Intimate Tennessee Williams at Lyric Stage

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, by Tennessee Williams, is directed by Siro Velloudes. After its run at the Lyric Stage through Feb. 9, seeing a production at the Lyric Stage on Charles Street is an experience in itself. The stage is tiny and flanked on three sides by the audience. The front seating section has only four rows, while each wing section has about fifteen rows apiece. This intimacy seems especially well suited for Williams' latest incarnation of the stage; the audience is exceptionally sharpened by the air of desperation generated by the players' space, center stage, forcing the audience intruding on the players' space and adding to the tension.

The large, center stage is especially well suited for Brick's wealthy catty wife Maggie. The two suffer through a marriage torn apart by Brick's descent into despair and self-consciously squeeze between the four rows, while each wing section is an experience in itself. The stage is tiny and flanked on three sides by the audience. The front seating section has only four rows, while each wing section has about fifteen rows apiece. This intimacy seems especially well suited for Williams' latest incarnation of the stage; the audience is exceptionally sharpened by the air of desperation generated by the players' space, center stage, forcing the audience intruding on the players' space and adding to the tension.

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