



CAPE COD TIMES

Williams fest to feature unusual stagings

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Those were among eight unusual and international productions planned for the Sept. 21-24 festival that were announced last week at a gala dinner that featured TV, film and stage actress Dana Delany as its guest star.

According to the schedule, other shows that will take place all over town in September will include a drum-fueled, outdoor production from Ghana of "Ten Blocks on the Camino Real"; plays in hotel rooms; and a Shakespeare cast from various parts of the world.

Organizers hope to offer a new understanding of both Williams and Shakespeare by combining the two writers' work for this year's theme. The festival will also feature educational classes, parties, donor events, movies and musical events throughout the four-day celebration. More details will be announced throughout the summer.

The shows will include: "Hamlet at the Wharf," by Cape Town's Abrahamse-Meyer Productions, which will also present, in repertory, Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth" starring South African film and stage star Fiona Ramsay; Williams' "Ten Blocks on the Camino Real," which the National Theatre of Ghana has played outdoors in Ghanaian marketplaces, and will be performed at the bas-relief park behind town hall as part of a multi-city U.S. tour this summer; and "Pericles," by DieCast, a Philadelphia ensemble that often performs in non-theater spaces, in this case on the full-sized replica of the Rose Dorothea in the Provincetown Library.

Other works: "The 2017 Hotel Plays," scenes from Williams and Shakespeare works staged throughout various rooms of the historic Gifford House by the Spectrum Theatre Ensemble from Providence; a fusion of Shakespeare's clowning and Williams' grotesque humor called "Dumb Show and Noise" featuring Cape-based professional clown Jay Stewart and Mike Smith; and what officials describe as "a lovely and lunatic" staging of the Williams one-act "The Gnädiges Fräulein" from Texas Tech University, directed by festival executive director Jef Hall-Flavin.

Festival curator David Kaplan will direct Shakespeare's "Antony & Cleopatra" with an international cast from Turkey and Ghana, plus Everett Quinton from New York City's Ridiculous Theatrical Company. The one performance at Provincetown Town Hall is designed to bring together the festival themes around the questions: Who owns the right to tell your story – and how will history remember you as a result?

More information on the festival: twptown.org.

Theater devotes Monday schedule to play readings

The "Monday Night Special" schedule, weekly one-night readings of new or developing plays, begins Monday at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse in Vineyard Haven with "The Green Rose," a comedy by Gwyn McAllister about love blooming in England at the turn of the 20th century.

The rest of the summer schedule: June 19, "Gene Play," a drama by Jonah Lipsky and Casey Ann Hayward about the ethics and politics of gene editing, based on real-life events in Cambridge in 1976 and 2017; July 3, "Between Worlds: Refugee and Immigrant Voices," a collage of poems, prose letters and scenes by many people over centuries around the world devised and directed by Joann Green Breuer; July 10, "Kirk at the San Francisco Airport Hyatt," a new play by Krista Knight about a disabled man who has lived at a hotel with his nurse for five years but is running out of money; July 17, the first act of Moss Hart's "Light Up the Sky," directed by son Christopher Hart, who will talk after the show about his father and his mother, Kitty Carlisle Hart; and July 24, David Zax's "The Room Where I Was Held," about a young war correspondent who has just survived a kidnapping abroad.

In August, the shows will be: Aug. 7, "Please Come to Boston," a musical play by Larry Mollin about the healing power of the creative process centered on a songwriter trying to make it in 1975 Los Angeles; Aug. 14, "The Garbologists," a comedy by Lindsay Joelle about reappraising what is actually trash; Aug. 21, "She Exits, Laughing," Marisa Smith's comedy about a fortysomething woman who flees her marriage and moves in with her mother; and Aug. 28, Cathy Tempelman's "The Eleventh Hour," about a woman seeking the truth about her brother's death in World War I.

Plans for September are still incomplete. Information: mvplayhouse.org.

