

PRESS RELEASE

RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES NINTH ANNUAL BRAINWAVE
SERIES ON THE SCIENCE OF OUR EMOTIONS***See Yourself Differently as On-Stage Conversations Pair Leading Brain Experts with Notable Personalities to Dissect Our Emotions***

New York, NY (January 11, 2016) – The wildly popular Brainwave series at the Rubin Museum of Art returns for its ninth season, exploring the science behind our emotions and states of mind. Featuring unscripted on-stage conversations, immersive experiences and film screenings, Brainwave will illuminate how the mind shapes identity and emotions as experts and notable personalities trade insights from science, spiritual teachings, and their personal experiences. The series begins on February 3 with an encounter between actress Parker Posey and neuroscientist Emma Seppälä, and continues with such notable figures as musician Questlove, composer Stephen Sondheim, drag artist Courtney Act, cognitive scientist Steven Pinker, and more.

While six emotions have been identified as universal and shared by all human cultures — anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, and surprise — advances in brain science are helping us decipher these and other states of mind, offering opportunities for self-discovery and understanding the human condition. Each Brainwave conversation will focus on a specific emotion.

“Brainwave is all about turning inward, understanding the mind, and what makes us who we are. Emotions impact our core life experiences and this season, we hope to delve deeper and understand why some people are formed by them, and some people informed by them,” said Tim McHenry, Director of Programs and Engagement at the Rubin, who curates the series. “Brainwave will perhaps make us feel differently about feelings themselves.”

Highlights of *Brainwave*:

- Neuropsychologist **David Amaral** and actress **Sigourney Weaver** (who played a woman with severe autism in *Snow Cake*) will explore the grey areas of where autism begins and ends on the spectrum. (February 8)
- The experimental psychologist and one of the world’s foremost experts on language, mind, and human nature **Steven Pinker** meets one of the world’s foremost artists and explorers of language, mind, and human nature: **Stephen Sondheim**. (March 9)
- The Roots drummer **Questlove** explores with neurobiologist **Stuart Firestein** what emotional states allow for the greatest creativity in the kitchen (with a

tasting for good measure). (March 25)

The 2016 *Brainwave* schedule follows below. Rubin Museum members can purchase advance tickets on January 20, 2016. Tickets go on sale to the general public on January 21, 2016. For ticket information and updates on events, please visit: www.RubinMuseum.org/Brainwave

ON-STAGE CONVERSATIONS

Parker Posey + Emma Seppälä

Happiness

Wednesday, February 3

7:00 PM

\$30

How can empathy generate sustainable happiness? Find out with the help of actress Parker Posey and neuroscientist Emma Seppälä.

Sigourney Weaver + David Amaral

The Spectrum

Monday, February 8

7:00 PM

\$30

Actress Sigourney Weaver played a woman with severe autism in *Snow Cake* and now sees similar behavior in neurotypical people. Neuropsychologist David Amaral will help her explore the grey areas of where the autism spectrum begins and ends.

Anthony Weiner + Moran Cerf

Emotional Politics

Friday, February 12

7:00 PM

\$25

Former U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner learns from neuroscientist Moran Cerf the degree to which emotions trump reason in political and other decision-making processes.

Helen Fisher

Fickle Love

Wednesday, February 17

7:00 PM

\$25

Biological anthropologist Helen Fisher, the author of *Anatomy of Love: A Natural History of Mating, Marriage, and Why We Stray*, explores the post-Valentine's Day blues with a mystery guest.

Pagan Kennedy + Shawn & Ryan Frayne

Invention and Inspiration

Wednesday, February 24

7:00 PM

\$25

Inventology author Pagan Kennedy explores the neural basis of the “eureka syndrome” with inventors Shawn and Ryan Frayne.

Bob Mankoff + Scott Weems

Laughter

Saturday, March 5

3:00 PM

\$25

The New Yorker cartoon editor Bob Mankoff brings some examples of what makes us chuckle and learns what neural impulse helps triggers laughter from Ha! author and neuroscientist Scott Weems.

Sharon Guskin + Jim Tucker

Consciousness after Death

Saturday, March 5

6:00 PM

\$25

Does consciousness continue after the brain stops working? Sharon Guskin’s striking debut novel *The Forgetting Time* is inspired by the work of Ian Stevenson and Jim Tucker of the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia. Tucker joins her for a conversation about the probability of past lives and reincarnation.

Zachary Quinto + Heather Berlin

The Brain on Spirituality

Sunday, March 6

7:00 PM

\$25

The actor Zachary Quinto learns from neuroscientist Heather Berlin how different brain states can alter our subjective experiences. Shamanism, spirituality, consciousness—this conversation will ask what is objectively “real” and what is just a fabrication of our various brain states I.

