

PRESENTS

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

CAST BIOS



CAST BIOS



Alyssa LaPlume
Blanche DuBois

Alyssa is a performing arts graduate from Canadore College (2008), where she made her professional acting debut at Theatre Passe Muraille. She has traveled all over the province with various theatre companies and has been an actor in the Simcoe-Muskoka region for almost 20 years. In addition, she has credits as an actor, producer, and writer for her various works in short film (2007-2010). This is Alyssa's first time performing for Mariposa Arts Theatre, and she is thrilled and honoured for the opportunity to bring Blanche to life alongside this incredible cast and crew. Other theatre credits include: 'Helena' in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, 'Jill' in *George F. Walker's Tough!*, 'Shelby' in *Steel Magnolias*, 'Evelyn' in *The Shape of Things*, 'Dory' in *The Ladies Foursome*.

Alyssa would like to thank MAT for trusting her with this iconic role, her fellow thespians for their dedication to this timeless classic, and her family and friends for their love and support.



Stephen Dobby
Stanley Kowalski

Stephen Dobby is honoured to be a part of this production along with this wonderful cast and crew. This is his sixth production with MAT after *The Meville Boys*, *All My Sons*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. He has also performed in many shows around Simcoe County, including *God of Carnage* and *Little Shop of Horrors* with SST, *The Old Man and the Old Moon* with Huronia Players, as well as productions with KCP, TBTB, and Burro'd.

He would to thank Stevie for entrusting him with this role and allowing him to explore new territories in his acting journey. Thanks to Emily for putting up with all the time missed and support at home when he most needed it. Thank you to all who come out to support local theatre, it truly means a lot.

CAST BIOS



Veronica van Muyen
Stella Kowalski

Born and raised in Orillia, Veronica moved to the UK in 2013 where she gained a BA in Musical Theatre from the Guildford School of Acting. Whilst training, roles included Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods*, Maureen in *Honk!*, and King Richard in *Richard III*. She appeared in various concerts on the West End stage, mainly with the London Musical Theatre Orchestra and Roles We'll Never Play.

After 10 years abroad she moved home and has since appeared in MAT productions *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and assistant directed *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. Previous roles include Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* (Theatre by the Bay), and MAT productions *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Music Man Jr*, as well as a long history with the Coldwater Village Players. Thank you to all who made this possible and to JD for being my supportive rock. Veronica would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of her grandmother, Rita Whiston.



Colton Farro
Harold "Mitch" Mitchell

Colton Farro is making his MAT debut with this performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has long loved the theatre and acting, participating in High School productions of *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Back to the 80's*, as well as completing George Brown College's Intro to Theatre program in 2015.

This production marks the first step in his return to the stage, and will certainly not be the last. A big thanks to his fellow cast mates and all who have worked along side him in this show. Look forward to seeing Colton in future productions, and enjoy this performance!

CAST BIOS



Samantha Windover

Eunice Hubbell

It would be fair to say that music helped raise Samantha. By the time the Orillia-based singer was ten, she was already performing at music festivals and touring regularly. Now only in her mid-twenties, Samantha boasts an enviable career: having worked with industry legends.

Her first big break came through the *Children's Miracle Network*, where she toured for a number of years as part of the show before her talents led her to taking part in the affiliated Patsy Cline tribute shows, touring multiple cities to raise money for the charity. Her connection to Cline's music was unmistakable, and it wasn't long before she became a staple at the annual Patsy Cline birthday concert, shared the stage with Duff MacDonald for the Hank and Patsy hoedown show in Orillia.



Brad Kean

Steve Hubbell

Brad Kean was once a wayward theatre kid growing up on Orillia's mean streets in a time before cell phones or high speed internet. He survived off cookie skilletts and determination in those days, and was engaged in several theatrical productions throughout his high school tenure, before he claimed to have kicked the habit and committed himself to getting his life on track.

Tragically, since then, he's been found himself doing hard voice work or appearing in uncut local independent film projects just to feel "normal" again and now the stage seems to have again taken one more productive, contributing member of society and turned him into a full blown thespian, skipping out on his family to attend rehearsals and staying out at all hours of the night to make curtain calls... let his story be a cautionary tale.

CAST BIOS



Mike started with MAT in February 2024's production of "The Play That Goes Wrong" and decided to come back for a second go. He really enjoys working with all the talented people part of MAT and hopes to stick around for a while.

His wife Mandy, son Spencer, and daughter Chloe are all very supportive and amazing.

Mike Frustaci

Pablo Gonzales



Arlene Bell is making her acting debut at the tender age of 66 years young! This proves to us all it is never too late to take risks and try something brand new!

She has no prior acting experience and is very appreciative for all the support and the encouragement she has received from MAT!

