

[« Back to article](#)

[Entertainment](#) » [Theatre](#)

Everett Quinton Directs Rarely Seen Tennessee Williams Play at Ptown Fest

Wednesday Aug 31, 2016



Regina Bartkoff and Charles Schick in "'In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel.'" (Source:Romy Ashby)

Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival (TW Festival) Curator David Kaplan said today that he was "always proud when ongoing relationships with artists who have been part of our Festival evolve into exciting new productions for us. We're thrilled that three actors are returning this year with a project they've suggested for our theme Beyond Success: Tennessee Williams and Eugene O'Neill in performance from Sept. 22 - 25."

Everett Quinton, famous for his involvement with Charles Ludlam's avant-garde Ridiculous Theatrical Company starred in Williams' "Now the Cats with Jewelled Claws" at the 2011 Festival and then at LaMama. Actors Regina Bartkoff and Charles Schick were also part of this production. They discovered that they all had a strong affinity for Tennessee Williams' later plays.

Bartkoff and Schick, who are also artists and married, went on to self-produce and direct Williams' "In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel" in 2012 at the intimate 292 Theatre in New York City. This play about a hedonist wife who has come to the end of her patience with her husband, a forever-experimenting artist, seemed made for these two actors who enjoy working together.

Backstage recognized that the characters' "...sensuality and aesthetics are at war. The obvious chemistry shared in the roles by Bartkoff and Schick, puts flesh on such symbolic bones."

For their performance at the TW Festival, Bartkoff and Schick invited Quinton to take a fresh look at the play.

"In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel" will be performed at the Festival September 22 - 25. For performances and more information, [visit the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival website](#).



Everett Quinton in Now the Cats with Jewelled Claws (Source:Josh Andrus)

"Williams didn't go stale or vanish after his hits," Quinton said. "It's great that he left a treasure trove of shorter, bolder plays. He had a progressive vein, his mind still playing with language. I love this play. I'm surprised it wasn't appreciated when he wrote it."

Kaplan said, "It wasn't appreciated because it didn't fit the categories of the day. It was moving, bawdy, and unsettling. It also indirectly criticized America for losing its way with the Vietnam War. By presenting this play alongside other Williams' genre-busting work, the Festival invigorates appreciation for the breadth of his creative accomplishments -- beyond just five classic plays."

Regina Bartkoff believes that "Tennessee Williams was ahead of his time with this play. I'm amazed at his incredible humor. I love inhabiting this woman who is so aggressive and very funny."

Charles Schick is excited about, "playing the physicality of my character as he's falling apart. As an artist I also identify with Williams' very personal feelings about art."

Everett Quinton has a wide range of directing experience ranging from theater of the absurd to Shakespeare. After the death of his partner Charles Ludlam in 1987, Quinton became artistic director of the avant-garde Ridiculous Theatrical Company. He acted in and also directed many productions. He has also directed at Omaha Theatre for Young People and recently directed Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" at The Yorick in NY.

Schick and Bartkoff helped found the 292 Theatre/Gallery, an exhibition and performance space at 292 East Third Street. It has served as a laboratory for expression and experimentation. Citing Williams as a major source of inspiration, it was also the site of their revival of Tennessee Williams' "The Two Character Play," which was called "an absolutely captivating experience" by Shiela O'Malley of The Shiela Variations.

Quinton has recently appeared in The Witch of Edmonton at Red Bull Theater, as Florence Wexler in "Devil Boys from Beyond" at New World Stages, as Dr. Caius in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C., and as Jacob Marley in The McCarter Theatre's "A Christmas Carol." Everett is also a member of Cleveland State University's Summer Stages where he appeared as Madam Rosepettle in "O Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad." Everett previously appeared at Red Bull Theater in "Women Beware Women" (2008 Callaway Award, Best Actor). Everett was a member of The Ridiculous Theatrical Company and served as its Artistic Director from 1987-1997. He has appeared in Charles Ludlam's "Medea," "The Secret Lives of the Sexists," "Salambo," "Galas," "The Artificial Jungle" and the original production of "The Mystery of Irma Vep" (Obie and Drama Desk Award).

About Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival:

The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival was founded in 2006 in the birthplace of modern American Theater where Williams worked on many of his major plays during the 1940s. The four day TW Fest is the nation's largest performing arts festival dedicated to celebrating and expanding the understanding of the full breadth of the work of America's great playwright. Theater artists from around the globe perform classic and innovative productions to celebrate Williams' enduring influence today. The Fest has offered 11 premieres of Williams' plays, many of which have traveled to other cities. It will take place in various venues in the seaside village of Provincetown from Thursday, September 22 through Sunday, September 25, 2016. For more details visit www.twptown.org. See us on Facebook.

This Festival is funded in part by Mass Humanities and Provincetown Tourism Fund.

The Festival is presented by Sage Inn and Lounge.