

## AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS

Beth Henley - Born in 1952

- She is known for her intertwining comic and serious moments in her pieces.
- Most famous plays *Crimes of the Heart* and *The Miss Fire Cracker Contest*

Tennessee Williams – Born 1911/Died 1983

- Received virtually ALL of the top theatrical awards for writing
- Most famous plays are *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
- The discrimination he received for being gay was often reflected in his work.

## August Wilson – Born 1945/Died 2005

- Wrote a series of 10 plays that spanned over 100 years that reflected the black experience of each decade of the 1900s
- Most famous plays *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson*
- Wrote most of his most famous plays while living in Saint Paul, MN

## Neil Simon – Born 1927

- Famous for his comedy writing
- Developed career writing for television comedies
- Most famous plays *The Odd Couple*, *Lost In Yonkers* and *Biloxi Blues*