

presents

The Glass Henagerie

by Tennessee Williams

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presents

The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams

Director Tony Petito

Set Designer
Nels Anderson

Costume Designer
Karla King

Lighting Designer
Joe Damiano

Original Music by Paul Boules

Cover painting by Edward Hopper. Detail "From Williamburg Bridge".



General Manager's Message

What an exciting time to be back in Singapore! Everyone told me the theatre scene here was changing, but I didn't realise they meant daily! I feel fortunate to have joined SRT, which in the short span of three years, has established itself as one of premier theatres companies in the world for Asian actors. This is in no small part due to Artistic Director, Tony Petito, who has worked tirelessly towards his goal of putting Singapore on the world theatre map as a centre for Englishlanguage pan-Asian theatre.

These past few months have been a whirlwind. SRT opened this year's Festival of the Arts with our original musical, **Sing to the Dawn**, which is being billed as the best Singaporean musical ever produced. The Original Cast Recording is one of the best-selling CDs at Tower Records. This production marked the culmination of the first phase of SRT's growth, proving that Singapore is capable of producing world-class theatre.

We now begin the second phase of SRT's development by welcoming on board Sing To The Dawn composer Dick Lee as one of our Associate Artistic Directors, alongside Remesh Panicker. Dick will oversee **Stage Two**, a new arm of SRT, aimed at nurturing new playwrights and producing more Singaporean plays.

Also joining SRT as our Director of Training will be Rey Buono. Rey will oversee our new **Core Company**. This is a 30-week free training programme for people who plan to become professional actors. These individuals will go on to become our core group of actors, which will serve to raise the calibre of our productions, as well as that of Singaporean theatre in general.

All this is in preparation for our new theatre building, details of which are available in this programme. This exciting project should be completed just in time for the 1998 Festival of Arts.

We are indebted to our Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, who under the able chairmanship of Mr. Robert Tomlin, have guided SRT to new heights through their advice, support and fund-raising efforts. The directors and staff of the National Arts Council also deserve acknowledgment for their continued support.

Thank you also to our generous Corporate Sponsors: The Westin Hotels, Esso Singapore, DBS Bank, DBS Card Centre, United Airlines, GlaxoWellcome, Singapore Television 12, Far East Organization and Canon Singapore, without whose help, our endeavours would not be possible. A big thank you also to the American Chamber of Commerce and The Arts Fund for kindly agreeing to be Production Sponsors for *The Glass Menagerie*.

Let be me bid a fond farewell to our Administrator, Sue Thornton, who is returning to Australia. She has been critical to the success of this production and to the growth of SRT. We welcome Kerryn Chan who will join us as Sue's successor.

Finally, to our audience. Your support has been incredible. Thank you for joining us for the first play of our fourth season. We hope you enjoy **The Glass Menagerie**, and look forward to seeing you again and again throughout the rest of our 1996-1997 season.

Gaurav Kripalani

General Manager, Singapore Repertory Theatre

SRT . . . A Profile

Singapore Repertory Theatre is a non-profit professional theatre company which stages an international repertoire of plays, musicals and children's theatre.

Some highlights from our previous seasons include, *Into the Woods* with Lea Salonga, *The Magic Fundoshi* directed by Glen Goei, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* starring Nancy Kwan, and the popular *A Singapore Carol* by Desmond Sim.

In recognition of our contribution to Singapore's growing arts scene, SRT was invited by the National Arts Council to open this year's Festival of Arts at Kallang Theatre, with the musical *Sing to the Dawn*.

One of Singapore's leading theatre companies, SRT strives to bring the highest professional standards to theatre in Singapore and is the world's only International Asian theatre company.

Our Contribution to the Community. . . In Support of a Gracious Lifestyle for All (ur corporate mission goes beyond building quality real estate. Far East Organization also looks towards fulfilling its responsibilities as a corporate citizen. We wish to be part of the effort to help Singaporeans achieve the gracious lifestyle envisioned by our Government. We share in the joy of participating in community projects that help improve the quality of life of Singaporeans. We believe that leading a quality life also means having the opportunity to enjoy the finer things in life, and having avenues for creative expression and cultural interests. Hence our contributions to education, charity and the arts. We will continue to do our part in contributing towards realising the Government's vision of FAR EASTORGANIZATION a gracious lifestyle for all. Creating Lifestyles of the Pacific Centur

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Arts & Culture. To nurture creative talents in Singapore, we have 'seedcorn' investments like NUS Theatre, SSO lunchtime concerts and the formation of theatre groups. And to realise Singapore's goal to be a regional hub for the arts, DBS Bank sponsored the world-class musical, LES MISÉRABLES.

