



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two River Theater Company
presents

The Glass Menagerie

By **Tennessee Williams**

Directed by **Robert M. Rechnitz**

Original Music by **Robert Waldman**

March 25 – April 13, 2008

Red Bank, NJ – Two River Theater Company presents ***The Glass Menagerie*** by Tennessee Williams. Directed by TRTC Founder and Executive Producer **Robert M. Rechnitz**, this timeless classic with original music composed by **Robert Waldman**, will run from **March 25 through April 13, 2008**. Set in 1930s St Louis, ***The Glass Menagerie*** is a memory play that examines impossible family relationships, born of abandonment, and viewed through the shifting prism of time, distance, and lost hopes. This masterwork of the American theater is an intimate exploration of one family's heartfelt struggles.

Director Robert M. Rechnitz, named by Newark's *Star-Ledger* one of "20 New Jerseyans to Watch" in the new century, is one of the most celebrated directors and interpreters of American literature in the state. His production of the classic comedy, *You Can't Take It with You* was hailed by *The Star-Ledger* as a "smashing success" and the "best revival of the 2004-2005 New Jersey theatrical season." He also received a nomination for Best Director of a Comedy from *The Star-Ledger* for his direction of *Curse of the Starving Class*. Other productions Dr. Rechnitz has directed for Two River Theater Company include *True West*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Thieves' Carnival*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *American Buffalo*. Dr. Rechnitz is the published author of short fiction and literary criticism and for 30 years was a professor of American Literature at Monmouth University.

Two-time winner of The Pulitzer Prize (*A Streetcar Named Desire*, 1948 and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, 1955), **Tennessee Williams** (1911 – 1983) is considered one of the greatest American playwrights. In addition to his two Pulitzers, Williams was nominated four times for the Tony Award for Best Play, winning in 1951 for *The Rose Tattoo*. His other major plays include *Summer and Smoke*, *Camino Real*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Not About Nightingales*, and *The Night of the Iguana*.

Original music for *The Glass Menagerie* has been composed and orchestrated by **Robert Waldman**. A protégé of Frank Loesser, Waldman's Broadway credits include *The Robber Bridegroom* – for which he was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music, the Tony Award-winning production of

Alfred Uhry's *Last Night at Ballyhoo*, *Here's Where I Belong*, and *Voices in the Dark*. Productions at Lincoln Center include *Third*, *The Rivals*, *Dinner at Eight*, *10 Unknowns*, *Ivanov*, *A Fair Country*, *The Heiress*, and *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*. Waldman was honored with Chicago's Jefferson Award for Best Music in a Dramatic Work for *Driving Miss Daisy*. Other off-Broadway and regional credits include *A Life in the Theater*, *The Rise and Rise of Daniel Rocket*, *Hyde in Hollywood*, *The Empty Heart*, *2 Lives*, *The Country Wife*, *Richard II*, *America's Sweetheart*, *Swing*, *A Christmas Carol*, *School for Scandal* and *Chapeaux*. Waldman has also written 40 songs for *Captain Kangaroo*.

The four-actor cast is led by Two River Theater Company favorite **Maureen Silliman** (TRTC: *Our Town*, *The Real Thing*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*; Broadway: *Shenandoah*, *I Remember Mama*, *Is There Life After High School?* Off- Broadway: *Blue Window*, *Three Postcards*, *Marathon Dancing*. National Tours: *Fiddler On The Roof*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds*). Silliman, the sole actor on TRTC's board of trustees, returns to portray the tragic and coveted role of Amanda Wingfield. **Andrew Pastides** (TRTC: *Tartuffe*; Regional: *Makeout Session*, *Molly's Delicious*, *The Chosen*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*) and **Letitia Lange** (Regional: *Doubt*, *The Tempest*, *King Lear*, *Lovers*) portray brother and sister Tom and Laura Wingfield. **William Connell** (NY and regional: *The Coast of Utopia*, *The Maddening Truth*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *The Early Years*, *All's Well That End's Well*, *Mary Stuart*, *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*, *The Tempest*) plays Jim O'Connor, the gentleman caller.

