

2022 Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival 30th Anniversary Celebration

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All locations are in Clarksdale, Mississippi

Updated 8/19/22

The 2022 MDTWF is dedicated to long-time supporter and festival participant, the late

Dr. Colby Kullman

For over 25 years, Dr. Kullman served the festival in a variety of roles including teacher, advisor, donor, panelist, and scholar. We were so sad to hear of his passing on August 9, 2022. He will be missed.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cutrer Community Fair

Coahoma County Higher Education Center/Cutrer Mansion, 109 Clark Street

- ◆ Book Talks at the Cutrer Mansion | Authors to be announced | Book sales by Turnrow Books
- ◆ Cultural Ambassadors offer educational workshops on local folk life including such topics as Native American history, the Mississippi River, local food, music, photography, history, art, and agriculture.
- ◆ Fun Food Truck options
- ◆ A detailed schedule will be announced in September.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Revival of the MS Delta Cultural Tours | On the Red DART Trolley Bus

Cutrer Mansion, 109 Clark Street

- ◆ Enjoy a guided “teaser tour” through the historic district and beyond identifying historic homes and key cultural locations in the Clarksdale area. There is limited seating on the bus. Free, but prefer you sign up.

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

30th Annual Festival Kickoff Celebration | CCC Choir Performance

Tennessee Williams Park, 415 Court Street

- ◆ Past participants will share memories of Tennessee Williams Festivals over the last 30 years. This will include a marker dedication in the park, remarks from local officials, and a performance by Coahoma Community College’s acclaimed choir ensemble.

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Delta Dinner Party with Local Cuisine | Blues Performance by the Stone Gas Band

The Norman Brown Commons Building at the Cutrer Mansion, 109 Clark Street

- ◆ Food bites representing the very best cuisine in the MS Delta including barbecue, hot tamales, slaw, baked beans, kibbie balls, cabbage rolls, catfish bites, fried rice, egg rolls, rigatoni and meatballs, and pie. The fee for a dinner ticket is \$35. Dinner tickets must be pre-ordered and purchased by October 10th by contacting Jen Waller at 662-645-3555 or at jenwaller05@gmail.com or Taylor Armstrong at 662-621-9344 at cchecassistant@gmail.com. We do cash, check or Venmo.

7:30 pm – 9:30pm

Screening of 1958 Film *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Cutrer Mansion Grand Lawn, 109 Clark Street

◆ Screening of 1958 Film *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* on large, professional grade screen with an introduction. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and beverages for a beautiful, relaxed evening under the stars.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:00 am – 9:45 am

Lecture & Presentation | W. Ralph Eubanks, Visiting Professor, University of MS

Coahoma Community College, Whiteside Lecture Hall, 3240 Friars Point Road

◆ W. Ralph Eubanks will talk about the Cultural and Literary importance of the Mississippi Delta as well as the ways the work of Tennessee Williams remains relevant in understanding the cultural influence of the Delta.

10:00 am – 10:45 am

Food & Domesticity in Tennessee Williams' South | Dr. Andrew Haley, University of Southern MS

Coahoma Community College, Whiteside Lecture Hall, 3240 Friars Point Road

◆ Dr. Andrew Haley will explore how Tennessee Williams used food to highlight the domestic lives of women in the Mississippi Delta and the American South.

11:00 am – 11:45 am

Blues Musicians on Tennessee's Stage | Scott Barretta, Professor, UM & Researcher/MS Blues Trail

Coahoma Community College, Whiteside Lecture Hall, 3240 Friars Point Road

◆ Scott Barretta reveals great blues musicians in history who have graced the stage in some of Tennessee Williams's most acclaimed plays.

11:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch on your own at one of Clarksdale's fine restaurants

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Searching for Big Daddy & Other Characters | Karen Kohlhaas, Director, TW Rectory Museum

Clarksdale Woman's Club, 101 Sharkey Avenue

(Across from the Tennessee Williams Rectory Museum)

◆ Director and Curator of the Tennessee Williams Rectory Museum, Karen Kohlhaas, presents an audio visual talk highlighting the Delta people and stories that inspired characters in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Glass Menagerie* with special invited guests.

