



The Spotlight Theatrical Company
Proudly presents

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

by Tennessee Williams

By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical
On Behalf of Samuel French
A Concord Theatricals Company

The Basement Theatre
23 August – 7 September 2024
www.spotlighttheatre.com.au

HISTORY OF SPOTLIGHT THEATRE

Established in 1955, Spotlight Theatrical Company stands as one of the oldest theatre companies in south east QLD, fostering an outlet for creative youth and community, while seeking to provide vibrant, quality entertainment that enriches and educates.

Spotlight has experienced incredible growth over the years, always showcasing the fantastic talents of the Gold Coast and surrounding areas, including some remarkable directors, actors, and highly skilled technical crews. Spotlight Theatrical Company also includes an award-winning costume department (with costumes available for hire and purchase), and renowned youth theatre training programs; performance skills training for young people aged 18 and under. We strive with each new season to present quality live theatre that our community can be a part of. We would love for you to consider being part of our next sold out production whether you see yourself as a volunteer usher, learning the skills of making props and costumes, performing in the ensemble, or as our most respected audience.

KEY DATES

Auditions

Video Auditions close midnight,
Thursday 6th of June

Callbacks

Sunday, 9th of June from 10am
(Johnson St Studios, 4/50 Johnson St, Southport)

Rehearsal Period

13th June - 20th August
(Tuesday, Thursday nights and Sunday days)

Performance Season

23rd August - 7th September

ABOUT THE PLAY

A Streetcar Named Desire is a play written by Tennessee Williams and first performed on Broadway on December 3, 1947. The play dramatises the experiences of Blanche DuBois, a former Southern belle who, after encountering a series of personal losses, leaves her once-prosperous situation to move into a shabby apartment in New Orleans rented by her younger sister Stella and brother-in-law Stanley. *A Streetcar Named Desire* is one of the most critically acclaimed plays of the twentieth century and Williams's most popular work. It still ranks among his most performed plays, and has inspired many adaptations in other forms, notably a critically acclaimed film that was released in 1951.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Tennessee Williams, was an American playwright and screenwriter. Along with contemporaries Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller, he is considered among the three foremost playwrights of 20th-century American drama. At age 33, after years of obscurity, Williams suddenly became famous with the success of *The Glass Menagerie* (1944) in New York City. It was the first of a string of successes, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959), and *The Night of the Iguana* (1961). With his later work, Williams attempted a new style that did not appeal as widely to audiences. His drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* is often numbered on short lists of the finest American plays of the 20th century alongside Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. Much of Williams's most acclaimed work has been adapted for the cinema. He also wrote short stories, poetry, essays, and a volume of memoirs. In 1979, four years before his death, Williams was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame.



WHO WILL I BE WORKING WITH?

Hunter Wall (Director)

Hunter is an aspiring director, writer and performer from South East Queensland. He is currently studying Drama at the University of Queensland. After training and then graduating from Spotlight Youth Theatre, Hunter went on to perform and be a part of productions all over the Gold Coast. His directing style is collaborative and he loves to work with people who are passionate, positive and willing to explore new approaches to a work. As a creative, Hunter had his directorial debut with *Blackrock* at Gold Coast Little Theatre in 2023 and is currently directing *Picnic* at Hanging Rock at Javeenbah Theatre.



WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THIS PRODUCTION?

The vision for this production is for audiences to experience the raw intensity of Tennessee Williams's classic masterpiece – one of the most critically acclaimed plays of the twentieth century – reimagined through its timeless contemporary energy. Set against the backdrop of a 1940s New Orleans, yet pulsing with a present contemporary verve, *A Streetcar Named Desire's* already ageless exploration of aggression, desire and deception is testament to theatre's enduring power to hold up a mirror and ask us what we see, and the vision for this production is to reflect that notion on our own new world, and take a focused look at how we perceive those issues today.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

1. Read the audition pack carefully, paying close attention to the key dates and email any questions to streetcarspotlight@gmail.com.
2. Please note that availability for this production should be disclosed before rehearsals commence.
3. Submit your audition registration to this link [here](#).
4. Then submit your self-tape audition to this link [here](#).

