



MIT Dramashop, April 2005, Kresge

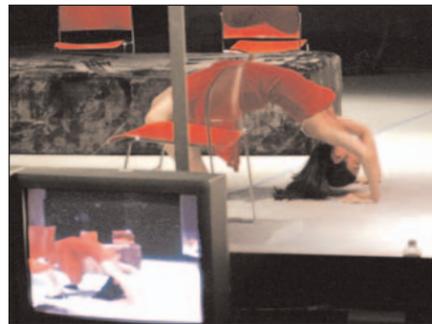
# *The Demolition Downtown* *count ten in Arabic and try to run...*

Play by Tennessee Williams directed by Jay Scheib  
with MIT Dramashop, April 2005, Cambridge

*"...The Demolition Downtown, count ten in Arabic—and try to run, is a multi-lingual satire of senseless violence, flirty self-destruction, and everyone-for-themselves survivalism. Well, actually, it's nine explosions to the end of world, and the caviar has never tasted better..."*

assistant direction by **Giselle Andrejack**, scenic design by **Bill Fregosi**, costumes by **Leslie Cocuzzo-Held** and **Samina Shaikh**, lights by **Karen Perlow** and **Maura Cordial**, objects by **Karin Habermann** and **Roger Fischer**, camera by **Nasruddin Nazerali**, dramaturgy by **Kenneth Roraback**, technical direction by **Mike Katz**, this stage is managed by **Susan Wilson** with **Tom Stammers**

Produced by **Hayden Taylor** and MIT DRAMASHOP  
with Performances by **Ashlie Brown**, **Youngsun Cho**, **Virginia Corless**, **Masha Kamenetska**, **Jonas Kubilius**, **Ryan Low**, **Ben Margo**, **Helen McCreery**, **Constantinos Tsoucalus**, **Hui Ying Wen**, and **Jessica Zaman**



For Immediate Release: MIT Dramashop Presents

## The Demolition Downtown *count ten in arabic—and try to run...*

by Tennessee Williams directed by Jay Scheib

"...*The Demolition Downtown* is a multi-lingual satire of senseless violence, flirty self-destruction, and everyone-for-themselves survivalism. Well, actually, it's nine explosions to the end of world, and the caviar has never tasted better..."

Replete with the cryptic subtitle *Count ten in Arabic—and try to run*, Tennessee Williams' play *The Demolition Downtown* exposes America's upper-middle-class deterioration with the abandon of an episode of *South Park*. Williams reveals the harsh realities of a now white-hot civil rights movement through the haze of America's increasingly desperate materialism. Two gorgeous young couples in cocktail attire struggle to play out their daily lives with the panache of young executives—in denial to the end—as the explosions grow nearer and nearer until...

Perhaps the greatest American dramatist of the 20th century, Tennessee Williams made his career on the amplification of things that eat away at America's otherwise pristine façade. Written in 1971, just 3 years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., *The Demolition Downtown* was composed at a decisive moment in the American civil rights movement. In the years leading up to 1971, a peaceful victory for the civil rights movement was challenged violently on an almost weekly basis across the United States. Organizations like the Black Panthers and the Nation of Islam worked hard to provide necessary services and braced themselves to resist violent attacks from the American establishment. Williams predicted a violent revolution—and he predicted that upper-middle-class America would have to lose.

This bleak assessment is the engine that drives *The Demolition Downtown*... Packed with Williams' trademark wit and flaming humour—it plays like one explosion after another.

In collaboration with MIT Dramashop, Director and MIT Professor Jay Scheib brings this long-lost Williams one-act to the stage in a highly physical, multi-lingual production. Staged as a two-part drama, this American problem is slowly revealed to be a global concern which, if not addressed, will lead to the same ruin that Williams predicts for the United States—but on a global scale. The language of the play slowly evolves into Korean, Bengali, Oromo, Russian, Spanish, Lithuanian, and Cantonese. Simultaneously providing a rich testament to MIT's own diversity and sharp demand that it be embraced. A thrilling ensemble of young performers leaps to the occasion, led by veterans of the MIT stage: Helen McCreery, Virginia Corless, Masha Kamenetska, and Youngsun Cho. It's a wild ride...and if you sit in the front row, you'll get wet for sure! Hilarious. *The Demolition Downtown* will send you home with your bell rung—or your money back.

*The Demolition Downtown* OPENS: APRIL 21st

And runs April 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th, and 30th (all shows at 8pm)

At Kresge Little Theater, 48 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-430

