

# 'Streetcar' still rouses emotions

By BARBARA MICHALS

Man's desperate need to cling to illusions, a favorite theme in Tennessee Williams' plays, is poignantly illustrated in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

The Farmington Players' current production of this modern classic is still an emotional heavyweight, even if the storyline no longer shocks as it did when the play opened 30 years ago. Overall, the players offer impressive performances. Director Nancy Harrower keeps the pace pleasantly brisk, and all technical aspects of the show are well-polished.

"Streetcar" centers on Blanche DuBois, a fading beauty and tattered remnant of Southern aristocracy. Having just lost the family mansion, an impoverished Blanche moves in with her younger sister Stella and Stella's working class husband, Stanley Kowalski.

## Review

BLANCHE IS horrified by their sordid two-room apartment in New Orleans' French Quarter. She is even more shocked by Stanley's overt earthiness, which she characterizes as disgustingly animal-like.

It is soon apparent that the earthiness Blanche finds so repulsive in Stanley is really a side of her own nature she refuses to acknowledge. Feeling guilty over a youthful tragedy with her homosexual husband, Blanche has ever since sought solace with every passing male.

Nevertheless, she desperately clings to her illusions of gentility. When those illusions are irreparably stripped away, Blanche can no longer function.

Janice Salisbury is a strong Blanche, perhaps a little too strong. This Blanche does not earn the viewer's full sympathy as she disintegrates before our eyes because she is already too far gone from the outset.

A softer Blanche is needed for the early scenes. Ms. Salisbury works hard in the role, but often the characterization seems too forced.

OTHER CAST MEMBERS succeed with low-key approaches. As Stanley, Ron Turek is thoroughly convincing. Subtle facial expressions help convey Stanley's sexuality rather than the Neanderthal grunts made famous by Marlon Brando in the role.

Sandy Dittich does a fine job as Stella, the soft-spoken, level-headed sister who supposedly has no illusions about herself or her marriage. Eventually, though, she too must seek the comfort of self-deception. Jack Gruke gives a moving and sen-

sitive performance as Mitch, the lonely young man Blanche grasps at as her last chance for respectability. An awkward and vulnerable suitor, Mitch is fooled by Blanche's pretensions because he wants to be.

In a small role, Sharon Kolbasa is very effective as Eunice, the Kowalskis' coarsely sexual neighbor, and Gary Strong and Douglas Buckley are satisfactory as Stanley's beer-guzzling buddies. As a nurse, Sharlan Kowalski is the epitome of de-sexed institutionalism.

The women's costumes and hairdos capture the essence of their characters—Stella's plain frocks and straight hair, Eunice's tight sheaths and up-do, and Blanche's satins, rhinestones and carefully arranged coiffure.

"A Streetcar Named Desire" continues at the Farmington Players' playhouse tonight through Sunday, Nov. 12, and Thursday-Saturday evenings, Nov. 16-18.

# New York actors head cast of drama

Five New York actors will comprise the cast for the Meadow Brook Theatre's forthcoming production, "That Championship Season," which will open a four-week run tonight at 8:30 on the campus of Oakland University near Rochester.

Jason Miller's triple award-winning comedy-drama tells the story of four former basketball players and their annual reunion with their old coach to celebrate the state championship they won 20 years ago.

During the course of their evening together, the four victorious but now defeat-ridden old teammates drunkenly celebrate and turn to their coach, who rallies the team together by summing up their old will to win. He appeals to their sense of nostalgia and infects them, as he always has, with his own ship-worn, corrupt and unethical guides to success. Joseph Warren has returned to

Meadow Brook to play the coach. Warren was acclaimed for his portrayal of Ben in the Meadow Brook production of "The Little Foxes."

TWO OTHER returning favorites in the five-member cast are Richard Jamieson and Eric Tavaris. Jamieson played the title role in "The Show-Off," which also toured the state. Eric Tavaris was seen here last season in "She Stoops to Conquer" and "Table Manners."

Opening week performances are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. today and Friday, 2 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Sunday and 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Tickets for all Meadow Brook Theatre performances may be purchased at Hudson's or by calling 377-3300, the Meadow Brook Theatre box office.

**Pre-Season INSULATION Special**  
**\$279** per 1000 sq. ft. ceiling  
 6" blown fiberglass  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
 Roll Insulation Available for Do-It-Yourselfers  
**478-6046 • 227-4839**  
 Jones Insulation Supplies

**SAN MARINO GOLF CLUB Christmas Sale**  
**UP TO 50% OFF**  
 • Clubs • Bags  
 • Balls • Shoes  
 and more  
 • Men's & Ladies  
 Clothes  
**SALE GOOD THRU 12-20-78**  
**OPEN 10 AM 7 PM DAILY**  
 Halstead St. of 12 Mile  
 Farmington Hills  
**476-5910**

**PAUL HARVEY HE'S CANDID. HE'S OUTSPOKEN. HE'S GOOD. HE'S OURS. WCAR RADIO 11**  
 8:30 A.M. 12 NOON 6:30 P.M.  
 Golden West Broadcasters, Inc.

**GARAGE DOOR OPENERS**  
 BY ALLIANCE MODEL GS 450  
**\$168.88**  
 INSTALLED  
 SOLID STATE CONTROLS  
**\$175.00**  
 DIGITAL CONTROLS  
 1 YEAR WARRANTY  
**ALADDIN "GENIE" Sales & Service**  
 Serving Tri-County Areas  
 WESTLAND PARTS & SERVICE PONTIAC  
 722-0610 335-9079

**Reupholster Your Furniture**  
 Treasures, Save 1/3  
 THE COST OF NEW FURNITURE  
 Let us reupholster your heirlooms... re-style favorite pieces. All work completed in our own shop. Craftsmanship and materials are superior. Choose from hundreds of smart new decorator fabrics in traditional and contemporary patterns.  
 Call for Free Estimate... 642-0480  
 Decorators to assist you  
**VAN Interiors and Upholstery Co.**  
 We honor Master Charge and Visa. Convenient Terms are available.

