

From *Pegasus News* by Laurie Lynn Lindemeier

“Having seen many "Shakespeare in the Park" performances, I can truly say I'm a huge fan and depend on being pleasantly alarmed at every fresh production...Scampering up and down the balcony, the tight-jeaned gun slinging shrew Katherine played by **Lydia Mackay** displayed amazing dexterity...Even though I knew it was coming as a modern day female I squirmed to digest the training and breaking of a woman like a horse depicted in the play. I enjoyed Katherine's wild independence and non compliance. Yet, as the tamed shrew delivered her monologue berating fellow females for pointless obstinate behavior, the theme of devoted love through thick and thin came through in a pleasant way.”

From *Theatre Jones* by Mark Lowry:

“This is a fitting time to revive *The Norman Conquests*.... All three plays happen in one weekend...The plays interlock, with scenes of each overlapping with the action of the other two.... Gray, **Mackay** and Shum were marvelous from the get-go, and remained highlights throughout the series. Gray and Mackay both play women who are cold on the surface, but easily warm up when a guy like Norman—simultaneously annoying and lovable—throw a bone their way. They also have the most consistent and clearest British accents (Gray actually is British)”

From *EDGE Dallas*, by Christopher Soden:

“Brimming with lunacy, folly and wry social commentary, *Trysts in Toledo* is a 17th Century comedy of manners, written by Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz, considered the first feminist of Mexico. The cast delivers with aplomb and zeal and lots of giddy energy. **Lydia Mackay** has the very special gift of combining patrician allure with comic exasperation. Her demeanor is charismatic, filled with combustion and frailty and grace. Mackay can play aristocracy while making Dona Ana very human and witty with manic desire.”

From the *Dallas Observer* 2008

Best Local Actress: Lydia Mackay

“When she was 5, she performed an "interpretive dance" to Joan Jett's "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" and a career was born. **Lydia Mackay**, 31, comes from a family of actors and artists, so playing dress-up even as a grown-up is a snap. The SMU MFA grad recently played Blanche DuBois in Contemporary Theatre's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Arkadina in *The Seagull* and Lady Macbeth. If she has a specialty onstage, it's classical roles, but she's oomphy enough to play bombshells.”

Readers' Choice: Readers' pick: Lydia Mackay



**Jessica Wiggers, Clay Yokum, and
Lydia Mackay in *A Streetcar Named Desire***

From the *Dallas Observer* by Elaine Liner:

“This *Streetcar*'s strength is its women. Lydia Mackay, at 31 about a decade too young for the role of Blanche, nevertheless brings beautiful textures to her portrayal of a desperate woman on the brink of a psychotic break. Sneaking gulps of Southern Comfort when she can—and denying that she ever touches the stuff—this Blanche by the third act is believably drunk, too drunk to fight off Stanley when he turns violent. As she's driven mad by liquor, grief and what looks to be serious bipolar disorder, Mackay's Blanche is stunningly vulnerable.... As Stella, the sister who married down the social order because Stanley was a hot stud, Jessica Wiggers works expertly off Mackay. Their scenes together are quiet studies in how professional actors should listen and react to each other.”

From *Edge Dallas* by Christopher Soden:

“In the production of *Streetcar* currently playing at The Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Lydia Mackay makes the role of Blanche completely hers. With nothing to suggest the carriage of the motion picture Blanche of Vivien Leigh, she has the spirit and effusiveness without the faded girlishness. There's a nearly self-conscious irony in Mackay's performance and a bravery in her demeanor that is compelling and captivating. She shows us how Blanche uses what might (at first) seem trivial and affected to survive the depths of despair - exposing the strength behind the *shtick*. Lydia Mackay is exquisite in a role that has nearly become synonymous with gothic cliché. She is by turns withering, buoyant, frank, frail, heroic but always achingly human.”

From *West Plano People* by Glenn Arbery, Senior Editor (in reference to *Streetcar*)

“...the play belongs to Lydia Mackay. I've seen her act many times, but never like this. Did anyone else ever play this role? Even without the famous line, it's impossible to forget her.”

From *TalkingBroadway.com* by John Garcia:

Lanford Wilson's *Book Of Days* somehow gathers up religion, truth, and even Joan of Arc and creates a fascinating play that has facile plots, twists, and turns... Under the always resourceful direction of Terry Martin and James Paul Lemons, Wilson's dramatic yet often humorous play is given a radiant, intelligent area premiere by Watertower theatre... Lydia Mackay is a true chameleon. Last season Mackay wowed audiences in *Pride and Prejudice* as the porcelain beauty who found true love. In this production, she has become one hot and sexy momma! Gone are the blonde tresses, now replaced with hues of fire red, and she is dressed in a short skirt and heels. Mackay gives her character the air of a tough gal who won't take crap from any man, but who also has a lonely heart beating underneath. You just cannot take your eyes off of her each time she enters a pool of light.”

Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum announces 2007-08 winners

- Lydia Mackay, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas
- Lydia Mackay, mask design, *The Ghost Sonata*, The Drama Club

From the *Dallas Observer* by Elaine Liner:

“Two women exist on strangely parallel planes in Lisa Loomer's play *Living Out*, now onstage in an exciting and powerfully acted regional premiere at Addison's **WaterTower Theatre**. They are both working mothers with young children. For entertainment attorney Nancy Robin (played by the always superb **Lydia Mackay**), that means hiring a nanny double-quick.”

From the *Dallas Observer* by Elaine Liner:

“Laced into red spike-heeled boots, fishnets, ruffled red hot pants and outrageous combinations of leather, feathers, monkey fur, sequins and lace, Sophia is the embodiment of all temptation....There is no more luscious actress than **Mackay** strutting any Dallas stage right now. From her wildly comic entrance, surrounded by "Mandelbaums," a troupe of 10 human-sized puppets with mouths in a permanent "oh," Mackay is a fetishist's dream.”