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Entertainment & Life

Driscoll: Kathleen Turner at gala, Academy's future, podcasts debut

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Williams fest welcomes Turner, Academy to reopen with new approach, Arts Foundation starts podcast series, Sandwich arts gt home, concerts in Yarmouth Port, garden club goes to MFA.

Film and stage star Kathleen Turner will be the guest of honor June 1 at the annual fundraising performance gala for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival.

The 6 p.m. event at Provincetown Town Hall (260 Commercial St.) will include a post-dinner interview with Turner about her life and career as an actress and a director, according to the festival's announcement of the event. The program for the Sept. 26-29 festival – which will feature plays by Williams and Japanese writer Yukio Mishima – will be announced at the gala.

Turner is best known on screen for such movies as “Body Heat,” “Peggy Sue Got Married” (which earned her an Oscar nomination), “Serial Mom” (directed by Provincetown's John Waters), “Romancing the Stone” and “Prizzi's Honor.” She won Golden Globe awards for best actress for “Romancing the Stone” and “Prizzi's Honor” and was nominated for three other Golden Globes.

Turner's Williams connection is her Tony Award-nominated performance in 1990's “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.” She received a second Tony nomination for the Broadway revival of Edward Albee's “Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?”

Turner discusses her preparations to play Maggie in her 2018 book “Kathleen

Turner on Acting: Conversations About Film, Television, and Theater.”

Turner also has appeared as a guest on several TV shows, including “Friends” and “Californication,” and appeared in various regional-theater productions. She took two Broadway shows to London’s West End; developed a cabaret performance, “Finding My Voice,” which debuted in Philadelphia in 2017; and, in February, she performed in the Donizetti opera “La Fille du Régiment” at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

General admission tickets to the performance gala, as well as premium seats and table sponsorships, are on sale at twptown.org and at 866-789-8366. Tickets for the 14th annual Provincetown Williams festival will go on sale following the gala.

Revamped academy to stage variety show

On April 26, the Nauset Regional High School Variety Show reopen the playhouse run by the Academy of Performing Arts in Orleans after a four-month “intermission.”

The variety show will be the first community event under the new vision for the theater, which is as a “center for the arts” hosting entertainment produced by other groups.

“It’s different from what the academy has traditionally done, in that we will no longer function as the in-house producer of live theater shows at the playhouse,” said Greg DeLory, vice chair of the academy’s board of directors, in a board announcement that formalized plans discussed in recent months. “Instead,” he said, “the playhouse will ... (provide) a venue for diverse cultural and arts-related programming from outside sources,” including theater – produced by guest producers and companies – as well as concerts, open mic events, festivals, classes and films.

The playhouse also will house an art gallery and be a venue for student and faculty productions from the academy’s school, DeLory said.

All contribute to the new mission statement the academy theater and separate school will now operate under: “We inspire and build community by providing high-quality performances, arts education, and cultural opportunities.”

The school has been operating throughout the shutdown, but financial shortfalls that have threatened teacher salaries came to light at a community meeting last month. Since then, a parents group has launched a “100 for \$100 campaign,” hoping to get 100 people to each donate \$100 to raise \$10,000 for teacher salaries and for a June show.

Organizers are asking supporters to call 508-255-5510 to donate or mail to Academy of Performing Arts, P.O. Box 1843, Orleans, MA 02653. The next meeting for those who want to help has been set up for 11:30 a.m. April 27 at the school at 5 Giddiah Hill Road. Information: parent leader Carlyn Carey at carlyncarey@yahoo.com.

Students recently raised more than \$2,200 at a bake sale and more than \$400 at a lemonade stand. A community pot-luck supper is due to be held May 4 at the school. There also are ongoing Facebook and GoFundMe fundraisers.

Supporters held a spring cleaning at the playhouse building last weekend to clean out, paint and otherwise ready the performance space, and are looking for help for additional cleaning days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and April 21.

Arts foundation launches podcast series

Explore and learn about the arts on your own time: That’s the idea behind the new direction the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod is taking for its Creative Exchange.

The program is now a series of podcasts, after the foundation held one-day conferences with the same name over the past three years. Two episodes are available, and one will be released each week until a live get-together with the subjects from 5 to 7 p.m. May 30 at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, 317 Main St., South Yarmouth.

Podcast topics will include “What makes a good story?” “How do you get your movie into a film festival?” and “What are some ways you can use the arts as a form of therapy?”

