

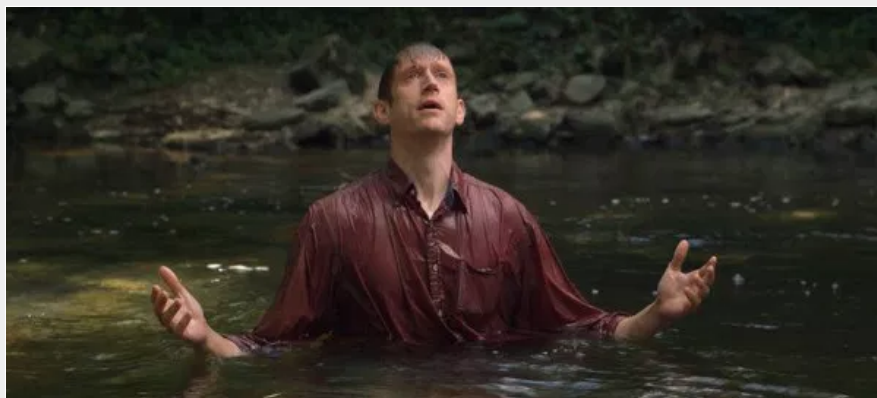


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## Film Review: Absolutism's Destructive Power in 'As It Is in Heaven'

04/28/2014 by [Evans Donnell](#) (Edit)



"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

2 Peter 3:10

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

1 Corinthians 3:19

– *King James Bible "Authorized Version", Cambridge Edition*



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### RANDOM STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

**Nashville Symphony tickets set to go on sale**  
By [ArtsNash](#)



*As It Is in Heaven* (which had its **Tennessee premiere** as a **New Directors Feature** at the **Nashville Film Festival**) begins with a young woman (**Meredith Cave**) singing the hymn “**Are You Washed in the Blood?**” as she walks from a large house to waterside where a small group of believers are gathered. They’re watching Edward (**John Lina**), their group leader who’s also known as “The Prophet,” baptize Eric (**Chris Nelson**) and transform him into David, “The Beloved of God.”

That’s the simple, gentle start to the feature debut of director **Joshua Overbay**, whose previous work includes *Transposition*, a national finalist in the **2009 Student Academy Awards** competition. The **Asbury University professor**, working on a very small budget **buoyed by a Kickstarter campaign** with a mix of professionals and students that includes his wife, screenwriter **Ginny Lee Overbay**, cinematographer **Isaac Pletcher** and editor **Lauren Nicolette** has crafted an engrossing 86-minute look at the very human need (particularly in these uncertain times) to feel something better lies ahead as well as the destructive power of absolutism.



After the warm welcome of that baptism the tale moves ahead one year. Edward has told his followers that the end of the world is nigh; he also believes that David is God’s instrument. A fall and his refusal to seek medical treatment send Edward on before the final worldly reckoning, and David becomes convinced that the Almighty has picked him to lead the “chosen people” of this small cult to Heaven just 30 days from now. The prophet’s son Eamon (**Luke Beavers**, also the movie’s casting director) isn’t so sure that David is the anointed of God, however, and tragedies along the way raise questions about whether the new leader is acting from the Lord’s wishes or his own.

This film, which was shot in 2012 in the Lexington, Ky. area, succeeds with good cinematic storytelling that doesn’t preach or judge. The director’s rhythmic pacing, the screenwriter’s unembellished structure and the cinematographer’s nuance with a wide lens combine with focused performances and the growing poignancy of **Ben Zoeller** and

The Nashville Symphony Orchestra has just sent out a press release (reprinted below) announcing that tickets for its 2012-13 season are about to go on sale. The release mentions a lot of famous names – Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, Joshua Bell and (yikes) Boyz II Men – but, alas, fails to mention any of the [...]

## Seed Space Blossoms at Track One

By **Joe Nolan**

While plenty of folks turned up for the grand opening of the new David Lusk space at the Arts & Music at Wedgewood/Houston event last Saturday night, gallerygoers in the know found even more to like at Track One where Seed Space’s brand new digs hosted a light art installation that was the most fun [...]

