

Death of a Salesman: Arthur Miller

"WILLY: You wait, kid, before it's all over we're gonna get a little place out in the country, and I'll raise some vegetables, a couple of chickens... LINDA: You'll do it yet, dear." This is his American Dream.

"BIFF [crying, broken]: Will you let me go for Christ's sake? Will you take that phoney dream and burn it before something happens?" Biff understands that is father's dreams never materialise, that they are "phoney". Creates tension & distress

LINDA: We should've bought the land next door. WILLY: The street is lined with cars. There's not a breath of fresh air in the neighborhood. ... Remember those two beautiful elm trees out there? When I and Biff hung the swing between them?

Brother Ben "Why, boys, when I was seventeen I walked into the jungle, and when I was twenty-one I walked out. And by God I was rich." goes to Africa, offering if Willy wants to go instead he becomes a Salesman

It depicts how American life is not as shiny and amazing as it portrayed itself to be as a capitalist, DOAS is opposite to this, showing how this can be untrue- that however hard you work you may not get the dream that you are 'entitled' to.

It criticises the american consumerism, the car, the job of willy in contrast to the dream of Biff

American Dream

Missed opportunities

communism in the play.

had an affair with "The Women" Biff finds out- "She's nothing to me, Biff. I was lonely, I was terribly lonely."

wants to be "well liked"

PRIDE. Willy noticed his wife, mending her stockings. "I won't have you mending stockings in this house! Now throw them out!" Willy sold stockings for a living, and he could not afford to buy them for Linda, hurt his pride. Flaw of capitalism: seller could not afford own product!

Funeral not what he would have wanted, he wanted a "death of a salesman", where there were "hundreds of salesmen and buyers were at his funeral".

"I'm the New England man. I'm vital in New England." Willy is delusional, he believes he is vital however he is not.

"You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away-a man is not a piece of fruit." Willy feels that his bosses father owes him, he helped name Howard.

"After all the highways, and the trains, and the appointments, and the years, you end up worth more dead than alive." Willy alludes to suicide.

Some realistic traits. Realises that Father's dream is unrealistic. "I'm a dime a dozen, and so are you!" that Willy "had the wrong dreams"

STOCKINGS: Willy is a salesman of stockings. He gives his 'women' stockings but not Linda. Biff sees it as the worst thing when finds out about the affair. "You - you gave her Mama's stockings!". Materialistic

PLANTS/SEEDS: "I've got to get some seeds, right away. Nothing's planted."- Willy.

refrigerator, the hight of fashion and consumerism.

Born in NYC in 1915

Wrote DOAS as eth 1st great American Tragedy as looks at the dark side to the American Dream, (like 'Of Mice and Men') how he can see greatness just not reach it.

blacklisted as someone who followed McCathyism - communist.

Set in 1949, after World War two (ended in '45) so rationing was still in full force. Coming out of Great Depression of Wall street crash. Cold War is upon America.

Symbolism

ARTHUR MILLER

confinement & freedom.

stage set up: there are gaps between walls, showing how Willy wishes the world to be like that? Or that this is his mind, that he has hole in it- he is not whole.

"LINDA: I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear. And they'll be nobody home. [A sob rises in her throat]. We're free and clear. [Sobbing more fully, released] We're free. [Biff comes slowly toward her.] We're free... We're free..." Freedom from economic suppression.

Loman family still set pre WW2, Linda not liberated as many were post-WW2,

Highways started to be built = rise of the car. Car seen to be hight of prosperity.

Willy's belief in Communism is against what any would have believed at this time due to the 2 super powers, capitalism vs communism & US capitalism. It is the criticism of American consumerism in the play.

Rise of Rock n' Roll in 1950's - flute played when Willy reminisces, showing how backward he is in time.

Willy Loman. Father. 63 yr old salesman & idealistic. The average American Man.

Happy Loman. Youngest son. Serial Philander. Tries to be like Willy, tries to gain favor, however not work as Willy idolises Biff.

becomes a salesman as willy wanted him too, he does not get the love that he wants as Willy idolises Biff the eldest. Happy carries on Willy's dream

Has affairs with married women because he feels loved?

DEATH OF A SALESMAN. Nuclear Family.

Linda Loman. Long suffering wife of Willy.

"He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person". Linda loves Willy. "To me, you are the handsomest"

"I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear. And there'll be nobody home." Despite willy's treatment of her she still feels lonesome & sad when died.

Use of interrogatives, pandering to Willy's needs, "put your feet up" she takes off his shoes for him!

She babies Willy, "Take an aspirin. Should I get you an aspirin?" she speaks to him "carefully, delicately"- babying, & that he has a short fuse.

Biff Loman. Eldest son. Disillusioned Farm hand. He could have become a football player, however due to not getting the needed GPA he fails and cannot get into collage. He goes to talk to Willy, asking if he should retake, finds his father with 'The women', all goes to pot.