ARTHUR MILLER

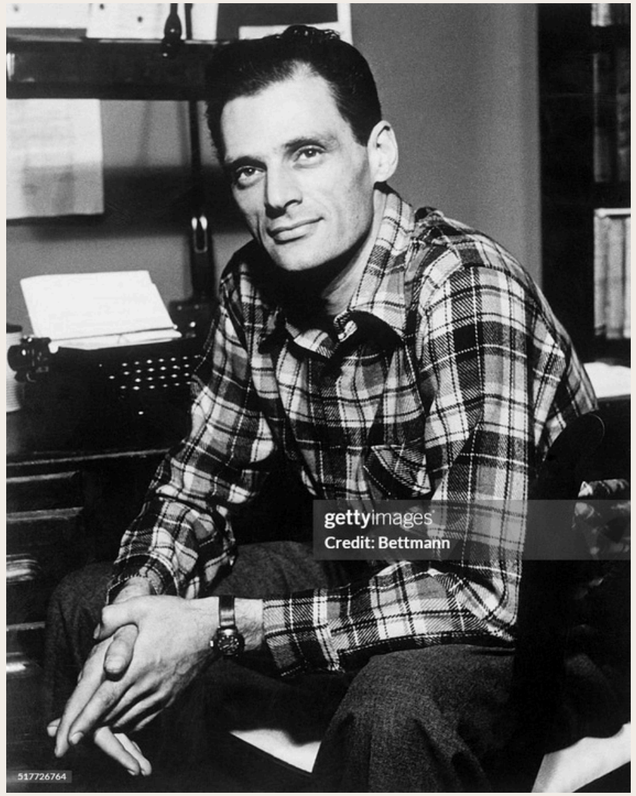
AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT

APRIL 2026

PRESENTED BY: AUDREY LUCAS

WHO WAS ARTHUR MILLER?

- Born: 1915, New York City
- Died: 2005
- Studied at University of Michigan
- Grew up during the Great Depression
- Family lost wealth, influenced his themes
- Married Marilyn Monroe (1956–1961)
- Faced political scrutiny during the Red Scare
- Testified before HUAC
- Experience influenced The Crucible



