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A Streetcar Named Desire

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Welcome to Taylor University Theatre. If you are a regular supporter of our program we thank you for your encouraging participation over the years. If this is your first visit, we trust that you will enjoy our work enough to return - again and again and again. We have a distinct calling as a Christian liberal arts theatre program, reflected in our philosophical statement. We welcome your participation, your comments on our work, and any suggestions you might have to help us accomplish our mission.

Come Play with us...

Taylor University Theatre is a co-curricular educational program supporting the liberal arts mission of the University by providing a broad range of theatre experiences that span most theatrical periods, genres, and styles.

Plays that probe the human condition and reveal human action with integrity, authenticity, and a sense of “grace,” provide us the opportunity to understand better what is true about ourselves and others.

While individual plays may not necessarily reflect the ethos of the Taylor community, we believe that this theatrical pursuit of truth resides at the heart of a Christian liberal arts education.

**A Streetcar Named Desire**

*by Tennessee Williams*

Presented by Taylor University Theatre
November 12, 13 and 19, 20 ~ 8p.m.
14 and 21 ~ 3p.m.
Mitchell Theatre (765) 998-5289
Students: $10 | Adults: $12

Following the Saturday evening performances the cast will host post show discussions.

Directed by Tracy Manning
Stage Manager Rachel Bird
Assistant to the Director Charlynn Knighton
Kevin Gawley - Lighting Designer

Kevin is returning to design his thirteenth production at Taylor. As a freelance lighting/scenic designer, Kevin's work has appeared on many Chicago stages, including Lifeline Theatre where he won the Jeff Citation for his design of Jane Eyre, the After Dark Award for his design of Strong Poison, and has been an ensemble member and resident designer since 2001. His work also appeared in numerous productions at the Bailiwick, Organic, Porchlight, OperaModa, Blindfaith, Theatre on the Lake, Metropolis, StoreFront, Loyola University Chicago, Revels Chicago, Midwest Jewish and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival theatres. Kevin is currently the Lighting and Scenic Design professor at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and has previously taught courses at Loyola University Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is also a resident designer at St. Scholastica Academy. Kevin holds an MFA and BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA in Finance from DePaul University. Kevin's lighting/projection designs were featured summer 2009 at Lifeline Theatre’s productions of Crossing California and Gaudy Night.

David Phillips - Set Designer

David is in his eighth year at Taylor, his fourth year as technical director and scenic designer, class of '07. Originally from Fort Wayne, he was forced into theatre fourteen years ago by his mother, and since then, has been involved in over eighty productions. He was last seen as Father Flynn in the fall production Doubt. David played the role of Ben Weatherstaff in the '09 production of The Secret Garden. He was also seen in Taylor's 100 Years of Theatre Celebration performance of John: His Story ('08), Flowers for Algernon ('06), and Little Women ('06).

He enjoys studying architecture and fine arts, painting, exercising, making food, landscaping and collecting plants, and anything that involves friends, food, and ice cream. He wishes to thank his amazing and beautiful wife, Sara and his family for the immense sacrifice they have made over the past few months. Your prayers and love have been so deeply felt. "Thank you so much for all of your love, support, patience, hard work, and forgiveness. I couldn't have done this without you."

Rescue the Perishing

by Fannie Crosby

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; Weep o’er the erring one, lift up the fallen, Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Though they are slighting Him, still He is waiting, Waiting the penitent child to receive; Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently; He will forgive if they only believe.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter, Feelings lie buried that grace can restore; Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness, Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Rescue the perishing, duty demands it; Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way patiently win them; Tell the poor wand’rer a Savior has died.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.
The Kennedy Center
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™
XLIII

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education; Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Kennedy Center Corporate Fund; and the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). 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 KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2011.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

A Streetcar Named Desire

THE CAST

In Order of Appearance

Eunice Hubbell..............................................Emily Demeester
Gee Gee........................................................Jordan Cooper
Stanley Kowalski.............................................Braden Spear
Stella Kowalski.............................................*Audrey Henderson
Steve Hubbell.............................................*Tim McDermott
Harold Mitchell (Mitch).................................Tim Davis
Mexican Woman.............................................Jessica Koloian
Blanche DuBois.............................................*Kathy St. Cyr
Pablo Gonzales.............................................Sean Taylor
Collector.....................................................Joel Plosz
Nurse..........................................................Kathryn Irwin
Doctor.............................................................*Ryan Maloney
Supernumeraries..........................................Cameron Cooper

Christi Kroll
Rikki Henry

TIME AND PLACE

The scene is 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.
Faith-based Perspective
by Tim Davis, junior Bible and history major
playing the role of Harold Mitchell (Mitch)

"Theatre is church. It's people standing at the light, telling people sitting in the dark, what it means to be human." What a bold statement! Consider, though, how like the gospel theatre is capable of both enlightening us, in regards to the human condition, and pointing us toward the truth -- Christ. Is this not a function of the church? If we truly believe that all truth is God’s truth then we must understand the importance of earnestly seeking truth in all of our experiences and circumstances.