## Sideshow Fringe Festival 2013 Begins Creative Cornucopia Today

By **ArtsNash**

The third edition of Nashville’s annual progressive performing arts event begins today. The Sideshow Fringe Festival which runs through Sunday has a full slate of innovative arts programming as it expands from its Belmont/Hillsboro neighborhood base to encompass venues in East Nashville and West Nashville as well. Venues include The East Room, Belmont’s Black Box Theatre, [...]

## Nashville Music Comes Together For ‘Sophie Shines’

By **ArtsNash**

Nashville’s music elite are coming together to present “Sophie Shines,” a concert and silent auction event that will benefit the Sophia Salveson Trust Fund. The fund is dedicated to providing financial support to 19-year old Sophie’s ongoing recovery following a serious stroke she suffered in March. Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Larry Carlton, Melinda Doolittle, [...]

## Pictorial: Red Carpet for Nashville ‘Fault in our Stars’ Film Preview

By **Rick Malkin**

“The Fault in our Stars,” the beloved bestselling novel by John Green, comes to the big screen June 6. In celebration of the film’s upcoming release, 20th Century Fox and Tumblr created the “Demand Our

**Timothy Morton's** music to weave a compelling, initially comforting but ultimately chilling cinematic composition.



It's chilling because we progressively see how David's certitude and his demand for total obedience lead him and the other sect members down a very dark and desolate path. **Abi Van Andel** is particularly striking as David's oh-so-willing disciple Naomi – a calm voice and often-deadened eyes speak of someone who finds her place as the leader's right hand. Beavers handles the warring emotions of his passed-over son deftly; **Jin Park** is touching as the understandably confused new convert Abiella; **Shannon Kathleen Baker's** Deb provides true heart-break; Lina's Edward is just what you'd expect the paternalistic founder of religious sect might be; and Nelson has a bravura turn while taking his character from earnest and awkward follower to inspired and all-too-assured leader.

This very well-executed project deserves a wide theatrical release; the director says openings in Seattle, Lexington and New York are already scheduled as he and his colleagues work to book more. *As It Is in Heaven* is another fine example of strong contemporary cinema from truly independent American filmmakers.



For updates about *As It Is in Heaven* follow the film on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). This film has not yet been rated by the Motion Picture Association of America; 86 min. Produced by Michael Grout and Nathaniel Glass with executive producers Aaron Holmes, Isaac Pletcher, Joshua Overbay, Nathaniel Glass, Christopher Free. Directed by Joshua Overbay, written by Ginny Lee Overbay from a story by Ginny Lee Overbay and Joshua Overbay, cinematography by Isaac Pletcher, editing by Lauren Nicolette, music by Ben Zoeller and Timothy Morton, production design by Meg Barker. Starring Chris Nelson, John Lina, Abi Van Andel, Luke Beavers, Shannon Kathleen Baker, Sylvia Boykin, Jin Park, Meredith Cave, Todd Bagley, Cassandra Botts, Carola Lina and Janelle M. Gore.

Stars" viral contest for fans to "demand the stars" of the movie visit their state. With more than 185,000 Tennessee teens successfully voting, [...]

## Belmont's 24th Annual President's Concert honors Carolyn Townsend McAfee

By [John Pitcher](#)

Belmont University's McAfee Concert Hall was arguably the best thing to happen to the Nashville Music scene during the 2012-13 season. This magnificent 876-seat hall, located in the sanctuary of the former Belmont Heights Baptist Church, has the same dimensions as the famed Tonhalle in Zurich, Switzerland. No wonder the McAfee has such glorious acoustics. [...]

## Opera review: 'Field' gets a memorable opening-night performance

By [John Pitcher](#)

Friday evening at the Noah Liff Opera Center, and a woman wearing a stylized horse head was walking slowly back and forth along the edge of the stage. It was opening night of Nashville Opera's production of *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*. Just before start time, artistic director John Hoomes joined the peripatetic horse [...]