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The Story

You're invited to the Winafield residence.

A dingy flat in the slums of Saint Louis in the years prior to World War Two. Inside, cheap furniture, an old typewriter, a picture of a father who deserted his family long ago, and a shelf full of tiny glass animals. Outside, the noisy street, the flashing lights of a dance hall, the cities and vast spaces beyond. The only way in is by the fire escape. It is also the only way out.

As their hopes and dreams slowly dissolve in the sea of despair and monotony that has become their lives, each finds a refuge of their own.

Tom Wingfield, a poet trapped in a warehouse, escapes to the make-believe world of movies.

His crippled sister, Laura, lives in a fantasy world that revolves around a fragile collection of glass animals.

Tom's mother, Amanda, seeks solace in the memories of her happier youth, when she was courted by many "gentleman callers".

They might well have remained in their private mental sanctuaries indefinitely, were it not for the arrival of a "gentleman caller" for Laura. His arrival becomes the catalyst that finally shatters the beautiful illusion of The Glass Menagerie.

The Glass Menagerie will be performed in two acts. There will be one interval of 15 minutes duration between the acts.



The Playwright

Tennessee Williams was born in 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi and moved with his family to St Louis some years later. He entered college during the Depression and left after a couple of years to take a clerical job in a shoe company. He stayed there for two years, spending the evenings writing. He entered the University of Iowa in 1938 and completed his course, at the same time holding a large number of parttime jobs of great diversity.

In 1945 his first Broadway play, *The Glass Menagerie*, won the New York Drama Critics' Award for Best Play. It has since then been performed on stages the world over and in 1950 a film version of the play



was made. Williams won the Pulitzer Prize for A Streetcar named Desire (1952) and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1954).

Williams list of acclaimed plays include Summer and Smoke (1948), The Rose Tattoo (1950), Suddenly Last Summer (1958), Sweet Bird of Youth (1959) and Night of the Iguana (1961).

Tennessee Williams died in 1983. Peter Shaffer has written of him:

"He was born a dramatist, as few are ever born. Whatever he put on paper, superb or superfluous, glorious or gaudy, could not fail to be electrifyingly actable. He could not write a dull scene . . . Tennessee Williams will live as long as drama itself."

In memoriam

"ROSE WILLIAMS, 86, Sister and Muse of Tennessee" by Mel Gussow.

Reprinted with kind permission from The New York Times, September 7th 1996.

Rose Williams, Tennessee Williams' sister, who was the model for Laura Wingfield, the shy, lame young woman in "The Glass Menagerie", died Thursday at Phelps Memorial Hospital in Tarrytown, N.Y. She was 86, and had moved to the hospital from the Bethel Methodist Home in Ossining, N.Y.

The cause was cardiac arrest, said Michael Remer, a lawyer for the Tennessee Williams trust

Ms Williams was immortalised in fictional guise in her brother's work, first in his short story, "Portrait of a Girl in Glass". That story in spired "The Glass Menagerie", the memory play that was Mr William's first Broadway success, in 1945. In his notes to the play, the playwright said that Laura "is like a piece of her own glass collection, too exquisitely fragile to move from the shelf".

In "Tom: The Unknown Tennessee Williams", Lyle Leverich, the playwright's authorized biographer, wrote, "Throughout his life, Tennessee Williams had two overriding devotions: his career as a writer and his sister, Rose."

Rose Isabel Williams was born in Columbus, Miss., in 1909, two years before her brother, Thomas (later Tennessee). The two grew up together. As a young woman, Ms Williams was schizophrenic, and she underwent a prefrontal lobotomy and was institutionalized for the rest of her life.

The playwright died in 1983. In Mr Williams' will, most of his estate was left to the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., with the bulk of it to remain in trust for his sister during her lifetime. The University of the South announced that with Ms Williams' death, the university would receive some \$7 million.

