

A STREETCAR NAMED

DESIRE



Tennessee Williams

Tennessee Williams



- Thomas Lanier Williams
- College nickname
Tennessee
- Abusive father, mentally
ill sister
- Ibsen's influence
- International Shoe Co.-
Stanley Kowalski

ART MIRRORS LIFE



- Depression, anxiety
- Tragic death 1983

STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

- Written in 1947
- 1920-1948 New Orleans streetcar line from Bourbon Street to Royal Street to Desire Street.
- Williams wrote play from balcony, listening to streetcars below.



BOURBON STREET



- Located in French Quarter
- Magnet for nightlife—bars, restaurants, adult clubs.

Mardi Gras –Bead tradition, parades, parties.



French Quarter Buildings



- Squeezed together, close to curb.
- Spanish Building regulations-firewall
- Made of brick, outlawed wooden roofs.
- Mandated water buckets – fire
- Realistic setting

REALIS

- **Lower/ middle class**
- **Normative behavior**
- **Protagonist within normal societal institutions**
- **Socially oriented- not loners**
- **Economic, social, political orientation**

- **Familiar, documentable settings**
- **Continuously integrated plot-unfolds naturally.**
- **Emphasis on daily life.**
- **Everyday speech-vernacular.**

Williams's Stage Craft



- **Stage directions**
- **Props – support character development and themes.**
- **Lighting – Illusion vs. reality**
- **Music**

Main Characters

Stanley Kowalski



Blanche DuBois



Stella Kowalski



**Others: Harold “Mitch” Richmond
Steve & Eunice Hubbel
1951 Film -forced to change ending**

THEMES TO PONDER

SEXUALITY LONELINESS

CLASH OF CULTURES

ILLUSION VS. REALITY

DEPENDENCE ON MEN