**Tennessee Williams** was born in 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi, where his grandfather was the episcopal clergyman. When his father, a travelling salesman, moved with his family to St Louis some years later, both he and his sister found it impossible to settle down to city life. He entered college during the Depression and left after a couple of years to take a clerical job in a shoe company. He stayed there for two years, spending the evenings writing. He entered the University of Iowa in 1938 and completed his course, at the same time holding a large number of part-time jobs of great diversity. He received a Rockefeller fellowship in 1940 for his play *Battle of Angels*, and he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1948 for *A Streetcar Named Desire* and in 1955 for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Other plays include *Summer and Smoke*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Camino Real*, *Baby Doll*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, and *The Two-Character Play*. Tennessee Williams died in 1983.