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A Streetcar Named Desire

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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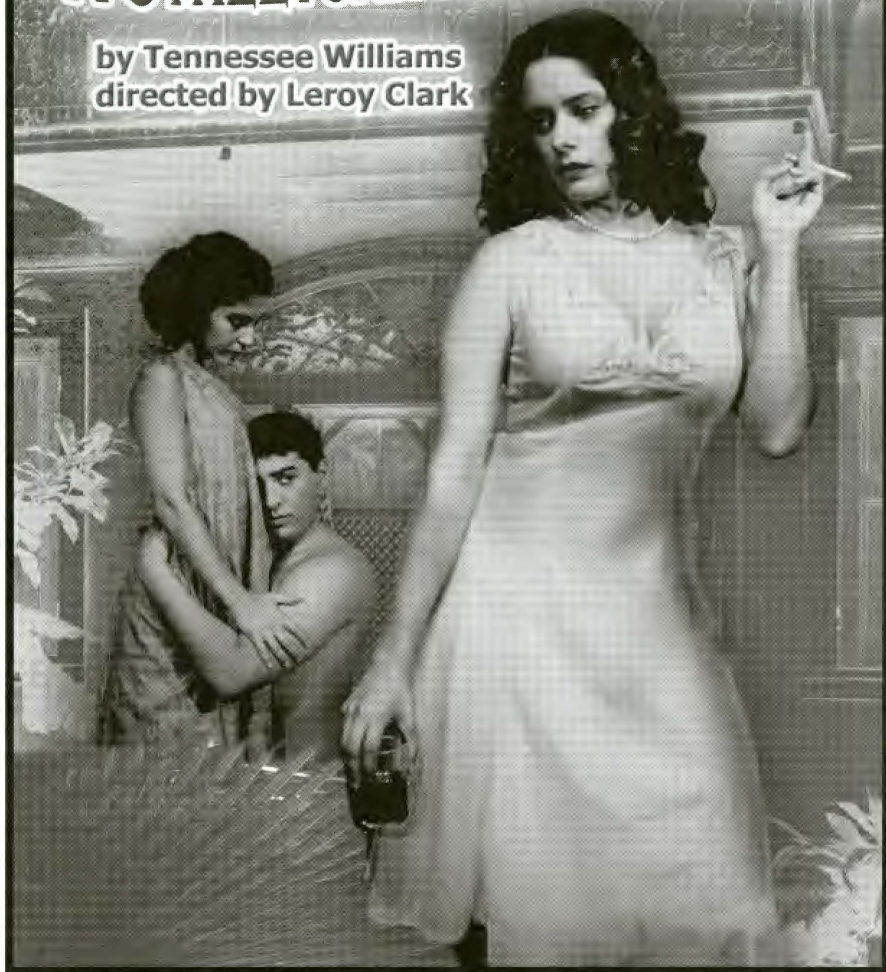
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FIU Theatre presents

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

by Tennessee Williams
directed by Leroy Clark



NOVEMBER 14 - 17 & 21 - 24, 2002

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

MAINSTAGE THEATRE

MIAMI, FL

About the Play

A "*Streetcar Named Desire*" opened Dec. 3, 1947 on Broadway for a two year run with Marlon Brando and Jessica Tandy as stars and Elia Kazan as director. It sent shockwaves through the theater community, and it premiered to a thirty minute standing ovation. The play ran for 855 performances and it won a Pulitzer Prize for Tennessee Williams in 1948.

In *Streetcar* Williams dramatizes his belief that men and women find reality and meaning in life through satisfactory sexual relationships. His drama derives from the characters. Blanche is maladjusted because as a dutiful child, she remained with her aged parents far beyond the marrying age for most women and later staying behind to try to save the family estate, while her sister, Stella, went out to find her place in the world. Blanche was unable to relate to the so-called normal world of her sister. She was, in fact, following a family pattern when she became sexually promiscuous.

Streetcar was also noted as one of the first plays in the American theater to put working class figures on the stage within a strong psychological context.

