

Director: Julie Ahasay

Audition Dates and Times:

- **Saturday, September 27, 12-3pm**
- **Callbacks: TBA**
- Auditions will be held at the Playhouse Conservatory (230 West Superior St; entrance on 3rd Ave. West between Superior and Michigan St)
If you cannot make these auditions contact Kate Horvath, 218-733-7574 or ctainfo@duluthplayhouse.org to arrange another time.

Sign up in advance in the Playhouse lobby for a 10-minute time slot or call the office for assistance at (218)733-7555. You may also sign up for a slot at auditions.

- The Duluth Playhouse auditions are open to all actors and actresses, including those who may be auditioning for the first time and professional or Equity actors and actresses.
- Every actor cast in the show (18+ and out of high school) will receive a \$100.00 honorarium. If cast in multiple productions throughout the season, the actor stipend increases by \$100 per production.
- Scripts are available in the Playhouse office for checkout (a \$5 **cash** deposit required – 3 day rental only).

Rehearsal and Performance Information:

We will have a read-through and do some table talk two or three nights the week of December 16th. There will be no rehearsal the week of Christmas. We will work, based on cast availability, the week of December 30th (excluding the 31st and the 1st). Plan to rehearse Sunday through Thursday from 7 to 9:30, but the days and times may change based on cast conflicts.

The show will run from February 12-22, performing Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2pm.

Audition Preparation/Expectations

“... when it comes to the sheer beauty of language, Tennessee Williams could not be topped. He is our honey-tongued Shakespeare.” So says Matthew Biberman, a professor of English at the University of Louisville.

Williams requires actors to realistically tell a story using language that is heightened and poetic. His characters are iconic, larger-than-life and living through extreme versions of the human condition. In your audition, I will be looking for a facility with the language and the willingness to make big, bold character choices that still feel completely real.

Please read the script. You can pick it up at the Playhouse office. We will be using The New Directions edition (ISBN 978-0-8812-1601-2).

At auditions, you'll be reading from selected sides and also may be asked to do some cold readings.

Maggie: monologue on pages 24-25

Brick: monologue on pages 124-125

Big Daddy: monologue on page 98 OR page 110

Gooper: monologue on pages 156-157

Big Mama: monologue on page 68

Maggie and Brick: pages 17-23

Brick and Big Daddy: pages 99-108

Big Daddy and Big Mama: pages 77-80

Big Mama, Dr. Baugh, Rev. Tooker, Maggie, Mae and Gooper: pages 142-155

If you have any questions, please contact Julie at jaahasay@charter.net

About the Show:

A masterpiece of American theatre by one of our greatest playwrights, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is the story of a Southern family in crisis, especially husband and wife Brick and Maggie, and their interaction with Brick's family over the course of one evening gathering at the family estate in Mississippi. The party is to celebrate the birthday of patriarch Big Daddy and his return from a clinic with what he has been told is a clean bill of health. All family members (except Big Daddy and his wife, Big Mama) are aware of Big Daddy's true diagnosis: he is dying of cancer. His family has lied to Big Daddy and Big Mama to spare the aging couple from pain on the patriarch's birthday but, throughout the course of the play, it becomes clear that the Pollitt family has long constructed a web of deceit for itself.

Character Breakdown

Brick, a taciturn and stony-faced drunk who is too numb to feel much of anything anymore. His good looks and cool aloofness have won him admirers his whole life, from his own parents to his wife Maggie. Since the death of his friend Skipper, Brick has retreated into a drunken shell.

Maggie, is a vivacious and attractive woman whose curse is a love for a husband who does not love her. Her one driving goal is to get Brick to sleep with her – both to satisfy her own needs, and to allow her to conceive a baby, which would cement her claim to the family's fortune. She fears abandonment, both by Brick and by the comfortable lifestyle to which she has grown accustomed. Despite her self-focused interests, she is also kind and warm-hearted.

Big Daddy "Like father, like son," is the rule of the Pollitt family. Big Daddy, like Brick, is the sort of man who inspires admiration and adoration without doing much of anything to deserve it. He worked hard for economic success, and now he wants to enjoy it.

Big Mama loves her husband unconditionally despite his cruelty and indifference. She loves both her sons but she cannot help but prefer Brick, who is so much like his father. Her outbursts are a willful effort to avoid the truth about Big Daddy's health – she is a bit cleverer than she lets on.

Gooper, the older brother has languished in Brick's shadow since the day his brother was born. While Brick got the attention with looks and football, Gooper married into society and became a successful lawyer. But the continued focus on his ne'er-do-well brother has turned Gooper bitter and mean as well as paranoid, and he actively campaigns for control of Big Daddy's estate.

Mae, Gooper's wife has picked up his bitterness and greed, without any of his justifying history. She taunts Maggie's barrenness by parading her own substantial brood around the house, and considers herself to be Maggie's superior both socially and within the context of the Pollitt family.

Dr. Baugh, the long-time family doctor shows sensitivity and discretion, allowing the brothers to make their own decision about when and whether to tell Big Mama and Big Daddy about the patriarch's terminal condition.

Reverend Tooker, a clergyman who indelicately makes frequent reference to parish donations and needed repairs while hovering around the Pollitt estate, campaigning for a mention in Big Daddy's will.

Children's Roles: **Though there is frequent mention of Gooper and Mae's brood, we will see only two of the kids: Dixie and Buster.**

Audition Form

Please bring this completed form with you to the audition along with a **resume** & current **photo or headshot**.

Name _____

Home Address (Including Zip) _____

Primary Phone # _____ Other Phone# _____

E-Mail: _____

Age _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Hair Color _____

Stage Experience

Play (Show) Title: _____ Role: _____ Location (Theatre performed at): _____ Date: _____

Is there a particular role in the show you are most interested in? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which one(s)? _____

Will you accept another part if not offered any listed above? Yes _____ No _____

If you do not get a part, would you be interested in working on tech crew or backstage? Yes _____ No _____

Do you sing, dance, play piano or have other special talents? If so, please explain level of skill:

Do you have **ANY** conflicts with dance classes, rehearsal or performance dates? Yes _____ No _____

Please list ALL conflicts below (be as specific as possible to dates, times):