## **Primer Ciclo ESO**

## **Before the Film**

## THE TAMING OF THE SHREW-Shakespeare Retold.

### **Summary**

Kate is a rich and **powerful** woman, who is an important politician, but nobody wants to marry her because she is ugly, **moody**, **rude** and **disgusting**.

Her sister Bianca, who is a model and her mother are beautiful **charming** women and men love them. Bianca's manager wants to marry her, but she is more interested in going out with a younger and more **handsome** man. So Bianca tells him that she will not marry anybody until her sister is married.

The manager looks for a man to marry Kate and he finds his friend Lucentio, who is a peculiar man, with strange **manners**: an **earl**, no money and an old ruined house he inherited from his parents, and he accepts the **challenge**. He only wants a rich woman, because he is completely **broke**. He is not worried about her **beauty** or character.

Using strange funny manners - he can be as rude, violent and impolite as Kate, he gets Kate's love and they get married. Lucentio arrives at the wedding ceremony **drunk**, without trousers, with an old coat and make up on his face; after the ceremony, he **take**s the Kate **away** before the banquet because their plane for the honeymoon in Italy leaves in half an hour, and she accepts this situation very annoyed.

Finally,... Well, It is not right to tell the end of a film, because the spectator loses interest.

I hope you enjoy it.

#### Vocabulary:

Powerful: poderosa, influyente Moody: malhumorada Rude: maleducada.

Disgusting: desagradable Charming: encantadora Handsome: guapo

Manners: modales Earl: título nobiliario. Challenge: reto.

Broke: arruinado. Beauty: belleza Drunk: borracho

Take away: llevarse.

.

## **After the Film**

#### The Taming Of The Shrew Quizz



Which of these adjectives are right to describe the Kate?(underline them)

-Handsome, ugly, pretty, good-looking, moody, powerful, rude, disgusting, polite, charming, funny, friendly, gorgeous, aggressive.



When is this scene?

- -Before the wedding. -Going to the airport.
- -Going to the house where they spent their honeymoon.

Which of these adjectives are right to describe Lucentio?(underline them)

-Handsome, ugly, pretty, good-looking, moody, powerful, rude, disgusting, polite, charming, funny, friendly, gorgeous, aggressive.



Which of these adjectives are right to describe Kate's mother? (underline them)

- Handsome, ugly, pretty, good-looking, moody, powerful, rude, disgusting, polite, charming, funny, friendly, gorgeous, aggressive.



What are the sisters doing? (Underline correct answer)

- -Going to church for the wedding.
- -Going to Bianca's party.

Compare the two sisters by using 3 or 4 of the adjectives above:

Who is the man in the hat?

- -Bianca's fiancé.
- -Bianca's manager.
- -Bianca's young boyfriend.



Where is this scene?

- -In Lucentio's house.
- -When they met in the lift.
- -In their honeymoon.



Choose the correct sentence:

- -Kate is sleeping with Bianca's manager.
- -Lucentio and Kate are sleeping after she accepted him.
- -These are not Kate and Lucentio.

#### **KEY**

- 1-Ugly, moody, rude, disgusting and aggressive.
- 2-Going to the airport.
- 3-Handsome (?), good-looking(?), rude, moody, aggressive.
- 4-Pretty, polite, charming, friendly, gorgeous (?).
- 5-Going the church for the wedding.
- -Kate is uglier, moodier, ruder and more disgusting and aggressive than Bianca.
- -Bianca is prettier, better-looking and more friendly, polite and gorgeous than Kate.
- 6-Bianca's manager.
- 7-When they met in the lift.
- 8-Lucentio and Kate are sleeping after she accepted him.(After he tamed her ( the shrew).



## TO BE OR NOT TO BE, by Ernest Lubitsch (1942)

(To be done before watching the movie)

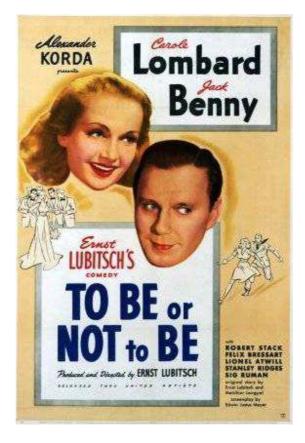
- A. "To be or not to be..." was said by...
- 1. Hamlet
- 2. Macbeth
- 3. King Lear
- B. Shakespeare was a writer from...
- 1. Germany
- 2. Poland
- 3. England
- C. The movie "To Be or not to Be" is a...
- 1. Tragedy
- 2. Comedy
- Western
- D. The movie was produced in...
- 1. 1616
- 2. 1994
- 3. 1942
- E. The director of the movie was...
- Charles Chaplin
   Steven Spielberg
   Ernest Lubitsch

