

Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller came into the world in 1915, in New York City. When he was young, his parents were both happily employed, but his father lost his business when the Depression began. Although he would later become a famous American playwright, ironically he was much more involved in athletics than literature. In fact, until after he graduated high school, Miller had never read a book of much substance. With his father's business gone, Miller's family couldn't afford to send him to college because he did not obtain a scholarship due to his average grades. Miller didn't give up however; he worked at an automobile parts plant to finance his college education. After two years of hard work at the plant, Miller enrolled at the University of Michigan. In order to continue his education he took on various jobs and began to write plays. After graduating from Michigan, Miller went to New York and wrote scripts for radio programs for NBC and CBS. Miller was married in 1940 to his first wife, Mary Slattery. In 1944, Miller wrote The Man Who Had All the Luck, which was his first play to reach the Broadway stage. The next play he wrote, All My Sons, received the Drama Critics' Circle Award. Miller's Pulitzer Prize winning play, Death of a Salesman, was written in 1949. Miller married his second wife, Marilyn Monroe, in 1956. In 1957, Miller was convicted for contempt of court by the HUAC for refusing to name other writers who were believed to have been supporters of the Communist party. After this conviction was overturned in 1958, Miller was awarded the Gold Medal for Drama by the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Miller's other accolades include seven Tony awards, two Drama Critics Circle Awards, an Obie, an Olivier, the John F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Dorothy and Lillian Gish prize.



Works Cited

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