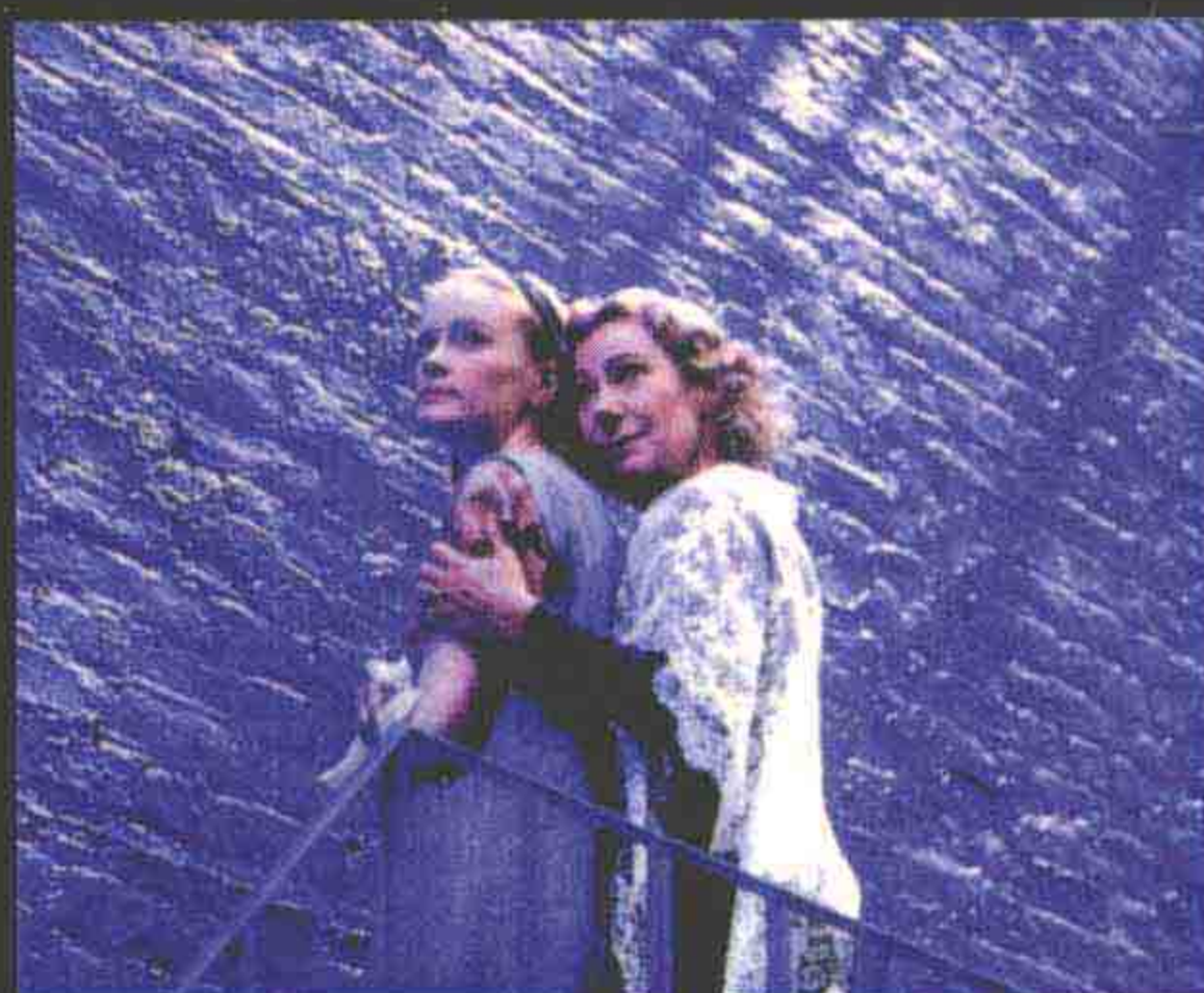


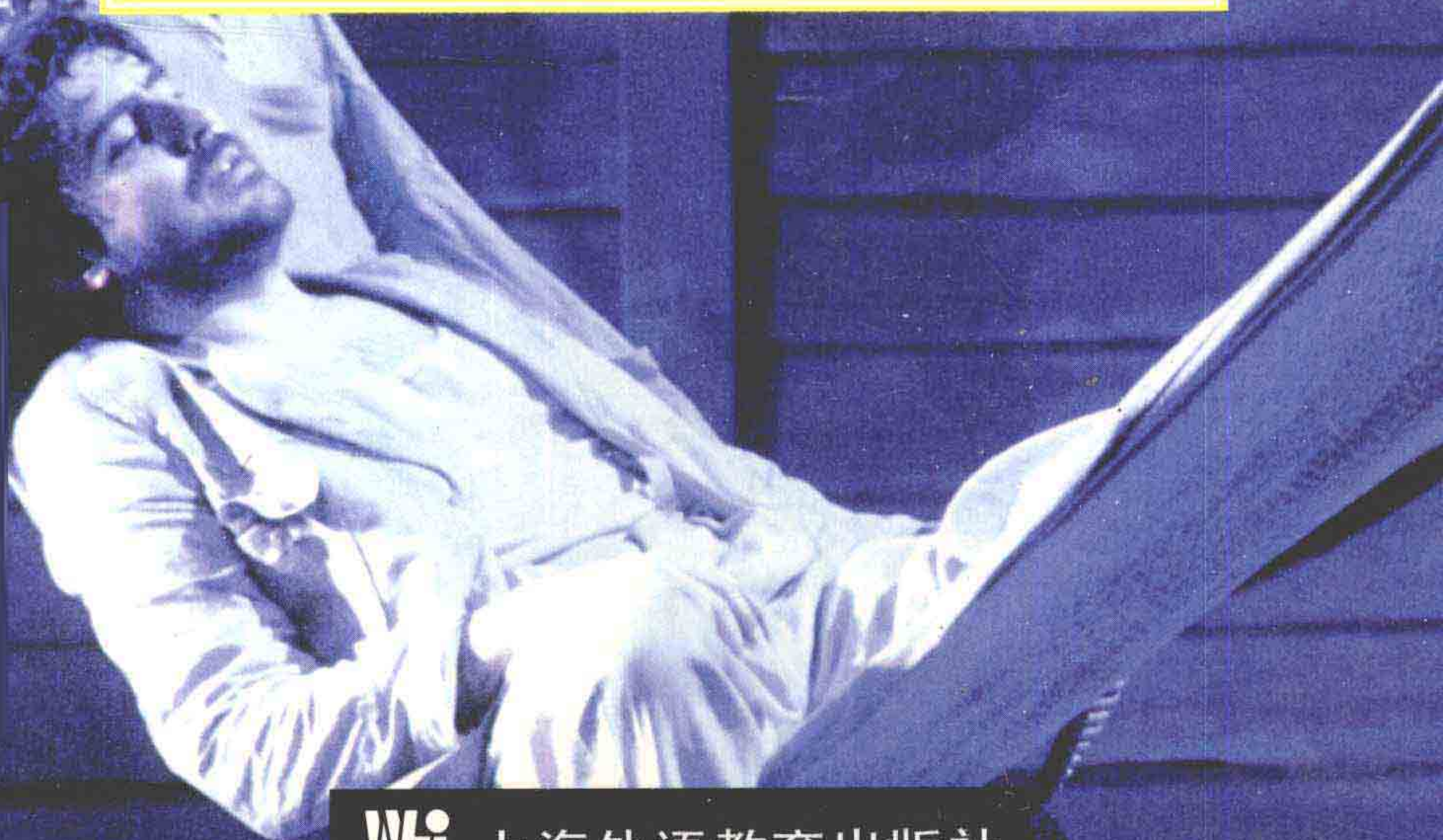
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS

田纳西·威廉斯

MATTHEW C. ROUDANÉ 编



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剑桥文学指南

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外教社

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THE CAMBRIDGE
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TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

EDITED BY
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Georgia State University



