

# Death of a Salesman

By Arthur Miller  
April 16 - May 16, 2010  
Dee and Charles Wily Theatre

Associate Producing Partner  
**CHARLES SCHWAB**

Assistant Producing Partner  
**Haynes and Boone LLP**

**A**rthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Death of a Salesman* explores the last 48 hours in the life of Willy Loman, an aging salesman who makes his way through life "on a smile and a shoeshine." In this tragic story Miller lifts Willy's illusions, failures, anguish and family relationships from a common man's problems to the scale of tragic hero. This great American classic dives "inside of Willy's head" as his past and present blur together. We watch as he struggles to understand his life's work and wrestles with his sons, his boss, his friends and his memories. Asking the essential questions: What makes a man? What makes a life valuable? How do we make our mark in this world?



# THE AMERICAN DREAM

*"The 'American Dream' is the ... screen in front of which all American writing plays itself out."* – Arthur Miller

**One of the main themes in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is the quest for the "American Dream," a term first coined in 1931.** Originally defined within the context of religious freedom, the phrase has since been used in tandem with the essence of the American spirit. Forever set in stone in the Declaration of Independence "... all men are created equal... with certain inalienable rights" including "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" — this dream is at the very core of our identity as Americans. It is the belief that hard work will lead to new opportunities, a new status, a new level of economic and social freedom, a new and "better" life for any man or woman. The "American Dream" has manifested in different ways throughout our country's history - freedom from strict government rule, freedom from slavery, the quest to better oneself, the quest for equality. In the 1920s the "American Dream" was identified by President Hoover as, "a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage." Historically, one of the most common expressions of the "American Dream" has been land ownership or home ownership. As America continues to change the "American Dream" shifts as well. What is the "American Dream" in 2010? What are we all striving for? How will you know when you've achieved the "American Dream"?

Try filling in this statement – I know I'll have "made it" when \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---



*For many immigrants, the Statue of Liberty was their first view of the United States, signifying freedom and personal liberty. The statue is an iconic symbol of the United States and of the American Dream.*

Here are a few famous people's thoughts on the "American Dream"...



"I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the 'American Dream' — a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed."

*-Martin Luther King, Jr.*



"We must stop talking about the 'American Dream' and start listening to the dreams of Americans."

*-Max Beerbohm, English Essayist, 1900s*



"What the American people hope — what they deserve — is for all of us, Democrats and Republicans, to work through our differences; to overcome the numbing weight of our politics. For while the people who sent us here have different backgrounds, different stories, different beliefs, the anxieties they face are the same. The aspirations they hold are shared: a job that pays the bills; a chance to get ahead; most of all, the ability to give their children a better life." *-President Barack Obama, State of the Union Address, Jan. 27, 2010*



"The essence of the 'American Dream' is the understanding that we are here on this earth and in this land for a higher purpose: to discover — and develop — to the fullest of our God-given potential." *-Steve Forbes, businessman and president of Forbes Inc.*



"They call it the 'American Dream' because you have to be asleep to believe it." *-George Carlin, comedian*

# Death of a Salesman BY THE NUMBERS

2 ACTS, 1 REQUIEM

DEATH OF A SALESMAN HAS SOLD 11 MILLION COPIES

35 PLAYS WRITTEN BY ARTHUR MILLER, INCLUDING ALL MY SONS AND THE CRUCIBLE

20 COSTUME PIECES BUILT BY DALLAS THEATER CENTER STAFF  
(INCLUDING 1 BATHROBE AND A 1 3-PIECE SUIT)

40 POCKETS SEWN BY DALLAS THEATER CENTER COSTUME SHOP

8 HATS AND 1 FOOTBALL HELMET

6 RUFFLES ON LINDA LOMAN'S APRON

12 HANGING HIGH-BAY LIGHTS

3 BEDS

1 WATER HEATER BUILT FROM SCRATCH

6,500 LBS OF STEEL PIPE CREATE THE SCAFFOLDING AND LIGHT TREES

150 ROTO-LOCKS USED TO CONNECT THE PIPES

1,563 JOINTS WELDED TOGETHER BY DALLAS THEATER CENTER CARPENTERS

400 YARDS OF COTTON SCRIM CREATE THE FABRIC CURTAIN

2,432 SQUARE FEET OF FLATS IN 24 SECTIONS MAKE UP THE WALLS WITH 348 DECORATIVE DIVOTS

708 FEET OF "FAKE" POLYBOARD FLOOR TO MATCH THE THRUST AND TWO WAGONS  
TO THE POTTER ROSE FLOOR

3 GENIES (MOTORIZED LADDERS) AND 2 OLD SCHOOL LADDERS TO ASSEMBLE THE SCAFFOLDING

50 LBS OF CRUSHED WALNUT SHELL AND 100 LBS OF GROUND RUBBER  
(THE SAME RUBBER USED IN INDOOR SOCCER FIELDS) TO MAKE THE DIRT ON STAGE

