

F L W T H E A T R E  
P R E S E N T S

# A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DIRECTOR IOANNA PIRROCK



## Director's Note

Streetcar is a strange beast; most people are familiar with it without ever having seen it, or even really knowing the story. A hulking Brando yelling 'STELLAAAAA' in a wet t-shirt seems to sum it up. I come to this script, and by extension this work of art and this cultural phenomenon, from a different direction. For me, this story is all about Stella and Blanche. I think the most interesting and complex thread that runs through the play is that of female sexuality. Blanche and Stella are consciously and logically repulsed by Stanley; he terrorises and torments them, and exercises an almost despotic control over his territory. Yet something darker and more powerful than conscious thought draws them to Stanley – a beautifully conflicted, dangerous, all consuming sexual desire. It is easy to make a value judgement of Blanche and Stella. It is easy to say that they bring their destruction upon themselves, or that they passively accept their domination, or even that they are 'asking for it'. Realising and accepting that choices made in the pursuit of sexual desire are just as legitimate as those made logically, and that desire itself is a powerful and unpredictable thing, is difficult. Perhaps most difficult though, is realising that we as an audience are complicit in what happens in this play, through our silence and our judgement. We become part of the environment that stifles Blanche and Stella's magnificently potent desire, and ultimately we are part of the brutally violent repression that destroys them both.

## Director's Note Continued

But we are also all Blanche and Stella – flawed, fragile, desiring humans, blamed and judged for the exercise of a potent want over which we have no control.

We experience this play from both these perspectives simultaneously; at the same times as we objectively, and almost passively sit and watch, we are also brought into Blanche's mind and the play is filtered through the lens of her crumbling subjectivity.

Tennessee Williams has gifted us with a play that tragically and beautifully explores the intersection between desire and violence, and we want this production to hold a mirror up to our own deeply flawed nature, and provoke a much needed, mature, and frank discussion on female sexuality and sexual violence.

Working for FLW with this cast and crew has been an absolute privilege and joy; I would like to thank my actors especially for their courage, openness, and mind-blowing talent. I am constantly floored by what this beautiful group can achieve. My Assistant Director Jean and Stage Manager Sara have been a constant presence and much needed support, and this production truly would not have happened without them. Christa, you rock.

I hope you enjoy this production; I hope you are as moved by this incredible story as I am. And as with all theatre, I hope you leave after this two hours traffic of our stage a little older, a little wiser, and a little more alive.

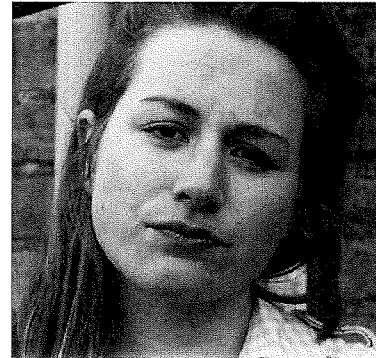
## Cast



Kate Weston  
(Blanche DuBois)

Kate Weston has been told she has a lot of sass for such a tiny person. She is studying English and Theatre Studies at the University of Melbourne. Kate started acting in earnest earlier this year, and has appeared in *Until Monstrous*, *Moby Dick: Show Thyself* and FLW Theatre's *Trainspotting* as Alison. She thinks Blanche is one of the most interesting female characters in contemporary theatre and feels privileged to be taking on such an iconic role. Kate has found this production surprisingly fun for such heavy material, and sometimes she wonders what this says about her as a person. She is so grateful to the amazing cast and crew – and particularly the director Jo – for making what could have been quite a grueling show into a very happy and rewarding experience.

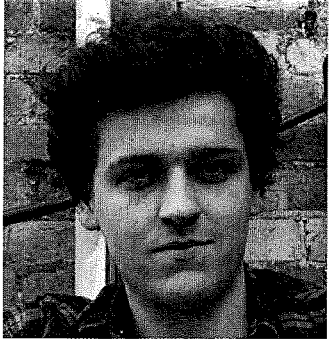
## Cast



Alice Marks  
(Stella Kowalski)

*A Streetcar Named Desire* is Alice's first production with FLW Theatre and the University of Melbourne. Currently at Ormond College, she is studying a Bachelor of Arts and majoring in English and Theatre Studies, in accordance with her passion for literature and dramatic performance. Alice was extremely excited to extend her theatrical experience in the role of School Drama Captain in 2013, and her previous performance roles include Lady Augusta Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps* and Marcy Park in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Alice would like to thank the cast and crew of *Streetcar*; she is truly in awe of their incredible talents and commitment to the play.