F. In the movie Nazis invade...

| G. That invasion tak  | ces place in    |            |                       |  |  |  |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. 1939   | 2. 1942         | 3. 1945    |                       |  |  |  |
| H. The head of the invading army was                                      |                 |            |                       |  |  |  |
| 1. Benito Mussolini   | 2. Adolf Hitler |            | 3. Francisco Franco   |  |  |  |
| I. The story happens during   |                 |            |                       |  |  |  |
| 1. World War I  | 2. Wor          | ld War II  | 3. Spanish Civil War  |  |  |  |
| J. Please, write the dates of the mentioned wars:                         |                 |            |                       |  |  |  |
| 1. World War I:   | 2. Wor          | ld War II: | 3. Spanish Civil War: |  |  |  |
| K. Can you name some of the countries fighting on both sides during WWII? |                 |            |                       |  |  |  |
| 1. Allies:  |                 | 2.         | Axis:                 |  |  |  |
|   |                 |            |                       |  |  |  |

2. Spain 3. France

1. Poland



## TO BE OR NOT TO BE, by Ernest Lubitsch (1942)

(To be done after watching the movie)

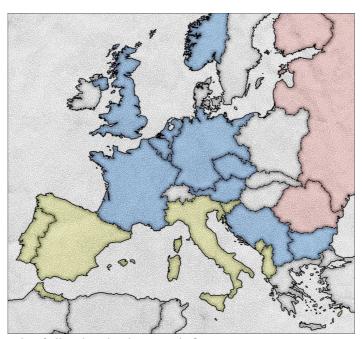
- 1. Write the three roles Joseph Tura plays in the movie.
- 2. Who are the three characters who try to seduce Maria Tura?



- 3. Who is "Concentration Camp Ehrhardt"?
- 4. Siletsky is a spy for...
- 5. The action takes place in...
- 6. Why does Ehrhardt commit suicide?
- 7. Where is Siletsky shot?
- 8. Where does Siletsky keep the document with the information about the Polish resistance?
- 9. Who shaves Siletsky after his death?
- 10. Why does Hitler come to Varsaw?
- 11. Please, identify the following countries and cities on this map of Europe:

Countries: Germany, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom, Austria

Cities: Berlin, Warsaw, Madrid, London, Viena



- 11. Whose says the following in the movie?
- 1. "May I say, my dear Colonel, that it's good to breathe the air of the Gestapo again. You know, you're quite famous in London, Colonel. They call you Concentration Camp Ehrhardt".

- 2. "They named a brandy after Napoleon, they made a herring out of Bismarck, and the Fuhrer is going to end up as a piece of cheese!"
- 3. "Her husband is that great, great Polish actor, Josef Tura. You've probably heard of him".
- 4. "You see, sir, the other night Professor Siletsky was addressing us at the camp, and I mentioned the name of Maria Tura and he never heard of her".
- 5. "Lieutenant, this is the first time I've ever met a man who could drop three tons of dynamite in two minutes".
- 12. Write a follow up of the story after Joseph Tura returns to Maria's dressing room at the end of the movie. Please do it in dialogue form.



## **KEY**

#### **BEFORE:**

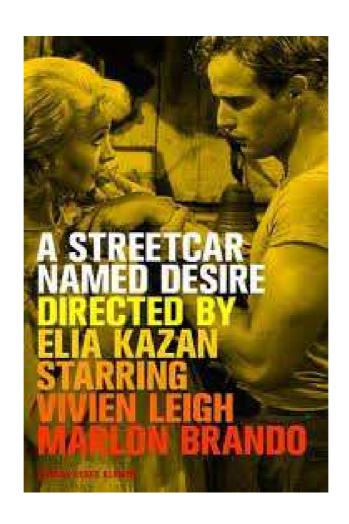
- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 3
- F. 1
- G. 1
- H. 2
- L 2
- J. 1914-1918; 1939-1945
- K. Axis: Germany, Italy, Japan. Allies: USA, UK, USSR, France, ...

#### AFTER:

- 1. Hamlet, Colonel, Ehrhardt, Siletsky
- 2. Sobinski, Siletsky, Colone Ehrhardt
- 3. Colonel Ehrhardt
- 4. Poland
- 5. Warsaw, Poland

- 6. He thinks Hitler has caught him trying to seduce his lover.
- 7. In the theatre
- 8. In the trunk in the hotel
- 9. Joseph Tura
- 10. For a political event
- 11. 1. Siletsky and Joseph Tura disquised as Siletsky
  - 2. Boy at beginning of movie, Shultz, Colonel Ehrhardt.
  - 3. Jospeh Tura
  - 4. Lieutenant Sobinski
  - 5. Maria Tura

# **CINEMA & THEATRE DAYS**



IES A Xunqueira 1 Pontevedra. 14-15 February 2013

# **CONTENTS**

| Before watching the film              | Page 3 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Reading                               | 4      |
| Speaking                              | 5      |
| A Streetcar Named Desire presentation | 6      |
| Symbolic reference                    | 7      |
| Tennessee Williams                    | 8      |
| Elia Kazan                            | 10     |
| What's the story?                     | 11     |
| Blanche Dubois-Stanley Kowalski       | 12     |
| Things you didn't know about the film | 13     |
| Movie reviews                         | 14     |
| Related films                         | 15     |
| Todo sobre mi madre                   | 16     |
| Opera.The Simpsons                    | 18     |
| After watching the film               | 19     |
| Listening                             | 20     |
| Writing                               | 21     |
| Answer kev                            | 22     |

