

TEXARTS ASSOCIATION OFF BROADWAY SERIES 2009-10 SEASON

Todd Dellinger, Executive Director Robin Lewis, Artistic Director Nick Renneker, Board Chairman

Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie

Directed by Michael Costello Produced by Todd Dellinger
Music Composed by Michael Roth

Set Design by Griffon Ramsey Sound by Jon Derrington Lighting Design by Jason Amato

STARRING

Babs George* Jude Hickey James Hart* Jessie Tilton

Stage Manager: Jamie Keener*

Assistant Stage Manager: Partick Mullarkey

Costumes: Todd Dellinger Hair/Wigs: Teresa Romero

THE GLASS MENAGERIE is presented by special arrangements with Samuel French, Inc. on behalf of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee

* denotes Member, Actors' Equity Association. Equity artists appear in this production under Special Professional Theater Agreement with Actors' Equity Association.



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TexARTS' 2009-10 Off Broadway Series sponsored by Joann Anderson Travel

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WELCOME TO TEXARTS!

Hello! And welcome to TexARTS' Kam and James Morris Theater for our third "Off Broadway Series" season of great professional theater! We're pleased to share with you a season of laughter and love with a touch of the bittersweet...a series of productions that each earned their place in the canon of beloved American musicals and theater for their ability to move people - to laugh, sometimes to cry, but always to do what only great live theater can do - transform, entertain and inspire.

Now in our fourth year-our second in this permanent space, made possible in part thanks to the generosity of Keller Williams of Lake Travis-TexARTS celebrates tremendous growth and popularity. From our Academy, which now boasts over 530 registrations, to this professional "Off Broadway Series," which now boasts a regular audience nearing 1,000 patrons per show, TexARTS is setting the pace for a vibrant future. The institution's now three-quarters-of-a-million dollar budget sustains a regular staff of seven now and more than 8,000 square feet of facility. Nearly two-thirds of the budget goes to training youngsters in everything from musical theater to ballet to Shakespeare, visual art and much more for ages three thru adult. Some ten percent of the overall budget equates to free or reduced tuition for families in need. Some five percent represents Broadway guest artists & teachers coming to & from TexARTS to teach, direct and/or perform - continuing to raise the bar, inspire youngsters and audiences and set us apart from the rest.

One of the remarkable things about TexARTS is that we do so much - hundreds of youth class & rehearsal hours each week, 50 weeks a year...hundreds more each month in professional series rehearsal or performance and numerous community events ranging from Child Protective Services to the Junior League Christmas bazaar - on relatively so little. Where most nonprofits rely on 40% or more in contributions to survive, TexARTS has accomplished all this with just 10%. However, in order to stay healthy as we grow, we now need to increase contributed income so that we can...develop educational programs that will go into the public schools; expand our scholarship offerings; continue to keep only the best professional teachers & staff; bring on a production team leader to take on the tiresome work of coordinating and building our professional and student productions and; continue to keep our prices for classes, tickets and events affordable while maintaining only the highest quality.

We hope you'll join us in reaching our goals and reaching for the stars. And now, sit back, relax & enjoy the show!

Todd Dellinger, Executive Director & Robin Lewis, Artistic Director

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Tennessee Williams About the Author

His Life:

Born to Cornelius and Edwina Dakin Williams on March 26, 1911, in Columbus, Mississippi, Thomas Lanier "Tennessee" Williams was amply prepared for writing about society's outcasts. His mother was an aggressive woman, obsessed by her fantasies of genteel Southern living. His father, a traveling salesman for a large shoe manufacturer, was at

turns distant and abusive. His older sister, Rose, was emotionally disturbed and destined to spend most of her life in mental institutions. He remained aloof from his younger brother, Dakin, whom his father repeatedly favored over both of the older children. Who could have foretold that this shy, sickly, confused young man would become one of America's most famous playwrights.

More than a half century has passed since critics and theater-goers recognized Williams as an important American playwright, whose plays fellow dramatist David Mamet calls "the greatest dramatic poetry in the American language.". Williams's repertoire includes some 30 full-length plays, numerous short plays, two volumes of poetry, and five volumes of essays and short stories. He won two Pulitzer Prizes (for *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1947 and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in 1955), and was the first playwright to receive, in 1947, the Pulitzer Prize for drama, the Donaldson Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in the same year.

Although Williams' first professionally produced play, *Battle of Angels*, closed in 1940 because of poor reviews and a censorship controversy, his early amateur productions of *Candles to the Sun* and *Fugitive Kind* were well-received by audiences in St. Louis. By 1945 he had completed and opened on Broadway *The Glass Menagerie*, perhaps his best-known play, which won that year's New York Critics Circle, Donaldson, and Sidney Howard Memorial awards. In the course of his career, Williams accumulated four New York Drama Critics Awards; three Donaldson Awards; a Tony Award for his 1951 screenplay, *The Rose Tattoo*; as well as several other distinguished awards.

In addition to kudos from critics, Williams held for many years the attention of audiences in America and abroad. By 1955 his reputation was firmly established setting William's as one of the most important figures in twentieth-century drama and possibly had more influence on the development of American cinema than any other twentieth century playwright.