## Shaw Festival 2014 Review: Eclectic Mix Yields Strong Results

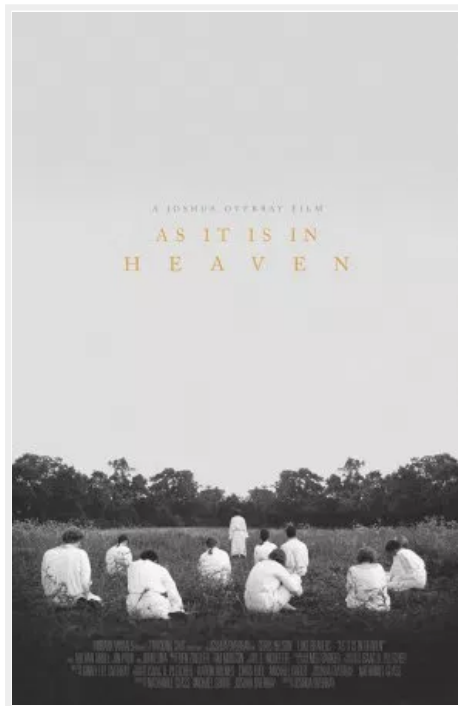
By [David Grapes](#)

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, Ontario – Although the Niagara-on-the-Lake region is known primarily for its booming wine tourism industry, this bustling little tourist town is also home to the Shaw Festival, which despite its humble beginnings has grown to become the second largest summer theater festival in North America with a budget exceeding \$27.8 million. Originally founded in [...]

## Blackbird Adds Mamet's 'Oleanna' to New Season Slate

By [Evans Donnell](#)

Blackbird Theater is adding David Mamet's *Oleanna* to its 2012-13 season. The troupe plans to announce the addition Friday through its email list, according to Managing Director Greg Greene. Greene emailed members of the press Thursday about the addition,



\*Production stills by **Isaac Pletcher** and poster by **Meg Barker** courtesy **Joshua Overbay**, **Embark Visuals** and **Tracking Shot Productions**.

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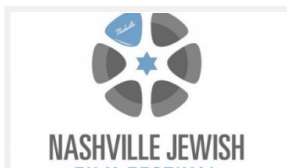


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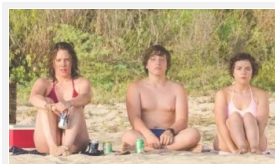
**C.S. Lewis 'Great Divorce' From Page to TPAC Stage This Weekend**  
03/26/2014

In "Theater"



**2012 Nashville Jewish Film Festival Begins Wednesday**  
11/06/2012

In "Film"



**'Glen Campbell...I'll Be Me', 'Club Sandwich', 'Before I Disappear', 'BESA: The Promise' Among 2014 NaFF Competitive Winners**  
04/25/2014

In "Film"

Filed Under: **Film**



### About Evans Donnell

Evans Donnell is the chief theater, film and opera critic as well as co-founder of ArtsNash. He wrote reviews and features about theater, opera and classical music for *The Tennessean* from 2002 to 2011. He was the theater, film and opera critic for ArtNowNashville.com from 2011 to 2012. Donnell has also contributed to *The Sondheim Review*,

*Back Stage*, *The City Paper* (Nashville), the *Nashville Banner*, *The* (Bowling Green, Ky.) *Daily News* and several other publications since beginning his professional journalism career in 1985 with *The Lebanon* (Tenn.) *Democrat*. He was selected as a fellow for the 2004 National Critics Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and for National

explaining that the Christian Scholars Conference, which is hosted alternately between David Lipscomb University and Pepperdine University [...]

### Classical preview: NSO to play community concert

By **ArtsNash**

If music be the food of love, then the Nashville Symphony Orchestra has the perfect repast for you. The orchestra under the direction of associate conductor Kelly Corcoran will play a splendiferous community concert this Tuesday, June 19, at Centennial Park. Pack a picnic basket and bring the family early to enjoy the 7:30 p.m. [...]

### Sincerity the Key to Heralded Actors' Gang 'Midsummer' at OZ

By **Evans Donnell**

The Actors' Gang has produced many highly acclaimed theatrical works since Tim Robbins (a multi-talented artist who won a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for his role in the film *Mystic River*) founded the troupe in 1981. That rapturous response may stem from the sincerity with which the company approaches the plays they perform, according [...]

