

## Conclusion

Tennessee Williams was awarded many times for his works: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (in 1955) won the Pulitzer Prize; *The Glass Menagerie* (1944), the New York Drama Critics Circle Award during 1950s, *A Street Named Desire*<sup>1</sup> (1947) which won the author the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and the Donaldson award, and *The Night of the Iguana* (1961) won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. When Williams stepped into the dazzling world of New York, he was a penniless young man. Because he had a fascinating insight into the world, he could write many successful dramas. Fortunately, the idea of his many plays was quickly accepted by producers and directors. For instance, *The Glass Menagerie* opened successfully in Chicago at the end of 1944, also later it was effectively transferred to film. After this play, Williams wrote more astonishing plays, such as *Summer and Smoke* (1948), *The Rose Tattoo* (1951), *Camino Real* (1953), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), *Suddenly, Last Summer* (1958), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959), and *Period of Adjustment* (1960).

“Morality” may seem an important issue for some playwrights, but in the plays of Williams it is only a point of departure. In different conditions, Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, Chance Wayne in *Sweet Bird of Youth*, and Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* are given true to life characterization by Williams. The important theme I have found in this thesis is that they can still face the reality bravely that after the three male protagonists have experienced illusion and disillusion. At first, they all live under the emotional and economical pressures in their society. And they have their illusions (or fantasies): Tom wants to find his adventure and complete freedom; Chance wants to become a successful and rich person so that he can have his girl; Brick wants to relieve the good times with his dead friend. The consequences are a series of pathetic tragedies, and end up with disillusion:

---

<sup>1</sup> Because of this play, he was acclaimed the “New” Eugene O’Neill.

Tom escapes from his family and becomes a wanderer. Chance loses his lovely girl friend, Heavenly, only ends up becoming a gigolo to a faded star. Brick turns into an alcoholic.

To analyze Williams' characters in these plays, I use the economical and psychological approaches. Richard Schmitt's *Introduction to Marx and Engels: a critical reconstruction* (published in 1997) can give me helpful economical and social information. Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1990) offers a psychological approach to explain that human behavior is influenced by the unconscious mind and the depressed desires can form an individual's actions. The unconscious mind can be seen as the repository of memories that may be forgotten but may be accessible to consciousness at sometimes.

Both the economical and psychological problems are displayed by the three male characters: Tom, Chance, and Brick. Economically and psychologically, Tom is oppressed by the realities of working in a bored warehouse to support his family. He would rather seek out adventures, much like his father did.

In his society, Chance is depressed by his girlfriend's father, Boss Finley who has a lot of power in the town of St. Cloud. Boss feels that Chance is not suitable for his daughter, and so drives Chance away from the town. Psychologically, Chance wants to try anything to win a quick success. As a consequence, he becomes a gigolo for Princess, a faded star. When Chance makes his way back to town, he discovers that the girl he loves is to be married someone else, the second time he is driven by Heavenly's father to leave town.

No matter how much they have failed, Williams shows us the nobility of human beings' endurance, and so they can have their renewals: although Chance knows that he is unable to get his girl, he decides to stay to suffer the consequence and to restart his life. Brick turns into an alcoholic because he knows that his wife and his best friend have an unusual relationship. However, after accepting Margaret's full explanation, his attitude changes and he is willing to develop a better relationship with his wife. At the end, to his surprise, his

wife announces the possibility of her being pregnant with a child. If they have a child, Brick can inherit his share of Big Daddy's estate.

All three characters can courageously readjust their way of life through failures. Williams' message is clear to us: the nobility of human beings lies in their endurance, adaptation, and the renewal of life.

