

# THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS ANNUAL REVIEW

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## 2023 Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference

Friday, March 24, 2023  
Schedule of Events

*The Historic New Orleans Collection*  
Williams Research Center  
410 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

9:00–9:15 **Opening remarks, Bess Rowen, Villanova University**

9:15–10:30 ***En Avant!* Emerging Williams Scholars**  
The future is now: join members of the newest wave of Williams scholars as they discuss eugenics in an unpublished Blanche DuBois monologue, the experimental work of notorious radical 1960s theater troupe the Living Theater, and connections between writing and addiction.

**Moderator:** Bess Rowen, Villanova University

**Panelists:**

Kaitlyn Farrell Rodriguez, University of Texas, Austin

Nigel O’Hearn, University of Texas, Austin

Melissa Lin Sturges, University of Maryland, College Park

10:45–12:00 **Interdisciplinary Lenses on Williams**  
Sometimes it seems that the Williams oeuvre never met a discipline it didn’t like. This year classic works including *Suddenly Last Summer* and *The Glass Menagerie* are new again and lesser-known works gain interest under the lenses of visual arts, Jewish influence, biography, and food studies.

**Moderator:** John S. Bak, Université de Lorraine

**Panelists:**

Jaclyn Bethany, Independent Scholar

Debra Caplan, Baruch College, City University of New York

Thierry Dubost, Université de Caen Normandie

Henry I. Schvey, Washington University, St. Louis

1:15–2:45 **The Past, the Present, and the Perhaps of Williams Studies: A Roundtable in Honor of Robert Bray**  
Robert Bray, founder of the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference and the



### Scholars Conference

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Main

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Past Years

*Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, joins an array of distinguished theater scholars from the US and abroad in a lively, thought-provoking discussion of the state of Williams studies, hosted by R. Barton Palmer, the journal's editor-in-chief since 2017.

**Moderator:** R. Barton Palmer, Clemson University (emeritus)

**Panelists:**

Robert Bray, Middle Tennessee State University (emeritus)

Dirk Gindt, Stockholm University

John "Ray" Proctor, Tulane University

Annette J. Saddik, Graduate Center, City University of New York

*Respondent:* John S. Bak, Université de Lorraine

3:00–4:15 **Queerness at Work and Play in and after Williams**

Scholars reveal surprising uses and legacies of queerness in Williams's work: come learn about the French Quarter as a dramatic character, Williams as a foundation for US avant-garde theater, and perversity as a challenge not only to heteronormative sexuality but to the concept of linear time itself.

**Moderator:** David Kaplan, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival

**Panelists:**

Kelly I. Aliano, New-York Historical Society

Stephen Cedars, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Benjamin Gillespie, Baruch College, City University of New York

4:30–5:15 **A Staged Reading of Two Newly Discovered Stories by Williams: "The Caterpillar Dogs" and "Till One or the Other Gits Back"**

Theater director and scholar Tom Mitchell, who has uncovered a treasure trove of previously unknown short stories from the Williams archives, presents a staged reading of two unusual showdowns from among his finds: a ferocious elderly descendent of pirates and conquistadors faces off with a pair of Pekinese dogs in twentieth-century St. Louis, and a characteristically Williamsian troubled relationship undergoes its struggles in a very uncharacteristic spaghetti-western setting.

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