

OPERA
SAN JOSE

PREVIN'S

A Streetcar Named Desire

PRESS KIT

OPERA
SAN JOSE

PRESENTS

A Streetcar Named Desire

Opera in three acts

Music by André Previn

Libretto by Philip Littell

First performed by San Francisco Opera,
September 19, 1998.

Sung in English with English supertitles.

Supported, in part, by a grant from the
San José Office of Cultural Affairs.

PRESS CONTACT

Bryan Ferraro

Communications Manager

Office (408) 437-2229

Mobile (408) 316-2008

ferraro@operasj.org

operasj.org

For additional information go to

<http://www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room/press-kit/>



CAST

ARTISTIC TEAM

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

YOUNG COLLECTOR

Xavier Prado

BLANCHE DUBOIS

Ariana Strahl

EUNICE HUBBELL

Cabiria Jacobsen

STELLA KOWALSKI

Stacey Tappan

Sara Duchovnay*

OLD RELATIVE

Teressa Foss

STANLEY KOWALSKI

Matthew Hanscom

Eugene Brancoveanu*

HAROLD "MITCH" MITCHELL

Kirk Dougherty

STEVE HUBBELL

Michael Boley

DOCTOR

SILAS ELASH

NURSE

Teressa Foss

*Appears in the 5/1 performance

CONDUCTOR

Ming Luke

Matthew Piatt*

STAGE DIRECTOR

Brad Dalton

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Wesley Daniel

SET DESIGN

Brad Dalton

COSTUME DESIGNER

Johann Stegmeir

LIGHTING DESIGN

David Lee Cuthbert

WIG AND MAKEUP DESIGN

Vicky Martinez

PROPERTIES MASTER

Lori Scheper-Kesel

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

John Draginoff

ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTOR

Karyn Morton

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Allie Bailey

*Appears in the 4/29 and 5/1 performances

PRINCIPAL COACH

Ronny Greenberg

MUSIC STAFF

Veronika Agranov-Dafoe

Victoria Lington

SUPERTITLE CUEING

Victoria Lington

Act I

SCENE 1

Blanche DuBois has suffered the loss of both her ancestral home and her job when she arrives in New Orleans to visit her sister, Stella, who has married Stanley Kowalski, an ex-GI trucker.

SCENE 2. A FEW DAYS LATER

Stanley, infuriated by Blanche's artificial airs, her suggestive behavior, and what he regards as her loss of his wife's birthright, is determined to expose the lies about her past.

SCENE 3. THAT NIGHT

During a poker game Blanche meets Harold Mitchell (Mitch), a work-mate of Stanley's, who is very devoted to his dying mother. Blanche sets her sights on him. Stanley, drunk, breaks up the evening and strikes Stella, whom he regards as siding against him with Blanche. After this violence, and contrary to Blanche's advice, Stella returns to Stanley's bed. The next morning Stanley overhears Blanche entreating her sister to leave him.

Intermission (20 minutes)

Act II

SCENE 1. SOME WEEKS LATER

Stanley tells Blanche that he has a friend who is making inquiries about her past. When he and his now-pregnant wife go out for the evening, Blanche begins a sad and half-hearted flirtation with a young paper boy. She later goes out with Mitch on a date.

SCENE 2. THAT NIGHT

Mitch unburdens his heart to Blanche who, in turn, tells him of her brief marriage to a young homosexual man and how she blames herself for his suicide.

Intermission (15 minutes)

Act III

SCENE 1. SOME WEEKS LATER, BLANCHE'S BIRTHDAY

Mitch is late for the party. Stanley, who feels that both his home and marriage are threatened by Blanche, breaks up the celebration when he reveals to Stella that his friend has discovered Blanche's unsavory reputation in Laurel for an affair with a young man, and the fact that she had been told to leave town. After handing Blanche a one-way ticket back home, Stanley tells her that Mitch now knows everything and will not be coming around again.

SCENE 2. LATER THAT NIGHT

Stella has been taken to a hospital for a premature delivery. Mitch, drunk, invades the apartment and bitterly reproaches Blanche: Just as her desperate hopes lie with him, his lie with her. They have both lost their emotional refuge. His denunciation of her as someone too unclean to enter his mother's house is a terrible betrayal.

SCENE 3. LATER

This betrayal is completed when Stanley, as a last act of cruel retribution, rapes Blanche.

SCENE 4. SOME DAYS LATER

Blanche prepares to leave for a fictitious cruise with an old admirer. While in fact, Stella, unable to believe Blanche's accusations against Stanley, is packing Blanche's clothes as she is being sent to an insane asylum.