Stephen Sondheim + Steven Pinker

The Lyric Mind

Wednesday, March 9

7:00 PM

\$45

The experimental psychologist and one of the world’s foremost experts on language, mind, and human nature Steven Pinker meets one of the world’s foremost artists and explorers of language, mind, and human nature: Stephen Sondheim.

David Edwards + olfactory scientist

What Emotion Smells Like

Wednesday, March 16

7:00 PM

\$30

Inventor and Harvard professor David Edwards launches his digital scent project oNotes with the help of an olfactory neurobiologist and...you. Bring your smartphone and be prepared to share it with your neighbor for a swipe-and-sniff experience.

Jacqueline Novak + a neuroscientist

Depression

Friday, March 18

7:00 PM

\$25

Stand-up comedienne Jacqueline Novak marks the launch of her book *How to Weep in Public: Feeble Offerings from One Depressive to Another* with a deep conversation on depression with an expert.

Courtney Act + Tim Pychyl

Procrastination

Wednesday, March 30

7:00 PM

\$30

Dithering, dilly-dallying, delay tactics—Tim Pychyl is the leading authority on why we put off until tomorrow what might be so easily accomplished today. The author of *Solving the Procrastination Puzzle* sits down with drag artist Courtney Act to help her stop sabotaging her best intentions.

Elizabeth Hand + Carl W. Bazil

Parasomnia

Friday, April 1

7:00 PM

\$20

It might be obvious why gothic novelist Elizabeth Hand suffers from sleep disorders, but she'll receive some additional insight from Columbia University sleep psychologist Carl Bazil.

Questlove + Stuart Firestein + a chef of note

Food and Innovation

Monday, April 25

8:00 PM

\$45

In his new book *somethingtofoodabout*, The Roots drummer Questlove takes an enthusiastic tour of the state of creativity in American cuisine. On stage at the Rubin he will explore with neurobiologist Stuart Firestein what emotional states allow for the greatest creativity, and they and you get to taste what emotion creativity evokes in you.

CABARET CINEMA: EMOTIONS/EMOTICONS

These classic films, to be introduced by mind scientists and others, pinpoint the key emotion driving the film's narrative. Included below are quotations from each film highlighting their connection to the series.

Full descriptions can be found at RubinMuseum.org/CabaretCinema.
Fridays, 9:30 PM, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Nine films. Nine emotions.

Fridays at 9:30 p.m.

\$10; free to Rubin members



DISGUST

Eraserhead

1977, USA, David Lynch, 89 min.

With Jack Nance, Charlotte Stewart, and Allen Joseph

"Oh, you ARE sick!"



LOVE

Le Mépris (Contempt)

1963, France, Jean-Luc Godard, 102 min.

With Brigitte Bardot, Jack Palance, and Michel Piccoli

"Because you speak to me in words, and I look at you with feelings."

"Then you love me... totally? / Yes. Totally... tenderly... tragically."



ANGER

Hiroshima Mon Amour

1959, France/Japan, Alain Resnais, 90 min.

With Emmanuelle Riva, Eiji Okada, and Stella Dassas

"An entire city rises up in anger... Entire cities rise up in anger... But against whom do they rise up in anger?"



SADNESS

The Kid

1921, USA, Charles Chaplin, 68 min.

With Charles Chaplin, Edna Purviance, and Jackie Coogan



JEALOUSY

Kiss Me Kate

1953, USA, George Sidney, 109 min.

With Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel, Ann Miller, Bobby Van, Tommy Rall, and Bob Fosse

"Why can't you behave? / How in hell can you be jealous / When you know, baby, I'm your slave?"



HAPPINESS

Rebecca

1940, USA, Hitchcock, 130 min. With Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, George Sanders, and Judith Anderson

"We're happy, aren't we? Terribly happy."



FEAR

Dead of Night

1945, UK, Alberto Cavalcanti/Charles Crichton/Basil Dearden/Robert Hamer, 77 min. With Mervyn Johns, Michael Redgrave, and Roland Culver

"And I know that there's something waiting for me on the other side of the mirror. Something evil. Monstrously evil. And if I cross that dividing line, something awful will happen."



SURPRISE

A Double Life

1947, USA, George Cukor, 104 min.

With Ronald Colman and Shelley Winters

"Surprise coming. Close your eyes."



CONTEMPT

L'amore in città (Love in the City)

1953, Italy, Michelangelo Antonioni/Federico Fellini/many others,

"Will it be possible to overcome their contempt and indifference?"

ABOUT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

The Rubin Museum of Art is an arts oasis and cultural hub in New York City's vibrant Chelsea neighborhood that inspires visitors to make powerful connections between contemporary life and the art and ideas of the Himalayas, India, and neighboring regions. With a diverse array of thought-provoking exhibitions and programs—including films, concerts, and on-stage conversations—the Rubin provides immersive experiences that encourage personal discoveries and spark new ways of seeing the world. Emphasizing cross-cultural connections, the Rubin is a space to contemplate the big questions that extend across history and span human cultures.

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