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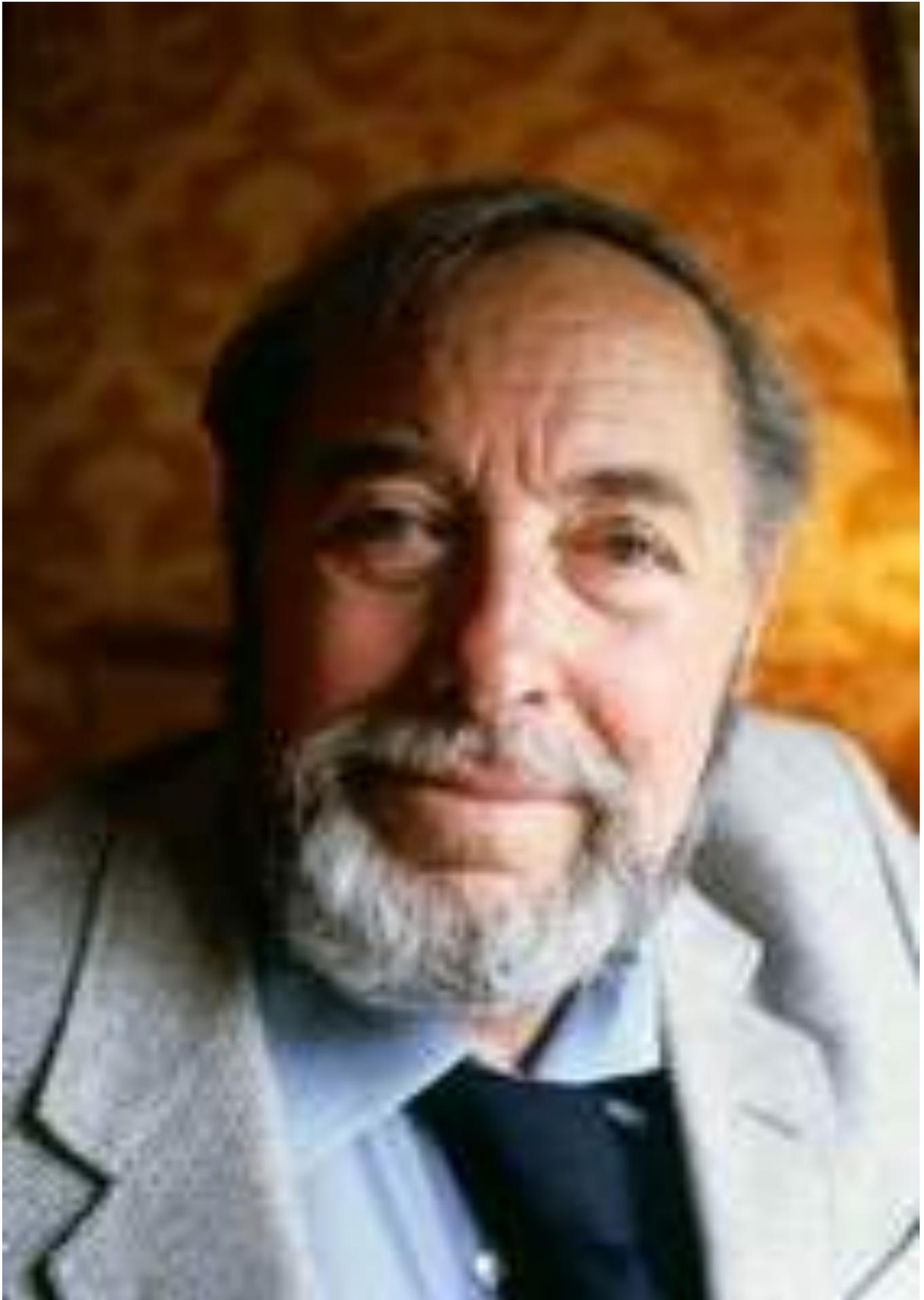
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## Driscoll: Fest to focus on Williams-Mishima connection



Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll

## Sunday

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The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival last week announced two parties and its theme for next fall's 14th annual event.

The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival last week announced two parties and its theme for next fall's 14th annual event.

The Sept. 26-29 program will be focused around unconventional theater from America and Japan, featuring plays by Williams and renowned Japanese author Yukio Mishima. The two became friends in the late 1950s, and festival curator David Kaplan says Williams was influenced by Mishima for more than a decade.

"Mishima and Williams make plays out of fear," he said in announcing the theme, saying "confessions, pain and ghosts" are some of the strongest connections between the two.

Artists and groups from around the world will produce and perform in this year's lineup, which will be announced in full June 1 at the annual dinner in Provincetown (as well as online at [twptown.org](http://twptown.org)). Tickets to the dinner go on sale in early March on the website and at 866-789-8366.

Also in March will be the second annual Tennessee Williams Birthday Bash, celebrating what would have been the playwright's 108th birthday, from 4 to 6 p.m. March 24 at the Pilgrim House in Provincetown. The casual-dress event will include cake, drinks, prizes and a sneak preview of the 2019 festival shows (a Williams classic and a Mishima world premiere).

Admission to the birthday party: \$20 minimum donation at the door; advance RSVPs to skip the line: [twptown.org](http://twptown.org). Those who can't attend the party but donate \$20 online will be recognized with a toast of thanks at the party and listed on Williams' virtual birthday card.

