Director’s Notes

The music and sound that you hear in this production are all Italian-American or Sicilian. However, it might sound African to some.

The first time I directed A View from the Bridge, Arthur Miller gave me permission to change the community from Italian-American to Dominican-American. My research to discover the origins of the people in the Dominican Republic centered on understanding who these people were at their core. Where had they come from, what did they believe, and most importantly, where did their passions lie? My quest at that time led me back to Africa and the religious beliefs, rituals, and blood rites that came to the Caribbean with the arrival of African slaves.

As I prepared to direct the traditional Italian-American storyline, I asked myself the same question — who are these people at their core? Ironically, as the answer to this question revealed itself, an undeniable cultural connection between Sicily and Africa became apparent. From Greek, Roman, and Egyptian invasions and through trade of both slaves and commercial goods, the island of Sicily became a melting pot of European and North African peoples. As a result, much of the music, religion, and customs of the Italians can be traced back to African roots. This is particularly true of the Sicilians.

As Eddie Carbone blindly propels himself on a path of vengeance, all that is American fails him. Eddie sinks deeper into an abyss of obsession where a call for justice and Old World passions arise. Blood for blood. The music and sound follows him on this journey.

Arthur Miller Symposium

The University of Michigan will host the Arthur Miller International Symposium, “Arthur Miller’s America: Theater and Culture in a Century of Change,” Oct. 26-29, in honor of Miller’s 85th birthday. The noted playwright and U-M alumnus (’38) will be in attendance.

Kicking off a year of theater at U-M, the celebration will present a variety of guests, artists, scholars, commentators, critics, practitioners, and panel participants from around the world.

All symposium events are free and open to the public. For further information on the Symposium please call 734-615-6744 or check out the events on the web at http://www.umich.edu/pres/arthurmiller.

The Arthur Miller Symposium is supported by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Hopwood Awards, the School of Music, the Department of English, the Department of Theatre and Drama, the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, the dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, U-M libraries, the U-M Museum of Art, U-M School of Education through the “Teachers as Scholars” program, and the U-M Alumni Association.
A View from the Bridge
Written by Arthur Miller

Director: Darryl V. Jones
Scenic Designer: Daniel A. Rutz
Costume Designer: Neal Somers
Lighting designer: Rob Murphy
Fight Choreographer: Erik Fredricksen
Dramaturg: Cara Gabriel
Assistant Director: Clark Johnson
Stage Manager: Heather Bryant

Setting:
Red Hook, New York, 1948

There will be one intermission.

A View from the Bridge is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break or scene change. As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones should be deactivated. Please deactiviate your electronic watch alarm so it will not interrupt the performance.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York. Special thanks to Dr. Joseph Sicorra of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of Queens College, Giovanna P. Del Negro, Joan Saverino, Patrick and Theresa Gabriel, Carmella and Patrick (Pasquale) Gabriel.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater productions. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

About the Artists

DANIEL A. RUTZ (Scenic Designer) is a BFA candidate in design and production in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama. UM: Projections: Colored People’s Time; lighting for Impact Dance; Sweet Charity, MUSKET; Two Worlds, Basement Arts.

NEAL SOMERS (Costume Designer) is a BFA candidate in design and production (specializing in costumes) in the Department of Theatre and Drama. UM: Asst. costume design: The Daughter of the Regiment, The Tempest; costume design for Basement Arts: The Zoo Story, Flesh and Blood, Polly Putts Her Foot Down.

Staff for A View from the Bridge

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Dean .................................................... Karen Wolff

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DRAMA

Chair .............................................. Jeffrey Kuras
Administrative Associate ..................... Fatima Abdullah
Office Assistant III ............................. Shelda Smith
Marketing Director ............................. Kerianne M. Tupac
Ticket Office Coordinator ..................... Maureen Wynn
Group Sales Coordinator ..................... Sarah Ray
Computer Administrator ...................... Henry Reynolds
Facilities Manager ............................... Shannon Rice
House Manager ................................. Dianne Wiedzinski
Graphic Design ..................................... KMT Designs
Banner Artist ..................................... Heather Chockley
Office Assistants ............................... Liz Bradford, Jaime Lee,
Megan Lesperance, Niccolte Poprawa,
Christina Reynolds, Mandy Taylor, John Torres
Theatre 386 ................................. Monique Dugars, Lisa Ehrlich, Erin Watkins