## Cast



**James Christensen**  
(Stanley Kowalski)

*A Streetcar Named Desire* is James' first performance for FLW theatre. He is completing his Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Music degrees at the University of Melbourne, majoring in English and Theatre Studies. Whilst this is James' first theatrical performance as a student of the University of Melbourne, theatre has been a passion for many years. James was school Drama Captain in 2013 and played roles such as Barney in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, The Maniac in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and Algernon Moncrieff in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. *Streetcar* marks the most universally talented collection of performers and theatrical minds James has ever worked with, and he would like to thank them sincerely for their incredible work.

## Cast



**Conor Mission**  
(Harold Mitchell [Mitch])

Conor bears a passion for the stage, with *A Streetcar Named Desire* being his first show for FLW Theatre and his first since finishing Year 12. Performing as a variety of characters from *Cat in the Hat of Seussical: The Musical* to the geriatric Carnes of *Oklahoma*, he enjoys the challenge of expanding his theatrical CV. Excited by the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew on such a timeless piece, Conor hopes to give everything to role for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

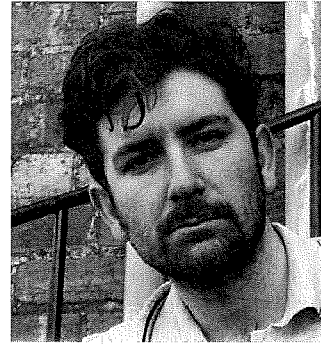
## Cast



Seren Oroszvary (Eunice Hubbel)

Seren studies an Arts Degree of rehearsals! Ormond College Drama has seen Seren in *Sunset Boulevard* (2014), *Metamorphoses* (2013) and playing Amanda in a Shorts piece of *Private Lives* (2014). After performing in 2013 *Tastings* and a *La Mama Cabaret*, Seren gallivanted around as Phoebe in MU Shakespeare Company's *As You Like It* (2014) and will soon play Ophelia in their upcoming *Hamlet*. Seren maintained lead roles in Toorak College's *Bye Bye Birdie* (2012), *A Comedy of Errors* (2011), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2010) and *Away* (2009) and in 2012 was honoured to perform a self-written/directed solo *The Diva* at the Melbourne Recital Centre's *Season of Excellence*. Seren also enjoys screen acting in VCA Graduate Screenings (2012/2013), *Linger* (Swinburne 2014) and *Streetlit* (Declan Mulcahy 2014). If Seren had more time she'd probably make a spaghetti dish for ya'll!

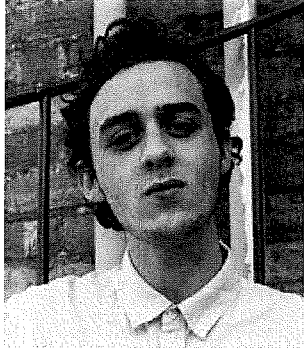
## Cast



Alexander Eastwood  
(Steve Hubbel)

Alexander's love of the theatre was first fostered at Helen O'Grady's Drama Academy as a wee tot, which took him to the lofty roles of the Ringmaster in his Grade 4 play, and later, Montgomery Worthington in his Year 9 School Musical *Stage Fright* (2000). *Streetcar* is Alexander's first foray into straight drama. Alexander has previously performed in several Newman College Drama Club comedies, including Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor* (2010) as The Writer and *Rumors* (2012) as Lenny Ganz, as well as producing Alan Ayckborn's *A Chorus of Disapproval* (2011), in which he also played the frugal accountant Lenny Ganz. Neuroscientist by day, Alexander hopes, through Steve, to be transformed into a white-hot grease fire of total entertainment. Poor boy's sandwich donations welcome!

## Cast



**Thomas Kantor**  
(Pablo Gonzalez/Sailor/A  
Young Collector/A  
Strange Man [Doctor])

Tom graduated from Wesley College in 2013, having taken Theatre Studies and English as part of his IB Diploma. He is pursuing these passions further this year in his Melbourne Arts degree, planning a double major in English and Theatre Studies and Philosophy. Tom performed extensively with Wesley College's Adamson Theatre Company from 2011 to 2013, playing Hortentio in *Kiss Me Kate*, Malcolm in *Macbeth*, Bobby Strong in *Urinetown*, and J. Pierrepont Finch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Currently at Ormond College, Tom has been involved in the Drama Club, playing Posner from *The History Boys* in Ormond Shorts and Sheldrake in *Sunset Boulevard*. This is Tom's first production with the FLW Company and he has loved rehearsing with the remarkable cast and creative team.

