

## A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

### Character Descriptions

**Blanche DuBois: Lead (female plays late 30's-early 40's)** A sensitive, delicate member of the fading Southern aristocracy. A fragile woman from a once-wealthy Southern family who comes to live with her sister after losing her home. She struggles with her past and uses illusion to escape reality. She has features and a demeanor that connote an emotionally fragile person. Raised with money but now destitute, her grip on reality is far too loose. She is a complex and contradictory character, whose helplessness and vulnerabilities foreshadow her tragic end. Her beauty from times past has to shine through in the beginning and slowly, as the play progresses, we see the "light of life" fade. *Genteel southern accent*

**Stella Kowalski: Lead (female plays early to mid 30's)** Stella, Blanche's younger sister and wife to Stanley, is pregnant with her first child. Stella has made a new life for herself in New Orleans and is madly in love with her husband Stanley - their idyllic relationship is steeped in physical passion. Stella is forthright and unapologetic about the nature of her relationship with her husband, and although she loves her sister, she is pragmatic and refuses to let anything come between her and Stanley. Blanche represents "the past" from which Stella has moved on and to which she has no interest in returning. Stella surrenders totally to Stanley, accepting his world and its value; torn between Blanche and Stanley, she ultimately sides with her husband.

**Stanley Kowalski: Lead (male plays mid 30's to early 40's)** Stella's husband, a powerful, unpredictable and assertive man who is suspicious of Blanche's pretense. His desire to maintain dominance leads to conflict with Blanche. Stanley is shrewd and manipulative, always "working an angle." Blanche represents a "reminder" of what Stella gave up to be with him, and thus a threat to his life as he knows it. He is well built, vibrant, radiates energy; has dirt under his nails. He has an unshakeable world view and sees his commonness as above Blanche's pretensions. He is a controlling and domineering man, demanding subservience from his wife in the belief that his authority is threatened by Blanche's arrival.

**Harold Mitchell (Mitch): Lead (male plays mid 30's to early 40's)** Stanley's friend who went through the war with him. Mitch is unmarried and has a dying mother for whom he feels a great devotion. He is shy and a bit awkward but also gentle and kind. He is drawn to Blanche's feminine demeanor until he learns the truth of her sordid past. Mitch is as tough and "unrefined" as Stanley. He is physically imposing, tall and powerful, but he is also a deeply sensitive and compassionate man.

**Eunice Hubell: Supporting (female plays 40's)** Eunice is the owner of the apartment building, and Steve's wife. She is generally helpful, offering Stella and Blanche shelter after Stanley beats Stella. Indeed, she has a personal understanding of the Kowalskis' relationship because it mirrors her own. A bit crass and rough around the edge, she's a good friend to Stella and finds Blanche's airs annoying and insulting. We see the low-class life of the French Quarter through her and her husband, Steve.

**Steve Hubbel: Supporting (male plays 40's)** One of the poker players and has the same demeanor as his wife – on the crass side and very earthy. Loves his wife in a possessive, grabby kind of way but is still fascinated by the "lady" who comes into their midst.

**Pablo Gonzales: Minor (male plays 30's-40's)**

Pablo Gonzales is one of the poker players, who punctuates games with Spanish phrases. *Spanish accent*

**Doctor: Minor (male plays 40's-50's)**

The Doctor arrives at the end to bring Blanche on her "vacation." After the Nurse has pinned her, the Doctor succeeds in calming Blanche. She latches onto him, depending, now and always, "on the kindness of strangers." He is kind and sympathetic.

**Nurse: Minor (female plays 30's-40's)**

The Nurse is a brutal and impersonal character, institutional and severe in an almost stylized fashion. She wrestles Blanche to the ground.

**A Young Collector: Minor (male plays 16-20) *Must be 18 yrs of age due to intimacy with Blanche*** The Young Collector comes to collect money for the paper. Blanche throws herself at him shamelessly.

**A Mexican Woman: Minor (female plays 25-40)**

The Mexican Woman sells flowers for the dead during the powerful scene when Blanche recounts her fall from grace. *Spanish accent*

Minor roles may also double for nonspeaking roles such as a sailor, supernumeraries, etc.

## **Intimacy Content**

Intimacy will include:

- Affectionate moments (kisses, caresses, etc.) between Stanley and Stella
- Embraces between Stella and Blanche
- A single kiss between Blanche and the Newspaper Collector
- Minor intimate contact (hand holds, an embrace) between Blanche and Mitch
- The leadup to an unstaged sexual assault between Stanley and Blanche
- Moments in which Stanley is shirtless
- Moments in which Blanche wears only a slip and/or changes clothing on stage (never wearing less than a slip)