Author John Lahr Talk
On Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh
At Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival
Sunday, Sept 28, 2014, 10 am

As part of *Tennessee Williams’ Circle of Friends*, this year’s theme at the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, theater critic and author John Lahr will delve into *Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh*, his highly acclaimed new biography of America’s great playwright, in conversation with Thomas Keith, creative consultant of the Fest and editor of over sixteen volumes by Tennessee Williams for New Directions Publishing.

In his exhaustively researched book, Lahr has dug deeply into the drama of the writer’s own life, his creative process and sweet and sour relationships with his family, directors including Elia Kazan, movie stars including Marlon Brando, writers, hangers-on, and more of those who made up his circle of friends.

This year’s 9th Tennessee Williams Theater Festival features humor, love, disappointment and healing that springs from friendships.

The theme of friendship is developed in performances in plays and dance from around the country and from South Africa. The four-day celebration of Williams’ creative force includes plays that Williams wrote in which friendship plays a pivotal role, including *Period of Adjustment* from WHAT, and plays written by some well-known friends who were themselves major creative forces -- Yukio Mishima, Jane Bowles, William Inge, and Carson McCullers’ *The Member of the Wedding*, staged as a radio play with an all black cast from New Urban Theatre of Boston and directed by Jade King Carroll.

*Attached is an image of John Lahr*

**About John Lahr**

Lahr is the author of seventeen previous books on the theater and two novels, among other publications. He is a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, where for two decades he was the
magazine’s senior drama critic. He has twice won the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism and twice been included in volumes of The Best American Essays. His stage adaptations have been performed around the world; he is the first critic ever to win a Tony Award, for co-authoring Elaine Stritch at Liberty.

Among Lahr’s other books are Notes On a Cowardly Lion: the Biography of Bert Lahr, Dame Edna Everage: Backstage with Barry Humphries (Roger Machell Prize), and Prick Up Your Ears: the Biography of Joe Orton which was made into a film.

Some advance praise for Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh:

“Could this be the best theater book I’ve ever read? It just might be. Tennessee Williams had two great pieces of luck: Elia Kazan to direct his work and now John Lahr to make thrilling sense of his life.” —John Guare, author of Six Degrees of Separation

“Brilliant and seamless. A labor of the profoundest love, and it comes from the heart and mind of one of our greatest theater writers.” —André Bishop, artistic director of Lincoln Center Repertory Theater

About Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival

The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival was founded in 2006 in the birthplace of American Modern Theater where Williams worked on many of his major plays during the 1940s. The TW Festival is the nation’s largest performing arts festival dedicated to celebrating and expanding the understanding of America’s great playwright. Theater artists from around the globe perform classic and innovative productions to celebrate Williams’ enduring influence in the 21st Century. It will take place in various venues in the seaside village of Provincetown from Thursday, September 25 through Sunday, September 28, 2014. For more visit www.twptown.org