

## Local brain doctor pens book and co-wrote/produced new film



After screening of the movie "Of Mind and Music" from director/co-writer, Richie Adams and executive producer/writer neuroscientist Dr. Nicolas Bazan and producer Brent Caballero at the Zeitgeist Multidisciplinary Arts Center on Feb. 13, photo taken during the questions and answers period following the presentation of the movie Left to right are Brent Caballero (casting director), Richie Adams (director and screenplay writer), and Dr. Nicolas Bazan (screenplay writer and author of the book *Una Vida: A Fable of Music and the Mind*) (*Ryan Labadens*)



By [Ana Gershanik, Nuestro Pueblo columnist](#)

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Dr. Nicolas Bazan is mostly known for being the Director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence (NCE) at Louisiana State University Health Sciences (LSUHS), for his extensive research on neurodegenerative diseases and his multiple scientific contributions.

But he's also an author.

He is a man of many talents, including writing the book "Una Vida" and co-writing and producing the film "Of Mind and Music" that was recently screened at the Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center .

Born in the town Los Sarmientos in the province of Tucuman, Argentina, Dr. Bazan received his medical degree from the University of Tucuman School of Medicine and

was a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and Harvard Medical School. He became the founding director of the LSUHSC Neuroscience Center of Excellence in 1989.

His work to help people affected by stroke, Alzheimer's disease, pain, blindness, and other diseases led him to write the book "Una Vida," part fiction and part reality with the mission to raise awareness, inspire hope and find a cure for diseases of the brain (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke, epilepsy and traumatic brain injury).

Later, he decided to take a more challenging step and produce a movie.

"Of Mind and Music mirrors facets of my own personal and professional life, including why I strive to understand and combat the ravaging diseases and disorders that afflict the eyes and the brain," Bazan said.

The film takes place in New Orleans and has had great reviews throughout the country. The first public screening in New Orleans took place on Feb. 12 and 13 at the Zeitgeist Center, followed by a question and answer session with Bazan, writer and executive producer, Richie Adams, the film's director and co-writer; and producer Brent Caballero. Because of the large audience, the film was also shown the following week.

As main characters, the film features Portuguese actor Joaquim De Almeida as a renowned neuroscientist, actress Aunjanue Ellis as the enigmatic singer suffering of Alzheimer's, veteran actor Bill Cobbs, Irish actress Ruth Negga and Sharon Lawrence.

"I am rewarded because my efforts to bring to the community the magnitude of problem of Alzheimer's and dementia will reach a wider audience. Ultimately it is message of hope in the context of the beauty of New Orleans and the command of Jazz, " said Bazan, who is committed to donate 70 percent of the monies that he makes with this film for the endowment of Alzheimer's research at the NCE.

### **Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company to give three performances**

The New Orleans Ballet Association (NOBA) and The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA) will present Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company for three performances at NOCCA's Freda Lupin Memorial Hall on Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 13, at 2 p.m.

The Havana-based company made its debut on the American dance scene at New York's Joyce Theater in 2014, delighting audiences with refreshing, passionate works that highlight Cuba's rich dance and music traditions. Founded in 2012 by Osnel

Delgado, company dancer Daileidys Carrazana and Executive Director Fernando Saéz, Malpaso is comprised of 10 artists from Cuba's finest dance schools and companies, including Danza Contemporanea de Cuba.

The program features Delgado's "24 Hours and a Dog," the company's United States premiere of McIntyre's sensitive and beautiful "Bad Winter" and Brown's rousing Afro-Cuban flavored "Why You Follow."

In addition, Malpaso will be conducting a series of residency activities in New Orleans from March 7 to 11. These will include master classes and choreographic workshops for NORDC/NOBA Center for Dance and NOCCA pre-professional students in addition to students at partner institutions. For more information or to buy tickets, call 504.522.0996.