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出版前言

《剑桥文学指南》是上海外语教育出版社从海外引进的一套研究、介绍外国文学的丛书，内容涉及作家、作品、文学流派、文学史等诸多方面。作者均为在该领域有着较深造诣的专家、学者。

《田纳西·威廉斯》是该丛书中的一本。

田纳西·威廉斯是美国当代最著名的剧作家之一，被公认为第二次世界大战以来美国最杰出的戏剧大师。他不但作品优秀，而且极其多产。他的戏剧创作生涯长达 50 年之久，其作品受到了人们的热烈称颂和赞誉，也多次在评论界引起激烈的争议。由于威廉斯本人的南方背景，他的作品在题材上与同时代其他关注社会问题的剧作家很不相同，更接近于 20 世纪美国南方小说家。他善于表现小人物，尤其是妇女的形象。他所关心的主题是现代社会中人与外界的隔绝，人与人之间的缺乏沟通，以及在一个混乱的世界中人们如何孤独地寻求自身价值等问题。在《玻璃动物园》、《欲望号街车》、《热铁皮屋顶上的猫》等剧中，他以细腻、委婉而又饱含同情的笔触，刻画了一群孤独、失意、怯懦而心灵扭曲的女性形象，揭示了这批旧南方遗留下来的“最后的贵族”在社会制度更迭时无所适从的心理。这些旧式人物，既难以忘怀种植园时代的生