The Pilgrim House will also serve a Williams-themed \$35 prix-fixe dinner menu all weekend. (Reservations suggested: 508-487-6424.)

You saw them here first...

Cape Cod Theatre Project in Falmouth will celebrate 25 years of developing new plays this summer, and has a great track record to trumpet at the start of the anniversary year:

– On March 16, Lucas Hnath's "Hillary and Clinton" will open in previews, starring Laurie Metcalf and John Lithgow as the former first couple. Hnath, Tony Award-nominated in 2017 for "A Doll's House, Part 2" (which won Metcalf a Tony in the lead role), developed "Hillary and Clinton" in 2015 in Falmouth. The play is set in "an alternate universe" during the 2008 primary election, though Falmouth audiences saw it during Hillary's later race.

– Past CCTP playwright-in-residence Heidi Schreck ("Grand Concourse") will have her play "What the Constitution Means to Me" transfer to Broadway March 14-June 9 after off-Broadway runs last year. Schreck plays the lead role in the semi-autobiographical show, which in part traces the effect of the Constitution on generations of women, including many in her own family.

– JC Lee's "Luce," which was developed in 2013 at CCTP and played off-Broadway, has been made into a movie, directed by Julius Onah, that sold for distribution at the recent Sundance Film Festival. The family drama stars Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer, Kelvin Harrison Jr. and Tim Roth; Lee co-wrote the screenplay from his script about an African youth, adopted by white parents who comes under suspicion when a teacher searches his locker.

– Bess Wohl's "Continuity," a comedy about the collision of science and storytelling developed in 2017 at CCTP, will make its world premiere this spring off-Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club.

Stars join Pops for spring season

Tickets go on sale Monday for the Boston Pops' spring season (May 8-June 15), which will include several celebrity debuts with the orchestra: singer/musician Rhiannon Giddens curating and performing in a four-day mini-festival "Redefining American Music" (May 22-26); comedian Jane Lynch singing from the Great American Songbook (June 11-12); and travel author Rick Steves taking audiences on a symphonic journey across Europe (June 13-14).

Guests returning to the Symphony Hall stage will be folk singer/songwriter Arlo Guthrie (May 16) headlining a "Summer of '69" program (which will include tributes to the Beatles'

"Abbey Road" and the Who's rock opera "Tommy").

"Hamilton"'s Leslie Odom Jr. will sing a Nat King Cole centenary salute (June 5-6), and Bernadette Peters will sing her Broadway hits for the May 8 opening night.

The Pops will produce its 27th annual Gospel Night with conductor Charles Floyd and gospel singer Dottie Peoples, featuring a program celebrating the late Aretha Franklin (June 15). A first-ever sensory-friendly concert on June 1 will be designed for patrons with autism-spectrum disorders or other disabilities that create sensory sensitivities; the program is one of the Pops' family-friendly "Once Upon a Time..." programs that includes selections by musical storytellers John Williams and Aaron Copland, as well as Lemony Snicket's "The Composer Is Dead!" a contemporary whodunit.

Cirque de la Symphonie will return June 8 with its fusion of circus and live orchestral music.

Movie-related nights will include conductor Keith Lockhart leading the Pops in four performances of a screening of the original "Star Wars: A New Hope" (1977) with Williams' Academy Award-winning score (May 10, 11 and 14), and a "John Williams Film Night Tribute," featuring popular scores by the Boston Pops conductor laureate performed live to film excerpts (May 29-31).

Tickets (\$30-\$126) go on sale Monday: 888-266-1200 or [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org).

Jazz fest to welcome event newcomers

The Provincetown Jazz Festival will celebrate its 15th year by presenting musicians all making their festival debut, according to an announcement from founder Bart Weisman.

The event will run Aug. 15 at the Crown & Anchor in Provincetown with Jessica Curran (who just sang the role of Dorothy in the Cape Symphony/Cotuit Center for the Arts production of "The Wizard of Oz") and 14-year-old guitarist Henry Acker, who has twice won the Downbeat Magazine Student Award for jazz guitar soloist.

On Aug. 19, a show at the Cotuit center will feature internationally acclaimed jazz musicians Katie Thiroux (bass and vocals) and Kevin Harris (piano).

Tickets and information: [www.provincetownjazzfestival.org](http://www.provincetownjazzfestival.org)

Local artists win awards

– The Mass Cultural Council recently announced 2019 Artist Fellowship awards and two local artists were among the 16 artists statewide to win \$15,000 fellowships for their crafts: Gretchen Romey-Tanzer of Orleans and Jennifer McCurdy of Vineyard Haven. The awards were anonymously judged, based on quality and creative ability of the work, out of 96 submissions in the crafts category, according to the council.

– Two local artists have received awards at the New England Watercolor Society’s 2019 Signature Show in Boston. Eastham artist Gigi Burboeck was awarded the bronze medal for her painting “Windows in the Night.” East Harwich resident Ann Hart won the H.K. Holbein Award for her painting "Downtown Dogs." The exhibit of 99 works will be on view at the Guild of Boston Artists, 162 Newbury St., Boston, through March 3. Admission is free. Information: [www.newenglandwatercolorssociety.org](http://www.newenglandwatercolorssociety.org).

Follow Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll on Twitter: @KathiSDCCT

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