In the clash between Blanche and Stanley, Williams dares us to consider the cost of the easy triumph of cruelty over vulnerability, of ignorant self-interest over our highest aspirations. There's no convenient resolution. Tennessee felt that people were enigmatic—and in *Streetcar* he did not want to side with one or the other character; he simply wanted to show that the breakdown of communication causes tragedy. "If only Blanche had been treated with kindness, there might have been a very different reality for her at the end of the play."

Williams rejects the outworn ideals and repression of the old South and the kind of meaningless conformity that doesn't enrich the world but destroys the individual. *Streetcar* explores the demands of the past impinging on the present, culture facing barbarism. Blanche is the wanderer in alien territory-sensitive, artistic and morally suspect—but taking on the role of guardian of human values.

Blanche was inspired somewhat by Williams' sister Rose and his mother, but Williams also stated that he used the character for his own confession. She embodies his sense of isolation, his concern for cruelty, his dread of death, and his disgust with his own flesh. She may be as full of confused drives and self-hatred, but like Williams she is also a romantic.

Stanley is virile, loud, smart, aggressive, ambitious and independent—all the characteristics of Williams' own father. Like Blanche accusing Stanley of rape, Williams' sister Rose alleged that her father Cornelius raped her. Williams' mother Edwina punished Rose with a lobotomy and put her in an asylum just as in *Streetcar* Blanche is taken away to an asylum.

To translate this to the stage director Elia Kazan and designer Joe Mielziner developed a new production style known to the world as "theatrical realism". It is characterized by a realistic acting style, codified and formalized by Kazan and others—the style of Actors' Studio—and a production style using expressionistic techniques, formalism, and symbolism in the set, lighting, sound and costumes.

In 1951 the famous play was made into a movie starring Vivien Leigh as Blanche DuBois, Kim Hunter as Stella, Marlon Brando as Stanley Kowalski, and Karl Malden as Mitch. The controversial film was nominated for a phenomenal twelve nominations and awarded four Oscars (an unprecedented three were in the acting categories).

About the Playwright

Tennessee Williams was born Thomas Lanier Williams III in Columbus, Mississippi, in 1911. His friends began calling him Tennessee in college, in honor of his Southern accent and his father's home state. In 1918, the Williams family moved to St. Louis, marking the start of the family's deterioration. His father was a drunk and his mother was prone to hysterical attacks.

Williams was bedridden for two years due to serious illness; growing into a withdrawn, effeminate adolescent whose chief solace was writing. While in college, he wrote his first plays, however, his father forced him to withdraw from school. Williams finally managed to graduate in 1938. After graduation, Williams lived a bohemian life, working menial jobs and wandering from city to city. He continued to work on drama and also worked in Hollywood as a scriptwriter.

In 1944, *The Glass Menagerie* opened in New York and won the prestigious New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, catapulting Williams into the upper echelon of American playwrights. *A Streetcar Named Desire* premiered three years later at the Barrymore Theater in New York City. Much of the pathos found in Williams's drama was mined from the playwright's own life. Alcoholism, depression, thwarted desire, loneliness, homosexuality and insanity were all part of Williams's world. Williams died in 1983 when he choked on a medicine-bottle cap in an alcohol-related incident at the Elysée Hotel in New York City.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

By Tennessee Williams

Directed by Leroy Clark
Costumes by Marilyn R. Skow
Scenography by Craig A. Young
Vocal Coaching by Lesley-Ann Timlick
Technical Direction by David Whitlock
Assistant Direction by Wilfredo Marrero, Jr.
Sound Design by Yecid Benavides

CAST

NEIGHBOR WOMANLisa LaGrande
EUNICE HUBBELLLina Echeverri
STANLEY KOWALSKIMichael Nunez
STELLA KOWALSKIOlga Christodoulou
STEVE HUBBELLRobert Friedman
HAROLD MITCHELLKristian Cardenas
MEXICAN WOMANNatacha Malakoff
BLANCHE DUBOISChristina Perdomo
PABLO GONZALESDaniel Gutierrez
A YOUNG COLLECTOREric Anderson
NURSEJulia LaVault
DOCTORAntonio Valcarcel
ENSEMBLEEric Anderson, Nicole Morales-Gomez
Julia LaVault, Antonio Valcarcel, Vladimir Berros