Arlene Bell

Neighbourhood Woman

CAST BIOS



Spencer Hipwell
Young Collector / Sailor

Spencer Hipwell is very excited to be in his fourth production with Mariposa Arts Theatre, and a classic to say the least!

His previous shows were; *Chicago*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and he just keeps coming back for more! Spencer is currently a student at Lakehead University studying Anthropology, but when he can he pursues his love of story telling in performances or other ways (essentially, he likes to talk a lot).

Spencer would like to thank all the cast and crew of this fantastic show and the amazing support of his family and friends. Enjoy the show!



Ted Fleming
Strange Man (Doctor)

Ted Fleming is a retired paramedic living in Orillia. He was first bitten by the acting bug at Trinity College, U of T.

He appeared in the Mariposa Arts Theatre production of *Blithe Spirit* in 2023, and most recently in the Simcoe County Theatre Festival in 2024. Ted is an avid curler and golfer.

CAST BIOS



Anastasiia is a human being, an ancient soul, an artist at the call of her heart, and an actress by profession. Ukrainian, she moved to Canada three years ago after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. A lover of poetry and the arts. Childhood dream: to become Sailor Moon and save the world. If she weren't an actress, she would be a psychotherapist or a fine artist.

New to Orillia, Anastasiia is grateful to be welcomed into the MAT community. She believes theatre has the power to connect, transform, and inspire change—and she's thrilled to be part of this production.

Anastasiia Ziurkalova

Strange Woman (Nurse) / Flower Merchant

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MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER & LYRICS BY TIM RICE

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CREW BIOS



PHOTO BY NATALIE BAKER

CREW BIOS



Stevie Baker
Director/Lighting Designer

Stevie Baker is proud to be the President of the Mariposa Arts Theatre Foundation. She is the General Manager of Canada's first official Forum Theatre and Theatre of the Oppressed Centre - Mixed Company Theatre. She is honoured to serve as a director on the board of Arts Orillia. Internationally she has worked with Kansas City's MET and served as Artistic Director of The Daegu Theatre Troupe in Daegu, South Korea. She orchestrated the DTT's first touring show and directed South Korea's first English language production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Special thanks to my family for making sure I could dedicated so much of my time to this important show. All of my love and appreciation to the beautiful, talented cast, crew and team of this production for your incredible work and dedication. "*We have created enchantment.*" For MAT - *Gypsy* (PROD), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (PROD), *Try To Remember* (SM), *The Queer Cabaret* (DIR), *The Rocky Horror Show* (PROD), *Steel Magnolias* (DIR).



Savana Collier
Producer

Many moons ago, Savana completed her BFA specializing in Theatre at York University. Moving to the Orillia area a little more than a decade ago, she found herself working with the Wasaga Community Theatre where she was involved on stage with several productions (*A Nice Family Christmas*, 2017; *Death by Design*, 2018; *Skin Flick*, 2019).

Most recently, she became involved with MAT (*The Play That Goes Wrong*, 2024) and was given the opportunity to try her hand backstage (*I'll be Back Before Midnight*, 2024; *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*, 2024). She is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with this amazing group of humans as the Producer for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Thank you for supporting local theatre!

CREW BIOS



Leigh is so excited to be working with MAT again. Leigh holds a high honours diploma in technical production for theater from Sheridan College.

All time favourite technical credits; *Grease* (Theater St John's, SM), *Blood Brothers* (Theatre Sheridan, SM), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Canadian Tour, Spot Op.), *Twist & Shout* (Drayton, Wardrobe). Select MAT SM credits: *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *Queer Cabaret*.

Thanks to Stevie, Sarah and Savana for their never ending love and support. Love to Chris, Mom 'Liver, the fam and KNNEM.

Leigh Rawlins

Stage Manager/Lead Set Painter



Sarah Bowden is emerging into the world of theatre as the Assistant Stage Manager for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. With a background in Fashion Management from Humber Lakeshore, Sarah brings a keen eye for detail, organization, and an understanding of creative production processes to the stage.

Although new to the theater realm, she is passionate about learning and contributing to the smooth operation of live performances. Sarah considers herself as artistic with a passion for sewing, drawing, painting, and exploring any other creative outlet.

Sarah's journey into the world of theatre has been deeply inspired by the mentorship of Stevie Baker, Savana Collier, and especially Leigh Rawlins who introduced her to this vibrant experience.

Sarah Bowden

Assistant Stage Manager

CREW BIOS



Stephanie Lamb
Publicity

Stephanie is thrilled to be working Publicity for *A Streetcar Named Desire*! She worked Publicity for *The Thanksgiving Play*, was the Lead Set Dresser for *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*, and on-stage most recently last April as Countess Lily in *Anastasia* (Queensville Players). Previous MAT roles include the Usherette in *The Rocky Horror Show* ('22), Swing in *Urinetown* ('19), and as June in *Chicago* ('17).

