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Contact: Robin Conklin
Marketing/PR Director
865-974-2497
rconkli1@utk.edu

Clarence Brown Theatre
Opens 35th Anniversary Season with
***A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Dale Dickey!**

KNOXVILLE – The Clarence Brown Theatre will open its 35th Anniversary Season with Tennessee Williams’ masterpiece *A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Dale Dickey on September 4 at 7:30 p.m. on the mainstage. The production will feature original music by Lucas Richman and is sponsored by Schaad Companies. It contains adult themes.

Genteel and pretentious, Blanche DuBois, having lost her teaching job and the family plantation home, comes to stay in New Orleans with her sister, Stella, who is married to brutish Stanley Kowalski. Blanche, full of airs and graces, is looking for a husband but Kowalski exposes her life as a small town prostitute and seducer of young boys to her sole suitor, Mitch. In a final power struggle over the loyalty of his wife, Kowalski rapes Blanche and she is taken away to an asylum.

A Streetcar Named Desire premiered in New York in 1947. The play cemented Williams’ reputation as one of the greatest American playwrights, winning him a New York’s Critics Circle Award and a Pulitzer Prize.

“*Streetcar* not only brought fame to its author and principal actors, but it helped to bring definition to the post-war American character—or at least a significant aspect of the character,” said director Calvin MacLean. “Blanche and Stanley, Stella and Mitch are as American as apple pie—as close to you and me as Hamlet is still to the English, or Oedipus was to the ancient Greeks. Blanche and Stanley’s story puts the latter part of our last century into a deeper perspective—and our current time into a fresher one.”

MacLean is UT Theatre Department Head and CBT Company Artistic Director. CBT productions he has directed include *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Galileo*, and *The Secret Rapture*. His productions in Chicago -- mostly at the Famous Door Theatre-- earned several prestigious Joseph Jefferson Awards for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction. Most notable was Joshua Sobol’s *Ghetto* a production that ran for seven months. Critically acclaimed as one of the best productions in Chicago for 1999, *Ghetto* was honored with four Jeff Awards. MacLean was named by the Chicago Tribune in 2002 as one of the “ten most promising” theatre artists in Chicago. Formerly Professor of Theatre and Head of Directing at Illinois State University, he also was Artistic Director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for eleven seasons.

Lucas Richman who has served as Music Director for the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra (KSO) for the past seven years composed the original music for this production. In addition to working at the KSO, he also has appeared as a guest conductor with such orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, Delaware Symphony and several international symphonies. He has worked with such notable soloists as Emanuel Ax, Andre Watts and Yefim Bronfman.

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UT Theatre Department alumna Dale Dickey will star as Blanche. A native of Knoxville, she began working on the UT stages at age 9, in *The Sound of Music* at Hunter Hills. From then, til her time here as a theatre student in the early '80s, she performed in close to 50 plays – including the inaugural production of the CBT's, *Measure for Measure*, directed by founder Ralph Allen. One of her final shows at UT was her favorite, *Sweeney Todd* in '83. She then spent a decade in NY, working extensively with such off-Broadway theatres as Playwrights Horizons, Signature Theatre and Manhattan Punch Line. She studied in England at the British American Drama Academy and later went on to join Sir Peter Hall's London production of *The Merchant of Venice* (starring Dustin Hoffman) when it transferred to Broadway in '89. Regional theatre work includes Paper Mill Playhouse, Chicago's Royal George, Denver Center Theatre, and 3 seasons with the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in CT. She returned to the Clarence Brown for *Our Country's Good* ('94) and again in 2001 for *The Rainmaker* with David Keith. In '95, she relocated to Los Angeles where she now resides with her husband. Television work includes recurring roles such as 'Patty, the daytime hooker' on *My Name is Earl*, 'Opal' in *Christy*, and the cable series *Sordid Lives* (with Rue McClanahan and Olivia Newton-John). Numerous guest star credits include *Breaking Bad*, *The Closer*, *Cold Case*, *Numbers*, *ER*, *CSI*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Frasier* and *The X-Files*. Film work includes *A Perfect Getaway*, *Changling*, *Domino*, *The Pledge* (with Jack Nicholson) and a long string of smaller independent films. She consistently continues to work in theatre on LA stages - extensively with award winning Texas playwright Del Shores, garnering several awards for her performances in his plays – including two LA Ovation's for *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife* and *Southern Baptist Sissies*.

Chicago resident Peter DeFaria will play the role of Mitch. Recently he appeared in the Indiana Repertory Theater's production of *Crime & Punishment*. Before that, he originated the role of Joey Doyle in The Chicago Dramatist's Jeff-Award Winning production of *A Steady Rain*. Film work includes roles in *The Dark Knight* and *Public Enemies*.

Playing the roles of Stanley and Stella Kowalski are 3rd year Graduate Acting students Matthew Ventura and Jessica Ripton.

Completing the cast are David Brian Alley, Tony Cedeno, Seth Crow, Morganne Davies, Jed Diamond, Nancy Duckles, Konrad Hughes, Mark Jennings, Heather McDevitt Barton, Kayra Rannells, Martha Reddick, Chuck Sayne, Artece Slay and Calvin Smith.

The artistic team includes: Christopher Pickart, scenic design; Marianne Custer, costume design; John Horner, lighting design; Mike Ponder, sound design; Tina Shackleford, stage manager; and Clair Simon, casting director.

Preview for *A Streetcar Named Desire*, starring Dale Dickey is Thursday, September 3, followed by Opening Night Friday, September 4. The show runs through Sunday, September 20. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre box office at 865-974-5161, Tickets Unlimited at 865-656-4444 or click online at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com.

Photo Credit: Dale Dickey in the CBT's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Who: Clarence Brown Theatre
What: A Streetcar Named Desire
When: Sept. 4-20, 2009, 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.
Tickets: Preview: Adult \$20, UT Fac/Staff—BOGO \$17, Seniors \$17, Students \$12, UT Students Free with ID
Opening: Adults \$33, Students \$20, UT Students \$10 with ID
Wed/Thursday: Adults \$22, UT Fac/Staff—BOGO \$19 Seniors \$19, Students \$12, UT Students \$5 with ID
Weekends: Adults \$27, UT Fac/Staff-BOGO \$22, Seniors \$22, Students \$15, UT Students \$5 with ID
Box Office: 974-5161 or www.clarencebrowntheatre.com