活方式，无力摆脱旧南方所奉行的一整套虚伪、严格而又充满矛盾的道德观念，又无法适应工业化社会那种残酷的生存竞争和赤裸裸的金钱关系。作者深刻地表现了商业化对于人性和人情的腐蚀，以同情的笔触刻划了工业化社会的逃遁者和反叛者的形象，唱出了一曲曲旧世界没落的挽歌。

本书收入了当代西方著名学者撰写的 14 篇关于田纳西·威廉斯的文章，涵盖面相当广泛，不仅论述了威廉斯创作的主要戏剧，而且还涉及到他的短篇小说和诗歌。有的介绍了田纳西·威廉斯的早期生活以及家庭对他的影响；有的结合作者本人的生活经历和作品，分别分析了欧美文学对他的戏剧创作的影响以及他性格和思想形成的深层原因；有的阐述了威廉斯对电影艺术的看法，以及他的戏剧作品改编成电影后对美国好莱坞的影响。本书还辟有专论，分别介绍了他的主要作品和有关威廉斯研究的主要文献。

本书的读者对象为大学外语教师、外国文学研究人员、外国文学专业的研究生、博士生，以及具备了较高英语阅读能力的外国文学爱好者。

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1911 26 *March* Born Thomas Lanier Williams in Columbus, Mississippi to Cornelius Coffin and Edwina Dakin Williams. Sister Rose Isabel born on 17 November 1909.
- 1911-18 Tom and Rose live with their mother and her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Dakin, in the Episcopal rectory of various Southern towns, as Tom's father is often absent as a traveling salesman. At five, in Clarksdale, Tom has diphtheria with complications that leave him an invalid for two years.
- 1918 *July* Family moves to St. Louis, Missouri to live with father who has been made branch manager of International Shoe Company. Tom fears father, who taunts him, calling him "Miss Nancy."
- 1919 21 *February* Brother Walter Dakin born.
- 1924-26 Writes first story, "Isolated," for junior high-school newspaper, and later, travel articles for the high school-paper, finds his first girlfriend in Hazel Kramer.
- 1927 Wins third prize (\$5) from the magazine *Smart Set* for his answer to the question "Can a Good Wife Be a Good Sport?" and published there. Also wins a prize for a movie review of *Stella Dallas*.
- 1928 *July* Short story "The Vengeance of Nitocris" is published in magazine *Weird Tales*. Tours Europe with his maternal grandfather.
- 1929 Enters the University of Missouri in September and joins a

CHRONOLOGY

- fraternity. Becomes the first freshman ever to receive honorable mention in a contest, for his play *Beauty Is the Word*.
- 1930 Earns money during summer vacation by selling *Pictorial Review*.
- 1932 Father withdraws him from the university after the winter semester, presumably for failing ROTC. Begins working at International Shoe Company and spends his nights writing.
- 1934 Story "Stella for Star" wins first place in amateur contest.
- 1935 *Spring* Claims he has a heart attack, and recuperates at his grandparents' home in Memphis.
12 July First production of his one-act play *Cairo! Shanghai! Bombay!* by Memphis Garden Players.
- 1936 *Autumn* Sees Alla Nazimova perform in Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts* and is inspired to be a playwright. Enrolls in Washington University, St. Louis, where he published poetry in the college magazine, *Manuscript*, and wins top prize in a poetry contest. "27 Wagons Full of Cotton" is later adapted into two plays and a film.
Begins his literary association with Clark Mills. Receives an acceptance letter from Harriet Monroe of *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* for "My Love Was Light," a poem. This is the first hint of a national career in the making.
- 1937 First full-length plays are produced, *Candles to the Sun* and *Fugitive Kind*, by the amateur group the Mummerns in St. Louis, whose director, Willard Holland, became another early influence of Williams. Transfers to the University of Iowa, where he studies playwriting and production. Has several short plays produced.
- 1938 *August* Graduates with BA degree in English from the University of Iowa.
- 1939 Lives briefly in several places in the Midwest, South, and West, including New Orleans in the French Quarter, and it may have

