

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

NEWS RELEASE

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Westport Country Playhouse Presents “The History of a Brief Time,” about a Family’s Experience with Addiction and Healing

Barnstormer solo performance piece by author and activist Bill Williams on the loss of his son to drug abuse and his pledge to remove the stigma of addiction.

Westport Country Playhouse will present “The History of a Brief Time,” on Tuesday, September 8, at 7 p.m., written and performed by author and activist Bill Williams, about the very personal story of the loss of his son William to opioid addiction and his family’s journey through struggle, grief, and ultimately, healing. The event is part of the Barnstormer Series in the Lucille Lortel White Barn Center, next to the Playhouse. Tickets are \$20; seating unreserved. Barnstormer events are limited to 70 attendees. Recommended for an audience high school age and beyond. Running time 75 minutes.

“This is a beautiful tale of strength, healing and connection from a wonderfully talented writer, teacher, performer- and father,” said Mark Shanahan, Westport Country Playhouse artistic director. “Bill’s desire to share his experiences with others so as to eliminate the stigma surrounding addiction, as well as his ability to create communities for healing and support is on full display in this remarkable performance. In this solo piece, Bill manages to deliver laughter, joy, love, and a tremendous sense of empathy and kindness amidst the sorrows he relates.”

Upon the death of his son, William, from an accidental heroin overdose in 2012 at the age of 24, Bill Williams, along with his wife and daughter, made the following pledge at William’s memorial service: “We promise to do everything in our power to educate and inform people about drug abuse and its prevention, to provide ever more enlightened treatment for addicts, to help make treatment options for addicts more readily available, and to remove the stain of shame surrounding this disease.”

Since that time, Williams has written over 50 essays on addiction, with his work appearing in *The New York Times*, *The Harvard Health Blog*, *Nora’s*, *Medium*, *Alcohol and Addiction Weekly*, *Treatment Magazine*, and numerous other publications and local papers. His blog is archived at the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Williams and his wife, Margot Head, have spoken before three Congressional committee hearings and a U.S. Senate Forum on Addiction. Williams has addressed staff at the National Institute for Drug Abuse, and also spoken to numerous community groups, medical organizations, schools, and colleges. Williams is the radio host of The Kingfisher Project, a monthly radio broadcast on WJFF Radio 90.5 FM, an NPR station. His show can also be found as a podcast at wjffradio.org.

For full details, visit: <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/show/the-history-of-a-brief-time/>

The Barnstormer series features small events in the Lucille Lortel White Barn Center, located adjacent to the Playhouse. From music to playreadings, Barnstormer provides an opportunity for artists, many of whom are from our local community, to exercise their creative muscle in a cozy and intimate setting.

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25 POWERS COURT WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880
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westportplayhouse.org

2026 Programming and Season Sponsor is Barbara Streicker. Media sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio. Westport Country Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

A complete schedule of Playhouse events is available at westportplayhouse.org. All play titles, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

For Westport Country Playhouse information and tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), Instagram ([wcplayhouse](https://www.instagram.com/wcplayhouse)), and YouTube ([WestportPlayhouse](https://www.youtube.com/WestportPlayhouse)). Westport Country Playhouse is located at 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport.

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