# Before watching the film

## **READING**

#### **Group work**

30'

<u>Blanche DuBois</u> (<u>Vivien Leigh</u>) is a fading, but nevertheless attractive <u>Southern belle</u>, whose pretensions to virtue and culture only thinly mask her alcoholism and **delusions of grandeur** Blanche arrives from her hometown of Auriol, <u>Mississippi</u> at the apartment of her sister, <u>Stella Kowalski</u> (<u>Kim Hunter</u>), in the French Quarter of <u>New Orleans</u>, on Elysian Fields Avenue. The local transportation that she takes to arrive there includes a <u>streetcar</u> route named "<u>Desire</u>." The steamy, urban ambiance is a shock to Blanche's nerves.

Explaining that her ancestral southern plantation, Belle Reve in Auriol, Mississippi, has been "lost" due to the "epic fornications" of her ancestors, Blanche is welcomed with some trepidation by Stella, who fears the reaction of her husband, Stanley Kowalski (Marlon Brando). Blanche says her supervisor gave her time off her job as an English teacher because of her upset nerves. In truth, however, she was fired for having an affair with a 17-year-old male student. This turns out not to be the only seduction she had engaged in – and these problems led Blanche to run away from Auriol. A brief marriage scarred by the suicide of her spouse, Allan Grey, has led Blanche to live in a world in which her fantasies and illusions are seamlessly mixed with her reality.

In contrast to both the self-effacing and deferential Stella and the pretentious refinement of Blanche, Stanley is a force of nature: primal, rough-hewn, brutish and sensual. He <u>dominates</u> Stella in every way and is physically and emotionally abusive. Stella tolerates his behavior as this is part of what attracted her in the first place. Their love and relationship is heavily based on powerful, even animalistic, sexual chemistry – something that Blanche says that she finds impossible to understand, despite long glances of admiration and lust towards Stanley. The arrival of Blanche upsets her sister's and brother-in-law's system of <u>mutual dependence</u>. Stella's concern for her sister's well-being emboldens Blanche to hold court in the Kowalski apartment, infuriating Stanley and leading to conflict in his relationship with his wife. Stanley's friend and Blanche's would-be suitor, Harold "Mitchell (<u>Karl Malden</u>), is trampled as Blanche and Stanley head for a collision course. Stanley discovers Blanche's past through a co-worker who travels to Auriol frequently. He confronts Blanche with the things she has been trying to put behind her due to resentment of her airs of superiority toward him and a distaste for pretense in general. However, his attempts to "unmask" her are predictably cruel and violent.

Their final confrontation – a <u>rape</u> – results in Blanche's nervous breakdown. Stanley has her **committed** to a mental institution. Mitch, knowing that Stanley raped Blanche and had her committed to a mental institution, lashes out and punches Stanley but is then held back by the other men, and he starts to weep. As the other men stare at Stanley, he claims he "never once touched her".

Devastated with her sister's fate, Stella weeps and rejects Stanley's intention to comfort her and pushes him away. Stella runs out to see Blanche off, but is too late, as the car Blanche left in has already gone. As he cries her name once more ("Stella! Hey, Stella!"), Stella clings to her child and vows that she is "never going back" to Stanley again. She goes upstairs once more in order to seek refuge with her neighbor, Eunice (Peg Hillias), as Stanley continues to call her name.

#### **Questions**

- 1- What's the meaning of the bold words?
  - a.-delusions of grandeur
  - b.-fired
  - c.-mutual
  - d.-committed
- 2- Do you think Blanche dislikes Stanley?
- 3- Why does Blanche break down?
- 4- Write a summary of the text (about 60 words).

# **SPEAKING**

Class work

20'

## Explore, discuss, enjoy

\*Is Stanley really such a monster, or is he correct to some extent in unmasking Blanche's lies and delusions?

- \*"Deliberate cruelty is not forgivable."
  - 1- Brainstorming.
  - 2- Discuss: reasons for and against
  - 3- Write complete sentences including the main points.
  - 4- Make two paragraphs.









Presented
by
Carmina Aguado Madrigal
Laura Garcia Martin
Luis Garcia Clavería

15th February 2013 Pontevedra

## The reference to the streetcar named *Desire* is symbolic.



Blanche not only has to travel on a streetcar route named "Desire" to reach Stella's home on "Elysian Fields" but her desire acts as an irrepressible force throughout the play



## **Tennessee Williams**



Tennessee Williams (age 54) photographed by Orland Fernandez in 1965 for the twentieth anniversary of *The Glass Menagerie*.