In our production of A Streetcar Named Desire you have the opportunity to do this very thing. As a cast and crew we began a journey together to find the heart and soul of this play. We came to discover that the creation of a man (Williams) who had no interest in a relationship with our Savior could be used by God to edify our spirits. Our prayer is that the same is done for you. Here are a few themes the Lord laid upon our hearts: A Streetcar Named Desire gives us a vivid picture of how “each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” James 1:14, 15

Believers, do we remember and understand what we’ve been saved from? There is no hope for the characters in this play. As children of wrath, they will continue in their same habits and addictions and will slowly but surely lose more and more of what makes them in the image of God. Without Christ, they are ultimately physically, emotionally, and spiritually dead. Just as Paul writes to the Ephesians, “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world...”(2:1)

However, this is not the destiny of the believer. Although in and of ourselves we are children of wrath, bound by our desires, God intervenes: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:1-5. “But God” is the crux of this passage. We have been saved from the bondage of sin. God “being rich in mercy” has now captivated our desires so that we are no longer bound by those that will lead us to death. Is this not cause for great rejoicing? Our God intervened in order that we may live an abundant life, filled with the joy, peace, and freedom that can only come from Christ Jesus. Let us not forget

Tim Davis - Harold Mitchell (Mitch)
Tim is a junior Bible and history major from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. While at Taylor, he has appeared in The Crucible, Smoke on the Mountain, and the student directed show The Boys Next Door. Tim enjoys reading, playing guitar, acting and sword fighting.

Jessica Koloian - Mexican Woman
Plymouth, Michigan is home to Jessica. She is a freshman and enjoys singing, acting, spending time with friends and family, photography, graphic design, and coffee with friends. In high school Jessica appeared in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Daddy's Girl, and Fiddler on the Roof Jr. and was the assistant director for Little Women.

*Kathy St. Cyril - Blanche DuBois
Kathy graduated from Taylor in 2009 with a degree in theatre arts. She is from Annapolis, Maryland and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega. At Taylor, she had roles in Little Women, Night Watch, The Chalk Garden, Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Hobbit, Taming of the Shrew, The Crucible, and Smoke on the Mountain and was the assistant to the director for The Odd Couple. Kathy is thrilled to have the opportunity to return to the Taylor stage and would like to thank Tracy, the cast, the crew and her wonderfully supportive family and friends.

Sean Taylor - Pablo Gonzales
Media communication major Sean Taylor moved from Wheaton, Illinois, to Eaton, Indiana, last Thanksgiving. He is a sophomore. He says, "there are two things that I want to do with my life: write/act/direct feature films (possibly documentaries) and be a missionary in Africa." Some of Sean's activities and pastimes include making films, designing t-shirts for events and trips, going on pick-a-dates, doing the layout for the Echo, painting, making movies, acting, directing, and playing Frisbee.

Joel Plosz - Collector
Joel Plosz is a sophomore media communication major from Plymouth, Minnesota. He enjoys reading, mathematics, and a "fast lifestyle." He dreams of moving to Hollywood and working in the film industry. A Streetcar Named Desire is Joel's first Taylor production. He is playing the role of the Collector, as well as various supernumeraries.
Kathryn Irwin - Nurse
Mancelona, Michigan is home to Kathryn. She appeared in several shows in high school including Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Donavan’s Daughter’s, Robinhood: The Next Generation, Cinderella, and Footloose. Kathryn is a freshman with a double major in marketing and theatre and enjoys reading, hiking, and singing.

*Ryan Maloney - Doctor, Supernumerary
Ryan is a junior studio art major from Upland, Indiana. He is also minoring in psychology. This is his first mainstage acting experience since attending Taylor. He is also in the current traveling company show We Will Not Be Silent. He acted in several shows here while still in middle school and high school. Ryan also held the position of Charge Scenic Artist on several productions. He enjoys leisurely walks, organizing, and coffee night.