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Keynote speech | Dr. Kenneth Holditch, Professor Emeritus, University of New Orleans

Cutrer Mansion, 109 Clark Street

◆ Renowned Tennessee Williams scholar, Dr. Kenneth Holditch, enlightens and entertains with stories and connections to the plays in focus: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Glass Menagerie*.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

In Conversation with Pulitzer prize-winning novelist Richard Ford

Carnegie Public Library, 114 Delta Avenue

- ◆ Erickson S. Blakney of the Pinkerton Foundation interviews Pulitzer Prize winner and *New York Times* bestselling author Richard Ford, one of the greatest living American writers today.
- ◆ Born in Jackson in 1944, Richard Ford won critical acclaim with his first two novels, *A Piece of My Heart* (1976), and *The Ultimate Good Luck* (1981). While he and his wife, Kristina Ford, lived in rural Coahoma County, Ford wrote *The Sportswriter*, which brought him international acclaim; the book's protagonist, Frank Bascombe, later appears in *Independence Day* (1995), *The Lay of the Land* (2006), and the story collections, *Let Me Be Frank With You* (2014). *Independence Day* won the Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction in 1996.
- ◆ In 2017, Ford wrote the memoir, *Between Them, Remembering My Parents* and then he published a collection of stories, *Sorry for your Trouble*, in 2020.

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Outdoor Wine and Cheese Reception

Eva Connell's house, 107 Ridge Road

Program starts 6:30 pm | In Conversation with Milton Justice | Scenes from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

- ◆ Academy and Emmy Award-winning producer, Milton Justice, talks about Tennessee Williams, the Playwright, and discusses his experience working with Williams on the New York premiere of *Vieux Carre* at the St. James Theatre on Broadway in 1977.
- ◆ Mentored by Stella Adler and selected by her to be the artistic director of her theater company in Los Angeles in 1988, Milton Justice has taught at Yale, NYU and also in Auckland, London, Sydney, Prague, and Seoul.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15

9:00 am – 12 noon

Student Drama Competition

Norman Brown Commons Building at the Cutrer Mansion, 109 Clark Street

- ◆ A festival favorite, the Student Drama Competition highlights students from around the region who will perform monologues, scenes and Stella calls competing for the opportunity to win trophies and \$2500 in award money for their school programs. Winners will also perform in an afternoon Porch Play at 3 pm on the Sherman law office porch located at 203 Court Street.

12:00 Noon

Presentation and Tribute honoring the late Dr. Colby Kullman

Norman Brown Commons Building at the Cutrer Mansion, 109 Clark Street

- ◆ Long-time festival supporter and participant, the late Dr. Colby Kullman of the University of Mississippi, will be recognized for his generous support and involvement with the MS Delta Tennessee Williams Festival over the last 25+ years.

12:30 pm

Lunch on your own at one of Clarksdale's fine restaurants

- ◆ Student Pizza Party in the courtyard of the Cutrer
- ◆ Tennessee Williams Rectory Museum to be open 12:30pm to 3:00 pm

1:00 pm – 2:20 pm

Open house/refreshments at Clarksdale Woman's Club

Clarksdale Woman's Club, 101 Sharkey Avenue

◆ The Clarksdale Woman's Club, which has been meeting since 1907, will serve refreshments in their club house built in 1923 located across the street from St. George's Episcopal Church and the Tennessee Williams Rectory Museum. Please stop by the Woman's Club for some hometown hospitality before the Porch Plays.

2:00 pm – 2:20 pm

Tennessee Williams at St. George's Episcopal Church | the Rev. Charlie Deaton

St. George's Episcopal Church, 106 Sharkey Avenue

◆ The Reverend Charlie Deaton of St. George's Episcopal Church talks inside the sanctuary where Tennessee Williams' grandfather, the Rev. Walter E. Dakin, was rector from 1917 – 1932.

2:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Porch Plays in the Historic District

Note: Each play is approximately 15 minutes long except the last one which will be an abridged performance of *The Glass Menagerie* directed by award-winning producer Milton Justice at 4:30 pm.

◆ 415 Court Street | 2:30 pm

Scenes from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* performed by Johnny and Susan McPhail

◆ 203 Court Street | 3:00 pm

Winners of the High School Scene and Monologue competition share their winning performances

◆ 235 Clark Street | 3:30 pm

Long-time community actor, Sherrye Williams, and former CCC English teacher, Glynda Duncan, offer local perspectives on Williams character Amanda Wingfield

◆ 41 John Street | 4:00 pm Light Refreshments for purchase | 4:30 pm Production Begins

Abridged performance of *The Glass Menagerie* directed by Award-winning producer Milton Justice featuring his professional acting company from New York

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Closing Reception at the Governor's Mansion | 41 John Street

◆ A toast to another successful year celebrating the great American playwright, Tennessee Williams