660 BATTERIES SAVED USING RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES


108 SPEAKERS

7,920 FEET OF AUDIO AND VIDEO CABLE

4 CAMERAS TO ASSIST STAGE MANAGEMENT IN RUNNING THE SHOW

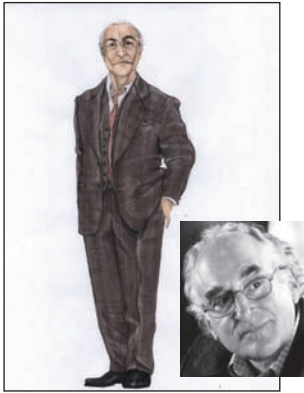
245,500 WATTS OF POWER TO LIGHT DEATH OF A SALESMAN EACH NIGHT

Set rendering by Daniel Ostling

<b>death of a salesman</b>		
Dallas Theatre Center		
	Director	Amanda Dehnert
	Designer	Daniel Ostling
<small>This drawing represents visual concepts and construction suggestions only. It does not replace the knowledge and advice of a licensed structural engineer. The designer is unqualified to determine the structural appropriateness of the design and will not assume responsibility for incorrect, inappropriate, or unsafe construction.</small>	Scale	Date
	as shown = 1"=0"	2.08.10
	Drawing #	6
	of	6
	Drafted by:	dso & ds

# Salesman: Who's Who

Costume sketches by Jessica Ford



**Willy Loman**  
(Jeffrey DeMunn)

60-year-old salesman, husband to Linda, father of Biff and Happy



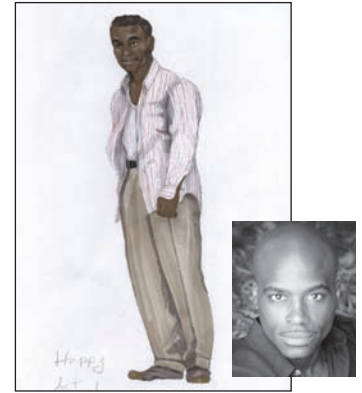
**Linda Loman**  
(Sally Nystuen Vahle)

Willy's wife, mother of Biff and Happy



**Biff Loman**  
(Matthew Gray)

Willy's oldest son who has returned from working out west



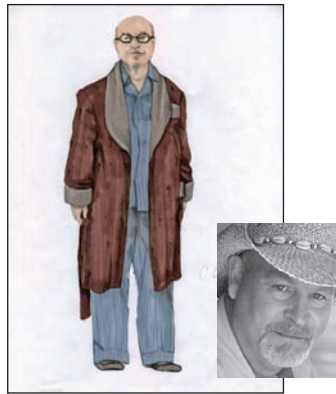
**Happy**  
(Cedric Neal)

Willy's youngest son who works at a department store in town



**Uncle Ben**  
(Hassan El-Amin)

Willy's older brother



**Charley**  
(Sean Hennigan)

Willy's next door neighbor and friend



**Bernard**  
(Cliff Miller)

Charley's son



**The Woman**  
(Liz Mikel)



**Howard Wagner**  
(Chamblee Ferguson)

Willy's boss



**Ms. Forsythe**  
(Vanessa Gibens)

A lady at a restaurant



**Letta**  
(Sandra Deitz)

A lady at a restaurant

**Jenny**  
(Sandra Deitz)

Charley's secretary



**Stanley**  
(Chad Daniel)

A waiter.

*The role of the Stanley was added late in the creative process, thus a costume design was not available at the time this piece was created.*

Dallas Theater Center would like to recognize the generosity of our major corporate partners.



Pier 1 Imports  
Southwest Securities  
t. howard + associates  
Target

[DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org)

FOLLOW US ON

facebook

twitter

YouTube