

MEDIA RELEASE



24 January 2020

For immediate release

[A Streetcar Named Desire](#)

Written by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Melanie Luckman

Dates: 22 February – 14 March 2020

Location: The Court Theatre's mainstage

Show Sponsor: The Breeze

Short show description:

Set against the sweltering heat of New Orleans in the 1940s, *A Streetcar Named Desire* is widely heralded as one of the finest plays of the 20th Century. A devastating masterpiece, this Pulitzer Prize winner promises a riveting and dangerous night out at the theatre.

SUMMER HEAT RISES WITH ARRIVAL OF A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

IN-BRIEF:

The sweltering heat of New Orleans is coming to Christchurch from February 22 with the arrival of classic theatrical drama, *A Streetcar Named Desire* at The Court Theatre.

"It's a masterpiece of 20th Century theatre," says director Melanie Luckman.

The story follows jaded Southern belle Blanche DuBois as she arrives at her sister's house in New Orleans with nowhere else to go. Tensions soon rise between her and her sister's husband, Stanley, a character made famous by Marlon Brando's portrayal in the Oscar winning film adaptation of the play.

"Like all great poetic masterpieces, the characters are heightened versions of ourselves," says Luckman. "They all have major flaws but are so vivacious, burning with life and desire, that they are immensely appealing to watch."

The actors taking on these classic characters include Claire Dougan as Blanche (*Westside*); Chris Tempest as Stanley (*Shortland Street*) and Amy Straker as Stella (*The Pink Hammer*). This trio are joined by a talented ensemble who will be stepping back in time to 1947.

Talking about why *A Streetcar Named Desire* has such a draw for audiences almost 75 years later, Luckman says, "The story is a big fat warning about what happens when you take away kindness and community. That's pretty relevant to me."

A Streetcar Named Desire runs at The Court Theatre from 22 February – 14 March 2020.

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Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courtheatre.org.nz

www.courtheatre.org.nz

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IN-DEPTH:

The sweltering heat of New Orleans is coming to Christchurch with the arrival of classic theatrical drama, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Running at The Court Theatre from February 22, audiences can expect a vivid and enthralling production from this Pulitzer Prize winning drama.

"It's a masterpiece of 20th Century theatre," says director Melanie Luckman, a previous Associate Director at The Court who most recently helmed *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*.

"This is a dynamic, sexy and dangerous story of a woman fighting with all her might to stay alive in a world that's out to get her," Luckman explains.

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The actors taking on these classic characters include Claire Dougan as Blanche (*Westside*); Chris Tempest as Stanley (*Shortland Street*) and Amy Straker as Stella (*The Pink Hammer*). This trio are joined by a talented ensemble, including Tom Eason, Hillary Moulder, Cameron Douglas, Fergus Inder, Isaac Pawson, Anita Mapukata, Adam Brookfield and Hester Ulyart.

These actors will be stepping back in time to 1947, taking audiences to a run-down and dangerous post-war New Orleans.

"The play is set before the boomtime of the 1950s," explains Set and Properties Designer Julian Southgate. "The community is still poor and hasn't rebuild. The men have just come back from World War II and they're not adjusting that well to civilian life. No one is."

Talking about what inspired his design, Southgate says, "the descriptions by the author are so evocative and poetic in the script. They're unusual and quite strange - so I thought I'd try and bring in some of the poetic strangeness into the set design itself."

For Luckman, "the gift of *Streetcar* is perfectly written dialogue that jumps off the page to meet you. The challenge is being brave enough to dive underneath the text and play the complex characters and relationships that are there to be mined. They don't call Blanche the female Hamlet for nothing!"

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Cast



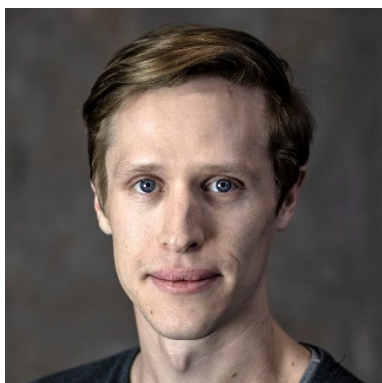
Blanche
[Claire Dougan](#)



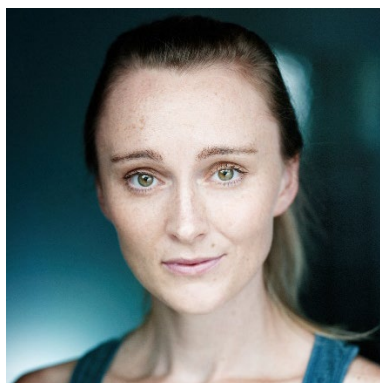
Stanley
Chris Tempest



Stella
[Amy Straker](#)



Mitch
[Tom Eason](#)



Eunice
[Hillary Moulder](#)



Steve
[Cameron Douglas](#)

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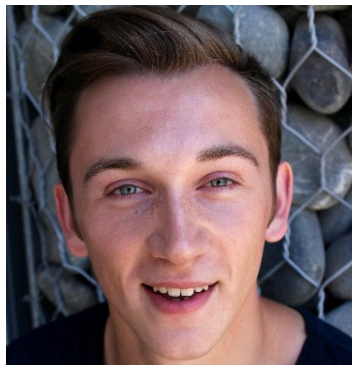
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MEDIA RELEASE



Pablo
[Fergus Inder](#)



Young Man
[Isaac Pawson](#)



Young Woman
[Anita Mapukata](#)



Doctor
[Adam Brookfield](#)



Flower Seller/Matron
[Hester Ulliyart](#)

Creatives

Director	Melanie Luckman
Set Designer	Julian Southgate
Costume Designer	Tony De Goldi
Lighting Designer	Giles Tanner
Sound Designer	Matt Short
Stage Manager	Jo Bunce

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$56 - \$64
Senior (65+)	\$49 - \$57
Group (6+)	\$49 - \$57
Supporter	\$47 - \$54

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Child (under 18) \$27 - \$30
30 Below (limited numbers) \$30

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6:30pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7:30pm
- Forum 6:30pm Monday 24 February
- Matinee: 2:00pm Saturday 7 March

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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