

Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival Proposal Guidelines

The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival takes place annually the last full week in September. Each year's festival programming focuses on a theme related to Tennessee Williams.

2008 Festival dates are September 25 - 28. The 2008 theme is the Healing Power of Love.

2009 Festival dates are September 24 - 27. The 2009 theme is The War for Life. See box below for details.

Proposals for programming are accepted year-round by email.

We are a presenting organization. We are interested primarily in productions that have already been performed elsewhere. When we produce a production ourselves it is for the world premiere of a text written by Tennessee Williams.

We present fully realized productions of Tennessee Williams' texts. We also present new works that respond to Williams' writing, are inspired by Williams' writing, or that further the annual theme announced for the Festival. We are interested in presenting work by other major writers that bears a relationship to Williams: in 2007 we presented plays written by Beckett and Strindberg.

We present full texts, with rare exceptions. We do not, as a rule, present collections of excerpts from different plays. Readings are discouraged. Readings, when appropriate, have been presented only as free, ancillary events to explore a theme or to develop future presentation.

Biographical pieces about Tennessee Williams are discouraged. We only present biographical performances about Williams' life when the work compliments the annual theme.

We are especially interested in work that extends the echo and resonance of Williams' words to unexpected media. We welcome proposals from sculptors, painters, videographers, film-makers, choreographers and performance artists.

Ours is an international Festival. We welcome productions in languages other than English. We have presented programs in Cantonese, German, French, Spanish and, this year, in Portuguese.

Special note for colleges, universities, and high schools: The Festival has presented school productions from all over the United States. We prefer work that is directed, choreographed, or written by students or recently-graduated alumni. Participation in the festival by schools is meant to introduce students to the community of working professionals they are about to join. Special consideration will be given to school-produced performances.

Much of the programming, but by no means all, is organized two years in advance. There are sometimes cancellations, and there are always slots held open until June. The festival sometimes enters into a relationship with a project, developing it over the course of two or three years.

For 2009, our theme THE WAR FOR LIFE is inspired by the following quote from *You Touched Me* written by Tennessee Williams and Donald Windham in 1945.

A new war's beginning... The war for life, not against it. The war to create a world that can live without war. All the dead bodies of Europe, all the corpses of Africa, Asia, America ought to be raised on flagpoles over the world, and the cities not built up but left as they are--a shambles, a black museum--for you and you and you--to stroll about in--on Sunday afternoons-- case you forget--and leave the world to chance, and the rats of advantage

To suggest programming contact David Kaplan, curator: curator@twptown.org
Scripts may be submitted as PDF format or WORD documents.