March 26, 1911

Columbus,

Mississippi, United States

**Died** February 25,

1983 (aged 71)

New York City, New York,

**United States** 

**Resting** Bellefontaine and Calvary

place <u>Cemeteries</u>

Nationality <u>American</u>

Partner(s) Frank Merlo

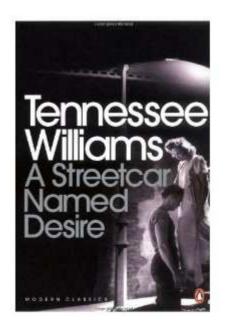
Pancho Rodríguez y

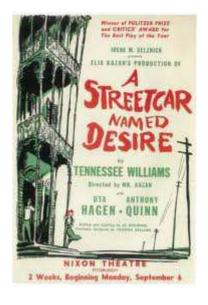
González

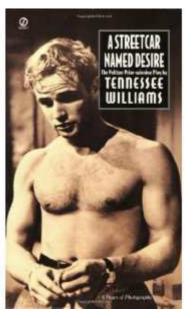
Parents Edwina and Cornelius

Coffin

Signature Junion Mullians







## Thomas Lanier "Tennessee" Williams III

(March 26, 1911 – February 25, 1983) was an American writer who worked principally as a <u>playwright</u> in the <u>American theater</u>.

His professional career lasted from the mid 1930s until his death in 1983, and saw the creation of many plays that are regarded as classics of the American stage. Williams adapted much of his best known work for the <u>cinema</u>.

Williams received the <u>Pulitzer Prize for Drama</u> for <u>A Streetcar</u> <u>Named Desire</u> (1947).

"There is no more influential 20th-century American playwright than Tennessee Williams".

Some memories of his own life, and a particular factory co-worker, became part of the character <u>Stanley Kowalski</u> in <u>A Streetcar</u> <u>Named Desire</u>

The huge success of <u>A Streetcar Named Desire</u> in 1947 secured his reputation as a great playwright.

To stimulate his writing he moved often, to various cities including New York, New Orleans, Key West, Rome, Barcelona, and London.

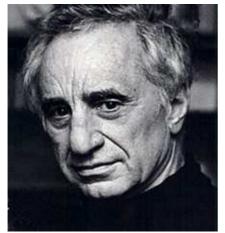
The devastating effects of his **sister's illness** may have contributed to his <u>alcoholism</u> and his dependence on various combinations of <u>amphetamines</u> and <u>barbiturates</u>.

By the late 1930s Williams had accepted his <u>homosexuality</u> Infidelities and drug abuse; <u>depression</u> and the fear that, like his sister Rose, he would fall into insanity. Increasing drug use resulting in several hospitalizations and commitments to mental health facilities.

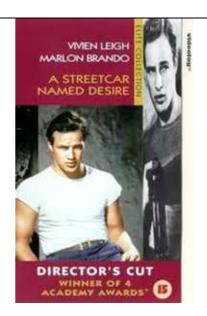
The Pulitzer Prize for Drama was awarded to <u>A Streetcar Named Desire</u> in 1948 and to <u>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</u> in 1955. Both plays included **references to elements of Williams' life such as homosexuality, mental instability, and alcoholism.** 

•

## Elia Kazan



Elia Kazan, c. 1960



Born Elias Kazanjoglou (son of a

cauldron maker) September 7, 1909

Istanbul, Ottoman Empire

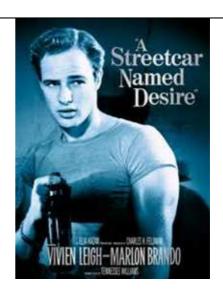
**Died** September 28, 2003 (aged 94)

New York City, New York, United

States

Occupation Director, actor, producer,

screenwriter and novelist



Years active

1934–1976

Influenced Scorsese, Cassavetes, Coppola,

Kubrick, Almodóvar

**Spouse(s)** Molly Day Thacher

(m. 1932–1963; her death)

Barbara Loden

(m. 1967–1980; her death)

Frances Rudge

(m. 1982–2003; his death)



# What's the story?

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE came to the screen fresh from a hit two-year run on Broadway, with the whole stage cast transplanted to the screen except for a newcomer, *Gone With the Wind* icon Vivien Leigh. She plays the pivotal part of Blanche, a fragile leftover of a once-great southern dynasty, who, after the deaths of their parents and the loss of their mansion, makes her way to New Orleans to live with her only sister Stella (Kim Hunter). Stella, nowhere near the southern-belle type Blanche is, has abandoned her high-society pretensions to marry Stanley Kowalski (Marlon Brando), a passionate, but domineering, often drunk, and sometimes even animalistic laborer. Stanley and Blanche both attract and repel each other. Stanley, irritated and perhaps feeling threatened by the changes Blanche brings to his little apartment, suspects there are worse things in the sister's background that she admits, and he's right.

#### Positive message

A woman leaves her abusive husband.

