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The Crucible

Arthur Miller

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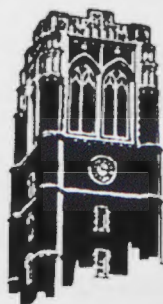
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THE CRUCIBLE

BY ARTHUR MILLER



MARCH 15, 16, 22, 23, 1991



JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
and ALPHA PSI OMEGA

present

THE CRUCIBLE

by
ARTHUR MILLER

Directed by
JAMES F. BECK*

Set and Lighting Design by
JAMES F. BECK*

Costume Design by
KC MYERS

The Crucible is presented
through special arrangement with
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, Inc.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

JAMES F. BECK

The Salem witch-trials represent one of the blackest pages of American history, a horrible aberration of that Puritan spirit of independence which has contributed much to the finest parts of the American national character. In a wave of hysteria that swept the town of Salem in 1692, nineteen adults and two dogs were hanged for witchcraft, and one man was pressed to death for refusing to plead.

The frightening question we might ask ourselves is, "Have we changed?" Our own actions with regard to Japanese-Americans in World War II, "Communist Sympathizers" in the 1950's, and recent FBI investigations of Arab-Americans might indicate a disturbing response.

The power of social conscience to manipulate, through fear and guilt, an otherwise intelligent mind, is central to the process of *The Crucible*. The generation of this hysteria is demonstrated here and the need for the achievement of individual moral honesty to overcome it are central to Miller's purpose. Miller's inspiration for this play is clearly rooted in his "perception of the effects of the atmosphere of terror inspired by investigation of the communist "conspiracy" in America in the 1950's. Miller insists he is concerned with a larger problem. Describing Senator McCarthy's activities as "a kind of personification of moral disintegration, symbolic of a dehumanizing influence that might occur in any period," he proceeds to examine the intricate mechanism of guilt and the generation of mass hysteria. He wished to show how this hysteria might be created by self-seeking, self-appointed saviors; what its social and psychological consequences might be; and how it must be averted.

As the title suggests, the central action of *The Crucible* is comparable to the purification of a substance by heat. John Proctor undergoes a metamorphosis, in the course of which he is reduced to his essential, purified self. In the process of the play, Proctor is stripped of layers of protective covering until, in the end, he stands totally naked-totally exposed. Unlike conventional tragedy, Proctor's story is not one of defeat and acceptance, but of triumph and vindication. Whereas the conventional tragic hero is a deluded or obsessed individual in an ordered universe, Proctor is a just man in a universe gone mad.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Betty Parris	CINDY H. FORD
Reverend Samuel Parris.	MICHAEL ELSNER*
Tituba	LINDA SEWARD
Abigail Williams	JENNIFER-LYNNE WHITE*
Susanna Wallcott.	TINA NAPPI
Mrs. Ann Putnam	JENNIFER COOK*
Thomas Putnam	PETER THEWES
Mercy Lewis	TRACY MCGURK
Mary Warren	MARY KATHERINE THOMAS
John Proctor.	ANDREW ZUCCA
Rebecca Nurse	JANET LARSEN
Giles Corey	DALE HALL
Reverend John Hale.	PAUL BECKWITH*
Elizabeth Proctor	JENNIFER WAGNER
Francis Nurse.	DAVE WALTMAN*
Ezekiel Cheever	PATRICK LYNCH
John Willard	KEVIN BIACSI
Judge Hathorne.	RODNEY BRESNAHAN
Deputy-Governor Danforth	THOMAS WARD*
Sarah Good.	CHRISTINE BARRY

ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ) is the national theatre honorary fraternity. Members of Alpha Psi Omega are committed to the production of quality collegiate theatre throughout the United States of America. The Mu Theta cast of Alpha Psi Omega is chartered at John Carroll University, and its members (*denoted above with an **) serve the local communities in their production of theatre. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in the theatre.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

- Scene 1:** *A bedroom in Reverend Samuel Parris' house, Salem, Massachusetts, in the spring of the year 1692.*
- Scene 2:** *The common room of Proctor's house, eight days later.*

THERE WILL BE ONE TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

- Scene 1:** *Five weeks later, a wood.*
- Scene 2:** *The vestry of the Salem Meeting House, two weeks later.*
- Scene 3:** *A cell in Salem jail, three months later.*

PLEASE NOTICE

We ask that patrons refrain from eating, drinking or smoking in Kulas Auditorium. Taking flash pictures during the production is distracting and potentially dangerous to the actors, as it may disorient them--please wait until after the performance.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

DIANA FRIES of Lorain County Community College
MIKE KELLEY of the Cleveland Play House
KC MYERS of the Cleveland Play House
KIM VAUGHAN of Wooster College
P.J.HRUSCHAK, ELMER ABBO, and
ANTON ZUIKER of The Carroll News

