

The Glass Menagerie Character Descriptions

AMANDA WINGFIELD (the mother): A little woman of great but confused vitality, clinging frantically to another time and place. Attached to her former youth as a Southern Belle, Amanda needs a deep southern accent which fluctuates in intensity throughout the play. There is much to admire in Amanda, and as much to love and pity as there is to laugh at. Certainly she has endurance and a kind of heroism, and though her foolishness makes her unwittingly cruel at times, there is tenderness in her slight person.

- Female, late 40's to early 50's

LAURA WINGFIELD (her daughter): A childhood illness has left Laura disabled, one leg slightly shorter than the other, and held in a brace. However, it is questionable how much of Laura's disability is truly physical and how much stems from undiagnosed anxiety and depression. Laura's isolation increases till she is like a piece of her own glass collection, too exquisitely fragile to move from the shelf.

- Female, 20's

TOM WINGFIELD (her son): The narrator of the play. A poet with a job in a warehouse. Tom craves adventure and change, but is trapped by the needs of his family. His nature is not remorseless, but to escape from a trap he has to act without pity. Tom is the semi-autobiographical representation of Tennessee Williams in the play.

- Male, 20's

JIM O'CONNOR (the gentleman caller): A nice, ordinary, young man. An old acquaintance of Tom and Laura, Jim was a popular athlete in high school and is now a shipping clerk at the shoe warehouse in which Tom works. Though Jim only appears in Act 2 of the play, the actor cast in this role will also be featured in movement based silhouette work throughout act one.

- Male, 20's