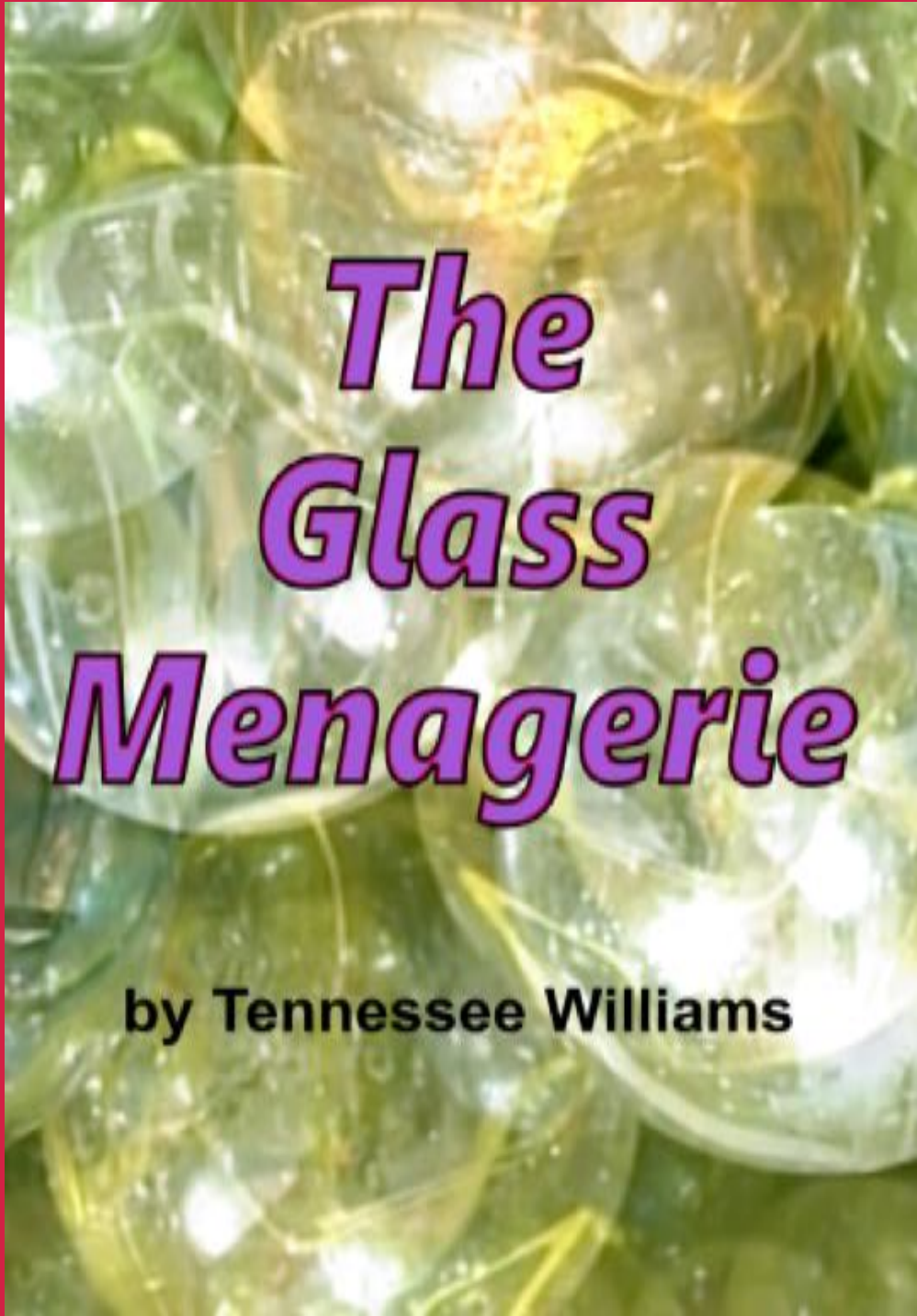


malverntheatre
company

is proud to present its 372nd major production



The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams

26 April – 11 May 2024

Directed by Barry O'Neill

By arrangement with **Concord Theatricals**, through **Origin Theatrical**

The Cast

Amanda Wingfield Kate Bowers
Laura Wingfield Holly Robertson
Tom Wingfield John Murphy
Jim O'Connor Ryan Peele

Synopsis

Acknowledged as one of the great classic plays of our time, this work catapulted Tennessee Williams to international success. Set in the harsh world of tenement apartment living in St Louis, Missouri during the Great Depression, the story is steeped in the hopes and pain of the Wingfield family.