New museum exhibits open in Centerville, Truro and Chatham

-- Two new exhibits that opened in Centerville Museum this weekend show off historical costumes. "The Muse of Centerville," open through July 15, features costumes dating from 1850 to 1890, plus original garments by designer Aiste Zitnikaite, creator of Devinto Studio, that were inspired by the costumes. "Dancing Queen," open through 2017, is an exhibit of 35 fancy gowns that explores the tradition and ritual of the cotillion, formal ball and prom with a look at fashion design from 1865 to the present.

-- The Highland House Museum in Truro this summer is marking the 50th anniversary of the town's historical society. The museum, housed in a former summer hotel built in 1907, displays artifacts that include vintage photos, maps, original art, ship models, Native-American tools, vintage weapons and an exhibit dedicated to hundreds of shipwrecks off the Cape's coast.

This month, the special exhibit is "Truro's Living Legacy III," a collection of black-and-white portraits of Truro elders by photographer/artist Mason Morfit, accompanied by personal stories of Truro from live interviews conducted by Ellen Anthony. From July through September, the exhibit will be "As They Saw It: Artists of Truro," 25 historic works by 25 noted artists connected to Truro over the past century. The works are gathered from the society's collection and private collections.

Information and a list of special summer events:

www.trurohistoricalsociety.org

-- The Marconi-RCA Wireless Museum will open Friday for the season, as part of Chatham History Weekend, with a new exhibit: "Breaking Barriers: the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II." State Rep. Sarah K. Peake will help cut the ribbon for the grand opening at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

There were more than 1,000 WASPs – including nine stationed at Otis Field on what is now Joint Base Cape Cod in Bourne – who filled the void created when most of the male Army Air Force pilots were shipped to the European and Pacific theaters. The women ferried planes around the U.S. and war zones; towed gunnery targets; transported equipment and personnel, and flight-tested aircraft. The display will combine interactive elements, artifacts and explanatory panels.

New and refreshed exhibits will populate the other galleries and areas at the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center at 831-847 Orleans Road (Route 28), North Chatham. Admission will be free but donations welcome during History Weekend. Information: chathammarconi.org.

Cape artist recognized for international prize

Lucy Beecher Nelson, who teaches art at Falmouth Academy, is one of 18 artists from around the world invited to exhibit this month in London as part of the competition for the international Young Masters Art Prize.

Nelson was recognized for her reinvention of 15th-century Italian marriage portraits. The Young Masters Prize celebrates artists who draw inspiration from and pay tribute to the great artists of the past through contemporary work.

The exhibition will be hosted June 19-24 at Gallery 8 in London, where it will be judged and prizes awarded on June 21. In addition to painting, other mediums include film, art photography and print-making. Some of the work will be exhibited elsewhere in London later in the year.

Canal concert series changes location

The Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce will hold Thursday-evening concerts in July and August again this year, but the “Eastern Bank Concerts by the Canal” series has changed location.

The eight concerts, with a rain date if needed, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. outside at the Bourne Memorial Community Building, 239 Main St., Buzzards Bay. The public is invited to bring a blanket or a lawn chair, a picnic dinner and feel free to dance. (The shows have traditionally been at the village park, but there is construction there this summer.)

The July schedule: July 6, Richie Rich & 24Karat Funk; (funk, R&B, reggae, jazz, pop and rock); July 13, Grace Morrison (country folk/Americana); July 20, The Michele Rockwell Band (pop and jazz); July 27, Memphis Rockabilly Band.

In August: Aug. 3, Thee Midnight Society (dance, rock, alternative); Aug. 10, The Corvairs (oldies); Aug. 17, The Infractions (horn-driven pop); and Aug. 24, Plymouth Fury (classic rock). Aug. 31 is a rain date if needed.

For more arts information, follow KathiSDCCT on Twitter and check Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll's blogs at www.capecodtimes.com/stagedoor and www.capecodtimes.com/cultureflash.