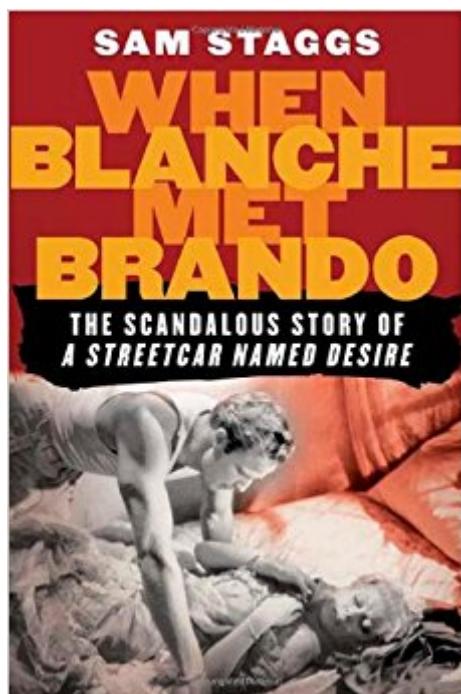


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When Blanche Met Brando: The Scandalous Story Of "A Streetcar Named Desire"



Synopsis

Exhaustively researched and almost flirtatiously opinionated, *When Blanche Met Brando* is everything a fan needs to know about the ground-breaking New York and London stage productions of Williams' "Streetcar" as well as the classic Brando/Leigh film. Sam Staggs' interviews with all the living cast members of each production will enhance what's known about the play and movie, and help make this book satisfying as both a pop culture read and as a deeper piece of thinking about a well-known story. Readers will come away from this book delighted with the juicy behind-the-scenes stories about cast, director, playwright and the various productions and will also renew their curiosity about the connection between the role of Blanche and Vivien Leigh's insatiable sexual appetite and later descent into breakdown. They may also-for the first time-question whether the character of Blanche was actually "mad" or whether her anxiousness was symptomatic of another disorder."A Streetcar Named Desire" is one of the most haunting and most-studied modern plays. Staggs' new book will fascinate fans and riven newcomers' understanding of its importance in American theater and movie history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like other reviewers, I was delighted to find a book dedicated to the fabulous "Streetcar named Desire". The book doubtlessly is entertaining, at least most of the time. The style is chatty, the author indulges in rumors, anecdotes and gossip, never hesitating to give a highly subjective viewpoint. As he doesn't pretend to be objective, I didn't mind too much, though I would have

preferred more information and less gossip. Still, most of it was amusing to read. I don't know much about Brando and the author's chit-chatty information about him made Brando come to life for me. - Sometimes, I was a bit lost when the author seemed to forget that not everybody is as familiar with all Hollywood personalities or wannabee personalities. His overly familiar way of talking about people I never heard of, the lack of at least one or two sentences of background information, made some passages unclear to me. What I thoroughly enjoyed were the interpretations of the play and its characters, some by the author himself, some quoted from others. I would have liked more of this. Also, his description of mimic and camera work during the first scene of the movie was very perceptive. I watched this scene right afterwards and did see it with different eyes. Again, more of that would have been great. Those - in my opinion - were the best parts of the book. As mentioned by another reviewer, the information about Vivien Leigh and her being affected by playing Blanche was highly insufficient. It is such a fascinating topic and one that would have deserved more coverage. I was disappointed by the lacklustre handling of this topic. Also, less rehashed gossip and more information would have improved the chapter on Vivien Leigh tremendously.

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