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ARTHUR MILLER'S CRUCIBLE COMES TO PLAYHOUSE STAGE

LAKE WORTH, Florida (February 11, 2009) – The Lake Worth Playhouse presents Arthur Miller's Tony Award-winning drama, THE CRUCIBLE. Opening February 27th and running through March 15th, THE CRUCIBLE is directed by Playhouse Artistic Director Jodie Dixon-Mears who is back at the helm after directing the 2008-2009 season opener, BIG RIVER.

THE CRUCIBLE is Arthur Miller's Tony Award-winning drama that details the mass hysteria that led to the tragic 1692 Salem witch trials. Set in a small puritan village in the colony of Massachusetts, the story centers around a farmer, his wife, and a young servant-girl who maliciously causes the wife's arrest for witchcraft. When the farmer brings the girl to court to admit the lie, it is there that the monstrous course of bigotry and deceit plays out in gripping dramatic fashion. Fueled by fears, jealousy, secrets, lies and greed, residents turn on each other resulting in mass paranoia and tragic outcomes. Great American Playwright, Arthur Miller, wrote THE CRUCIBLE in 1953 at the height of McCarthyism. His provocative play parallels the events of his time and delivers a dramatic study in what Miller called "the conflict between a man's raw deeds and his conception of himself."

About the Director

Jodie Dixon-Mears has been serving as the Artistic Director of the Lake Worth Playhouse since February 2004. Born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, she moved to Florida in 1972. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre from the University of Florida and a Master's degree in acting/directing from West Virginia University. An award-winning actor, director and educator she has worked in the arts and entertainment industry since 1980. She recently directed the 2008-2009 season opener BIG RIVER to critical acclaim. Other directing credits include A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, INTO THE WOODS, THE BOYS NEXT DOOR, QUILTERS, SHOOTING STARS and THE GOOD TIMES ARE KILLING ME.

About the Playwright

Celebrated author and playwright, Arthur Miller, was born on October 17, 1915 in New York City. His father owned a women's clothing company that suffered during The Great Depression. Miller worked several jobs to make tuition for University of Michigan, where he earned his B.A. in English.

In his early career, he wrote radio plays, which were a refuge for Miller away from other venues that were being accused of communism. Ultimately, Miller became a victim of the Red Scare, but a conviction he garnered that was related to this dark period in history was overturned in 1958.

During this time, Miller married and divorced his college sweetheart Mary Slattery. They had two children. Then, Miller became famously involved with Marilyn Monroe. He later married photographer Inge Morath and had two children with her. But he rehashed his life with Monroe in the next play he directed, the controversial *AFTER THE FALL* (1964).

Miller's work had global ramifications as his work was banned in the Soviet Union while *Death of a Salesman* was a gigantic success in China. His most lauded works include *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*, *THE CRUCIBLE*, and *ALL MY SONS*. His own son paid him homage when, in 1996, he produced a movie based on *THE CRUCIBLE*.

Arthur Miller won many awards in his lifetime, including the Avery Hopwood Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Because of his innovative writing, Arthur Miller was also the first American president of the International Pen.

Fatefully, Miller died on February 10, 2005, the 56th anniversary of the Broadway debut of one of his most celebrated works, *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*.

About Lake Worth Playhouse

Lake Worth Playhouse is a not-for-profit, non-equity community theatre with a diverse array of offerings, including award-winning dramas, comedies, musicals, area premieres, reinterpretations of classics, children's shows, ballets and operas on film, concert series and alternative programming. In addition to its main stage theatrical fare, the Playhouse presents year-round independent and foreign films in the Stonzek Theatre, an intimate black-box style theatre equipped with a large viewing screen and high-definition projection. The Playhouse is proud to offer a variety of educational programs for adults and children, as well as community outreach initiatives that bring cultural programs into the neighborhoods of underserved youth and also make theatre available free of charge for disadvantaged citizens in the community.

The 56th season of the Lake Worth Playhouse opened with the William Hauptman/Roger Miller musical, *BIG RIVER* (October 24–November 9, 2008) followed by the Ken Ludwig farce, *LEADING LADIES* (December 5-21, 2008) and Dan Goggin's musical comedy, *NUNSENSE* (January 16–February 1). The season continues with Arthur Miller's award-winning drama, *THE CRUCIBLE* (February 27–March 15), and closes with Ted Swindley's musical tribute, *ALWAYS, PATSY CLINE* (April 17–May 3).

Schedule

Opening Night for *THE CRUCIBLE* is Friday, February 27, 2009 at 8:00 PM. Performances run Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 PM and Sunday, March 1st at 7:00 PM. Saturday and Sunday matinees are scheduled on March 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th at 2:00 PM. *THE CRUCIBLE* closes Sunday, March 15th.

Tickets

Single ticket prices are \$25 and \$29. Subscriptions range from \$66 (Snowbird Special) to \$240 (VIP Dinner & Dress). Complimentary valet parking is available to subscribers. Tickets can be purchased through the Lake Worth Playhouse Box Office at **561-586-6410** or online at **lakeworthplayhouse.org**.

Location

Lake Worth Playhouse is located at 713 Lake Avenue in Downtown Lake Worth. It is situated on the south side of Lake Avenue two blocks east of Dixie Highway. Free, well-lit parking is available on Lake Avenue and surrounding side streets, with free parking lots located behind the Playhouse.

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