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Entertainment & Life

Driscoll: Williams fest to stage world premieres

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One by Williams and one by Japanese author Yukio Mishima.

The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival will present two world premieres as part of its 14th annual festival in September – one by Williams and one by Japanese author Yukio Mishima.

“The Lady from the Village of Falling Flowers,” the 13th world premiere the festival has staged of a Williams play, will be presented around town in a pop-up “kami-shibai” style, which uses illustrations to help tell the story. Williams, who wrote some of his best-known plays in Provincetown, was influenced by Mishima, and they became good friends in the late 1950s, according to the festival announcement last week. The Sept. 26-29 program is simply titled “Tennessee Williams and Yukio Mishima.”

The new Mishima work will be the short farce “Busu,” directed and performed by choreographer Daniel Irizarry, on a double bill with a traditional Japanese version of the same story.

Curator David Kaplan writes in the festival program: “Williams and Mishima wrote plays in which glamorous illusions hang over realities the way Blanche hung a paper lantern over a bare light bulb in ‘A Streetcar Named Desire.’ The lantern and the illusions might get ripped down, but in the meantime we get magic – and Williams and Mishima propose that ugliness, evil and pain are also illusions we might rip down.”

The 2019 lineup will be produced and performed by artists from locations that include South Africa, Japan and Cyprus. Beyond the plays, the festival will

feature workshops, classes, parties, and Williams 101 discussions.

Some highlights: South Africa's Abrahamse and Meyer Productions' staging of Williams' "The Night of the Iguana" inspired by Japan's traditional Noh (classical drama) theater, and the English-language premiere of Mishima's "The Lighthouse."

Also in the lineup: a reading of Mishima's "The Black Lizard," starring Yuhua Hamasaki, who appeared on last season's "RuPaul's Drag Race."

The festival will host a new morning workshop series on Japanese theater arts. Festival artwork will be influenced by psychedelic designs of Tadanori Yokoo, a well-known Japanese graphic designer and illustrator who has given permission for adaptations for each show.

Tickets and festival passes: twptown.org and 866-789-8366.

Orchestra chooses resident composer

Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra has chosen Cody W. Forrest as its composer in residence for the orchestra's second season.

Founding conductor Matt Scinto announced the theme for the season, which will begin in October, as "Towards the Sea," and Forrest's first work will be based on the life of "Black Sam" Bellamy, a wealthy pirate whose ship, the Whydah, crashed off Cape Cod. The concluding program in April will include Forrest's piece celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage to New England.

Composer-educator Forrest has received several awards and commissions, and his music has been performed by Boston Music Viva, the Cassatt String Quartet, and internationally by violinist Léo Marillier.

"Broadway @" series extends to Colonial

Host/accompanist Seth Rudetsky and composer Mark Cortale will take their "Broadway @" series of interview/concert shows to the Emerson Colonial Theatre in Boston.

The lineup there will include Jessie Mueller (July 8), Cheyenne Jackson (Oct. 4)

and Kelli O'Hara (Jan. 9). Mueller and Rudetsky will perform July 12-13 at the Art House in Provincetown, where the series – now playing at multiple locations around the country – first started. Mueller and Jackson have performed previously in Provincetown.

Boston subscriptions and single-show tickets are now on sale:
emersoncolonialtheatre.com and 888-616-0272.

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