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The State Theatre

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**Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* opens ASF's 2017-18 Season**

**ASF Favorite Greta Lambert & Tony Award Winner John Lloyd Young will star**

**Montgomery, AL** – The Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, October 13 through November 5, 2017 on the **Octagon Stage**. *The Glass Menagerie* was Williams' first critical success, opening on Broadway in 1945 and winning the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Recognized as one of the greatest works of the American theatrical canon, the play has been realized on stages around the world and on film.

Tickets for *The Glass Menagerie* start at \$30 and are available online at [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net), by phone at **800.841.4273** and at the ASF box office located at 1 Festival Drive in the heart of Montgomery's beautiful Blount Cultural Park.

The play centers on the Wingfield family—frustrated writer Tom, his nagging mother, Amanda, who is often lost in memories of her Southern-belle past, and his painfully shy sister, Laura—who are transformed by a visit from a “gentleman caller” for Laura. Largely autobiographical, the play is based on memory and highlights the power one's family can have on another's trajectory. Tennessee Williams' masterpiece premiered 70 years ago and continues to be a highly produced play around the world.

ASF's production of *The Glass Menagerie* showcases a stellar cast of award-winning actors. Tony Award winner **John Lloyd Young** plays Tom Wingfield. Young received the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and Theatre World Award for originating the role of “Frankie Valli” in *Jersey Boys* on Broadway, in the West End, and in the 2014 film directed by Clint Eastwood. He also has appeared on television in *Law & Order* and *Glee*.

ASF Favorite **Greta Lambert** stars as Amanda Wingfield. Lambert, a Birmingham, AL native, is beloved by ASF audiences for her appearances on the ASF stage in a wide range of characters from Lady Macbeth to Blanche DuBois to Ivy Rowe in *Fair and Tender Ladies*. Recently Lambert was seen as the title character in *Driving Miss Daisy* at ASF and also appeared in the world premiere of *Alabama Story* at the Pioneer Theatre Company.

"With incredible actors at the helm like John Lloyd Young and Greta Lambert, this production of Williams' masterpiece an absolute must-see," said **Rick Dildine**, the new Artistic Director of ASF. "Seeing these award-winning actors perform in the intimacy of the Octagon Theatre will be a powerful experience for anyone lucky enough to catch a performance of this limited run."

L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Award winner **Kevin Earley** makes his ASF debut as The Gentleman Caller. Earley's Broadway and National Tour credits include *Les Misérables* (with Sutton Foster), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (with Susan Egan) and *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Appearing last season in *The Tempest* as Miranda, **Christina King** returns to the ASF stage as Laura Wingfield. King's credits include *One Man Two Guvnors* at Florida Studio Theatre, *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Royal Academy Dramatic Arts in London and *Romeo and Juliet* at ASF.

The production will be directed by guest director **David Ellenstein**, Producing Artistic Director of North Coast Repertory Theatre in San Diego, where he has directed over fifty productions. The design team includes **Brenda Van Der Wiel** (costumes) **Peter Hicks** (set), **Phil Monat** (lighting) and **William Burns** (sound.)

Public performances are Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., October 13<sup>th</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>. Rick Dildine will host talk-backs with the audience immediately following most public performances.

In addition to public performances, the Theatre in the Mind lecture series, hosted by Dr. Susan Willis, ASF's resident dramaturg, kicks off Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> with a free public lecture at noon by Professor William Hutchings of UAB, "Breaking onto Broadway with a Glass Menagerie." The lecture explores Tennessee Williams' early Broadway plays and their place in American theatre. The Theatre in the Mind lecture series is sponsored by Auburn University at Montgomery.

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*The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare Theatres in the world. Designated as the State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton Blount's gift of a performing arts complex in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.*