The podcast is a partnership between the foundation and Provincetown Community Television, with the executive directors of those organizations – Julie Wake and Amy Davies, respectively – as hosts.

“We decided to do a new medium for the Creative Exchange because we wanted to cast a wider net to reach more people who might not have been able to attend the conference in person,” Wake said in announcing the podcast series. “I hope people listening can be inspired by some of the conversations to start connecting with other creative, like-minded people and pursuing their own passion projects or careers.”

Each episode is 30 to 45 minutes long, and they were described in the first episode as “elevated conversations with Cape Cod creatives” that, in part, get across the idea that “arts matter in our community.”

First up was local writer Susan Blood, talking about “The Process of Creative Productivity” after spending a week in a dune shack in the Cape Cod National Seashore. Also available now is an interview on “The Process of Leading in the Arts,” with Chris McCarthy, executive director of the Provincetown Art Association and Museum.

The podcasts are available on iTunes, Spotify and the organizations’ websites at www.artsfoundation.org and www.provincetowntv.org.

Upcoming episodes will include: April 18, James Barnes, director of social enterprise at Cape Abilities and story-slam enthusiast (“Developing a Good Story”); April 25, Chalkboard Studios’ founders and visual artists James Wolf, Jackie Reeves and Richard Neal (“Shared Artist Space”); May 2, visual artist Joe Diggs (“Art as Social Commentary”); May 9, architect Mary-Ann Agresti, owner of The Design Initiative Inc. (“Creating Public Art”); May 16, Christine Kunewa Walker, executive director of the Provincetown Film Society (“Working in the Film Industry”); May 19, Sara Moran of Eastham, owner of Cape Cod Art Therapy (“Healing in the Arts”); and May 23, graphic artist Tim Convery of Provincetown, founder of Tim-Scapes (“Following Your Passion”).

Sandwich Arts Alliance leases first home

The Sandwich Arts Alliance will mark a major milestone in its four years of growth by moving later this spring into its first facility, with a two-year lease on a building at 124 Route 6A formerly occupied by the Modern Vintage store.

The alliance already programs a variety of cultural events, but officials say the

space will allow a chance to showcase the work of the nearly 300 visual, literary and performing artists who are members.

While exhibits, programs and courses have been held at public and private places around town, the new alliance building will now house a large gallery, mainly for displaying art, but which can also be used for author talks, receptions and staged readings. There will also be two classrooms for the alliance's courses for adults and young people, and a graphic artist will be on site.

A grand opening weekend is planned for late May, according to alliance officials, when there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an open-house weekend.

Concert series to launch at Yarmouth church

A six-part monthly series of voice and verse programs, titled "Americana: a New Voice for a New Nation," will begin May 12 at the restored 19th-century Yarmouth New Church.

The first concert, at 5 p.m., will feature early American music, including singalongs, fiddle tunes and popular songs of the day. Folk groups the Cape Cod Bluejackets and Just Plain Folk, along with other local soloists, will perform music – including fife and drums, sacred songs and fiddle tunes – from the Revolutionary War era.

The additional shows will represent five other historical movements: the soldier songs, and songs of freedom and home from the Civil War; the rallying songs for suffrage, abolition, unions and the religious revival of the Third Great Awakening; the cultural contributions of American immigrants; the new freedoms of the Roaring 20s; and the Dust Bowl blues, movie-musical songs and Broadway tunes of the 1930s. Excerpts from prose and poetry will add to the music of each era.

Additional performances will take place June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 15 and Oct. 13. The shows are being produced by local music and performing artists Ellen Adamson, Joan Kirchner and Jo Brisbane.

Tickets, \$20 (or \$90 for a series pass) will be available at the door and at www.yarmouthportcommon.org. A portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the church building at 266 Main St., Yarmouth Port.

Osterville Garden Club part of Art in Bloom

The Osterville Garden Club is among 50 garden clubs from across New England participating in the Art in Bloom exhibit, which runs April 27-29 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

The annual celebration of art and floral design pairs each garden-club team with an art object to interpret with a floral arrangement. For Osterville, head arranger is Susan Dewey and assistant arranger is Donna Rumpf.

Daily events during the weekend will include tours of the arrangements throughout the galleries; floral-arranging demonstrations for the home; outdoor walking tours; a children's community day; master classes; and lectures.

Information: www.mfa.org/news/art-in-bloom.

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