



Entertainment

The plays of Yukio Mishima are paired with those of Tennessee Williams in Provincetown's annual theater festival

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Tennessee Williams spent time in Japan and stateside with literary icon Yukio Mishima, and the two theater greats deeply influenced each other's work. So it's hardly surprising that the 14th annual Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, here in town from Thursday, Sept. 26, through Sunday, Sept. 29, would devote itself to a handful of plays by each of them.

Aside from the usual cornucopia of workshops, parties and special events at the festival, which will be covered in the Banner's next issue, here's a breakdown of the major productions to be presented at the festival in 2019. Get a full schedule and purchase tickets and passes at twptown.org. — HK

The Lady from the Village of Falling Flowers was apparently written by Williams in the spring of 1935, when he was a student at the University of Missouri, though he never submitted it to a class and it was never published or performed. The festival is presenting this "punchy send-up of love and the perils of first impressions" as a world premiere, set in imperial Japan a thousand years ago. It's directed by Natsu Onoda Power in kami-shibai style in the garden of the former Wa store at 220 Commercial St.

The Night of the Iguana, Williams' play about repressed desire between a defrocked minister and a tour group from a Texas women's college at a Mexican inn overlooking the Pacific Ocean, will be performed as Noh theater by the South African company Abrahamse and Meyer Productions, in repertory at the Provincetown Theater at 238 Bradford St. with Mishima's "The Lady Aoi."

And Tell Sad Stories of the Deaths of Queens..., Williams' tragicomedy about a New Orleans queen who brings a rough-trade sailor into her Japanese garden, will be performed at the Porch Room of The Provincetown Inn at 1 Commercial St. by EgoPo Classic Theater of Philadelphia, Pa.

The Angel in the Alcove is adapted from a Williams short story about a young artist in a rooming house in New Orleans' French Quarter with eccentric tenants and a paranoid landlady. It will be performed (with nudity) by the Poreia Theatre Group from Cyprus, and directed by Anthoullis Demosthenous, at WOMR at 494 Commercial St.

In addition, the festival will offer an installation of artifacts from Williams' play **The Day on Which a Man Dies** and two special performances of its "opening of the panel" sequence, at The Commons at 46 Bradford St.

From Mishima's oeuvre, the festival will present the world premiere of **Busu**, a farce set in an antique shop in Greenwich Village, in a double bill of two versions at Fishermen Hall at 12 Winslow St.: one, directed by Daniel Irizarry, fuses Renaissance commedia dell'arte with bio-mechanics, and the other, directed by Laurence Kominz, is more traditional, using elements of Noh theater.

The Lady Aoi, which is currently playing at the Provincetown Theater by Abrahamse and Meyer productions, will continue there during the festival, in repertory with Williams' "The Night of the Iguana."

The Lighthouse will have its English-language premiere at the festival as a site-specific production at 443 Commercial St. A play about sexual tensions between a Japanese navy veteran and his new stepmother, it's directed by Benny Sato Ambush.

The Black Lizard, Mishima's "psychedelic mystery" about a glamorous jewel thief and the handsome detective she enthralls, will be presented as a staged reading on Sunday morning at Provincetown Town Hall at 260 Commercial St., featuring "RuPaul's Drag Race" star Yushua Hamasaki as the jewel thief, the titular Black Lizard, and directed by Jesse Jou.