



CAPE COD TIMES

Entertainment & Life

Driscoll: Kuhn at Cape Playhouse, Plummer in Provincetown, other arts news

By **Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll**

Posted May 6, 2018 at 8:13 AM

Updated May 6, 2018 at 8:24 AM

Four-time Tony Award nominee Judy Kuhn and other Tony winners and nominees will perform in Dennis this summer, while Amanda Plummer is guest of honor for Provincetown festival gala.

Four-time Tony Award nominee Judy Kuhn, Tony winners Michele Pawk and Michael McGrath, and Tony nominees Mary Testa, Jennifer Simard and Nancy Opel are among the performers who will be part of the 92nd summer season at Cape Playhouse in Dennis.

According to a casting announcement this week, each of the year's six shows will be led by performers with numerous credits, starting with the June 12-23 opener of "Steel Magnolias." Kuhn (Broadway's "Fun Home," "Fiddler on the Roof"), Testa ("Wicked," "Guys and Dolls") and Olivier Award-winning Lesli Margherita ("Zorro, the Musical") will play part of a group of friends who gather at a Southern beauty shop in the dramedy. (Kuhn also will sing July 15-16 in Provincetown for the Broadway @ The Art House series, where she's appeared before.)

The June 26-July 7 production of A.R. Gurney's "Sylvia," about a man and his dog, stars playhouse/Broadway veteran Jen Cody as the dog, with Pawk ("Hollywood Arms," "Hairspray") and Stephen DeRosa ("Into the Woods," "Betrayal"). For the July 10-21 musical "Million Dollar Quartet," about a seminal day in rock 'n' roll, musical director James Barry will play his 700th performance as singer/songwriter Carl Perkins, including two years on national tour. The cast for the July 24-Aug. 4 musical "Altar Boyz," about small-town boys seeking success, includes Coby Getzug (Broadway's "Book of Mormon") and Anthony Fortino (the national tour of "Fun Home").

Classic World War II-set musical "South Pacific" (Aug. 7-18) will feature Mike McGowan ("The Book of Mormon," "The Producers"), Becky Gulsvig ("School of Rock"), and Yvonne Strumecki in her eighth time as Bloody Mary. The season will end Aug. 21-Sept. 1 with the pre-national tour of a new comedy based on the detective game "Clue," starring Simard ("Disaster!" "Hello, Dolly"), Opel ("Urinetown," "Honeymoon in Vegas") and McGrath ("Nice Work If You Can Get It," "Spamalot").

Tickets and information: www.capeplayhouse.com or 508-385-3911; the box office at the Route 6A theater opens May 30.

Plummer to be honored at Williams gala

Stage and screen actor Amanda Plummer, winner of a Tony and three Emmy awards, will receive the second annual TENN Award at the June 2 gala celebration for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival.

Described by festival curator David Kaplan as a "Tennessee Williams virtuoso performer" on and off Broadway and in regional theater, Plummer will accept the award for "advancing the spirit" of playwright Williams as guest of honor at the festival's annual dinner at Provincetown Town Hall (260 Commercial St.).

Plummer's roles in Williams plays have included Laura in "The Glass Menagerie" on Broadway, Alma in "Summer and Smoke," and Hannah Helkes in "The Night of the Iguana" at American Repertory Theater in Cambridge. She also has championed lesser-known Williams plays, which is also a mission of the Provincetown festival.

Among her many awards, Plummer has earned a Tony for "Agnes of God" in 1982, two other Tony nominations ("A Taste of Honey," "Pygmalion"), and three Emmys ("Miss Rose White," "Outer Limits," "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit").

The June 2 dinner will also include an announcement of the full program for the Sept. 27-30 festival. Tickets to the dinner: twptown.org or 866-789-8366.

Chamber music fest announces season

The Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival this week announced its 39th summer season, with plans to present 12 concerts from Aug. 1-24 in six towns.

The program, created by artistic directors Jon Nakamatsu and Jon Manasse, and executive director Elaine Lipton, will open Aug. 1-2 in Wellfleet and Falmouth with the Emerson String Quartet performing two complex Beethoven "masterworks": String Quartets Opus 130, 131.

Also on the schedule: two pianos played by two to eight musicians in "The Piano Bash" Aug. 7 in Cotuit; the Grammy Award-winning Harlem String Quartet performing a reprise concert of "Harlem Returns" Aug. 8 in Chatham; a "Schubert and Adam Gopnik" concert, with author Gopnik narrating a program on the composer, Aug. 10 in Wellfleet; returning ensemble Borromeo String Quartet, bolstered by four additional musicians, in "The Goldberg Variations," Aug. 13 in Wellfleet; "Germanic Tradition" shows Aug. 14 in Cotuit and Aug. 15 in Chatham; "Around the World in Seven Cellos" with the Cello Gang, Aug. 17 in Wellfleet; and a three-concert residency showcasing Harvard University's ensemble-in-residence the Parker Quartet, Aug. 21 in Cotuit, Aug. 22 in Dennis and Aug. 24 in Wellfleet..

Tickets: \$34, \$15 for college students with ID, free for age 18 and under. Admission is slightly higher if orders are received on or after July 8 and slightly lower for those attending three concerts. Admission to the Emerson String Quartet concert: \$50. Reservations: 508-247-9400. Information: capecodchambermusic.org.

Island playhouse adds solo shows

The Martha's Vineyard Playhouse in Vineyard Haven will run a new series of solo performances on weekends through May that offers often humorous female perspectives on life milestones.

The first, May 11-12, will be Melinda Buckey's "Mother (and me)," about the mother/daughter dynamic as they both deal with the mother's dementia. May 18-19 will be Jenny Allen's "I Got Sick Then I Got Better," previously performed at the playhouse as a staged reading, Allen's sometimes bittersweet take on her own diagnosis and treatment for cancer. And concluding on May 25-26 will be "Truth Values: One Girl's Romp Through M.I.T.'s Male Math Maze," written and performed by Gioia De Cari, who will play more than 30 characters.

Tickets: \$35; 508-696-6300 or mvplayhouse.org.

Follow Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll on Twitter: [@KathiSDCCT](https://twitter.com/KathiSDCCT).