## Cast



**Grace Haslinghouse**  
(Negro Woman/A Strange  
Woman[Nurse]/A Mexican  
Woman)

Streetcar is Grace's first production with FLW having previously dabbled with many other companies on campus. Grace has previously performed in *Medea* (2011), *Crazy for you* (2011), *Lucky Stiff* (2012), *Mulholland Drive* (2013), and *Metamorphoses* (2013). She made her directing debut this year as Assistant Director of the Inter-collegiate Musical *Little Shop of Horrors*. Following this short reprieve from the stage, Grace soon returned to the limelight as Betty Schaffer in the recent Ormond College production of *Sunset Boulevard* (2014). Grace is currently studying Psychology in her Bachelor of Arts.

## Crew

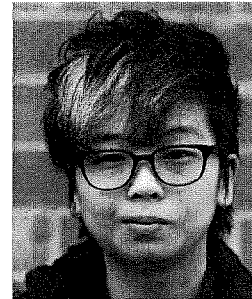


Director

Joanna Pidcock

Joanna comes to this show after the success of her 2013 production of *The Hypocrite* for Newman College, a translation of Molière's *Tartuffe* by Justin Fleming. The production was nominated for a number of awards and Joanna was recognised by Union House Theatre with an award for Excellence in Direction, and was also the recipient of Newman College's Farley Drama Medallion. Joanna also has a strong background as an actor, having played roles such as Older Elizabeth in *When the Rain Stops Falling* for ICAC in 2013, and Ariel in *The Tempest*. Joanna has really enjoyed directing this production and would like to thank her cast and crew for all of their incredible hard work and dedication.

## Crew



Assistant Director

Jeanette Tong

Jeanette is currently enrolled in her first year doing Arts at Melbourne University, and has participated in multiple shows over the last semester across a range of different roles. She is deeply grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with this team of dedicated and talented cast and crew to bring this production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* to life, and especially to have been able to learn from, and assist Joanna in the direction of this work. She looks forward to working on many more productions at the University with the support of supremely talented folks such as these.

## Crew

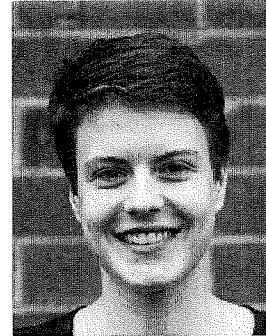


Production Manager

Christa Jonathan

Christa Jonathan is a graphic designer, writer and stage manager. She recently completed her Master of Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing degree at the University of Melbourne. Christa has been involved in stage and production management for various student and independent theatre companies since 2011, and was awarded an MTC Subscription Award for her backstage work in student theatre in 2012. Her latest projects include FLW's *Blasted* (Production Manager), UHT's *The Tempest* (Stage Manager), UMSU Creative Arts Department's *MUDFest 2013* (Venue Stage Manager for Union Theatre and LX Programmer) and *Tastings 2014* (Production and Stage Manager). She is currently working on OCPAC's *The Addams Family* (Deputy Stage Manager), MUSC's *Hamlet* (Props Manager), West Independent Theatre's *Così* (Stage Manager) and Bottled Snail's *Parade* (Deputy Stage Manager).

## Crew



Stage Manager

Sara Kissel

Sara is studying Science at the University of Melbourne, hoping to major in Chemistry. After performing in various high school productions as well as in the ensemble of *1938: An Opera* (Union House Theatre, 2012), she has transitioned into backstage roles. She has been a sound operator for *Tastings* (MUDFest, 2013), a stagehand for *Blasted* (FLW Theatre, 2013), lighting operator for *The Tempest* (Union House Theatre, 2013) and assistant director for a student film (2013/14). This is her first time working as a stage manager, it has been an enjoyable challenge and it has inspired her to continue working in this capacity in the future. She has been blown away by the talent on this production and would like to especially thank Joanna and Christa for their ongoing support and encouragement.



## Crew



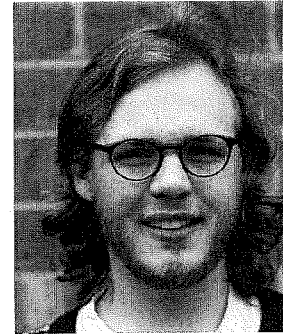
### Set Designer

#### Gabrielle Lewis

Gabrielle is a second year Architecture student at the University of Melbourne with a passion for theatre design.

Deciding that working behind the scenes was more her style after performing in high school productions of *Oliver!* (The King David School, 2007) and *The Wedding Singer* (2008), Gabrielle was production photographer for *The Crucible* (2011). Since arriving at university, Gabrielle made her set designing debut for Union House Theatre's production of *The Tempest* (2013), and started 2014 by working as set advisor for *Moby Dick* (Until Monstrous). Her current projects include publicity manager for Melbourne University Shakespeare's upcoming production of Hamlet and set assistant on Four Letter Word's *The Pillowman* for Melbourne Fringe Festival. Designing for *A Streetcar Named Desire* has presented her with new challenges ("Williams wrote a highly detailed script"), but she describes the efforts of the cast and production team as "magnificent". Gabrielle hopes you enjoy the show and that her design brings you a little closer to the New Orleans of Blanche DuBois and the Kowalskis.

