

STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Andre` Previn

Opera in three acts Sung in English with English supertitles

Synopsis

Based on the celebrated and Pulitzer Prize-winning Tennessee Williams play, the opera is set in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The "Desire" of the title refers partly to the city's streetcars, where "Desire" and "Cemetery" run on a single track. The play enjoyed a highly successful run on Broadway, and was also the subject of an unforgettable movie, which earned five Academy Awards.

The story, in brief, deals with Blanche DuBois, an aging Southern belle, who comes to live with her sister Stella and Stella's husband Stanley. Annoyed at Blanche's pretensions to gentility and her coquettish behavior, Stanley thwarts Blanche's marriage hopes. The disillusioned Blanche stands up to Stanley and is raped during the confrontation. At the end, with her illusions still strong, she is taken away to a mental hospital.