

3rd Annual Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis
“Tennessee Williams: The French Quarter Years”
May 10-19, 2018
Tickets for all events: MetroTix.com

Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis Kick-off: New Orleans-Style Parade

Thurs., May 10 – 6 p.m.

The traditional brass band, New Orleans-inspired parade on sidewalk along Grandel Square will be led by sax player and educator Harvey Lockhart and the Point of View Jazz Ensemble from Healing Arts Center.

Main Stage Production

“A Streetcar Named Desire”

May 10-19

Grandel Theatre

Specific dates:

May 10 – 7:30 p.m.

May 11 – 7:30 p.m.

May 12 – 7:30 p.m.

May 13 – 3 p.m.

May 16 – 7:30 p.m. (Mind’s Eye audio description for visually impaired)

May 17 – 7:30 p.m.

May 18 – No performance (100th anniversary of the St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre.)

May 19 – 3 p.m. (Stella Shouting Contest to follow performance)

The Dark Room at the Grandel will feature late night jazz following each evening performance.

“A Streetcar Named Desire,” one of the most critically acclaimed and beloved plays in the history of American theater, is the story of a troubled former schoolteacher, Blanche DuBois, after she leaves a small town in Mississippi and moves in with her sister (Stella) and her sister’s husband (Stanley) in New Orleans. With her flirtatious Southern-belle attitude, Blanche upends the precarious relationship between her sister and brother-in-law, leading to even greater conflict during her brief stay.

Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1948), the original Broadway cast included Jessica Tandy, Marlon Brando, Karl Malden and Kim Hunter. Two years later, Laurence Olivier directed the London premiere starring Vivien Leigh and Bonar Colleano. In 1951, the movie “A Streetcar Named Desire” won four Academy Awards with the reprisal cast of Brando, Hunter, Leigh and Malden. Opera, ballet and TV adaptations of the play are continuously produced worldwide.

One-Man Show by Jacob Storms

“Tennessee Rising”

May 11-13

.ZACK Theatre

May 11 – 8 p.m. (Talkback with Jacob Storms following the performance)

May 12 – 2 p.m. (Talkback with Jacob Storms following the performance)

May 13 – 1 p.m.

Tickets: \$25

To the masses he is a legend in the pantheon of the American stage and screen who seemingly appeared out of nowhere, fully formed in 1945.

But just *how* did this young poet, Thomas Lanier Williams III, born in Columbus Mississippi, raised in St. Louis, go on to become the playwright who created Amanda and Laura, Stanley Kowalski and Blanche DuBois, Maggie The Cat, Big Daddy and his greatest, most unexplored role, Tennessee Williams?

This is what “Tennessee Rising” sheds light upon.

Panel Discussions

“Tennessee Williams: The French Quarter Years”

May 12 – 10 a.m.

Grandel Theatre

Tickets: \$10

Moderator: To be announced

“A Streetcar Named Desire”

May 12 – 11 a.m.

Grandel Theatre

Tickets: \$10

Moderator Henry Schvey, professor of Drama and Comparative Literature at Washington University in St. Louis since 1987, has lectured on Tennessee Williams both in the U.S. and abroad, and has published numerous essays on Williams. He is currently working on two projects: one about Tennessee Williams’ conflicted history with St. Louis, and the other a study of Williams’ paintings and their relationship to his plays. His most recent publication is a study of the influence of D.H. Lawrence upon Williams titled, “After the Fox” (Tennessee Williams Annual Review, 2018). His coming-of-age memoir, “The Poison Tree,” was published in 2016.

The Dark Room’s Jazz Brunch

Sun., May 13 – 11 a.m.

Patrons who show their matinee ticket will receive a free drink. Dizzy Atmosphere (Django Reinhardt-style jazz) will perform.

Staged Reading

“Interior: Panic”

May 19 – 11 a.m.

Grandel Theatre

Tickets: \$25

“Interior: Panic” is Williams’ stunning one-act precursor to “A Streetcar Named Desire.” As he did with many plays, Williams experimented with various approaches in style, setting, and characterization. Blanche, Stanley, and Stella have different names but similar relationships. In this short version, Williams focuses on Blanche/Shannon’s disordered mental state: hearing voices, imagining dangers, fabricating reality. Set in a rundown, shotgun cottage in New Orleans, the play features weird voices and disturbing images. “Interior: Panic” seems to be the playwright’s expression of his sister Rose’s psychic deterioration. Director Tom Mitchell, Associate Head of the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will introduce the little-known Williams gem performed with scripts-in-hand on the set of “Streetcar.”

Performance Schedule

Thurs., May 10

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| 6 p.m. | A traditional brass band New Orleans-inspired Second Line Parade, on the sidewalk along Grandel Square led by Harvey Lockhart and the Point of View Jazz Ensemble from Healing Arts Center. |
| 7:30 p.m. | “A Streetcar Named Desire” |

Fri., May 11

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| 7:30 p.m. | “A Streetcar Named Desire”
(Grandel Theatre) |
| 8 p.m. | “Tennessee Rising”
<i>Talkback with Jacob Storms following performance.</i>
(.ZACK Theatre) |

Sat., May 12

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| 10 a.m. | Panel Discussion: “Tennessee Williams: The French Quarter Years”
(Grandel Theatre) |
| 11 a.m. | Panel Discussion: “A Streetcar Named Desire”
(Grandel Theatre) |
| 2 p.m. | “Tennessee Rising”
<i>Talkback with Jacob Storms following performance.</i>
(.ZACK Theatre) |
| 7:30 p.m. | “A Streetcar Named Desire”
(Grandel Theatre) |

Sun., May 13

11 a.m. The Dark Room's Jazz Brunch
Patrons who show their matinee ticket will receive a free drink.
Dizzy Atmosphere (Django Reinhardt-style jazz) will perform.

1 p.m. "Tennessee Rising"
(.ZACK Theatre)

3 p.m. "A Streetcar Named Desire"
Stella Shouting Contest to follow immediately after performance.
(Grandel Theatre)

Wed., May 16

7:30 p.m. "A Streetcar Named Desire"
Performance will be audio-described by Mind's Eye for the visually-impaired.
(Grandel Theatre)

Thurs., May 17

7:30 p.m. "A Streetcar Named Desire"
(Grandel Theatre)

Fri., May 18

No performance as the Tennessee Williams Festival joins in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre.

Sat., May 19

11 a.m. Staged Reading: "Interior: Panic"
(Grandel Theatre)

2 p.m. "A Streetcar Named Desire"
(Grandel Theatre)

7:30 p.m. "A Streetcar Named Desire"
(Grandel Theatre)