Matriarch 'Amanda Wingfield' struggles with the reality of her life, joyfully re-imagining her youth as a Southern belle, while nurturing her emotionally fragile and painfully shy daughter, Laura. Her son, Tom, yearns to escape the confines of his home but remains trapped by his devotion to his sister. Williams' semi-autobiographical play examines the dreams and disappointments that ebb and flow in this bittersweet, sensitive portrayal of a family at odds with itself and reality.

Setting

The events take place in a 1930s tenement apartment in St. Louis, Missouri.

The play runs for approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes, including a 20 minute interval.



About the Playwright

Tennessee Williams

Premiering in 1944, *The Glass Menagerie* shot Tennessee Williams from obscurity to international fame at the age of 33. Over the next 40 years he became one of the most highly regarded playwrights of the 20th century, adding such classics as *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* to his credits. Most of Williams' plays have been adapted for the cinema and he also wrote short stories, poetry, essays and a volume of memoirs. Born Thomas Lanier Williams III in Mississippi, Williams led a colourful and controversial life until his death in 1983 at age 71.



Barry O'Neill – Director

Barry has been involved with all aspects of community theatre for over 40 years. He has worked with many companies including The Basin Theatre, Brighton Theatre Company, The 1812 Theatre and Malvern Theatre Company. As an actor his favourite roles include 'Roo' in *Summer of the 17th Doll*, 'McMurphy' in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, and 'Willy Loman' in *Death of a Salesman*, for which he won the Victorian Drama League's Best Actor award. His directing credits include *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Playing Sinatra*, *Mary Stuart*, and *The Other Place*, which won multiple Victorian Drama League awards including Best Production.



Kate Bowers – Amanda Wingfield

Malvern Theatre Company has provided Kate with some beautiful dramatic roles including 'Clara' in *33 Variations*, 'Maureen' in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and 'Jeanne' in *The Touch Of Silk*, as well as her all time favourite role as a cheeky dog in *Sylvia*. Recently Kate played 'Inspector Fix' in the comedy *Around the World in 80 Days* with Williamstown Little Theatre. Kate has been acknowledged for her acting work with awards from many companies as well as the Victorian Drama League and the Lyrebird awards. Debuting as Assistant Director in this show has been a delightful and rewarding challenge.



Holly Robertson – Laura Wingfield

Holly is delighted to be treading the Malvern Theatre Company boards for the first time, in a full circle moment - she took dance lessons right next door as a little, starry-eyed kid. Holly most recently appeared as 'Anne' in *All My Sons* with Williamstown Little Theatre. Prior to this, she worked with Mordialloc Theatre Company as 'Kate' in *Visitors* and as 'Rosie' in *Things I Know To Be True*. *The Glass Menagerie* is her favourite play and she is thrilled to be bringing the world of Tennessee Williams to life, alongside a great company of fellow actors.



John Murphy – Tom Wingfield

John is thrilled to return to the stage at Malvern Theatre Company having previously appeared in *Our Town* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Other favourite onstage appearances have been in *Flipside* and *Kimberly Akimbo*, both with Brighton Theatre Company, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Bad Jews* and *Farragut North* with Williamstown Little Theatre, as well as *Consent*, *The Kitchen Sink* and *Visiting Mr Green* with Mordialloc Theatre Company. A longtime fan of Tennessee Williams' writing, John is delighted to bring this classic play to Malvern Theatre Company audiences.



Ryan Peele – *Jim O'Connor*

Ryan is excited to be part of *The Glass Menagerie*, particularly as this is his debut appearance with Malvern Theatre Company. He is a proud graduate of the 16th Street Actors Studio, where he continues to participate in various scene studies and short courses. Some of these have included the portrayal of characters such as 'John Buchanan Jr' in *Summer and Smoke*, 'Eddie' in *Hurlyburly* and 'Roo Webber' in *Kid Stakes*. Ryan has found his journey with *The Glass Menagerie* to be a rewarding one and he appreciates the efforts put in by all involved to bring this play to life.

Thanks to our Sponsors



Community Bank Malvern East is a local bank with 23 years history dedicated to servicing the community with personalised service and great banking products. They are committed to remaining in the area with them recently purchasing their premises at 268 Waverley Road, Malvern East. With more than \$5m given back to community groups, they have demonstrated they feed into the prosperity of their

community, not off their community. Further details at bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/community-bank-malvern-east.



L'Olivo is a small, family-owned restaurant located at 171 Waverley Road in Malvern East. In a warm, friendly atmosphere, L'Olivo serves up an array of tasty Mediterranean delicacies including tapas, pastas, pizza and

much more. Recommended for a pre- or post-show meal, coffee or drink! Visit lolivo.com.au for further details or to book.



