



REMBRANDT PERFECTED

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: August 23, 2022

Genesis of a Playwright

Santa Clarita resident emerges from quarantine as an award-winning dramatist

Santa Clarita, CA - August 23, 2022 At 60, when most people are planning for retirement or researching where they're going to spend the remainder of their days, Stevenson Ranch resident **Braddon Mendelson** decided to become a playwright.

Braddon ventured through a series of career journeys from substitute teacher in his early twenties, to graphic designer, photographer, and web designer, eventually writing and producing for television, film, and music videos ("during the 1990's, when record labels invested like mad men.") But what came next firmed up his decision to focus the remainder of his time solely on writing plays.

Ten years ago, Braddon discovered an 1839 photographic image of the Boulevard du Temple in Paris. It was one of the first daguerreotypes [duh-garrow-type], and was taken by Louis Daguerre [duh-gear], himself, out his studio window. The buildings reveal themselves in great detail. The street appears empty, because with such a long exposure necessary to produce an image, horses, carriages, and pedestrians moved too quickly to be captured on the silver-coated copper plate. Appearing on the corner, however, is the silhouette of an individual having his shoes shined, standing motionless long enough to be immortalized as the **first human ever to be photographed**. "We have no idea who this guy was, and he had no idea what a photograph was. This is the most famous unknown person in history," thought Braddon, as he descended the rabbit hole of vintage photography, ordering biographies from Amazon and researching early 19th century Paris. His lingering fascination with the image exploded when he learned that Daguerre had a meeting at his Paris studio with Samuel Morse, the American inventor of the electromagnetic telegraph. He now had the framework for a story.

What culminated from this rich time of creativity is ***Rembrandt Perfected***, a full-length comedy that won “**Best New Play - 2022**” at the Long Beach Playhouse (LBP), where a special reading was presented this past March. Braddon recalled, “It was a terrific experience. The audience laughed at all the right places. It was a tremendous opportunity given to me by the folks at LBP.”

Having written his first play when he was in the 6th grade, Braddon dedicated *Rembrandt Perfected* to his high school drama teacher, Maxine Lewis, who introduced him to his first live Broadway theater performance. She instilled in him a love of performing, of reading plays, and the professional discipline necessary to master any endeavor. “Show up. Be on time. Learn your lines. Acknowledge mistakes and learn to be better,” he recalled. “Those are the lessons of high school theater.”

Rembrandt Perfected opens the 2023 season at **The Main in Newhall, CA**. After the show, audience members who stick around will be able to examine authentic 19th century daguerreotypes. Auditions are being held October 1st and 2nd 2022.

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About Playwright Braddon Mendelson:

Rembrandt Perfected, Winner Best New Play, 2022 Long Beach Playhouse New Works Festival, a farcical take on a historic meeting between Samuel Morse and Louis Daguerre as they scheme to identify the first human ever depicted in a photograph; *Old Friends*, a one-act that was featured at the Players’ Theatre Short Play Festival in New York in February 2022; *The WaterWay*, a musical that recounts the rise of Los Angeles from small Spanish pueblo to world renowned metropolis; *Gallows Falls*, a ghost story set in Vermont; and *Resisted Living*, a comedy about aging parents and their aging children. An alumnus of California State University, Northridge and the prestigious Warner Brothers Writers Workshop, Braddon has one son and resides with his wife in Stevenson Ranch, California, where they have lived for 23 years.

About *Rembrandt Perfected*:

On a spring day in 1839, scenic artist Louis Daguerre — whose daguerreotype would usher in the new world of photography — and American telegraph inventor Samuel Morse meet for the first time at Daguerre’s studio in Paris. While demonstrating their inventions to one another, they notice a silhouetted figure in one of Daguerre’s pictures and devise an outlandish scheme to identify the individual – the first human ever depicted in a photographic image. A witty and fast-paced, award-winning comedy by Braddon Mendelson.