Social conflicts so much a part of Williams's drama, played themselves out in his life as well. Having spent almost all of his life as a wanderer--an outcast in many ways--Williams died on February 23, 1983. It is a curious coincidence that Williams's life ended in a place that shared the name of the apartment building in which one of his best-known characters, Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, met her figurative end. He died in the Elysee Hotel in New York; the name of the apartment building in *Streetcar* is Elysian Fields. It is perhaps appropriate that Williams died in a hotel--the traditional bivouac of wanderers and outcasts--rather than in his home at Key West or in New Orleans. He was buried in St. Louis, in a Catholic ceremony, at the request of his brother.

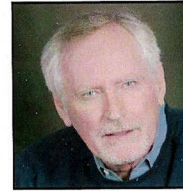
His Plays:

Tennessee Williams claimed that all of his major plays fit into the "memory play" format he describes in his production notes for *The Glass Menagerie*. The overarching theme for his plays, he claimed, is the negative impact that conventional society has upon the "sensitive nonconformist individual." With their emphasis on the irrational, the desperation of humanity in a universe in which cosmic laws do not work, and their tragi-comic examination of the conflicts between the gentility of old Southern values and the brute force of new, Northern values, Williams's plays fit nicely into a genre critics call "Southern Gothic."

Tennessee Williams'

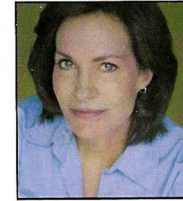
The Glass Menagerie Cast

Michael Costello (Director)



Michael is Head of Acting in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University. He has had a long and distinguished professional career as a director and actor. He is in the HBO film *Temple Grandin* with Claire Danes, and was a regular on the NBC series *seaQuest*. On stage, he has played Lear in *King Lear* and Willie Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. Last year, Michael received an Excellence in Directing Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for his production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

Babs George* (Amanda Wingfield)



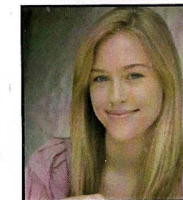
Babs George is a professional actress and has been a member of AEA and SAG, (stage and screen actors' unions), for 30 years. She has an M.F.A. in Classical Acting from The Shakespeare Theatre and The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Ms. George has worked in regional theaters across the country as well as appearing in film and television. She teaches acting at the school she originated, the State Theatre School of Acting, and has instructed in the Theatre Departments at University of Texas, St. Edward's University and Texas State University.

Jude Hickey (Tom Wingfield)



Jude Hickey is a DA! Theatre Collective member as well as a Hyde Park Theatre Company member. There he was seen in many shows including *The Pillowman*, *Lonesome West* and *The Glory of Living*. For DA!, Jude performs in their touring children's show *Heron and Crane* and was recently seen in a wig for *Leave it to Beverly*. He has also appeared on the Salvage Vanguard stage in roles such as, the New Jersey Devil in *Hamilton Township* and Achilles in *Iphigenia*. Jude hails from Nebraska where he studied at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Jessie Tilton (Laura Wingfield)



Jessie Tilton has been working as a film and stage actress in Austin since 2005. She has appeared in films for the past 3 years at SXSW. Her most recent stage work was in *Dug Up*, by Cyndi Williams, at Austin Playhouse. She is a writing and rhetoric senior at St. Edwards University. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *The Glass Menagerie* for their hard work and creative inspiration, as well as her agent Heather Collier.

James David Hart* (Jim O'Connor)



This is Hart's Austin acting debut. James David Hart is currently launching Austin Conservatory of Professional Arts, a new theatre conservatory, teaching artists how to make a living. www.austinconservatory.com. Hart has performed in major theatres (Yale Repertory Theatre, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dallas Theatre Center & more) and has directed, considerably (including directing Marian Seldes, Dylan Baker, Roger Rees and Kate Burton). Hart graduated from Yale School of Drama and has a MFA in Acting and founded The International Theatre Academy Norway.

TEXARTS VISIONARIES

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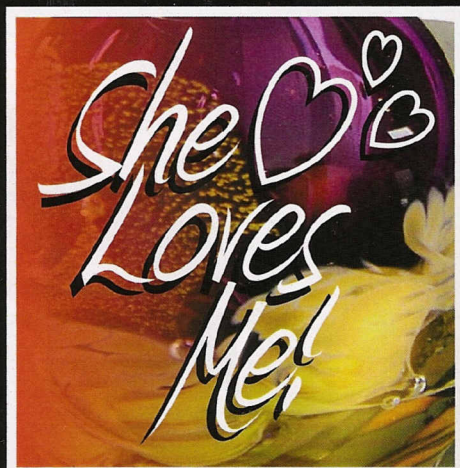
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revolves around Budapest shop employees Georg Nowack and Amalia Balash who, despite being consistently at odds with each other at work, are unaware that each is the other's secret pen pal met through lonely-hearts ads. The original Broadway production played in 1963, and the show enjoyed a West End production and award-winning revivals on each side of the Atlantic in the 1990s. This heart-filled union production wraps up the 2009-2010 professional Off-Broadway series at TexARTS
April 23rd - May 9th, 2010 at TexARTS' Kam & James Morris Theater.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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