Cameron Cooper - Supernumerary
Cameron is a junior theatre major and youth ministry minor. He is from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Last year he appeared in the student directed show The Rainmaker. Cameron enjoys writing and performing.

Christi Kroll - Supernumerary
Bristol, Vermont, is home to Christi. She is a junior Christian education major with applied music and Bible minors. She was a member of the makeup crew for Hippolytus and Crimes of the Heart and appeared in Godspell and Guys and Dolls in high school. Christi is a member of the Taylor University Chorale, is a hall worship leader, and does youth ministry in Hartford City. She enjoys singing, reading and spending time with friends.

Rikki Henry - Supernumerary
Rikki is from North Royalton, Ohio. She is a junior media communication major who plans to be an editor for an independent film company. This is her first show onstage. Rikki worked as assistant charge scenic artist for The Secret Garden and Katrina: The K Word and worked as charge scenic artist for Hippolytus and Crimes of the Heart. She is also designing all the theatre posters this season. She enjoys finding fonts online, watching Julian Smith videos and “then making my own ridiculous videos with my roommates.”

**THE PRODUCTION STAFF**

MANAGING & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR..................................................*Tracy Manning
SCENIC DESIGNER & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.................................*David Phillips
LIGHT DESIGNER...........................................................................Kevin Gawley
COMPOSER....................................................................................Brandon Dean
STAGE MANAGER............................................................................Rachel Bird
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS.......................................................*Karyn Roe
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR......................................................*Charlynn Knighton
DECK CREW...................................................................................*Justin Chisham
CONSTRUCTION CREW................................................................Karien Roe
CHARGE SCENIC ARTIST................................................................*Esther Neel
POSTER DESIGN..............................................................................*Rikki Henry
MASTER ELECTRICIAN..................................................................*Stephen Sherrill
BOARD OPERATORS.......................................................................Alicia Byrd
SOUND TECHNICIAN......................................................................Nate Randolph
PROPERTIES MASTER.....................................................................*Charlynn Knighton
MAKEUP/HAIR..............................................................................Lindsay Reuss
COFFEE NIGHT..............................................................................Kelli Johnson
MAKEUP/HAIR..............................................................................Sarah Muselman
CHARGE COSTUME SHOPS................................................................Lexy Cornell

*Rikki Henry

*DENOTES ALPHA PSI OMEGA MEMBERSHIP
NATIONAL DRAMATIC HONOR SOCIETY
Audrey Henderson - Stella
Audrey is a senior social work major who hopes to go into counseling. She was recently awarded “best lead performance” for her role as Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*. Other Taylor theatre credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Odd Couple*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. Audrey has also performed in Sydney, Australia through BestSemester and professionally in her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega and president of the Student Social Work Organization.

Braden Spear - Stanley Kowalski
Sophomore Braden Spear is a theatre arts major from North Smithfield, Rhode Island. He enjoys reading comic books, playing soccer, and snowboarding. Braden played the part of Dickon in *The Secret Garden* last fall and also played the role of Hippolytus in the winter show last season. He is currently involved in the traveling theatre company's show *We Will Not Be Silent*.

*Audrey Henderson - Stella*
Audrey is a senior social work major who hopes to go into counseling. She was recently awarded “best lead performance” for her role as Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*. Other Taylor theatre credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Odd Couple* and *Taming of the Shrew*. Audrey has also performed in Sydney, Australia through BestSemester and professionally in her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega and president of the Student Social Work Organization.

Tim McDermott - Steve Hubbell
Tim McDermott is a junior political science major from Aurora, Ohio. In high school he had roles in *The Odd Couple*, *Anything Goes* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. He appeared in *The Crucible* and was an assistant stage manager for *Smoke on the Mountain*. Tim also stage managed for *The Secret Garden* last fall. He enjoys Ping-Pong, politics and theatre.

Jordan Cooper - Gee Gee
Jordan is a senior biology/pre-med major from Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas. She appeared in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She is a member of the Gospel Choir and enjoys reading a good book, hanging out with friends - "I love talking," and shopping.

Emily Demeester - Eunice Hubbell
Grand Rapids, Michigan is home to Emily. She is a sophomore special education major who plans to be a teacher in a school for the deaf. In high school, Emily had roles in *Annie*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Peter Pan*. She is a member of Adoration and the theatre costume crew, and she likes laughing, enjoying family and eating fruit roll-ups.

