

The Maskers Theatre Company in the Open Air at Mottisfont Abbey

Tom Jones
22-30 july

Box Office: Lockerley (993) 40757

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Thomas Lanier (Tennessee) Williams was born on March 26, 1911, in Columbus, Mississippi. His father was a traveling salesman for a shoe company, and his mother the daughter of an Episcopalian clergyman. The family moved to St. Louis in 1918, and being sensitive and physically delicate, Williams found the transition from the small Southern town to a big 'Northern' city difficult. His small size, his Deep South accent and manners, and his incapacity for, as well as disinterest in, athletics made him the butt of his schoolmates. Unable to participate in their games and mocked by his unsympathetic father, Tom drew closer to his sister and began to write. He called his St. Louis boyhood "lonely and miserable."

In 1929 he entered the University of Missouri, where he won prizes for writing. Just before his senior year, in 1932, his father, disappointed in the boy and pressed by financial need, removed him from college and obtained for him a \$65-amonth job in the warehouse of the International Shoe Company. Williams worked by day and wrote by night; two years later he suffered a nervous collapse and had to be hospitalized for a month. Soon after, in 1935, with the financial help of his grandparents, he attended Washington University in St. Louis. In 1938, Williams received his B.A. degree and, on learning that a lobotomy had been performed on his sister, went to New Orleans. Greatly disturbed by his sister's illness, he no longer wished to return to St. Louis.

The Glass Menagerie (1944) marked his first major success and established him as an important American dramatist. A Streetcar Named Desire, produced in 1947, underscored the success of William's previous play. It was followed by many critical and box-office triumphs including 'The Rose Tattoo' (1951), 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' (1955), 'Sweet Bird of Youth' (1959) and 'The Night of the Iguana' (1961).



CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Street Vendor ... JOHN BURROWS

Negro Woman ... CHRISTINE BAKER

Sailor ... JIM RUMSEY

Eunice Hubbel ... ANN ARCHER

Stanley Kowalski ... DOUGLAS TAYLOR

Harold Mitchell ... HARRY TUFFILL

Blanche Dubois ... LYNDA EDWARDS

Stella Kowalski ... JEAN DURMAN

Steve Hubbel ... GEOFFREY WHARAM

Pablo Gonzales ... JIM RUMSEY

Young Collector ... PETER PITCHER

Strange Woman ... SHEILA CLARK

Strange Man ... KENNETH SPENCER

a streetcar named desire

The play takes place in an apartment in Elysian Fields in New Orleans in 1950.

ACT ONE : Late Spring

Scene 1 - Early Evening

Scene 2 - The following evening Scene 3 - Later the same night

Scene 4 - The next morning

INTERVAL

ACT TWO : August

Scene 1 - Early Evening

Scene 2 - Later the same night

Scene 3 - Late afternoon, mid-September

Scene 4 - One hour later Scene 5 - A while later

Scene 6 - Several hours later

Scene 7 - Three weeks later

FOR THE MASKERS

The director is grateful to:

ELLEN O'NIELL VIV VAIL JACK BRESENHAM

for research and background information.

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