



Staged Readings at Lakewood Center for the Arts During Fertile Ground a New Works Festival

Lakewood Center for the Arts will host four staged readings during Fertile Ground, the city-wide new works festival based in Portland. Listen in as a playwright, with professional actors, shares the dialogue of a script with an audience—sometimes for the first time, sometimes with fresh revisions, always seeking input.



Single Tickets for our readings are \$10 at Lakewood Box Office and online at www.lakewood-center.org. Festival passes are \$50 and available by ordering through boxofficetickets.com. See the full schedule at www.fertile-groundpdx.org.



Burning Basil

(Reading)

Saturday, January 23, at 2 PM

By Cheryl E. Grant

Directed by Cheryl E. Grant

Burning Basil is a romantic comedy about love, loss, identity and rites of passage. William is a poet, lost in his life, at the far end of his successful career. He is

literally haunted by the spirit of a lost soul by the name of Bea who is pulling him deeper into her own loss. William's great love is Wendy, his muse, and a former ballet dancer who is lost in her second career in real estate and upcoming engagement. Will their accidental reunion help them find their way forward as individuals or will they get lost together?



Under the Yew Tree

(Reading)

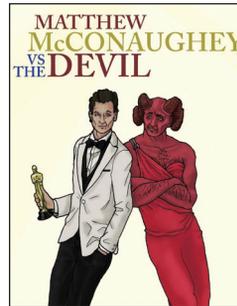
Sunday, January 24, 2 PM

By Ron Lee

Directed by Cynthia Whitcomb

The Harrison family has been farming the same acres for generations. Now Thomas (Curt Hanson) is getting too old to work the place, but he is determined not to let down his ancestors. His wife Frances (Margie Boulé) is pressuring him to sell and finally travel with her. Their only son was killed in a plane crash a few months ago. In his last letter he promised his parents a surprise when he came home. Just as Thomas is about to sign the sale documents, the surprise that comes through the door changes everything.

Margie Boulé will read the role of Frances and Curt Hanson will portray Thomas. C.S. Whitcomb (author of last year's *Seven Wonders of Ballyknock*) will direct the reading. Ron Lee is a Liverpool playwright. In his life he has been many things including a writer for BBC radio dramas, and a farmer. He is pleased to bring some of these experiences to his work in "*Under the Yew Tree*."



Matthew McConaughey vs. The Devil

(Reading)

Tuesday, January 26, 7 PM

Music by Jonathan Quesenberry

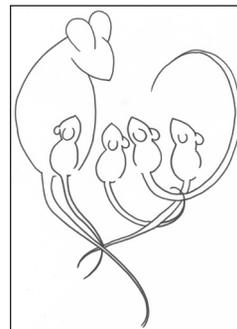
Lyrics by Jonathan Quesenberry and Carrie Morgan

Book by Emilie Landmann and Carrie Morgan

Directed by Emilie Landmann

Musical direction Jonathan Quesenberry

Matthew McConaughey vs. The Devil is a musical retelling of Faust for movie aficionados, tabloid readers, and millennials too lazy to read Faust. Fact checked against Matthew McConaughey's real life, this twist on the classic "sell your soul" story features McConaughey as he struggles against all odds to win an Oscar... and save his own soul.



A Mischief of Rats

(Reading)

Wednesday, January 27, 7 PM

By Katherine Lloyd-Knox

Directed by Leslie Gale

And you thought your family had problems! Is family what you're born into or is it something you create? The hairy ties that bind these characters are a rat's nest of complicated relationships each is trying to understand. In doing so, maybe

they'll realize that even if the path taken isn't the one you meant to; it might just be the one for you. After all, it's not your life changes that decide who you are, but the decisions you make that change your life.