MODERN DRAMATISTS

Modern Dramatists

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MODERN DRAMATISTS

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Roger Boxill

Professor of English
City College, University of New York

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Editors' Preface

The *Modern Dramatists* is an international series of introductions to major and significant nineteenth- and twentieth-century dramatists, movements and new forms of drama in Europe, Great Britain, America and new nations such as Nigeria and Trinidad. Besides new studies of great and influential dramatists of the past, the series includes volumes on contemporary authors, recent trends in the theatre and on many dramatists, such as writers of farce, who have created theatre 'classics' while being neglected by literary criticism. The volumes in the series devoted to individual dramatists include a biography, a survey of the plays, and detailed analysis of the most significant plays, along with discussion, where relevant, of the political, social, historical and theatrical context. The authors of the volumes, who are involved with theatre as playwrights, directors, actors, teachers and critics, are concerned with the plays as theatre and discuss such matters as performance, character interpretation and staging, along with themes and contexts.

BRUCE KING

ADELE KING

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A Note on the Texts

A Williams play in print often differs substantially from the script used in its original production. Revivals have sometimes made further changes, and in several cases two or more versions have been published. Unless otherwise noted, the version contained in *The Theatre of Tennessee Williams*, published in New York by New Directions in seven volumes, 1971–81 (hereafter abbreviated as Williams, *Theatre*) provides the basis for discussion here. The date in my text following the title of a play is that of the professional premiere (pre-Broadway try-outs apart) or the first edition, whichever is earlier.

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1. Tennessee Williams, about 1950. Courtesy New York Public Library.
2. *The Glass Menagerie*, Chicago, 1944 and New York, 1945. Anthony Ross as Jim, Laurette Taylor as Amanda, Eddie Dowling as Tom, and Julie Haydon as Laura. Courtesy: New York Public Library.
3. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, New York, 1947. Marlon Brando as Stanley and Jessica Tandy as Blanche. Courtesy: Eileen Darby.
4. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, New York, 1947. Closing Scene. Peg Hillias as Eunice, Kim Hunter as Stella, Marlon Brando as Stanley, Karl Malden as Mitch, Rudy Bond as Steve, Nick Dennis as Pablo, Ann Dere as the Nurse, Jessica Tandy as Blanche and Richard Garrick as the doctor. Courtesy: Eileen Darby.
5. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Warner Bros film, 1951. Vivien Leigh as Blanche and Marlon Brando as Stanley.
6. *Summer and Smoke*, New York, 1948. Margaret

List of Plates

- Phillips as Alma and Tod Andrews as John. Courtesy: Culver Pictures, New York.
7. *Summer and Smoke*, New York, 1948. Alma bids farewell to Eternity. Margaret Phillips as Alma. Courtesy: Culver Pictures, New York.
 8. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, New York, 1955. Barbara Bel Geddes as Margaret and Ben Gazzara as Brick. Courtesy: Culver Pictures, New York.
 9. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, MGM film, 1958. Burl Ives as Big Daddy and Paul Newman as Brick. Courtesy: MGM/UA Entertainment Company.
 10. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Warner Bros film, 1951. Vivien Leigh as Blanche. Courtesy: Culver Pictures, New York.

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