THE EAST HAMPTON STAR
SHINES FOR ALL

The Playwrights' Theatre of East Hampton will present a staged reading at LTV Studios of "Whistlejacket,"



By Mark Segal
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The Playwrights' Theatre of East Hampton will present a staged reading at LTV Studios of "Whistlejacket," a new play in development by Charles Z. Bornstein, on Sunday at 4 p.m. A "first read" will enable the audience to discuss the piece with the playwright afterward.

"Whistlejacket" is the story of Kathleen (Kick) Kennedy, the youngest daughter of Joseph P. Kennedy, who moved to London in 1938 after her father was named U.S. ambassador to England. She struck London "like a meteor," according to LTV, and became the most popular of the Kennedys.

Against her family's wishes, she fell in love with and married William (Billy) Hartington, the future Duke of Devonshire and a member of one of Britain's most powerful aristocratic families. Hartington insisted their children be raised Protestant, and Kick's family worried that the marriage would damage the political ambitions of her brother Jack.

A month after the death of her older brother Joe, the only Kennedy to attend her wedding, her husband was killed by a sniper in Belgium while leading a company trying to capture a town from German troops. Devastated, Kick had such a difficult time in London that she retreated for a time to a nunnery in northern England.

Two years later, at a ball honoring British commandos, she met Earl Peter Wentworth Fitzwilliam. That romance also faced disapproval from her Catholic family, and in 1948, in another instance of Kennedy misfortune, the couple were both killed in a plane crash. She was 28.

The staged reading features music and video projection, with sound design by Andy Evan Cohen and projection design by Hudson Woelk. Josh Gladstone, LTV's executive and creative director, will direct, and Karin Hoelzl will read as Kick. Sam Adams plays Peter Fitzwilliam. The ensemble will include Carolann DiPirro, Rob Doyle, Gladstone, Carly Cooper, Cameron Eastland, Gaylin Davey, and Antoinette Lanza.

The reading is free, but reservations have been suggested.