Stella's largely a **doormat** until the end. Stanley- proud, brutish, combative and not without some good sense (when not drinking) - ends up being the **villain**.

### **Violence**

Volatile, drunken Stanley initiates a brawl and beats on his wife at a card game. We hear more than see other examples of neighborhood **domestic violence and household brutality**. Offscreen **rape** is suggested.

#### <u>Sex</u>

Stella is **naked** under bedsheets in one scene; it's pretty obvious she and Stanley have had sex. Lots of euphemistic innuendos in the dialogue, with references to **prostitution** and even a **scandal** of a teacher romantically involved **with a teen student**.

## **Language**

A few ethnic slurs: "Polack" and "Chinaman."

## **Drinking & smoking**

Heavy drinking and smoking by all, especially alcoholic Blanche. A **cigarette case** is especially romanticized.



## **BLANCHE DUBOIS**

- \*Culture and refinement
- \*Fantasies and delusions.
- \*New Orleans represents the ugliness of reality
  The "crude" people that live on the street called Elysian Fields represent the decline of civilized culture.
- \*Gentle and wealthy childhood on a plantation called Belle Reve= beautiful dream
- \*Elitist, intolerant remarks about class, sexuality and ethnicity.
- \*Belle Reve's style of aristocracy
- \*Expects more than a life of servitude

## STANLEY KOWALSKI

- \*Harsh, unadorned reality.
- \*Factory, bowling, poker, sex
- \*His two-bedroom flat in a lowincome area of the French Quarter is his kingdom

- \*Non-existent racial segregation
- \*Jazz and blues= change and hope?
- \*Wants to dominate his home

Post-war tension between the sexes

# 'A Streetcar Named Desire': Things You Didn't Know About the Marlon Brando Movie

\*There were three elements in the script that the censors insisted must be changed: the suggestion that Blanche's husband had been gay, Blanche's promiscuity, and the rape scene.

Kazan didn't mind changing the first two.

Kazan and Williams came up with a revision that seemed to satisfy the censors, one where (as with the other major changes) the true meaning was not explicit but would be apparent to a grown-up audience paying close attention. The rape was implied in Stanley's smashing of the mirror (the ultimate fragmentation of Blanche's self-image), and his alienation from Stella was implied by her announcement that she was moving out (though she only moved upstairs to a nearby apartment, suggesting that she and Stanley wouldn't be separated for long).

- \* Kazan also played up the claustrophobia of Stanley and Stella's apartment by literally having the walls close in on the characters; that is, he moved the walls closer to each other from one scene to the next.
- \*"Streetcar" had marked a milestone for the censors. "For the first time we were confronted with a picture that was obviously not family entertainment."
- \* After earning approval from Code censors, Kazan thought his troubles were over. But the movie ran into trouble with the Catholic Legion of Decency

## **Movie Reviews**

Marlon Brando, as Stanley Kowalski, probably gives the most sexually explosive performance in movie history.

This is the tragic story of the mentally unstable Blanche Dubois who flees her Mississippi plantation to live with her sister Stella and Stanley, Stella's husband, in one of New Orleans low rent districts. We see her slowly descend into madness at the hands of the brutish Stanley; with an assist by Karl Malden as Mitch.

Vivien Leigh gives the second greatest performance of her career, ironically as another southern belle.

Kim Hunter rounds out the cast as Stella. She makes you feel every bit of her uncontrollable passion for her insensitive lout of a husband. In many ways her treatment of Stanley is that of a sex object - he's her man-toy.

And although it is Brando's primal scream of 'STELLA!!!' that is remembered most vividly, the best lines are spoken by Blanche. Such as: 'I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.' Or when she tells Stella 'You weren't there to see that long slow march to the graveyard, to which all but you and I have now retreated.'

Along with Montgomery Clift and James Dean, Brando completely revolutionized American movie acting. The term Method became a part of the language of cinema.

.....

**Blanche likes to give instructions** not take them. She likes men she can control and dominate. Like mama's boy Mitch, or the young man at the door she attempts to seduce. Blanche can't manipulate Stanley or pull the wool over his eyes.

They battle for control over Stella. Blanche fills her with thoughts of a better life and attempts to make her feel guilty for running off and marrying Stanley. Whereas Stanley gives Stella excitement, sex and the winning blow; a baby.

.....

**Blanche's** character is all about **surface appearances** versus what's going on inside. Her upbringing tells her she should be a gentile lady, and although she manages to keep up this facade, her true character leaks out despite her best intentions.

She finds herself attracted to Stanley.

Another subtler indication of **Blanche's duality** is the scene with Karl Malden where she remains in shadow during their conversation. He hears what she wants him to hear, all the while keeping her true self hidden. A truly symbolic moment. She dates him because he is too weak and submissive. Only Stanley sees through her facade. Too blunt and animalistic to bother with manners, his instincts tell him that she is not what she seems.