# PINE LUMBER COLD REMEDIES AND ENERGY SAVERS

**Put a Storm Door on Your Patio Door and Save Money.**

**Feather-lite**  
 This remarkable new Storm Door acts as a thermal insulator when installed over your existing patio door.

• Button up the coldest opening in your house: your patio door.

• Seals out cold and drafts around your patio door.

• Pays for itself through savings in heating and air conditioning.

• Relieves icing and condensation on your patio door.

• Made with tempered safety glass.

• Fits 6'x8' standard openings.

• Easily installed by anyone.

• Available in Perma-white finishes.

**\$109.95\***

**SLASH FUEL BILLS YEAR ROUND! WITH 2in-Sider Storm Window**

Installs from inside. Do-it-yourself. Cuts heat loss through windows up to 88%. Saves on heating costs now, cooling costs in summer. Clear, rigid plastic snaps in and snaps out of vinyl trim.

**45% MORE HEAT RETENTION than Aluminum Doors!**

Guaranteed to last for as long as you own your home!

**NEW! the Forever door from EMCO**

No other insulating door in the world can match the advantages built into EMCO's Forever Door. In certified tests it displayed far better insulating ability than aluminum doors. And it's so durable that EMCO guarantees\* it to last for as long as you own your home. Consider additional features like a completely self-storing combination screen and window, a security key lock and a long-lasting Duffel field, and it's easy to see why everyone's excited.

Stop in soon and check out the amazing Forever Door for yourself. We promise, you've never seen anything like it... until now!

**\$139.95**

**COLONIAL REAL WOOD SHELVES AND BRACKETS**

**BY BARCLAY**

...In Handy Take Home Kits

Each Kit Complete With Shelf, Brackets, Hardware And Decorative Spindles in 2', 3', 4' and 5' Sizes.

**2' KIT JUST \$16.89**

**WEATHERBOARD**

the warmth and beauty of rustic barnboards.

The Original TM Vermont Weatherboard is the premium quality barnboard recognized by architects, builders and interior designers as the standard of the industry. Each board is hand selected to provide consistent color and grain with no random sprinkling of knots. It's ideal for all interior and exterior uses.

**\$7.95** (24 sq. ft. Pkg.)

**Beautiful garage doors economically priced.**

Now you can accent your home with an attractive garage door and still stay within your budget. Our wood panel garage doors give you high quality features at attractive low prices. And there's a panel for every home design. Including a section panel with a wood grain finish. Available in most springs. Enhance your home's appearance with a wood panel garage door from Pine Lumber.

**8'x7' INSTALLED \$215.00**  
**8'x7' CASH \$155.40**  
**& CARRY**

9'x16' ALSO AVAILABLE ALONG WITH RADIO CONTROLLED ELECTRIC OPERATORS

**HANDY BOARDS**  
 No. 2/STANDARD WHITE PINE

	10'	12'	14'	16'	18'	20'
2x4	2.30	2.49	2.91	3.94	4.28	4.71
2x6	2.96	3.69	4.49	5.31	6.70	6.96
2x8	3.64	6.32	6.85	7.26	8.20	10.63
2x10	4.51	7.81	9.85	10.83	11.33	12.61
2x12	7.95	10.37	11.17	13.82	16.61	19.45

**CONSTRUCTION GRADE LUMBER**

	10'	12'	14'	16'	18'	20'
2x4	2.30	2.49	2.91	3.94	4.28	4.71
2x6	2.96	3.69	4.49	5.31	6.70	6.96
2x8	3.64	6.32	6.85	7.26	8.20	10.63
2x10	4.51	7.81	9.85	10.83	11.33	12.61
2x12	7.95	10.37	11.17	13.82	16.61	19.45

**PRESERVATIVE PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER FOR FENCES, DECKS AND MANY OTHER USES**

	10'	12'	14'	16'	18'	20'
2x4	2.24	2.74	3.56	4.28	5.31	7.20
2x6	3.41	3.98	5.51	6.52	8.21	10.53
2x8	4.10	5.37	8.42	8.82	10.22	12.42

MANY OTHER LENGTHS, WIDTHS AND THICKNESSES AVAILABLE

**SOME ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL LOCATIONS**

**LUMBER YARD HOURS—ALL LOCATIONS**  
 MON. THRU THURS. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. — FRIDAY 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 SATURDAY 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. — SUNDAY 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MT. CLEMENS	UTICA	WEST SIDE	LINCOLN PARK
5 S. GROESBECK South of Cass Ave. 469-2300	48075 VAN DYKE Set. 21 Mi. & 22 Mi. 739-7463	12222 INKSTER RD. Bet. Plymouth & Schoolcraft 937-9111	3255 FORT ST. Bet. Southfield & Grosse Pointe 386-5177

YPSILANTI	WATERFORD TWP.	BRIGHTON	SOUTHFIELD
626 N. HURON 481-1500	7374 HIGHLAND RD. On Old River Road & Williams Ln. Rd. 666-2450	525 MAIN ST. 1 Blk. W. of Grand River 227-1831	22800 W. 8 MILE 1/4 Mile E. of Telegraph 353-2570

ALL ITEMS CASH & CARRY SALE PRICES MARKED WITH \* GOOD NOV. 9 THROUGH NOV. 12