### Pop review: Mojo B lights up The High Watt

By **Quinton Parker**

I love a good horn section. I mean it. I really love a good horn section. I love it even more when that good horn section is accompanying a solid band. I love a good horn section and a solid band even more when everyone on stage looks like they're having a blast. Thursday night [...]

### Picturing Music: Kandinsky at the Frist

By **Sara Estes**

It's not often we see a single artist take center stage at the Frist. Kandinsky: A Retrospective celebrates the life and legacy of modern art master Wassily Kandinsky, displaying over 100 paintings, drawings, and photographs that chronicle four decades of Kandinsky's life, from his earliest work to the last watercolor made in 1944, the year [...]

### Amun Ra Theatre's End Begins New Chapter for carr, Colleagues

Endowment for the Arts (NEA) arts journalism institutes for theater and musical theater at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism in 2006 and classical music and opera at the Columbia University School of Journalism in 2009. He has also been an actor (member of Actors Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA), founding and running AthensSouth Theatre from 1996 to 2001 and appearing in Milos Forman's "The People vs Larry Flynt" among other credits. Donnell is a member of the American Theatre Critics Association ([www.americantheatrecritics.org](http://www.americantheatrecritics.org)).

By **Evans Donnell**

Amun Ra Theatre is ending an 11-year run on the Nashville theater scene. But for founder Jeff Obafemi Carr and his colleagues there is much to celebrate as a new chapter in their artistic lives begins. "When we started it, there was the idea that we would expose the hidden light of African-American culture through [...]"

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## **Classical Preview: NSO opens its 2012-13 season with Gustav Mahler's 'Symphony of a Thousand'**

By **Kelby Carlson**

"A symphony must be like the world. It must embrace everything." So said Gustav Mahler to friend and fellow composer Jean Sibelius, shortly before the premiere of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 in E-flat major (Symphony of a Thousand). Clearly, Mahler heeded his own advice. His Eighth Symphony was his most monumental creation, a work of [...]"

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## **Nashville Ballet's radiant 'Romeo and Juliet' opens at TPAC**

By **John Pitcher**

Nashville Ballet artistic director Paul Vasterling loves to insert a little magic into his productions. Leave it to Vasterling to find a way to do it in Romeo and Juliet, the classic Prokofiev ballet that opens Friday night for a three-day run at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. We first notice the sleight of hand [...]"

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## **Pop review: Smokey Robinson, warming hearts on Valentine's Day**

By **Ron Wynn**

He's unquestionably a legend, but the seemingly ageless Smokey Robinson spent as much of his time Thursday night dispelling any notions he's slowing down as he did showcasing various aspects of an amazing career that dates back to the late '50s. It was the opening night of a two-concert residency with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra at the [...]"

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## **Theater review: Fall in Love Again with 'Promises, Promises'**

By **Evans Donnell**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. – One hundred shows, 75 of them musicals, are parts of an acclaimed production history since the lights went up on the first Boiler Room Theatre presentation in 2001. If you want proof Williamson County's long-running

professional troupe is not resting on its laurels, though, go see its exuberant revival of Promises, Promises. What, you're not surprised [...]

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## **Film review: Narcissistic 'This is the End' Thinks Little of Audience**

By [Logan L. Masterson](#)

It all began with a short film called Jay and Seth vs the Apocalypse. If only it had ended there! The short is totally the better movie. The film begins innocuously enough: Jay Baruchel (as himself) visits L.A. to do some business and see his old buddy, Seth Rogen (also as himself). Predictably, they get [...]

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## **Composer Stephen Paulus was known for his many operas, choral and orchestra works**

By [John Pitcher](#)

The classical music world has lost one of its most lyrically inspired composers. Stephen Paulus, best known for his 1982 opera *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, died Sunday, Oct. 19 at an assisted living facility in Minnesota following complications from a stroke. He was 65. A remarkably prolific composer, Paulus wrote more than 450 works, [...]

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