

GLT POINTS TO LINGERING SOCIETAL ISSUES IN 'A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE'

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Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* may have been written for a different time, but Georgetown Little Theatre director Marilyn Nicholas-Dahan says she plans to remind audiences how its themes continue to haunt today.

The play is centred on tragic heroine Blanche DuBois who loses her family home and moves into a tiny apartment with her sister Stella and her violent brother-in-law Stanley Kowalski, with whom she does not get along. Blanche initially paints a picture of an innocent tale of misfortune, but all is slowly unravelled and it is revealed she is not quite who she portrays to be.

Though written in 1947, the play sheds light on a number of pertinent issues today, including violence against women, toxic masculinity, homophobia and discourse around mental illness.

"It still has a lot of relevance and the actors were really interested in exploring those issues and the dynamics of the characters, and the hot steaminess and being confined in this little dinky apartment," Nicholas-Dahan said.

For actor Taylor Grist, who portrays the boorish Stanley, the role meant a complete transformation - and a lot of room to experiment.

"I read the play over a year ago for the first time and when I first read it, I



Michael Halsall

'A Streetcar Named Desire' opens this weekend at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown.

thought I could never play this part," he said.

But after further consideration, Grist says he devised a plan. Physically, he would need to gain some weight to look more like Stanley. And mentally, he would have to find a way to empathize with him.

"It's kind of terrible to try to relate to Stanley in a lot of ways, but there is common ground there and that's sort

of what makes it a complex story because he's not outwardly a villain," Grist said. "Somewhere in there he's a human and that's a genuine aspect to the story over all."

The high-drama show has its moments of violence, but also some elements that are light and comedic.

Grist says for all scenes, but especially the darker ones, the cast maintained a strategy throughout the re-

hearsal process. They would completely immerse themselves in the moments on stage and then check out once the scene ended and have a look at the work they've done from an outside perspective.

"I hope people enjoy a dip into some drama and something with some real meat to it, that isn't too heavy and makes them feel like it's a draining experience, but

makes them feel like 'Wow, I feel entertained in a way that got my heart going in a few different ways,'" he said.

Nicholas-Dahan says she hopes the show allows audience members to take an introspective look at their own words and actions and realize the extent to which they can impact others.

"It should leave the audience really thinking, we're not done with homophobia. We're not done with violence against women, domestic violence. The attitude of some men - the he-man thing. And dominance over women and suppressing their thoughts," she said. "The repercussions of the things you say and do can really affect people's lives."

A Streetcar Named Desire is playing at the John Elliott Theatre on Feb. 1-2 and 7-9 at 8 p.m. and on Feb. 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. For tickets, visit <https://secure1.tixhub.com/haltonhills/online/index.asp>. Using the Promo Code DESIRE, tickets are available at \$18 each for opening night (Feb. 1). This offer is applicable both online and at the John Elliott Theatre Box Office.

COMMUNITY



Veronica Appia/Metroland

Julie Little of CASHh addressed the crowd with her opening statement at the 11th annual Pink PJ Party.

11TH ANNUAL PINK PYJAMA PARTY RAISES MORE THAN \$18K

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD CANCER ASSISTANCE SERVICES OF HALTON HILLS AND PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

On Jan. 18, Nashville North was flooded by hundreds of women dressed in shades of pink coming out to support the 11th annual Our Sister's Pink PJ Party.

The night of food, drinks, dancing and camaraderie raised more than \$18,000 in support of

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHh) and Princess Margaret Hospital.

"On behalf of Alyson Findlay and myself, we would like to thank all of the wonderful ladies that came out to support this event. We would also like

to thank Kit Andrew of Nashville North, DJ Tom Jokic of CHUM FM, Georgetown Chevrolet, Generations Physiotherapy, Brand Alliance, Allison Clark Photography, the amazing firefighters, all of the generous local merchants and the awesome volunteers," said Julie Little of CASHh.

"Thank you for helping make this event such a great success again this year."

COUNTDOWN TO THE RAIDERS NEXT HOME GAME

Saturday Feb. 2nd, 2019
7:30 pm at Mold-Masters SportsPlex
Georgetown Raiders vs. Buffalo Jr. Sabres

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