This synopsis was written by the late Colin Graham, who directed the world premiere of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and is reproduced here with the permission of San Francisco Opera.

**OPERA
SAN JOSE**

Silas Elash

BASS (PENNSYLVANIA)



Doctor. Resident artist Silas Elash returns in 2015-16, performing the roles of Dr. Bartolo (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Zuniga (*Carmen*), and the Doctor (*A Streetcar Named Desire*). Last season, Mr. Elash appeared as Sparafucile and Monterone (*Rigoletto*), Haly (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*), the Cabman (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*), and Sarastro (*The Magic Flute*.) Other roles performed during his residency at Opera San José include Pistola (*Falstaff*), the Commissioner (*Madama Butterfly*), the Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*), Nourabad (*The Pearl Fishers*), Frank (*Die Fledermaus*), Ferrando (*Il trovatore*), the Voice of Nettuno (Idomeneo), Dr. Grenville (*La traviata*), Méphistophélès (*Faust*), Scarpia (*Tosca*), Bartolo (*The Barber of Seville*), Colline (*La bohème*), Count Des Grieux (*Manon*), Don Magnifico (*La Cenerentola*), Bartolo (*The Marriage of Figaro*), and Rambaldo (*La rondine*).

The path that carried him to opera and Opera San José was not the traditional path taken by most artists. The unique quality of a youthful sound in a mature instrument is a result of the fact that singing emerged later in his life and pulled him away, to the delight of audiences, from his first career as an electrical engineer. Good solid instruction and an engineering mind, relentlessly seeking the understanding of vocal production and solid technique, have yielded remarkable results. His vocal gifts, combined with his solid technique, produce a powerful and consistent presence every time he takes the stage.

Winner of the “Wagner Society Award” in the 2010 Irene Dalis Vocal Competition, he was recognized for his potential as a Wagnerian singer. The Dalis competition has seen him as a finalist in 2010, 2012 and 2013.

Mr. Elash was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and has resided in California for most of his life.



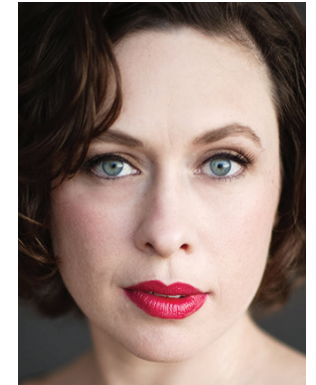
Teressa Foss

SOPRANO (CALIFORNIA)

Old Relative/Nurse. Teressa Foss appears as the Old Relative and the Nurse in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Recent engagements for Ms. Foss include appearances with West Bay Opera, Verismo Opera, Lyric Theatre of San Jose, Viva La Musica, Jarvis Institute, and the Italian Foundation of Monterey/ 500g Palermo. She has recently been a featured soloist in the Franzen Studio Community Concert Series at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose and Opera Night at Caffe Frascati in downtown San Jose.

Other venues at which Ms. Foss has performed include the Hollywood Bowl, Berkeley Repertory, Phoenix Theatre of AZ, Lambs Players (San Diego), GeVa Theatre, Indra's Net Theater, 42nd Street Moon, Willows Theatre, Boston Court, Virago Theatre, Fullerton Civic Light Opera, Cabrillo Stage, PCPA Theaterfest, Reprise! (Los Angeles), Ensemble Theatre Santa Barbara, Fountain Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, Colony Theatre, Valley of the Moon Chamber Ensemble, and the L'Ermitage Foundation.

Ms. Foss received her BA in Theatre Arts at UCLA.



OPERA
SAN JOSE

Matthew Hanscom

BARITONE (MINNESOTA)



Stanley Kowalski. In his second year as a member of Opera San José's resident ensemble, Matthew Hanscom performs the roles of Scarpia (*Tosca*), Figaro (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Escamillo (*Carmen*) and Stanley (*A Streetcar Named Desire*). Last season, Mr. Hanscom was featured in the title role of Rigoletto, Taddeo (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*), Gino Carella (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*), and Papageno (*The Magic Flute*).

Mr. Hanscom began 2014 in his sixth season at Sarasota Opera, appearing as Comte de Toulouse in Verdi's *Jérusalem* and covering Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Highlights from past seasons include Schaubard in Puccini's *La bohème*, a "fully realized portrait" of Slim in Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men*, and Ping in Puccini's *Turandot*.

Awards and accolades received include being named international finalist in the Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition in Gütersloh, Germany. He is a former national semi-finalist in the Palm Beach Opera Vocal Competition as well as a former national semi-finalist in Houston Grand Opera's Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers. In consecutive years he was a district winner, followed by a national semi-finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and can be seen in the documentary film "The Audition".

