The Glass Menagerie. Tennessee Williams 1944. Author biography. Plot summary. The Glass Menagerie is autobiographical in its sources. In some ways, this is a coming of age story, with both Tom Wingfield and Laura Wingfield negotiating their roles as young adults. Like many coming of age stories, the major conflicts in this play are both internal and external; Tom cannot choose both the future he desires for himself and the future his mother, Amanda Wingfield, desires for him and for Laura. Emerging through this major conflict between Tom and Amanda are the themes of alienation and loneliness, duty and responsibility, and appearances and reality. The Glass Menagerie. View Tracklist. The Glass Menagerie (Scene I). Tennessee Williams. View All Credits. 1. The Wingfield apartment is in the rear of the building, one of those vast hive-like conglomerations of cellular living-units that flower as warty growths in overcrowded urban centres of lower-middle-class population and are symptomatic of the impulse of this largest and fundamentally enslaved section of American society to avoid fluidity and differentiation and to exist and function as one. Get to know Williams' famous American play a little better with this selection of quotes from each scene. The Glass Menagerie Amanda, referring to the bad choice she made in marrying a handsome man, Scene 5. She lives in a world of her own—a world of—little glass ornaments.” Tom, about Laura. Scene 6. “Most of them are little animals made out of glass, the tiniest little animals in the world. Mother calls them a glass menagerie! Here’s an example of one, if you’d like to see it! Oh, be careful—if you breathe, it breaks! Of Tennessee Williams's plays, The Glass Menagerie seems to be the most famous dramatic creation. It examines the idea of social disintegration in American society. The Wingfield family creates for themselves a world of illusion with a view to avoiding the despicable reality of their life. In his production notes of The Glass Menagerie, Williams...
emphasizes the importance of the screen and music, saying that they are introduced in order to involve the audience emotionally in the dramatic action. He also adds that the lighting, which is not realistic, serves the functions of memory. Sometimes a character may be lit to focus on a posture he or she takes.