



CAPE COD TIMES

Entertainment

Driscoll: Kennedy film to open Vineyard festival

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Also: Birthday bash set for Tennessee Williams and more arts news.

“Chappaquiddick,” a new film about the events surrounding Sen. Edward M. Kennedy’s deadly car crash on Martha’s Vineyard, will screen at the Martha’s Vineyard Film Festival next month with its director and star in attendance.

Three weeks before debuting nationwide, the movie will open the 18th annual festival, which runs March 15-18, with a 7 p.m. March 15 screening at Chilmark Community Center. Artistic director Brian Ditchfield confirmed this week that director John Curran (“The Painted Veil”) and actor Jason Clarke (“Zero Dark Thirty,” “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes”), who plays Senator Kennedy, will be at screening.

The film will be shown again there on March 17.

The movie focuses on what happened to Kennedy’s life and career after campaign worker Mary Jo Kopechne was killed when he drove off the Dike Bridge on Chappaquiddick into a pond. Kennedy pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of the crash and received a suspended sentence. In the film, Kate Mara plays Kopechne and Bruce Dern plays family patriarch Joseph Kennedy.

“Chappaquiddick” will open April 6 in theaters around the country.

The rest of the island film-festival schedule is due to be released soon. Tickets and more information will be available at tvmff.org.

Happy birthday, Tennessee Williams

The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival will be held in September, but it's got a new spring event: a birthday bash for the playwright.

There will be a casual-dress party for Williams' 107th birthday from 4 to 6 p.m. March 25 at the Pilgrim House at Sage Inn (336 Commercial St.), with proceeds benefiting the fall festival. The party will include birthday cake, samplings of Williams' favorite drinks and a round of singing "Happy Birthday" to Williams. Attendees will also get a sneak peak at the fall festival.

Tim O'Connor, known for his elaborate hats worn at numerous events around town and in Boston over decades, will serve as judge for a birthday hat-making contest (supplies will be provided). The winner will receive a pass to this year's festival (Sept. 27-30), and a gift basket with festival merchandise and books on Williams signed by author David Kaplan, festival curator and co-founder.

Admission: \$20 minimum suggested donation; twptown.org or at the door.

The Pilgrim House will also offer a Williams-themed prix-fixe dinner menu (\$30) all that weekend (reservations suggested at 508-487-6424).

Cape band debuts video, concert tour

Falmouth-based rock band Crooked Coast will debut its new music video for the song "People Say" and perform a live, age 21-plus concert with opening act The Quins at 9 p.m. Saturday at the New World Tavern, 56 Main St., Plymouth.

The band – formed in summer 2012 with Cape natives Luke Vose, John McNamara, Ben Elder and Charles Walton – will then play March 16 in Oak Bluffs and March 17 in Falmouth before a dozen dates along the East Coast.

The video by Brooklyn filmmaker Nicholas Santos, the band says, showcases Cape Cod, sports cars, drones and bags of cash. The song is on the band's new album "Put the Night On." The band describes its style of music as "songs with big hooks, guitars and sweaty dance floor rhythms."

Crooked Coast opened a store last summer with band apparel and merchandise at a 157 Worcester Court location in Falmouth that it also uses for as an office and creative space for art shows and other community events. Information: crookedcoast.com.

Exhibits coming up in Provincetown

Provincetown's two main museums have announced summer exhibits that will explore art history and the history of the town through art.

– Opening Memorial Day weekend at the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum will be an exhibit illustrating the town's past through Josephine Del Deo, an author, historian and community activist who died in 2016; her husband, painter Salvatore Del Deo; and other members of their family.

The exhibit will be curated by Sam Tager, a part-time resident recently given the new museum position of consulting curator. Tager has worked on other exhibits there, including "The Great Provincetown Summer – 1916." Tager also works as assistant director and senior designer of the museums of science and culture at Harvard University in Cambridge. His Provincetown residence was once the home of Susan Glaspell and George Cram "Jig" Cook, who were founding members of the Provincetown Players in 1915, the first modern American theater company.

– From July 6 through Sept. 26, the Provincetown Art Association and Museum will present "Abstract Climates: Helen Frankenthaler in Provincetown," an exhibition of paintings by a woman whom the museum describes as "one of the most influential abstract artists of her time." The focus of the exhibition – one of the largest in PAAM's history – will be the work Frankenthaler, who died in 2011, created in Provincetown between 1950 and 1969.

Frankenthaler studied briefly with legendary teacher Hans Hofmann in Provincetown and was, for a time, the wife of artist Robert Motherwell and spent summers with him there. Christine McCarthy, PAAM executive director, says the work that will be shown "represents an important period in American art history."

Frankenthaler, according to the museum, is widely credited for playing a pivotal role in the transition from abstract expressionism to color-field painting, and expanded the possibilities of abstract painting through her invention of the soak-stain technique.

The summer exhibit will include small-scale works as well as large canvases that reference Provincetown's sea and landscape. There will also be photographs, letters and memorabilia. The exhibit will be curated by Lise Motherwell, Frankenthaler's stepdaughter and museum board president, and Elizabeth Smith, founding executive director of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

Playhouse announces creative teams

Directing and design talent connected to recent shows on Broadway and national tours will be coming to Dennis this summer to lead and design shows at Cape Playhouse, according to an announcement by Michael Rader, playhouse artistic director.