## RELATED FILMS

# All About My Mother (Pedro Almodóvar, 1999)

28Feb11



Cecilia Roth (Manuela), Marisa Paredes (Huma Rojo), Penélope Cruz (Hermona Rosa), Atonia San Juan (Agrado), Candela Pena (Nina). Screenplay by Pedro Almodóvar. Directed by Pedro Almodóvar. Rating: 15. Running time: 101 minutes.

I don't understand anything about All About My Mother, except for the fact it is an absolutely incredible, outrageously powerful work of art. I'm confused by its story, by whether we're supposed to cry or giggle or do both simultaneously, by whether its characters are pathetic or strangely and touchingly human. Just consider the film's furniture: a heroin junkie with a key role in a production of A Streetcar Named Desire, a transsexual prostitute, and a transvestite who impregnates a nun, the lives of which are all interlinked by a grieving mother – Manuela – returning home to Barcelona from Madrid after the death of her son in a road accident. She works in a surgery that deals with organ donations, and even acts as a distraught relative for the sake of training doctors. Then the tables turn and the next time we see the conversation it's real. The call for empathy is irresistible, but so are the forthcoming demands for genuine laughter at the personality and sense of humour of the transsexual Agrado – an old friend of Manuela who becomes bruised from an attack at 'work' and shrieks at the sight of herself in the mirror appearing to allegedly look like The Elephant Man. From drama to comedy and back again, this story that must look so silly as a synopsis, or even as a fully fleshed-out screenplay, manages to somehow steer us through Almodóvar's bold but oh-so warm imagination and wild vision of matriarchy. This all goes without even mentioning how, quite stunningly, every set is decorated as if with the intention of being submitted to an exhibition for a day long viewing, not for a fleeting few seconds on the silver screen.



Todo sobre mi madre

Filmografía

**Biografía** 

<u>Chicas (y chicos)</u> <u>Almodóvar</u>

Especial Oscars 1999

#### TODO SOBRE MI MADRE

#### Amor de madre

# Almodóvar rinde un nuevo tributo a las mujeres en un melodrama desgarrador

BEATRICE SARTORI

En 1950, Bette Davis alcanzó la cumbre de su genio por su atormentada Margo Channing, la eximia dama del teatro de "Eva al desnudo". En 1974, Romy Schneider ganó el primer César de la historia del cine francés por su doliente actriz de "Lo importante es amar". Cuatro años después, la Berlinale de 1978 galardonó a Gena



Rowlands con el Oso de Plata por su interpretación de la alcoholizada actriz Myrtle Gordon en "Opening Night".

Pedro Almodóvar dedica su última película, "Todo sobre mi madre", a estas actrices, por aquellos tres trabajos dramáticos sublimes. Y a las actrices que ha cen de actrices. Y, también, a las demás actrices. Y a todas lasmadres, actrices en lo cotidiano y doméstico. Y a su madre.

Todas las mujeres que entrecruzan sus caminos y vidas en "Todo sobre mi madre" tienen algo de la enloquecida y patética Blanche Du Bois, aquélla que, en "Un tranvía llamado Deseo", se dejaba conducir al manicomio confiando en la bondad de los desconocidos. Manuela, Rosa, Huma, Nina y Agrado son las nuevas mujeres Almodóvar -muy lejos de la etiqueta delas chicas- protagonistas ahora de dramáticos eventos, que las conviertenen una mezcla de Blanche, Stella Kowalski y Eve Harrington, la Eva de Eva al desnudo, la admiradora que soñaba con ser la gran Margo Channing.

Los ecos de Joseph Mankiewicz, Tennessee Williams y García Lorca resuenan en Todo sobre mi madre, una historia femenina coral encabezada por Manuela Goifman Echevarría, argentina varada en Madrid, enfermera, de 38 años y 1,70 metros de estatura, ex actriz amateur y madre de un hijo adolescente, Esteban, que ama el cine, el teatro, la literatura de Truman Capote y sueña con escribirle un quión cinematográfico a su madre.

La noche de su 17 cumpleaños, acude con ella al teatro a ver "Un tranvía llamado deseo" protagonizado por Huma Rojo, una dama que fuma como Bette Davis, interpreta a Blanche Du Bois como Vivien Leigh y vive enganchada al tabaco, al teatro y a una amante yonqui, Nina. Esteban intenta obtener un autógrafo y muere accidentalmente. Tras ceder sus órganos para que sean transplantados, enloquecida de dolor,

Manuela huye a Barcelona, el lugar donde concibió a Esteban.

Confrontada con un pasado que oculta un turbulento secreto, Manuela se reencuentra con Agrado, transexual de buen corazón, todo silicona y sentimientos auténticos: una prostituta en la genuina tradición felliniana. Y

cuadros de Chagall. También se reencuentra con Nina y Huma, que llegan a Barcelona a bordo de su tranvía teatral.

Un guateque a base de cava Freixenet y cacahuetes provoca una confesión catártica y una verdadera fraternidad femenina. Porque "Todo sobre mi madre" habla desgarradamente sobre la más grande herida en la vida de una fémina: la muerte de un hijo. Pero, también, sobre la capacidad sobrehumana de la mujer para superar el dolor de la pérdida, sobre la posibilidad del perdón y la ilimitada capacidad de generosidad del alma femenina.

