

Directors Notes



The Crucible is not a documentary. The Salem witch trials were a real historical event, and many of the names you will hear in this production are taken from records of the time, but these characters and these events are a story. The script was written in 1953 and at the time was a direct response

to the political environment in the US at the time. At its heart, though, this play is a story about how people attempt to stay human, during inhuman events. It's a story about what values we can afford to hold to, and how tightly when those with power act in bad faith. It is an intricately woven web of small stories about small people, swimming in the large events beyond their control.

I fell in love with this play as one of my first acting experiences, more than 30 years ago. Since then it seems to have cemented its place in my brain as the piece of drama against which all others are compared. As a first-time director, I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity or challenge. I've been blessed with a tremendous ensemble cast in which the even the briefest appearance has been completely dedicated to telling their character's story. I'm certain you will enjoy the show.

Tim Brown
Director

Our Next Productions



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ARTHUR MILLER THE CRUCIBLE

GUILDURYS
PICNIC
THEATRE
MERRIST WOOD



PROGRAMME

15 - 18 JULY
OPEN-AIR

Witch Hunt



Arguably Arthur Miller's greatest play, *The Crucible* is set in 1692 amid the Salem witch trials, in a community divided by jealousy and superstition. This is no dusty history lesson, but a high-stakes thriller where small lies snowball.

As witchcraft hysteria takes hold, a vicious circle of accusations turns neighbours into enemies, and love too easily dissolves into hate.

About Guildburys Theatre Company



Founded in 1963, Guildburys Theatre Company is one of Surrey's leading community theatre companies.

Over the years we have performed predominantly in Surrey, and mainly in Guildford, but we have been seen as far north as the Edinburgh Fringe and as far west as the very tip of the UK at the renowned Minack Theatre in West Cornwall. We perform our summer show annually at Merrist Wood near Guildford, touring every 3 years to The Minack.



John Proctor
Elizabeth Proctor
Abigail Williams
Reverend Hale
Governor Danforth
Reverend Parris
Mary Warren
Giles Corey
Tituba
Judge Hathorne/Thomas Putnam
Betty Parris
Susanna Walcott
Mercy Lewis
Ezekiel Cheever
Ann Putnam
Francis Nurse
Marshal Willard
Sarah Good
Rebecca Nurse

Director
Designer
Set Construction

Lighting & Sound
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Production Manager
Programme
Transport
Properties
Prop Makers
Original Music
Costumes

Marketing/Ticket Management
Photography/Digital Art
Box Office

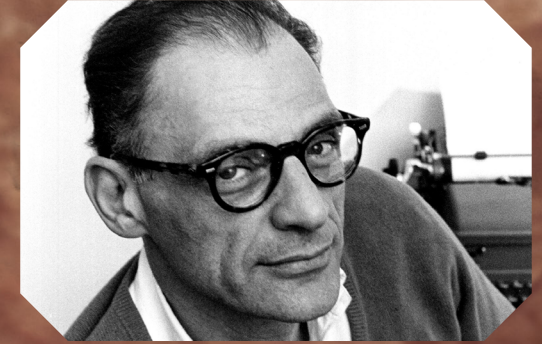
Cast

Jay Orbaum
Amy Scott
Alice Kermeen
Martin Gardner
Matthew Lacey
Dan Wigmore
Sarah Gibbons
David Hemsley-Brown
Zeiza Araga
Steve Dorsett
Naru Siva
Maddy Clench
Lauren Sudders
Gary Peacock
Lynne Leedham
Eddie Woolrich
Tommy Haines
Mary Ormond
Pam Hemelryk

Creative

Tim Brown
Ian Nichols
David Hemsley-Brown,
Graham Russell-Price,
Mike Dean & Michael Burne
Simon Price
Gareth Jones
Kirsty Lane
Debby Dean
Tom Charlton
Michael Burne
Barbara Tresidder
Alistair Williamson & Sam Weems
Jay Orbaum & Tim Brown
Caroline Whillans &
Joanne Stephenson
Gilly Fick
Jonathan Constant
Diana & Mike Dean

Arthur Miller



(October 17, 1915 – February 10, 2005)

Arthur Miller was an American actor and playwright. His notable works include *All My Sons* (1947), *Death of a Salesman* (1949) & *The Crucible* (1953).

Miller wrote *The Crucible* as an allegory tale for McCarthyism (Political Repression). This was when the United States Government accused and persecuted people suspected of supporting communism.

The Crucible won the Tony Award for Best Play in 1953 and is regarded as a central work of American Drama.

Miller is also the father-in-law to three-times Oscar winning actor Daniel Day-Lewis who would portray John Proctor in the 1996 film adaptation of *The Crucible*.



The Crucible (1996), 20th Century Fox