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CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER NEW ORLEANS

The Contemporary Arts Center presents

MINK STOLE & DONNA DUPLANTIER IN
THE MUTILATED
A RAUCOUS NEW ORLEANS COMEDY BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

The Mutilated

Written by Tennessee Williams
Starring Mink Stole & Donna Duplantier
Directed by Cosmin Chivu
November 19–21, 2015 | 7:30pm

The Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans (CAC) brings Tennessee Williams home to New Orleans with this hilarious, sexy, New Orleans comedy *The Mutilated*. This wild Christmastime romp through the French Quarter begins:

"I think the strange, the crazed, the queer
Will have their holiday this year!"

Directed by Cosmin Chivu, legendary avant-garde performer Mink Stole, and New Orleans favorite Donna Duplantier will star in the New Orleans revival of *The Mutilated*, with original jazz music by Jesse Selengut, performed by a band featuring Louis Ford. Part of the CAC's eclectic and diverse 2015–16 Performing Arts Season offerings, the production runs November 19–21 at 7:30pm at the CAC, 900 Camp Street in New Orleans' Arts District. *The Mutilated* demonstrates a side of Tennessee Williams that most audiences have not seen before.

"The CAC is pleased to welcome this new production of Tennessee Williams' seldom produced work to New Orleans, featuring the always extraordinary Mink Stole and a cast of New Orleans-based theater artists, to our stage. This highly original production, directed by 2014 Drama League Award nominee Cosmin Chivu, promises to provide a fresh look at the literary genius of one of our city's most celebrated writers."

—Neil A. Barclay, CAC Director and CEO

Williams described the style of his play as "kin to vaudeville, burlesque and slapstick, with a dash of pop art thrown in." The CAC's production features a working bar to serve the audience directly from the set, a live band, horny sailors, over-the-hill-hookers, Christmas carolers, and Quarter Rats to tell the knock-down, drag-out story of two best friends—both outrageous drinkers and ferocious survivors—tearing up the French Quarter one Christmas Eve. Though a lesser known play written in the latter portion of William's career, critics went wild for its 2013 revival:

"This scrappy revival proves, when handled with funky exuberance, *The Mutilated* can cast a spell...director Cosmin Chivu's production roared into life, with the happily tooting horns of a live Dixieland jazz band."

— *The New York Times*

The Mutilated will be performed while the 10th anniversary of the devastation and recovery from Hurricane Katrina is fresh in the minds of New Orleanians and residents of the Gulf South region. The cast, designers, musicians, and crew are comprised of local talent, demonstrating the diversity of the city in a classic New Orleans play. From Rampart Street to Jackson Square and from Commander's Palace to The French Market, the world of New Orleans is the world of the play — all the diversity of life and culture and the special and one-of-a-kind characters that give New Orleans its style and grace are at the heart of *The Mutilated*.

"*The Mutilated* is a quintessential and boisterous stage portrait of New Orleans. Bringing this story home is a rare creative provocation and an act of cultural justice."

—Cosmin Chivu, Director of *The Mutilated*

For more information regarding this special presentation at the CAC, or to purchase tickets, please visit:
www.cacno.org/themutilated

TICKETS

Advance Tickets: \$35 General Admission | \$25 CAC Members

Day of Show: \$40 General Admission | \$30 CAC Members

Buy Online: cacno.org | **Buy at CAC Box Office:** 504.528.3800

ABOUT MINK STOLE

As an original Dreamlander working with John Waters, Mink Stole has portrayed some of the more outrageous characters in independent film history, including Connie Marble in *Pink Flamingos*, Taffy Davenport in *Female Trouble*, Peggy Gravel in *Desperate Living*, and Dottie Hinkle in *Serial Mom*. Stole has often played "mother/aunt of the 'gay'" in such films as Jamie Babbitt's *But I'm A Cheerleader*, Lee Friedlander's *Girl Play* and *Out at the Wedding*, and the second, third, fourth and fifth installments of Ariztical's *Eating Out* series. In 2009, Stole appeared as Esther in Steve Balderson's filmed-in-Macon women-in-prison film *Stuck!*, and she is also carving out a place for herself in the horror genre, with major roles in Michael Frost's unusual still-photographed *3 Faces of Evil*, Robert A. Masciantonio's *Neighbor* and Joshua Grannell's recently released bloody homage to the single-screen theater *All About Evil*. She is currently featured in Jeffrey Schwarz's lovely documentary *I Am Divine*.