In addition to composer **Waldman**, the creative team includes scenic design by **Marion Williams** (New York: Tristen Skyles's *The Moonlight Room*, Marlene Meyer's *The Mystery of Attraction*; International: *The Turn of the Screw*, Leipzig, Germany), winner of the 2004 Princess Grace Award for Design and Two River Theater Company newcomer. TRTC welcomes back costume designer **Niki Hernandez-Adams** (TRTC: *Mere Mortals*; *Twist* a new rock musical at the Kraine Theater, *Pants on Fire* at American Repertory Theater), lighting designer **Joel Moritz** (TRTC: *Our Town*, International: Blue Man Group, New York: *Tatjana in Color*, *wAve*, *Just as If*, *The Tempest*, *Elliot a Soldier's Fugue*, *Phedre*), and sound designer **Zachary Williamson** (TRTC: *The Charlatan's Séance*, *Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, *House of Blue Leaves*; Off-Broadway: *Secrets of Soccer Moms*, *Make Me A Song*, *Take Me Along*, *Devil's Disciple*, *Sive*, *Gaslight*, *Defender of the Faith*).

In conjunction with the show, TRTC's artistic department has tapped into the memories and talents of artists and neighbors of the Two River Community. An exhibit displayed in the lobby throughout the run explores: What memories do we hold onto? And what memories hold onto us? This walk down Memory Lane is only as far as the balcony.

The Glass Menagerie begins previews on Tuesday, March 25; opens Saturday, March 29; and runs through Sunday, April 13. **Tickets are \$20 - \$56** and are available by calling the TRTC Box Office at **732.345.1400**, online at **www.trtc.org** or by visiting the Box Office at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank. The production is sponsored in part by **Wachovia Securities**. **Continental Airlines** is the official airline of Two River Theater Company.

What did Tennessee Williams' mom say when she saw the show? Is writing what you know cathartic or catastrophic? Examine the writers' process of putting personal experience on the stage in **B4 Play**, TRTC's **free, pre-show discussion series**. Scheduled 45 minutes prior to every performance, this window into the creative process will be alternately hosted by **KJ Sanchez**, TRTC's Associate Artistic Director, and **Liz Green**, TRTC's Artistic Associate and Casting Director.

Post-show discussions are scheduled following the 8pm performance on Wednesday, April 2 and following the matinees on Sunday, April 6 at 3pm and Wednesday, April 9 at 1pm. **Student matinee performances** are scheduled at 10am on Tuesdays, April 1 and April 8. **Discounted group rates and dinner / theater packages** are available through the Box Office or by calling TRTC's Sales Line at 732.345.1400 ext 813.

TRTC is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assisted listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

CALENDAR NOTICE: THE GLASS MENAGERIE EVENTS:

Tuesday, March 25 through Sunday, April 13 – Memory Lane: A glimpse into the memories of artists and neighbors of the Two River Community will dress Two River Theater's lobby.

Tuesday, March 25 – Community preview performance sponsored by Zager, Fuchs PC. More than 100 members of Monmouth County Arts Council will be treated to the first public performance of the show.

Saturday, March 29 – Opening Night performance of *The Glass Menagerie* at 8pm will be followed by a celebration in the theater's lobby.

Wednesday, April 2, 8pm; Sunday, April 6, 3pm; Wednesday, April 9, 1pm – **Post-show discussions** with the cast will these performances.

Thursday, April 10 – An **audio-described performance** is scheduled at 8pm. Tickets are \$12 for those needing audio-description. Call 732.345.1400.

WHERE:

Two River Theater Company
21 Bridge Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

WHEN:

March 25 – April 13, 2008

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *The Glass Menagerie* on

Saturday, March 29 at 8pm. Please schedule tickets through Jayme Powers, Director of

Communications, by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 830** or via email at **jpowers@trtc.org**.

WHO:

Written by **Tennessee Williams**
Directed by **Robert M. Rechnitz**
Original Music by **Robert Waldman**
Scenic Design by **Marion Williams**
Costume Design by **Niki Hernandez-Adams**
Lighting Design by **Joel Moritz**
Sound Design by **Zachary Williamson**
Production Stage Manager **Elizabeth Kegley**

CAST:

William Connell – Jim O'Connor
Letitia Lange – Laura Wingfield
Andrew Pastides – Tom Wingfield
Maureen Silliman – Amanda Wingfield

TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company, providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz as Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years, and over the past 13 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Brown, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, and Sheldon Harnick. In 2006, the company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from both *The Star Ledger* and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.