

A Streetcar named DESIRE!



850

By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Danny Shaunessy

3 - 21 July, 2024

Tickets \$27/\$32

Bookings: mrt.org.au or 4933 2766

An Amateur Production By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical,
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd - A Concord Theatricals Company



GRAND HORIZONS

By Bess Wohl

PROGRAM

Directed by Brett Harston and Anne Robinson

24 April - 12 May, 2024

By arrangement with Music Theatre International Australasia Pty Ltd,
on behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Directors' Notes

Maybe many of our audience members will relate to Bill and Nancy in this play. They have dedicated their lives to each other and brought up two sons – the eldest is a lawyer and the youngest is a drama teacher.

But Nancy is now asking herself if there should be more for her so that she can enjoy her best life. Bill doesn't know how to respond. He has worked hard to support his family and has now reached a quiet and peaceful time in his life when he wants to enjoy his retirement. A quiet word to his sons about Nancy's shock announcement has brought Brian, Ben and his very pregnant wife, Jess, running to their home to try to pull all the pieces back together, so that they can be content in the knowledge that life as they know it will go on.

The Directors and cast have very much enjoyed exploring the details of this play and have had similar conversations which have probably been had in many homes with family members.

We hope you enjoy our production of Bess Wohl's play, Grand Horizons.

We'd like to thank our cast for all their hard work. We would also like to thank our hard-working Construction Crew who have brought our seniors' retirement unit set to life. A Big Thank You also to our Production Crew who are always working so hard.

Setting

Act 1

Scene 1: Dinnertime with Bill and Nancy in their unit, in an independent living community for seniors called Grand Horizons

Scene 2: A family meeting a few days later

Scene 3: The middle of the night

Scene 4: The next morning

Act 2

Scene 1: After moving to a new unit, some days later.

Scene 2: The next day

Nancy French: Jen Masson

Bill French: Michael Smythe

Ben: Sam Luff

Jess: Jessica Gray

Brian: Chad Mitchison

Carla: Linda Wallace

Cast



Production Team

Directors: Brett Harston and Anne Robinson

Production Manager: Robert Comber

Properties Manager: Dimity Eveleens

Stage Manager: Alexandra Comber

Assistant Stage Manager: Linda Wallace

Lighting Technician: Robert Comber

Sound Technician: Bryce Dowie

Set, Lighting, Sound Design: Brett Harston

Set Construction & Realisation: Ian Robinson, Danny Shaunessy, Alexandra Comber, Dimity Eveleens, Robert Comber, Linda Wallace, Anne Robinson, Saturday Morning Crew

Costumes: Anne Robinson and Cast

Make up: Cast, Aimee Cavanagh

Publicity: Ian Robinson and Alexandra Comber

Catering Officer: Terry Allen

Poster: Anne Robinson

Program: Kaysia Dowie

A special thank you to Brendan at Doors Plus, Broadmeadow

Thank you to our volunteer members who make this show possible, to the CONDA Judges Vanessa Bates, Karen Birrell, Larni Christie, Christine Fletcher, Wendy Leis, Sascha Okenhall and Dan Stranger,

to our patrons Meryl Swanson MP, Mayor Philip Penfold, Councillor Loretta Baker, Keith Cockburn, and to Scion Audio, ABC Radio 1233, The Sign Shop, Scott Deamer (Jim's Test and Tag) and to our audiences for their continued patronage.

Program proudly sponsored by

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land upon which Maitland Repertory Theatre stands.

Synopsis

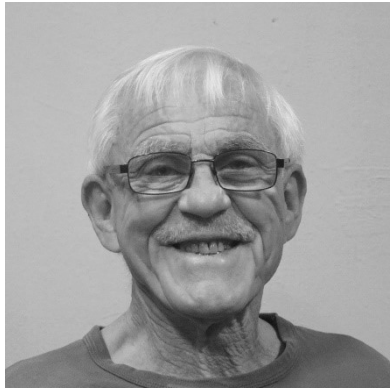
**What do you do after you've celebrated your 50-year marriage?
What happens next?**

Nancy suddenly feels trapped in her marriage to Bill, and would like a little space to enjoy the rest of her life, alone. Should she try something new or just fit in with the mundane life that she has with Bill? Is it time now to instigate a few changes, or should she (as suggested by one of her sons, Ben) have made some important decisions long ago, and asked Bill for a divorce when their two sons grew up and left home?

Does Nancy, as a parent, have a right to happiness in her later years or do their responsibilities for their sons continue, even after one of their sons has a family of his own?

Bill and Nancy have recently moved to a new home in an independent living community for seniors and are enjoying some new interests. Bill is taking a class in stand-up comedy and Nancy has organised a clothing drive for refugees. But should there be something more to life now? Is it too late to have a conversation about what comes next?

This play quizzically ponders issues of love and marriage and is a powerful play about life after retirement and family issues and relationships.



Bill French
Michael Smythe



Nancy French
Jen Masson



Ben
Sam Luff



Brian
Chad Mitchison



Carla
Linda Wallace



Jess
Jessica Gray