Hunter Foster, a playhouse favorite and Broadway veteran, will direct "Million Dollar Quartet," in which he starred as Sam Phillips in its 2010 Broadway debut. His musical director for the July 10-21 show will be James Barry, who was on Broadway performing in "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson," and both did musical direction and played Carl Perkins in the "Quartet" musical, with Foster directing, last spring at New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse. (The show is about a famous recording session between Perkins, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis.) In Dennis, designers will be: set, Josh Smith; costumes, Gail Baldoni (20 past playhouse shows); and lights, Kirk Bookman (Broadway credits include "The Sunshine Boys" and "The Gin Game").

Foster will also direct the season finale (Aug. 21-Sept. 1), the pre-national tour of "Clue: On Stage," based on the beloved whodunit board game. Jen Cody, a performer whose Broadway credits include "Shrek, the Musical" and "Pajama Game" (and Foster's wife), will do choreography. Designers: set, Adam Koch; costumes, Nicole V. Moody; lighting, Jaron Kent Hermansen, returning to the playhouse.

Jason Sparks, who was assistant choreographer on Broadway for "Hello, Dolly" last year with Bette Midler and "She Loves Me" in 2016, will direct and choreograph "Altar Boyz" (July 24-Aug. 4). Musical director will be Jordan Jones-Reese; designers: costumes, Ryan Park (assistant or associate costume designer on multiple Broadway shows, including last year's "War Paint" and "Junk"); set, Ryan Howell ("Pretty Hunger" off-Broadway); lighting, Hermansen.

“Sylvia,” the dog-centric comedy by A.R.Gurney (June 26-July 7), will be directed by Matt Lenz, who directed “Art” at the playhouse last year; “A Christmas Story, the Musical” on tour; and has been associate director on Broadway shows that include last year’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” Designers: set, Michael Carnahan (also “Art” and “A Christmas Story”); costumes, Sky Switzer (associate or assistant costume designer on Broadway shows that include “Aladdin” and “Tuck Everlasting”); lighting, Hermansen.

“Steel Magnolias” (June 13-23), will be directed by Pamela Hunt, whose directing work includes 16 plays and nine musicals at the playhouse over the years. Designers: costumes, David Toser (Broadway’s “Whoopie!” and “Very Good Eddie”); and, returning to the playhouse, Daniel Whiting on sets and Hermansen on lights.

Rader himself will direct “South Pacific” (Aug. 7-18), with choreography by Broadway performer and associate choreographer Joyce Chittick (“Beautiful: The Carole King Musical”) and musical direction by Garrett Taylor (associate musical director for Broadway’s “Irving Berlin’s White Christmas”). Designers: set, David Arsenault; costumes, Baldoni; lighting, Andrew Scharwath (assistant lighting designer for Broadway’s “The Country House”).

Tickets and information: CapePlayhouse.com or 508-385-3911.

Conservatory trying to rebuild pre-K room

Cape Conservatory in West Barnstable is still trying to raise about \$1,800 with a GoFundMe campaign after a burst water pipe in early January destroyed the classroom used for the conservatory preschool. The building had been closed for a storm, so water saturated the ceiling, poured down the insides of the walls and flooded the hardwood floors.

The room had housed 38 young students, and was also used as rehearsal space for several music ensembles in the evening.

A fundraising appeal from executive director Stephanie Weaver said insurance covers most of the repairs, but the conservatory’s deductible of \$5,000 was “a big setback” for the non-profit organization. To donate:

<https://www.gofundme.com/capeconservatory>

Bequest results in theater, movie tickets

The Centerville Library, in partnership with Cotuit Center for the Arts and Cape Cinema in Dennis, is celebrating the life of “devoted patron” Pat Andres by using a bequest from her to share her love of theater and film. The library will offer two-for-one admission passes to the two venues beginning in March.

CLAMS patrons must go to the library at 585 Main St. to request a pass, first come, first served. Two two-for-one passes will be available prior to the opening of each theatrical performance at the Cotuit center (cotuitcenterforthearts.org), and patrons must contact the center to reserve the seats for a preferred night.

Two two-for-one passes will become available the day prior to the opening of each film at Cape Cinema (capecinema.com). The pass must be taken to the theater box office for the reduced admission.

Information: 508-790-6220, ext. 100.

Artists invited to visit Sandy Neck

“Spend time in a living museum!” is the invitation to artists from the town of Barnstable, the Cape Cod Art Center in Barnstable, the two Mid-Cape state-designated cultural districts and Sandy Neck Beach. Artists in various disciplines can now apply to the sponsoring groups for six 2018 sunset trips to the beach’s House at the Halfway Point.

The excursions will take place from 2 p.m. to after sunset on April 8, May 6, Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Oct. 21. A Beach Ranger will provide the 3.5-mile transport to the house, which is a rustic cottage set in the middle of the dunes, marsh and water at Sandy Neck beach. On some excursions, a naturalist will be on hand.

Applications: www.CapeCodArtCenter.org, under the education tab. Cost: \$70 per day for association members, \$95 for non-members.

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