Hay tres hombres en "Todo sobre mi madre", pero son tan sólo espectros. Está el actor que interpreta al brutal Stanley Kowalski (Carlos Lozano), un padre anciano privado de la memoria (Fernando Fernán Gómez) y Esteban/Lola, un seductor letal con el físico de Tony Cantó y el disfraz de Michael Caine en "Vestida para matar".

Cecilia Roth, Marisa Paredes, Penélope Cruz, Antonia San Juan y Candela Peña integran un reparto que incluye los cameos de Lluís Pasqual, BetteDavis, Celeste Holm y Anne Baxter, Nuria Espert y Julieta Serrano (desde una fotografía), Agustín Almodóvar, al volante de un taxi, y la mismísima Elizabeth Taylor sobre el trono de Cleopatra.

- Las claves: Almodóvar habla sobre su película
- Lista de premios recibidos por la película

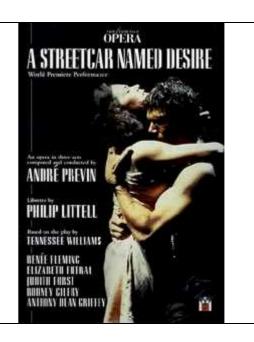
Un especial de **EL MUNDO** 

## **INFLUENCES**

## A Streetcar Named Desire (opera)

A Streetcar Named Desire is an opera composed by André Previn with a libretto by Philip Littell in 1995. It is based on the play by Tennessee Williams.

A Streetcar Named Desire is so operatic as a play that one wonders why more than 50 years have passed since its Broadway opening with no opera of note being made of it.



## **A Streetcar Named Marge**

"A Streetcar Named Marge" is the second episode of <u>The Simpsons</u>' fourth season. In the episode, <u>Marge</u> wins the role of <u>Blanche DuBois</u> in a <u>musical</u> version of <u>Tennessee Williams</u>' <u>A Streetcar Named Desire</u>. Marge begins to see parallels between him and <u>Stanley Kowalski</u>. The episode generated controversy for its original song about <u>New Orleans</u>, which contains several unflattering lyrics about the city.

New Orleans!

Stinking, rotten, vomiting, vile!

**New Orleans!** 

Putrid, brackish, maggoty, foul!

**New Orleans!** 

Crummy, lousy, rancid, and rank!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oUA6wirNfE



# After watching the film

#### **Individual work**

10'

# LISTENING

#### **Top Ten Quotes**

- 1. "I'm not young and vulnerable any more."
- 2. "He acts like an animal, has an animal's habits! Eats like one, moves like one, talks like one!
- 3. "In some kinds of people some tenderer feelings have had some little beginning! That we have to make grow! And cling to, and hold as our flag!"
- 4. "And men don't want anything they get too easy. But on the other hand, men lose interest quickly."
- 5. "And then the searchlight which had been turned on the world was turned off again and never for one moment since has there been any light that's stronger than this—kitchen—candle."
- 6. "I don't want realism. I want magic!"
- 7. "Never inside, I didn't lie in my heart."
- 8. "You're not clean enough to bring in the house with my mother."
- 9. "May be you wouldn't be bad to- interfere with..."
- 10. "Whoever you are—I have always depended on the kindness of strangers."
- a- Blanche speaking to Mitch
- b- Blanche speaking to Stanley
- c- Mitch speaking to Blanche
- *d- Blanche speaking to the Doctor*
- e- Blanche speaking to Stella
- f- Stanley speaking to Blanche
- g-Blanche speaking to Stella,
- h- Blanche speaking about Stanley
- i- Blanche speaking to Mitch
- j-Blanche speaking about the effect on her of her husband's suicide

#### Match 1-10 with a-j.

1- ; 2- ; 3- ; 4- ; 5- ; 6- ; 7- ; 8- ; 9- ; 10-

Pair work

## Build up a dialogue:

Blanche and Stella are talking about their happy life on Belle Reve, their plantation.







## **ANSWER KEY**

#### 1 READING page 4

1-

- a.- the belief that one is extremely important, powerful etc
- b.- dismissed; sacked
- c.- equally shared by each person
- d.- ordered to be put somewhere, especially in prison or in a mental hospital
- 2 -I think she actually likes him because she looks at him with admiration and lust.
- 3 -Eventually Blanche breaks down after being unmasked in a cruel and violent way. She has even been raped by her brother-in-law.
- 4 -Blanche Dubois arrives at her sister Stella Kowalski's apartment in New Orleans. Blanche has a promiscuous past and cannot face reality. Stanley Kowalski is violent and brutish, but Stella is attracted to this, as is Blanche. Stanley discovers Blanche's past and confronts her- finally, he rapes her. Blanche has a breakdown and Stanley commits her to a mental institution. Stella vows to leave Stanley. (about 60 words by **Hattie Williams**)

2 LISTENING page 20 1-b; 2-h; 3-e/g; 4-e/g; 5-j; 6-a/i; 7-a/i; 8-c; 9-f; 10-d



### 1) SPEAKING (By Merve Özdemir)

Class work - 5'

Here on the board you see the characters of the film A Good Woman. What I want you to do is to guess the relationship between these people. What could be the relationships between the characters? Any guesses?

