

# World premier of 'Treehouse' to be in CG

New drama penned by award-winning playwright Joe Musso

Cottage Theatre will stage the world premiere production of 'Treehouse', a play presented under the auspices of the American Association of Community Theatre's 2018 NewPlayFest.

This riveting drama by award winning playwright Joe Musso was selected from a pool of 300 scripts submitted to the national competition. 'Treehouse' opens August 10 and is the fourth production of Cottage Theatre's 2018 season.

'Treehouse' revolves around Shakespeare's most-quoted lines: "To be, or not to be, that is the question."

Johnny and his pals would be typical 17-year-old boys, hanging out in Johnny's treehouse and dreaming of talking to the beautiful Alana, were it not for Johnny insisting he is a 53-year-old man trapped in a teenage body.

Needless to say, Johnny's mom is a little worried.

Out-of-the-blue, her son is suddenly pulling straight A's, keeping his room immaculate and reading Shakespeare. As Johnny persists in his claim, and

conversations in the treehouse become increasingly peppered by the words of the Bard, Johnny grapples with adolescence, love and the mind's ability to heal from great loss.

Through his budding friendship with Alana, Johnny discovers the life-affirming power of the eternal summer that shall not fade.

**"Treehouse" will include 11 performances at Cottage Theatre from Aug. 10-26. Performances will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.**

At times poignant, at times humorous, "Treehouse" is a compelling drama that bridges the gap between adolescence and adulthood in beautifully unexpected ways.

Cottage Theatre's production of 'Treehouse' is directed by Tara Wibrew, with set design by Kory Weimer, costume design by Chris Carter, and lighting design by Amanda Ferguson.

The cast features Mal-

akhai Schnell as "Johnny" and Clare McDonald as "Alana," along with Blake Nelson, John Eckstine, Chelsey Megli and Tracy Nygard.

Playwright Joe Musso lives in Birmingham, Ala. His plays have been presented in numerous theatres and have won several awards.

In addition to being

From March 28-May 19, 2019, Detroit Repertory Theatre will produce Musso's newest full-length play "Aubrey," in Detroit, Mich.

The Berkshire Theatre Group presented a staged reading of "Aubrey" on July 13, at the Unicorn Theatre in Stockbridge, Mass.

"Treehouse" runs for eleven performances at Cottage Theatre from Aug. 10-26.

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.

The play contains some mature themes and is recommended for teenage and adult audiences.

Tickets are available online at [www.cottagetheatre.org](http://www.cottagetheatre.org), by phone at 541-942-8001 or in person at the Cottage Theatre Box Office, 700 Village Drive in Cottage Grove.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth (ages 18 and younger).

Box Office hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and one hour before performances.

All seating is reserved and advance purchase is recommended.

named a winner in AACT's 2018 NewPlayFest, "Treehouse" is also the winner of the 2017 Todd McNerney National Playwriting Award sponsored by the College of Charleston and the winner of Centre Stage South Carolina's 15th Annual New Play Festival.

Centre Stage will mount a full-production of 'Treehouse' March 26-27 and April 2-3, 2019, in Greenville, S.C.

## DEPLOY from A1

have the resources they need, and I also urge the public to be mindful of fire restrictions and use caution this summer to help keep Oregon green."

As of Monday, the fire was more than 90 percent contained and evacuations had been lifted.

Wildfire season across the state is expected to match last year's season that saw several fires burning thousands of acres including

lands at the Columbia Gorge.

While Lane Fire Authority demobilized the Lane task force, crews are expected to answer a request from the Oregon State Fire Marshal asking for a task force to the Garner fire outside of Grants Pass.

The task force, made up of units from Eugene-Springfield Fire, Coburg Fire, McKenzie Fire, Siuslaw Fire and Roseburg Fire will be doing structural protection for the Josephine County fire.

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