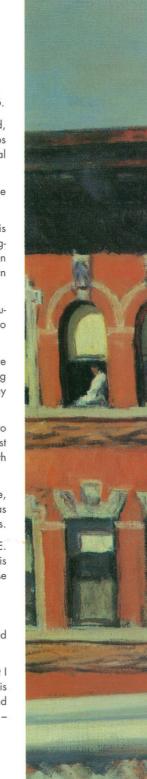
Since 1989, the university has been receiving income from the Williams estate, using it for scholarships and for the Sewanee Writers Conference, which has brought such writers as Arthur Miller and William Styron to the university campus.

Mr Williams made the bequest in honor of his grandfather, the Rev Walter E. Dakin, who studied at the university's School of Theology in the late 1890s. In his will, the playwright specified that the gift was to encourage creative writers whose work was "progressive, original and preferably of an experimental nature."

Ms Williams is survived by her brother Dakin, of Collinsville, Ill.

At the end of "The Glass Menagerie", Laura's brother, Tom, the character based on the playwright, leaves home to begin his own life and career.

In an epilogue, he says, "Oh, Laura, Laura, I tried to leave you behind me, but I am more faithful than I intended to be!" He finds that he has been pursued by his memory of her. "Blow out your candles, Laura," he says, and in the background Laura blows out the candles. The stage goes dark, and Tom says, "And so – goodbye!"



The Cast



ADRIAN PANG - Tom Wingfield

During his four years at Keele University, England, Adrian led a precarious double life: clueless law undergraduate by day, fearless thespian wannabe by night, appearing in numerous university productions too inconsequential to mention, except that it prompted him to take the plunge and pursue his acting instincts. So after he miraculously got his law degree, he went on to receive his acting training at ARTTS International, where he performed in Hedda Gabler, Marat/Sade, A Flea In Her Ear and

Dracula.

Since graduating in 1992, his professional theatre work has included playing Oberon in A Midsummer Nights Dream, Dromio of Syracuse in The Comedy Of Errors (Bard In The Yard), Nicholas in One For The Road (Action For Amnesty), Bob Cratchit in A Christmas Carol, Karl in Tormented (Theatre Venture), Privates On Parade (Greenwich Theatre), The Magic Fundoshi (Mu-Lan Theatre Company, London Fringe Award for Best Comedy), Albert in The Mens Womb (Edinburgh Festival), Philip in Kampong Amber (Music & Movement, The Singapore Festival of Arts), Jack in Into The Woods, Seymour in Little Shop Of Horrors (Singapore Repertory Theatre), and Hair on London's West End.

His TV appearances in the UK have included Lovejoy, The Knock, The Lenny Henry Show, MTV Asia, Call Red, and he has just finished working on The Fragile Heart with Nigel Hawthorne. He also played the lead in the film Spiralling (First Prize Film at the International Solidarity Festival in France), and appeared in Nightwatch with Pierce Brosnan, A Brief Walk, Running Blind, and most recently in the good company of fellow Singaporeans Pam Oei, Glen Goei, Daniel York and (Assistant Director) Ivan Heng, in the forthcoming feature film. Peagy Su!

Adrian feels very privileged to be back in Singapore to work, and is especially excited about working on *The Glass Menagerie*.



EMILY KURODA – Amanda Wingfield

Emily Kuroda has performed in numerous theatres across America, including the Berkeley Repertory Theatre (Ballad Of Yachiyo, Woman Warrior), Doolittle Theatre (Woman Warrior), South Coast Rep (Ballad Of Yachiyo), Huntington Theatre/Boston (Woman Warrior), Mark Taper Forum (Hymn To Her, The Wash, Avocado Kid, Big Tiger Prophecy, Bird's Nest Soup), East West Players (over 25 productions including Lettuce And Lovage, The Maids, Company, A Chorus Line, Mishima, Pacific

Overtures, Three Penny Opera), Los Ángeles Theatre Centre (where she served on the Artistic Board for five years) (Minamata, David Henry Hwang's As The Crow Flies, Jacques And His Master, Macbeth), Fountain Theatre (The Golden Gate), Zephyr Theatre/San Francisco (The Golden Gate), and the LA Shakespeare Festival (Two Gentlemen Of Verona). Her recent television credits include Party Girl, ER, Melrose Place, The Jackie Thomas Show, Sisters, Doogie Howser, Columbo, LA Law, Knott's Landing and numerous TV movies including Deirdre Hall Story, Awake To Danger, Preppy Murder, Donor, Dynasty The Miniseries, and American Geisha. Her feature films credits include: Dad, Yellow, Broken Words, About Love, Worth Winning, Why Me and Solo. Emily is the recipient of four Dramalogue Awards for outstanding performance. Other awards include the City of LA Commendation and Emmy nomination for About Love, and Golden Eagle Award for Solo, where she played opposite Victor Wona.



