

Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

By Tennessee Williams

Play no. 285

Opening show: 30/05/1973

Creative team

Hebrew By: Tirza Atar

Directed by: Michael Meacham

Setting and Costumes by : Joseph Karl

Lighting: Natan Panturin

Cast

Margaret: Dalia Friedland

Brick: Eli Cohen

Mae: Jael Druianov

Old Lady; Shoshana Duer

Old Man: Shimon Finkel

Tucker: Leo Yung

Gooper: Rolf Brin

Doctor Baugh: Itzhak Bareket

Lacey: Jossi Shohat

Part One

"Old Man" Polit and his family are celebrating his 65TH birthday. Everyone but he and his wife know that he is dying of cancer; everyone but Brick, his younger son. Since the suicide of his best friend, Skipper, Brick has withdrawn into alcoholism and refuses to sleep with his wife, Maggie. She is being driven frantic by the breakdown of their relationship and also by the scheming of "The Old Man's" older son, Gooper, and his wife, Mae, who are trying to prevent Brick getting his share of the inheritance. She accuses Brick of refusing to acknowledge that Skipper's feelings for him were those of homosexual love. She tells him that before Skipper died she had demanded he reveal to Brick the true nature of his affection and, as a direct consequence of this, he had killed himself. Brick is appalled and attacks her violently. She appeals to him to accept life with her rather than live with the memory of a long-since-dead Skipper. She insists that no matter how extreme her unhappiness she will never give up the struggle to regain his love.

The Birthday Party moves up to Brick's room, where he is confined with a broken ankle. "The Old Man" gets rid of everyone except Brick and tells him he wants to leave him his fortune, but points out that it would be folly to throw it away on a drunkard. He questions Brick about why he drinks and suggests that he and Skipper had a homosexual relationship – Rumoured by Gooper and Mae. If this is so he does not condemn it: "I've knocked about a bit in my time". Brick is deeply shocked by his father's attitude and tells him his own, distorted, story of Skipper's death: "Maggie put the idea into his head..." when pressed to search for a deeper truth he retaliates by, challenging his father's capacity to bear the truth. He tells "the Old Man" he is not as he thought, recovering from a minor, curable illness, but is dying of cancer. "the Old Man" stunned, withdraws to await death.

Part Two

The family returns and tells "The Old Lady" the true nature of her husband's illness she is overwhelmed by the news. Gooper brings out his "Out line of Trustee-ship" "The Old Lady" is violently antagonistic to his plans – whatever it may be. Apart from "The Old Man", Brick and the possibility of a grand-child from Brick and Maggie are all she cares about. Maggie announces that she is, in fact, pregnant. "The Old Lady" is overjoyed and rushes to tell "The Old Man" the wonderful news. Maggie gets Brick really drunk and, as "The Old Man's" agony tears at the night, she prepares to accomplish what she now needs more than Brick's love; his child. "I really have been to a doctor and know what to do – and this is my time by the calendar to conceive". Her necessity for possession has developed into a capacity to love.

