

Vermont Stage Takes A Streetcar Named Desire to Success

By Jim Lowe

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BURLINGTON

Tennessee Williams' dramas explore the intense passions and frustrations of a disturbed and frequently brutal society, and nowhere is this more evident than in "A Streetcar Named Desire." More than that, the 1947 drama is so psychologically accurate, it frequently has audience members at the edges of their seats.

Vermont Stage's produc-

sexy. From the beginning, Blanche decries Stella's primitive life in "poverty" and with an "ape" of a man, igniting the fuse in Blanche and Stanley's battle of brutal sexuality. Gradually, Stanley and Stella realize that Blanche's gentility covers up a tawdry past of misery, loneliness and desperation, and Stanley is more than happy to even the score by exposing her.

A Streetcar

this psychological and sexual battle with a particularly fine cast. Done "in-the-round," with the audience on all four sides of the stage, the action, despite some awkward moments, was virtually in the audience's lap, creating intimacy and adding to the intensity.

At Thursday's performance, Dee Pelletier as Blanche DuBois and Jack Newman as Stanley Kowalski made a particularly effective and con-