story about marriage and family," said producer Meredith Vieira. "It's a crazy look at the dysfunction that exists in it. Somehow through all of it a bonding and a love emerges. You don't even quite believe it's true, and yet somehow it works. I think it's all James Braly; he's just disarming and he's charming and at the end of the day, he's just a great talent."

[*Life in a Marital Institution*](#) is a poignant, darkly humorous autobiographical comedy. Set improbably in a hospice, James sits at the bedside of his dying sister, who asks him to trade places with her. Until she realizes that would mean trading places with him...being in his marriage...a fate worse than death!

The monologue cuts back and forth between the hospice – where his sister is engaged to be married – and scenes from his marriage, exploring infidelity, near-death childbirth and other high-stakes yet hilarious adventures. In the process, the comedy explores the roots of romantic love in familial love, and the notion: not only can you go home again, you can't not go home again; you can't escape your past. Until you confront it...which James does through his sister's deathbed wedding, before returning home to confront whether his own marriage should come to an end.

Life in a Marital Institution premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, had a sold-out run at 59E59 Theaters in New York City, and then transferred Off-Broadway to critical raves at the Soho Playhouse. It was a *New York Times* Critics' Pick, a *TimeOut New York* Critics' Pick, and was featured on *This American Life*.

- "A masterpiece of storytelling full of humor and pungent observation." - The List
- "Never less than excellent" - *The New York Times*
- "Gaspably funny" – *Variety*
- "James Braly is a master storyteller." - Jonathan Ames, Creator, *Bored to Death* (HBO)

James Braly is a writer and performer. His stories have been broadcast nationally on This American Life, NPR, and Marketplace. He has performed in theatres, festivals, and art venues around the world, including The Whitney Museum, Long Wharf Theatre, and the Moth, where he won the Moth Grandslam Storytelling Competition...twice! He is the author of a forthcoming memoir from St. Martin's Press as well as the screenwriter of a feature film based on *Life in a Marital Institution* for Meredith Vieira Productions.

MEREDITH VIEIRA PRODUCTIONS was launched in late 2008 by Emmy Award-winning journalist and host Meredith Vieira and producer Amy Rapp. MVP develops and produces film, TV, web and theatre. The company's first film RETURN, starring Linda Cardellini, Michael Shannon, and John Slattery, premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. MVP is dedicated to producing smart and sophisticated comedies and dramas with authentic characters. *Life in a Marital Institution* is MVP's first legit production.

- Shows are Saturday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m.
- Admission is \$20 (\$18 for FAC members).
- A student discount is available only at the FAC Box Office.
- [Purchase tickets online](#) or call 719.634.5583.

Fine Arts Center

Established in 1936, the Fine Arts Center is home to world-class art galleries, Broadway-worthy live theatre, and an art school for all ages. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of the first 16 institutions accredited by the American Association of Museums in 1971, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, performing arts through the FAC Theatre Company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art. The Fine Arts Center's building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. In 2007, the FAC unveiled a \$28.6 million renovation and expansion.

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