Stephanie works as a Designer with Linda Mazur Design, and as the Digital Administrator & Social Media Manager for MAT. Come say "hi" on Facebook or Instagram @mariposaartstheatre! Many thanks and congratulations to every one of the cast and crew involved in this production. Special thanks to Natalie and to Manpreet for lending their incredible talents for our show photography and poster artwork!



Kaleb Sauve
Costume Designer

Kaleb has been doing community theatre for 25 years. Kaleb has been working with Mariposa Arts Theatre for the last 10 years, most recently Directing *I'll be Back Before Midnight*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Other MAT credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Prod. Design), *Urinetown* (Producer), *Chicago* (Costumes).

Kaleb has been nominated for 2 Thea Awards from ACTCO, Best production for *Urinetown* (MAT), and Best Costume Design for *Shrek the Musical* (KCP) Kaleb is a graduate of the Theatre Arts - Technical Production program at Humber College, and of Lakehead University. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out. 9-8-8 has immediate service 24/7/365.

CREW BIOS



Brian Halbot
Set Designer/Builder

Brian Halbot is once again pleased to be involved in the latest production of Mariposa Art Theatre. He spent 28 years at ODCVI in the technical education department and constructed many of the schools sets for their productions. As well, during the last 5 years, Brian has assisted in the set construction of the Orillia Opera House Summer Theater program.

One of the many benefits of theater is the time spent with the diverse members of our wonderful town. He encourages anyone interested in being involved in our well-established program to contact any member of our team. Now sit back, and enjoy the show.



Madeline Stoneman
Props Master

Madeline is thrilled to be taking on her second show with Mariposa Arts Theatre as the Props Department. After gaining initial backstage experience in MAT's November 2024 production of *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*, Madeline was excited to be invited back to join the cast and crew for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She has always had a special appreciation for small-town theatre, often attending shows with her grandparents at the Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover as a young girl and supporting local schools' productions. In 2019, Madeline had the pleasure of starring in her own high school's production of *Hairspray!* as Tracy Turnblad and hopes to one day return to the stage with MAT! Special thanks to Susan Mitchell and Dianne Richardson for their guidance and support during *Gypsy*, and to the wonderful cast and crew of *A Streetcar Named Desire* for creating such a positive and welcoming environment.

CREW BIOS



Aditi Sharma
Sound Designer

Aditi Sharma is a fourth-year Media, Film, and Communication student at Lakehead University with a passion for storytelling across different forms of media. Always eager to explore new creative challenges, she is thrilled to take on the role of sound designer for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Her journey in media has taken her from newsrooms and live production studios to documentary filmmaking and theatre. During her study abroad semester in the UK, she worked on live news productions, taking on roles as a director, producer, journalist, and presenter. Her love for capturing raw and real stories extends to her documentary filmmaking, where she explores themes of culture, nostalgia, and social change.

Aditi is excited to bring her artistic touch to the show, crafting an immersive soundscape in collaboration with the incredible cast and crew. She hopes the audience enjoys the experience as much as she has enjoyed creating it!

Since 1996, *MAT Film Nights* has brought top quality, award-winning and alternative films directly to Orillia audiences, selected from the *Toronto International Film Festival's* Film Circuit catalogue.

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COMING SOON: SHEPHERDS

Wednesday, April 16 (4 & 7 PM)
Orillia Galaxy Cinemas

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Playwright, *A Streetcar Named Desire*



Thomas Lanier Williams III (March 26, 1911 – February 25, 1983), known by his pen name 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). His drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* is often numbered on short lists of the finest American plays of the 20th century.

A Streetcar Named Desire was the winner of the 1948 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It still ranks among William's most performed plays, and has inspired many adaptations in other forms, notably the critically acclaimed 1951 film starring Marlon Brando as Stanley Kowalski and Vivien Leigh as Blanche DuBois, a role she had also played on stage in London's West End in 1949. Williams also wrote short stories, poetry, essays, and a volume of memoirs. In 1979, four years before his death, Williams was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame.

For more on his literary impact:

[Tennessee Williams: Portraits of an American Genius](#)



Photo 1: Tennessee Williams stands in front of a poster advertising his play, A Streetcar Named Desire, in New York in 1948. (W. Eugene Smith The LIFE Picture Collection/Shutterstock)

Photo 2: Tennessee Williams on the set of A Streetcar Named Desire in 1947. (Eliot Elisofon The LIFE Picture Collection/Shutterstock)