## Crew



### Sound Designer

#### James Cleverley

James Cleverley is a vinyl DJ and producer of electronic music from his bedroom under the Teutonic moniker of James Kluglich. A classical musical training through piano and choral school informs his work, as well as anything from Balearic to Industrial Techno. Otherwise, he is a big fan of rabbits, nonsense, and silliness. This is the second show he has done sound design for, having found a love for it after working on FLW's production of *Blasted* last year. More of his music is available to be listened to here:

[soundcloud.com/james-kluglich](https://soundcloud.com/james-kluglich)

### Costume Designer

#### Bianca Went

Bianca Went is an Arts Graduate from Melbourne University, and hopes to do Honours next year in Cinema Studies. She has previously done the costume for *Spring Awakening*, *Metamorphoses*, and *Trainspotting*. She has enjoyed working on *A Streetcar Named Desire*, especially since this time everyone gets to look grubby and sweaty because it's hot in New Orleans,

## Crew



**Publicity Manager**

**Emma Conley**

After having worked as Assistant Director with FLW on *Blasted* in 2013, Emma was keen to get involved with them again, and this iconic play was too good to pass up. Alongside studying full time as a third year English and Theatre Studies student at The University of Melbourne, she has also been involved with the following productions: ICAC's *Anything Goes* (2012, Set Crew), FLW's *Blasted* (2013, Assistant Director), Mockingbird Theatre's *Quills* (2014, Performer: Ensemble), MUSC's *Hamlet* (2014, Producer), and has just been cast as Hope in Hayley Lawson-Smith's original work *Tom Tat* which will show at this year's PlaySix Festival. She hopes you enjoy the show!

## Crew



**Publicity Assistant**

**Claudia Schroeder**



**Hair & Make Up**

**Leila Enright**

Leila has been involved in theatre from a young age. She has trained at LAMDA and RADA, and has been under the tutelage of Adrian Barnes for five years. She has been involved in many productions while living in Melbourne, notably, Attic Erratic's Choir Girl performed at Melbourne Town Hall. She had been in many student theatre shows, particularly *Metamorphoses*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, and FLW's *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play*. She also won the UHT 'Professional Development Award' at the end of last year. She is very proud to be the Artistic Director of FLW and is so excited about this production.

## Crew

### Assistant Stage Manager

#### Daniel Beratis

Daniel is thrilled to be the Assistant Stage Manager for FLW Theatre's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Having previously appeared on the stage this year OCDC's *Sunset Boulevard* and Periscope Productions'/SUDS' *Attempts on Her Life*, Daniel retreats backstage for his first ASM outing: hopefully the first of many more roles backstage. It's going to be extremely terrifying, incredibly dark, and probably insane, and he can't wait to go through it all with this extremely talented cast and crew. Remember, if left untreated, Daniel can cause fever, nausea, coughing, sweating, and a rash shaped like six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald accompanied by her six Tonys.

### Backstage Crew &

#### LX Operator

#### Beatrice Pan

Beatrice is a first year Commerce student at the University of Melbourne who has worked with AOTU Theatre as an operator, her first theatre gig in Australia. She is also interested in trying different roles within the theatre.

## Crew

### Set Construction - John Dong

#### Backstage Crew

#### Alex JunJie Yang

Alex became involved with theatre production a year and half ago and has worked as an actor and in administration roles, but this is his first time working as a backstage crew also with FLW theatre. As such, he is really looking forward to it.

#### Backstage Crew

#### Maranda Q Ma

Hey, everyone. I'm Maranda, a year 1 commerce student majoring in Accounting currently. I was first introduced to this theatre by my roommate and, to be honest, I was a bit nervous at that time and didn't know what to do as it's my first time joining a theatre group in Uni. But then I met Gabby and other members this morning, they are really nice and though we only did some painting job, I now start to have a general idea of the whole event and I'm looking forward to it. Good luck!

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**FLW**theatre

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams.  
By arrangement with ORiGiN™Theatrical, on behalf  
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Assisted by Union House Theatre, The University of  
Melbourne Theatre Board & MU Student Union Ltd,  
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### **Special thanks to:**

All our production team members, running crew and  
ushers

All friends and members of FLW Theatre

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Erin, Gus, Tom and Clynton

The Creative Arts Officers, Mick and Elsher

Killer Art FX

Miguel Meirelles Antiques

Cate Pepper Graphics

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