3-15-1991

The Crucible

Arthur Miller

Follow this and additional works at: http://collected.jcu.edu/plays

Recommended Citation
http://collected.jcu.edu/plays/44
THE CRUCIBLE
MARCH 15, 16, 22, 23, 1991


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

*This production is mounted through special arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, Inc., New York. This production is licenced by DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, Inc., New York. This production is mounued through special arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, Inc., New York. This production is licenced by DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, Inc., New York.
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
Reverend Samuel Parris
Tituba
Abigail Williams
Susanna Wallcott.
Mrs. Ann Putnam
Thomas Putnam
Mercy Lewis
Mary Warren
John Proctor
Rebecca Nurse
Giles Corey
Reverend John Hale.
Elizabeth Proctor
Francis Nurse
Ezekiel Cheever
John Willard
Judge Hathorne.
Deputy-Governor Danforth
Sarah Good.

CINDY H. FORD
MICHAEL ELSNER*
LINDA SEWARD
JENNIFER-LYNNE WHITE*
TINA NAPPI
JENNIFER COOK*
PETER THEWES
TRACY McGURK
MARY KATHERINE THOMAS
ANDREW ZUCCA
JANET LARSEN
DALE HALL
PAUL BECKWITH*
JENNIFER WAGNER
DAVE WALTMAN*
PATRICK LYNCH
KEVIN BIACSI
RODNEY BRESNAHAN
THOMAS WARD*
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