AUV Real Estate specialises in private sales and property management. They have achieved consistently strong results in the Malvern East area in 2022 and 2023. With both leasing and sales services being

offered, they can meet all your needs, no matter the enquiry. Further details at auvrealstate.com.au.

Menzies Malvern

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Live a short stroll from the delights of Malvern's cafes and boutiques while enjoying the peaceful retreat of your beautiful home. Menzies Malvern will enrich your wellbeing with a warm community of like-minded neighbours, resort-style luxuries and thoughtfully designed surrounds. It's your place to live well. Further details at menziesmalvern.com.au.

Director's Notes

Tennessee Williams often used his family members as the basis for his characters and whilst many critics view this play through an autobiographical lens, I have tried to ignore this bias and present the characters as we find them in the writing. The music is not what is in the original script, but together with the moody lighting and disconnected set is essential to capturing the spirit and intent of Tennessee's creation which, in his words, "can be presented with unusual freedom of convention". I am fortunate to have gathered an outstanding cast and crew to present this amazing work to Malvern Theatre audiences, and as always thank my wife Rhonda for her patience and support.

Production Team

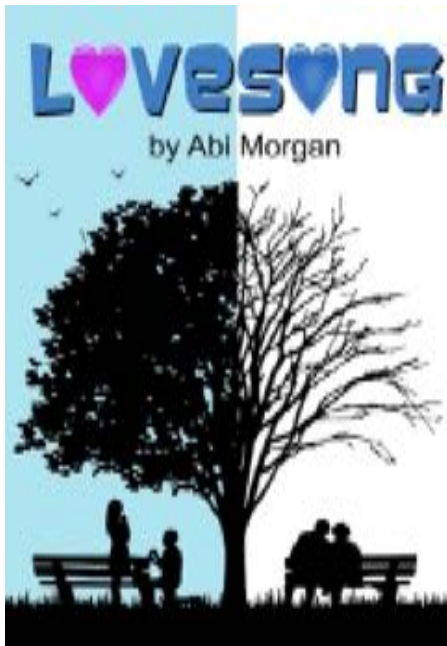
Director	Barry O'Neill
Assistant Director	Kate Bowers
Stage Manager	Kate Deavin
Assistant Stage Manager	Ian Amess
Set Designers.....	Barry O'Neill, Kate Bowers
Lighting Designer.....	Robin Le Blond
Sound Designer.....	Barry O'Neill
Lighting and Sound Operator	Linda Corrin
Costume Designer	Dina Mac Namara
Props Designer	Margaret Baxter
Accent Coach	Natasha Bowers
Choreography.....	Natasha Bowers
Technical Director	Michael Birkett
Rehearsal Prompt.....	Jenine Caruso
Set Construction.....	David Allen, Noel Ellis, ... Graeme Munro, Max Murray
Production Coordinator.....	Jenine Caruso
Program Designer	Janine Evans
Program Coordinator.....	Monica Greenwood
Photography	Lorraine Bell
FOH Manager.....	Judy Clues
Ticketbox Manager.....	David Gordon
Ticket Secretary	Kerry Carr

Calling All Volunteers

Would you like to volunteer at Malvern Theatre? There are many opportunities to be involved. Please visit our website and click on the 'Volunteer' tab to express your interest.



Next at Malvern Theatre Company



Lovesong

William and Margaret will share forty years of marriage, with moments of joy, but also much sadness. In this poignant and moving play we see them in both their optimistic and joyful younger years, as well as in their latter years, as they experience both happy memories and regrets.

BAFTA awardee Abi Morgan has created a play touching on "magical realism" as 'Bill' and 'Maggie' intertwine poetically and musically with their younger selves in the home and garden in which they have always lived. British Theatre Guide described Lovesong as "A really beautiful, tender work ... an unforgettable, elegiac drama". This will be the premiere, non-professional staging of this very special play.

Directed by George Werther

21 June – 6 July 2024

To book tickets, visit our website at malverntheatre.com.au/book-tickets or phone 1300 131 552

Acknowledgements

Malvern Theatre Company acknowledges that we are performing on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri People and offer our respects to their elders both past, present and emerging.

Malvern Theatre Company is very grateful for the support provided by the City of Stonnington.

We would like to extend our thanks to Richard Bowers and Neill Barnett for assistance with properties and to Shaun O'Neill for his assistance with music production.

As an organisation, we take pride in supporting the local volunteer network in the community and the charitable organisations that underpin this important work. As such, we have donated all benefits of the Charity Night performance to the following organisations:

- Ashburton Baptist Church;
- The Compassionate Friends Victoria.

If you are a member of a Charitable organisation and would like to raise funds by arranging a group to attend our Charity Night Preview Performance, please contact us at malverntheatrecompany@gmail.com.