NEO SWEE LIN – Laura Wingfield

When Neo Swee Lin graduated with a law degree from the National University of Singapore in 1986, she decided to take a year out to 'try a bit of acting'. Since then, she has appeared in more than 20 plays in Singapore. These include the original production of Army Daze directed by Lim Siauw Chong; Medea & Mother Courage by William Teo; 3 Children & M. Butterfly by Krishen Jit; Mama Looking For Her Cat by Kuo Pau Kun; and Fried Rice Paradise, The Moon Is Less Bright & The

Yang Family by Ong Keng Sen

Swee Lin was awarded the B.A.T. Scholarship in 1991 and trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, where she won several awards including the Hyacinth-Havergal Prize for Style in Acting, the Dorothy Innes Prize for Best Studentship and the Best Movement Prize in 1994. She also received a commendation for Scots Verse Speaking. At the R.S.A.M.D., she played Abigail in The Crucible and Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothina.

Her professional work in the UK began in 1993 when she played Teishi in Mu Lan Theatre Company's 3 Japanese Women at the Cockpit Theatre in London. She went on to play the Croupier in the cable film Nightwatch, which starred Pierce Brosnan; then the role of Maria Bongay opposite Timothy West in Mail Order Bride at the prestigious West Yorkshire Playhouse. For BBC TV, she played the role of Letty in A Secret Slave. She also appeared in Somerset Maugham's The Letter with Joanna Lumley at the Lyric Hammersmith in London.

Since her return to Singapore at the beginning of this year to play Mrs Yang in The Yang Family, Swee Lin has appeared as Adrianna Chee in Who's Afraid of Chow Yuen Fatt at the International Arts Festival, Melissa in Love Letters opposite her husband Lim Kay Siu and Emily of Emerald Hill directed by Kay Siu. On TV, she played the part of the mother in the Lunar New Year Family Special, and auest starred in a episode of Happy Belly.

At present, she is in the midst of filming a new sitcom My Grandson the Doctor with Nicholas Lee & Jacintha Abishegenaden and preparing to appear in a new film by Eric Khoo. Swee Lin is grateful to be back home where there are many opportunities to do such varied and exciting work. She is looking forward to working on a great classic like The Glass Menagerie.



DANIEL YORK - The Gentleman Caller

Daniel York is a graduate of the East 15 Acting School in London. He was the first Chinese actor to ever perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, appearing in *The Merchant of Venice, The Country Wife* and *Moby Dick*. He played Fortinbras in *Hamlet* with Alan Rickman at Riverside Studios which then toured the U.K. He also appeared in *Porcelain* by talented Singaporean playwright, Chay Yew, for the Mu-Lan Theatre Company at the Etcetera Theatre Club and then later at the Royal

Court Theatre London as well as working with numerous theatre companies including London Bubble, Stage One and HAC Theatre Company. His television credits include Supper at Emmaus, The Bill and Crimewatch and the feature film, Peggy Su!





Production Team

TONY PETITO - Director

Tony is the Singapore Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director. Prior to his arrival in Southeast Asia, Tony was the Associate Artistic Director of the acclaimed Body Politic Theatre in Chicago where he directed the Midwest premieres of Money by Arthur Giron and Knock, Knock by Jules Feiffer. Off Broadway, in New York, he directed the World Premier of Walter and The Flatulist, two one-act plays by Murray Schisgal. He has directed off-Broadway and summer stock productions and has also worked as Production Stage Manager in New York for Celeste Holm, Rip Torn and the late Geraldine Page. Tony holds a Master's degree in Directing from the Goodman School of Drama. His other Singapore direction credits include The King & I, Godspell, Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the Moon Marigolds, A Life in the Theatre, Many Moons, SRT's production of Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman, A Singapore Carol, and most recently, Master Harold . . . and the Boys.

