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Academy  
of  
Music

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## News Release

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**BAM presents the Sydney Theatre Company production of  
Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Nov 27–Dec 20**

**Production marks U.S. directorial debut of Liv Ullmann and  
features Cate Blanchett as Blanche DuBois, Joel Edgerton as  
Stanley, and Robin McLeavey as Stella**

**The Wall Street Journal is the Presenting Sponsor of  
*A Streetcar Named Desire***

### ***A Streetcar Named Desire***

By Tennessee Williams  
Sydney Theatre Company  
Directed by Liv Ullmann

Set design by Ralph Myers  
Costume design by Tess Schofield  
Lighting design by Nick Schlieper  
Sound design by Paul Charlier

**BAM Harvey Theater** (651 Fulton St)  
Nov 27 and 28, Dec 1\*, 2, 3\*\*, 4, 5, 8–12, 15–19 at 7:30pm  
Nov 28, Dec 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, and 19 at 2pm  
Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, and 20 at 3pm  
Tickets: \$30, 65, 95 (Tues–Thurs); \$40, 80, 120 (Fri–Sun)  
718.636.4100 or BAM.org

\*press opening

\*\**A Streetcar Named Desire*: Belle Rêve Gala (performance begins at 8pm)

### **Artist Talk with Liv Ullmann: Between Screen and Stage**

Moderated by Phillip Lopate, writer and professor at Columbia University.  
Dec 7 at 7pm  
BAM Harvey Theater  
Tickets: \$15 (\$7.50 for Friends of BAM)



## Artist Talk with cast members

Moderated by Lynn Hirschberg, The New York Times Magazine editor-at-large  
Dec 8, post-show (free for same-day ticket holders)

**Brooklyn, N.Y./Oct 23, 2009**—In a special winter presentation, Sydney Theatre Company returns to BAM with Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, directed by renowned actor/director/writer Liv Ullmann and featuring Academy Award-winning actress/Sydney Theatre Company Co-Artistic Director Cate Blanchett as Blanche DuBois, Joel Edgerton as Stanley Kowalski, Robin McLeavy as Stella Kowalski, and Tim Richards as Mitch. The production marks Liv Ullmann's U.S. directorial debut and Blanchett's second BAM engagement—following her acclaimed performance in Sydney Theatre Company's *Hedda Gabler* (2006 Spring Season).

The production's cast includes Cate Blanchett (Blanche DuBois), Michael Denkha (Steve Hubbell), Joel Edgerton (Stanley Kowalski), Elaine Hudson (A Strange Woman), Gertraud Ingeborg (A Mexican Woman), Morgan David Jones (A Young Collector), Russell Kiefel (A Strange Man), Jason Klarwein (Pablo Gonzales), Mandy McElhinney (Eunice Hubbell), Robin McLeavy (Stella Kowalski), Tim Richards (Mitch), and Sara Zwangobani (Rosetta).

*A Streetcar Named Desire* premiered at Sydney Theatre, where it enjoyed a sold-out run from September 1–October 17, 2009. According to The Australian, "Liv Ullmann's production—traditional, straightforward, lovingly loyal to the text and done with the kind of emotional, heightened realism that Williams sought in all his stage writing—reminds us how shocking this great play was and still is. It is rivetingly involving." The Sydney Morning Herald remarked, "...Blanchett's performance is a brilliant demonstration of range and control," and "...Joel Edgerton's film career has denied theatergoers a commanding leading man for too long." Variety says Robin McLeavy "projects a fleshy, cavalier openness that is shamelessly relaxed," while "Tim Richards brings remarkable empathy to Stanley's buddy Mitch, delicately balancing desire and fear," according to the Daily Telegraph. *A Streetcar Named Desire* will be presented at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. prior to the engagement at BAM.

**Sydney Theatre Company**, the premier theater company in Australia, was established in 1978. The company presents an annual twelve-play program at its home base, The Wharf, at the nearby Sydney Theatre (which STC also manages), and as the resident theater company of the Sydney Opera House. Current Artistic Directors Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton joined the Company early in 2008. STC offers Sydney audiences an eclectic program of Australian plays, lively interpretations of the classic repertoire, and the best of new international writing. The company actively fosters collaborations with international artists and companies. Renowned directors Michael Blakemore, Max Stafford-Clark, Declan Donnellan, and Philip Seymour Hoffman have worked with STC in recent years; Liv Ullmann and Steven Soderbergh are both directing in the current season. STC has presented productions by Complicite, Cheek By Jowl, Out-of-Joint, and the National Theatre of Great Britain. It has fostered the theater careers of internationally renowned Australian artists including Mel Gibson, Judy Davis, Hugo Weaving, Geoffrey Rush, Toni Colette, and Cate Blanchett. The company made its BAM debut with *The White Devil* (2001) and returned in 2006 with *Hedda Gabler*.

**Liv Ullmann** is a Norwegian actress and director. She was an established actress when Ingmar Bergman wrote the film *Persona* for Bibi Andersson and herself. She continued to work with him for the rest of his life. Ullmann has appeared on the stage and in movies all over the world. Throughout her career she has received numerous awards and honorable doctorates, and she has been nominated twice for an Academy Award. For five years in a row the National Board of Film Critics and the New York Film Critics Circle named her the best film actress in the world.

Ullmann made her Broadway debut as Nora in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* in 1975 and has since starred on Broadway four times as well as on London's West End, in Scandinavia, in Los Angeles, and

in Sydney in 1979 with Cocteau's *The Human Voice*. Her first film as a director was the Danish movie *Sophie*, for which she also wrote the screenplay. Since then, she has directed three feature movies and one short film, two of which were written by Ingmar Bergman.

Liv Ullmann is Vice Chairperson International for the International Rescue Committee, a refugee organization founded on the suggestion of Albert Einstein during the Second World War. She has traveled for many years to the poorest parts of the world and thus became the co-founder of Women's Refugee Commission 20 years ago—established to create laws to protect the human rights of homeless women and children. She has written two autobiographies, which have been translated into more than 25 languages. In 1997, she published *Letters to my Grandchild*, a book asking artists to write a letter to their grandchild about how they wished the world would be for their generation. It has since been translated into many languages. A feature documentary was made about Liv, called *Scenes from a Life*, narrated by Woody Allen.

For press information contact Sandy Sawotka at 718.636.4129 x1 or [ssawotka@bam.org](mailto:ssawotka@bam.org)

#### Credits

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Sydney Theatre Company is supported by Principal Sponsor Audi and Patron Mr. Giorgio Armani.

Programming in the BAM Harvey Theater is endowed by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

BAM thanks its many donors and sponsors, including The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; New York City Council; Estate of Richard B. Fisher; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; The Starr Foundation; The Shubert Foundation, Inc.; Carnegie Corporation of New York; The Howard Gilman Foundation; Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc.; The Skirball Foundation; The SHS Foundation; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; New York State Assembly Brooklyn Delegation; Friends of BAM and BAM Cinema Club. Sovereign Bank is the BAM Marquee sponsor. Yamaha is the official piano for BAM. R/GA is the BAM.org sponsor. New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge is the official hotel for BAM.

#### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Shakespeare & Co. at BAM kiosks. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, is open for dining prior to Howard Gilman Opera House performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on weekend nights with a special BAMcafé Live menu available starting at 8pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue;  
D, M, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Flatbush Avenue  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket and BAMbus information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

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