UNIVERSITY PRODUCTIONS

Director ............................................. Darryl V. Jones
Administrative Associate ..................... Fatima Abdullah
Office Assistant III ............................. Shelda Smith
Marketing Director ............................. Kerianne M. Tupac
Ticket Office Coordinator ..................... Maureen Wynn
Group Sales Coordinator ..................... Sarah Ray
Computer Administrator ..................... Henry Reynolds
Facilities Manager .............................. Shannon Rice
House Manager ................................. Dianne Wiedzinski

PRODUCTION STAFF

Interim Production Manager ............ Amanda Mengden
Production Stage Manager ............... Nancy Ullman
Technical Director (Frieze) ............... Richard W. Lindsay, Jr.
Technical Director (Power) ............... John Hugh Minor
Associate Tech. Director (Power) ........ Donald C. Watkins
Carpenter ....................................... Robert Michael
Charge Artist ..................................... Kathleen Runey
Scenic Painter ..................................... Tony Y. Auletli
Properties Master .............................. Arthur Ridley
Asst. Properties Master ..................... Bryan Huddleston

Properties Artisan .............................. Rachel Wright
Master Electrician .............................. Mark Allen Berg
Costume Shop Manager ..................... Julie Marsh
Interim Costume Shop Manager .......... Robin McGee
Assoc. Costume Shop Manager ............ George Bacon
Draper ................................. Virginia R. Luedke, Vickie L. Sadler
Associate Draper .............................. Susan A. Hamilton
Crafts Artisan/Stock Manager ............ Rebecca Valentin
Sound Engineer ............................... Henry Reynolds
House Technicians ......................... Ron Cypert, Mark Gordon,
Jim Havin, Barry Larrue
Office Assistant ............................... Kelly K. Irwin

First Asst. Stage Manager ............... Shelley Ferson
Asst. Stage Manager ......................... Tenley Hardin
Assoc. Sound Engineer ...................... Nate Carriker
Charge Artist ................................. Tony Y. Auletli
Scenery ............................................ Heath A. Bryant, Heather Chockley,
Michael Freedman, Leigh Feldpausch,
Joe McEachern, Caleb Levegood
Paint ............................................ Kate Armstrong, Marquette Dongvillo,
Celdeth Donnelly, Justin Titley, students of Theatre 250
Props ............................................. Ananthia Albeda, Julie Brown,
Monique French, Shannon McShane, Justin Miller,
Paul Wyatt, students of Theatre 250

Costumes ......................... Jennifer Begg, Gian Coey, Laurie Kantner,
Jennifer Langel, Rachael Latzir, Jennifer Lima, Kristen Mahon,
Christina Mimikos, Matt Mitchell, Monica Prince,
Betsy Tholen, Diane Tuel, students of Theatre 250
Lighting ....................... Heather A. Bryant, Harold Burgess (GA),
Lincoln Gillette, Dan Granke, Rebecca A. Hibbs,
Paul Masck, Joe McEachern, Thomas Omar, Daniel Rutzi,
Joel Silver, Brooke Sinclair, Melissa Spengler,
Aaron Sporer, Angela Zuck, students of Theatre 250

About the Cross

Nora Bonner (Confirmation Girl) freshman, BFA Performance, Detroit, MI
Rachel Easley (Neighbor) freshman, LSA, Detroit, MI
Veronica Guitar (Confirmation Girl) freshman, BTA Theatre, Troy, MI
Joseph A. Hendrix (Rodolpho) junior, BFA Performance, Troy, MI
Clark Johnson (Submarine) sophomore, BFA Performance/BS Biochemistry, Ann Arbor, MI
David Jones (Mike) sophomore, BFA Performance, Beverly Hills, MI
Ethan B. Kogan (Louis) sophomore, BFA Performance, Los Angeles, CA
Elizabeth Lennox (Confirmation Girl) freshman, BFA Performance, Hopkinton, MA
Jennifer Lima (Beatrice) senior, BFA Performance, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Kellie Matteson (Neighbor) freshman, BFA Performance, Jenison, MI
Jonathan Rosen (Mr. Lipari) sophomore, BFA Performance, Los Angeles, CA
Jason Smith (Priest) sophomore, BFA Performance, Cadillac, MI
Alyssa Sorresso (Mrs. Lipari) sophomore, BTA Theatre, Chicago, IL
Lauren Spodarek (Catherine) junior, BFA Performance, Birmingham, MI
Quinn Strassel (Eddie) senior, BFA Performance, Ypsilanti, MI
Matthew H. Urban (Mr. Alfieri) senior, BFA Performance, Cisna Park, IL
Robert Weiner (Tony) sophomore, BFA Performance, Portage, MI
Boyd White III (Marco) senior, BFA Performance, Detroit, MI

About the Artists

Heather Bryant (Stage Manager) is a BFA candidate in design and production in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama. UM: Asst. stage manager, The Daughter of the Regiment, Escape from Happiness; stage manager, Picnic, Basement Arts. Regional Theatre: Spoleto USA. University Theatre: Macomb Community College: stage manager, Lone Star, Laundry and Bourbon, Jonny Belinda, Gingerbread Lady, Antigone, The Runner Stumbles, Little Mary Sunshine, Butterflies Are Free.