On stage, Stole has worked with director John Vaccaro, as well as the late, great Charles Ludlam. She performed the role of Autolycus in the L.A. Women's Shakespeare Company's production of *The Winter's Tale*. In 2011, she appeared as Madge in the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival production of *Now the Cats with Jewelled Claws*, which also opened La Mama's 50th Anniversary season in New York. For the last few years, both in Los Angeles and Baltimore, Stole has been producing and performing her one-woman show *Do Re MiNK* with her Wonderful Band, which is also the title of her recently released CD. minkstole.com

SPECIAL FILM SCREENING WITH MINK STOLE

The CAC will screen John Waters' *Desperate Living* on November 11, 2015 at 7pm—a film about a murderous housewife and her maid who go on the lam, ending up in the city of Mortville, a shanty-town for fugitives. This special screening will also feature a post-show talk with actress Mink Stole.

ABOUT DONNA DUPLANTIER

Donna Duplantier was born and raised in New Orleans and is a Cabrini High School graduate, class of '86. She has been working in the entertainment industry for more than 20 years in theater, film, and television. Some of her past work history includes *Dallas Buyers Club* as Nurse Frazin, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Brown Sugar*, *Star Trek Enterprise*, *Breakout Kings*, *Memphis Beat*, as well as an appearance in *Treme* as ADA Rene Duffosat. Late in 2014, Duplantier joined the cast of the Off-Broadway premiere production *Pitbulls* at the Rattlestick Theater in Manhattan. She recently appeared in *NCIS: New Orleans*. Future projects include the upcoming films *99 Homes* opposite Andrew Garfield and *The D Train* opposite Jack Black and James Marsden.

ABOUT COSMIN CHIVU

Cosmin Chivu is a Romanian born theater artist with an international career of award-winning productions. He has directed over 50 professional and university productions in America, Austria, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, and Thailand. His most recent projects include John Guare's world premiere of *More Stars Than There are in Heaven*; *Our Class* by T. Slobodzianek (featuring Kathleen Turner, Ellen Burstyn, and Alvin Epstein); *The Mutilated* by Tennessee Williams (featuring Mink Stole and Penny Arcade) *Beautiful Province* by Clarence Coe (LCT3), winner of the 2012 Yale New Drama Series; *Something Cloudy Something Clear* by Tennessee Williams at The Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival. Chivu is a lifetime member of the Actors Studio, a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, an alumnus of the Old Globe's Jack O'Brien fellowship, and the founder of Interart Theatre Group. He is currently the Director of B.A. Acting and B.A. Directing Programs, International Performance Ensemble at Pace School of Performing Arts in New York City. www.cosmin.nyc

NEW ORLEANS CAST

Additional cast members of *The Mutilated* include Lori DeLeon, Kaycee Filson, Jana Fredricks, Moose Jackson, Donald Lewis, Cameron Mitchell-Ware, Hannah Pepper-Cunningham, Jesse Selengut, Nick Shackelford, and Evan Spigelman.

NEW ORLEANS CREW

The creative team includes Jebney Lewis (Set Designer), Lee Kyle (Costume Designer), Duncan Becker (Lighting Designer), Maritza Mercado-Narcisse (Choreographer), Alexandra Kennon (Stage Manager), Joshua Bernard (Associate Director), and Thomas Keith (Creative Producer).

ABOUT TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

The most influential American playwright of the twentieth-century, Tennessee Williams's impact on our culture is profound and his reputation continues to grow. Born Thomas Lanier Williams in Mississippi on March 26, 1911, the son of a traveling salesman and a transplanted Southern belle, Williams spent his much of his early childhood in Mississippi where his beloved grandfather was an Episcopal minister. His family moved to St. Louis when he was eight years old, where he later attended high school and began to write. By 1938, he made his first trip to New Orleans and adopted the name of Tennessee Williams. His first great success came in 1945 with his "memory play," *The Glass Menagerie*, which opened in Chicago to rave reviews and moved to Broadway, where it won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for best play of the year. His next play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, was a huge success in 1947 and established Williams as the premiere American playwright of his generation. By 1959 he had won two Pulitzer Prizes, three New York Drama Critics Circle Awards, and a Tony Award. He continued to write and experiment, every day, producing novels, stories, and many new, radical and inventive plays, which did not always meet with the public's approval, but which are now being revived and re-staged to great acclaim. As audiences now discover his early work, his later experimentations, and his remarkable corpus of one-acts, they also rediscover the power and poetry of his greatest plays—*The Night of the Iguana*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Camino Real*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *The Glass Menagerie*.

"...I find myself reporting that here I actually am in a completely new scene—New Orleans—The Vieux Carré. Preposterous? Well, rather! Somehow or other things do manage to happen in my life. It's a miracle...I am delighted, in fact, enchanted with this glamorous, fabulous old town... Here surely is the place that I was made for if any place on this funny old world."

—Excerpt from Tennessee Williams' Journal
December 28, 1938