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Cleveland Public Theatre has ambitious season planned

Published: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 12:00 AM

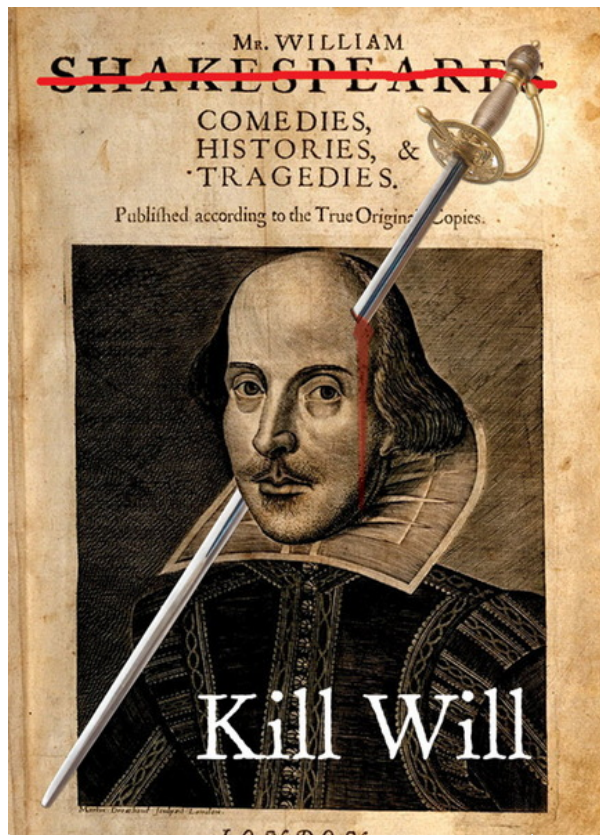

Tony Brown, The Plain Dealer

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"Kill Will," at Cleveland Public Theatre Oct. 14-30, tells the story: All of the good murders and fight scenes from all of Shakespeare's plays, presented in one bloody evening.

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As the timid cut back on programming, **Cleveland Public Theatre** executive artistic director Raymond Bobgan goes forward with his biggest and most ambitious season at the city's leading alternative theater. It includes four world premieres and four Midwest premieres, everything from opera for the people to dinner theater for the avant-garde.

Cramming this bounty into a single season at a facility with three venues under one roof, at 6415 Detroit Ave., was no easy task for Bobgan and associate artistic director Beth Wood. Part of the solution was in staggering the evening curtains; some shows start at 7 and others at 7:30. Unless otherwise noted, shows preview on the first Thursday and Friday, open the first Saturday, and close on the final Saturday, with most performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the run. The curtain rises at 3 p.m. on the second Sunday of each run, and there is an evening performance on the second Monday, unless otherwise noted.

Flex passes good for six tickets are \$120. Single tickets are \$10-\$25, except as indicated. For more information, go to cptonline.org or call 216-631-2727.

Starting at 7 Thursday, Sept. 30-Saturday, Oct. 16, Levin Theatre: "The Book of Grace." CPT regular Sheffia Randall Dooley directs Suzan-Lori Parks' passionate confrontation between Buddy, a veteran of the Iraq war, and his estranged father, a Desert Storm veteran and border guard.

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Thursday, Oct. 14-Saturday, Oct. 30, Storefront Studio: "Kill Will." Playing off the Quentin Tarantino title, husband-and-wife writers Josh Brown and Kelly Elliott edit the Shakespeare canon down to one evening of the Bard's best fights and murders. Alison Garrigan directs.

Friday, Oct. 22, and Sunday, Oct. 24, Levin: "Il Tabarro." CPT collaborates with Opera Per Tutti, a Northeast Ohio company whose name is Italian for "opera for all," on Puccini's tale of love, desperation and violence. Scott Skiba directs. No previews. \$25.

Thursday, Dec. 2-Sunday, Dec. 19, Gordon Square: "Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant." CPT presents an audience-participation, five-course dinner-theater show (a la "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," but way weirder) served up by Miss Conni Convergence and the Avantgardists. Performances at 7 p.m. every Sunday. No matinee. No Monday curtain. \$50.

Thursday, March 3-Saturday, March 19, Storefront: "Darwinii." Glen Berger, now at work with the "The Lion King's" Julie Taymor and U2's Bono on the "Spider-Man" musical, collaborates with Brett Keyser on a play about a thief who thinks he's the great-great-great-bastard-grandson of Charles Darwin.

Thursday, April 7-Saturday, April 23, Gordon Square Theatre: "Fever/Dream." Wood directs Sheila Callaghan's update of 17th-century Spanish playwright Pedro Calderon de la Barca's "Life Is a Dream."

Thursday, April 7-Saturday, April 23, Storefront: "I Hate This" and "And Then You Die." Local playwright, actor and director David Hansen presents his two one-man shows (one about personal loss and the other about personal victory) in repertory. Directed by Garrigan.

Thursday, April 21-Saturday, May 7, Levin: "Insomnia." Holly Holsinger (Bobgan's wife) collaborates with Karin Randoja and Chris Seibert on a new play about a woman on the precipice of seismic change. But is it death, mental collapse or self-discovery? **Thursday, May 12-Saturday, May 28, Storefront: "My Barking Dog."** Jeremy Paul, on loan from Theater Ninjas, directs the latest from Cleveland Heights playwright Eric Coble, about two lonely people's lives taking a bizarre turn when a starving coyote appears at their doors.

Thursday, May 26-Saturday, June 4, Levin: "Cut to Pieces." Bobgan and Seibert restage their shattering 2009 adaptation of the Persephone myth to lay bare Seibert's soul. This production might tour, Bobgan said. Matinee on the first Sunday. Evening curtain on the first Monday.

Starting at 7:30 Thursday, Oct. 7-Saturday, Oct. 30, Gordon Square: "Don't Call Me Fat." Turkish playwright Ozen Yula, in residence at CPT and Cleveland State University, directs his satire about an obese man's journey from sickbed to talk-show fame.

Thursday, Nov. 4-Sunday, Nov. 7, Gordon Square: Y-Haven Project. The 11th annual collaboration with residents of a Cleveland center for homeless men in treatment for drug addiction. No previews. Matinee on Sunday. Free on Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Saturday night will be a benefit performance for Y-Haven. Ticket prices will be announced. Go to yhaven.org or call 216-431-2018.

Thursday, Nov. 11-Sunday, Nov. 21, Storefront: Little Box series. Staged readings of new works by local artists. No previews. Matinee every Sunday. No Monday curtain. \$8-\$10.

Friday, Jan. 14-Sunday, March 6, Levin: Big Box series. Eight weekends of new works. No previews. No Thursday night shows. Matinees every Sunday. No Monday curtain. \$13-\$15.

Friday, March 11-Sunday, March 27, Levin: NEOMFA Playwrights Festival. Three new works by students in the Northeast Ohio MFA Creative Writing Program. No Thursday performances. Matinee every Sunday. No Monday curtain. \$13-\$15.

Wednesday, March 23, Gordon Square: Women's Voices. The 12th annual female version of the Y-Haven Project, a collaboration with the Elyria YWCA's Women's Campus Project. Free.

Thursday, May 5-Sunday, June 5, Gordon Square: DanceWorks. Five companies perform world premieres in the 11th annual dance showcase. No previews. Matinee every Sunday. No Monday curtain.

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
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