The events that take place in *A Streetcar Named Desire* are taking place all over the world right now as you are reading this. With the abundant life comes a responsibility to share the truth we have received with the world that so desperately needs to hear it. It is easy to look at Stanley as a drunken and abusive rapist who deserves nothing more than Hell itself. But Stanley needs Jesus just as much as we need Him. People like Stanley need Jesus so terribly it should break our hearts to think about it. We have been reconciled to God and in turn are his ambassadors of reconciliation in this world. How will we respond to the command that Jesus has given us to go?

Read and meditate on the Scripture above. Do you have desires that are manifesting themselves sinfully? Do you understand the freedom from the bondage of sin and to the abundant life that you have been granted if you are a believer? Do you have the heart of Jesus that wants to see those bound by sin be reconciled to God? Our hope is that you will allow our production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* to edify your spirit. To those who do not believe: Seek the Lord. He will free you from your bondage. Believers: You have been made free. Now live in that freedom and share it with the world.

that pit from which Christ raised us and the eternity into which he will carry us. He has promised the believer that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Rachel Bird - Stage Manager
Rachel is a senior computer science major from Upland. She appeared in the student directed show Agnes of God and last year's mainstage production of Hippolytus. Rachel enjoys learning languages and running.

*Charlynn Knighton - Assistant to the Director
Charlynn is a senior finishing her BS in music with a concentration in theatre. She has the honor of playing Traute in Taylor's Touring Company show, We Will Not be Silent. In addition to acting three side plays, Charlynn's career in college theatre has included stage managing Hippolytus, acting in The Secret Garden and Thoroughly Modern Millie, and continuing as co-props manager for her second year. Along with this show, she has been an AD for many children's musicals over the past 4 summers and is grateful for this opportunity to learn from one of the most influential persons she's worked with thus far.

The cigarettes used in tonight's performance are herbal. They are tobacco-free and nicotine-free. We have made every effort to support the illusion of cigarette smoking while maintaining the integrity of the university and our student actors. We appreciate your understanding and consideration in this matter.

Please Note:
Fog and haze will be used during this production. There will be a post-show discussion following the Saturday evening performance.
First I want to thank you for taking a moment to read these director’s notes, my musings over the work. I often wrestle with what the point should be; to illuminate the play or illuminate my perspective of the play. I will try to do a little of both and thank you ahead for your patience.

Tennessee Williams initially called our play The Moth—you know, a moth beating its wings against a wall. Then he was caught up in another image: “a woman—sitting with folded hands near a window, while moonlight streamed in and she awaited in vain the arrival of her boyfriend.” This time the name was Blanche’s chair in the moon.

During the summer while The Glass Menagerie had its first successful run in New York, the title changed to The Poker Night. This title played on the contrast between the crude sensibilities of working class poker players and “the fading fancies,” “the shadowy temptations,” “the hurtful echoes” of forgotten pains belonging to two Southern belles…and the fact that someone had just taught Williams to play poker. He later finished his play in New Orleans, where he lived. He used images and symbols out of our collective conscious and unconscious minds in order to illuminate in an instant what could have taken a lifetime of non-dramatic writing to explain.

In the end he called his play A Streetcar Named Desire and such are great writers that they will demand a measure of your life from you when you bring one of their plays to the stage. Though, when the light fades and it is all over, great writers return what they have borrowed, miraculously enabling you to see yourself in a new and clearer perspective. They transfer the extravagant gift of their achievement to you - forever.

Throughout this process it has been important that we as people of faith look at this play through that lens, unpacking the theological themes that are in the play. We realize that Williams did not intentionally address theological themes, yet when we begin to apply our belief to the ideas and symbols in it we cannot help but make connections that reveal to us the truth about ourselves and others.

One theme that permeates the play is death. So before you, inspired by the iconic cemeteries of New Orleans, is a cemetery of sorts. In theological terms it harkens back to James 1:14 – 15 which says, “…but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” In this play we see humanity which has given free reign to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. We also see its culmination in a death of sorts.

In the past few years the Lord has continually reminded me, both in my own life and the lives of those I interact with that what He has in mind for us is new life, resurrected life. Not just someday but now. He faithfully woos from my heart those places of fear, hurt, and rejection that need the healing salve of His Spirit and that keep us from experiencing a life of full resurrection. This play reminds me of that. It reminds me that the life He desires for me takes me in an entirely different direction than my human desires take me. It reminds me of Amazing Grace that saved a wretch like me… and that there are those who still need a Savior.

As you leave the play today an old Fannie Crosby hymn will play, Rescue the Perishing. It has served as source-work for me as I have labored. It has blessed and inspired me and often brought me to tears, as does this play. ~Tracy Manning
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