CHRONOLOGY

- been here that he has his first extended homosexual experience. First uses the name "Tennessee" as the author of "The Field of Blue Children," published in *Story* magazine. Four plays under the title *American Blues* win \$100 in a contest organized by the Group Theatre. His plays are sent to literary agent Audrey Wood. Travels to Taos, New Mexico, where he visits Frieda Lawrence, and returns to St. Louis, where he works on *Battle of Angels*.
- September* First meeting with Audrey Wood, who becomes his agent.
- December* Awarded a Rockefeller Foundation grant of \$1,000.
- 1940 *January* Moves to New York to enroll in an advanced playwriting seminar taught by John Gassner at The New School for Social Research. In February, students stage his one-act play *The Long Goodbye*, the first of his plays to be seen in New York. Leaves New York for travels to Memphis and Provincetown, on Cape Cod, where he has his first sustained homosexual affair.
- 30 December* *Battle of Angels* opens in Boston but quickly closes after a censorship controversy; is revised as *Orpheus Descending* in 1957.
- 1941-42 Lives in a variety of locations, including Key West, Florida, and New Orleans, and works at a variety of jobs. Starts the story "Portrait of a Girl in Glass," which will be developed into *The Glass Menagerie*.
- 1943 *Spring* Returns to St. Louis. His sister Rose is institutionalized for schizophrenia and undergoes prefrontal lobotomy.
- April* Audrey Wood gets him a job as a scriptwriter for MGM and he moves to California.
- May* While writing a film script for Lana Turner, develops "Portrait of a Girl in Glass" into a screenplay, "The Gentleman Caller."
- October* Loses his Hollywood job. *You Touched Me!* opens in Cleveland.
- 1944 *6 January* Grandmother dies.
- April* Awarded \$1,000 by the National Institute of Arts and Letters for *Battle of Angels*.

CHRONOLOGY

- July* *The Purification* is produced in Pasadena, California, under the direction of Margo Jones.
- 26 December* *The Glass Menagerie* premieres in Chicago.
- 1945 *January or February* Starts working on *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
- 31 March* *The Glass Menagerie* opens on Broadway and wins the New York Drama Critics' Circle, Donaldson, and Sidney Howard Memorial awards.
- 25 September* *You Touched Me!* opens in New York.
- 1946 *27 Wagons Full of Cotton and Other Plays* published.
- January or February* Starts living with Pancho Rodrigues y Gonzalez.
- Summer* Beginning of friendship with Southern novelist Carson McCullers. May begins work on *Summer and Smoke*.
- October* May begins drafting *Camino Real*.
- 1947 *8 July* *Summer and Smoke* opens in Dallas.
- 3 December* *A Streetcar Named Desire* opens in New York starring Jessica Tandy, Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, and Kim Stanley. It wins the Pulitzer Prize for drama and the Donaldson and New York Drama Critics' Circle awards, the first work ever to win all three.
- Meets Frank Merlo.
- 1948 Visits Europe, including London, where John Gielgud is preparing a production of *The Glass Menagerie*. A first collection of fiction, *One Arm and Other Stories* and *American Blues: Five Short Plays*, published.
- 6 October* *Summer and Smoke* opens in New York. This same month, Frank Merlo moves in with him, the beginning of a fourteen-year relationship. He moves Rose to a private clinic. Meets Maria Britneva, the Lady St. Just.
- 1949 *April* Goes to London, where *A Streetcar Named Desire* is about to open.
- Winter* Works on *The Rose Tattoo*.
- 1950 A novel, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* is published, and the film of *The Glass Menagerie* is released.
- 29 December* *The Rose Tattoo* opens in Chicago.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1951 3 February *The Rose Tattoo* opens in New York, and wins a Tony award. Film version of *A Streetcar Named Desire* released.
- 1952 *A Streetcar Named Desire* film version wins the New York Film Critics' Circle Award. Elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.
- 1953 19 March *Camino Real* opens in New York.
Works on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.
- 1954 Publishes *Hard Candy: A Book of Stories* and continues working on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.
October Starts filming *The Rose Tattoo*.
- 1955 14 February Maternal grandfather dies.
24 March *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opens in New York, where it runs for 694 performances, winning the Pulitzer Prize, and the New York Drama Critics' Circle and Donaldson awards.
Film version of *The Rose Tattoo* is released.
- 1956 Film *Baby Doll* opens in New York. A first collection of poems, *In the Winter of Cities*, published.
Spring Relationship with Frank Merlo deteriorating.
Summer In Rome, verging on a nervous breakdown.
- 1957 21 March *Orpheus Descending* opens in New York.
May Father dies.
June Starts psychoanalysis with Dr. Lawrence Kubie.
- 1958 7 January *Garden District* (*Suddenly Last Summer* and *Something Unspoken*) opens off-Broadway and (16 September) in London.
30 January *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opens in London. The film version starring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman is released.
June Breaks off analysis with Dr. Kubie and leaves for Europe.
29 December *Period of Adjustment* opens in Miami.
- 1959 15 January *The Rose Tattoo* opens in London.
10 March *Sweet Bird of Youth* opens in New York.
April Goes to Cuba, where he meets Ernest Hemingway and Fidel Castro.