NELS ANDERSON - Set Designer

Nels is Professor of Scene Design at Louisiana State University. He has designed more than forty productions for various theatres in Chicago, including the Goodman Children's Theatre, Steppenwolf, Body Politic, Victory Gardens, Northlight Repertory, Light Opera Works, Travel Light Theatre and Spectrum Theatre. His works include designs for Baton Rouge Opera, Southern Repertory in New Orleans, Arkansas rep in Little Rock, Center Stage in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, and Bristol Riverside Theatre in Philadelphia.

Nels has previously designed sets for SRT's productions of Godspell, Death of a Salesman, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, A Singapore Carol and Master Harold . . . and the Boys.

KARLA KING - Costume Designer

Ms King is the owner of Clairain King Designs, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana which specializes in theatrical, mardi gras and period costumes and unique men's and women's formalwear. She is the costume designer for The Playmakers Children's Theatre in Baton Rouge, The Performing Arts Theatre at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, The Achilles Mardi Gras Krewe in Baton Rouge and The Governor's Mardi Gras Ball in Baton Rouge.

Karla was also the Supervisor of the Louisiana State University Costume Shop which produced approximately 35 productions during this time.

Karla studied Fashion Design at The Fashion Institute of Technology in New York city and was employed as the Assistant Supervisor of the Dresses Division Design Room at the Liz Claiborne Corporation.

This is Karla's first visit to Singapore and she is very excited to be working with the Singapore Repertory Theatre.

JOE DAMIANO - Lighting Designer

For the past 4 years Joe has designed and toured nationally as well as internationally with Jude Narita – Coming into Passion and her new show Stories Waiting To Be Told. He has also designed critically-acclaimed one-person shows, such as Reunion – Amy Hill (All American Girl, ABC), Nobody's Rib – Nora Dunn (Sister, NBC) as well as Brother and Speak of the Devil for Peter Denis of Great Britain. Joe has been involved in such projects as the Pendragons, Spectrablast, and served as Intellabeam programmer for the VR Troopers Live, all at Universal Studios, Hollywood. He has designed for the Off-Broadway productions of Lone Star, Laundry & Bourbon and 24 Hours – P.M. In L.A. his credits include Kimchee & Chitlins.

Joe was also Lighting Designer for the SRT production of Master Harold . . . and the Boys and for The Tiger on the Right/Dragon on the Left II.

GLORIA CHEE – Stage Manager

Gloria has worked extensively in both theatre and film production in Singapore. She has staged managed numerous theatre productions in Singapore including Liao Jui, A Complete Space Traveller's Guide to Singapore, Three Fat Virgins and Private Parts.

She was the Assistant Stage Manager for *Beauty World* in Singapore and for the subsequent tour of Japan.

Gloria is a graduate of Ngee Ann Polytechnic with a Diploma of Film, Sound and Video. She has just completed the local feature film of *Army Daze, The Movie* for which she was Assistant Director and Supervising Editor.

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Phillip Dean

Assistant to Set Designer

June Chan

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Sound Operator Khoo Ee Hoon

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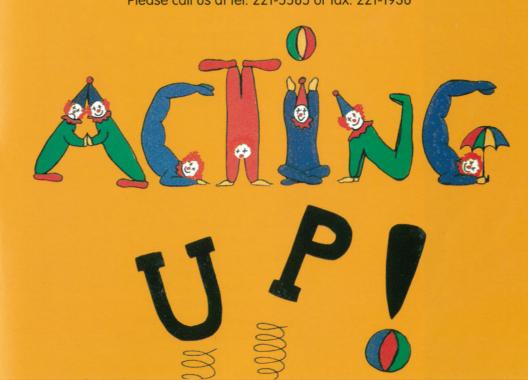
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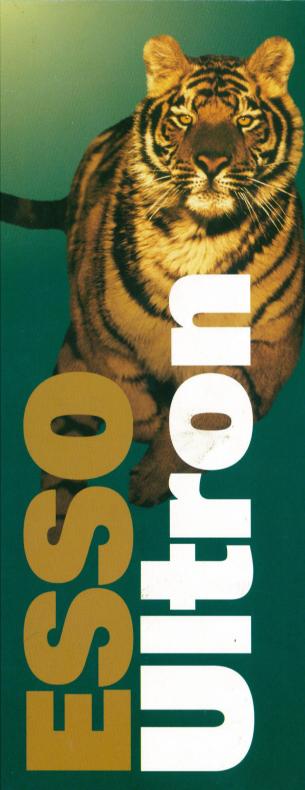
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