

January 12, 2015

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

The Department of Speech & Theatre at Jackson State University invites you and your students to our first show of the spring season, *The Glass Menagerie*, by Tennessee Williams. Please make your reservations now, and come join us for a memorable performance.

THE STORY: Amanda Wingfield is a faded, tragic remnant of Southern gentility who lives in poverty in a dingy St. Louis apartment with her son, Tom, and her daughter, Laura. Amanda strives to give meaning and direction to her life and the lives of her children, though her methods are ineffective and irritating. Tom is driven nearly to distraction by his mother's nagging and seeks escape in alcohol and the world of the movies. Laura also lives in her illusions. She is crippled, and this defect, intensified by her mother's anxiety to see her married, has driven her more and more into herself. The crux of the action comes when Tom invites a young man of his acquaintance to take dinner with the family. Jim, the caller, is a nice ordinary fellow who is at once pounced upon by Amanda as a possible husband for Laura. In spite of her crude and obvious efforts to entrap the young man, he and Laura manage to get along very nicely, and momentarily Laura is lifted out of herself into a new world. But this crashes when, toward the end, Jim explains that he is already engaged. The world of illusion that Amanda and Laura have striven to create in order to make life bearable collapses about them. Tom, too, at the end of his tether, at last leaves home.

**PERFORMANCE DATES**

February 27, 28 & March 2nd @ 7:30pm / March 1 @ 3pm

School Performance Feb. 27 @ 10am

Please arrive at 9:30am for pre-show presentation & raffle

This packet includes an invitation letter, study guide, and reservation form. To better accommodate your needs, the reservation form should be completed and faxed/mailed to the department no later than 7 days before the performance date. We welcome phone reservations as well. If you cannot bring your students, please share this information with your colleagues and friends on our behalf. It would be greatly appreciated!

For more information feel free to call the Box Office at 601-979-5956 (M-F 12-5pm), or 601-979-4309 or visit our website: [www.jsums.edu/speechandtheatre](http://www.jsums.edu/speechandtheatre) and click on Box Office. Tickets are now available for sale online. Check us out on Facebook. Please contact us if you have any additional needs. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Thank you kindly,

*Nadia Bodie-Smith*

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# RESERVATION FORM

## *The Glass Menagerie*

February 27 – March 2, 2015

Special School Performance: Friday February 27, 2015 at 10:00am

**Please arrive 9:30am for pre-show presentation & raffle**

SCHOOL or GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

ADVISOR \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ # of Students    \_\_\_\_ # of Chaperones

Admission is \$5/student

*(There is no fee for chaperones)*

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY  
PAYMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION!!

**Make all Payments to:**

MADDRAMA (JSU)

JSU Box 17126

Jackson, MS 39217

Purchase Orders Accepted

Box Office Hours: M-F 12-5pm /(601) 979-5956

Theatre Studies Coordinator: (601) 979-4309

Main Office: (601) 979-2426

For more information: [www.jsums.edu/speechandtheatre](http://www.jsums.edu/speechandtheatre)

You may fax this form to 601-979-9072

ATTN: JSU Theatre Box Office

or E-Mail: [boxoffice@jsums.edu](mailto:boxoffice@jsums.edu)

## *The Glass Menagerie* Study Guide

### **Pre-Production Questions**

1. Who wrote *The Glass Menagerie*?
2. What is the setting for *The Glass Menagerie*?
3. *The Glass Menagerie* is a “memory play”, who’s memory is it drawn?
4. What are some of the themes in *The Glass Menagerie*?
5. What is a “glass menagerie”?

### **Post Production Questions**

6. What does Amanda make Tom promise to do before he leaves the family?
7. Why does Jim call Laura “Blue Roses”?
8. What is Laura’s favorite figurine?
9. What is Jim’s nickname for Tom?
10. Where does Tom spend most of his time when he is at home?
11. Few people have Laura's specific physical handicap. Do you think most people can identify with her? Why or why not?
12. Each of the Wingfields escapes from unpleasant reality into a comforting, private world. In Scene One, Amanda escapes from her present circumstances by remembering and talking about her past youth, her beauty, and her romantic successes. How does Laura escape from the real world? What does Tom do to escape from his unhappiness?
13. In most plays, suspense is preferable to surprise. If a person reaches the top of a hill and looks down to see two trains at the moment they crash, it is a **surprise** and it is shocking. But dramatically, it would be more effective if, as the person neared the top of the hill, he saw the trains approaching each other on the same track from perhaps a mile apart. This would be **suspense**. How has Tennessee Williams used suspense in the play?