

'Death of a Salesman' Opens Tonight

Drama Portrays Man Who Has Tragic Flaw

"Death of a Salesman," Arthur Miller's play which opens tonight at the University Theater under the direction of Frederick J. Hunter, instructor in speech, is the tragedy of Willie Loman. The time of the play technically is one day—from midnight to midnight. However, through glimpses into the past, the play draws on events which happened years before.

Each flashback, however, is motivated by action on the stage. As

Linda Is Willie's Character Prop

Jeanne Gottfredson, graduate in speech and costume mistress of UT, who plays Willie's wife Linda, sees the character as Willy's "foundation and support." As Gottfredson sees her, Linda has two goals in life. One is to keep Willie happy and the second is to keep the family together. "Linda," she says, "is the more intelligent of the two and tries to guide Willie. But she fails to realize Willie's ideals are false and to foster these will lead to his downfall."

Jeanne Gottfredson is new this year to the University. She has had major roles in Idaho State's productions of "Joan of Lorraine," "The Great Big Doorstep," "John Loves Mary," "Dark of the Moon" and "Two Blind Mice." Linda will be her first role at Oregon.

Miller says: "There is nothing mysterious or difficult about it. Just as you may be sitting and talking to a friend, so does Willie.

"And then your friend says something that makes a strong connection in your mind with something that happened in your past. And although your friend goes on talking, unaware that your thoughts have moved to another time and place, you exist, you think, you feel and in your imagination you argue, love and fight, in the present and in the past at the same moment. So it is in this play."

"Death of a Salesman," says Hunter, "is the tragedy of the common man and a tragedy of a man having some capacity for suffering and enduring as a tragic hero because he is capable of working his own destiny."



PHIL SANDERS

Hap Seen As Much Like Willie

Phil Sanders, senior in speech, who plays Willie's son Harold..... "But at West Point they called him Happy"—sees Hap as a little guy with big ideas. "Hap Loman," says Sanders, "is merely a duplication of Willie Loman in a more modern age." Happy has the idea that money, cars, women and an apartment make a man successful. As Sanders expresses it, "You can see Willie's false ideals reflected in Happy."



CLARENCE SUITER

Suiter Believes Biff Confused

Clarence Suiter, junior in speech, who plays Biff, sees the character as a man who has been blown full of hot air by Willie. Says Suiter, "Biff is a man who has been badly disillusioned." This disillusionment is shown in the play. When Biff's impressions are shattered by Willie, he finds he has trouble adjusting himself. During the play Biff is confused and frustrated, but by the end he realizes he is just an average man.

Suiter is a transfer to Oregon but has appeared in many plays at OSC. There he had leads in "The Autumn Garden," "Heaven Can Wait" and "Born Yesterday." Last summer he was with the Black Hills Playhouse and had major roles in "Petticoat Fever," "The Beautiful People," and "The Legend of Devil's Gulch." He appeared this fall as Papa in "The Happy Time."

'Salesman' Tickets Available at Theater

Tickets for "Death of a Salesman," University theater's production which will open tonight, are still on sale at the box office from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets for next week's performances will be available from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The production will run February 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Blue Sees Willie As 'Little Man'

Jim Blue, senior in liberal arts, who plays the featured role of Willie Loman in "Death of a Salesman," says "Willie is the little man who has set his sights too high and has based his dreams upon the false aspects of our society." Willie's philosophy, "Be well-liked and you'll never want," brings about the disillusionment of his sons and his own final destruction.

Blue says, "Willie Loman—the little man with too big a dream—is one of the most demanding parts in recent American theater because Willie is a composite of so many Americans. Willie's tragedy is important to all of us."

Cast Includes 14

- Willie Loman, Jim Blue
- Linda, Jeanne Gottfredson
- Biff, Clarence Suiter
- Happy, Phil Sanders
- Bernard, George Johnston
- Miss Francis, Joice Balch
- Charley, Jim Weaver
- Uncle Ben, John Bree
- Howard Wagner, Glen Yost
- Jenny, Sally Mollner
- Stanley, Bill DeLand
- Sam, David Sherman
- Miss Forsythe, Diane David
- Letta, Carol David

Student Designed Set Contains Three Rooms

A set which can only be described as impressionistic will be revealed to first nighters tonight as "Death of a Salesman" begins its six-performance run.

The set, first one this season to be designed by a student, was designed by Larry Bissett, junior in art, under the supervision of Howard L. Ramey, instructor in speech. Lighting was also done by Ramey, who is the technical director for

the University Theater.

Set Has Three Rooms

The entire set has three rooms, with the floored-up orchestra pit and both aprons providing additional acting areas. The fore stage area is used for scenes outside the Loman home, and the stage proper is set with two bedrooms and a kitchen.

The entire house is surrounded by dark masses which symbolize the crowding in of the apartment buildings. In the left downstage corner is a tree which has died—even as Willie Loman—from the confinement of the buildings. During the memory scenes, the pattern of light through leaves of the tree is seen on the stage.

Jensen Assists

The assistant director of "Salesman" is John Jensen, sophomore in speech. Electrician and switchboard operator is Harold Long, senior in speech, assisted by Elizabeth McIlveen, freshman in English. Stage manager is Marilyn Miller, freshman in liberal arts; property master is Gordon Rennie, junior in speech; assisted by Gordon Burtner, senior in speech. Construction crew are Pat Adkisson, sophomore in education; Paul Maier, sophomore in liberal arts, Paula Poppenheimer, freshman in liberal arts, and David Sherman, freshman in journalism.

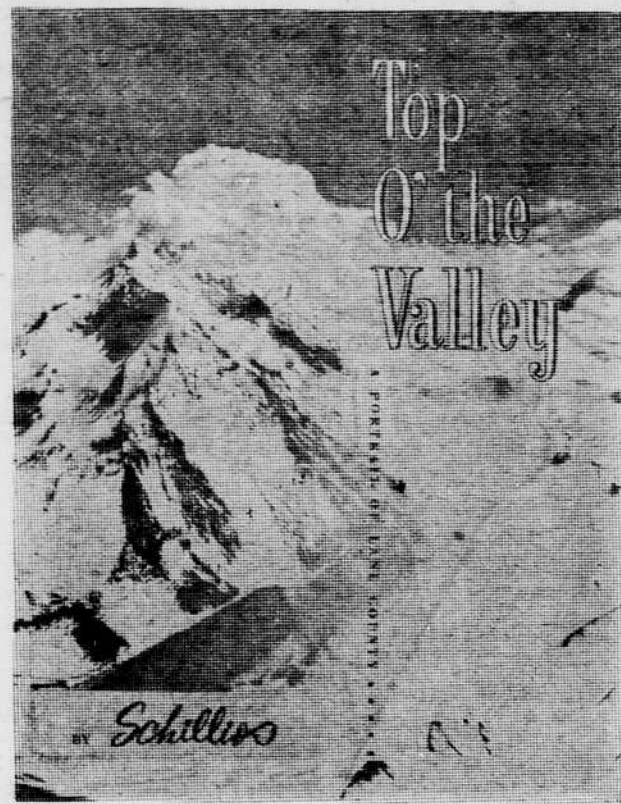


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