WHAT IS THE AUDITION PROCESS?

1. Once you have registered your audition, please prepare a self-tape video audition which will be of a monologue in the style of the show or the character you are auditioning for. This monologue should only be 1-3 minutes in length and must be from a published play. Once you have filmed your monologue you must submit your self tape to this link [here](#). If you need help with your self tape, please refer to the FAQ at the bottom of this document.
2. After submitting your self-tape audition, if you are required for a callback, we will email you the day after the registration closes with callback information and any material you will need to prepare for the callback audition.
3. Callbacks will be on Sunday 9th of June from 10am at Johnson St Studios, 4/50 Johnson St, Southport

KEY DATES

DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Thursday 6th of June	Online	Audition Registration and Video Submissions Close at 11:59pm
Sunday 9nd of June	Johnson St Studios	Callbacks from 10am

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any queries via
streetcarspotlight@gmail.com

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Please note that the ages shown are “stage age” and not the age for the performer.

Blanche DuBois (Lead)

Stella's older sister, who was a high school English teacher in Laurel, Mississippi, until she was forced to leave her post. Blanche is a loquacious and fragile woman around the age of thirty. After losing Belle Reve, the DuBois family home, Blanche arrives in New Orleans at the Kowalski apartment and eventually reveals that she is completely destitute. Though she has strong sexual urges and has had many lovers, she puts on the airs of a woman who has never known indignity. She avoids reality, preferring to live in her own imagination. As the play progresses, Blanche's instability grows along with her misfortune.

Gender: Female

Age: 30-45

Stanley Kowalski (Lead)

The husband of Stella. Stanley is the epitome of vital force. He is loyal to his friends, passionate to his wife, and heartlessly cruel to Blanche. With his Polish ancestry, he represents the new, heterogeneous America. He sees himself as a social leveller, and wishes to destroy Blanche's social pretensions. Around thirty years of age, Stanley, who fought in World War II, now works as an auto-parts salesman. Practicality is his forte, and he has no patience for Blanche's distortions of the truth.

Gender: Male

Age: 25-35

Stella Kowalski (Lead)

Blanche's younger sister, about twenty-five years old and of a mild disposition that visibly sets her apart from her more vulgar neighbours. Stella possesses the same timeworn aristocratic heritage as Blanche, but she jumped the sinking ship in her late teens and left Mississippi for New Orleans. There, Stella married lower-class Stanley, with whom she shares a robust sexual relationship. Stella's union with Stanley is both animal and spiritual, violent but renewing. After Blanche's arrival, Stella is torn between her sister and her husband.

Gender: Female

Age: 25-35

Harold “Mitch” Mitchell (Supporting)

Stanley's army friend, coworker, and poker buddy, who courts Blanche until he finds out that she lied to him about her sordid past. Mitch, like Stanley, is around thirty years of age. Though he is clumsy, sweaty, and has unrefined interests like muscle building, Mitch is more sensitive and more gentlemanly than Stanley and his other friends, perhaps because he lives with his mother, who is slowly dying.

Gender: Male

Age: 25-40

Eunice Hubbel (Supporting)

Stella's friend, upstairs neighbor, and landlady. Eunice and her husband, Steve, represent the low-class, carnal life that Stella has chosen for herself. Like Stella, Eunice accepts her husband's affections despite his physical abuse of her.

Gender: Female

Age: 30-40

Steve Hubbel (Supporting)

Stanley's poker buddy who lives upstairs with his wife, Eunice. Like Stanley, Steve is a brutish, hot-blooded, physically fit male and an abusive husband.

Gender: Male

Age: 25-35

Pablo (Supporting)

Stanley's poker buddy. Like Stanley and Steve, Pablo is physically fit and brutish. Pablo's mate-ship with Steve, Stanley, and Mitch emphasises the mentality of violent behaviour in men.

Gender: Male

Age: 25-35

An Unnamed Black Woman (Ensemble)

A friend of Eunice's who we meet on the steps of the apartment at the top of the play. She is rambunctious and proud. This character reiterates the cultural diversity of the neighbourhood.