Darryl V. Jones (Director) is an asst. professor in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama. UM: Colored People's Time, Balm in Gilead, Our Country's Good. Broadway: Asst. director for Play On! Off-Broadway: We are Your Sisters, Hudson Guild Theatre, Audeko Award Outstanding Production. Regional Theatre: Direction: A View from the Bridge, Washington Theatre Lobby Award for Outstanding Directing: From the Mississippi Delta; The Mad Dancers; Candide (choreography). Performance: Ford's Theatre, Old Globe Theatre, Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center. Other: Member Actor's Equity Assoc.

Rob Murphy (Lighting Designer) is an asst. professor of design in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama. UM: The Daughter of the Regiment, The Tempest, La Traviata, West Side Story, Ghosts, Grand Hotel, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Oh Coward! Regional Theatre: Almost 100 LORT scenic and lighting designs: The Guthrie Theatre, Mark Taper

Cast of Characters

Louis ......................................................... Ethan B. Kogan
Mike ........................................................... David Jones
Mr. Alfieri .................................................. Matthew H. Urban
Eddie ....................................................... Quinn Strassel
Catherine ............................................ Lauren Spodarek
Beatrice ................................................ Jennifer Lima
Tony/First Immigration Officer ............ Robert Weiner
Marco ........................................................... Boyd White III
Rodolpho .................................................... Joseph A. Hendrix
Second Immigration Officer/Mr. Lipari ....... Jonathan Rosen
Mrs. Lipari ............................................... Alyssa Sorresso
Neighbors ............................................. Rachel Easley, Kellie Matteson
Confirmation Girls ...................... Nora Bonner, Veronica Guitar, Elizabeth Lennox
Prieel “Submarine” .............................. Jason Smith
“Submarine” ................................................. Clark Johnson

About the Playwright

Arthur Miller (Playwright) Born in Manhattan in 1915, Arthur Miller’s career as a playwright began at UM, where he received several Avery Hopwood awards for his playwriting. His first play, The Man Who Had All the Luck, ran for only one week in 1944, but his next play, All My Sons, was more successful, winning the New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award in 1947. On February 10, 1949, Death of a Salesman opened at the Morosco Theatre in New York, where it garnered a second New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award for Miller as well as the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award. Plays to follow include an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s An Enemy of the People and The Crucible. In 1956, A View from the Bridge opened in London, a new three-act version of a short play Miller had originally premiered on Broadway. Miller ventured into film with his screenplay The Misfits, starring Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe, his wife at the time. Miller’s next play, After the Fall (1964), is considered a highly autobiographical account of his life with Monroe. That same year Miller wrote Incident at Vichy, followed by The Price (1968), The Creation of the World and Other Business (1972), The American Clock (1980), The Archbishop’s Ceiling (1986), Ride Down Mt. Morgan (1991), The Last Yankee (1993) and Broken Glass (1994). He wrote the screenplay to the 1996 film version of The Crucible. The Broadway revival of A View from the Bridge won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play. Death of a Salesman received the same award in 1999. In October 1999, the Lyric Opera of Chicago premiered an adaptation of A View from the Bridge, with music composed by UM’s William Bolcom and a libretto by Arnold Weinstein.
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Membership has its privileges!

★ priority notification to purchase tickets in advance of the general public.
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★ the latest U-M Theatre production information as well as what is “hot” on and off Broadway.
★ have all of the above, plus the satisfaction of supporting the U-M Theatre Department and talented U-M students through scholarships and awards.

Become a theatre friend — join (or renew your membership in) the UM Theatre Associates for the 2000-2001 Season. The support of the Theatre Associates is an important part of the success we have seen in the department. Increasingly we rely on these gifts to provide scholarships for our top students and the “extras” that make our program special. We can’t thank you enough! We thought you might enjoy an excerpt from a letter that one scholarship recipient wrote to his “donor.”

“I cannot express to you how thankful I am that you have furnished a means of financial aid that will make it possible for me to complete my BFA training in the Department of Theatre and Drama here at the University of Michigan. My gratefully accepting this award is not only in thanks for the financial support, but with the excitement in knowing that I am demonstrating promise and potential in becoming what I have aspired towards all of my life: to be a successful, working actor.”