

**MPC THEATRE COMPANY TO PRESENT
“DEATH OF A SALESMAN”**

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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Peter DeBono, 831-646-4209 (Director)

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For information visit www.mpctheatre.com

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTEREY - The Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department presents Arthur Miller's **DEATH OF A SALESMAN**. Performances are Thursday at 7:00 PM, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 PM, and Sunday at 2:00 PM, October 16 - 26 on the Morgan Stock Stage, on the Monterey Peninsula College campus. MPC is located at 980 Fremont Street, downtown Monterey. **DEATH OF A SALESMAN** is directed by Theatre Department co-chairman Peter DeBono.

DEATH OF A SALESMAN concludes the 2008 MPC Main Stage season, and features familiar peninsula actors Mark Shilstone-Laurent, Mary Ann Schaupp Rousseau, Brendan Godfrey, Brady Shilstone, and Richard Mueller in the principle roles.

About DEATH OF A SALESMAN

Death of a Salesman is considered by many to be Arthur Miller's masterpiece, as well as one of the most important plays in modern American theatre. It tells the story of Willy Loman (**Mark Shilstone-Laurent**), a down-on-his-luck, middle-aged salesman, unable to comprehend how or why he never achieved the success and fortune he dreamed of. Faced with the realization that his life is a failure, Willy becomes further and further estranged from his family, and begins to lose contact with reality, having imaginary conversations with his long lost brother Ben (**Richard Mueller**). Linda (**Mary Ann Schaupp Rousseau**), his devoted wife, tries desperately to hold the family together, as their estranged son Biff (**Brendan Godfrey**) becomes increasingly disillusioned with his family. In contrast, Biff's brother Happy (**Brady Shilstone**) dreams about women, money, and success, and seems ready to carry on his father's obsession with achieving the American Dream. Powerful and disturbing, Death of a Salesman is a modern tragedy, seen as

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a caustic attack on the American Dream, and our obsession with material wealth and the trappings of success.

About Arthur Miller

Arthur Asher Miller (October 17, 1915 – February 10, 2005) was an American playwright and essayist. He was a prominent figure in American literature and cinema for over 61 years, writing a wide variety of plays, including celebrated plays such as *The Crucible*, *A View from the Bridge*, *All My Sons*, and *Death of a Salesman*, which are still studied and performed worldwide. Miller was often in the public eye, most famously for refusing to give evidence against others to the House Un-American Activities Committee, being the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama among countless other awards, and for his marriage to Marilyn Monroe. Miller is considered by audiences and scholars to be one of America's greatest playwrights, and his plays are lauded throughout the world.

Miller's career as a writer spanned over seven decades, and at the time of his death in 2005, Miller was considered to be one of the greatest dramatists of the twentieth century, among the likes of Harold Pinter, Eugene O'Neill, Luigi Pirandello, Samuel Beckett, Jean-Paul Sartre, Bertolt Brecht, and Tennessee Williams. After his death, many respected actors, directors, and producers paid tribute to Miller,¹ some calling him the last great practitioner of the American stage,¹ and Broadway theaters darkened their lights in a show of respect. Miller's alma mater, the University of Michigan opened the Arthur Miller Theatre in March, 2007. Per his express wish, it is the only theater in the world that bears Miller's name.

- Wikipedia 28 August 2008

About Peter DeBono

Peter DeBono, Co-Chair of the MPC Drama Department, received his Master's Degree from UCLA and made a living in the LA area as an actor, before returning to the MPC Drama Department. In 1982 he became Chairman of the department, succeeding founding Chairman Morgan Stock. Some of Peter's 147 directing credits include *Amadeus*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Front Page*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, as well as Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Odd Couple*, and the highly popular *Eugene Trilogy* at MPC, and both *The King and I* and *I'm*

Not Rappaport at the Western Stage in Salinas. Most recently he directed this season's comedy *Plaza Suite*, and *DEATH OF A SALESMAN* will be his 148th directorial achievement.

Peter first came to MPC in 1963 as a student of Morgan Stock's. He then moved to Los Angeles where he attended UCLA and went on to act in movies and on television, before a telephone call came from Morgan and changed his life forever.

"I agreed to come back to Monterey and stand in for Morgan when he took a sabbatical in '71," Peter recalls. "When he returned, he suggested that I stay on for a while. I've been here ever since."

DEATH OF A SALESMAN plays 7:00 PM Thursday (October 16 & 23); 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday (October 17 & 18, and 24 & 25); and 2:00 PM Sunday (October 19 & 26). Advance Tickets are \$18; \$15 if purchased online; Day of show tickets are \$25 General Admission, \$20 Senior, \$15 Young Adult (16-25), and \$10 for children age 15 & under. Tickets may be purchased from the MPC Box Office (831-646-4213) Weds-Friday 3:00 – 7:00 PM & 2 hrs prior to performance, or online at www.TicketGuys.com .

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