Photoshop PSD file download - Resolution 1280x1024 px - www.psdgr





### 2) **READING** (By Merve Özdemir)

Pair work - 25'

Here is the summary of the film. Please read the summary and answer the questions below.

Mrs. Erlynne is notorious for seducing rich men. Thus, she is no longer welcomed by the society and decides to go to Amalfi, Italy, where she blackmails Robert Windermere. When people see that Mr. Windermere frequently visits Mrs. Erlynne's villa, everybody suspects the two are having an affair. In the meanwhile, Robert's wife, Meg, remains unaware of the gossips about the two, but when she discovers her husband's check registers indicating payments to Erlynne, she thinks the worst. However, what she doesn't know is that Erlynne actually is her mother. While all these are happening, Lord Darlington, Mr. Windermere's friend, declares his love to Meg. At the end, Mrs. Erlynne chooses her daughter's happiness over her own life. Letting her daughter continue her beautiful life with her husband she leaves the town.

#### Questions

- 1) What could be "the worst" Meg thinks when she sees her husband's check registers?
- 2) Who might be the "good woman", Mrs. Erlynne or Mrs. Windermere?
- 3) Why do you think Mr. Windermere pays money to Mrs. Erlynne?
- 4) Do you think Lord Darlington's attitude towards Meg is morally appropriate?
- 5) Why do you think Meg doesn't know Mrs. Erlynne is her mother?

#### **Answers**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

.....



## 3) LISTENING (By Merve Özdemir)

Individual work - 15'

| Decide which sentences are | true and | which o | ones are false | 2. |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|----------------|----|
|----------------------------|----------|---------|----------------|----|

| Je | cide which sentences are true and which ones are faise.   |
|----|---|
| 1) | Lady Windermere has always thought her mother was living abroad   |
| 2) | Lord Darlington tries to convince Mrs. Windermere that she should never speak to Mrs. Erlynne.  |
| 3) | It's Lady Windermere saying "A man should never buy his wife jewellery".  |
| 4) | Mrs. Erlynne asks Augustus to keep Mr. Windermere out all night.  |
| 5) | Most of the female characters admire Mrs. Erlynne.  |
| 6) | Mrs. Erlynne's excuse for visiting her daughter the morning after the party is that she has come to return the fan                          |
| 7) | Just as Lady Windermere attempts to tell her husband the truth, Parker announces Augustus has come to call                                  |
| 8) | Meg Windermere never suspects from her husband.   |
| 9) | "You talk as if you had a heart. Women like you have no hearts. Heart is not in you. You are bought and sold." are Mrs. Windermere's words. |



10) The Duchess of Berwick tries to make her daughter, Agatha, get married to a rich man.



## 4) WRITING (By Merve Özdemir)

Group work - 15'

Now that you have watched the film, please give us 4 reasons to watch the film.

1)

2)

3)

4)





#### Answer Key (By Merve Özdemir)

#### Speaking

Students' own guesses. Correct relationship map:

- Meg Windermere is Mr. Windermere's wife.
- Mrs. Erlynne is the mother of Meg Windermere.
- Tuppy loves Mrs. Erlynne.
- Lord Darlington is Mr. Windermere's friend and also loves Mrs. Windermere.

#### Reading

- 1) "The worst" Meg thinks when she sees her husband's check registers with payments to Mrs. Erlynne is that her husband is having an affair with Mrs. Erlynne.
- 2) Mrs. Erlynne is the good woman of this film because she is the rescuer (of lady Windermere), she is the sufferer, she is the mystery, she is the beauty and she is the topic of gossip all through the film. Also, at the end she chooses her daughter's happiness over hers.
- 3) Mr. Windermere pays money to Mrs. Erlynne because she blackmails him into confessing his wife that she is actually Meg's mother.
- 4) It is not appropriate because Mrs. Windermere is already married. Also, her husband, Mr. Windermere, is Lord Darlington's friend.
- 5) Mrs. Windermere doesn't know her because Mrs. Erlynne had left her when she was a little girl. She wanted to pursue her own interests and to be independent. She didn't want to be a wife or mother.

#### Listening

1F 2F 3F 4T 5F 6T 7F 8F 9T 10T

#### Writing

Students' own answers like:

You should watch it because you would like to learn about life style and people of Victorian age. Also, it is based on a famous play by a famous writer, Oscar Wilde, and there are well-known actors and actresses like Tom Wilkinson and Scarlett Johansson. Above all, watching a film teaches you a lot.