SETTING

The two rooms of the Kowalski apartment in the French quarter of New Orleans. The action of the play takes place in the spring, summer and early fall

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERMISSION

"A Streetcar Named Desire" is produced by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage ManagerArnold Bueso
ASMFabiola Jean-Pierre, Licett Benitez
Sound Board OperatorMatt Szymanski
Light Board OperatorIan Lousell
Master ElectricianAmanda Smith, Ilena Alvarez
Light PrepKris Cardenas, David Ortiz, Gene Villacian
Floor CrewStacy Anderson, Jacqueline Martinez, Jahzeely Nadal
Prop SupervisorsJoe Lorens, Julia LaVault
Prop RunJeanette Taylor, Lisa LaGrande
CostumeCarolyn Finlayson
Costume Shop AssistantsWilfredo Marrero, Jr., Ana Andreu
Hair and Make-upKea McElfresh
Costume Head CrewMeshaun Arnold
Costume ConstructionKristy Webb, Amanda Smith
Fletcher McCune, Mo Suarez, Meshaun Arnold, Ivan Lopez, Lauren Hardie
Katie Perry, Aaron Millis, Damion Rochester, Lewis Dawkins Jr.
Set ConstructionFrank Millan, Daniel Balseiro, Jeanette Taylor
Olga Christodoulou, Ian Lousell, Andres Solis, Danny Gutierrez
Nadya Vera, Melissa Almaguer, Christina Perdomo, Julia Speropoulos
Karen Garcia, Betina Gonzales, Kris Cardenas
Paint CrewDavid Ortiz, Sally Dane, Danny Suarez
Deanne Saavedra, Gene Villacian, Jeanine Michael, Vladimir Barrios
Robert Friedman
Wardrobe Crew HeadMeshaun Arnold
Wardrobe CrewIvan Lopez, Lauren Hardie
Katie Perry, Aaron Millis, Damion-Lloyd Rochester, Lewis Dawkins Jr.
House ManagerJeanine Michel
UshersZunyer Garcia, Carolyn Zeller, Nicole Guerra, Elizabeth Ferrer
House PrepAmanda Hebert, Alissa Rodriguez
Theatre and Dance ChairLeroy Clark
Business ManagerAbel Cornejo
Box Office ManagerGeraldine Alvarez
Department SecretariesMarianna Murray, Nathalie Brenner
Office AssistantsFloribeth Arrautt, Irma Reyes
Poster DesignOn Cue Marketing

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

ACT ONE

- Scene 1 First dark of the evening in May
Scene 2 Six o'clock following evening
Scene 3 The Porker Night
Scene 4 Early the following morning
Scene 5 Some weeks later

Intermission

ACT TWO

- Scene 6 About 2am on the same evening
Scene 7 Late afternoon mid-September
Scene 8 A Short time later
Scene 9 Later that evening
Scene 10 A Few hours later that night
Scene 11 Some weeks later

Upcoming Productions

Catch our next show "A Streetcar Named Desire"

Marvin's Room

By Scott McPherson
Directed by Therald Todd
October 17-20 and 24-27, 2002

A Streetcar Named Desire

By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Leroy Clark
November 14-17 and 21-24, 2002

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

Written and Directed by Patrica Dolan
December 6-7, 2002

HOT L BALTIMORE

By Lanford Wilson
Directed by Wayne E. Robinson, Jr.
February 6-9 and 13-16, 2002

Mosshead

By William Whitehurst
Directed by Leroy Clark
February 20-23, 2003

Celebrate the Classics with FIU Dance

February 27-28, 2003
Main Stage Theatre

Trojan/Courage

Directed by Phillip Church
April 3-6 and 10-13

Brown Bag Workshops

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2001.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Up-coming FIU Theatre Productions

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

writer and directed by Patricia Dolan

December 6 - 7, 2002