Possessing both bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, Mr. Hanscom is an alumnus of many of premiere training programs such as Wolf Trap Opera's Filene Young Artist Program, the Santa Fe Opera, the Merola Opera Program, Opera Theatre of St. Louis' Gerdine Young Artist Program, Chicago Opera Theater, Sarasota Opera Studio, and Central City Opera.

Lined area for notes, consisting of approximately 25 horizontal lines.



Cabiria Jacobsen

MEZZO-SOPRANO (CALIFORNIA)

Eunice Hubbell. Ms. Jacobsen makes her company debut in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. During the 2015-2016 season, Cabiria appeared as Cousin Hebe in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with The Lamplighters of San Francisco. At Anchorage Opera, she performed Mercédès in Bizet's *Carmen*. Cabiria will return to Musical Café to premier *The Right Note*, a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.



In the 2014-2015 season, Cabiria sang the role of The Fox in Rachel Portman's inspiring opera, *The Little Prince* with Opera Fayetteville, and reprised the role of Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Salt Marsh Opera. She made her Carnegie Hall debut as alto soloist in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with DCINY. With the little OPERA theatre of new york, she appeared as Ernestina in Rossini's *Opportunity Makes the Thief*, and returned to the Bronx Opera to perform the role of Julia in the East Coast premiere of Kirke Mechem's *The Rivals*.

Cabiria was a 2012-2013 Emerging Artist at Virginia Opera. Formerly a Resident Artist at Tri-Cities Opera, she performed several roles there, including Dorabella/*Così fan tutte*, Suzuki/*Madama Butterfly* and Nicklausse/*Les contes d'Hoffman* on the mainstage, as well as Hansel/*Hansel and Gretel*; La Ciesca/*Gianni Schicchi*; and Mom and Grandma/*Little Red Riding Hood* in their chamber opera and outreach series.

A proud native of Brooklyn, NY, Cabiria attended Northwestern University, graduating with bachelor's degrees in Voice as well as Drama. Cabiria joined the joint MM/Resident Artist program at Binghamton University and Tri-Cities Opera with a full scholarship and teaching assistantship. Since graduating, she has performed with ensembles throughout the United States.

Ariana Strahl

SOPRANO (CALIFORNIA)



Blanche DuBois. Soprano Ariana Strahl makes her company debut during the 2015-16 season, appearing as Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Ms. Strahl has been most recently seen onstage debuting as Micaela in the Komische Oper's Revival of Sebastian Baumgarten's *Carmen*. Other roles performed include the First Lady (*The Magic Flute*), La Ciesca (*Gianni Schicchi*), Peep-Bo (*The Mikado*), Suor Genovieffa (*Suor Angelica*), Monica (*The Medium*), Mrs. McLean (*Susannah*), and the title role in Handel's *Semele*. On the concert stage, she has appeared in the role of the Mother in Stephen Paulus' *The Three Hermits* and as the Soprano soloist for John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*.

In 2011, Ms. Strahl was chosen for the Young Artists Program at the Komische Oper Berlin. During her two seasons at the Komische Oper, she debuted such roles as Ännchen in Calixto Bieto's *Der Freischütz*, Sandman and Dew Fairy (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Micaela and Frasquita (*Carmen*), the First Wood Sprite (*Rusalka*), Papagena (*The Magic Flute*), Mrs. Pasek (*Cunning Little Vixen*), and the roles of Fortuna, Damigella, and Drusilla in Monteverdi's *Poppea* (adapted by Elena Kats-Chernin for Barrie Kosky's *Monteverdi Trilogy*).

In 2006, Ms. Strahl advanced to the Regional level of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Central Region). Here she was awarded an Honorable Mention, and lauded by the jury for her promise and talent at the young age of twenty. She returned to the Illinois District in 2013, and won first prize. In 2014 She was once again named a District Winner, this time in San Francisco, where she was also awarded third prize at the James Collier Awards.

Ms. Strahl received her Bachelor of Music from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2007. She currently resides in Berkeley, California and studies with soprano Ruth Ann Swenson.



CONTENTS OF USB DRIVE

OSJ A Streetcar Named Desire Calendar Release

OSJ A Streetcar Named Desire News Release

OSJ A Streetcar Named Desire Press Kit

OSJ A Streetcar Named Desire Program

California Theatre History

André Previn Bio

Philip Littell Bio

 **Headshots**

 **Production Images**

For additional information go to

<http://www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room/press-kit/>