

Pre-Show In-The-Know

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

WRITTEN BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

CURRICULUM LINKS

Stage 5: Dramatic Traditions and Performance Styles:
Scripted Drama

Stage 6: Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Big Daddy is dying. Big Mama is in the dark. Brick is at the bottom of a bottle. But Maggie is alive, desperately alive, and dancing like a cat on a hot tin roof. We meet this fabled family when lies are rife, tensions are boiling over and their future is at stake.

An incomparable cast gather for this boozy, sultry furore of Southern fireworks. Hugo Weaving will be at his magnetic best as the commanding patriarch. The transcendent Pamela Rabe returns as Big Mama following her Helpmann Award-winning performance in *The Children*. Harry Greenwood (*Cloud Nine*) brings fresh brilliance to the stratified role of Brick and Zahra Newman (*The Book of Mormon*) will give us an unmissable Maggie the Cat.

They are joined by STC favourites including Peter Carroll (*Mary Stuart*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*), Josh McConville (*Cloud Nine*, *All My Sons*) and Anthony Brandon Wong (*Chimerica*). All the while, the extraordinary vision of award-winning Artistic Director Kip Williams continues to turn up the heat.

Tennessee Williams' classic play is set on a steamy plantation in the Mississippi Delta. It's Big Daddy's birthday. He's built his family an empire of 12,000 acres, but that won't help him beat cancer. Brick, the favourite son, is a golden boy drinking himself into oblivion, while his wife Maggie claws at him for a moment of affection.

With a creative team leaning in to Tennessee Williams' original desires and infusing this time-honoured story with scalding relevance, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* will be an unforgettable night at the theatre.

CAST AND CHARACTERS

Reverend Tooker	Peter Carroll
Brick	Harry Greenwood
Gooper	Josh McConville
Maggie	Zahra Newman
Big Muma	Pamela Rable
Mae	Nicki Shiels
Big Daddy	Hugo Weaving
Dr Baugh	Anthony Brandon Wong
Dixie	Addison Bourke/Lila Artemise Tapper
Buster	Tristan Bowes/ Arie Trajevski
Polly	Emily Harriss/ Holly Simon
Sonny	Jye McCallum/ Jerra Wright-Smith

STYLE

Romantic Melodrama
Plastic Theatre

RUNNING TIME

3 hours

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- A wall of lights that becomes the backdrop in Act 2.
- A jazz song, *Cry me a River*, sung by Zahra Newman.
- 8 children in the cast who serve as a distraction to the action, singing & running around with sparklers and toy guns.
- Movable set pieces, including a shower and mirrored wardrobe.

ADAPTATION AND DESIGN

The design of this production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, is essentially re-contextualising the play in modern times. The idea is that this household is a relic of the past, a kind of museum that is trying to hold the younger generation back in the 1950s status quo. In addition to modern pieces there is furniture from the 70s, 60s and 50s. The world is still in the Mississippi Delta, and a lot of the social tensions and power dynamics that inform the conflict of this drama still exist.