

Cambridge University Press  
0521605539 - Arthur Miller: A Critical Study  
Christopher Bigsby  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## ARTHUR MILLER

Christopher Bigsby explores the entirety of Arthur Miller's work, including plays, poetry, fiction and films, in this comprehensive and stimulating study. Drawing on interviews conducted over the last twenty years, on unique rehearsal material and research archives, he paints a compelling picture of how Miller's works were influenced by and created in the light of events of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This is an enjoyable insight into a great playwright that will interest both theatregoers and students of modern drama.

CHRISTOPHER BIGSBY is Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia and has published more than thirty books covering American theatre, popular culture and British drama, including *Modern American Drama* (Cambridge 1992) and *Contemporary American Playwrights* (Cambridge 1999). He is co-editor, with Don Wilmeth, of *The Cambridge History of American Theatre*, which received the Barnard Hewitt Award for Outstanding Research from the American Society for Theatre Research. He is also an award-winning novelist and regular radio and television broadcaster.

Cambridge University Press  
0521605539 - Arthur Miller: A Critical Study  
Christopher Bigsby  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

# ARTHUR MILLER

A Critical Study

CHRISTOPHER BIGSBY



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 0521605539 - Arthur Miller: A Critical Study  
 Christopher Bigsby  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK  
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain  
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Christopher Bigsby 2005

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
 no reproduction of any part may take place without  
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2005

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*Typeface* Adobe Minion 10/12 pt.    *System* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> [TB]

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*  
 Bigsby, C. W. E.

Arthur Miller: A Critical Study / by Christopher Bigsby.  
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 84416 9 – ISBN 0 521 60553 9 (pbk)

1. Miller, Arthur, 1915 – Criticism and interpretation. I. Title.

PS3525.I5156Z5445 2004

812'.52 – dc22

[B] 2004045813

ISBN 0 521 84416 9 hardback

ISBN 0 521 60553 9 paperback

Cambridge University Press  
0521605539 - Arthur Miller: A Critical Study  
Christopher Bigsby  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

For Ewan, with love and pride

## CONTENTS

	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page ix
	<i>Note on the text</i>	x
	Introduction	1
1	The Michigan plays	8
2	<i>The Golden Years, The Half-Bridge, Boro Hall Nocturne</i>	27
3	The radio plays	40
4	<i>The Man Who Had All the Luck</i>	54
5	<i>Focus</i>	67
6	<i>All My Sons</i>	78
7	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	100
8	Arthur Miller: time-traveller	124
9	<i>An Enemy of the People</i>	138
10	<i>The Crucible</i>	147
11	<i>A Memory of Two Mondays</i>	174
12	<i>A View from the Bridge</i>	178
13	Tragedy	198
14	<i>The Misfits</i>	213
15	<i>After the Fall</i>	228
16	<i>Incident at Vichy</i>	248
17	<i>The Price</i>	271
18	<i>The Creation of the World and Other Business</i>	289
19	<i>The Archbishop's Ceiling</i>	295

20	<i>Playing for Time</i>	312	
21	The shearing point	325	
22	<i>The American Clock</i>	337	
23	The one-act plays: <i>Two-Way Mirror</i> and <i>Danger: Memory!</i>		352
24	<i>The Ride Down Mount Morgan</i>	366	
25	<i>The Last Yankee</i>	382	
26	<i>Broken Glass</i>	391	
27	<i>Mr Peters' Connections</i>	405	
28	<i>Resurrection Blues</i>	421	
29	<i>Finishing the Picture</i>	437	
30	Fiction	444	
31	Arthur Miller as a Jewish writer	473	
	<i>Notes</i>	490	
	<i>Index</i>	507	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In writing this book I have drawn on introductions which I first wrote for Penguin Books. A version of the chapter on Arthur Miller and the Holocaust (chapter 21) was first delivered as the Morgan Lecture at Dickinson University. The chapter on *Resurrection Blues* is based on a programme note I wrote for the play's world premiere at the Guthrie Theatre. I have also drawn on lectures delivered to the Arthur Miller Society.

No one writes a book in a void. I have benefited from the work of many scholars and friends. The list is long but includes Julia Bolus, Steven R. Centola, Jane Dominik, Stephen Marino, Brenda Murphy and Matthew Roudané. I would also wish to acknowledge the assistance of the staff at the Harry Ransom Center of the University of Texas at Austin and the staff of the University of Michigan libraries.

I would also like to thank the Arts and Humanities Research Board for their assistance.

Cambridge University Press  
0521605539 - Arthur Miller: A Critical Study  
Christopher Bigsby  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## NOTE ON THE TEXT

Throughout the text references in parenthesis to Arthur Miller's autobiography *Timebends* (London, 1987) appear as *T.* followed by page numbers.

Any unsourced interview material comes from interviews with Arthur Miller by the author over a period of years.