

Arthur Miller's Contributions to American Drama:

Arthur Miller (1915–2005) was the author of essays, journals, short stories, a novel, and a children's book, but is best known for his more than two dozen plays, which include the influential American dramas *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*.

Arthur Miller was born in Manhattan to Jewish immigrant parents. By 1928, the family had moved to Brooklyn, after their garment manufacturing business began to fail. Witnessing the societal decay of the Depression and his father's desperation due to business failures had an enormous effect on Miller.

Miller's work conveys a deeply moral viewpoint whereby all individuals have a responsibility both to themselves and to the society in which they must live.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Miller maintained his optimism that despite humanity's unfortunate tendency toward betrayal, people could transcend this and be better.

In the creation of *Death of a Salesman*, Miller brought a new style of play to the American stage which mixes the techniques of realism and expressionism; this has since been named "subjective realism" and provoked a redefinition of what tragedy might mean to a modern audience.

Influenced by the social-problem plays of the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, the experimental poetics of Clifford Odets and Tennessee Williams, and the inventive staging of Thornton Wilder, Miller created his own brand of drama that often explored macrocosmic social problems within the microcosm of a troubled family.

Though he is viewed as a realist by some critics, his work rarely conforms to such limitations, and his entire work is notable for its experimentation in both form and subject matter, with only his inherent philosophical beliefs to provide connection.

For Miller, people need to understand that they are products of their pasts, and that it is inevitable that "the birds come home to roost," but through acknowledging this and actively owning any guilt attached, individuals and society can improve. His individuals are connected with their past to escape the unbearable present.

Miller was raised in a largely secular Jewish environment, and he wrote several plays featuring Jewish characters; however, his themes address universal issues and explore the impact of the past, the role of the family, and a variety of belief systems from capitalism to socialism, along with providing lessons in responsibility and connection, and exploring the abuses and misuses of power.

His works provide insight into the heart of human nature in all its horror and glory, including its capacity for love and sacrifice as well as denial and betrayal. Miller was able to see both the comedy and tragedy within the human condition. His driving concern was to make a difference, and it was through his writing that he found his means.

Arthur Miller's lasting impact in plays such as *Death of a Salesman*, *All My Sons* and *The Crucible*, he offered great entertainment mixed with strong social criticism. He earned fame far beyond that accorded to most American playwrights. And he kept writing for more than six decades.

In his writing, Arthur Miller successfully blended diverse dramatic style and movements because he believed that plays should be a delicate balance between the separate and collective elements of life, the singular personality and polity(government), and the individual and the rest of society.

In the 1940s and 1950s, because of his Jewish faith and his liberal political views, Miller was very much involved in contemporary debates that criticized the shortcomings of modern American society, particularly those dealing with inequalities in labour and race.

During his life, Miller saw that some people would never be able to realize that dream, no matter how hard they worked. Miller wrote *Death of a Salesman* with that question in mind. It's a play about the struggle for success and disappointment of the American Dream. It is first called "The inside of His Head", this confirms a man's journey into himself.

Death of a Salesman addresses loss of identity and a man's inability to accept change within himself and society. The play is a mixture of memories, dreams, confrontations, and arguments, all of which make up the last 24 hours of Willy Loman's life. Arthur Miller wrote thirty-six plays over the course of his life.

This play depicts a man's attempt to confront the meaning of his life and the nature of his universe. The play also balances the interior of a man's mind with a full suggestion of his external world.

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