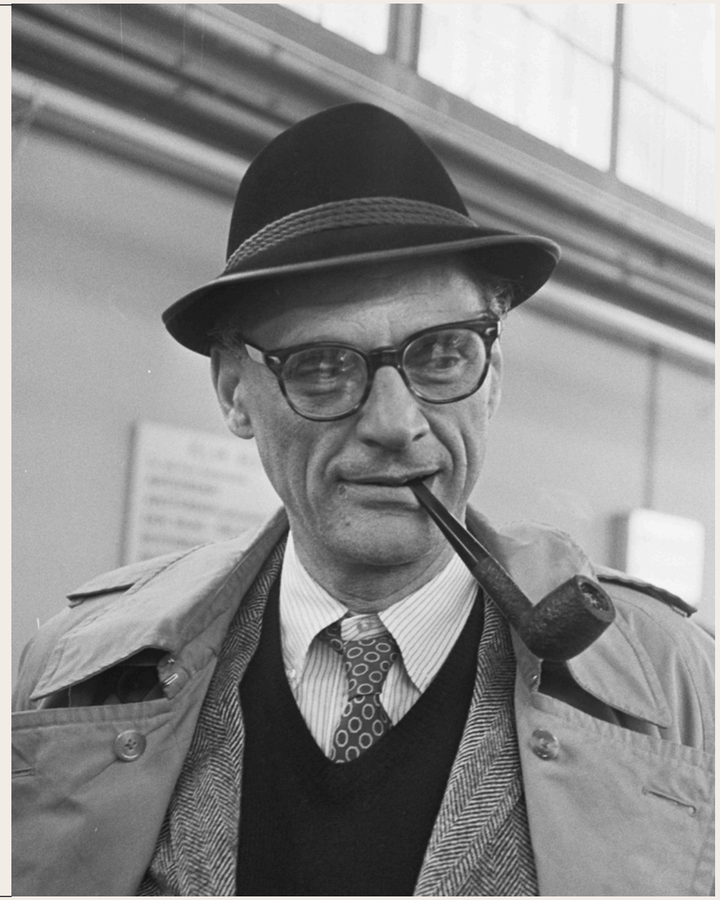
WRITING STYLE

REALISM

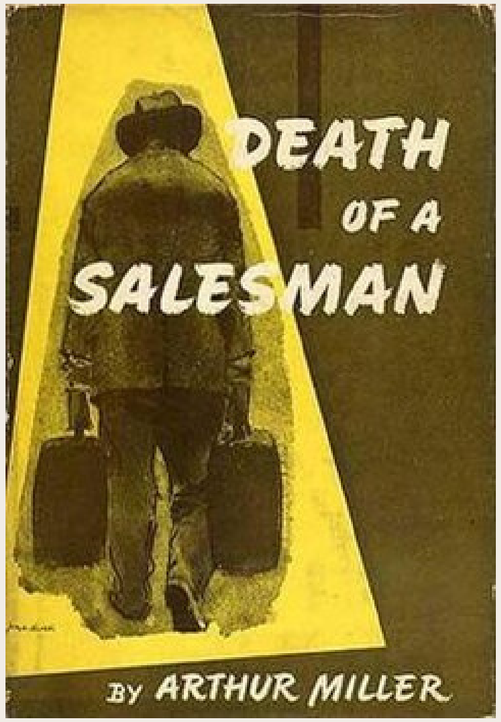
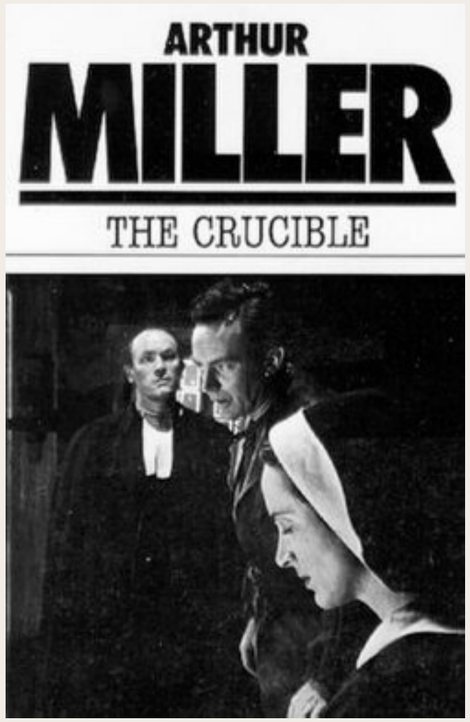
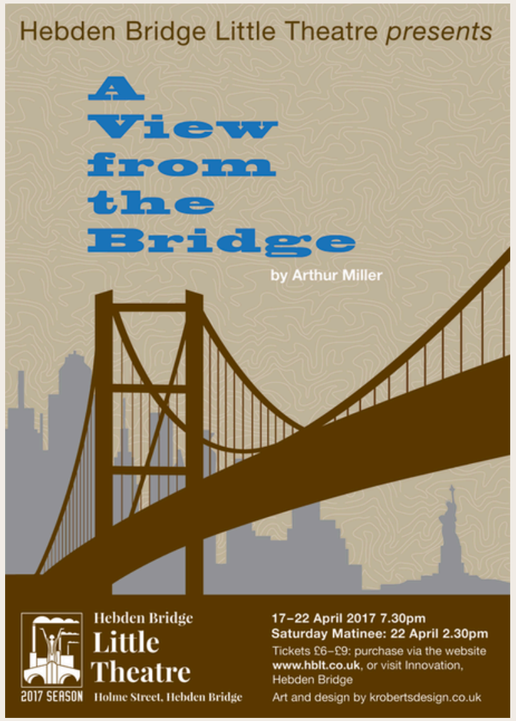
TRAGIC STRUCTURE

MORAL + SOCIAL ISSUES

FOCUS ON EVERYDAY PEOPLE



FAMOUS WORKS

DEATH OF A SALESMAN (1949)	THE CRUCIBLE (1953)	ALL MY SONS (1947)	A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE (1955)
			

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

PLOT & STRUCTURE

- Follows Willy Loman, an aging salesman
- Struggles with career failure and family relationships
- Nonlinear structure blending past and present

KEY THEMES

- Illusion vs reality
- The American Dream
- Identity and self-worth

CONNECTION TO MILLER

- Defines “tragedy of the common man”
- Focus on ordinary individuals
- Critiques societal pressure to succeed

THE CRUCIBLE

PLOT & STRUCTURE

- Set during Salem Witch Trials
- Written during the Red Scare
- Functions as a political allegory

KEY THEMES

- Mass hysteria
- Fear and power
- Reputation versus truth

CONNECTION TO MILLER

- Uses history to critique modern society
- Explores consequences of fear-driven decisions
- Highlights moral courage vs self-preservation

ALL MY SONS

PLOT & STRUCTURE

- Set after World War II
- Focuses on the Keller family
- Based on a real-life wartime scandal

KEY THEMES

- Responsibility and guilt
- Denial and truth
- Consequences of actions

CONNECTION TO MILLER

- Examines moral responsibility beyond family
- Critiques pursuit of success at any cost
- Reflects postwar American values

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

PLOT & STRUCTURE

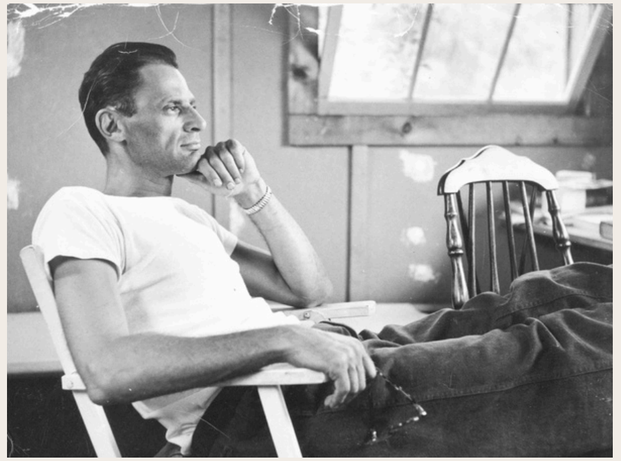
- Set in Brooklyn’s immigrant community
- Follows Eddie Carbone’s downfall
- Includes narrator (Alfieri)

KEY THEMES

- Obsession and jealousy
- Loyalty and betrayal
- Justice vs personal morality

CONNECTION TO MILLER

- Influenced by Greek tragedy
- Shows inevitability of downfall
- Reinforces tragedy in ordinary life

WHY MILLER STILL MATTERS

- Focuses on real people facing real struggles
- Explores themes of truth, responsibility, and pressure to succeed
- Themes remain relevant today
- Redefined modern theatre through everyday tragedy