Gender: Female

Age: 25-35

Doctor (Ensemble)

At the play's finale, the doctor arrives to whisk Blanche off to an asylum. He and the nurse initially seem to be heartless institutional caretakers, but, in the end, the doctor appears more kindly as he takes off his jacket and leads Blanche away.

Gender: Male

Age: 30-40

Nurse (Ensemble)

Also called the "Matron," she accompanies the doctor to collect Blanche and bring her to an institution. She possesses a severe, unfeminine manner and has a talent for subduing hysterical patients.

Gender: Female

Age: 30-40

Young Collector (Ensemble)

A teenager who comes to the Kowalski's door to collect for the newspaper when Blanche is home alone. The boy leaves bewildered after Blanche hits on him and gives him a passionate farewell kiss. He embodies Blanche's obsession with youth and presumably reminds her of her teenage love, the young poet Allan Grey, whom she married and lost to suicide.

Gender: Male

Age: 18-25

A Mexican Woman (Ensemble)

A vendor of Mexican funeral decorations who frightens Blanche by issuing the plaintive call "Flores para los muertos," which means "Flowers for the dead."

Gender: Female

Age: 35-45

All other roles will be played by Ensemble and the ensemble will be consistently appearing throughout the show as apart of the mise-en-scène.

ALL ROLES MUST PRACTICE A SOUTHERN ACCENT AND/OR AMERICAN DIALECT.

CONTENT WARNINGS

Depictions of violence and domestic abuse

- Stanley is frequently violent and abusive to Blanche and Stella. He breaks several items in the house including a radio and several plates. He is physically and verbally abusive to Stella at several points, grabbing her roughly and yelling at her.
- A moment of domestic violence occurs between Eunice and Steve. This is a moment of verbal abuse and physical abuse. The physical abuse occurs offstage and is conveyed by sound effect but there are references to past instances of physical violence.
- There are several moments in which Stanley, Mitch or one of the other poker players come to blows or need to be physically restrained. This occurs both on stage in tightly choreographed fight sequences.
- Blanche physically struggled with the matron of a mental health facility who arrives at the house to remove her.

Depictions of rape and attempted rape

- Mitch is rough with Blanche and it is indicated that he is thinking of raping her but he leaves.
- Stanley is aggressive with Blanche and pursues her despite her threatening him with a broken bottle. When she submits he carries her to the bedroom. We do not see or hear anything further. This moment will be choreographed.

Other Mature themes

- Contains coarse and/or derogatory language
- Depictions of drug and alcohol use
- Sexual references including an onstage clothed simulated sex scene between Stanley and Stella (no nudity).
- References to child abuse
- References to death and dying
- References to suicide
- Homophobic references
- Depictions of mental illness

***If you have any further questions about
the content of the show, please do not hesitate to email us at
streetcarspotlight@gmail.com***

FAQs

1. What do I need to return to the audition team in order to submit an audition?

Firstly, you must register for your audition with this link [here](#). Secondly, you must film your self-tape audition and send it in to this link [here](#). Finally, if you are required for a callback, the audition team will email you with information and you will need to attend the callback audition on Sunday 9th of June from 10am (Johnson St Studios, 4/50 Johnson St, Southport).

2. What is the age limit to audition?

Due to the content of the show and its mature themes, we will only be accepting auditionees that are 18 years and older.

3. How do I film a self-tape audition?

You can film a self-tape quite easily! Filming with a phone camera is acceptable, we recommend that you film landscape and find a quiet spot with decent lighting and minimal background noise. Filmed from a mid-shot (waist up) is preferable but if you feel there are other creative solutions to filming your monologue than, feel free to. Please make sure that the file size for the self-tape isn't too large and that it is a mp4, mpeg-4 or mov file format.

If you have any questions about the self-tape email us at streetcarspotlight@gmail.com.

4. How else can I get involved in the production?

We would love to hear from anyone interested in giving a hand behind the scenes! Contact us at streetcarspotlight@gmail.com.

